

**'Best TDY ever'**

Holloman's 8th FS in New Orleans ■ 8A

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Military Spouse of the Year ■ 1B

Thursday, May 16, 2019

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**>> KATCHI KAPSIDA**

Sgt. Alon Humphrey / 3rd ABCT, 1st AD PA

A Republic of Korea Army troop stands in with 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "Bulldogs" Soldiers as they prepare to qualify on the Expert Infantryman Badge Medical lanes at Camp Hovey, South Korea, April 24. The concept of EIB testing lanes is to test candidates on fundamental warrior tasks. To see more pics of South Korean and American troops qualifying for the EIB, turn to page 5A.

# Communications in Motion

## Iron Soldiers train on inflatable satellite communications system T2C2

**By Spc. Matthew Marcellus** | 1st Armored Division

Communications is a key warfighting function and being able to communicate in the most austere environments is a vital aspect of operational success.

In order to ensure tactical readiness on future mission sets, Soldiers assigned to 1st Armored Division headquarters' G6 signal staff section trained in constructing and operating the Transportable Tactical Command Communications heavy and lite systems during a training event May 2 at the Mission Training Center at Fort Bliss.

"We are currently training with the T2C2 equipment as we're going away from government-provided equipment toward more commercial and off-the-shelf equipment," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Polle, a multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainer with the division's headquarters G6 section.

The T2C2 is an inflatable satellite antenna, developed by an Army small business partner, that provides a significant upgrade in the Army's communications capability and efficiency, providing fast voice, video and data communications to the Army's tactical network to obtain the situational awareness and mission



**Spc. Matthew Marcellus** / 1st AD

Staff Sgt. Joshua Polle, a multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainer with the 1st Armored Division's G6 staff, hammers a stake to secure and anchor the Transportable Tactical Command Communications system May 2 at the Mission Training Center at Fort Bliss.

command capabilities in a mobile and adaptable operation.

"This system is important, as it allows commanders to send smaller teams out to support smaller units and detachments working in remote areas," said Polle. "We won't have to send out a large team which can take two trucks, a generator and six or seven heavy cases of communications equipment. Now we

can take the T2C2 system in one truck with two Soldiers who are highly-trained and mobile to set up the system in 30 minutes to provide communication capability."

The T2C2 system provides robust high-bandwidth network communications and mission command at the tactical edge significant



**Dawn Arden** / U.S. Army

Army leaders ask a military family to respond to a survey as part of an Army-wide effort to resolve inadequate housing on installations. Army senior leaders introduced an action plan that outlines steps to remedy military housing issues to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., recently.

## Housing executives, Army leaders discuss plan of action

**By Kimberly Hanson** | U.S. Army

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — Three major actions must happen to course correct the state of Army housing, said the four-star general officer responsible for Installation Management during a forum with the presidents of the Residential Community Initiative companies April 26.

During an RCI CEO roundtable at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, to address widespread reports of deficient housing conditions, Army Materiel Command Commander Gen. Gus Perna told the seven executives responsible for privatized housing across the Army to maintain focus on Soldiers and families through the phases.

"The bottom line is that we must win back the trust of our residents," Perna said. "It is about action, not words."

First, the current focus and response to the issues must continue, including timely completion of work orders, proper quality control measures to ensure standards are met, quarterly town halls to keep residents informed and additional oversight and involvement by garrison commanders, said Perna.

"The metric is not about quantity - how many work orders are completed or how much we have done," he said. "It is about quality and our response to the very real and serious issues being reported. Our Soldiers and families need to know we are taking care of them."

Second, the Army and the partners must improve communication and rebuild confidence with Soldiers and families. Educating residents on the resources available to them is critical, said Perna.

In addition to Army hotlines established at each installation to report housing issues, each RCI partner has developed a mobile app intended to improve communication flow. Training for Army leaders who manage installations is also now a requirement.

"Previously, many garrison commanders didn't see RCI oversight as one of their key responsibilities," said Lt. Gen. Brad Becker, commander of Installation Management Command.

IMCOM has since instituted a 90-minute block of training for all incoming garrison commanders, and rolled out training for all current garrison commanders, focused on their housing responsibilities, Becker said.

IMCOM is also focused on educating residents about the resources available to them within the Army Housing

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proves 'Army got it right,' commander says ■ 10A

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Commander-in-Chief's trophy ■ 9B


**FORT BLISS**

Friday




Partly sunny  
Hi 85, Lo 57

Saturday



Cloudy, mild  
Hi 79, Lo 60

Sunday



Partly sunny  
Hi 89, Lo 63

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# Army demonstrates extended ranges for precision munitions

By **Devon L. Suits** | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army recently demonstrated extended ranges for the guided multiple launch rocket system, and two 155mm cannon artillery precision munitions.

Aligning with the Army’s top priority – Long-Range Precision Fires – these changes support the force’s need for both close and deep-strike capabilities against a near-peer adversary.

Last fall, the Army conducted demonstrations of the new XM1113 and Excalibur M982 munitions from a prototype Extended Range Cannon Artillery, or ERCA self-propelled howitzer

The XM1113 Insensitive Munition High Explosive Rocket Assisted Projectile is slated to replace the Army’s aging M549A1 rounds. Currently, the M549 rounds can reach about 30 km.

The XM1113 reached 72 km during a demonstration, said Rich Granitzki, Long-Range Precision Fires Science and Technology adviser for Combat Capabilities Development Command, or CCDC, at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey.

Similarly, the Excalibur M982 is a Global Positioning System-guided, extended-range artillery projectile, supporting the Army’s next generation of cannon artillery.

During a limited-range test, the M982 exhibited an increase in range, going from 40 to 62 kilometers, Granitzki added.

Moving forward, ammo modernization and improvements to cannon technologies will play a vital role in optimizing these and other armaments technologies to reach “extended



Combat Capabilities Development Command

The Army test launches a Tail Controlled Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System recently. The tail-controlled rocket is an improvement over the current XM30 Guided MLRS.

ranges and to get increased rates of fire,” Granitzki said.

“We are still maturing our demonstrators, component technology and subsystems, in advance of future demonstrations to transition our systems to programs of record,” he added. **GMLRS**

The Army has also made improvements to the XM30 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, or GMLRS, nearly doubling its range.

The current XM30 rocket is a GPS-guided high-speed rocket equipped with small wing-like controls on the nose of the projectile to enhance accuracy. The XM30 system has an advertised range of 70 kilometers, said Mike Turner, the fire support capability area lead supporting CCDC Aviation & Missile Center.

To extend the XM30’s range, the Army moved the control fins to the rear of the device, Turner said. In addition to the tail controls, the Army redesigned the nose of the rocket to make it aerodynamic, equipped the device with a light-weight composite motor, and added propellant.

In result, the new Tail Controlled Guided

Multiple Launch Rocket System, or TC-G, reached 139 kilometers during a demonstration at altitude.

“This takes a product that exists in the Army’s inventory and nearly doubles the range,” he said. “By moving the control surfaces to the rear, we’re giving it more control, maneuverability, and range.”

“To support the new device, the Army fabricated a composite smooth-bore tube, ensuring a clean launch for the guided rocket,” said Brett Wilks, a TC-G program manager.

In theory, these tubes could be retrofitted to existing launch systems, resulting in no significant impact to current Army software or hardware, he added

CCDC completed the science and technology phase of the program in September 2018. The Army looks to transition the program to an initial operating capability in the next couple of years, Turner said.

“It is our mission at CCDC AvMC to look at future concepts and reduce risk. We showed the Army what’s capable for long-range missile systems,” he added.

# Oklahoma Guard Soldiers take flight for aircraft recovery training

By **Sgt. Bradley Cooney** | Army News Service

TULSA, Okla.- It’s a quiet and cloudy day in Tulsa, Oklahoma. An abundance of dark clouds hang low in the sky, but no rain is forecasted. The breeze is cooler than one would expect for a day in May. In the distance, a small dot slowly approaches. As it gets closer, Soldiers begin to hear the faint chopping of fan blades.

When the CH-47 Chinook helicopter arrives overhead, they can feel the beat of the whirling propellers in their chests. Tiny particles that have been washed onto the flight line by last week’s storms shoot into the sky. The Soldiers of Company B, 834th Aviation Support Battalion crouch with their heads down to deflect the debris.

Today, these Oklahoma Army National Guard troops are participating in a unique training experience. They’re going to lift a helicopter with another helicopter.

There are numerous scenarios to consider when it comes to military operations. One of which is “what happens when an aircraft goes down in a combat zone?” When that happens, Soldiers expertly trained to assess and repair military air assets are called upon to either fix the aircraft or recover it. These groups of Soldiers are known as Downed Aircraft Recovery Teams or DARTs.

“When we are overseas, you never know what could happen,” said Spc. Robert Hill, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter repairer and Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, native with Company B and a member of their DART. “Say an aircraft goes down. They’ll call up the DART and send some people out to do recon to see if it can be repaired on site, or if it needs to be extracted.”

The DART consists of specially trained mechanics of different professional backgrounds that encompass every aspect and moving piece of military aircraft. Each Soldier is an integral part of the team, providing expert technical capabilities to repair or recover downed air assets.

“As a general mechanic, we do anything that we can to support the other guys who might be doing sheet metal repair, hydraulics or anything else. We take care of the general mechanic practices,” Hill said.

Having a well-trained recovery team is vital to mission success and operations as a whole.

“The Army invests a lot in aviation assets,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joe Keyes, the officer-in-charge of the DART and a Norman, Oklahoma, native. “They’re a critical item to the ground forces. If an aircraft has a me-



Photos by **Sgt. Bradley Cooney** / 145th MPAD

Members of the Downed Aircraft Recovery Team with Company B, 834th Aviation Support Battalion brace as a UH-47 Chinook helicopter approaches for a sling load operation May 4 at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

chanical problem, or any kind of situation that would prevent it from returning to home base, the ground commander might call upon the DART to execute a recovery mission of that aircraft – to bring it back to home station to be repaired and brought back to the fight.”

Training exercises like this are important to maintaining proficiency in a Soldier’s respective field. It keeps the mechanics and overseers moving smoothly and effectively.

“This kind of training is good for morale and good for recruiting,” Keyes said. “And quite frankly, it’s doctrinal, because we train as we fight when we’re doing this kind of stuff. Being able to have hands-on training like this is huge for the Soldiers and it’s huge for the mission. We feel confident after doing this that we can go downrange and do this for real.”

The training that was being done recently was to practice rigging the body of a decommissioned Chinook to an operational Chinook. The hollow body of the helicopter is then hoisted up into the air. This exercise tests not only the Soldiers’ capabilities of hooking up the recovery cables to the operational helicopter, but also tests the recovery equipment itself.

“It was a first time for most of us,” said Sgt. Cody Reeves, an aircraft mechanic and NCO-IC of the DART, “but we enjoyed the training and we are now experienced.”

This rigorous training is just a small part of their day-to-day exercises to keep their skills sharp. The deliberate and almost mathemati-



Members of DART with Company B, 834th ASB, Oklahoma NG, gather on the flight line to practice hand signals for guiding helicopters.

cal movements displayed during the training event demonstrated the hard work and dedication invested by these Soldiers.

“We pride ourselves on the by-the-book maintenance,” Reeves said. “We exercise the same principles when we are slinging an aircraft. I kind of see us as superheroes because we can be called at a moments notice to recover an aircraft.”

## HOUSING *Continued from Page 1A*

Offices on each installation, Becker said, which many families don’t realize are unfiliated with the RCI Housing Offices. Army Housing Offices exist to support all military families, and can be advocates or support to those who are having issues in their homes.

Third, long-term planning to prevent a recurrence and maintain momentum is critical, said Perna. To this end, discussion topics ranged from five-year development plans to improvements in the move-in and move-out process ahead of the summer surge.

A common theme across the table was that success will require a strong partnership between the Army and RCI leaders.

“Both of us need to be held accountable to our roles and responsibilities,” Perna said.

The forum was the first in what will become a regular meeting between Perna and the housing partner executives.



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- Credit repair
- TSP military
- TSP civilian
- First-Term PCS “Money and moving”

Contact your Fort Bliss FRP Team at 569-8376 or visit us at ACS, 2494 Ricker Road. <https://bliss-armymwr.com/programs/financial-readiness-program>

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UNIT NEWS

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



National Nurses Week  
From civilian to Army nurse ■ 11A

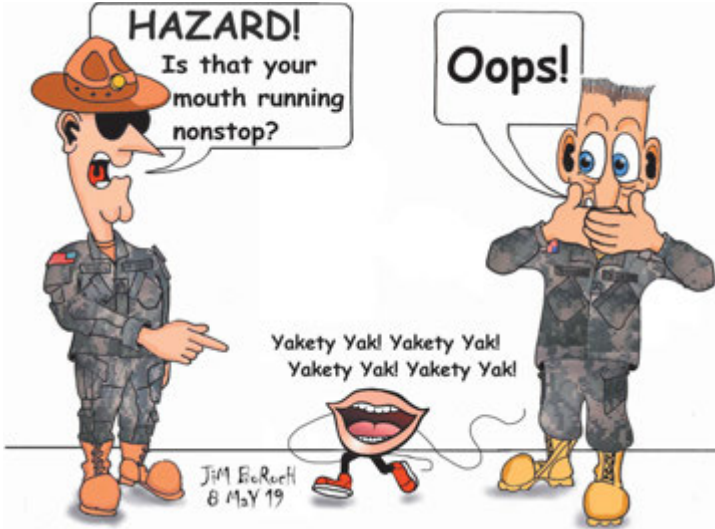
**Unit Briefs**

**Army Housing Town Hall:** The next Fort Bliss Army housing town hall is scheduled for June 6 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Centennial Club (Austin Room).

**Back the Blue Blood Drive:** Soldier Con is hosting the Back the Blue Blood Drive, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday at 8000 Gateway East. 317-8984

**Free legal clinic:** The El Paso Bar Association and El Paso Lawyers for Patriots will hold a free legal clinic for all veterans June 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join them for free legal consultations, referrals and presentations on the various resources available for veterans and active-duty military. Free. 10700 Gateway East. Bldg. A. 532-7052, ngallego@elpasobar.com, facebook.com/elpasolawyersForPatriots

**Old Ironsides ACP changes:** Beginning May 25, 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).



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Oliver, CSM of 3rd ABCT, 1st AD, and the day's guest speaker, speaks to new inductees as they transition into the Non-commissioned Officer Corps at Camp Hovey, South Korea, April 10.



