



210th RSG/MaD Bde.  
tackle demobilization ■ 8A



'Home of America's Tank Division'



Top chef event  
Culinary troops compete ■ 1B

Thursday, March 21, 2019

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## >> GAME ON

Master Sgt. Vin Stevens / 1st AD PA

Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division parade the colors at the historic soccer home opener of the El Paso Locomotive Football Club's home opener against OKC Energy FC at Southwest University Park in downtown El Paso March 9. The Locomotive is a new member of the USL Championship league, a 32-city collection of teams that is the supporting league to Major League Soccer in the United States. The Locomotive will look to rebound from an 0-1-1 start when they face Rio Grande Valley FC in El Paso Saturday.

# B-2 THAAD deploys to Israel

## 11th ADA Bde. unit participates in joint rapid deployment exercise

By David Burge | Special for the Bugle

A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery from Fort Bliss is on a history-making mission.

Bravo Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (THAAD), 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade has deployed its Soldiers and equipment to Israel.

Bravo Battery will build readiness and interoperability with Israeli service members while there. It has not been determined how long the THAAD battery will stay in Israel.

THAAD batteries – under the 11th ADA Brigade at Fort Bliss – have deployed in the past to the U.S. territory of Guam and to South Korea. But this is the first time a THAAD unit has deployed to Israel, 11th ADA Bde. officials said.

The deployment was on short notice with no specific advance train-up, said Col. Isaac “Ike” Gipson, commander of the 11th ADA

See **THAAD** Page 2A



Staff Sgt. Corey Payne / U.S. Air Force

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, right, visit a Terminal Altitude Area Defense System site in Israel March 6.

## FY20 budget would boost AMD funding

By Gary Sheftick | Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Army’s budget request for fiscal year 2020 includes funding to field two “Iron Dome” air defense batteries and the first Maneuver Short-Range Air Defense, or MSHORAD, battery of Stryker variants.

Lt. Gen. James F. Pasquarette, the Army’s deputy chief of staff, G-8, spoke March 12 at the Association of the U.S. Army’s “Hot Topics” seminar for Air and Missile Defense. His presentation came shortly after specifics of the budget proposal were announced at the Pentagon.

“There’s \$1.35 billion aligned against the top four AMD modernization programs,” Pasquarette said about the FY20 budget request. He added that’s a 65 percent increase from the 2019 budget for funding the four programs: MSHORAD; the Indirect Fire Protection Capability, or IFPC; the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor, or LTAMDS program; and the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System known as IBCS.

### MSHORAD

Over \$300 million of the proposed budget is earmarked for MSHORAD, which Pasquarette said is a 280 percent increase from this year. It will complete the development and begin low-rate initial production of the MSHORAD systems, he said. It also begins funding of the multi-mission high-energy laser that will eventually be mounted on the MSHORAD Stryker vehicle.

“So we’ll have two really different platforms eventually,” he said. “One with guns and missiles and one with a laser.”

The FY20 budget begins to equip the first of four MSHORAD battalions, he said. The MSHORAD Strykers fielded next year will have four Stinger missiles on one side and two Hellfire missiles on the other, with a 30mm autocannon and machine gun in the center.

The MSHORAD Strykers with 50-kilowatt lasers are scheduled to be fielded beginning in 2024, he said.

### IFPC

In 2020, the Army also plans to field two batteries of Israel’s “Iron Dome” system as an interim solution for Indirect Fire Protection Capability against rockets and cruise missiles. Each system includes a command post, several launchers and a battlefield radar.

More than \$250 million for IFPC is in the FY20 budget request, Pasquarette said. That’s actually a 19 percent decrease from this year, he said, explaining that the program was restructured to experiment with Iron Dome.

“But the funding reduction will not delay the fielding of the enduring IFPC capability,” he said. “We revised the acquisition strategy based on the decision to go with Iron Dome batteries up front, and so we’re going to purchase those two interim IFPC capabilities – the two Iron Dome batteries – and then experiment and figure out what is our enduring capability of the future.”

### LTAMDS

The FY20 budget requests \$427 million for the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor, or LTAMDS program.

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### FORT BLISS

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Mostly sunny  
Hi 69, Lo 52

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Mostly sunny  
Hi 70, Lo 49

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Mostly sunny  
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# Soldier pay, quality of life, modernization among priorities in budget proposal

By Joe Lacdan | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – With Soldiers increasingly being asked to shoulder heavier workloads, the Army hopes to compensate them for their efforts with a 3.1 percent pay raise.

The Army’s \$182.3 billion budget proposal for fiscal year 2020 includes the highest pay increase for Soldiers in a decade. Additionally, the service plans to raise basic housing allowances by 3.2 percent and basic subsistence allowances by 2.4 percent.

After launching a new recruiting initiative this year, the Army is aiming for a modest end-strength target next year, hoping to have 480,000 active-duty Soldiers, 336,000 National Guard members and 189,500 reservists by 2020.

While much of the Army’s fiscal year 2020 budget focus has centered on modernization efforts, Under Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy and Lt. Gen. Thomas Horlander, the military deputy for Financial Management and Comptroller, discussed the importance of readiness and quality of life during a budget briefing at the Pentagon March 12.

“Readiness will continue to be the number one priority for the Army,” McCarthy said.

McCarthy said two-thirds of the Army’s brigade combat teams are at their “highest state of readiness.” Army leaders have asked for steady and consistent funding to supplement its readiness efforts, which helped sup-

port 32 combat training center rotations this year.

“Because of the consistent funding that we’ve gotten at a higher level here over the last couple of years, [it] has really allowed us to make some readiness gains,” Horlander said.

