



The number one priority
Milley interview continues ■ 8A



Military Child of the Year
Challenges make her strong ■ 1B

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>> BRIDGE-LAUNCHING VEHICLE PUT INTO ACTION

U.S. Army

Engineer Soldiers from Alpha and Bravo companies, 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division put the new Joint Assault Bridge into action during operational testing here recently. The JAB will allow vehicle commanders and crews to keep pace with current Army vehicles and have the ability to launch and retrieve the bridge portion when needed. “Battering Ram” Soldiers were selected by Army Forces Command to perform the operational test so the Army Operational Test Command, based at Fort Hood, could collect data on the integration of the bridge-launching vehicle to inform senior Army leaders on how effective, suitable and reliable the JAB will be during combat. For more on the first round of tests, turn to page 3A.



Devon L. Suits / Army News Service

The Army will spend the next three to four years implementing an improved merit-based promotion system. The effort centers on a transition from time-based to merit-based policies and practices. Further, the change ensures that the best-qualified Soldier will be the first one eligible for promotion.

Army makes big changes to centralized promotion board system

By Devon L. Suits | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army is revising its centralized promotion board processes to deliver “the right person, at the right job, at the right time,” according to Army G-1 officials.

The Army will spend the next three to four years implementing an improved merit-based promotion system, said retired Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell, personnel policy integrator for NCO professional development with Army G-1.

The effort centers on a transition from time-based to merit-based policies and practices. Further, the change ensures that the best-qualified Soldier will be the first one eligible for promotion, Purcell said.

Soldiers in the active component and those serving in an Active Guard Reserve capacity will be impacted by the change.

“This is the first major overhaul to our enlisted centralized promotion board in the 50 years we’ve conducted them,” said Dailey. “We will see a number of benefits with these changes, but the most important one will be the impact to readiness.”

“We will retain our most talented NCOs, and better project force structure requirements by promoting the right people at the right time,” he added.

Changing history

Two years ago, Dailey sought to change the Army’s centralized section board process, Purcell said.

“This change now truly rewards the most qualified Soldiers who are seeking advancement instead of simply promoting people based on seniority,” Dailey said.

Dating back to 1969, centralization was designed to fill the Army’s ranks with qualified Soldiers, provide guidelines for career progression, and attract and retain high-caliber personnel, according to Human Resources Command officials.

Under the current system, HRC could “forecast” the Army’s force structure by anticipating the number of Soldiers leaving the force in all grades and career fields -- sometimes 24 months in advance, Purcell added.

Long-range projections, however, failed to be an effective means to react to emerging requirements. The Army would have to wait for a new promotion

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Honoring the fallen 88Ms

CCDC dedicates Army next-gen semi-autonomous vehicles to 16 fallen Soldiers

By Jerome Aliotta | CCDC Ground Vehicle Systems Center

Motor transport operators, more commonly known in the Army as “88 Mikes,” drive the Army’s tactical wheeled vehicles that transport cargo on the battlefield. They are the backbone of the Army’s support and sustainment structure, and what they do makes them highly vulnerable to enemy attack.

Sixteen of these Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice during operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Inherent Resolve were honored in a vehicle dedication ceremony April 10 at the Westbrook basecamp adjacent to the McGregor Training Complex at Fort Bliss.

One by one, 16 experimental vehicles, each fitted with robotic appliqué kits developed by engineers at the U.S. Army Ground Vehicle Systems Center in Warren, Michigan, were dedicated to the fallen Soldiers. To keep their memory, a black metal plate with the Soldier’s name and short biography was affixed to the



Jerome Aliotta / CCDC Ground Vehicle Systems Center

David Muhr (center, left) and his son Aaron, attend an April 10 vehicle dedication ceremony at Fort Bliss for 26-year-old son and brother Spc. Shawn “Ox” Muhr, a motor transport operator who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan in 2011.

inside driver door panel of each of the vehicles.

David Muhr, whose 26-year-old son Spc. Shawn “Ox” Muhr was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan in 2011, represented fallen Soldier families at the ceremony.

“It means a lot to us that people are still thinking about these guys,” said Muhr, who attended the event with his son Aaron, himself a former Army Reservist. “Shawn was a good man, good at home, just all-around good guy.”

Muhr, a veteran wounded in action in Viet-

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Former 11th ADA NCO, now UTEP
cadet finds air defense roots in Hawaii ■ 4A

New Soldier returns home to
the Philippines with unit, helps build school ■ 7A

Molinari: Transitioning by way
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FORT BLISS		
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Photos by Capt. Joselyn Sydnor / 653rd RSG
U.S. Army Reserve Col. Javier Rivera, left, 210th Regional Support Group commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mario Canizales, 210th RSG senior enlisted adviser, case the unit colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony with the 653rd RSG out of Mesa, Arizona, April 15 at the Fort Bliss Museum on West Fort Bliss.



Registry launched to address housing health, safety concerns

Douglas Holl | USAPHC

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The U.S. Army Medical Command is establishing a Housing Environmental Health Response Registry to address housing health or safety concerns of current or former Army housing residents.

The registry will allow the Army Public Health Center to provide current or former residents information on environmental health hazards, assist them in seeking medical care for any housing-related illnesses or concerns, and serve as a two-way exchange of information for all potential enrollees.

Anyone interested in enrolling in the registry can call the toll-free hotline at 1-800-984-8523 where they will be able to voice their concerns. The registry will be manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Addition-

al registry numbers:

- Overseas: DSN (312)421-3700
- Stateside: DSN 421-3700
- Stateside Commercial: (210)295-3700

“We have a team of trained professionals standing by to assist all callers,” said John Resta, Director of the U.S. Army Public Health Center and acting deputy chief of staff of Public Health for the U.S. Army Medical Command. “They will document the caller’s concerns and assist them with access to medical care if needed, as well as referring any housing-related concerns to the appropriate installation Department of Public Works. We want to hear all concerns so we can make sure they are properly addressed.”

APHC provides continuously updated online health information and resources on mold and lead for service members, families,

★★★ ON THE HOMEFRONT ★★★

Reserve 210th RSG transfers mission to 653rd RSG, marks end of Bliss deployment

By Capt. Joselyn Sydnor | 653rd RSG

The 210th Regional Support Group transferred authority of the Fort Bliss Mobilization Brigade mission to the 653rd Regional Support Group April 15 at the Fort Bliss Museum on West Fort Bliss.

The transfer of authority between the 653rd RSG and 210th RSG symbolized a changing of the guard where the 653rd RSG assumes control of the Fort Bliss Mobilization Brigade.

In conjunction with the CONUS Replacement Center and 5th Armored Brigade, the Fort Bliss Mobilization Brigade supports mobilizing and demobilizing Army Reserve and National Guard units with a “cradle-to-grave” approach which provides the training, logistical, administrative, personnel and quality of needs that units and Soldiers require prior to and after mobilization.

The Army Reserve and National Guard make up over half of the total Army, and the 210th RSG helped mobilize and prepare more than 70,000 Soldiers and civilians for operations all over the world.

“In the past 17 years of sustained conflict, we’ve become very reliant on RC (Reserve component) units to mobilize, train, deploy, fight and win on behalf of our nation,” said

Col. Steve Murphy, Fort Bliss garrison commander. “Hence, the mobilization brigade’s impact isn’t localized here to Fort Bliss, but across all theaters of conflict to where we deploy our RC Forces.”

The 210th RSG, of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, mobilized a year during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, which decimated the island, but the unit still succeeded in the face of adversity.

“Simply put, and unequivocally, the 210th RSG excelled in their role as the Fort Bliss Mobilization Brigade since their assumption of authority last May,” said Murphy.

The 653rd RSG of Mesa, Arizona, assumes control of a mission that serves as force generator throughout the force around the world. And while the mobilization for the 653rd RSG is a stateside deployment, the mission is just as critical.

“We know the bottom line is taking care of the sons and daughters of this nation and ensuring the combatant commanders get their capabilities on time,” said Col. Chandra Roberts, 653rd RSG commander. “We know we’ve got to be flexible, we’ve got to be adaptive and anticipate things.”

Just as the many Reserve component units and Soldiers who mobilized in support of the mission here, each unit’s approach to the mission is typically the same.

“We executed every mission like we were going to fight,” said Col. Javier Rivera, 210th RSG commander. “My admiration to all the NCOs and Soldiers who executed their mission to perfection.”

The 210th RSG will redeploy to Puerto Rico later this spring.

U.S. Army Reserve Col. Javier Rivera, left, 210th Regional Support Group commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mario Canizales, 210th RSG senior enlisted adviser, case the unit colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony with the 653rd RSG out of Mesa, Arizona, April 15 at the Fort Bliss Museum on West Fort Bliss.

civilians, contractors and healthcare providers. The information includes background information on how these hazards can be introduced into the environment as well as strategies for prevention.

For information about the registry as well as links to community resource guides and housing hazard information, please visit: <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/housing/Pages/HEHRR.aspx>.

The Army Public Health Center focuses on promoting healthy people, communities, animals and workplaces through the prevention of disease, injury and disability of Soldiers, military retirees, their families, veterans, Army civilian employees, and animals through studies, surveys and technical consultations.

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Master Sgt. Alejandro Licea	EDITORIAL STAFF
	Managing Editor: David Poe

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HONORING *Continued from Page 1A*

nam, said his son “loved” being in the armed forces. “He could have gotten out before his last deployment, but stayed in because he liked serving and had a lot of good friends in the military.”

This included Spc. Joshua R. Campbell, who was killed alongside Shawn in the same IED attack and was also honored at the ceremony.

Master of ceremonies Maj. Andrew Scruggs had both Campbell and Muhr in his formation during his two years in company command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“Those two individuals were among many who raised their hand to join my adjacent truck company commander in our battalion to go to Afghanistan to perform that mission, and they did it honorably. Unfortunately, those are two Soldiers that we couldn’t bring home,” he said. “I have waited many years to be able to properly honor them and their families. I’m very humbled to be a part of this opportunity to finally dedicate something in their name—to let everybody know we haven’t forgotten their sacrifices.”

Scruggs is GVSC’s assistant program manager for Expedient Leader-Follower, a semi-autonomous technology integrated on a set of tactical wheeled vehicles which for the first time will be used and tested in an operational unit—the 15th and 41st Transportation Companies. Soldier feedback is critical to ensure this capability is effective and efficient.

“Our real goal is to not only deliver an

amazing capability for the Army, but also something that’s going to help protect Soldiers and have the potential to reduce the amount of Gold Star families we have in our formation,” Scruggs said.

As part of the ceremony, a demonstration convoy of semi-autonomous palletized load system vehicles rolled past attendees, and once coming to a stop, Col. Jered P. Helwig, from the Sustainment Center of Excellence, climbed from the passenger seat of one of the vehicles and strode up to the podium.

“The technology demonstrated today will be incorporated in the Army’s Next Generation Combat Vehicle as the Secretary of the Army recently stated that ‘autonomy is paramount and certainly critical’ to its development,” Helwig said.

“The memory of these Soldiers has inspired us to develop our own ways of waging war that minimizes exposure of our Soldiers to harm’s way.”

Leader-Follower provides the capability for a designated manned lead vehicle to lead a line of unmanned follower vehicles—up to nine of them—which are remotely operated by a single operator in the lead vehicle. This capability provides the ground commander options in the employment of Soldiers and the execution of sustainment convoy operations, potentially reducing the number of Soldiers exposed to attacks by the enemy.

“Leader-follower technology will even give us a greater sustainment throughput capacity, a means to self-secure transportation convoys, while giving the commander



Jerome Aliotta / CCDC Ground Vehicle Systems Center
Maj. Andrew Scruggs, U.S. Army Ground Vehicle Systems Center's assistant program manager for Expedient Leader-Follower, talks about the semi-autonomous technology integrated on a set of tactical wheeled vehicles which for the first time will be used and tested in an operational unit, at Fort Bliss recently.

options for protecting Soldiers in a hostile environment,” said Don Overton, TRADOC capability manager for Transportation, and principal leader follower combat developer.

“The Leader-Follower System will change the way transportation units do business,” Overton said.



UNIT NEWS

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



1st AD places third in Best Mortar Competition ■ 6A

Unit Briefs

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 15-16. 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. <https://bit.ly/2uz9KqD>

Threat Awareness/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 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



40th BEB Soldiers continue to test JAB

By Lt. Col. Jeron Washington | U.S. Army OTC

Engineer Soldiers from the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss are ready to dig in to operational testing of the Joint Assault Bridge after learning how the new system operates.

Operational testers say one of the most important elements of the test is Soldier feedback, with primary data focusing on daily Soldier surveys.

“We are also collecting data on the reliability, availability, and maintainability of the JAB vehicle, so that we can identify any issues causing malfunctions of hardware failure now, rather than after fielding of the equipment,” said Heidi Watts, chief of the Fort Hood Texas-based U.S. Army Operational Test Command’s Maneuver Support Test Division.

During the test, Engineers from Alpha and Bravo companies, 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division will deploy the JAB vehicle in a realistic tactical scenario, to see how well the new system supports their mission.