Soldiers along with Republic of Korea Army noncommissioned officers, were inducted into the NCO Corps at the Sapper Steel-led NCO Induction Ceremony at Camp Hovey, South Korea, April 10.

>> SAPPER STEEL NCO INDUCTION CEREMONY

Photos by Sgt. Alon Humphrey / 3rd ABCT, 1st AD PA

Sgt. Ryan Bowler, a 2nd Brigade Engineer Battalion "Sapper Steel," 3rd Armored Brigade Combat team (Rotational), 1st Armored Division Soldier, walks across the stage as he transitions into the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps at the Sapper Steel led-NCO Induction Ceremony at Camp Hovey, South Korea April 10. The NCO Induction Ceremony is a celebration of the newly-promoted Soldiers joining the NCO ranks and builds on the pride NCOs share as members of the elite corps.

**COMMUNICATIONS** *Continued from Page 1A*

improving communication in tactical environments. The expeditionary capabilities of T2C2 improve readiness, operational flexibility and increase a unit's ability to quickly relocate at a moment's notice.

The inflatable T2C2 satellite system is part of the Army's ongoing modernization strategy, providing Soldiers with the latest cutting-edge technology to ensure that Soldiers remain agile and lethal as they complete whatever mission is placed before them.

"There are a lot of changes and new equipment updates going on right now," said Staff Sgt. Dao Yang, a nodal network systems operator-maintainer with the 1st Armored Division G6 staff. "We're always learning something new and adapting to ensure consistent readiness."

For these Iron Soldiers, training on systems like the T2C2 satellite system is what interested them to enlist in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Individuals who chose to work as tactical communicators in the military must have both technical knowledge and unparalleled adaptability in order to work in the diverse and ever-changing domain of the signal and communications field.

"It's helpful when you have Soldiers such as these who are motivated to learn and operate these types of systems," said Polle. "With new systems like this, Soldiers are getting 'day one' training that really goes through the systems, motivating our Soldiers to be hands-on with the equipment."

These Soldiers are also training with the T2C2 system in preparation for upcoming Iron Focus 19.1 exercise. The exercise will be a comprehensive training event focused



Staff Sgt. Joshua Polle, a multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainer with the 1st Armored Division, finalizes the construction of a Transportable Tactical Command Communications system.

on improving the 1st AD and its subordinate brigades' overall combat readiness and deployability during the two-week exercise.

"The main purpose of employing the T2C2 system during Iron Focus 19.1 will be to test out its capabilities," said Polle. "We're going to attach it to mission command systems to see how the T2C2 handles our processes in a complex and rapid training environment as we become a mobile force during real-world operations."



Photos by Spc. Matthew Marcellus / 1st AD

Pvt. Eric Leonard, a cable systems installer-maintainer with the 1st Armored Division's G6 staff, prepares a Transportable Tactical Command Communications system while training at the Mission Training Center May 2 at Fort Bliss.



Staff Sgt. Dao Yang, center, a nodal network systems operator, Spc. Frederic White, left, and Spc. Donovan Spinler, right, satellite communication systems operator-maintainers with the 1st Armored Division's G6 section, discuss a plan of action while completing Transportable Tactical Command Communications training at the Mission Training Center on Fort Bliss May 2.



IF THE CITY/POST DOESN'T RECYCLE AN ITEM,  
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# Motorcycles: They’re everywhere, they’re everywhere!

**By JT Coleman** | U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. - Each spring, motorists likely notice the uptick in motorcycles sharing the road with their four-wheeled vehicles. With each passing rider, we may ask ourselves: “Did they bring their bikes up to a level of safe operating after the long winter hibernation period using T-CLOCS? Did they also awaken their riding skill set and get into some type of remedial training prior to hitting the road?”

Safe, conscientious motorcyclists know their riding skills can perish if not used for long periods of time. This May, in conjunction with Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center recommends riders, both novice and expert, get refresher training to help stay safe on the road.

**Just the facts, please**

- In 2016, 4,976 motorcycle riders and passengers died in crashes, and 88,000 more suffered non-fatal injuries, according to Injury Facts, the statistical compendium on unintentional deaths and injuries published by National Safety Council. Fatalities among riders and passengers have increased nearly three percent since 2006, driven largely by an eight percent increase in 2015. The following are some stats related to motorcycle fatalities in 2016:
- Motorcycles make up three percent of all registered vehicles and only .7 percent of all vehicle miles traveled in the United States.
- Motorcyclists accounted for 13 percent of all traffic fatalities.
- 26 percent of riders who died in a motorcycle crash were alcohol-impaired.
- 91 percent of riders who died in a motorcycle crash were male.
- 36 percent of all fatalities were more-experienced riders.
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 80 percent of all motorcycle crashes resulted in serious injury or death.

**Riders must know their limitations**

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, so-called “re-entry riders,” those who rode motorcycles in their 20s and decided to take it up again in their late 40s to 60s, face additional challenges. In addition to their diminished physical skills, these riders will also encounter more traffic on today’s roadways, much more powerful motorcycles and an overabundance of distracted drivers. That’s why it’s so important riders choose a



**Sgt. Justin May / 11th ACR**

Troopers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment line up before taking off on Motorcycle Mentorship Ride at Fort Irwin, Calif., March 21, 2018. The Army Progressive Motorcycle Program is designed to consistently keep motorcycle operator training current and sustain or enrich rider skills. The program consists of the following courses: Basic RiderCourse, Basic RiderCourse 2 (formerly the Experienced RiderCourse), Military Sportbike RiderCourse (within 12 months of BRC completion), Motorcycle Refresher Training (required if the Soldier’s deployment is greater than 180 days, and on the individual’s motorcycle), and Motorcycle Sustainment Training (every five years following completion of the ERC or MSRC). If you have questions about required training, contact your garrison safety office or visit AIRS website for information on courses at your location.

motorcycle fits their skill level, not their ego.

**Proper PPE can save you**

A properly-fitted helmet is the most important piece of personal protective equipment a rider and their passenger can use. According to Injury Facts, helmets have been estimated to be about 37 percent effective in preventing fatal injuries for the rider and 41 percent for the passenger. Be sure to purchase helmets that are approved by the Department of Transportation. There are a lot of “fake” helmets on the market that offer little to no protection during accidents, so be sure to get one that is labeled DOT approved. Remember, riders should never purchase a used helmet.

**Army training**

The Army Progressive Motorcycle Program is designed to consistently keep motorcycle operator training current and sustain or enrich rider skills. The program consists of

less experienced riders and seasoned riders can create a supportive environment of responsible motorcycle riding and enjoyment.

No matter what kind of motorcycle you ride, the training you received or the PPE you wear, there are a few extras to consider before venturing out for your season-opening ride:

- Drive defensively and exercise extreme caution – especially at intersections.
- Watch for hazards such as potholes, manhole covers, oil-slicked roadways, puddles, debris, railroad tracks and gravel. These can cause a rider to wreck if not properly addressed.
- Assume you are invisible to other motorists around you and position yourself to be seen. Never ride in someone’s blind spot, which could be deadly.
- Always use your headlights – during the day and night.
- Be courteous to other drivers. Don’t weave in and out of lanes or ride on the shoulder or in between lanes.
- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing. Long-sleeved shirts, long pants, leather boots that cover the ankles and full-fingered gloves all provide good protection.
- Wear your DOT-approved helmet with goggles, glasses or use a face shield that is ventilated to prevent fogging, and make sure it’s clear if riding at night.
- Under any circumstance you should never drink and ride. There are too many other safer options to getting safely. Use them!

Before you grab a handful of throttle this spring and hit the open road, make sure to have your motorcycle serviced, your training current and the appropriate weather for your planned route. Remember, the most effective piece of equipment is your brain. Don’t leave home without it!

**Additional resources:**

**T-CLOCS inspection checklist:** [https://safety.army.mil/portals/0/documents/off-duty/PMV-2/pamphletchecklist/standard/motorcycle\\_T-CLOCS\\_poster\\_web.pdf](https://safety.army.mil/portals/0/documents/off-duty/PMV-2/pamphletchecklist/standard/motorcycle_T-CLOCS_poster_web.pdf)

**Motorcycle refresher exercises:** <https://safety.army.mil/off-duty/PMV-2/motorcycles/training/motorcycle-refresher-exercises/motorcycle-helmet-use-in-2014> <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/public/viewpublication/812110>

**Unsafe and fake helmets:** <https://safety.army.mil/Portals/0/Documents/off-dty/PMV-2/training/standard/unsafehelmets.pdf>

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# Agile and lethal

## 4-27 Field Artillery conducts Table XVIII gunnery training May 7

Photos by Spc. Matthew Marcellus / 1st AD  
Sgt. Weston Patton, a cannon crewmember and chief assigned to Battery A, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, scans the horizon to keep sight of potential obstacles, such as wildlife and obtrusive terrain features while participating in Table XVIII gunnery qualification at Doña Ana Range Complex, N.M., May 7. Leaders such as Patton use their wealth of experience to teach field artillery and warrior skills to their junior Soldiers to ensure combat readiness and deployability of the 4-27 FA.

By Spc. Matthew Marcellus |  
1st Armored Division

As waves of heat, sand and a blistering wind scorched the vast Chihuahuan desert at the Doña Ana Range Complex, New Mexico, Soldiers work together to tackle a monumental task.

The Iron Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division conducted a Table XVIII gunnery training event May 7 as a measure to qualify their field artillery capabilities.

“Table XVIII is a battalion-level qualification where a field artillery battalion conducts different field artillery tasks,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Minton, the senior enlisted advisor for 4-27 FA. “These tasks include suppressive fire and ‘time on targets’ as we execute Table XVIII.”

Suppressive fire is a field artillery task which is designed to limit the effectiveness of an enemy, while “time on target” refers to the coordinated effort of many artillery fires to hit a singular designated target at the same time.

The Table XVIII gunnery tests 4-27 FA’s ability to accurately fire multiple M109A6 Paladin howitzer self-propelled guns to best provide accurate and precise artillery support while mirroring the stress of real-world combat scenarios, preparing the battalion for combat operations.

“All of 4-27 FA’s batteries come together to complete this collective task as a battalion,” said Minton. “We provide accurate, timely and lethal directional support for artillery firers in support of combined arms and 2ABCT.”

The Table XVIII qualification mission is the culminating event of training and preparation, which began in December 2018, to test and qualifying the combat capabilities of 2nd ABCT.

“We’ve been training since December to train and complete each gunnery table,” said Minton. “We are doing this to prepare for training exercises Iron Focus 19.1 and for a rotation to the National Training Center.”

The M109A6 Paladin is manned by four Soldiers: the commander, driver, gunner and loader. Train-

ing such as the Table XVIII gunnery qualification tests the mental and physical fortitude of the 4-27 FA Soldiers, emphasizing the necessity for teamwork, quick and precise operational flexibility.

“In my section, I teach every single duty and job in an M109A6 Paladin to my Soldiers,” said Sgt. Weston Patton, a cannon crewmember and chief assigned to 1st Section, Battery A, 4-27 FA. “Even if I go down, any Soldier can take my job just as easily, they can continue the mission and stay in the fight.”

These Soldiers train, live, sleep and fight alongside each other every day during these missions, which emulate the harsh conditions of being deployed in a combat zone. The training event builds an unbreakable sense of camaraderie and partnership allowing for a more cohesive and effective battalion.

“It’s all about having some mental toughness,” said Spc. Garrett Kaiser, a cannon crewmember assigned to Battery B, 4-27 FA. “You learn how to get really down and dirty as you live outside, work outside and come together as a team in close quarters.”

Communication between Soldiers is a vital part of 4-27’s FA’s ability to remain a ready and lethal fighting force. It is imperative for the crew of an M109A6 Paladin to always be aware and conscious of their counterparts as the fast-paced nature of field artillery can be chaotic without that link.

“Communication has to be clear and present so we’re able to always keep it together,” said Patton. “If we’re all on the same page and work together efficiently, we’ll get the mission done quicker, smoother and easier.”

Training scenarios emphasized intense time restraints and a pressure to succeed, allowing Soldiers to become resilient to obstacles using both their training and ingenuity to overcome obstacles.

“With everything that can be thrown at you, you try to find the best solution,” said Garrett. “We are able to get together fast, fix the problem, shoot, or communicate and do whatever we need to as quick as possible.”

As 4-27 FA and 2nd ABCT prepare for its collective training event, Iron Focus 19.1, a two-week intensive training event preparing the brigade for an NTC rotation, Iron Soldiers assigned to 4-27 FA maintain their readiness and lethality, while also remaining adaptable warriors able to face any mission.

“This training is extreme and difficult. It puts our Soldiers in stressful environments that replicate being in a combat and hostile environment,” said Minton. “It prepares our Soldiers and gets them in the mindset to be critical and creative thinkers and to be agile leaders on the battlefield.”

An artillery Soldier mans the turret of an M109A6 Paladin howitzer self-propelled gun, maintaining constant vision over the range to support his team’s situational awareness.

An M109A6 Paladin howitzer self-propelled gun and an M992 ammunition supply vehicle overlook a range, preparing to locate and engage a simulated target. The M109A6 Paladins belonging to 4-27 FA collectively locate and fire at targets during the training event to ensure that their projectiles reach and hit the target at the same time, an artillery task referred to as time on target.

Rows of 155mm ammunition designed for use in the M109A6 Paladin howitzer self-propelled gun are lined up during a Table XVIII gunnery mission. The main gun of the M109A6 Paladin can achieve a maximum rate of fire is four rounds per minute, allowing for constant artillery pressure to be levied against an enemy force. Various types of ammunition were used by 4-27 FA during the Table XVIII gunnery mission in order to qualify the battalion through a series of live-fire missions emphasizing coordination, teamwork and precision.



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# ‘Best TDY ever’

## Holloman’s 8th FS scrambled to New Orleans last month

By Airman 1st Class Kindra Stewart | 49th Wing Public Affairs

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – As the sun beamed down on the flightline, causing skin to burn and glisten, the warm moisture that lingered in the air felt as if you were being followed by an invisible force constantly exhaling on your face.