To meet its readiness goals, the Army proposes to increase its operations and maintenance budget to \$52.6 billion. The plan covers an increase to infantry one-station unit training from 14 to 22 weeks. It will also provide funding to train 58 brigade combat teams, six security force assistance brigades and 11 combat aviation brigades. The service additionally plans to increase spending for flight crew hours for both active-duty and National Guard members.

The operations budget funds multi-lateral exercises in the Pacific region and in Europe to help bolster partnerships with allies, a crucial element identified in the National Defense Strategy.

“There are a lot of efforts to strengthen the partnerships with our allies,” Horlander said.

The service has prioritized improving housing standards, as senior leaders have visited post housing at different installations in recent months. The Army is asking for an additional \$600 million for the restoration and modernization of Soldiers’ barracks and installation facilities. Some funding will go toward three new housing projects, Horlander said.

The Army is seeking \$34 billion for its research, development and acquisition funding that will go toward newer weapons systems.

The Army will cut funding from certain weapons platforms and legacy systems will be cut to funnel more funding toward the Army’s modernization efforts. McCarthy said that 93 programs were eliminated and an additional 93 will be reduced or delayed



Patrick Albright / Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs  
Trainees from Foxtrot Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment negotiate a confidence course Feb. 27 at Fort Benning, Ga. The Army’s FY20 budget request increases funding for infantry one-station unit training that expands from 14 to 22 weeks and the budget also provides a 3.1 percent pay raise to Soldiers, the highest raise in a decade.

beginning in fiscal year 2020 to fiscal 2024.

“These choices were complex and difficult. At times people will focus in on ... winners and losers,” McCarthy said. “But what we look at is the choices we had to make from a modernization standpoint to be the Army that we need by 2028.

While the Army will shift its focus from legacy programs, McCarthy said that some of the platforms will still be needed. Those programs will be gradually enhanced to bridge the gap between newer and older weapons systems.

The Army’s FY20 budget request now awaits approval from Congress.

## THAAD Continued from Page 1A

Bde., and it is part of the Secretary of Defense’s Dynamic Force Employment Initiative.

This mission demonstrates the brigade’s ability to deploy a strategic-level asset – like THAAD – rapidly anywhere in the world, Gipson said.

“THAAD is the most advanced integrated air and missile defense system in the world, and this deployment readiness exercise demonstrates that U.S. forces are agile and respond quickly to any threat, anywhere, at any time,” Gipson said. “Our presence and commitment to the defense of our allies are important symbols of assurance and provide deterrence against potential adversaries.”

For the 11th ADA Bde., it is another piece in a complex mission set. The unit has done rotational deployments to the Middle East under U.S. Central Command for more than a decade.

Currently, 1st Battalion, 43rd ADA Regiment is deployed in the Middle East. The brigade also is tasked with providing ready Soldiers and assets to U.S. Army Forces Command missions.

In addition, it recently finished supporting the large-scale Roving Sands exercise. This exercise – out in the Fort Bliss training area –

was organized and run by the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command – the higher headquarters for the 11th ADA Bde.

Moreover, the brigade’s 3-43 ADA is supporting the Army’s Air Defense modernization mission.

While in Israel, Bravo battery will serve under U.S. European Command.

The unit’s rapid deployment as part of the exercise, Gipson said, is a testament to the training plan put together by its command team of Capt. Sam Baldwin and 1st Sgt. Donnie Hendrix.

“At the battery level, this command team was able to execute the Chief of the Staff of the Army’s number one priority of readiness across the four pillars – personnel, supply, maintenance and training,” Gipson said.

“Anytime you see a captain and first sergeant be able to execute a mission at this high level, it would make anyone proud,” Gipson continued. “It is a testament to the type of leaders we have in our formation.”

Gipson said that with those type of leaders, if you give them the proper guidance and equipment, there is no telling what they can accomplish.

## AMD Continued from Page 1A

That’s a 375 percent increase from FY19, Pasquarette said.

“This is going to secure six prototypes and complete software development,” he said, as the program moves toward initial operating capability scheduled for FY22.

**IBCS**

The FY20 budget request earmarks \$238 million for the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System. That’s actually a 25 percent decrease from this year, he said.

“The funding, though, will continue development and support of the second limited user test,” he said. The test is scheduled to take place in the fourth quarter of FY20.

“Everyone’s really interested in how that will go,” he said.

The \$238 million also funds initial prototypes of the command and control system for fielding in FY22, Pasquarette said.

## Other AMD funding

Next year’s budget requests \$736 million for the Missile Segment Enhancement program and the Patriot Interceptor. That funding includes procurement of 147 missiles, he said.

For the Patriot missile systems, \$606 million was requested for FY20. This includes modifications along with systems integration and tests, he said. “It procures the enhanced launcher electronic system kits, upgrades launchers to Firepack-3s and also (provides funding) to develop software.”

For the Sentinel radar, \$220 million will procure eight systems and 50 additional modification kits to improve the existing



Monica Guthrie / U.S. Army  
During a test of the Maneuver Short-Range Air-Defense System, a 5-kilowatt laser is mounted on a Stryker armored vehicle during the Maneuver Fires Integrated Experiment known as MFIX at Fort Sill, Okla., April 5, 2017. The proposed FY20 budget funds the first MSHORAD battery, even though lasers will not be fielded on the vehicles until 2022.

Sentinel A-3 radars.

About \$82 million was requested for Stinger missiles to fund a service life extension and add a proximity fuse to 1,620 missiles, he said.

The FY20 budget includes \$63 million for the Air and Missile Defense Planning Control System, which will procure equipment sets for the MSHORAD battalions and

address shortfalls in the National Guard, Pasquarette said.