“The importance of collecting data on the JAB vehicle is to verify its usability by Soldiers in an operational context,” said Sandy Laywell, the test’s Operational Research and Systems Analyst and data project manager.

“The IOT uses operationally realistic scenarios to allow for the test unit Soldiers to tell the Army how well the system supports their mission execution,” said Laywell.

“We want to ensure that any issues the Soldiers have with the system are discovered now, rather than in the middle of combat.”

Watts explained how the USAOTC test team typically organizes and plans for equip-



U.S. Army photos
Engineer Soldiers from Alpha and Bravo companies, 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division put the new Joint Assault Bridge into action during operational testing at Fort Bliss recently.

ment testing a year in advance.

“Planning so far out ensures the test includes exercises composed of both day and night JAB operations, which equates to providing the most realistic missions and threats,” she said.

Data collectors collect vehicle performance data, and most of the information will come directly from the Soldiers using the bridge system.

“By allowing Soldiers to test the vehicle in a realistic environment,” explained Laywell, “they share their real-time feedback that may allow for easier operation for the user.”

Data collected from Soldiers on the integration of the bridge launching vehicle will be used to inform senior Army leaders on how effective, suitable and reliable the JAB will be during combat operations.

An Engineer Soldier with 40th BEB, 2nd ABCT, 1st AD, practices crossing over the bridge mechanism of the JAB prior to recovery operations during operational testing at Fort Bliss recently.



‘Battering Ram’ Soldiers grow during exercise Strike Focus

Staff. Sgt. Felicia Jagdatt | 2nd ABCT, 1st AD PA

The “Battering Rams” embody their unit’s name by remaining tough, aggressive and powerful throughout the Iron Brigade’s Strike Focus, which was a two-week training exercise designed to qualify the company echelon throughout the brigade.

“Soldiers with the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion hold unique capabilities that, if used correctly, allow the brigade to successfully embody what a combined arms fight is meant to be,” emphasized the Ram’s commander, Lt. Col. Robert Newbauer. “This is what we are ensuring by conducting Strike Focus- that our Soldiers know their individual task and skills and we can successfully integrate with maneuver companies to ensure every aspect of a battle has a subject matter expert.”

Newbauer’s battalion is made up of two engineer companies, one intelligence company, one signal company, and one chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and explosive platoon, which is used as



Staff. Sgt. Felicia Jagdatt / 2nd ABCT, 1st AD PA
Soldiers with the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion question a human intelligence entity found at the Fort Bliss Training Area, in New Mexico, as part of Strike Focus’ gated events recently. As part of procedure, the Soldier being questioned is under watch by a security team as he is searched for valuable information.

an augmented force to the maneuver elements of the brigade.

“The hardest part of the exercise is the link up between the niche skills of the engineer battalion and the maneuvering company,” explains Newbauer. “It is up to the platoon leader, after assigned a specific company, to get with the commander and explain what he or she

main fighting force and augmented capabilities,” said 1st Sgt. Timothy Brooks. “Eventually it no longer is a deficiency, which is a part of the Army’s overall scheme of being ready and training as you fight.”

“Strike Focus will leave maneuvering commanders with a better understanding of their total competences, not just how to fight with infantrymen or scouts,” said Newbauer. “They will know how to command occupations that they have not had the chance to work with prior, and they will get more repetition in Iron Focus and the National Training Center.”

“I’m extremely happy with the overall effort of the Rams that I’ve seen,” said Brooks. “This is supposed to be a learning and growing experience for every single person here. We have things we need to improve on, but we know what they are now. The next field exercise will show how we can look back at our weakness and move forward by making them on par with our strengths.”

has to offer and how the rare capabilities can be used.”

“With the deficiency noted, Strike Focus is meant to place emphasis on the link up between the



Capt. Adan Cazarez / U.S. Army
Niluk Wikkramatillake, right, a University of Texas at El Paso Army ROTC cadet and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray, the command sergeant major of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, share a moment March 21 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Wikkramatillake, a former 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 32nd AAMDC enlisted Soldier, is set to earn his commission from UTEP in May.

‘Can do’ attitude: Former 11th ADA NCO, now UTEP cadet finds air defense roots in Hawaii

By Sgt. Malcolm Cohens-Ashley | 94th AAMDC
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – Niluk Wikkramatillake, a native of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and a prior U.S. Army service member is scheduled to earn a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso in May and commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.
Wikkramatillake came to the U.S. in 2010 through the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest, which is a recruiting program used by the military. He joined the Army in 2012 and went to basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.
“Initially when I came to the U.S., I came looking for a degree in engineering,” he stated. “After two years I realized that it was a better opportunity for me to join the Army.”
Upon graduation of advanced individual training as a wheeled vehicle mechanic, he then reported to 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th Air Defense

Artillery Brigade at Fort Bliss. He served six years in the Army as an enlisted Soldier. While he was assigned to 5-52 ADA, he deployed to Turkey from 2014 to 2015.
Along the way, he decided he wanted more out his career and decided to enroll in the U.S. Army Green to Gold program. The program offers enlisted Soldiers, who qualify, an opportunity to earn a degree of their choosing and to commission.
When the opportunity to complete his degree in civil engineering arose, he took it upon himself to meet all requirements and earn his bachelors degree.
“When I joined, I saw many officers and I told myself that I can be that one day and continue to lead soldiers from the front,” he remarked. “I was a noncommissioned officer, I wanted to try the officer world as well, to lead Soldiers.”
After continuously following through on his vision of one day becoming a commissioned officer, he is now set to earn his bachelors degree in civil engineering from UTEP in May. While in the Reserve Offi-

cers Training Corps, he was able to share some of his knowledge and wisdom that he gained from his time in service with other cadets.
“Giving them stories, showing them how the Army works and what to expect when they go to their unit,” he said.
UTEP cadets flew to Hawaii, March 14-21, to visit Army units and to learn about military history on the island of Oahu. One of the units they went to visit was the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, which turned out to be home to some familiar faces to Wikkramatillake.
Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray, the command sergeant major of the 94th AAMDC, served as the command sergeant major of 5-52 ADA, 11th ADA Bde. at Fort Bliss while Wikkramatillake was assigned to that unit years ago. Wikkramatillake distinctly remembered Command Sgt. Maj. McCray.
“Command Sgt. Maj. McCray was the epitome of a noncommissioned officer”,

said Wikkramatillake. “He led from the front, he set the standard on how to become a top class noncommissioned officer.”
McCray distinctly remembered Wikkramatillake as well.
“It was an honor and privilege to serve as Sgt. Wikkramatillake’s command sergeant major in both garrison and deployment operations,” said McCray. “Sgt. Wikkramatillake was an outstanding Soldier and you knew it from the moment you saw him by his ‘can do’ attitude and ever-present smile.”
With graduation in sight, Wikkramatillake can only reflect on the guidance he received from his past leaders like McCray.
“Never forget that you are Soldier who serves something greater than yourself,” stated McCray. “Although you are representing the Officer Corps now, you still are responsible for upholding the traditions and standards of our great profession and leading America’s sons and daughters.”

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1st AD places third in Best Mortar Competition at Benning ‘Infantry Week’

By Bryan Gatchell | U.S. Army

FORT BENNING, Ga. – After three days of competition, the 82nd Airborne Division prevailed as champions during the Best Mortar Competition April 11 here.

The 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army Infantry School, at Fort Benning organized the second annual, three-day competition to determine the best four-person mortar team as they took part in events to test their mettle as both a mortar crew and a team of infantry Soldiers.

The winning team was from the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The squad included Staff Sgt. James Pennington, Sgt. Alec Norton, Spc. Christian Elliot and Pfc. Loren Dow. The 82nd ABD also won during the first year of the competition, when Pennington and Norton were on the team.

“We’ve been working hard for three weeks to continue this tradition of winning,” said Elliot.

The 1st Armored Division, represented by teammates Staff Sgt. Jerome Urias, Sgt. Justin Peyton, Pfc. Bailey Hamilton and Pvt. John Mlynarek, placed third in the tight, 19-team field.

Mortar Soldiers provide their units indirect fire when they must fight an entrenched enemy, operating 60-, 81- and 120-millimeter mortars to do so. Additionally, the squads must employ their crew and weapons in ground combat, operate and maintain automatic weapons, fire and recover antipersonnel and antitank mines, locate and neutralize mines, carry out scout missions to spot enemy troops and gun locations, and operate two-way radios and signal equipment to relay battle orders.

Capt. Trevor Reed, the mortar training company commander for 1st Bn., 19th Inf. Regt., said the competition is a challenging test of skill.

“It recognizes physical excellence,” he said. “It also recognizes both the tactical and technical expertise of what it means to be a mortarman. It tests all the competitors in a



A team dons gas masks during the trauma lane April 10 for the Best Mortar Competition at Fort Benning, Ga. After three days of competition among 19 U.S. Army mortar teams and one Dutch army mortar team, the 82nd Airborne Division prevailed as champions during the Best Mortar Competition.

realistic, challenging environment that they have to adapt to and overcome. And that’s what’s required when they’re out on the battlefield fighting to win and survive.”

The teams took the Army Combat Fitness Test, performed marches with mortar equipment, performed mortar-specific tests of their physical stamina, ran obstacle courses, and more to test their physical stamina. The crews performed land navigation and trauma lanes, demonstrated their proficiency on non-mortar weapons systems, and more to test their infantry skills. They took exams on mortar calculations, conducted radio checks and calls for fire to test their ability as mortarman.

The competition culminated on the final day with a live-fire exercise at Red Cloud Range, during which the teams performed an 81-millimeter hipshoot and 81-millimeter di-

rect lay. In the hipshoot, the squads each have a direction of fire, an elevation and 10 minutes to place nine rounds on target, with the first three of those nine to adjust and get their fires on target. In the direct lay, the squad leader observes the target area and commands the squad directly.

The team members from the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, who came in second place during the competition, plan to take their experiences at the competition back to Fort Hood.

“It was strenuous,” said Staff Sgt. Gary Stewart, the squad leader. “We did a month of train-up before we came here. We weren’t expecting what was to come. But it was fun; I definitely had a blast.

“It is definitely something I can take back to the unit and expand on with my guys back



A member of a mortar crew removes a round during the live-fire exercise.



A mortar crew fires off a round as part of the Best Mortar Competition live-fire exercise April 11 at Red Cloud Range at Fort Benning, Ga.

at the platoon,” he added.

Now in its second year, the Best Mortar Competition is one of three competitions that takes place as part of Infantry Week, a time set aside by Fort Benning, the home of the infantry, to celebrate the Infantry Soldier. In addition to the Best Mortar Competition, Infantry Week includes the Lacerda Cup, which is a combatives tournament, and the Best Ranger Competition, which tests Ranger-qualified two-person teams.

Elliot was glad it was Fort Benning that hosted the competition.

“This is kind of our home,” he said. “We all went to basic here. We all did our initial mortarman training here. So this is kind of the mecca of the Infantry. So it meant a lot to come back here and represent the 82nd where we all started our military careers.”









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PROMOTION *Continued from Page 1A*

cycle to identify and allocate additional personnel, he said.

Reductions or changes to the Army’s force structure would result in a surplus of promotable Soldiers, Purcell added. Under the current system, if a Soldier was in good standing and identified as promotable -- annotated by a “P” status from HRC -- the force was required to promote.

“From a readiness perspective, we are creating a process that reacts to emerging requirements, and it stops us from creating skill and grade imbalances. It produces an environment where there is no promotion stagnation ... or we are forced to separate people because they are in excess to requirements,” Purcell said.

Merit-based promotion

The original promotion system now generates an Order of Merit List, or OML, which is used to select Soldiers for promotion. The number of Soldiers promoted relied heavily on the Army’s annually-projected force structure rate, Purcell said.

After the Army selected a Soldier for promotion, HRC would assign them a promotion-sequence number. The force would determine this number by a Soldier’s seniority -- their time in grade, time in service, and date of birth, Purcell said.

“If the best candidate happens to be sequence No. 400 out of 500, based on time and grade -- that’s not rewarding and recognizing talent,” he said.

The transition to a new promotion system starts this fiscal year, with the master sergeant promotion board, he added, by changing how sequence numbers are informed by OML standings.

Eventually, under the revised system, the Army will conduct annual reviews of the NCO corps and maintain an OML for each grade and military occupational specialty, Purcell said, adding the OML will no longer be used to generate an annual promotion list.

Instead, the OML will evaluate the force and determine Soldiers who are “fully-qualified” to promote. From there, the Army will

employ a merit-based rating system to order the OML sequentially.

“The vast majority of the NCOs are, in fact, fully qualified to promote,” Purcell said. “Fully qualified is a retention standard -- it’s not about promotion.

“I could have an OML of a thousand individuals, and 990 could be fully qualified,” he added. “The promotion demand might be 40. In this case, the best 40 records ... would be identified [for] promotion.”

In turn, the Army will now be able to manage its talent better, subsequently improving professionalism and leadership development throughout the NCO corps, Purcell said. Further, the Army will use the OML to inform assignment decisions, such as crucial development and career broadening opportunities.

“We are calling this a talent management effort,” he said.

Additionally, Soldiers will have access to their OML standing by grade, career progression, and MOS through the Army Career Tracker website, Purcell said. This change should be available in the next few months.