Burning jet fuel blurred the surrounding lush, green grass and vibrant wildflowers against the tail pipes of the F-16 Fighting Falcons and F-15 Eagles.

The distant gulf breeze, when mixed with the strong gusts of jets soaring into the blue sky, welcomed sweet relief to the members of the 8th Fighter Squadron.

No longer was the unit in the high altitudes of the dry, brown desert of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, but was now below sea level in the humid, deep south of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Louisiana.

Holloman’s 8th FS deployed on a temporary duty assignment to NAS JRB New Orleans and participated in a training exercise March 29 to April 12.

“One thing that was really important to me was to be able to bring the entire squadron and deploy just as if we were to go fight,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Sletten, the 8th FS commander.

The 8th FS brought all the elements for a fully functioning squadron of 158 personnel and 15 F-16s on this TDY, including eight F-16 Basic Course pilot students.

“Our B-Course students, learning to fly F-16s, have never deployed or gone TDY together as a squadron,” said Sletten. “It is a really unique opportunity for them to go to a new place, learn a bunch of new procedures and still be able to fight well and do what we are asking them to do via the syllabus.”

Students also had the opportunity to practice flying over open water, something new to them that they will see a lot of during their careers.

The Viper pilots participated in dissimilar aircraft training and close air support exercises with the F-15 Eagles from the Louisiana National Guard’s 159th Fighter Wing and joint terminal air controllers from the U.S. Army’s 7th Special Forces Group.

“We set up something we would see in combat, where our jets were working together as a team with another unit and then fighting them as a simulated enemy,” said Sletten. “We got a lot of sorties done and got all of the students through their syllabus training as well – a huge win for us.”

Army Capt. Austin Cross, the 370th Ground Liaison Detachment officer at Holloman, said this TDY was a great training opportunity for both the ground and air forces, sharing airspace with the local units from different military branches.

While the training was an overall success, the weather played a huge part in contributing to flight delays and mechanical setbacks.

“One of the challenges we have seen here in New Orleans was the weather,” said Sletten. “The big storms made it to where we could not fly because of thunder and lightning. Unfortunately, when the rain gets into our avionics and systems, it creates electrical issues. It is really no fault to our maintainers, it just causes us to have some maintenance problems in terms on the jets not doing so well in the rain.”

But even with the complications that were faced because of the weather, Sletten said the morale on this TDY was at an all-time high.

“Being able to go out and enjoy some of the fine things a big city (like New Orleans) has



Airman 1st Class Kindra Stewart / 49th Wing Public Affairs

An 8th Fighter Squadron maintainer stands on an F-16 Fighting Falcon April 9 at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, La. Of the 158 personnel that went on the temporary duty assignment, 106 were F-16 maintainers.

to offer has really brought the unit together,” said Sletten. “There have been a lot of smiles, and I have had several people come up to me and tell me this is the best TDY they have ever been on.”

When it comes to a fully functioning fighter squadron, each section is critical and has their own impact on the mission.

The members of 54th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment section spent over two weeks preparing the gear that would be used on this TDY, not only for the operational and student pilots, but for those who were selected for familiarization flights.

Because of the gravitational forces the body experiences during a flight in a fighter jet, a special set of trousers and mask must be worn to regulate oxygen levels in the body. Gear must be inspected and fit regularly.

“I have always respected the pilots, but actually being in the cockpit and experiencing it for myself changed my entire perspective,” said Airman Samantha Anderson, a 54th OSS AFE apprentice and selected FAM flier. “When I return to Holloman, I am going to take the extra time to fit the pilots and future FAM fliers the way I would want to be fit-

ted, now that I know how it should feel when experiencing the G’s. No amount of reading my career development courses or technical orders could have prepared me enough for what it is like to be up there.”

Anderson’s excitement poured out of her words when describing how calm the world appeared on the outside of the cockpit, even when she was experiencing gravitational pulls six times her body weight – upside down!

“I feel extremely lucky,” said Anderson. “Not only to be on this TDY, but to be selected to go on a FAM flight. Both of these experiences were firsts for me, and I have only been in the Air Force less than one year. I am so blessed.”

Another FAM flyer had the ride of his life when he was read the Oath of Enlistment over the radio and re-enlisted in the back of the F-16.

“It is an experience that very few people will be able to say they have done,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Cody Vaughan, the 8th FS Department of Training NCOIC. “I have never met another enlisted airman who can say they re-enlisted in the back of an F-16, but I can.”

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# New capabilities, rotations to bolster Army presence in Eastern Europe

By Sean Kimmons | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Ongoing efforts to cut acquisition timelines will get new capabilities out sooner to counter near-peer threats in Eastern Europe, Army leaders told lawmakers May 1.

One measure of success is that it now only takes three-to-five months to get a requirement approved compared to three-to-five years in the past.

“We’re carrying on this process to make sure that we are moving at the speed of relevance to get capability to our Soldiers,” said Gen. John Murray, commander of Army Futures Command.

Cross-functional teams under AFC, which stood up last year to oversee modernization priorities, allow requirements and acquisition experts to work more closely than before.

“I like to describe Army Futures Command as a startup trying to manage a merger right now,” Murray said before the House Armed Services Committee’s subcommittee on tactical air and land forces.

### Anti-Access/Area Denial

The Army currently faces capability gaps against new anti-access/area denial, or A2/AD, technologies.

“If you take a look at Eastern Europe, Russians do not want a face-to-face fight with an M1 [Abrams] tank,” said Bruce Jette, the Army’s acquisition chief. “Therefore, they put a large amount of rockets, artillery, mortars and air defenses in place to try and protect those assets.”

Long-Range Precision Fires has become the Army’s top modernization priority to take out those protective measures, he added.

Air and missile defense systems,



Spc. Christina Westover / 24th TPASE

British Army Brig. Gen. Leigh Tingey, a deputy commanding general of the 1st Armored Division, sits inside a Bradley Fighting Vehicle as Pfc. Natnael Getahun, an infantry Soldier with the division’s 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, fixes the bore sight to ensure accuracy during a live-fire exercise at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, March 24. The brigade recently conducted a no-notice deployment from Texas to Eastern Europe in an effort to test and ensure the rapid capabilities of units deploying to that region.

such as directed energy, are also important to counter inbound attacks.

By approving requirements faster, the first Maneuver Short-Range Air Defense systems on Stryker vehicles are on track to be fielded next fiscal year, Murray said.

In March, Lt. Gen. James Pasquarette, the Army’s deputy chief of staff, G-8, said the vehicles will have four Stinger missiles on one side and two Hellfire missiles on the other, with a 30 mm autocannon and machine gun in the center.

The Army also plans to put lasers on Strykers. Soldiers at Fort

Sill, Oklahoma, have already been able to take down small unmanned aerial systems with a laser at the 10-kilowatt level.

Strykers with 50-kilowatt lasers will take a few more years to develop until they can begin to be fielded in 2024, Pasquarette said.

A 100-kilowatt laser on a larger vehicle, called the High Energy Laser Tactical Vehicle Demonstrator, will also be tested against a variety of targets in fiscal year 2022.

“When you try to shrink all that down and keep a continuous beam, it becomes very difficult,” Jette said.

Further, the Rapid Capabilities

and Critical Technologies Office, previously called the Rapid Capabilities Office, recently got a three-star general as its director as well as a new mission to focus more on directed energy, hypersonics and space.

### Rotations

Until those technologies can be fielded, the Army intends to maximize its current force.

The Army plans to increase no-notice deployments to Eastern Europe to test and ensure the rapid capabilities of units deploying to that region.

One such deployment occurred in March when more than 1,500

“I like to describe Army Futures Command as a startup trying to manage a merger right now.”

>> Gen. John Murray

Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division’s 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team were given a week’s notice to travel from Fort Bliss to Germany and fall in on prepositioned equipment to train in Poland.

“[The Army] is working various ways to get after it,” Murray said.

While it may be too heavy, he also believes the Abrams tank is still the most capable tank in the world and will continue to receive upgrades.

The most vulnerable combat vehicle, he said, is the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, which is why the Army chose to replace it first with an Optionally-Manned Fighting Vehicle. In March, a request for proposal for the OMFV was sent out to industry.

Tackling current needs while modernizing for the future battlefield will be a recurring theme for years to come, he said.

“The reality is that we have to be ready to do both,” Murray said. “We have to be able to fight tomorrow and we have to be ready to fight in the future.”





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# Success of 1st SFAB in Afghanistan proves ‘Army got it right,’ commander says

By C. Todd Lopez | Department of Defense

WASHINGTON – The 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade deployed in March 2018 to Afghanistan to carry out the inaugural mission for the newly-created SFAB concept. The brigade returned in November, and leaders say their experience there has proven successful what the Army hoped to accomplish with the new kind of training unit.

Army Brig. Gen. Scott Jackson, 1st SFAB commander, spoke last week at the Pentagon as part of an Army Current Operations Engagement Tour. He said the Army’s concept for the new unit – one earmarked exclusively for advise and assist missions – was spot on.

During their nine-month deployment to Afghanistan, Jackson said the 800-person brigade ran 58 advisory teams and partnered with more than 30 Afghan battalions, 15 brigades, multiple regional training centers, a corps headquarters and a capital division headquarters.

“That’s nearly half of the Afghan National Army,” he said. “I believe we could only accomplish our mission and reach these milestones and validate the effectiveness of an SFAB because the Army got it right -- the Army issued us the right equipment, and provided us the right training to be successful. But most importantly, we selected the people for this mission . . . the key to our success is the talented, adaptable, and experienced volunteers who served in this brigade.”

### Lessons learned

Jackson outlined two key lessons learned from the unit’s time in Afghanistan. First,



Sean Kimmons / DoD

Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Velez, left, and Capt. David Zak, center, both advisors with the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade’s 3rd Squadron, speak with their Afghan National Army counterparts during a routine fly-to-advise mission at Forward Operating Base Altimur, Afghanistan, Sept. 19, 2018. First SFAB leaders speaking at a media roundtable in the Pentagon May 8, said the success of their mission proved the concept for this new type of training unit.

they learned their ability to affect change within those they advise and assist was greater than they thought.

“As our Afghan partners began to understand the value of 1st SFAB advisors, they asked us for more,” Jackson said. “So our teams partnered with more and more Afghan units as the deployment progressed.”

Another lesson, he said, was that persistent presence with partners pays off.

“Units with persistent partners made more progress in planning and conducting offensive operations and in integrating organic Afghan enablers like field artillery and the Afghan air force than ‘unpersistent’ partnered units,” Jackson said.

Those lessons and others were passed to the follow-on unit, the 2nd SFAB, as well as to the Security Force Assistance Command.

Another observation: the Afghan military is doing just fine.

They’re in charge of their own operations. And while U.S. presence can provide guidance when needed -- and it is asked for -- the Afghans were proving successful at doing their own security missions without U.S. Soldiers running alongside them. It turns out that just having an SFAB advise and assist presence has emboldened Afghan security to success.

“We saw enormous offensive maneuver generated, and not just at the brigade level,” said Army Lt. Col. Brian Ducote, commander of the 1st Battalion, 1st SFAB. “They weren’t overdependent. They were able to execute offensive operations themselves. It was a huge confidence builder when we were sometimes just – present. Even if we didn’t support them, just us being there gave them the confidence to execute on independent offensive operations.”

### Confidence is contagious

Ducote said that the confidence moved from brigade level down to battalion, or “kandak” level. Commanders there also began running their own offensive operations, he said.

“They believe in themselves,” the lieutenant colonel said. “The Afghan Army has

See 1ST SFAB Page 13A

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National Nurses Week May 6-12

# Call to service: From civilian to Army nurse

By Maj. John Moore | 101st Airborne Division

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – National Nurses Week is a time to recognize the vast contributions and positive impact of more than four million registered nurses in the United States.

In 1993, National Nurses Week was established and is a time to celebrate and elevate the nursing profession. Each year, the celebration begins on May 6 and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale’s birthday.

Florence Nightingale was a prominent figure in nursing who greatly affected 19th and 20th-century policies pertaining to patient care. Born to an affluent family in Florence, Italy, May 12, 1820, she followed her call to service through nursing as she grew up. As a young adult, she defied the societal norms of the Victorian Era, opting to pursue a career in patient care, rather than to simply marry to uphold her social class standing.

Throughout her life, Nightingale cared for thousands of patients. One of many examples of her selfless service came during the Crimean War. During that time, she and her team of nurses improved the unsanitary conditions at a British base hospital, significantly improving the quality of life while also reducing the death count. She tirelessly devoted her life to preventing disease, and ensured safe and compassionate treatment for the poor and the suffering.

Nurses, in many ways, constitute the collective face of health care. There are dozens of nursing specialties categorized by level of certification or education, population, or medical specialty.

Capt. Lisa Kasper, an emergency room nurse assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), joined the Army in August 2010, after graduating in 2008 from the College of St. Scholastica with a degree in Nursing. A Wisconsin native, Kasper decided to serve her nation by providing compassionate treatment for America’s Soldiers during a time of war.

“I joined the Army for the challenge and adventure,” said Kasper. “After graduating col-



Maj. John Moore / 101st Airborne Division

Capt. Lisa Kasper, an emergency room nurse assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), rappels from the 34-foot tower at the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Ky., May 1.

lege, I worked as a civilian nurse for two years prior to deciding to join. I could not see myself working in the same job for the rest of my life so I joined for the Army.”

As a result of entering the Army as a direct commissioned officer, the transition from civilian life to Army officer came with a bit of a learning curve. Her first assignment following her officer initial entry training program was at Brooke Army Medical Center, in San Antonio, where she served as an emergency room nurse.

“I enjoy being a nurse because it makes me happy to care for others,” Kasper said. “Knowing that I am able to make an impact on someone’s life makes my job worthwhile.”

Making the transition from providing care in

an Army hospital stateside, she later deployed to Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan in 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I deployed with the 8th Forward Surgical Team,” said Kasper. “We augmented a German role-two hospital. As one of the only Americans working with the Germans, it was such a great opportunity to not only provide great care to the wounded, but to also work with soldiers from other nations.”