The FY20 budget also requests \$15 million for Avenger systems – missile launchers on Humvees – which will “fill the gap” until IFPC becomes fully fielded by about 2031, he said.

“So we’ll be leaning on Avenger for a little bit,” he said.

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UNIT NEWS

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



Soldiers learn cutting-edge features on JLTVs ■ 16A

Unit Briefs

**El Paso SMA 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, Ft. Bliss, TX 79906-0050, ATTN: Scholarship Committee. An application form and letter detailing requirements will be sent to the applicant. Deadline for applications is April 30. wdoctor@elp.rr.com or 276-4087

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BRADLEY  
GUNNERY  
4-6 Infantry sends rounds downrange

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

RODRIGUEZ LIVE FIRE COMPLEX, South Korea – “Gunner, Sabot, Personnel Carrier ...” a fire command shouted by a Bradley commander to initiate target engagement resulting in a flurry of 25mm ammunition fired downrange to neutralize a threat.

Bradley Fighting Vehicle crewmembers with 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment “Regulars,” 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division (Rotational) conducted table six gunnery qualifications to maintain readiness at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, South Korea, Jan. 28 to Feb. 22.

“The terrain here offers some unique challenges and opportunities while its very different from the terrain back home in Fort Bliss,” Capt. Rick Gonzalez, commander, Company A, 4-6 Infantry, 3rd ABCT, 1 AD. “We’ve taken advantage of these opportunities, to build some experiences with our crews and also to qualify a lot of our new crews.”

Mechanized infantry units must complete 12 Bradley Master Gunner exercise tables to validate as a trained-and-ready unit. The tables vary from Bradley crew defense, focusing on singular BFV crews to BFV platoon qualification, which integrates mounted and dismounted infantry elements to accomplish collective tasks cohesively.

“Rodriguez Live Fire Complex is a premiere facility in 2nd Infantry Division ROK-U.S. Combined Division, and for the 8th Army,” said Lt. Col. Colin Mahle, commander, 4-6 Infantry. “We have conducted several tasks on all individual and collective weapon platforms increasing our overall lethality.”

With Gunnery Table VI qualification complete, crews with 4-6 Infantry opened the live fire season, not only for 2nd ID/RUCD, but also for the Bulldog brigade.

“My crews are motivated, they’ve had a great season, I’m excited for them,” said Mahle. “We’ve had a lot of learning out here and it’s really great to see the crews build proficiency and confidence in their weapons systems. I’m proud of all my crews and proud to be the first ones out here for the Bulldog brigade.”



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

“My crews are motivated, they’ve had a great season, I’m excited for them,” said Lt. Col. Colin Mahle, commander, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment “Regulars.” “We’ve had a lot of learning out here and it’s really great to see the crews build proficiency and confidence in their weapons systems. I’m proud of all my crews and proud to be the first ones out here for the Bulldog brigade.”



A Bradley Fighting Vehicle crew with 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment “Regulars,” 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division (Rotational) prepares to conduct Table VI gunnery qualifications at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, South Korea, recently.

(Right) Staff Sgt. Joshua Cardenas, San Antonio, a Bradley fighting vehicle crew team member with 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment “Regulars,” 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division (Rotational) prepares to conduct Table VI gunnery qualifications at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in South Korea recently.



JWA 19: Advanced robotics may mean less risk for Soldiers on future battlefields

By Maj. Richard Marsh | U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command

At the Army’s largest annual modernization exercise next month, Soldiers will train with robots that will one day perform the most dangerous tasks on the battlefield.

At Yakima Training Center in Washington state, Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division will use robots that are part of an overarching vision called the Robotic Complex Breaching Concept.

The RCBC envisions a scenario where robots, rather than combat engineers and armored vehicle crew members, blast apart the layers of mines, concertina wire, tank ditches, and earthen berms that inhibit American troops from closing with and destroying near-peer threats.

For military planners, the threat posed by the ambitions of other great powers has eclipsed that posed by terrorists, insurgents, and other non-state actors.

Equipped with large, modern armies, these potential adversaries can make future battlefields a very dangerous place for American Soldiers. Senior defense officials have acknowledged

the need for autonomous systems to mitigate this threat. In 2015, then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work commented publicly, “Ten years from now if the first person through a breach isn’t a ... robot, shame on us.”

The Army has since moved to procure robots that lead the way through the breach. It is assessing drones that can see enemy obstacles, remote-controlled artillery to suppress nearby defenders, unmanned vehicles for generating clouds of smoke to obscure an American assault force, and a remote-controlled armored bulldozer built on a M1 Abrams chassis that can plow open a path for troops to flow through.

At Joint Warfighting Assessment 19, Soldiers will employ these systems under conditions that simulate the future battlefield.

In May, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment will face a live opposing force that will attempt to stop them from crossing an obstacle made of concertina wire and tank ditches. Members of the U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command will observe the simulated battle and analyze the results.

What they learn will inform everything from the design of future robots to the doctrine that guides their application.

JWA 19 will build upon what the Army has learned about RCBC in past exercises. At JWA 18 last April, developers from Fort Benning’s Maneuver Battle Lab first demonstrated that RCBC could remotely breach a complex obstacle. By pitting RCBC against a live opposing force, this year’s exercise will provide even greater insight for the future of the concept.

RCBC is at the center of the Army’s effort to make robots into force multipliers. By taking new technologies and putting them to the test in larger and more complex exercises, Army leaders are gaining greater insight into the future of warfare. As Col. Tom Nelson, director of Robotics Requirements Division at Fort Benning explained, “The integration of autonomous systems will ... directly support the Army’s understanding of the opportunities and challenges of human-machine teaming, interoperability, and network security.”