“It will be a private and secure automated link from the Army to the individual, and no one else will have access to it,” Purcell said. “Soldiers can go into the Army Career Tracker and can share that information with a mentor or a leader if they so choose, but they’re not required.”

On the other hand, if Soldiers perform subpar and are unable to become fully qualified in their respected rank, the revised promotion system will provide them with a notice, Purcell said.

The first time a Soldier fails to become fully qualified, HRC will advise him or her that continued service may be at risk, he said.

Once a Soldier is found “not fully qualified” by a board a second time in the same grade, then the Army denies continued service. The Army will establish a mandatory separation, six months into the future.

If a Soldier is eligible for retirement, he or she will be allowed to retire, Purcell said. If ineligible for retirement, the Army will opt to separate the Soldier involuntarily.

This system is slated to be implemented

by fiscal year 2021.

“There is a place for everybody in the Army as long as you are performing,” he said. “At the point when it is determined that you are not contributing to the team and essentially drawing a paycheck, then we’re going to inform you that your service is at risk. If it continues ... then we are going to tell you your tenure with the Army is over. This sets conditions to eliminate archaic time-based retention control points.”

Monthly promotions across all ranks

Slated for fiscal 2021, the Army will post a 90-day promotion forecast for all NCO promotions, from sergeant to sergeant major, and implement a monthly-promotion selection process.

If a Soldier is fully qualified to promote by completing their mandatory professional military education -- and in good standing with the Army -- they can monitor these quarterly-promotion windows through the HRC website. Based on their OML standing, a Soldier can then estimate their date of promotion.

Further, HRC intends to announce the names of all Soldiers selected for promotion on the 15th of each month, with an “effective promotion date” on the first day of the following month, Purcell said. Announcing on the 15th will give Soldiers a two-week notice of their promotion selection.

Likewise, the biggest challenge will stem from the cultural shift created by the revised promotion system.

“In the past, when a Soldier was selected they were considered ‘promotable,’ assigned a sequence number, and waited to get promoted,” he said. “Now, a Soldier’s promotion will be based on their OML standing and needs of the Army.”

Distributed Leaders Course

To be eligible for promotion, Soldiers are required to complete the Distributed Leaders Course, Purcell said.

In the past, some Soldiers did not finish the online course before a board convenes. Currently, there is a Department of the Army policy to suspend promotion eligibility for specialists and sergeants who fail to com-

plete this mandatory DLC training, he said.

By fiscal 2021, the Army will expand this policy to all applicable ranks through master sergeant.

Three-phased approach

Over the next three years, the Army is projected to implement its revised centralized promotion system. Below is a list of milestones the Army hopes to attain:

FY 2019

- Integrate merit-based promotion sequence numbers for all ranks.
- Use the OML to inform command sergeant major and sergeant major eligibility and slating.
- Under Army Career Tracker, NCOs will be able to access their OML standing.

FY 2020

- Use the OML to assist with assignment and training decisions.
- Identify NCOs not fully qualified and notify them their continued service is at risk.
- Under Army Career Tracker, Soldiers receive board OML feedback and OML ranking.

FY 2021

- Revise all policies, eliminating the use of “P” status for all NCO ranks E-6 and above.
- HRC starts posting 90-day promotion forecast for NCO promotions.

• Army moves away from annual promotion selection system and implements monthly promotion selection process for all NCO ranks.

• Separation process started for Soldiers who fail to be “fully qualified” for second time in same grade.

• With implementation of merit-based promotion system, Army plans to eliminate retention control points.

“If you excel at what you do, we’re going to promote you,” Purcell said. “Everything is predicated on everybody doing what they’re expected to do -- leaders and Soldiers alike. We’re trying to create an environment to facilitate all of that.”

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Twist of fate

New Soldier returns home to the Philippines with unit, helps build school

By Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cloward | U.S. Army

Pfc. Jason Dale was born and raised in the Philippines in the relatively westernized city of Angeles, a town populated by many retired U.S. military veterans and Americans. He was raised in a financially stable family after being adopted by his aunt, Divina B. Dale, and uncle and retired U.S. Airman, James J. Dale, both of whom he proudly calls mother and father.

Around the age of ten, his father decided he should begin the naturalization process so he could get his U.S. citizenship. They briefly moved to Guam, and by the age of 11, he was officially a U.S. citizen.

“It’s something I’m really grateful for because not everyone gets that opportunity,” explained Dale. “Not everyone gets to leave the country and be a U.S. citizen.”

Upon receiving his citizenship, his family returned to Angeles but going to school wasn’t always easy for Dale. Even though he lived nearly his entire life in Angeles, his Westernized upbringing made him an outcast of sorts. He was raised in an American neighborhood and grew up around Americans who spoke to him in English. Even his Filipino family spoke to him in English, so he never developed a Filipino accent.

“Growing up, there were some Filipino kids who would think, ‘Oh, this guy’s from America. He’s not a real Filipino.’ That kind of hurt me because I grew up here just like [those] guys. I don’t have the traditional accent, but I grew up here.”

However, Dale soon found a flock to fly with -- other outcasts who shared the same love for Westernized music and entertainment. They’d gone so far as to call themselves “The Breakfast Club.”

When Dale reached his mid-teens, he said he became more rebellious. Sporting a mohawk, band shirts, and punk rock and heavy metal would soon become a major influence in his life. He began having his own views on global politics but had no way to truly express himself aside from relentless debates with anyone who had the misfortune to step toe-to-toe with him.

“I was a very political person back then. I’d start talking about politics and everyone would just kind of wait for me to shut up,” he said with a laugh.

He found himself torn between the politics of his nationality and his community. He said he began to realize that talk was cheap and wanted to do something bigger with his life. After graduating high school at 16, he enrolled in college. He studied mass communications for two years at Holy Angel University in Angeles, but after running into some academic roadblocks, he decided it was time for another change.

Dale recalled how he felt when the city of Mawari in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao was attacked by terrorists. He was

Sgt. Ariel Solomon / U.S. Army

Pfc. Jason Dale, a plumber with the 561st Engineer Construction Company, 84th Engineer Battalion, pauses for a portrait while working to construct a school at Orani, Bataan, Philippines, March 25. Balikatan is a bilateral training exercise that strengthens cooperation in humanitarian and civic assistance activities and enables service members to get to know each other and provide support to local communities.

shocked and knew he had to do something to help. He dropped plenty of hints to his father that he was interested in the Army and eventually his father supported the decision. After speaking to recruiters, it didn’t take much to convince Dale that the U.S. Army was for him.

He attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, North Carolina, and went on to Advanced Individual Training in Fort Shepard, Texas, to become a plumber. He soon received his first assignment with the 84th Engineer Battalion in Wahiawa, Hawaii, and he was excited to start his life in the Army and living in America.

Fate had different plans for Dale. Soon after arriving at his duty station his company was called to help build a school for Exercise Balikatan. The mission was to reinforce the U.S. commitment to supporting humanitarian interests of the Philippine partnership, as well as those of other regional allies and would be taking place near his hometown.

“Building this community is something I believe I’m supposed to be doing,” he said. “I was always the activist kid. Always saying something but never doing anything. Now, I’m actually doing something.”

Today, Dale is 20. He’s gone from a Filipino citizen to American citizen and punk activist to Soldier. However, the one thing that never changed was his urge to make the world a better place.

“I’ve had regrets in the past, but I wouldn’t change anything because it’s led me to this moment of being in the Army and honestly everything’s been going great for me so far. I’m doing what I like doing. I’m serving my country.”

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Part III of an interview with Gen. Mark Milley, 39th Chief of Staff of the Army

By Arpi Dilanian and Matthew Howard | Army G-4

As the 39th Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Mark A. Milley has spearheaded the Army’s transformation to build readiness. Earning his commission from Princeton University in 1980, Milley has gained a reputation for being a Soldier’s Soldier and battle-tested commander throughout his 39-year career. An infantry and special operations forces officer by trade, the Army Ranger’s previous assignments include commanding general of Forces Command, III Corps, and the 10th Mountain Division. We sat down with him to discuss total Army readiness and the importance of sustainment for mission success.

(Previous answer continued from last week)

More recently in the American Revolutionary War and Napoleonic wars, combatants used smoothbore muskets. What did that mean for tactics? Smoothbore muskets were typically accurate from 50 to 75 yards, maybe 100 yards on a good day. You could probably fire three rounds a minute, so you’re looking at about 20 seconds between reloads. Tactically, that meant your best way to deliver effective fire was to mass the musket fire, which led to Soldiers being shoulder to shoulder in a rank. Fifteen or 20 Soldiers would volley fire at once in the hopes that maybe four or five of those musket balls would hit the enemy.

As soon as you fired, you yelled “charge” with the idea that an 18- to 19-year-old who’s scared can sprint those 50 to 100 yards faster than your opponent can reload, and then stab them with their bayonet. The sergeant major would stand behind the formation with the first sergeant and the platoon sergeant, and they carried a big, huge pike; if you broke ranks, they’d stab you. So you stood a much higher probability of being killed if you broke ranks than you did charging the enemy and bayonetting them. You went forward, not backward.

A few years later, somebody figured out they could put lands and grooves inside the tube of that musket, which would spin the bullet and turn it into a rifle. So now Soldiers were still shoulder to shoulder, they’re dropping their muskets and charging, but the problem was rifling made the muskets accurate out to about 300 yards, maybe 400, depending on the type. Well, you can’t sprint that far in less than 20 seconds, especially through fields and woods on the battlefield.

What they discovered in the first couple years of the Civil War was mass slaughter because they were still using Revolutionary and Napoleonic war tactics. If you massed yourself shoulder to shoulder, you got massacred like during Pickett’s Charge in the Battle of Gettysburg. So in the middle of the Civil War, you see skirmishing tactics being developed where they started separating in small groups and coming at you in low crouches.

You also see changes in defense. All of these things start happening as a result of a single technological change: rifling. Toward the end of the American Civil War and into the Boer and Russo-Japanese Wars, the proximate fuse becomes prevalent on a mass industrial base. I don’t know that people fully recognized or comprehended the extent to which the character of war was changing. As you get into the late 1800s and the turn of the century, you get an introduction of a whole plethora of technologies. The railroad emerged. You saw the telegraph improve command and control. That evolved into the telephone, with its flexible wire you could string out on the battlefield, and eventually into wireless communication—Morse code.

But again, people didn’t quite fully comprehend all of the implications. When they entered World War I, they were using tactics from the 1800s with very modern and destructive weapons like machine guns. What happened? One out of every four European young men was dead within four years; 18 to 20 million people were killed. Empires were ripped apart. Again, the character of war was changing, and the generals of the day didn’t quite realize it.

The biggest change happened between World War I and World War II with the introduction of mechanized tracked and wheeled vehicles, full-rate production of the airplane, and the refinement of wireless communication into the radio. These fundamentally changed how people fought in terms of doctrine at the operational and tactical levels, even at the strategic level. Some armies picked up on it, particularly the German Wehrmacht, but for many it took some time.

More recently, we introduced precision munitions toward the end of the Vietnam War. While we once had a corner on the market for many years, now they’ve proliferated to China, Russia, and most of the more industrial countries. Look around us; every



Paolo Bovo / U.S. Army

Paratroopers assigned to 173rd Airborne Brigade engage targets during a blank-fire exercise as part Eagle Sokol at Pocek Range in Slovenia, Mar. 25. Exercise Eagle Sokol is a bilateral training exercise with the Slovenian Armed Forces focused on the rapid deployment and assembly of forces and team cohesion with weapon systems tactics and procedures.

electronic device—from televisions to all of our personal gadgets like fitness trackers and smartphones—could be a listening device. They are emitting signals that can identify our location. And that which you can see, you can hit with a precision munition. From a thousand miles away, you can put a cruise missile right through a window. Just like going from smoothbore to rifling, you’ve increased the striking range and the accuracy.

So there’s a history of the changing character of war; it’s not like we’ve never seen it before. And right now today we are going through a fundamental change in the character of war.

Q: How can innovation and technology affect how we sustain our Soldiers in the next fight?

A: In introducing things like artificial intelligence, robotics, and 3D printing to the battlespace, think about the implications on the Army’s logistics enterprise as we adapt for Multi-Domain Operations. The ability to sustain yourself is a huge deal for a mechanized, modern Army.

Sun Tzu said, “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.” Think about information management and the ability to see ourselves. What if vehicles had sensors that can transmit fuel data? That data could be aggregated from the platoon to the brigade at various headquarters to have just-in-time logistics for refueling. The same could be done

for water or ammunition levels.

A lot of this is already being done today in the commercial world. Tesla’s vehicles are kitted out with all kinds of sensors for precise levels of monitoring that can be broadcast back to central control stations. Go to any major oil company and they know exactly how much fuel or natural gas is being produced, where it is, and how it’s being transported.

Think about what that type of information technology could mean for commanders. They could know if a vehicle breaks down, and why it happened. They could know if a Soldier is wounded and exactly where the Soldier is and what their vital signs are. Those can have huge implications in the logistics world.