In summer 2018, Kasper arrived at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, and began working at the LaPointe Army Medical Home. There, she is responsible for the medical readiness of more than 4,200 soldiers monthly, and helps to

support more than 2,500 patients per month.

As a Soldier in the Air Assault Division, she understood the importance of upholding the division standards, and attended training at the Sabalauski Air Assault School. During the ten-day school, she trained on Air Assault operations, sling-load operations, and rappelling.

Graduates of the school are able to make maximum use of helicopter assets in training and in combat to support their unit operations.

“Air Assault school was a great experience,” said Kasper. “As a nurse we are very seldom given the opportunity to do any tactical training. It was always a goal of mine to complete the school.”

Sometimes called the “ten toughest days in the Army,” Air Assault school frequently releases students from training for failure to meet the course standards.

“There were times while I was in the school where I wondered why I volunteered to do this,” Kasper said. “The last day was rewarding since I was able to rappel from a hovering helicopter. Overall, it was a great opportunity that many [Army] nurses will never get.”

As a Soldier first, and an Army nurse second, she gained an interesting perspective into providing care for Soldiers after earning her wings.

“It helped me to be a better Soldier and understand what the Soldiers are going through, as well as the health challenges they face due to the intensity of their training.”

Being the only nurse in the Rakkasans, Kasper noted feelings of uncertainty prior to arriving to the unit.

“Serving as the only nurse in the brigade was very daunting at first,” Kasper said. “I was nervous that I was not going to fit in with the infantry Soldiers.”

“After arriving, I slowly developed my role as the brigade nurse and established standards for what leaders could expect from me,” she continued. “I truly enjoy my job as the brigade nurse, knowing that I am able to make a difference and assist Soldiers in many different ways. I enjoy being able to help others.”

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Fort Bliss Noncommissioned Officer Academy students in one of the school's classrooms on West Fort Bliss in 2018. Approximately 40,000 employees move from one DoD agency to another each year, often requiring them to repeat mandatory online training they'd already completed at their previous agency. The partnership with OPM will mean not only a centralized course catalog for training, but also centralized learning records so that when employees move, they will not have to retake training.

# DOD, OPM team up for improved online training

By Department of Defense

WASHINGTON – A new memorandum of agreement between the Defense Department and the Office of Personnel Management promises to reduce the cost for training for defense employees and enhance the training experience.

The two agencies signed the memo May 3, making OPM's "USALearning" program DOD's partner as the "centralized source for training, education, and domain-specific expertise."

The agreement will save DOD money and will make training employees easier, said Lisa Hershman, DOD's acting chief management officer. The move also is squarely aligned with the president's management agenda, she added.

"Talking about the USALearning reform initiative is actually very exciting," Hershman said. "You know the president's management agenda has prioritized three areas of reform: information technology modernization, data transparency and accountability, and the workforce of the 21st century. This reform initiative is one of those rare initiatives that addresses all three."

As part of the agreement, DOD will centralize the creation, procurement and distribution for online learning and training programs for its employees. As many as 50,000 courses exist across 161 training distribution platforms within DOD, Hershman said.

### Consolidating platforms

The partnership will help consolidate DOD learning technology software platforms, associated cloud server delivery platforms, licensing, and related training and education activities through the USALearning shared services center. The partnership is expected to produce a DOD-wide common course catalog and online access portal hosted by USALearning, as well

as a DOD-wide common record repository. Partnering with OPM is expected to save the DOD \$22 million in 2020, and over the next five years, it's projected to save \$122 million.

Hershman noted that some 40,000 employees move from one DOD agency to another each year, often requiring them to repeat mandatory online training they'd already completed at their previous agency. The partnership with OPM will mean not only a centralized course catalog for training, but also centralized learning records so that when employees move, they will not have to retake training.

"This is a pivotal step in becoming easier to do business with, and that's usually thought of in terms of our customers and our constituents," Hershman said. "But this is actually one that will greatly reduce the complexity for our employees."

Benefits Go Beyond DOD-OPM Partnership Acting OPM Director Margaret Weichert said that working with DOD, considering its size, will benefit not just DOD and OPM, but the rest of government as well.

"We're now at a place where we can actually leverage the scale that we've got and take it to the next level," Weichert said.

"This partnership is obviously going to benefit DOD, but it benefits the broader government environment as well. It leverages the shared infrastructure, and it leverages data," she continued. "Looking at a large population like the DOD population -- the largest population in government -- and being able to consistently look at how we are training what the outcomes are, what does that mean for mobility in terms of serving the mission, the agility of the workforce, responding to new changes in this mission? The learning we're going to get here will enable us to do more for the rest of government, at scale."

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Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, talks with Hawaii National Guard members deployed with the Multinational Force and Observers on the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, May 1.

# NGB chief visits Guard Soldiers supporting Egypt MFO mission

By Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill | National Guard Bureau

SINAI PENINSULA, Egypt - Men and women that have been to war stand watch here in the hope others won't have to.

Some members of the multinational force and observers - including some of the Hawaii National Guard troops currently contributing to the mission - have served in war zones.

But the MFO mission is about avoiding conflict by supporting peace that has held for more than 40 years since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty in 1979. The MFO is to supervise the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace and employ best efforts to prevent any violation of its terms. Article II of Annex I to the Treaty of Peace established four security zones, three in the Sinai in Egypt and one in Israel along the international border. Limitations on military forces and equipment within each zone are stipulated in Annex I to the Treaty.

"You are filling a vital role," Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told troops with the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, Hawaii National Guard, during a visit to the region last week. "The National Guard stands ready to support the MFO whenever we are needed: We love the mission, and our troops are highly motivated to deploy to exciting and important missions."

Since 1981, the MFO has observed, verified and reported potential violations of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace and facilitated military dialogue between the signatories to build trust, enhance transparency and ensure enduring peace.

The mission is conducted in the challenging, dynamic environment of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula - a mountainous, thinly populated desert about the size of West Virginia, with Israel and the Gaza Strip on its eastern border.

The Hawaii National Guard is currently the MFO's largest single force provider. Over the years, the Guard has frequently provided troops. More than 500 troops have come to the MFO from the National Guard State Partnership Program nations.

"That so many of our SPP partners have transitioned from being security consumers to security providers shows how the SPP builds partner capacity," Lengyel said. "Our partnership activities provide the Defense Department with a highly cost-effective means of strengthening alliances and attracting new partners."

The SPP joins the National Guard in the states or territories with foreign countries for cooperative security training. More than one-third of the world's nations - 83 of them - now have such partnerships.

During his visit, Lengyel met with Egyptian military leaders, including Maj. Gen. Mohammed Abbas Helmy, the Egyptian Air Force commander.

"Our enduring strategic defense relationship with Egypt is one of our nation's most valued partnerships," Lengyel said.

Topics discussed with Egyptian leaders included border security, a challenge shared by both countries and a mission that both the Egyptian military and the National Guard have boots-on-the-ground and eyes-in-the-sky experience.

"It never ceases to amaze me how much contribution Guard members are making in every kind of partnership at every level, whether local, state, federal or -- as in this case -- international," Lengyel said. "Guard members should take great pride in the roles we fill at home and around the world."

Egypt - one of the birthplaces of civilization and now home to 97 million people with a median age of 24.7 - holds a special place in Lengyel's heart: He counts his time as the United States' senior defense official in the country as one of his favorite non-flying assignments.

"It was invaluable in increasing my understanding of complex geopolitical issues and the practical realities on the ground," he said. "It's one of the reasons I strongly encourage diversity of assignments, to strengthen and broaden our emerging leaders. We are an operational reserve of the world's best fighting force. The National Guard is an essential part of our Total Force, providing ready forces and strategic depth."

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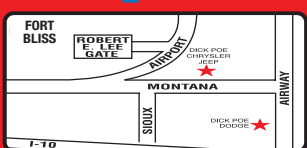


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## Things to do:

**Armed Forces Day Parade:** Join FMWR for their second annual Armed Forces Day Parade Saturday. This year they'll have the very popular parade of floats, marching bands, military vehicles, community organizations and horses through West Fort Bliss. Parade begins at 10 a.m. on Pershing Road with activities to follow on Noel Parade Field. 588-8247 or 568-2554.

**Silver City (N.M.) Blues Festival:** The Silver City Blues Festival will take place May 24-26, Memorial Day Weekend in historic Silver City, N.M., located less than three hours northwest of El Paso and Fort Bliss. The festival will have something for everyone — from harmonica stars, young blues prodigies to local performers, and unique vendors. There are several new and returning attractions this year for the whole family to enjoy. Gough Park, Silver City, N.M. Free. [www.SilverCityBluesFestival.org](http://www.SilverCityBluesFestival.org)

**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.

**'Mamma Mia!':** UTEP Dinner Theatre, in the UTEP Student Union West building, presents the hit musical inspired by the music of ABBA through Sunday. Showtime is 7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; non-dinner matinees are Sunday 1:30 p.m., May 19. Cost: \$33.50-\$48.50 (Friday and Saturday dinner performances), and \$19.50 to \$29.50 no-dinner matinee performances (Ticketmaster). 747-6060 or [utep.edu/udt](http://utep.edu/udt).

**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. This season's kickoff event, happening Sunday, will include a car show 3-7 p.m., new Farmer's Market starting at 10 a.m., and live music from Mestizo Band 4-8 p.m. Free. 851-0093 or [missiontrailartmarket.com](http://missiontrailartmarket.com)

**Las Cruces Wine Festival:** The festival will be noon-6 p.m. May 25-27, at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd, Las Cruces, N.M. The Memorial Day Weekend festival offers wines by New Mexico wineries as well as specialty food and artisans. Wine may be purchased by the glass, bottle or case. No pets or coolers. Sponsored by New Mexico Wine; [nmwine.com](http://nmwine.com). Cost: \$17 for military (at the gate), with valid DoD ID; others \$20 in advance; \$25 at the gate; \$10 designated driver and non-drinker 16-20. Tickets at [holdmyticket.com](http://holdmyticket.com). [NMWine.com](http://NMWine.com)

**Hay Mas Adelante! Medicare Workshop:** Interlex Communications is hosting a free Medicare Educational Workshops May 21-22 presented by AARP Medicare Supplement Plans to help participants better understand their option, including what people need to know before signing up and what Medicare does and doesn't cover. Tuesday: noon-1:30 p.m. at El Paso Downtown Library, 501 N. Oregon, and 6-7:30 p.m., El Paso Community College ASC, 9050 Viscount. Wednesday: 12:30-2 p.m. at Polly Harris Senior Center, 650 Wallenberg. Presented in English and Spanish. RSVP at 1-800-983-6998. (213) 422-78080 or [haymasadelante.com](http://haymasadelante.com)

**Neon Desert Music Festival:** The Neon Desert Music Festival is 3 p.m.-midnight May 25-26, in Downtown El Paso, with headliners including Wiz Khalifa, Rezz, Steve Aoki and Tory Lanez. Cost: two-day general admission \$99 [neondesert.com](http://neondesert.com) or on Facebook.

**Hype or Die Fest:** El Paso DJ and producer Riot Ten headlines the Hype or Die music fest 7 p.m.-2 a.m. May 31, at Wet N' Wild Waterworld, 8804 S. Desert, Anthony, Texas (I-10 at Exit 0), with Bonnie X Clyde, PhasOne, G-Rex, Moonboy, Cybrpnk, Johnny Kage, Legit Alpha, Josor, Angel Valentin, Forti, Flash, Rektike and Tomnoize. Cost: \$15 at [wetwild.com](http://wetwild.com) or [hypeordiefest.com](http://hypeordiefest.com)

**Lupus Awareness Motorcycle Run:** The 3rd annual Lupus Awareness Motorcycle Run is 9 a.m. June 2, at Ramirez Pecan Farm, 13709 N Loop in Clint. Riders depart at 10 a.m. for a ride through Clint, San Eli Fabens, Tornillo and Socorro. Wear purple for the cause.



Photos by C. Todd Lopez / DoD

Holly Vega, the spouse of Marine Corps Lt. Col. Javier Vega for 18 years, was named the 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year during a ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., recently.

## Marine Corps wife earns honors as Military Spouse of the Year, service winners recognized

By C. Todd Lopez | DoD

Holly Vega, the spouse of Marine Corps Lt. Col. Javier Vega for 18 years, was named the 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year during a ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia, recently.

Vega was chosen for the honor from a pool of candidates, one each from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Guard.

The Vega family, including the couple's three children, is stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

"Holly's volunteerism, generosity, and passion to serve military families in her community has earned her this award," said Catherine Thomas, spouse of Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Gary Thomas.

"Holly is passionate about consistency in education for military children, which is why she supports and volunteers for the 'Purple Up' kids' program. She not only volunteers in her community, but she also works part time for Military Home Base and is a full-time student at Park University, studying social psychology and organizational communication.

"Fellow military spouses describe Holly as 'a ray of sunshine,' full of warmth and life, and she has a reputation for being generous, kind, and is known for lifting up other military spouses when they need it most."

Vega stays extremely busy at MacDill, serving as an ambassador to the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce, a "Heart Heathy Advocate" and co-leader with Military Hearts Matter, a co-leader of a Girl Scouts Brownie troop, co-leader for the Military Kids Club at Lithia Elementary School, co-facilitator for Our Forces Book Club, and other activities.

"Serving my community has been a joy, and I am privileged and grateful every day for it," Vega said. "I am pleased and honored to be so humbled to be selected as the overall 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year."

Having been previously nominated as the 2019 AFI Military Marine Corps Spouse of the Year "was like waking up on Christmas morn-

ing, coming downstairs and finding that bright, shiny red bike that you thought you were never going to get," Vega said. "Those feelings of excitement are right now."

Before the ceremony, each military service chose its own nominee for the award. Those awarded included:

Maria Reed, an Army spouse, is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, with her husband of 16 years, Army Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Reed, and their two children.

As an advocate to improve the quality of life of military families, Reed produces the web video series "Moving with the Military," which can be seen online at <http://www.movingwiththemilitary.tv>.

Reed says the series "not only celebrates military families, but encourages, inspires, and empowers military spouses to discover their passion."

Michelle D. Norman, a Navy spouse, is stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, with her husband of 23 years, Navy Capt. Cassidy Norman, and their two children.