# On Target

## Wyoming NG unit meets new Army marksmanship qual, will train at Bliss later this year

By Sgt. 1st Class James McGuire | Wyoming National Guard

While it may not have received as much attention as the new Army physical fitness evaluation, the 40 targets on the rifle marksmanship range are also about to be engaged in a more combat-focused manner.

Soldiers from the Wyoming Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment (Forward) were the first to try out the new test at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, in Wyoming, as part of pre-deployment training that will require them to conduct the proposed test two more times this year.

The new marksmanship test has been undergoing evaluations and changes for about two years, primarily by Army active duty Airborne infantry units, and is slated to become the Army-wide standard for rifle marksmanship qualification in fiscal year 2020.

"It's a lot more functional and realistic, integrating more of a rifleman's tasks," said Staff Sgt. Zach Semmons, a squad leader with 1-297 Infantry. "You have to

maintain situational awareness, keep a round count, and execute combat magazine changes, all while engaging the targets."

According to an Army Times article from Jan. 17, 2018, Brig. Gen. Christopher Donahue, commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School, said the proposed changes are all aimed at increasing Soldier lethality and presenting a more realistic shooting environment based on what the Army has seen in 16 years of combat.

As it sits now, the new weapons qualification will feature four shooting positions—prone unsupported, prone supported, kneeling supported, and standing supported. Soldiers will be issued four 10-round magazines, to engage 40 pop-up targets from the four shooting positions. Some iterations will show three or four targets at a time, forcing Soldiers to be extremely focused.

Sgt. Sol Griffith, a fire team leader in the infantry company, said the unit will conduct the qualification with its parent unit in Alaska soon, and again during mobilization training at Fort Bliss prior to deploying overseas this year.

During the March 7 training day,



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class James McGuire / Wyoming National Guard

Pvt. Justin Widenham, an infantry Soldier assigned to the Wyoming Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment (Forward), tries to find the correct sight picture at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, Wyoming, during mobilization training March 7. The unit will train at Fort Bliss later this year.

Griffith demonstrated the test for his comrades before they conducted the current qualification for their individual annual records. When they concluded that test, the rest of the unit tried out the future test.

Spc. Lance Pierce, a target systems repairer assigned to Camp Guernsey's Training Center Command, learned about the new standard last year while attending a course at Training Center University, and built a software program that would run the test and the targets at Camp Guernsey.

"This is the first unit to try it out," he said prior to the demonstration. "No one had any use for the program until now."

"Now you have three or four targets up at

the same time and you have to transition between them very thoughtfully," said Griffith.

"It's not like it was with someone yelling what target is coming up. Plus, the tower doesn't tell you when to do a (magazine) change. You have to know when to do it, and then, do it."

The new standard is going to be difficult for a lot of shooters, even those who hold the rifleman occupational specialty.

For instance, the range noncommissioned officer in charge announced

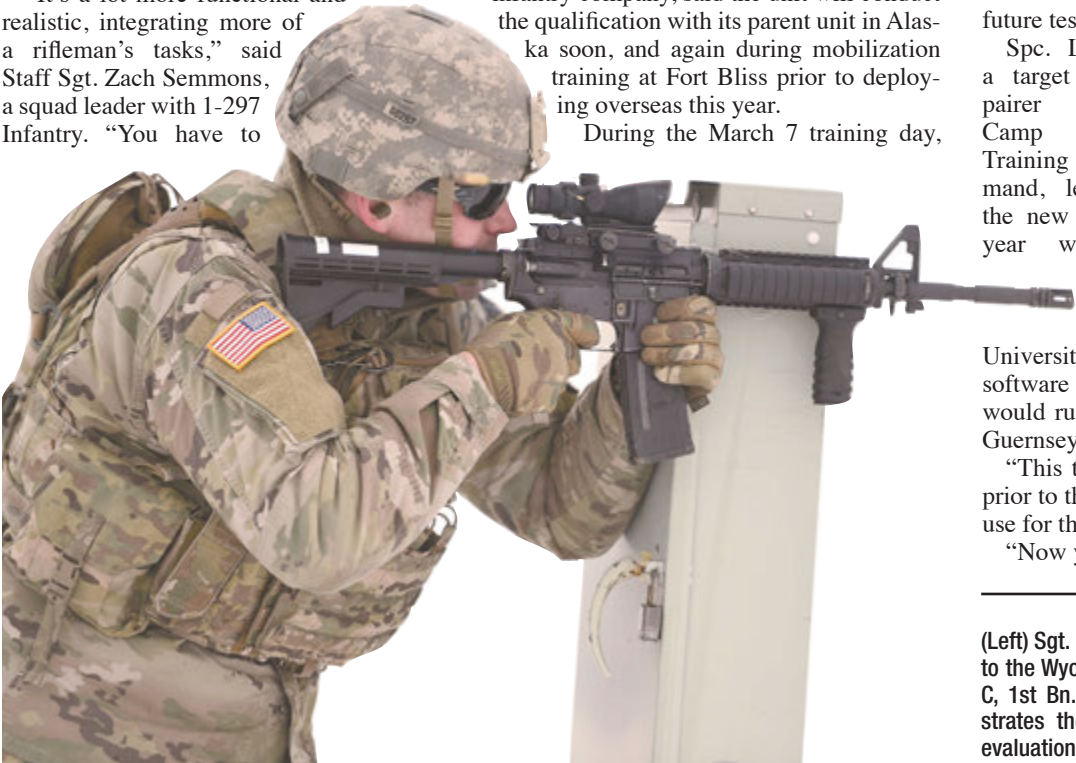
from the tower's public address system that Griffith hit 22 of the 40 targets during the demonstration. "Sgt. Griffith usually hits 40 out of 40," the tower announcer added.