Look at robotics. In World War II, we had the Red Ball Express running huge trucks in massive convoys from the beaches of Normandy, all the way through France, and into Germany to keep Patton’s tanks supplied with fuel. Consider all of the casualties we’ve taken in Iraq and Afghanistan; many were on logistics convoys simply going from point A to point B. If you had robots, you could just load up your fuel, ammunition, or food on a vehicle, program the maps, and satellite-guide it from point A to point B. There’s no human being in it. The vehicle might get blown up, and you might lose your

See **PRIORITY** Page 9A





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Sgt. Henry Villarama / U.S. Army

Paratroopers patrol through the woods during Exercise Eagle Sokol 19, at Pocek Training Area, Slovenia, March 25. The 173rd Airborne Brigade is the U.S. Army Contingency Response Force in Europe, capable of projecting ready forces anywhere in the U.S. European, Africa or Central Commands' areas of responsibility.



Spc. Geoff Cooper / U.S. Army

A grenadier with 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, strives for maximum lethality on the battlefield as he participates in a platoon live-fire training on Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, April 3.

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PRIORITY *Continued from Page 8A*

fuel or chow, but you're not going to get anybody killed. Robotic trucks are running up and down the highways and byways of California right now delivering goods.

Think about 3D printing and the ability of maintainers to produce their own spare parts. The requirement to do a supply run would be negated for company and battalion commanders if they could just print their parts right there.

These things are all in the world of the possible; they're not here yet, but they're all possible. They will all have implications on the character of war, and in order to stay current, our logistics force structure, doctrine, and processes are going to have to be modified and adapted.

Pick up next week's Fort Bliss Bugle for the last installment of this Q & A with Gen. Milley



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Incentives proposed to better retain, advance Army pilots

By Sean Kimmons | Army News Service

NASHVILLE – With nearly ten percent of aviators now leaving the Army, many of them for commercial airline jobs, the general in charge of the Aviation branch said adjustments are needed to reduce the historic attrition rate.

“We have a commercial airline industry that needs pilots,” said Maj. Gen. William Gayler, commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence. “All of our [military] services have seen aircrew members migrate out to the commercial world.”

On top of that, almost 30 percent of Army warrant officer crew members are eligible to retire, while more than 40 percent of all warrant officers have over 17 years of service.

“That’s alarming,” Gayler said April 15 during a conference hosted by the Army Aviation Association of America, or Quad A. **Incentive pay boost**

One way to keep pilots in the Army has been bonuses, but Gayler argues that is only a short-term fix.

Instead, the Aviation branch has proposed to boost aviation career incentive pay, or flight pay, which can retain more qualified aviators, he said.

“We probably need to look at it and adjust it a little bit if we’re having to throw bonus money to keep people,” he said.

While the figures have yet to be determined, today’s aviators can earn up to \$840 per month for active flight pay – a rate that has not changed in more than a decade.

“It’s time for an adjustment again,” the general said.

For aviators who achieve a significant milestone, such as becoming a pilot in command, instructor pilot, or test pilot, for example, they could also receive additional incentive money, called pro-pay, short for



Tad Browning / U.S. Army

Army aviation leaders have proposed a boost to aviation career incentive pay, or flight pay, and other measures to retain more qualified aviators amid a pilot shortage.

professional pay.

“We need to look at paying folks for what their skills require,” he said.

In another effort to keep more aviators, the branch has recommended to increase its active-duty service obligation for new aviators from six to eight years, similar to what other services do, he said.

It also dropped the active federal service maximum to eight years for enlisted Soldiers, an important step since about 75 percent of warrant officers were once enlisted. Before, an enlisted Soldier could convert to warrant having already served up to 12 years, shortening their aviation service if retiring at 20 years.

“All of these are just levers to try to retain people,” he said. “The single most important will probably be to pay them for what their skills require. That’s a tough thing to do right now when money is a challenge and we have to prioritize for other things, but we’ve got to find ways to keep them.”

The general also mentioned a budding Captain Intermission Program, which hand-picks newly promoted captains in the Aviation branch to stay at Fort Rucker, Alabama, as an instructor pilot, pushing their year group two years so they’ll remain competitive for future commands and promotion.

“This young group of officers want to be experts in their branch,” he said.

The program even frees up some warrant officer talent to fill holes in the field as the selected captains stay behind to train future aviators.

“We have to start thinking differently about how we manage talent and how we increase expertise and capability back in the formations,” Gayler said.

VR training

Starting this summer, the Aviation branch will also start virtual reality training, called Aviator Training Next, to give future pilots more repetition on basic skills.

Fort Rucker will receive 30 VR simulators based on the UH-72 Lakota, a light utility helicopter currently used as a trainer in flight school. The trainers also include artificial intelligence and cognitive assessment tools.

The goal, Gayler said, is to produce better aviators while also progressing them through flight school faster based on individual proficiency.

“If you can train tasks with more frequency and repetition, the learning process improves quicker,” he said, adding about 1,300 aviator students cycle through Fort Rucker each year.

At a time of shortages in the career field, positive leadership is another way to retain more experienced Soldiers.

When the general speaks to graduates of leadership courses at Rucker, he often makes it a point to tell them to smile more.

Smiling is not a sign of weakness, he said, adding it’s important to have fun and be approachable.

“Make a Soldier look at you and say, ‘I want to be that person,’” he said. “Because if you’re not demonstrating positive leadership, I guarantee you they don’t want to replace you.”

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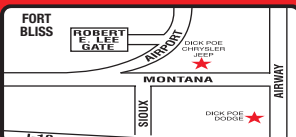
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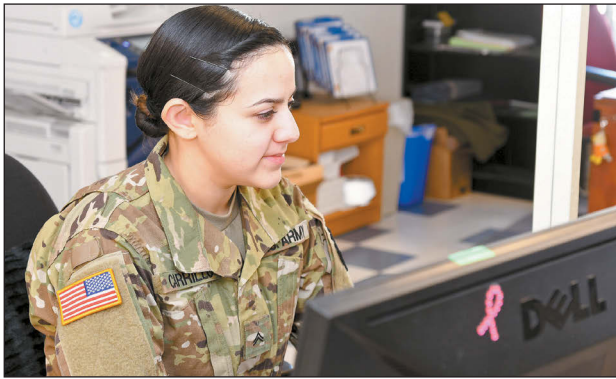
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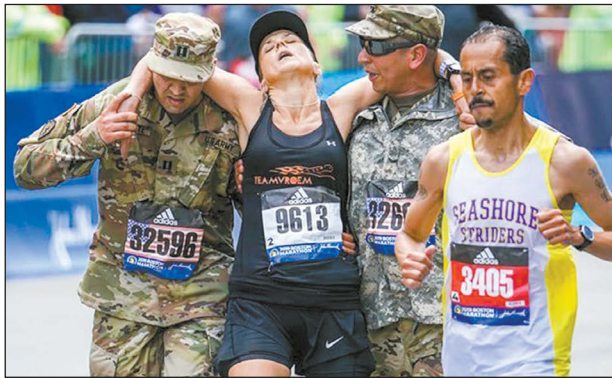
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Army considers additional
multi-factor authentication measures ■ 2B



Massachusetts NG Soldiers
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Things to do:

El Paso Original Lobster Festival: The El Paso original Lobster Festival with fresh live Maine lobster, prepared in the World's Largest Cooker will be Friday-Sunday at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta, with live music, children's stage with inflatables, food court, signature drinks like the "Screaming Lobster," dance floor and lessons, and children's magic show, and Auzzy Blood Freakshow. Hours: 5-11 p.m. Friday, noon-11 p.m. Saturday and noon-10 p.m. Cost: \$13; free for active military, veterans and children under 8 (includes free souvenir e-photo). LobsterMusicFest.com.

FloraFest: FloraFest, the 25th annual native plant sale and fundraiser, the largest of its kind in the region, is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, at the UTEP Centennial Museum, Wiggins and University. Shoppers can purchase native plants, and visit with local Master Gardeners and other plant experts for advice on how to care for their plants at home. Most of the plants sold at this event are not available at other local nurseries. Free. 747-8994 or utep.edu/centennial-museum

Parents Day Out: 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 May 4 from 1-11 p.m. Children must be registered with CYS. Reservations required. 744-7879

Dragon Ball FighterZ gaming tournament: The Monti Warrior Zone will host a Dragon Ball FighterZ tournament Saturday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Includes a t-shirt and one drink of your choice. Prizes for first, second and third place winners. The tournament is open to the public, 18+ Cost: \$15. 741-3000.

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. Saturdays in the Union Plaza District along Anthony Street. 212-1780 or elpasosartsandculture.org

Yard Sale: The spring bi-annual yard sale will be 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday throughout post housing. It is open to all those living in military housing. This is a perfect opportunity to unload some of your unwanted household goods, especially if you have an impending PCS move. DOD ID card holders who are not living on post, can sell at Old Fort Bliss Replica, located at 5054 Pershing Road. Participants must bring their own table to display. Only personal items, no commercial sellers. Open to the public. 588-8482 or 568-2554

'Mamma Mia!': UTEP Dinner Theatre, in the UTEP Student Union West building, presents the hit musical inspired by the music of ABBA Friday through May 19. Showtime is 7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; non-dinner matinees are Sunday 1:30 p.m., May 12 and 19. Cost: \$33.50-\$48.50 and \$19.50-\$29.50 no-dinner matinee performances (Ticketmaster). 747-6060 or 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.

Ladies night golf and martinis: Ladies night at Underwood Golf will happen May 15, 5-6 p.m. and enjoy one hour of golf instruction and a free martini! 21+. Cost: \$25. 568-1059

Special Olympics: Spend a day of hope and inspiration with Fort Bliss athletes Saturday, 8 a.m. at Burges High School for their regional sprint track and field meet. Opening ceremonies will be April 26 at 6:25 p.m. at Burges. 569-4227, ext. 5

Handbag Bingo: Play Designer Bag Bingo May 4 for your shot at more than 20 Michael Kors purses. Door will open at 10 a.m., game starts at 12 p.m. at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. Cost: \$25 now through May 3 at the Centennial or at Leisure Travel Services location at Freedom Crossing. 18+ 568-2554.

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

Charting her path: Challenges make Army's Military Child of the Year stronger

By Joe Lacdan | Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — Some days she could tame the pain long enough to make it through school.

Other times, the body aches grew so unbearable that Elisabeth McCallum-Polleys could not leave her bedroom. She would lay on the special heating pad she uses to stimulate blood flow and relieve the radiating pain in her rib cage.

The two metal rods inserted in her back would remind her that her life will never be the same as her childhood, when she spent summers joyously tumbling in her mother's yard in Missouri. She can no longer engage in strenuous physical activity or play a violin.

Having to quit the things she loved could have sent her into depression. Few would blame her if she chose to retreat inward or become angry at her terrible twist of fate.

But Elisabeth wasn't built that way. Elisabeth has weathered more challenges than most 16-year-olds.

Like she had done so many times before, she found a way to reboot her life. Instead of succumbing to her suffering, she helped others with theirs.

One day she could be serving food to some of Detroit's 8,000 homeless or bringing blankets to patients at a children's hospital. Another she could be voluntarily cleaning trash by the roadside in one of city's pothole-filled streets. She could be found tending to an injured squirrel at the local animal shelter.

That dedication to the service of others helped earn Elisabeth the 2019 Army Military Child of the Year award from Operation Homefront.

"She thinks about others before she thinks of herself," said her mother, Maj. Tara McCallum, who serves as a military legal advisor for units within the Detroit Arsenal.

When Soldiers change duty assignments, military children must weather a momentous shift in their lives.

According to the American Association of School Administrators, military children must move three times more often than the average American family. Some military children suffer psychosocial behaviors such as frequent crying and anxiousness.

They must leave behind their sports teams, their favorite teachers and schools. Sometimes they leave behind best friends. Elisabeth has moved six times in her 16 years.

Her place in the sun

"Everything good came from Hawaii,"



Elisabeth surfs waves in Oahu, Hawaii. McCallum-Polleys faced a difficult transition after her mom, Maj. Tara McCallum received an assignment with the Detroit Arsenal in 2015.



Courtesy photos

Elisabeth McCallum-Polleys, the Army's 2019 Child of the Year overcame growing up without her father and moving six times in her 16 years. She was also diagnosed with scoliosis in 2016.

Elisabeth would tell her mother.

She spent her pivotal preteen years on the southern metropolitan side of Oahu while her mother served at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

There she enjoyed running along Honolulu's shores or she'd travel with her mother to the north side of the island to Oahu's North Shore. She'd play Beethoven's 5th on her violin in the one-story wooden house she shared with her mother on Honolulu's west side.

At age 11, she'd surf the ocean for hours. She loved the feeling of the water rushing around her surfboard and the cool waves splashing on her skin.

"I always thought the water spoke to me," McCallum said. "That's a weird thing to say. But the ocean was my happy place."

She had just been named the Moanalua Middle School's team captain of her cheerleading squad. She played lead violin for the local youth orchestra at her school.

Born in Vincenza Italy, where her mother served as a trial counsel prosecutor for the Army, she moved with her mother to places like Charlottesville, Virginia and the Ozarks of Missouri. She had grown up being more accepting of others, knowing that she would like other children to accept her.