The two met while studying engineering in Texas. In 2003, their daughter, Marisa, was born early, at just 27 weeks.

"It was the beginning of my new life of advocating," Norman said. Since that time, she has worked tirelessly to advocate for better education for special-needs children, and for improvements to the military's Exceptional Family Member Program.

Katelyn Tinsley, an Air Force spouse, is stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, with her husband of eight years, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mark Tinsley, and their three children. Tinsley founded a nonprofit organization in 2016 called "Homefront Room Revival" to help military families improve resilience and to enrich their lives.

"As both a military spouse and veteran, I saw several gaps in targeted community programs for families and found a need to creatively innovate something new to help others who have had struggles through military life," Tinsley said.

Jessica Manfre, a Coast Guard spouse, is sta-



Maria Reed, an Army spouse, is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, with her husband of 16 years, Army Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Reed, and their two children. As an advocate to improve the quality of life of military families, Reed produces the web video series "Moving with the Military," which can be seen online at <http://www.movingwiththemilitary.tv>.

tioned in Cape May, New Jersey, with husband of 11 years, Coast Guard Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott Manfre and their two children. During the recent government shutdowns, Manfre started up a food pantry — sponsored by the Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club — to help Coast Guard personnel feed their families when they weren't getting paid.

"It grew to the point that it proudly could support not only southern New Jersey families in need, but also those in several other states across the country," she said.

Samantha Gomolka, a National Guard spouse who lives in Kingwood, West Virginia, with her husband of 14 years, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Gomolka and their three children. She and Mark are setting up a nonprofit organization called "Project 33 Memorial Foundation" to create awareness of Special Operation Soldiers who have been killed in action since Sept. 11, 2001.

"We honor one Soldier per year and tell the story of their life and sacrifice from January through May. A voice for the quiet professionals," Gomolka said. "We had our inaugural event last May, a 6.9-mile run through our hometown on Memorial Day."



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William Beaumont Army Medical Center Credentials staff members gather for a photograph, April 26. Michelle Vera, center, chief of Credentials at WBAMC, recently completed a leadership course designed to help manage the current challenges in the field, ultimately increasing patient safety at WBAMC.

# Top Notch: WBAMC credentials chief acquires elite qualification

By Marcy Sanchez | WBAMC PA

Education doesn't end with a medical degree for more than 1,700 medical providers at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, it's a continuous practice that adds to patient care, safety and the evolution of scope of practice. Patients can rest assure their provider is credentialed and privileged to provide the care they do because of WBAMC's credentialing staff.

Leading the charge is the department's chief, Michelle Vera, who recently completed a leadership certificate program from her profession's national organization, the first medical services professional in El Paso to do so.

Medical credentialing allows patients to be confident in placing their care and trust in the hands of their health care providers. The practice goes beyond verifying the academic degrees on provider's walls are authentic, by also tracking provider's training, experience, and maintenance of Continuing Medical Education clinical proficiencies.

Vera, a native of El Paso, has worked in the field for more than two decades and said she has watched the profession evolve along with medical care.

"Back when I started in 1996, you couldn't fake a diploma or certification, today things are easier to manipulate," said Vera.

Vera's recent certificate prepares her to lead her department in effective negotiations, corporate responsibility and compliance and financial matters.

"With this certification, it really has to do with leadership and medical staff services and budget negotiations, ethics, changes in health-care and communications with professionals," said Vera. "With changes in technology and the profession, [medical services professions] started adding more training and requirements to move toward [better identification of] quality and competent providers."

According to Vera, credentialing differs from privileging, as credentialing is the process of verifying qualifications, leading to providers' privileges, limiting them in their scope of practice.

**"Back when I started in 1996, you couldn't fake a diploma or certification, today things are easier to manipulate."**

>> Michelle Vera

"In credentialing, we verify the credentials of providers which are (not limited to) licenses and work history for the past 10 years," said Vera. "Privileging, is when we match up their training and experience to what their scope of practice will be here. Providers apply for privileges every two years, so we can verify what they've been doing [in clinical practice]."

Through these processes, Vera and her staff provide patients with the security of knowing their providers have been verified to be clinically capable of providing safe patient care.

"We manage doctors, social workers, clinical pharmacists, dietitians, and anyone who has a license (including registered nurses, licensed practical/vocational nurses and others)," said Vera. "We ensure they are trained to do a certain procedure or therapy while following joint commission recommendations, Army regulations and state laws."

In recent years many medical breakthroughs have been undertaken by WBAMC staff. Vera's team manages the requirements necessary for new procedures to be performed at WBAMC, to include establishing credentialing criteria, and prerequisites for performing the procedure.

For Vera, who also holds two other elite certifications in her field, her recent certificate is another notch on her belt reminding her of the trust patients put in their providers and the important functions of the credentialing staff.

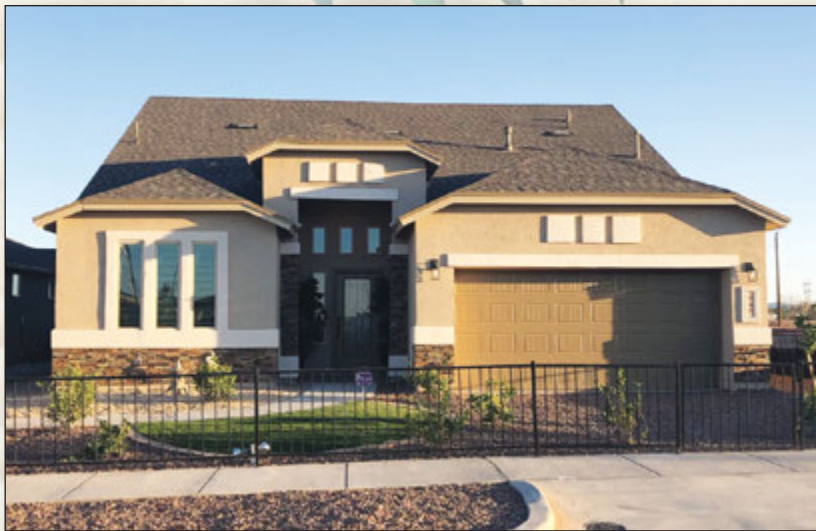
"These certificates are evolving as the profession evolves," said Vera.



## >> SUN CITY SHIPMATE

Navy Seaman Apprentice Ethan Morrow

Seaman Recruit David Alcalá, from El Paso, performs a baton strike after being sprayed with oleoresin capsicum spray, also known as pepper spray, during naval security force sentry training in San Diego April 18. Sailors assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) are required to participate in NSFS training prior to earning weapons qualifications.



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NCNG officer candidates at the site of the Battle of Chancellorsville, near Fredericksburg, Va., May 4.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell / NC National Guard  
North Carolina National Guard officer candidate Donald Nicholas briefs 139th Regional Training Institute's Officer Candidate School Class 61 on important decisions made during the Battle of Chancellorsville while visiting the Civil War site near Fredericksburg, Va., May 4.

## NCNG OCS students learn leadership lessons by studying historical battles

By Staff Sgt. Mary Junell | NC National Guard

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. – The tradition of the staff ride dates back to the early 1900s when Maj. Eben Swift, the assistant commandant of the General Service and Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, would take students to visit Civil War battlefields.

Today, units across the Army, like the North Carolina National Guard's 139th Regional Training Institute, still conduct staff rides as a way to enhance professional military education and training.

For the 139th's Officer Candidate School Class 61, the Chancellorsville Battlefield near Fredericksburg, Virginia, May 3-4, gave the students an opportunity to discuss tactics and evaluate the decisions of leaders who came before them.

The 16 students were each assigned a certain leader at different points in the battle and presented the information they gathered about what the leaders were doing during specific moments in the battle.

"We have to learn from history, or we keep making the same mistakes," said 1st Lt. Miles Komuves, an OCS instructor with the 139th RTI. "It makes it real. You can teach lessons in the classroom and people learn different ways, but here they are walking around on some of the same terrains and exploring some of these ideas that they learn in the classroom, and applying them out there. The value of learning from history never diminishes."

Maj. Ryan Shields, the OCS company commander with the 139th RTI, said the goal is for students to be able to look at the decisions some leaders made during the battle and formulate how they would have made those same decisions with the skills they have learned through the OCS program.

"It gives them a good understanding of how leaders in certain positions formulate and execute plans," Shields said. "It also gives them a great opportunity to visualize what they have learned in the OCS program and they can apply that moving forward."

The staff ride is seen as a culminating event for the class before they enter the last few months of OCS. Shields said many students in previous programs have come to him and said the staff ride was where the training really clicked for them.

"One of the most important things that I'm getting out of this is the perspective from the different military leaders through the war and being able to apply that perspective to

today's fighting," said Tim Marshburn, one of the officer candidates in Class 61. "Being able to put it all together and apply the tactics and troop leading procedures to the different sections of the battle brings all the training into perspective."

Several leaders from the NCNG also attended the staff ride to help provide insight into the decisions based on their career fields including a Medical officer, an Armor officer,

and a chaplain.

During the staff ride, the students also found out which officer branch and unit they will be assigned to once they receive their commission, signaling that they are nearing the end of their training.

Should all 16 students make it through the third phase of OCS, they will graduate and earn their commission as new Army second lieutenants in August.

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## Be there for a friend in need

By Spc. Shankar Nigam | HHC, 4-17 Infantry

It was October 2015 when I was done with college and visiting home, oblivious to the fact that one of my friends was going through hard times. He became withdrawn, drank more and grew angry and depressed.

One day, he gave me a phone call saying he wanted to “end everything.” I acted fast and called 911 and his parents; he was rushed to the hospital.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the suicide rate in the rose nationwide from 1999 to 2014. In 2015, CDC reported that suicide was the second leading cause of death in people aged 15 to 34 years.

This age group covers a large number of our military personnel. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, each day, around 20 veterans commit suicide. A study from Oxford University states that in 2012, for every 100,000 Soldiers in the Army, 30 of them committed suicide, well above the national rate of 12.5 per 100,000. We have had a number of suicides and attempts reported all over Fort Bliss.

Many causes can lead to suicide. According to the Mayo Clinic, some causes are mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Stressful events, breakup, loss of a loved one, war, financial problems, and abuse are also common causes. Another cause is a history of a suicide attempts and access to firearms. Growing up negatively with a family or bullying at school has been known to be major causes. People are capable of succumbing to substance abuse like drugs and alcohol to help numb that feeling and make them more impulsive, thus giving them what they need to carry out the suicidal act.

The signs can be hard to notice. The Mayo Clinic states that statements such as “I want to kill myself,” saying “goodbye,” or anything of the sort is a warning. A sudden change in the person’s behavior is a big sign too. Someone who is usually happy and is now suddenly depressed and withdrawn is a red flag. This person can also feel trapped and hopeless many times, talking about death and violence. They are susceptible to having mood swings. If someone was depressed for a time and suddenly feels so much better and happier, this is an can be a sign because it is possible that the person has made peace with the suicidal act and may carry it out soon. Increased use of alcohol and drugs along with reckless behavior is another major sign. Another symptom is giving away prized belongings.

Some signs are obvious and some are not noticeable.

Treatment, according to the Mayo Clinic, can involve the use of psychiatric medications and different forms of therapy by a counselor or therapist. If someone is on psychiatric medication, it can ironically increase the risk of a suicide attempt. An example would be if someone was too depressed to take action, may now have the energy to carry it out with the use of antidepressants. That’s why when such medications are given the patient must be monitored closely for the first several weeks.

Supplementing medical therapy with social engagement helps. Friends, relatives, colleagues should look for changes. Sometimes, ask bluntly “Are you planning to kill yourself?” and no matter what their answers are, keep an eye on them. If something that makes them happy no longer has that effect, then it is a sign that something is wrong. Sometimes the act or talk of suicide is a cry for help.

My friend nearly ended his life, and it is a memory that is etched in my mind to this day. I paid attention, so I immediately got help. Today, he’s at school, living life in a better way.

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. Everyone can see the signs, whether obvious or hidden. Be there for your fellow Soldiers, friends and family.

Keep the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 handy. Chat online is available 24/7. Remember to act before it is too late. As it is quoted in the Warrior Ethos, “I will never leave a fallen comrade.” Don’t let your comrades fall!

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# Don't quit

By Chaplain (1st Lt.) Craig Peeples | 2-3 Field Artillery  
“Let us not become weary in doing good - for at the proper time we will reap a harvest - if we do not give up.” - Galatians 6:9

“...Often the goal is nearer than it seems to a faint and faltering man; Often the struggler has given up when he might have captured the victor's cup; And he learned too late when the night came down, How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out. The silver tint in the clouds of doubt, And you never can tell how close you are, It might be near when it seems afar; So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit. It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.”- John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892, American poet)

These are the final two stanzas of an inspirational poem has helped me through some dark and difficult long nights and weary days – tough times when I felt like giving up. We have all struggled or failed at some point in our lives. We have all faced challenges or difficult times when we just felt like giving up. Even today, there may be some people who ask themselves “How can I keep going when I feel like giving up?”

I've been there and I've asked that same question. Especially in 1998 when my son Marquis passed away. What helped me and what will help you is surrounding yourself

with positive people. Be around people who know what it takes to thrive and come out on top, especially during difficult times.

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. Don't ever be so quick to throw in the towel. You never know how close you are to that raise on your job, your spouse changing an attitude, your children becoming more respectful, or your health improving. Don't give up...trust the engineer who is guiding your life.

It is also helpful to remind ourselves about others who have thrived in the midst of great difficulty. What if Michael Jordan had quit? What if Magic Johnson had quit? What if Tiger Woods had quit? If these great people had quit, they would have never become the champions they are today.

Quitting is easy. But what most quitters fail to fully understand is that when they quit, they lose. When one quits, one loses everything one has worked for, prayed for, and believed in. To quit is to suffer.

When one quits, one suffers the shame and the embarrassment that goes along with quitting. However, God encourages us, along with all the people who support us, to “fight the good fight, to finish the race, to keep the faith. For in due time, with endurance, we shall inherit the present blessings of this life, and the eternal blessings of the life to come.” - II Timothy 4:7-8.