As for the rest of the unit, Semmons said about half the Soldiers met the minimum qualifying standard of 23 hits, and a 32 was the high score of the practice round.

"It was the first time trying it for most of them," he said. "But, I think it went extremely well and they were very receptive to it. They liked the mag change and engaging more targets."

**"You have to maintain situational awareness, keep a round count, and execute combat magazine changes, all while engaging the targets."**

>> Staff Sgt. Zach Semmons



(Left) Sgt. Sol Griffith, a fire team leader assigned to the Wyoming Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Bn., 297th Inft. Regt. (Forward), demonstrates the proposed new rifle marksmanship evaluation from the standing supported position.

## MONTANA AT AIRWAY

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# Last Bliss Air Assault class graduates

By Stephanie Santos | 1st Armored Division

Ten days of building mental and physical endurance. Ten days of concentration and commitment. Ten days of rigorous training that began with 271 service members on Day 0 and ended with a total of 160 graduates who received their coveted Air Assault wings March 11 during a graduation ceremony at the 1st Armored Division Parade Field.

The course brought a series of challenges, including hands-on and written exams, rappelling, a full obstacle course, and timed sling-load inspections. Leading up to the morning of graduation, students could not celebrate their success until they each completed a rigorous 12-mile foot march wearing a 35-pound ruck in less than three hours.

“We push each Soldier physically and mentally. They learn the importance of detail. There is no rank here...a private can help a sergeant first class and a specialist can help a captain,” said Sgt. Clinton Sargent, an Air Assault instructor. “The focus is never on rank, but on what each service member can do to help each other.”

Even after 21 years in the Army, Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Palomino, the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment’s command sergeant major, said the course was intimidating, but he had to meet the promise that he made to his fellow Soldiers.

“I have to lead by example. I’m doing this for my Soldiers and yes, it’s scary to be the oldest person here,” said the 42-year-old leader.

Palomino felt that the Air Assault training built confidence and the class became closer while learning how to work together. He noted that every student was held accountable, and there was no chance to redo something that was incorrect.



“As leaders, we are never done with training, and we can’t sit in our comfort zone,” he said. “This course taught us to remember the basics and what it is to be a Soldier, remain resilient and never quit. I put myself through this to show that it is never too late to develop yourself.”

After rappelling from the 34-foot tower, Pfc. Lillyanna Puig, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, said a lot of her motivation came from proving to herself that she could push herself to the next level. Puig was one of four women to graduate from the course.

“A lot of times as females in the Army we put ourselves in a gender box, but we are all Soldiers. We have to stay motivated,” she said. “I want to achieve as much as possible in my Army career.”

Understanding that Class 004-19 being the last class to graduate from Fort Bliss, Staff Sgt. Matthew Heckman, an instructor, explained that

the class values and new strengths developed will still travel with each person regardless of where they are stationed in the future.

“It’s rewarding to know that we have affected these graduates in a posi-

tive way and knowing they will make a difference,” said Heckman, who was named instructor of the cycle. “Even though the class here has ended, the Air Assault course legacy will continue to live on.”



Photos by Stephanie Santos / 1st AD

(Center top) Second Lt. Mackenzie Grigsby has her new Air Assault Badge fastened to her uniform March 11.

Service members had to rappel from a 34-foot tower as one of the course requirements for earning their Air Assault Badges.

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All or nothing

# Teamwork breeds success for ‘Cobra Strike’ in SW Asia

By Sgt. Zachary Mott | U.S. Army Central

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Success for an air defense artillery Soldier is not defined by almost, sort of or close enough. For Air Defenders, success is either all or nothing. Perfection is the only standard when it comes to defending critical assets in a defined region.

This is the mission for the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th ADA Brigade, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The “Cobra Strike” Battalion is currently deployed to southwest Asia is support of U.S. Central Command and ready to provide immediate support to defeat any and all airborne threats.

“Our mission is to ensure that



Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment work together to prepare a Patriot missile launcher for reloading March 7 from an undisclosed location.

our assets, our people and equipment associated with those assets are protected at all times. Which means that we have to be very good at what we do,” said Lt. Col. Michael R. Rodick, commander, 1-43 ADA. “A leaker is a missile that gets through our defense and impacts on top of our asset. Our standard is zero leakers. We can’t afford to have any missiles strike those assets that we defend.”

Cobra Strike is filled with Soldiers seeking perfection. From Army physical fitness tests, to individual weapons qualification and all of the military occupational specialty-specific battle drills and tasks, Soldiers from Cobra Strike strive to be the best in everything they do.

“What we do a lot of, especially with Launcher (Platoon), they challenge each other and the hot crews compete on times for their reload drills to the van crews competing on their scores,” said Capt. Eric Terwilliger, commander, Battery C, 1-43 ADA. “We also rank our crews for how their performance is throughout the battalion. That competitive nature keeps us on our toes and trying to be better than the next person.”

Those individual competitions help push each crew and each battery, and in turn the battalion as a whole, to success in terms of its current mission here in Southwest Asia.

“In some units and some different jobs in the Army, you can operate anywhere around the world as a crew, as a section, as a team or even as a platoon,” said Sgt. 1st



Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment race to position to begin a missile reload operation March 7 from an undisclosed location. The Soldiers continually train and conduct battle drills to ensure they are able to perform their duty in providing air defense support across the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Class Martin De La Rosa, Launcher Platoon sergeant, Battery D, 1-43 ADA. “Here in Patriot, in our job set and what we do, we don’t have that option. We have to operate as a battery in order to fully function and do what we do and do it well. It takes every Soldier, from the driver of the hot crew vehicle, to the maintainer inside the BMC, to one of our tactical control officers or tactical control assistants inside the van, always talking to each other and being on the same page so when the time comes and we need to fire that system we know without a shadow of a doubt that when they push that button that missile is going to fire and it’s going to be successful 100 percent of the time.”