But Hawaii would be different. There, Elisabeth would experience a wealth of cultures she had not seen. She attended classes with students of different ethnicities, including native Hawaiians, Polynesians, Filipinos and Japanese Americans. They'd welcome her into their homes as they would their own family members.



Eight-year-old Elisabeth enjoys a happy moment with her mom, now-Maj. Tara McCallum before McCallum's deployment to Afghanistan.

For a young girl who had grown up without a dad or siblings, Honolulu felt like home, a place for her to grow and be accepted.

"I felt like I belonged there," she said.

Then one night over dinner in 2015, her mother told her the devastating news. She had been reassigned to serve as a military legal adviser for the command judge advocate for a tactical control unit in Detroit. They would have to leave behind Hawaii, and its swaying palms and incandescent city lights. She would be forced to leave behind her friends, the cheerleading squad and her coveted spot on her school's chamber orchestra.

"Everything collapsed on her," her mother said.

Be sure to pick up the Fort Bliss Bugle next week for the next installment of this story.

Army considers additional multi-factor authentication measures

By Devon L. Suits | Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – The Army is working on additional authentication measures to provide more options to access Army on-line resources while maintaining the security of information-technology systems.

Army CIO/G-6 officials are working with Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems to consider alternatives to the Army’s current multi-factor authentication process, or MFA.

MFA requires users to prove their identity by presenting at least two points of verification across three major categories: something you know, something you have, and something you are, officials said.

“The commercial industry has seen that there’s a greater need for protection, making sure the right people are accessing the right accounts,” said Thaddeus Underwood, Identity Management and Communications Security division chief. “It makes sense that the Army is moving in the same direction. We are better protecting access to our IT networks to improve our cybersecurity posture by replacing username and password logins across the Army with MFA-secured options.”

Current MFA measures force Soldiers to use their Common Access Card and personal identification number to log into a government computer system, Underwood said. However, with a percentage of the Army currently serving in the Reserve or National Guard, some Soldiers don’t have consistent access to government computer systems.

“You’ve got Reserve and Na-



Cpl. Ivanska Carrillo, a human resources specialist, goes through schedules on her work computer during unit mobilization and demobilization processes at Fort Bliss, Oct. 31, 2018. The Army is looking into additional authentication measures to improve the security of information-technology systems while providing more options to access Army resources online. Carrillo is assigned to the 210th Regional Support Group, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

tional Guard members who only come to a government facility on the weekend for their drill training,” Underwood said.

“If there is online training that they need to do ... they could potentially do that from home if they have a CAC and CAC reader,” he said. “How do we provide them that level of access without having to use a CAC?”

The Army is considering two

MFA alternatives: an authentication-type application that Soldiers can download to their mobile device, Underwood said, and a pre-registered USB-type device, known as a Yubikey.

Phone app

The Army is looking into an authentication-type app to provide Soldiers access to official sites, without having to use a CAC and reader.

In theory, Soldiers will download the app to their smartphone and register their device online, linking it to their Army identity, Underwood said.

Once the app is registered, Soldiers will then log into official Army websites with their username and password. The site will trigger an MFA process and send a one-time-use passcode to the app on their device.

After entering the passcode into the website, the Soldier will be authenticated to the site. The MFA process will provide access to personnel records, online training, and other applications without the need of a CAC-enabled computer.

“We are at the final stages of developing the requirements. Next, we are going to ask commercial vendors to provide solution options,” Underwood said. “We expect to have an initial-app prototype by this fall.”

Yubikey

In addition to developing an app, PEO EIS is providing Yubikeys as an alternative option for MFA.

A Yubikey is a registered USB-type device that can be inserted into a computer’s USB port, like a self-contained CAC and CAC reader. The device serves as a second form of authentication after the user logs into an official website using username and password, Underwood said.

“The Yubikey solves the problem of not having a CAC and reader, but it doesn’t solve needing a physical piece of equipment,” Underwood said.

“This device will probably be a better solution for some of our mission partners such as the American Red Cross, and first responders that act when an incident happens ... and don’t have a CAC to get access to our resources,” he added.

Yubikeys are currently going through integration testing by PEO EIS, Underwood said.

“Anytime you have new technology, you want to introduce it to existing technology and make sure that it will work,” he said. “We expect user testing and field testing to begin in May.”



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By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chris Degn

“Each year, April is set aside as a military child appreciation month, officially known as ‘Month of the Military Child.’ With its start in the mid-1980s, the Pentagon and other military support organizations and agencies



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chris Degn

use the month to recognize military kids for their sacrifice and bravery on the home front. The term ‘military brat’ is a badge of pride worn by generations of kids who traveled the world with their parents, moving into adulthood with the knowledge that they have the strength to handle anything. Military children deal with separations, deployments, frequent moves and even their parents’ injuries as part of the life they were born into or entered with their families... Their strength and resiliency is inspirational.” - Military.com, March 25, 2019

This past weekend, my youngest son celebrated his tenth birthday at a local pizza parlor. I was happy to see his peers from his elementary school and from his Fort Bliss School Age Services facility show up for pizza, game tokens, and the blowing out of candles, but I was even more pleased to see faculty and staff members from those organizations show up, which in my opinion, is extra-mile dedication to the job to do so on a Saturday. In a small way, it shows that Fort Bliss does, indeed, have the spirit of the “Month of the Military Child”. It shows our community truly values children.

Two of our past commanders-in-chief have spoken on the value of children:

“Children are our most valuable resource.” - Herbert Hoover, 31st president of the United States

“Children are a living message we send to a time we will not see.” - John F. Kennedy, 35th president of the United States

As I watched my bubbly ten-year-old interact with his friends at the party, I glanced for a moment at my older son who said to me a few months ago, “Dad, I am really good at

“Children are our most valuable resource.”

>>> Herbert Hoover

making friends. I can make them wherever I go.” I pondered the ability he described. In his 15 years of life, he has lived in North Carolina, South Carolina, Hawaii, Texas (twice), Korea, Nevada, and Georgia – eight homes and seven moves. Yes, military children (or so-called “military brats”) are, indeed, very tough. They certainly do deserve our recognition and respect this month of April – and for that matter, always.

“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.” - Psalm 127:3-5

Heritage, reward, a warrior’s arrows, contenders who fight our opponents for us – terrific images of legacy, or incalculable value. They are something we should want, a blessing to desire. My wife and I fought the fertility fight for six years before we finally adopted our eldest child – and then adopted our second five years later. We got both boys within a week of their birth and we have loved them with all our hearts since then. Although we paid a determined and finite price for them in dollars (i.e. administrative, legal, medical costs of adoption), it is impossible to put a true value on them for us. They are the precious diamonds in our crown.

I know I am not alone in my love and pride for my children. I looked around today at the pizza parlor birthday party for my younger son – just as I looked around at my older son’s last high school track and field meet. What did I see? I saw the love and pride other parents around me had for their children. Such a blessing should be cherished, respected, safeguarded, and valued. So, let’s dedicate the month of April to remember our military children – and then some!

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

1st Armored Division

(11272 Biggs St.)
Gospel Service Sunday 8:45 a.m.
Chapel Next Sunday 11:30 a.m.
Latter Day Saints Service Sunday 1 p.m.

USASMA Memorial Chapel

(11275 Biggs St.)
Traditional Service 10 a.m.

WBAMC Protestant Community

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

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women of the Chapel

(Bldg. 2498 Hope Chapel)
Friday 8:45-11 a.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

(Bldg. 11272 1st AD Chapel)
Thursday 9-11:30 a.m.

Protestant Youth Group

(11275 Biggs St. 568-4334)
Sunday 5 p.m.

Sundays Free Dinner (6:30-7 p.m.)

5:30-6:30 p.m. Middle School
7-8 p.m. High School

Post-wide Bible Study

(Bldg. 11272 1st AD Chapel)
Wednesdays 5:30-7 p.m.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICES

St. Michael’s Catholic Community

(1542 Sheridan Road)
Weekday Mass 11:35 a.m.
Wednesday Confession 10:35 a.m.
Saturday Confession 4 p.m.
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8 a.m.
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
1st Friday of the Month - Adoration 1 p.m.

WBAMC Hospital Chapel

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

German Chapel

(5312 Buffalo Soldier)
Sunday Mass 10 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.

Buddhist Service

(Bldg. 449 Pershing Road)
Thursday 6:00 p.m.
Intro to Nichiren Buddhism
2nd Tuesday 5 p.m.

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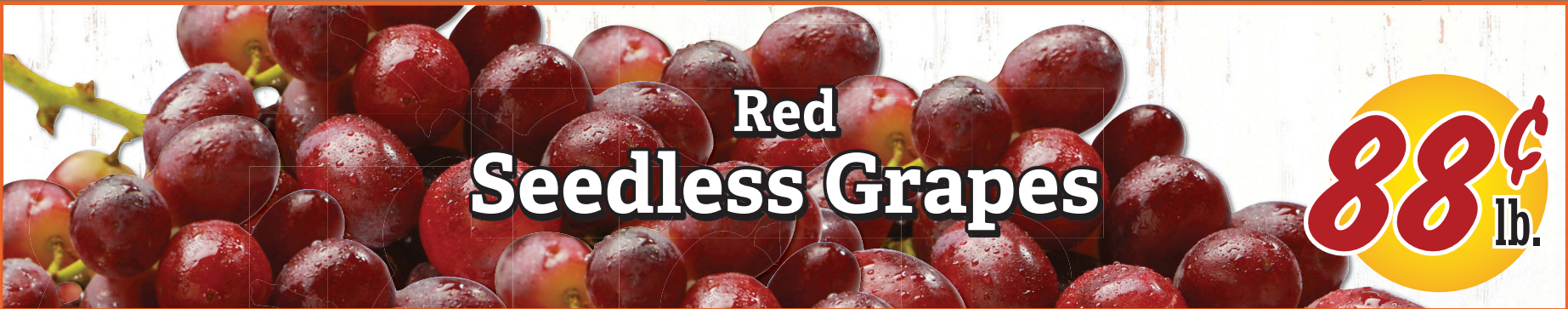
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‘Transform TBI research into TBI precision medicine’

Army diagnosing brain injuries through partnerships

By Erin Bolling | Army Medicine

WASHINGTON – A split second – that’s all the time it takes for a brain injury to occur resulting from an accident, often changing lives forever. A percentage of these incidents may be avoided with preventative measures; however, once sustained, brain injuries can range anywhere from mild to severe.

Our nation’s service members face an increased risk for brain injuries due to the nature of their training and combat environments. To address this concern, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command maintains various teams of subject matter experts and funds extramural investigators devoted to finding preventative, diagnostic and treatment methods for the wide spectrum of brain injuries.

Throughout the USAMRMC, subordinate commands and directorate organizations work in specialized medical focus areas, ranging from early medical research through U.S. Food and Drug Administration licensing and fielding, in pursuit of effective medical solutions for our warfighters.

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs – known as the CDMRP – is among the directorate organizations looking to transform health care by funding innovative and impactful medical research. As part of its mission, the CDMRP manages research awards for multiple TBI-related research efforts, from early investigative phases through translational work and forward to initial clinical trials.

The Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program was established in fiscal year 2007 to address the impact of TBI on our service members in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. In partnership with the Joint Program Committees and advanced development teams, the CDMRP provides operational execution management support as needed for the PH/TBIRP within the Defense Health Program

of the Department of Defense.

“In many cases, CDMRP co-authors funding announcements with the JPC, coordinates the peer and programmatic reviews and manages the awards that result,” said Dr. Dwayne Taliaferro, PH/TBIRP program manager.

“The goal of the JPCs is to translate military medical needs to military medical capabilities,” he added. “This translation utilizes the knowledge and expertise of the JPCs, CDMRP, researchers and the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity.”

Taliaferro further explained that when a need for additional expertise arises (e.g., product development or military technical expertise), the subject matter expertise is acquired in coordination with the JPCs. In many cases, both advanced development and CDMRP may manage awards to the same investigators or similar projects that target the same capabilities, so critical information is exchanged between the two groups to leverage each other’s knowledge. In the cases where the capabilities transition to a formal acquisition program, CDMRP representatives are often included as team members to provide expertise and input.

The Combat Casualty Care Research Program, or JPC-6, is another USAMRMC directorate organization that specializes in supporting research for brain injury treatment. Its mission is to drive medical innovation through the development of knowledge and materiel solutions for acute and early management of combat-related trauma, which includes point-of-injury, en-route and facility-based care.

Dr. James B. Phillips, CCCRP’s Neurotrauma portfolio manager, explained how CCCRP leads the science and technology efforts with expertise in brain trauma for early innovative solutions.

Along with laboratories throughout the USAMRMC and other DOD S&T organizations, CCCRP collaborates with an important community of expert scientists across international business and academic institutions.

“CDMRP is our execution management office that supports CCCRP with expert program-cycle management, including a robust two-tier competitive review process for brain trauma S&T research investments,” said Phillips.

“Our partner at the USAMMDA has product managers who chair our integrated product teams,” he said.

“Through its expertise and positions for technology transition, FDA requirements [and] developmental and operational testing, USAMMDA is strategically positioned to integrate promising technology into the hands of military providers for acute and early management of brain trauma.”