May we be encouraged by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who said, “If you can't fly, then run; if you can't run, then walk; if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

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

**Hope Chapel**  
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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**  
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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.)  
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**Post-wide Bible Study**  
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### CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICES

**St. Michael's Catholic Community**  
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Wednesday Confession 10:35 a.m.  
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Saturday Mass 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass 8 a.m.  
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1st Friday of the Month - Adoration 1 p.m.

**WBAMC Hospital Chapel**  
(5005 N. Piedras Dr.)  
Weekday Mass 12:05 p.m.  
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass 8 and 11:30 a.m.

**German Chapel**  
(5312 Buffalo Soldier)  
Sunday Mass 10 a.m. odd days

### OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**Jewish Chapel** (Bldg. 1441)  
Friday Shabbat Service 7 p.m.

**Islamic Service** (Bldg. 442)  
Friday Jummuh 1:30 p.m.  
Sunday Ta'Aleem 12:30-2 p.m.

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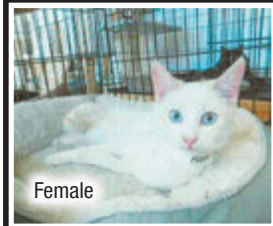
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MAY 2019

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	BRK	LUN	DIN
M-F	0730-0900	1130-1300	1700-1830
WKND HOL	BRN 0930-1300		SUP 1700-1830

**MAY 2019**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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DFAC (915) 744-7764/7767

**Area 1A**  
(Far East Bliss)  
Bldg. 21214  
Bayonet AVE

	BRK	LUN	DIN
M-F	0800-0930	1130-1300	1700-1830
WKND HOL	BRN 0930-1300		SUP 1700-1830

**MAY 2019**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

BDE Food Service (915) 741-1591  
DFAC (915) 741-1180/1168

**Area 2**  
(East Bliss)  
Bldg. 20226  
Eagle ST

	BRK	LUN	DIN
M-F	0730-0900	1130-1300	1700-1830
WKND HOL	BRN 0930-1300		SUP 1700-1830
"Iron Fuel" On The Go	M-F	0700-1900	

**MAY 2019**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

BDE Food Service (915) 744-4300  
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**Area 3**  
(East Bliss)  
Bldg. 11316  
SSG Sims ST

	BRK	LUN	DIN
M-F	0730-0900	1130-1300	1700-1830
WKND HOL	BRN 0930-1300		SUP 1700-1830

**MAY 2019**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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DFAC (915) 741-3411/3413

**Area 1 (West Bliss)**  
Bldg. 906  
Chaffee Rd.

	BRK	LUN	DIN
M-F	0500-0830	1130-1300	1700-1830
WKND HOL	BRK 0700-0830 LUN 1130-1300		DIN 1600-1730

**MAY 2019**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

COR (915) 568-0435  
DFAC (915) 568-9672/9719

**McGregor**  
Bldg. 9436  
Vulcan Rd.

	BRK	LUN	DIN
M-F	0530-0700	1130-1300	1700-1830
WKND HOL	BRK 0600-0730 LUN 1130-1300		DIN 1700-1830

**MAY 2019**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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# The importance of this and that

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

“Hey, Mom, what’s up?” Lilly appeared on my smartphone screen after I clicked the video call icon. Now that she was a freshman in college, we tried to talk at least once a week.

“Oh, not much,” I said, hearing a jumble of voices in the background. “Where are you, anyway?”

“At the library,” she said. A very good sign, I thought.

“My friends and I came here before class.” Lilly showed the girls piled onto the couch beside her. She wasn’t studying. She was eating a salad, hanging out with friends, and printing her Spanish paper. Oh well, good enough.

We chatted about the usual things – how exams were going, boys, her plans for summer, this and that. Knowing that I was meeting a friend for coffee in an hour, I carried the phone with me while I multitasked, throwing the ball for our dog Moby, folding clothes, emptying the dishwasher, picking an outfit to wear.

“Well, Lil, I’d better go get in the shower,” I said after we’d talked for thirty minutes.

“No, Mom! Can’t you take the phone with you?” she said.

“In the shower? The phone will get wet!”

“Please! Just put it on the ledge outside the shower, I’ve done it before.”

Lilly didn’t have anything specific to talk about, but I wasn’t about to shut her down. Since Lilly had left for college, we’d been worried about her. For the first time in her 18 years, she wasn’t happy. This was a foreign concept to our family. Lilly had always been determined to make others smile. As the content third child, she rarely stopped to ask, “What about me?”

It was time for Lilly to talk about herself, and I would need to listen.

When I was young, I didn’t have these conversations with my own mother, though I loved her dearly. She worked as a first-grade teacher, she cooked and cleaned, and created a warm home. She was creative, introducing my brother and I to arts and enriching activities from a young age. Our modest home was most definitely loving, but we didn’t

talk much about thoughts, feelings, fears, or dreams.

Strangely, now that I am an adult, my mother and I talk frequently about everything. I once remembered that she had never discussed the “birds and the bees” with me, and I asked her why.

“Well, I, I,” she stuttered, trying to remember her state of mind so long ago, “back then, experts said wait for children to ask questions, and be prepared. So, I went out and bought the Life Cycle books, and waited for you to ask. But you never did.”

I felt compassion for my mother, trying her best using her stoic German butcher’s upbringing; tempered by her sincere intentions. She was right. I never approached her with questions about life. I’d learned the technical stuff in awkward middle school classes. But I was missing the rest – the “this and that.”

The subtle exchange of seemingly mundane thoughts that somehow provides answers to the questions that swirl through adolescent minds. Why do I feel bad about myself all the time? Are you proud of me? Is it normal to be afraid to go to college? Do I need a boyfriend? Can I trust my friends? What if I fail? Am I good enough?

When Lilly begged me to continue our call during my shower, how could I refuse?

Our chat continued from my shower, to my closet, to my car, where Lilly described her project poster, her friend Molly, and her salad in minute detail.

“You’re making me hungry,” I said, pulling up to the coffee shop where my friend waited in the parking lot. Scanning for the right combination of words to not make her feel insignificant, I began, “Uh, Lilly, I’m really sorry, but I have to ...”

“Mom, I gotta go! Love you!” Lilly blurted, and I heard a cacophony of laughter before the video blinked out.

In our hour-and-a-half conversation, no crucial questions were asked or answered, no deep philosophies were discussed. But, like mortar between the bricks, the mundane this and that would help Lilly build a strong foundation.



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Courtesy photo

Mandy Kruger, travel blogger and Joint Base Lewis-McChord Army spouse, has afternoon tea at the Fairmont Empress hotel in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, recently. To check out her feature, visit [https://www.army.mil/article/221732/army\\_spouse\\_maps\\_the\\_globe\\_finds\\_professional\\_advantage](https://www.army.mil/article/221732/army_spouse_maps_the_globe_finds_professional_advantage)



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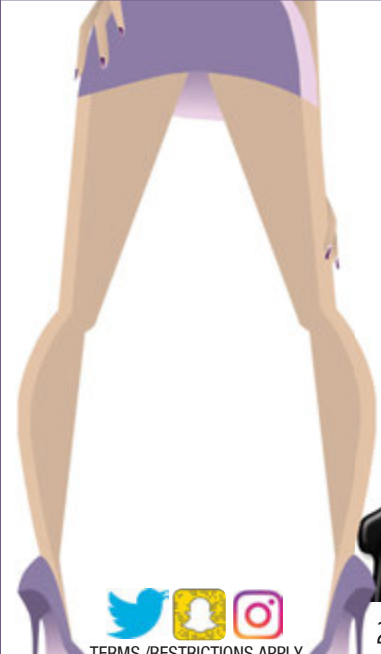
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Sports Briefs

**Fallen Officer Memorial Run:** El Paso Municipal Of- ficers Association's 6th annual 10K and 5K runs and 1-mile walk in memory of 31 fallen heroes will be 8 a.m. Saturday at Marco's Pizza, 7560 Cimarron Mar- ket. Race day registration and packet pick-up is 7-7:45 a.m. \$30 on race day. 274-5222 or coultermike@ya- hoo.com, raceadventuresunlimited.com

**El Paso Locomotive FC:** El Paso's professional soc- cer team will host the Sacramento Republic FC at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Southwest University Park. \$5-\$49. 235-GOAL, eplocomotivefc.com, or tickets@eploco- motivefc.com

**3-point shootout tournament:** It will be trey-tastic at the 3-point Shootout Tournament May 25 from 4-10 p.m. at the Monti Warrior Zone. Cost: \$15, per tourna- ment. Open to the public, 18+. 741-3000

**UFC Fight Night:** Catch UFC Fight 238 for free at 6 p.m. June 8 at Monti Warrior Zone! There will be drink specials available throughout the night. 741-3000

**BorderRAC Pull for Trauma Trap Shoot:** BorderRAC hosts the fundraising trap shoot event Saturday at El Paso Skeet and Trap Club: 9817 Alameda, 8 a.m. Each shooter will shoot two rounds of 25 targets each (must bring their own shotgun and ammo). Cost: \$250 for five-person team or \$50 per individual. 838-3200 or borderrac.org

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

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**El Paso Roller Derby:** The 2019 season opens with a doubleheader Saturday at Nations Tobin Recreation Center, 8831 Railroad, featuring TexPistols vs. RGV Bandidas and Derby Bliss Brigade vs. Hooligans. First bout begins at 6 p.m., second at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door; \$5 for military (active and vet only); free for age 10 and younger with paying adult. (623) 285-4670, eprollerderby.com, or on Facebook at eprollerderby

**King of the Clays Fun Shoot:** The Sun City 4-H Club hosts the King of the Clays Fun Shoot fundraising shotgun sports competition 8 a.m.-5 p.m. June 1, at Fort Bliss Rod & Gun Club. Roy Johnson Lane, Building 3730. Cost: \$60. 491-3897 or suncity4hclub.com

**Sun City Splash & Dash:** Race El Paso's new youth swim-run event, Sun City Splash & Dash, is for ages 7-15, 8 a.m., June 1, at Ascarate Pool and Park, 6900 Delta. Family pool party follows event. Space limited. Cost: \$25. Ascarate Park entry fee is \$2 per vehicle. 256-1765 or raceelpaso.com/splash-dash

**Cloudcroft Ultra 53K and 9.5-miler:** The Cloudcroft Ultra 53K and 9.5-miler long-distance trail run is Sat- urday at Zenith Park Pavilion in Cloudcroft, N.M. The 53K begins at 7 a.m. and 9.5 miler at 7:30 a.m. Both races are an out-and-back on the Rim Trail (T105). Cost: \$45 9.5-miler; \$85 53K. Packet pick up is 6-6:45 a.m. on race day. ultrasignup.com

**La Muerte de Las Cruces:** The Cruces' Women's Football Alliance's home game is Saturday against the Mile High Blaze at the Las Cruces Public Schools Sports Complex's "Field of Dreams," 2501 Tashiro. The team is part of the WFA's Mountain Conference. (575) 639-0750, lamuertedelascruces@gmail.com or wfafootball.net

**El Paso Chihuahuas:** The El Paso Chihuahuas hosts the Reno Aces May 21-24 at Southwest University Park Game time: 7 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m. Wednesday, 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Tickets: \$11-\$30. 533-BASE or EPChihuahuas.com.

Army football players and head coach Jeff Monken pose with the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy after defeating Navy in Philadelphia, Dec. 8, 2018. Spc. Dana Clark / U.S. Army

#19 Army football reclaims Commander-in-Chief's trophy at White House

By Sean Kimmons | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army football team visited the White House for a second year in a row May 6 to reclaim its most prized possession.

For the first time ever, the Black Knights secured the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy in back-to-back seasons after beating Navy in December. A win against Air Force earlier in the season completed their sweep of rival service academies.

President Donald Trump officially pre- sented Army players with the trophy, which has been around since 1972 and is adorned with three silver footballs for each academy.

"Every time you went to the field, you proved that you [were] Army strong," he told a crowd gathered in the Rose Garden.

In his remarks, Trump also said he is con- sidering a waiver for athletes at service acad- emies so they can play professional sports before fulfilling their active-duty service requirement.

"We're going to see what we can do with it," he said. "I think it's a great idea and I think it's really fair, too."

Athletes now have to serve at least two years in their respective military branches before they can pursue a career in the pros.

"I would imagine it would make recruiting a little bit easier," he added.

Last season, the Black Knights finished 11-2, the most wins in school history, and were ranked 19th in the final Associated Press poll.

"This is a tough team and these are tough players," head coach Jeff Monken said dur- ing the ceremony. "They fought their way to 11 wins and 21 wins in the last two years."

Monken, who earned coach of the year honors by winning the George Munger and Vince Lombardi awards last season, said his team had "incredible loyalty" that helped them succeed.

"That has allowed them to experience re- cord-setting success in a program with an al- ready unbelievable football history," he said.

Last season ended with a 70-14 rout over the University of Houston Cougars in the Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 22, 2018, giving Army its third straight bowl win. Army's 70 points tied a Football Bowl Subdivision re- cord for points scored in a bowl game.

In that game, quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. rushed for 170 yards, including a 77-yard touchdown run in the first quarter that was the longest in Army bowl history.

Hopkins, a junior at the U.S. Military Academy, also became the first Army player to rush and pass for over 1,000 yards in a single season.

"We were blessed to have a great season last year," Hopkins told the crowd. "We're looking for [another] great one next year. Go Army!"

The sweetest victory came Dec. 8 in Phila- delphia against Navy in what is also known as "America's Game" and one of the biggest rivalries in college sports.

Army held Navy scoreless for much of the game until the Midshipmen scored a touch- down in the fourth quarter and then a field goal with less than 30 seconds left. An on side kick then failed and Army pulled away, 17-10, for its third consecutive win over its rival.

Trump, who attended the game, congratu- lated the Army players on a great season and

Sean Kimmons / Army News Service

Running back Darnell Woolfolk, one of the Army football team captains, addresses the crowd as President Donald Trump watches during the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy presentation at the White House in Washington, D.C., May 6. Army beat both Navy and Air Force last season to se- cure the trophy for the first time in back-to-back seasons.

thanked the cadets for their selfless commit- ment to the country.

"The lessons you learn on the football field will help you to lead on the battlefield," he said. "And hopefully we won't have too many battles, because we're building a mili- tary so strong that nobody is going to mess with us."