Additionally, that teamwork is critical for Soldiers across the other sections of the Cobra Strike Battalion.

“Each person has to do their job,” said Spc. Tanner Dewey,

tactical planning work station operator, team leader, Battery Command Post, Battery D, 1-43 ADA. You’ve got to train and you’ve got to be able to trust your teammates because if you’re looking over your shoulder double checking everything they do, you don’t have time to do your job. It’s all about trusting your teammates, making sure they’re trained, making sure you’re trained so you can all, as a whole, accomplish the mission and excel and be better than what you were the day before.”

Through constant drilling and practice, the routine tasks and motions become committed to memory and helps to add to the efficiency of each crew.

“There’s a constant preparation from the moment we walk in to the moment we leave,” said Cpl. Joe Lopez, a squad leader with Battery C, 1-43 ADA. “The quicker we can get the job done the quicker we can defend our assets and destroy the

enemy.”

Working hard and striving for perfection is a difficult, yet important task. The Soldiers of the Cobra Strike battalion are constantly working to ensure they remain perfect when it matters most.

“If we miss, and we fail at our job, it’s thousands of lives at stake. It’s a catastrophe when we mess up. So we don’t allow for that to happen,” De La Rosa said. “That’s why we push our Soldiers constantly to push for ‘excellent.’ Not just to meet the minimum standard, we need to push for excellent because at the end of the day if something happens and we really do need to do our job, we need to make sure that we’re 100 percent ready to go. I like to tell our Soldiers, we’re America’s insurance policy. We’re always there and we don’t want to use it. But whenever we do go to use it, you’re glad you have it.”



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# 210th RSG/MaD Bde. tackle history-making

## 155th ABCT demobilization, reflect on lessons

By Sgt. Christopher Hernandez |  
Mobilization and Deployment Brigade, DPTMS Fort Bliss

Since last month, Soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, from the Kansas Army National Guard and Mississippi Army National Guard, began their demobilization process at Fort Bliss. Coming back from their yearlong mobilization in support of Operation Spartan Shield, the 155th ABCT has been scaling back to the United States through intermittent flight schedules.

For the Army Reserve Soldiers of the 210th Regional Support Group, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, and their enterprise partners of the Mobilization and Deployment Brigade – Fort Bliss Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, the 155th ABCT has been one of their most demanding endeavors. This engagement has not only been the responsibility of the 210th RSG/MaD Brigade and DPTMS, but also that of the 5th Armor Bde., 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss Garrison command, 7251st Medical Support Unit, Tatitlek, Gemini Tech Services, Magnificus Corporation, Sterling Medical Corporation and many other entities.

A critical component of the Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI), the Fort Bliss mobilization division worked assiduously to fulfill the logistical, medical, administrative, and other needs of over 3,500 Soldiers of the 155th ABCT.

“The demobilization process of the 155th ABCT is the largest that the Army Reserve has done in the past 20 years,” said Col. Javier Rivera, brigade commander of the 210th RSG. “My goal with the 155th ABCT is to be able to bring a fast, effective deployment process in 8-10 days in order for them to be able to go home to their loved ones.”

The 155th ABCT demobilization is the primary line of effort of the 210th RSG/MaD Bde., along with several other missions, Rivera said.

Lt. Col. Jason Nelson, deputy brigade commander for the 155th ABCT, said that their pre-mobilization phase last year at Fort Bliss presented a myriad of challenges to both the 155th ABCT and the 210th RSG/MaD Brigade.

“We’ve had some growing pains early on, being the first organic MTOE (Modified Table of Organization and Equipment) brigade to mobilize and demobilize of this size in a really long time,” Nelson said. “We were in austere conditions for 90 days, which absolutely strained the brigade’s logistics processes and facilities at Fort Bliss. (Therefore), we identified areas of improvement within the infrastructure within Fort Bliss... and some of those lessons learned have already been worked toward resolutions to the troubles that we identified during our mobilization.”

Douglas Vogel, chief of the mobilization branch under DPTMS, said steadfast vigilance was key in ensuring the success of the 155th ABCT pre-mobilization and ongoing demobilization.

“We made sure that we didn’t do any shortcuts, and that we hit all gate requirements for their demobilization process,” Vogel said. “We also made sure that we kept the accountability of each individual, and when they all leave, we have 100 percent accountability of them.”

In addition to Vogel’s aforementioned point, there were two other keys to success to the entire 155th ABCT pre-mobilization and demobilization processes.

“We need to pay attention to details that may stop a movement, and make sure that everyone is constantly synced to one another,” Rivera said. “Sometimes, we’ll have more than two or three missions to sync into, and we all have to think like and be on-the-clock.”



Photos by Sgt. Christopher Hernandez / MaD, DPTMS Fort Bliss

Approximately 200 Soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, made their arrival at the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group at Fort Bliss, Feb. 15.

Reflecting upon the hurdles of their pre-mobilization phase, the 155th ABCT leadership proactively communicated with the 210th RSG/MaD Bde. months prior to their return to Fort Bliss.

“I know that this has been a challenge as far as the mobilization side of it when we first got here,” said Master Sgt. Christopher Dingler, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the logistics and supply section

of the 155th ABCT. “So, we started talking to the 210th RSG and 5th Armored Brigade back in November 2018, working on some of the plans and what we needed to support in the timelines. So far in our demobilization process, the 210th RSG has done a tremendous job to juggle everything around. We’ve been supported the whole way so far, and it’s

See **DEMobilIZATION** Page 9A

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DEMOBILIZATION *Continued from Page 8A*

been good.”