Phillips explained that the partnerships are important for maintaining the flow of innovative brain trauma solutions, through early and documented technology maturation and risk reduction to more advanced development for engineering and manufacturing in order to meet production and deployment as efficiently as possible.

“The rate of technology advancement can outpace previously planned solution targets, and these partnerships are necessary to stay on pace and garner the advances in technology,” he added.

The CDMRP coordinates with USAMMDA to share information and includes USAMMDA representatives on programmatic panels for announcements that address military-relevant capabilities with a potential for transition to advanced development. During the review, the role of these representatives is to provide input to confirm translation potential of the proposed research in accordance with the mission of the

DHP and JPC. During an award’s period of performance, the CDMRP regularly provides information to the JPCs regarding the status of the research, to let them know if the project is meeting or exceeding its research objectives.

The USAMMDA serves as the USAMRMC’s medical product development activity for effective solutions requested by the military. As medical gaps are identified and research matures, projects are transitioned to the USAMMDA for further development.

“The goal of this office is to rapidly develop and field FDA-approved medical solutions across the continuum of care that aid in the detection, protection, prevention and treatment of neurotrauma and psychological health conditions, such as TBI, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide,” said Brian Dacanay, product manager for USAMMDA’s Neurotrauma and Psychological Health Project Management Office.

Dacanay explained that, in order to achieve fielding of a product, the NPH PMO leads various areas that include cost, schedule, performance, concept of operations, logistics, sustainment, training, operational testing, environmental testing, risk management framework and draft capability documents.

“We are a part of the integrated product teams initiated by the JPCs,” he said. “We translate research work from the JPCs/CCCRP/CDMRP into products that can be used for Service Members in pre-hospital situations.”

“The earlier we initiate the partnership, the better,” he continued. “This allows us to understand the research work being developed, and make changes to a device in an early stage, as necessary, that may be applicable for mass production. This synergy allows for greater cohesiveness and success as products are submitted to the FDA for approval.”

As you might imagine, these are not the only partnerships required to deliver lifesaving medical solutions. Additional government partnerships involve working with industry to speed the products development process. Sometimes, the USAMRMC managed program guides the entire project, and sometimes the final approval

See TBI Page 6B



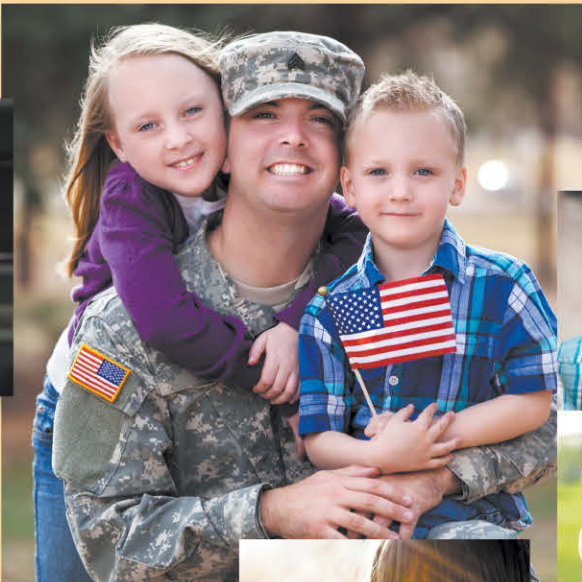
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Transitioning by way of bridges

By Lisa Smith Molinari | www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com

I slow down through the toll booth just long enough for my EZ Pass to trigger the bar to lift and the light to blink from red to green. My car picks up speed on the ramp's incline. The road rises higher and higher, over the mammoth concrete bridge piers and toward the first suspension tower soaring skyward. The land on either side of the roadway falls quickly beneath me. In my peripheral vision I sense the navy blue of the bay's deep waters, which sparkle brightly at this time of the day.

This part of the bridge always makes me feel like I am taking off on an airplane, hurtling toward the sky. On my way somewhere far, far away, but exciting nonetheless. Worries are left behind, replaced momentarily by a sense of adventure.

In reality, my trip is only a few miles. From our house to the navy base which sits on the other side of the bay. And my adventure is grocery shopping.

But as my car reaches the bridge's apex, I have a view of the whole world.

My world.
My island town is behind me on my right, its marinas dotted with clusters of boat masts that look like sewing pins at this distance. It seems as though I can see the entire east passage of the Narragansett Bay, shimmering 200 feet below me. I see the hazy outline of remote Block Island, 13 miles beyond the point where the protective bay meets the wild ocean. I see my destination, Newport, chockablock with colonial houses, buildings, bars, restaurants, supermarkets, museums, church steeples, boats, schools, beaches, and tourists. I see the military base where we lived before my husband retired from the Navy two years ago, with its familiar mishmash of buildings, base housing, and marching grounds decorated with glossy painted cannons, torpedoes and ships' anchors. As I pass under the second tower, I remember why we stayed here. After many PCS moves, we wanted to settle in a place where

we could finally buy a permanent home, find new jobs, integrate into the community, and try to become locals. But we knew transitioning to civilian life wouldn't be easy. Twenty-eight years of military life seeps into ones' blood. We picked a home only a bridge away from the Navy base, where, when we sip our morning coffee on the front porch, we can hear the national anthem floating over the bay.

To stay connected to the military culture that was still dear to us, my husband joined the our town's posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. We started a local social group of Navy veteran couples we dubbed "The Old Salts." We keep in touch with the friends we made at old duty stations. We support military causes. I write about military issues. We shop at the commissary. We bank at Navy Federal. My husband uses the VA Clinic. We drop by the O' Club for a drink every now and again.

The periodic rumble of the expansion joints rouse me from my thoughts. I realize that this bridge to the Navy base is not the only link we've relied upon to ease our transition from active duty to civilian life. When leaving the military, one can easily become an island unto oneself, cut off from what was once so familiar. It's important to find the bridges that span the distances between the military community, the civilian community, and family and friends.

The suspension cables flash by as my car coasts down the final slope toward Aquidneck Island and the Navy base. One day soon, this bridge will take us on a trip to London to see our daughter who is studying there, to our favorite summer vacation spot in North Carolina, to Providence to go to an Italian restaurant, to New York City to deliver our daughter for a summer internship, to the train station to pick up my mother, to Boston to see my husband's best friend, to Pittsburgh to see mine.

And, when my errands are done today, my car will climb to the top of my world again, where this bridge will take me home.

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TBI Continued from Page 4B

is achieved by the company. The following five brain injury diagnostic solutions are a result of these collaborative partnerships, resulting in FDA approval:

EYE-SYNC™ (SyncThink, Inc/Brain Trauma Foundation): This tool utilizes the process of how our eyes synchronize information to the brain. By using this tool and performing an assessment, the clinician can determine a value at which the individual's degree of vision impairment may translate to the degree of brain injury.

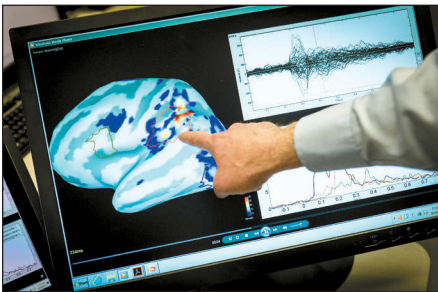
Ahead 100, Ahead 200, Ahead 300 devices (BrainScope): Ahead 100 and 200 are FDA approved to be used as an adjunctive tool for the assessment of TBI. The Ahead 300 represents an evolution from the BrainScope products that have previously received FDA clearance, and, with its additional capabilities, will be the first product the company will sell commercially. The Ahead 300 features BrainScope's proprietary, patent-protected electroencephalography capabilities using sophisticated algorithms and machine learning to analyze a patient's head-injury data. Using state-of-the-art smartphone technology and a proprietary disposable electrode headset, the Ahead 300 rapidly assesses the presence of TBI in patients who present mild symptoms at the point-of-care.

Defense Automated Neurobehavioral Assessment Tool: This tool is a mobile phone-based application designed to help medical providers identify cases of TBI in almost any setting, which can also help clinicians diagnose a patient in as little as five minutes.

Battlefield Seizure Detector for TBI Assessment (SeizTBI)/DiscoverEEG: This device uses software algorithms as a tool to analyze electroencephalograph (from user-specified electrode number and locations) and automatically calculates conventional electroencephalograph parameters (e.g., spectral edge frequency, total power, percent alpha, asymmetry).

Banyan biomarkers: The Banyan Brain Trauma Indicator™ is a diagnostic blood test used to measure levels of proteins, known as UCH-L1 and GFAP, which are released from the brain into blood and measured within 12 hours of head injury. Levels of these blood proteins after a mild TBI/concussion can help predict which patients may have intracranial lesions that may be visible by a computed tomography scan and those that may not. Being able to predict if patients have a low probability of these lesions can help health care professionals manage their patients, and help to inform the decision to perform a CT scan. Test results can be available within three to four hours. This project was guided to FDA approval through USAMRMC management, with the Army Surgeon General as the Sponsor.

These devices/tools will provide medical staff with the ability to diagnose and develop treatment based on the severity of the injury. It has been proven that the moments immediately following the injury are most critical and imme-



Joseph Eddins / U.S. Army Magnetoencephalography Laboratory scientist Mihai Popescu points out areas of magnetic activity in a brain on a display at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., March 16, 2017.

diate treatment can significantly improve long-term outcomes, making these tools so critical.

"Although many of the capabilities developed can apply in the civilian setting, the military faces unique environmental, mobility, interoperability, complexity and affordability challenges that must be considered," said Taliaferro. "CDRMP's role is to ensure that the DOD's needs are clearly communicated at the front end in the funding opportunity announcement and [that] the emphasis remains during the award's period of performance."

As these partnerships show, it's not merely about working hard, as much as it is about working hard together. Reaching across organizations to utilize each other's strengths is how the DOD works to advance and quickly move products out to those who need them.

Taliaferro explained how partners in industry have been able to team up with the DOD groups to continue the forward momentum of this research.

Large-scale studies like the Transforming Research and Clinical Knowledge in TBI study, National Collegiate Athletic Association-DOD Concussion Assessment, Research and Education Consortium, Service Academy Longitudinal TBI Outcomes study, Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium, the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center's 15-year study, and the Warfighter Brain Health Initiative, will bridge the gap between pre-injury, concussion diagnosis and long-term outcomes. Some projects provide snapshots of what happens in the first few months of injury; however, we lack pre-injury baseline or long-term follow-up data. Similarly for research regarding individuals with chronic symptoms, we have little information on their initial injury.

"Our toolkit to diagnose TBI has improved significantly since the approval of the first blood test for TBI," said Taliaferro. "The future holds additional refinement in terms of biomarkers for diagnosis, prognosis, prediction of treatment response, and response to treatment. I think we are on the verge of an explosion of TBI advancements that will transform TBI research into TBI precision medicine."

We know preventative measures for brain injuries include wearing seatbelts in vehicles, wearing a helmet on motorcycles or bicycles and to using caution when in situations that could result in a fall. No matter how cautious we can be, it is in that split second when an accident is unavoidable that the solution discovered through medical research makes all the difference.

As long as our service members face brain injuries, you can be certain that these experts will continue working together to fill the research gaps towards effective medical treatments.

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Sports Briefs

Old Ironsides Mud Challenge: May the Mud be with you! Come dressed in Star Wars attire at the Old Ironsides Mud Challenge May 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Air Assault tower on West Fort Bliss. Join Fort Bliss Sports, Fitness and Aquatics team for a 4-mile obstacle course that will get your adrenaline pumping! There are three waves available. Cost: \$25 for active duty, \$30 for active-duty family members and DOD ID cardholders, \$40 for the public. Register at Stout, Milam or Soto PFCs. 744-5785

Basketball series Tournament: There will be more 3-on-3 hoops tournament action Saturday from 4-10 p.m. at Monti Warrior Zone. Cost: \$15 per tournament. Cost includes a t-shirt and one drink of your choice. 18+. 741-3000

Family Day at the wall: How's the view from the top? Find out during Family Day at the Wall. The Soldier Activity Center is normally open to guests ages 18+, but on Family Day, the wall is open to all climbers age 6+ from noon-6 p.m. every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. 744-1532

DMRS Breaking Walls 5K: The 5K run/walk and 1-mile fun run/walk benefiting Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services will be 8-11 a.m. Saturday at Chamizal National Memorial, 800 S. San Marcial. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Cost: \$2. 532-3975, ext. 1005, or dmrs-ep.org/5k

Run/Walk for Autism: Southwest Chapter of the Autism Society of America will host its 11th annual awareness and fundraising 5K run and walk and one-mile family fun walk 8 a.m. Saturday at EPCC's Valle Verde Campus, 919 Hunter. 772-9100, autismsocietyep.org or on Facebook at AutismSocietyEP

Spartyka Wounded Warrior 5k: Spartyka Nation Apparel hosts the 7th annual USATF-sanctioned 5K run and 1-mile fun walk 8 a.m. Sunday at El Paso Community College, 9570 Gateway North. Cost: \$30. Packet pickup is noon-5 p.m. Saturday at Up and Running, 3233 N. Mesa, and race day packet pick up and registration is 7-7:45 a.m. at the race site. 478-5663 or raceadventuresunlimited.com

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. The scramblers are held at the Tennis Club, 262 Club Road. 569-5448

El Paso Senior Games: The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department's 36th annual games for those age 50+ run through May 22 at various locations around El Paso. Cost: \$15 for 2 events and t-shirt, plus \$5 for each additional event; \$45 for all events. Includes t-shirt. 503-6544 or elpasotexas.gov/parks

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

Cliff Tucker Day Memorial Tournament: Come on out to the Cliff Tucker Day Memorial Tournament June 5, at 7000 Dyer. There will be 5x5 full court play. Games start at 3 p.m. Exclusive gift package to each participating player. Deadline to enter May 27. Cost: \$250/team before Wednesday, then \$400 per team. 525-0934

Ladies Night Golf & Martinis: It's ladies night at Underwood Golf! Come over May 15 from 5-6 p.m. and enjoy one hour of golf instruction and a free martini! This is a new social event, open to the public, ages 21 and older. Cost: \$25. 568-1059

WASP: Water Agility Strength and Power is a high intensity circuit training that will leave you buzzing! This 60-minute workout incorporates all of the latest water fitness training techniques. Water shoes are strongly recommended. Classes are Fridays starting at 9 a.m. at Replica Pool. Cost: \$3 per class, \$25 for individual monthly pass or \$15 for ages 55 and older monthly pass. Passes include access to pool and all fitness classes. 744-5800

Massachusetts NG Soldiers aid Boston Marathon runner

By Sgt. Alfred Tripolone | MASS. NG PA

BOSTON – In 2015, Eric Charette had just moved to Boston and was still under its spell. What solidified that notion was his first brush with the Boston Marathon; the way the entire metropolis grinds to a halt to celebrate these ordinary runners doing the extraordinary.