Monken also expects more accomplish- ments for his players once they commission to Army officers.

"Just as this team fought this year against opponents who wanted to take their place on the victory stand, they'll fight against those who want to take what's ours as a nation," he said.





Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ian Carver  
The Army team beat the Air Force during the 2019 Armed Forces Men's Soccer Championship match at Naval Station Everett, Wash., April 20.

# 'Coach Bernie,' All-Army Men's Soccer top Air Force, 2-1, win Armed Forces championship

By Devon L. Suits | Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – As regulation time expired, the Army and Air Force teams were locked in a 1-1 tie during the 2019 Armed Forces Men's Soccer Championship match. With an additional five minutes in stoppage time, both sides adjusted their formations in an attempt to score the go-ahead goal, or risk overtime.

There was so much at stake. A victory here would solidify an Air Force three-peat, said Col. Bernie Koelsch, known as Coach Bernie to his Army players.

The countless number of hours spent running drills, reviewing tape, and formulating plays would be all for nothing if the Army failed to win against their longtime rival.

Meanwhile, the fact that the Army team squeezed out a 3-2 victory against the Air Force earlier in the tournament was in the forefront of their minds.

There was something special about this team, Koelsch said. The coach felt he had done all he could to prepare himself and the team for this pivotal moment. The team was ready – standing together, "Eleven as One" **From player to coach**

Starting at a young age, Koelsch appreciated the sport of soccer, but grew to love the game after he was stationed in Germany.

"Playing with the post team in Germany, I learned a lot from the local coaches and fellow players," he said. "Back then, there was just this huge difference between the [European] approach to the game and the American game. Soccer is religion over there and still is."

As he progressed through his Army career, Koelsch continued to play soccer for several installation and regional teams. Later, the Koelsch family landed an assignment to Fort Meade, Maryland in 2013, arriving to a base without a soccer team, he said.

While he could have found another team to play for, Koelsch was determined to start a base soccer team of his own. It didn't take long for players representing all branches of the military to respond to his ads in the base paper or through social media.

A year later, Koelsch was back on the field with the Meade United Football Club as both a player and coach.

Nevertheless, all the years on the field started to catch up with him. Koelsch was forced to make a difficult decision, so he reluctantly hung up his grass-stained cleats in 2015, and replaced them with a coach's whistle.

"Being a player and coach is not the same.

When you get to a certain level of competition, you have to be able to make the hard decisions, and you can't make those decisions as a player," he said.

### Winning gold

With two minutes left in stoppage time during the final game of the Armed Forces championship, the Air Force team pressed hard, leaving three to four players high in the attacking zone, Koelsch recalled.

For a brief moment, the coach turned his back to the field, telling his trainer to prepare for overtime. At the same time, the Army team won the ball back and started their counterattack.

"We were grotesquely outnumbered when we countered," Koelsch said. "The team found a piece of space in the middle of the field, which was a weakness ... that we kept trying to exploit."

The Army team chained a series of well-executed passes past the midfield to enter the Air Force zone. Eventually, the ball landed in front of Sgt. Alan Ibarra. He executed a brilliant feeder pass off the side of his foot, setting up Spc. Steve Palacios near the center of the field, Koelsch said.

Only one opponent read the play – Air Force Capt. Johnny Melcher.

"Melcher is probably the best friend I have in military soccer. He's a brilliant player," Koelsch said about the airman, who also served as a team captain for the Meade United Football Club for three years. "He chased Steve all the way back from the midfield, but could not get there."

An Army player put his foot through the ball and it rolled past the Air Force goalkeeper, who was diving to attempt the save.

Time slowed as the ball rolled toward the corner post, Koelsch said. At the same time, another player starting squeezing the head coach's arm on the sideline, screaming at the top of his lungs, "It is going to go in, it is going to go in!"

The ball glanced off the side netting and gave the Army team a 2-1 lead.

The game was over. The Army had won.

At the end of the game, the Army team lined up to exchange handshakes before running to the stands to see their loved ones. As one of the last through the line, Koelsch turned to see his team waiting for him on the sidelines.

Like every other match, the team had huddled together and knelt. However, for the last time, one of the players gave thanks as he led the team in prayer, Koelsch said.

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# National Guard MP troops help secure Kentucky Derby

By Spc. Alan Royalty |  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - During a historic weekend for horse racing, Kentucky National Guard members from around the state augmented first responders Saturday at Churchill Downs in support of the 145th Kentucky Derby.

Soldiers from the 198th Military Police Battalion, alongside the Louisville Metro Police Department and Churchill Downs security, ensured the safety of derby fans and race competitors throughout the day.

More than 150 Guard members contributed their technical and professional expertise in support of the event. The vast majority of Guard members from the 198th MP worked alongside LMPD officers to provide grounds security, traffic control and the official trophy security detail throughout the event. Other units in support of the festivities included Soldiers from Kentucky's 41st Civil Support Team and airmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing.

The sheer scope of the nation's premier horse racing event requires that local law enforcement be augmented with professionally trained personnel and the support from 198th was warmly welcomed.

"Large-scale events are not successful without the help of all our partners in the first responder family," said Officer Lamont Washington of the LMPD. "We at the LMPD rely on the working relationship we have built over the years with the



Soldiers with the 198th Military Police Battalion of the Kentucky National Guard secure gates around Churchill Downs during races prior to the Kentucky Derby in Louisville, Ky., May 4.

Kentucky National Guard."

This relationship with the derby community, well over 100 years in the making, serves to strengthen the bond between Guard members and the communities they serve.

"If at any time the LMPD needs us, they know they can call on us and we will provide that support," said Staff Sgt. Trenton Dalton of the 438th MP Company, who was the NCOIC of security at the event.

"It's a fun learning experience and a great opportunity to apply our training in a real-world setting.

From any angle inside or outside the track, it wasn't difficult to spot a Guard member operating a gate or intersection.

"Honestly, it's one of the very few times we get to interact with people that doesn't revolve around a major disaster," said Spc. Michael Oxford with the 438th MP Co. "It

starts on a good note, and most of the time it ends on a good note."

The more spectators who fill the grandstands, the greater number of law enforcement personnel necessary. The Derby draws a crowd from around the globe, and with over 150,000 people in attendance, potential dangers loom.

"It's a very eye-opening experience, just the scope of working the Kentucky Derby," said Dalton.

"The traffic control guys--we are able to help prevent injury and save lives through traffic control at the intersections."

Many of the Guard members have worked the Derby for many years, but for some, this was a first experience. For the first-timers, the grandeur and excitement of their home state's greatest treasure made for a day they'll never forget

"It's been an awesome experience," said Spc. Michelle Warner, also with the 438th MP Co. "This is my first time working the derby, and I was lucky enough to be placed working security at the VIP tent with the celebrities. We get to show off how the Kentucky National Guard operates and how we're here for the community when they need us."

For the Soldiers who come back to work the event year-after-year, the Kentucky Derby offers something more meaningful than glamorous horses and extraordinary hats. It's an opportunity to stand alongside their local law enforcement, to interact with the public, and to do what they signed up to do--serve their state and their country.

"The human interaction runs really deep for me," said Oxford. "When it comes to the national anthem or the posting of the colors, or playing 'My Old Kentucky Home,' people want to know why the Kentucky Guard has such deep traditions and why we do things the way we do them. It's very rewarding."

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# OFF DUTY

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

## Bliss Briefs

**Army Housing Town Hall rescheduled for June 6:** The next Fort Bliss Army housing town hall is scheduled for June 6 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Centennial Club (Austin Room).

**Old Ironsides ACP changes:** Beginning May 25, 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).

**Fort Bliss Career Transition Fair:** Are you within 18 months of your separation from the military? If so, head to the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center on East Fort Bliss May 16. The two-day fair will feature informative and interactive panel events, recruiter training, and facilitated discussions focused on better preparing future veterans for the job hunt, as well as a great networking opportunity for troops and potential future employers. More info and registration at <https://bit.ly/2uz9KqD>

**Threat Awareness and Reporting Program training:** In an effort to better serve the Fort Bliss population, Threat Awareness and Reporting Program training is being offered at two Fort Bliss locations through September. TARP training is held at the Soldier Activity Center (Bldg. 20732, Constitution Ave.) every second Tuesday of the month at 9 and 10 a.m. TARP training at Stayton Theater (Building 2495, Ricker Road) is every third Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. 568-4604.

**McGregor/FBTX ammo point closings:** The McGregor Range/FBTX 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

**Attention new command spouses:** The Spouse Leadership Development Course is a new 40-hour course run by the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence and United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. It will offer an introduction to a number of extremely important topics for those spouses who are entering into a command team at the battalion level. Lessons cover a wide range of topics from protocol and etiquette, Red Cross, Army Emergency Relief and public speaking. Contact Michelle Mebane at 744-1201.

**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

**Art and a Movie:** The Art and Hobby Shop will have a monthly "Art and a Movie" night through July. There will be different movies and crafts each month to enjoy. Scheduled events are "Mary Poppins" (1964) and button art, Friday; "The Lego Movie" and emoji or unicorn themed ceramics, June 7; and "The Goonies" and pirate themed ceramics, July 12. Cost: \$15 Open to DOD ID cardholders. 568-5563

**Unit Book Kits:** Mickelsen Community Library has Unit Book Kits for units going to the field or deploying soon. The book kits contain a selection of popular fiction and non-fiction paperback items. Free. 568-1902

**Auto Crafts Safety Orientation:** Auto Craft Centers offers safety orientation classes Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. This is a mandatory safety orientation for use of the facility for automotive do-it-yourself projects. Open to DoD ID cardholders only. 568-7280

**Kick it at the Monti Warrior Zone:** The Monti Warrior Zone is open Mondays-Sundays. There's lots to do with a fully stocked bar and snack bar, six pool tables, two mini-bowling lanes, Alienware, Playstation/Xbox gaming center, outdoor basketball, sand volleyball and more! Open to the public, ages 18+. 741-3000

**Yappy Hour:** Enjoy the evening with your favorite four-legged friends May 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the Sam Adams Pub Patio. There'll be toys, treats and eats for your furry friends to enjoy! Dress up in your best poker attire! We will be having a best dressed contest, this is a chance to win a prize! We'll have other games to play and a chance to win more prizes! We are not forgetting about our pet parents, we have Happy Hour specials throughout the night. Free. Open to the public. 568-6814

**Right Arm Night:** Right Arm Night is a great way to unwind after a long week with free appetizers, drink specials and giveaways. Join the fun Friday from 4-9 p.m. at the Pershing Pub. 781-6809

**UFC Fight Night:** Catch UFC Fight 238 for free at 6 p.m. June 8 at Monti Warrior Zone! There will be drink specials available throughout the night. 741-3000

**Sand Volleyball Tournament:** Come out June 14 from 4-10 p.m. for a sand volleyball tournament at Monti Warrior Zone. Cost: \$15 per person. Cost includes a t-shirt and one drink of your choice. Open to the public, 18+. 741-3000

## Go Youth

**In-home Saturday childcare 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

**Parents Day Out - Saturday childcare:** Parents get ready to enjoy a relaxing day out because CYS will provide once-a-month Saturday child care! Saturday child care will be held at Milam CDC June 1 from 1-11 p.m. For more information about Saturday child care, or reservations, please call Milam CDC at 744-7879.

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



on the road to literacy. 568-6156

**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+, 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. Open to children 16 and younger, they must walk, can only ride in a cart with a paying adult. 568-1059

**Babysitting Course:** Do you have a teen who wants to earn some extra money? Then, make sure they take advantage of the SKIESUnlimited Babysitting Course. This babysitting curriculum is designed to help middle school and teenage youth learn what it takes to be a responsible, caring, trustworthy and competent babysitter. Students will receive first aid and CPR training on a Saturday. They will learn about child development, nutrition and the business of babysitting. Students will get ideas about how to entertain children and some tools of the trade. Open to children ages 12+ Cost: \$10. 568-5544

**SKIESUnlimited Folklorico Dance:** Does your child like to dance and would like to learn more about the Mexican culture? Join SKIESUnlimited for their Folklorico Dance Class open for children ages 6-18 years old. Cost: \$40 per month and held every Saturday from 12:15-2 p.m. Students participating in this course will learn a variety of traditional Latin American dance that emphasizes local folk culture with ballet characteristics - pointed toes and exaggerated movements. 568-5544

**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

**Back the Blue Blood Drive:** Soldier Con is hosting the Back the Blue Blood Drive, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday at 8000 Gateway East. The blood drive focuses on bringing awareness to the lack of reserves here in El Paso and sustaining a bountiful blood bank. 317-8984

**Free legal clinic:** The El Paso Bar Association and El Paso Lawyers for Patriots will hold a free legal clinic for all veterans June 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join them for free legal consultations, referrals and presentations on the various resources available for veterans and active-duty military in the El Paso area. Free. 10700 Gateway East. Bldg. A. 532-7052, [ngallego@elpasobar.com](mailto:ngallego@elpasobar.com), facebook.

[com/elpasoLawyersForPatriots](http://com/elpasoLawyersForPatriots)

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

**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](mailto: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)

**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. Information on Facebook at Upper Valley Artist and Farmers Market.

**You made the grade:** First-through 12th-graders with a B average or higher are eligible for a



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This is a debt collection notice for **Pfc. Juan Mares**. All services under Mares' name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Mares or for information regarding collections, call 1st Lt. Nathan Ritter at (209) 617-9155.

This is a debt collection notice for **Spc. Kevin A. Villacres**. All services under Villacres' name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Villacres or for information regarding collections, call 2nd Lt. Abby Leafstedt at (605) 360-6134.