Due to the enormous scale of the 155th ABCT demobilization, it necessitated a larger, more efficient Soldier Readiness Processing Center to better manage the influx of units.

We’re re-purposing the old commissary building for the new SRPC, said Col. Steve Murphy, the Fort Bliss garrison commander. It’s a multi-million dollar project that will help streamline the process, making it a one-stop shop for mobilizing and demobilizing units. Our intent is to make it the premier SPRC in this MFGI and the entire U.S. Army.

As the 210th RSG is slated to undergo transfer of authority next month to the 653rd RSG, Mesa, Arizona, the latter unit is poised to contend with an even larger organization than the 155th ABCT.

With over 4,200 Soldiers in its ranks, the forthcoming 30th ABCT, from the North

Carolina Army National Guard, pre-mobilization through Fort Bliss will be tantamount to the 155th ABCT experiences.

“What I want the 653rd RSG to learn from this process is to pay very close attention to every detail of the mobilization and demobilization process,” Rivera said. “We’re going to do a very good ‘left seat, right seat’ TOA with the 653rd RSG, and we’re going to set them up for success.”

For all of their efforts, the 155th ABCT leadership has been extremely grateful during the ongoing demobilization.

“Fort Bliss has been very receptive in giving us office space, resources, and accommodating any needs that we have to ensure that we finish what we need to do as a Compo 2 (component two) unit, demobilizing and getting back from Title 10 to Title 32 status,” Nelson said. “Having both Kansas and Mississippi participating in the demobilization process, in conjunction with the Fort Bliss (mobilization) enterprise, has been a very positive experience. The entire

team has been great in solving problems on the move, and figuring out best practices so we can make the process smoother, faster, and get Soldiers home as quickly as we can.”

Regardless of which Army Reserve unit and enterprise partners comprise of the mobilization division at any period of time, they will always adhere to the mantra “take care of the troops.”

“The biggest thing is taking care of the Soldiers and making sure that the Soldiers are taken care of as they process through, whether they are going into theater or whether they coming back home,” Vogel said. “The 210th RSG has been very proactive in this mission, and I hope that the 653d RSG is proactive in taking care of the Soldiers as well.”

(Top right) A Soldier stows his gear in the overhead bin.

(Right) A Solider receives a hot meal before departing.



Photos by Sgt. Christopher Hernandez / Mad Bde., DPTMS Fort Bliss



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Photos by Eve Meinhardt / U.S. Army Forces Command  
Students assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command perform one of the medical tasks they learned as part of the battlefield emergent skills triad training at Fort Bragg, N.C., Feb. 7. Six students with non-surgical backgrounds participated in two days of classes and hands-on training to help the program's developers formalize the training package and integrate checklists that outline the steps for the medical tasks they trained on and executed.

# Army developing training to expand medical capabilities

By Eve Meinhardt | U.S. Army Forces Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The Army is one step closer to increasing the ability of non-surgical medical personnel in remote locations to potentially save the lives of severely-injured Soldiers thanks to continuing efforts by the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Womack Army Medical Center and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command – Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center.

The USASOC and Womack team hosted the second iteration of the battlefield emergent stabilization skills triad demonstration at the Fort Bragg Medical Simulation Training Center in early February. Six students with non-surgical backgrounds participated in two days of classes and hands-on training to help the program's developers formalize the training package and integrate checklists that outline the steps for the medical tasks they trained on and executed.

"In 2017, we built a demonstration for the Army Surgeon General that showed the capability for a non-surgeon to be able to save a life in a remote location using available technology to have a surgeon supervise the procedure, even with an ocean between them," said Lt. Col. Stephen DeLellis, deputy surgeon, USASOC. "That demo is now a fully-developed training package, complete with didactic instruction, a training video and procedure-review flip charts."

The students, comprised of two physician assistants, two emergency medicine doctors and two Army special operations medics, learned how to perform two medical tasks that could help save the life of a fatally-wounded Soldier: an anterior femoral artery exposure and a four-compartment fasciotomy. The first task controls life-threatening bleeding and the second releases excessive pressure/swelling in an injured leg.

Helicopters were flying low overhead, adding realism to the event as the students worked with their heads down in the tents where the training was taking place, ignoring everything else around them and focusing only on the manikin in front of them. The students used scalpels to cut into the realistic model and tied off blood vessels with gloved hands, all while wearing augmented reality glasses that allowed a surgeon to observe their actions from the student's point-of-view.

Col. (Dr.) Tyler Harris, an orthopedic surgeon at Womack Army Medical Center, watched the students' progress and communicated with them throughout the procedures. Harris was seated in another room, watching their actions on a laptop computer and providing real-time feedback on what he was seeing to the students who could hear him through their glasses.

While the training provides the students with all the knowledge and tools to perform the procedure on their own, the use of telestration provides a safety net and an additional level of medical oversight to support them when they are caring for actual patients in a remote location.

Harris said that getting training like this



Students look on as Col. (Dr.) Tyler Harris, an orthopedic surgeon at Womack Army Medical Center, performs one of the medical tasks they were learning as part of the battlefield emergent skills triad training at Fort Bragg, N.C., Feb. 6.

available to the force will help increase readiness and the ability to care for Soldiers serving in harm's way.

"The great thing about this training package is that it is scalable to meet the needs of the Army," Harris said. "As many medical personnel that are needed are able to learn each procedure in a day or less. It takes years to bring on new surgeons. This leverages the experienced medical resources units already have – our non-surgical physicians, brigade doctors and physician assistants – and allows us to quickly train them to not only meet the needs of the Army, but give them the ability to potentially save the lives of their fellow Soldiers with injuries that could prove fatal without immediate intervention."