“That mystique of Boston, with all of its awesomeness. It was ‘Marathon Monday’ and we went to the Red Sox Game. When we came out of the game, we were watching the runners and cheering them on,” said Capt. Eric Charette, a field artillery officer with the 101st Field Artillery, Massachusetts National Guard and full-time social worker for the Department of Veterans Affairs. “I told my buddy, I’m doing this, I’m stopping at no length to get into this.”

It took some effort, but he did. He understands the romanticism that comes with joining the storied race and the need to see it through.

On April 15, amid the flow of thousands of runners focusing on crossing the finish line at Copley Square, two Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers could be seen aiding a fatigued racer, who had traveled from Europe to compete, through the final stretch of the Boston Marathon.

“She probably flew all the way here to do this. I know as a runner, come hell or high water, you’re going to cross that finish line. That’s a runner’s mentality. I’m going to finish or die trying...” chuckling, he added. “From my own experience at least, it is. When I was coming around the corner, I was tired and starting to cramp up, and I could see her. All these people were running past her. Her body was just tilted to the side while she was running, and I thought, well maybe I should keep a little eye on her.”

His experience as a runner and Soldier told him that it might be time to intervene.

“I’ve been through the trainings where people have been heat casualties, so I know how to identify it,” he continued.

He recognized the situation was approaching the potentially dangerous, so he approached the runner to offer assistance.

“When I got to her, she knew her name, she said what she wanted to do, and that was finish the race,” Charette said.

Charette started walking with the distressed marathoner as best as he could. Having also just trekked the majority of the 26.2-mile route, he was also feeling the distance. That’s when he was joined by another Soldier, Sgt. Luis Leon-Sobenis, a medic with the 101st Regional Training Institute, Massachusetts National Guard.

“It’s been over a quarter mile I’ve been walking with this woman, I’m about to fall out myself, walking with all this extra weight on me,” Charette said. “Then he saw me, and he came running over, and asked, ‘hey sir, do you need help?’ and started helping out, and I was so thankful for him. Because I don’t think I would have finished.”

“I could see Capt. Charette carrying a fe-

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Courtesy photos

A runner is aided by two Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers in the final stretch of the Boston Marathon April 15.

male runner. That’s when I thought, let me help my comrade, and he was telling me, ‘hey my legs are really hurting, let’s finish this,’” Leon-Sobenis said.

With the two Soldiers working together to even the weight, the remaining distance was more manageable, but not easy.

“She kept closing her eyes, and shaking her legs, trying to run,” said Leon-Sobenis. “Once we arrived at the finish line there was a wheelchair waiting for her, and we handed her to the medical personnel.”

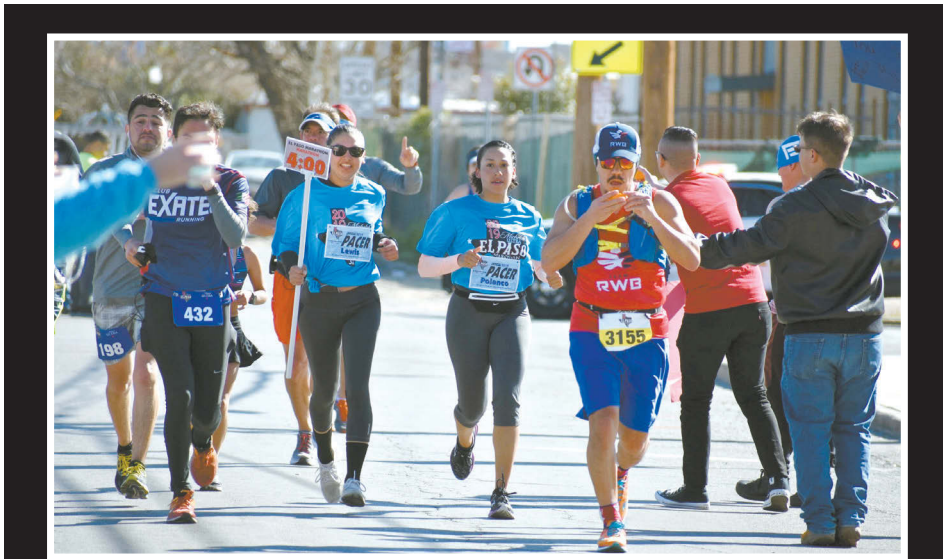
“We were just doing our jobs. Not only because we were wearing the uniform,” Leon-Sobenis continued. “They were struggling. As a medic I had to ask ‘Are you ok? Can you keep going?’ As a Soldier I feel like that’s also one of our jobs, take care of the community, to take care of our fellow Americans, and all of us, not only US citizens, it’s the people around us, and if they need our help, we run to do that.”

As the video and photos made their way online, people began reaching out to the Soldiers.

“Right after, at the end, I had to gather myself, and almost passed out at one point, too,” Charette said. “Then after that, the text messages and Facebook wall started flooding with messages as soon as it came out. ‘Eric this is you!’”

With this moment of recognition, there has also come introspection.

“I’ve been thinking about it, because my wife keeps calling me a hero. But like, I’m no hero. I’m just helping. That’s what we do....” Leon-Sobenis said “I feel like you can compare life with a marathon. It’s this long-distance thing. Life is hard. Sometimes when you’re trying to achieve your goals you forget about helping people who are next to you. Because you’re so focused, you get tunnel vision.... I need to do this; I need to accomplish this.... You forget to help people that are around you. You should sometimes take a minute and stop, take a break and help. You never know when you’re going to be there too. When you’re going to be the one needing help.”



>> WARRIOR SPIRIT

11th ADA Bde

In an effort to maintain bonds with their neighbors in the Sun City, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment ran and volunteered in the 2019 El Paso Marathon Feb. 17.

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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

Breaking Bread Tour: Breaking Bread Tour will provide 5,000 people in the Fort Bliss community with hot barbeque meals, May 13 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Retired 1st Sgt. Jarrid Collins, a combat-wounded amputee, will cross country run, bike and hand cycle across eight states to reach Tampa, Florida, for the opening ceremony of the 2019 DoD Warrior Games. 588-8247

Special Olympics: Spend a day of hope and inspiration with Fort Bliss athletes Saturday, 8 a.m. at Burges High School for their regional sprint track and field meet. Opening ceremonies will be April 26 at 6:25 p.m. at Burges. Volunteers are welcomed. 569-4227, ext. 5

Yard Sale: The spring bi-annual yard sale will be 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday throughout post housing. Open to all those living in military housing. This is a perfect opportunity to unload some of your unwanted household goods, especially if you have an impending PCS move. For DOD ID card holders who are not living on post, they can sell at Old Fort Bliss Replica, located at 5054 Pershing Road. Participants must bring their own table to display. Only personal items, no commercial sellers. To reserve a spot at Old Fort Bliss for the sale, call 588-8482. Open to the public. 568-2554

Armed Forces Day Parade: Join FMWR for their second annual Armed Forces Day Parade May 18. 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. We are looking for floats, military units, schools, marching bands, and community organizations to participate. Visit bliss.armymwr.com, search parade. Fill out the registration form and email it to blissmwr@gmail.com. Deadline to sign up is April 22. 588-8247 or 568-2554.

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 15-16. 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/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. 744-1201.

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, May 17; "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

Handbag Bingo: Play Designer Bag Bingo May 4 for your shot at more than 20 Michael Kors purses. Door will open at 10 a.m., game starts at 12 p.m. at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. Cost: \$25 now through May 3 at the Centennial or at Leisure Travel Services location at Freedom Crossing. Open to all DoD ID card holders and their guests 18+ 568-2554.

Unit Book Kits: Are you part of a unit who is going into the field or deploying soon? If so, stop by the Mickelsen Community Library and pick up book kits for free. Book kits contain a selection of popular fiction and non-fiction paperback items. 568-1902

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

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

Dragon Ball FighterZ gaming tournament: The Monti Warrior Zone will host a Dragon Ball FighterZ tournament Saturday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Includes a t-shirt and one drink of your choice. Prizes for first, second and third place winners. Open to the public, ages 18+ Cost: \$15. 741-3000.

UFC Fight Night: Catch UFC Fight 237 for free at 6 p.m. May 11 at Monti Warrior Zone! There will be drink specials available throughout the night. 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

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Moms, Muscles and Mimosas: Are you into fitness competitions and mimosas? We have the event for you Mother's Day weekend! Join GroupFIT May 11 from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Turf Field behind Soto Physical Fitness Center. Open to all female competitors with an optional parent and child event. Pre-register through May 1 at Soto or Stout PFCs. Cost: \$30. Parent and child event, ages 12-17, for an additional \$10. Be prepared to do Clean and Press, Tire Flip, Sled Push and Flexed Arm Hang! Late registration is May 2 to May 8, \$5 late fee incurred. Need practice? Come by for a workshop, Saturday from 8-9 a.m. at Soto PFC, for \$10. Open to the public. 744-5790

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

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

Parents Day Out: 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 May 4 from 1-11 p.m. Children must be registered with CYS. Reservations required. 744-7879

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. It's 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 SKIE-SUnlimited 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. The course is open to children ages 12+ Cost: \$10. Registration is required and can be done at SKIESUnlimited. You must be registered with Parent Central. Registration for classes opens from the 20th of the month prior to the 7th day of the month the class begins. 568-5544

SKIESUnlimited Folklorico Dance: Does your child like to dance and would like to learn more about the Mexican culture? Join SKIE-SUnlimited 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. 568-5544

Purple Up Block Party: Join us in celebration of Month of the Military Child at Purple Up event from 2-5 p.m. Saturday at Milam Youth Center. Free event for DOD ID cardholders. 744-2449

Operation Megaphone: Replica Youth Center will be hosting Operation Megaphone Friday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 a.m. The event is a worldwide all night event that the Army does for all youth centers. Open to DOD ID cardholders (6th-12th graders) and their guests. Students are encouraged to invite their friends. All students who are either civilians or military (but not registered with CYS) must have a registered CYS sponsor to be able to attend. Cost: \$20 or \$10 with four canned goods. Registration required. 568-3523

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. 568-5544 or 568-4374

Community

OCS Alumni Assoc. Reunion Sunday: Calling all branches, all classes 1941-present. There will be an OCS Alumni Association Reunion Sunday. This is going to be a great time with the opening of Phase I of the OCS Heritage Center; the dedication of more bricks, pavers, and class memorials; the induction of the 2019 The U.S. Army OCS Alumni Associ-

ANNOUNCEMENT

Debt collection notices:

This is a debt collection notice for **Spc. Jacob R. Young**. All services under Young's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Young or for information regarding collections, call 1st Lt. Jack Kewley at (248) 943-7222.

This is a debt collection notice for **Staff Sgt. Amy Colbert**. All services under Colbert's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Colbert or for information regarding collections, call 2nd Lt. Rachel Mills at (440) 539-9564.