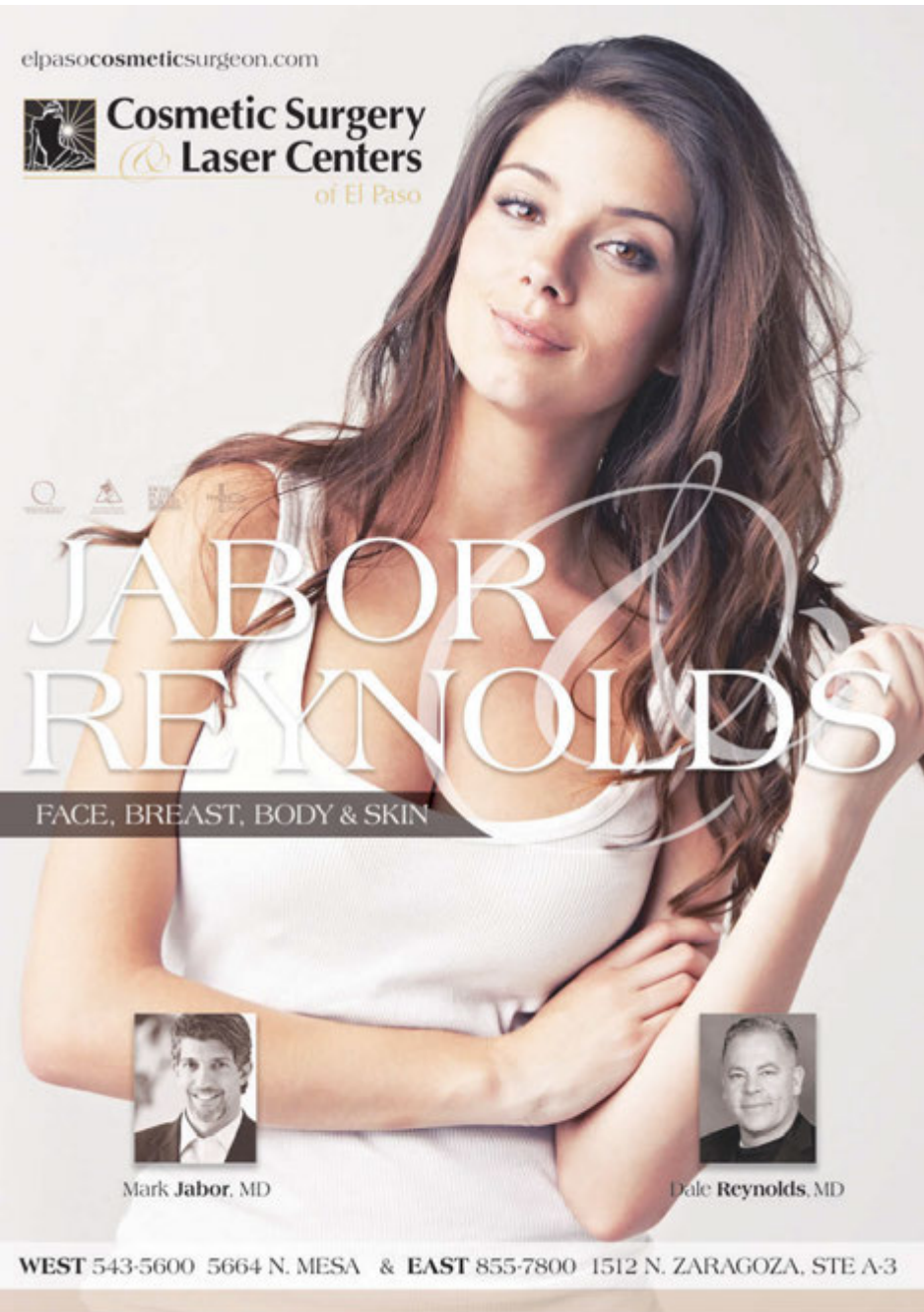
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**Silver City (N.M.) Blues Festival:** The Silver City Blues Festival will take place May 24-26, Memorial Day Weekend in historic Silver City, N.M., located less than three hours northwest of El Paso and Fort Bliss The festival will have something for everyone – from harmonica stars, young blues prodigies to local performers, and unique vendors. There are several new and returning attractions this year for the whole family to enjoy. Gough Park, Silver City, N.M. Free. [www.Silver-CityBluesFestival.org](http://www.Silver-CityBluesFestival.org)

**National Senior Fitness Day:** El Paso Parks and Recreation hosts the free Senior Fitness Day event and health fair for seniors 9 a.m.-noon, May 30, at San Juan Senior Center, 5701 Tumburo. 772-8365 or [elpasotexas.gov/parks](http://elpasotexas.gov/parks)

**Billy the Kid Festival:** San Elizario Historic Art District hosts the 10th annual Billy the Kid Festival from noon-9 p.m., May 31-June 2, in San Elizario. Free. 851-0093, [billythekidfestival.com](http://billythekidfestival.com), or [sanelizariohistoricdistrict.org](http://sanelizariohistoricdistrict.org)

**El Paso Psychic Fair:** The El Paso Psychic Fair is 11 a.m.-7 p.m. May 18-19, at Hawthorn Inn, 1700 Airway at Boeing. Cost: Free with active duty military ID. \$5 for both days (private readings not included with admission) otherwise. 345-6245 or [elpasopsychicfair.com](http://elpasopsychicfair.com)

**Art in the Park:** El Paso Parks and Recreation

Department's Spring 2019 arts and crafts fair is 10 a.m.-6 p.m. May 18-19, at Memorial Park's Reserve area, 3100 Copper, with arts and crafts, food vendors, live entertainment by children's activities, raffles, and giveaways. Free. 212-1704 or [elpasotexas.gov/parks](http://elpasotexas.gov/parks)

**Go Purple Chili Tasting Contest:** The 6th annual chili tasting contest in honor of Elder Abuse Prevention Month is 11 a.m. today, at Holiday In Express, 409 E. Missouri, Downtown. Cost: \$5 (includes hot dog plate, and chance to taste all the chili). 831-7803 or [myanez22@epcc.edu](mailto:myanez22@epcc.edu)

**Las Cruces UkeFest:** Ukulele enthusiasts will gather in southern New Mexico Friday-Sunday at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road for the LC UkeFest. Nationally known instructors will teach workshops, perform a concert and lead a jam session. Cost: \$135; includes lunch. [lascrucesukefest.com](http://lascrucesukefest.com)

**Gospel service:** The Gospel Service at Fort Bliss is celebrating 40 years of service to Fort Bliss and the El Paso community. On June 7, at 5:45 p.m. there will be an evening worship service at 1AD Chapel at 11272 Biggs Street. Speaker is Chaplain (Retired) Artie Maxwell and Minister Michael Yearly will be the minister of ceremony. On June 8, from noon-3 p.m. there will be a cookout at Biggs Park. On June 9, 8:45 a.m., a morning Chapel service at 1AD Chapel with co-founder of the Gospel Service, Chaplain (Retired) Ronald Strong, delivering the message. 744-8339

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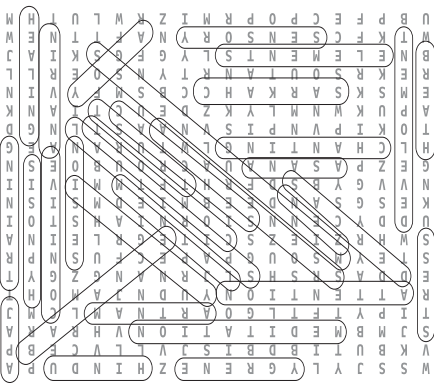
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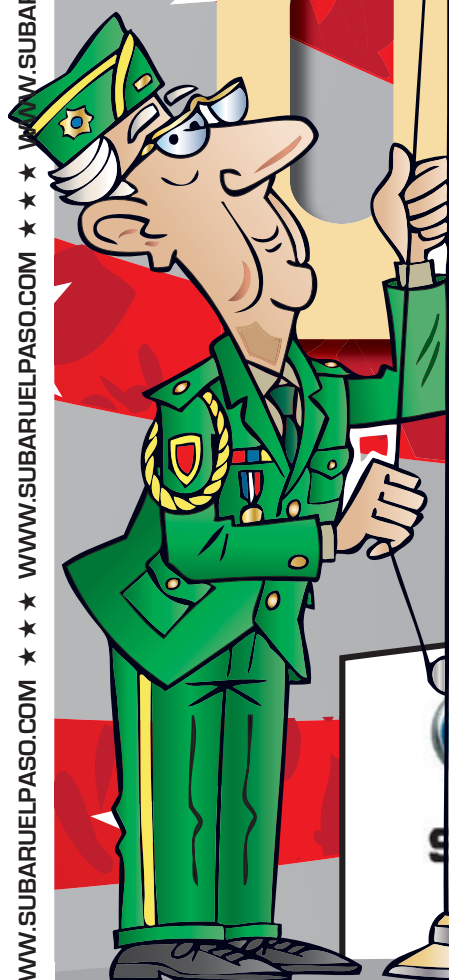


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# MILITARY **VIP** INCENTIVE PROGRAM\*

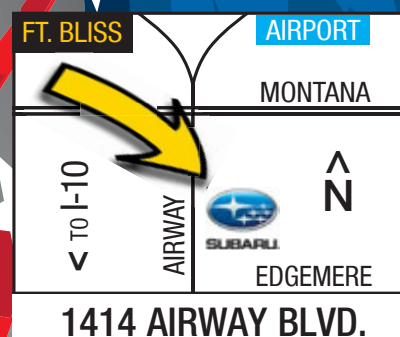
\*Honoring eligible active duty and reserve members of the US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Guard as well as veterans and retirees within 12 months of the date of separation.

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<p><b>2017 TOYOTA PRIUS</b> STK# A15719</p>  <p><b>\$16,995</b> GAS SAVER</p>	<p><b>2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV</b> STK# 25738A</p>  <p><b>\$21,995</b> WHY BUY NEW</p>	<p><b>2018 FORD FORD F-150</b> CARGO VAN</p>  <p><b>\$25,995</b> TWO TO CHOOSE FROM</p>	<p><b>2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE</b> LIMITED, STK# A15577</p>  <p><b>\$27,995</b> HONEY OF A DEAL</p>
<p><b>2018 NISSAN ARMADA SV</b> STK# A15801</p>  <p><b>\$29,995</b> HONEY OF A DEAL</p>	<p><b>2018 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA JL</b></p>  <p><b>\$37,995</b> FIVE TO CHOOSE FROM, MUST SEE</p>		<p><b>2018 FORD MUSTANG GT</b> STK# A15694</p>  <p><b>\$30,995</b> ONLY 8K MILES</p>
<p><b>2018 FORD MUSTANG GT</b> STK# A15694</p>  <p><b>\$30,995</b> HOT RED AND READY</p>	<p><b>2018 RAM 2500 SLT</b> 4X4, HEMI, STK# A15654</p>  <p><b>\$35,995</b> WHY BUY NEW</p>		<p><b>2017 PORSCHE BOXSTER</b> CONVERTIBLE, STK# A15947</p>  <p><b>\$50,995</b> SAVE THOUSANDS</p>
<p><b>2007 VICTORY VEGAS JACKPOT</b> MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15856</p>  <p><b>\$5,995</b></p>	<p><b>2017 FORD F-250 4X4</b> DSL, XLT, STK# A15660</p>  <p><b>\$40,995</b> HONEY OF A DEAL</p>	<p><b>2018 RAM 2500 SLT</b> 4X4, DSL, STK# A15653</p>  <p><b>\$43,995</b> NOT A MISTAKE</p>	<p><b>2017 PORSCHE BOXSTER</b> CONVERTIBLE, STK# A15947</p>  <p><b>\$50,995</b> SAVE THOUSANDS</p>

A15450A	2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT	\$6,995	A15608	2017 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT	\$16,995
A15935			A15654	2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT	\$16,995
2017 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE ES	\$10,995		A15724	2015 TOYOTA CAMRY HYBRID LE	\$16,995
A15809			A15755	2017 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE	\$16,995
2016 SCION IA	\$10,995		A15601	2017 FORD FUSION SE HYBRID	\$17,995
A15783			A15665	2017 DODGE JOURNEY SE	\$17,995
2017 NISSAN VERSA SV	\$11,995		A15995	2017 HONDA CIVIC EX	\$17,995
261648			A15736	2018 NISSAN ALTIMA SV	\$17,995
2011 FORD EDGE SEL	\$11,995		A15386A	2018 FORD FUSION SE	\$18,995
259328			A15598	2018 TOYOTA COROLLA SE	\$18,995
2016 CHEVY CRUZE LT	\$12,995		A15735	2019 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE	\$19,995
A15700A			A15603A	2014 CHEVY CAMARO LT R5	\$19,995
2011 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE VAN	\$12,995		A15808, ONLY 3K MILES	2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C	\$19,995
A15843A			26034A	2015 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	\$22,995
2012 MAZDA CX-9	\$12,995		A15723	2017 SUBARU OUTBACK	\$24,995
25923C			25989A	2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON LIMITED	\$24,995
2014 CHEVY MALIBU 2LT	\$12,995		A15791	2019 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE	\$26,995
26013A			A15429	2017 RAM 1500 LONESTAR	\$27,995
2015 CHRYSLER T&C	\$12,995		A15765	2017 DODGE DURANGO GT	\$27,995
25917A			A15785	2018 BMW 430i CONVERTIBLE	\$31,995
2015 MINI COOPER	\$13,995		A15733	2018 CADILLAC XT5 PREMIUM	\$36,995
A15802A			A15731, ONLY 4K MILES	2018 RAM 2500 SIT	\$44,995
2016 NISSAN SENTRA SV	\$13,995				
26069A					
2013 HYUNDAI SANTA FE	\$13,995				
25957A					
2015 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT	\$14,995				
FIVE TO CHOOSE FROM					
2017 NISSAN SENTRA SV	\$14,995				
A15615					
2015 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT	\$15,995				
A15581A					
2016 JEEP COMPASS SPORT	\$15,995				
A15570					
2017 CHEVY CRUZE LT	\$13,995				
A15568					
2015 NISSAN ALTIMA SV	\$15,995				
4827A					
2017 TOYOTA COROLLA LE	\$15,995				
A15738					
2019 TOYOTA COROLLA LE	\$15,995				
A15624					
2017 NISSAN ALTIMA SV	\$16,995				

<p><b>2018 NISSAN VERSA SV</b></p>  <p><b>\$12,995</b> FIVE TO CHOOSE FROM</p>	<p><b>2018 BMW X2 XDRIVE 28i</b></p>  <p><b>\$33,995</b> TWO TO CHOOSE FROM</p>	<p><b>2019 TOYOTA TUNDRA CREWMAX</b> 4X4, SR5</p>  <p><b>\$38,995</b> FOUR TO CHOOSE FROM</p>
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