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El Paso SM Association scholarship deadline: The El Paso Sergeants Major Association is accepting applications for scholarship grants for the current academic year. Applicants must be a family member of active or retired enlisted personnel from any branch of the U. S. military or allied militaries and live in El Paso County or the immediate surrounding area. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior with a B average or higher. Persons interested in applying should send a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope to: The El Paso Sergeants Major Association, P. O. Box 6103, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0050, ATTN: Scholarship Committee. An application form and letter detailing requirements will be sent to the applicant. Deadline for applications is Tuesday. wdoctor@elp.rr.com or 276-4087

Purple Heart recipients sought: The Military Order of the Purple Heart El Paso Chapter 393 meets the first Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. at the 82nd Airborne Memorabilia Museum, 2608 Fort Blvd. Transitioning from the battlefield to the home front has never been more difficult, and volunteers make a difference in the lives of our men and women in uniform, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Stand with the MOPH Chapter 393 and honor the sacrifice of American veterans by continued commitment. Facebook @MOPHChapter393

2ID Vets group seeks members: The Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching for anyone who served in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division at any time. For information about the association and their 98th annual reunion in Tucson, Ariz., Sept.18-22, contact Bob Haynes at 2idahq@comcast.net

Be a mentor in the Sea Cadets: Calling adult volunteers to lead in the newly forming Navy Sea Cadets program, El Paso Unit. Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, free of felony convictions, possess good moral character, a sound mind, and be capable of communicating USNSCC values to our cadets. No military background is required and you will be allowed to wear the Navy Sea Cadet uniform. El Paso Navy Sea Cadets" on Facebook, or e-mail epnavyseacadets@outlook.com

Upper Valley Artists/Farmers Market: The artist and farmers market is 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, at the Substation on Doniphan at Sunset. Free. 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 \$5 Exchange gift card for each grading period and a chance to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 prize. Exchange at Fort Bliss.

La Viña Spring Wine Festival: The annual La Viña Spring Wine Festival is a celebration of live music, arts and crafts, food and more than 20 award-winning New Mexico wines. Noon-7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 27-28, at La Viña Winery, 4201 S. NM Highway 28 in La Union, N.M.No picnic baskets, pets or outside beverages allowed. Cost: \$20 (includes souvenir glass and choice of 9 wines or a glass of wine); \$10 ages 12-20; under 12 free. (575) 882-7632 or lavinawinery.com

Water Festival: El Paso Water Utilities hosts the annual festival 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, at Tech2O Learning Center at 10751 Montana. Music, dance, food arts and crafts, and film presentations. Activities will include making rain sticks, an edible aquifer, dance performance by Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and a wood water drop exhibit. Free. 621-2000 or tech2o.org

El BugO in El Paso Car Show: The 9th annual El BugO in El Paso Car Show is Sunday, Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino, 1200 Futurity. There will be Volkswagen vehicles of all shapes, sizes and models. Free for spectators. 252-8977

K-9 Classic: The Humane Society of El Paso's 30th annual one-mile pet walk "Walk for Animals" is 8 a.m.-noon Sunday at Eastwood (Album) Park, 3001 Parkwood. Walk begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Humane Society. There will be vendors, food trucks, games, entertainment and pet contests. All well-behaved leashed pets welcome. Dogs must have current rabies vaccination and city license.

VFW 8919 Spring Bazaar: The VFW Spring Bazaar is Saturday, 9:30-11 a.m. at VFW 8919 Post, 5535 Saluki, with indoor and outdoor vendors, food trucks, music and entertainment, and raffles Admission is free. 346-2567

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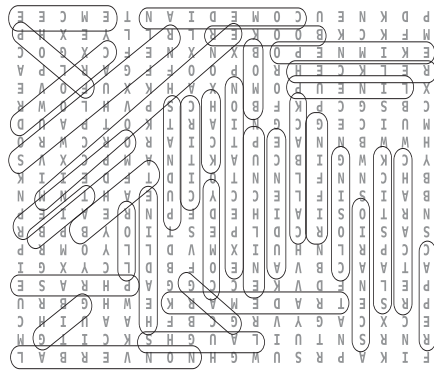
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Yard Sale

Restoration Community Church will be having a Yard Sale Saturday, April 27 at 8 a.m. Items include: two upright pianos, choir robes, donated clothes, children's items and more. Please come out and support this event at 11236 Montana Ave. 867-3565 or 633-1544.



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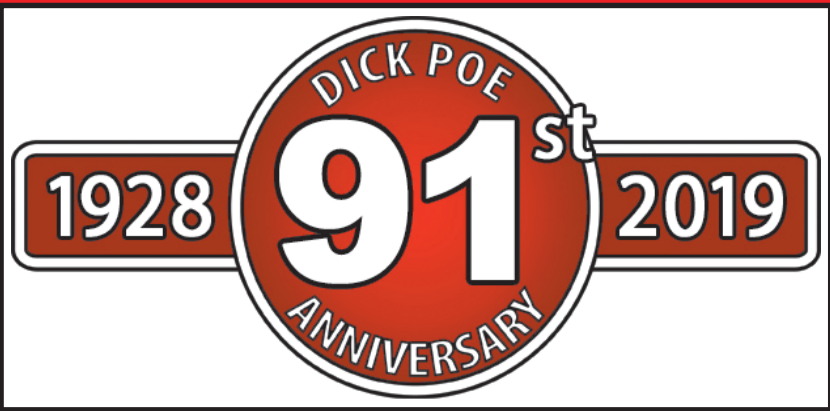
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2015 LEXUS ES350 STK# P1590 \$24,995 PRICED TO SELL	2016 HONDA CR-V \$22,995 STK# T28386A, NICE CROSSOVER		2018 SUBARU OUTBACK STK# P1645 \$26,995 NICE SUV
2018 FORD TRANSIT 250 STK# P1835 \$28,995 CARGO VAN			2019 NISSAN PATHFINDER STK# P1839 \$29,995 SEVERAL TO CHOOSE FROM
2018 CADILLAC XTS STK# P1806 \$31,995 LIKE NEW	2018 RAM 1500 SLT STK# P1807 \$31,995 NICE TRUCK	2018 DODGE DURANGO STK# P1840 \$32,995 LIKE NEW	2018 RAM 2500 STK# P1860 \$46,995 DIESEL

C91028 2013 DODGE AVENGER.....	\$6,995	P1830A 2018 FORD FUSION.....	\$19,995
P1750B 2011 FORD FOCUS.....	\$6,995	T29177B 2017 HONDA ACCORD.....	\$20,995
T28396A 2015 DODGE DART.....	\$8,995	T28392A 2017 KIA SORENTO.....	\$20,995
T29149B 2011 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN.....	\$10,995	T29284A 2016 KIA SPORTAGE.....	\$20,995
T28486A 2015 VW JETTA.....	\$11,995	P1778 2018 JEEP CHEROKEE.....	\$21,995
P1882 2017 NISSAN VERSA.....	\$11,995	T29341A 2016 KIA CADENZA.....	\$21,995
P1838 2018 NISSAN VERSA.....	\$12,995	T29000D 2016 GMC SIERRA.....	\$21,995
T28357B 2012 CADILLAC SRX.....	\$12,995	C9115A 2013 JEEP WRANGLER.....	\$21,995
P1700A 2015 HONDA CIVIC.....	\$13,995	P1846 2017 NISSAN FRONTIER.....	\$21,995
P1842 2018 FORD FOCUS.....	\$14,995	P1891 2019 JEEP CHEROKEE.....	\$21,995
P1776 2017 FORD FOCUS.....	\$15,995	P1703 2018 DODGE JOURNEY.....	\$22,995
P1824 2017 TOYOTA COROLLA.....	\$15,995	P1754 2018 NISSAN ROGUE.....	\$22,995
P1831 2016 VOLKSWAGEN E-GOLF.....	\$15,995	P1687A 2015 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500.....	\$23,995
P1859 2016 RAM PROMASTER CITY.....	\$16,995	P1848 2018 TOYOTA PRIUS.....	\$23,995
P1847 2018 KIA SOUL PLUS.....	\$16,995	P1892 2017 FORD TRANSIT 350.....	\$24,995
P1683A 2017 HYUNDAI VELOSTER.....	\$16,995	P1886 2018 DODGE CHALLENGER.....	\$25,995
P1817 2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA.....	\$17,995	P1803 2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN.....	\$26,995
C9028A 2013 DODGE CHARGER R/T.....	\$17,995	P1803 2019 CHEVY COLORADO.....	\$27,995
P1836 2018 HYUNDAI SANTA FE.....	\$18,995	P1885 2017 BMW X-3.....	\$27,995
P1823 2017 SUBARU IMPREZA.....	\$18,995	P1884 2018 BMW 430 xi CONV.....	\$33,995
T29056A 2014 RAM 1500.....	\$18,995	P1805 2019 DODGE CHARGER R/T.....	\$36,995
P1721 2018 TOYOTA CAMRY.....	\$19,995	P1888 2019 RAM 1500 REBEL.....	\$49,995

2012 TOYOTA TUNDRA STK# T29127A \$21,995 WON'T LAST	2019 TOYOTA TUNDRA STK# P1685 \$39,995 LIKE NEW	2019 NISSAN FRONTIER STK# P1870 \$24,995 WHY BUY NEW
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2008 VICTORY VEGAS LOW MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15857 \$5,995	2017 CHEVY IMPALA LT \$16,995 TWO AT THIS PRICE	2017 HONDA CIVIC EX STK# A15595 \$17,995 WHY BUY NEW	2008 HARLEY-DAVIDSON VRSCAW MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15854 \$7,995
2018 FORD TRANSIT-250 CARGO VAN \$25,995 TWO TO CHOOSE FROM	2018 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA JL \$38,995 FIVE TO CHOOSE FROM, MUST SEE		2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED, STK# A15577 \$28,995 HONEY OF A DEAL
2018 NISSAN ARMADA SV STK# A15801 \$29,995 HONEY OF A DEAL			2018 FORD MUSTANG GT STK# A15694 \$30,995 ONLY 8K MILES
2007 VICTORY VEGAS JACKPOT MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15856 \$5,995	2018 TOYOTA TUNDRA LTD. STK# A15557 \$38,995 ONLY 7K MILES	2017 FORD F-250 STK# A15550 \$41,995 BIG FORD TRUCK	2017 PORSCHE BOXTER CONVERTIBLE, STK# A15947 \$53,995 SAVE THOUSANDS

A15763N 2013 CHEVY SONIC LT.....	\$6,995	A15568 2015 NISSAN ALTIMA SV.....	\$15,995
A15450A 2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT.....	\$6,995	4827A 2017 TOYOTA COROLLA LE.....	\$15,995
26139A, RUNS GREAT 2005 CHRYSLER 300C.....	\$7,995	A15607A 2015 HONDA CIVIC EXL.....	\$15,995
26075A, TAX TIME 2016 NISSAN VERSA.....	\$8,995	A15624 2017 NISSAN ALTIMA SV.....	\$16,995
26103A, VACATION SPECIAL 2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN.....	\$8,995	A15608 2017 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT.....	\$16,995
A15139A 2009 TOYOTA CAMRY HYBRID.....	\$8,995	A15578 2016 KIA OPTIMA LX.....	\$16,995
25965A 2008 FORD MUSTANG.....	\$9,995	A15475 2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT.....	\$16,995
A15935 2017 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE ES.....	\$10,995	A15654 2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT.....	\$16,995
A15713A 2015 MAZDA 5 SPORT.....	\$10,995	A15528 2017 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE.....	\$16,995
A15783 2017 NISSAN VERSA SV.....	\$11,995	A15514A 2011 MERCEDES E350.....	\$16,995
A15579 2015 FORD FOCUS SE.....	\$11,995	A15601 2017 FORD FUSION SE HYBRID.....	\$17,995
A15773A 2014 DODGE CARAVAN.....	\$11,995	A15565 2017 DODGE JOURNEY SE.....	\$17,995
26164B 2011 FORD EDGE SEL.....	\$11,995	A15408 2017 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN.....	\$17,995
25932B 2016 CHEVY CRUZE LT.....	\$12,995	A15595 2017 HONDA CIVIC EX.....	\$17,995
TWO TO CHOOSE FROM 2017 CHEVY SONIC LT.....	\$12,995	A15386A 2018 FORD FUSION SE.....	\$18,995
A15700A 2011 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE VAN.....	\$12,995	A15641 2017 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS.....	\$18,995
A15843A 2012 MAZDA CX-9.....	\$12,995	A15598 2018 TOYOTA COROLLA SE.....	\$18,995
25957A 2015 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT.....	\$14,995	A15485, ONLY 2K MILES 2018 JEEP RENEGADE.....	\$18,995
FIVE TO CHOOSE FROM 2017 NISSAN SENTRA SV.....	\$14,995	A15710 2018 TOYOTA iM.....	\$18,995
A15615 2015 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT.....	\$15,995	A15746, PURE LUXURY 2015 LEXUS ES350.....	\$22,995
A15581A 2016 JEEP COMPASS SPORT.....	\$15,995	25932A 2016 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4X4.....	\$26,995
A15570 2017 CHEVY CRUZE LT.....	\$15,995	A15429 2017 RAM 1500 LONESTAR.....	\$27,995

2017 FORD TRANSIT-350 15 PASSENGER VAN, STK# A15846 \$22,995 HONEY OF A DEAL	2017 CHEVY EXPRESS G3500 15 PASSENGER VAN, STK# A15922 \$23,995 NOT A MISTAKE	2018 RAM PROMASTER HIGHTOP CARGO VAN, STK# A15882 \$28,995 WON'T LAST LONG
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