Throughout the training, students provided feedback to the team about training modules, classes, the checklist and equipment. They shared what worked and what changes to the program would make it easier for them. Overall, the students said they were glad that training like this was being developed.

"This training was very effective because of the way it was presented," said a participating emergency medicine physician with the Special Operations Medical Detachment. "You got to see it done and then got to do it yourself. There's a lot of repetition and hands-on, you're not just talking it through and hoping for the best."

A Special Forces medical sergeant with 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), who also participated in the exercise, said, "I think this is a great force multiplier. It's great to get to learn techniques like this, we go places where immediate evacuation to higher care facility isn't always possible. When you're the only medic out there, you want to be able to help someone – no matter what."

Experts at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences will now review the results of this training and pursue research to clinically validate the process. The goal is to not be able to tell the difference in the results of these skills executed by a surgeon or one of the non-surgeons doing the task. The current expectation is for validation and implementation of the training across the force within the next two years.

The project has been fully supported by Army Medicine as part of its advanced medical technology initiative.

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# ‘I took a helicopter, and I landed in hell’

Vietnam vets connect with 1-1 Cav. Soldiers during visit

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

Soldiers from the past always have a special connection with their military service and enjoy telling their stories to the next generation of Soldiers.

Iron Soldiers assigned to the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division got the chance to meet a very special group of 1-1 Cavalry Vietnam veterans and listen to their stories as part of a 1-1 Cavalry reunion March 8 at Fort Bliss.

The purpose of the visit was two-fold: the first was to hold a reunion for these veterans and their families. The second was to donate a painting from the late Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Boggs who served with the unit during the Vietnam conflict.

Boggs’ wife, Tyra Dean, wanted to give this painting on behalf of her late husband to the unit because she felt it represented a piece of the unit’s lineage, and the Soldiers who have served in it.

The day-long event allowed Soldiers the opportunity to hear the experiences of the Soldiers who came before them.

“A meeting such as this has many purposes, but the greatest of them is having present-day Soldiers understand their legacy knowing they are a part of something way bigger than themselves,” said Capt. Brendan Duke, assistant operations officer at the squadron. “Knowing that these men went to great lengths to ensure that I can stand where I am today gives me a sense of peace because I know what I am doing today will help pave paths for those who will eventually follow me.”

**“The greatest of my accomplishments was bringing home as many men as I could.”**  
— Retired Maj. Walter Reed

“It was an honor to meet everyone of these men and their families,” Duke added. “More events like this need to happen to remind us of how great we are as a country and, even more, how great we are as a team of brothers and sisters standing besides each other for one cause.”

Each 1-1 Cavalry veteran was given a moment to tell their stories—the good and the bad— and when they did, it seemed as if they took a time machine back to those events.

“I took a helicopter, and I landed in hell,” said one gentleman to the room full of Soldiers. The men cried when asked how it felt to come back home following the war. For many of them, home was so far away especially knowing many of their fellow Soldiers did not make it back to their loved ones.

“The greatest of my accomplishments was bringing home as many men as I could,” said retired Maj. Walter Reed, who was once the



Courtesy photos  
Retired Maj. Walter Reed, who was once commander of Bravo Troop, retraces his missions on an old topographic map that was used during the war, at Fort Bliss March 8.

troop commander of Bravo Troop “Bandits” in Vietnam. “I wish I could of done many things different like moving my men ten meters to the left or letting that Soldier stay back on this one mission. Maybe he would have came home if I did that.”

Other Vietnam veterans recounted on their experiences during their visit to Fort Bliss and reflected on those they served with.


“To live with all of these people in my mind who had faces, personalities, stories of their own and to know that they can’t stand here and tell them in their own words leaves my heart in a bad place,” said one of the veterans. “We get through it, though. We live with it, but we understand some parts of it. I didn’t understand the point of the war be-



Staff Sgt. Felicia Jagdatt / 2nd ABCT, 1st AD  
A Soldier assigned to the 1st Sqn., 1st Cav. Regt. and two Vietnam veterans.

sides having a mission and knowing it was my duty to fulfill it. I would do it all over again in a heartbeat if I had to.”

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# Battlefield AI gets \$72M Army investment

By Army Research Laboratory Public Affairs

ADELPHI, Md. – The U.S. Army is investing \$72 million in a five-year artificial intelligence fundamental research effort to research and discover capabilities that would significantly enhance mission effectiveness across the Army by augmenting Soldiers, optimizing operations, increasing readiness, and reducing casualties.

Recently, the Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory, the U.S. Army’s corporate laboratory, announced that Carnegie Mellon University will lead a consortium of multiple universities to work in collaboration with the Army lab to accelerate research and development of advanced algorithms, autonomy and artificial intelligence to enhance national security and defense. By integrating transformational research from top academic institutions across the US with the operational expertise and mission-focused research from within CCDC, the Army will be able to drastically accelerate the impact of Battlefield AI.

“Tackling difficult science and technology challenges is rarely done alone and there is no greater challenge or opportunity facing the Army than artificial intelligence,” said Dr. Philip Perconti, director of the Army’s corporate laboratory. “That’s why ARL is partnering with Carnegie Mellon University, which will lead a consortium of universities to study AI. The Army is looking forward to making great advances in AI research to ensure readiness today and to enhance the Army’s modernization priorities for the future.”

This Cooperative Agreement for fundamental research was formed as a result of collaboration that initially started between the Army Research Laboratory and Carnegie Mellon under ARL’s “Open Campus” initiative, which Carnegie Mellon joined earlier in 2018. Carnegie Mellon and the team of academic research institutions will focus on fundamental research to develop robust operational AI solutions to enable autonomous processing, exploitation, and dissemination of intelligence and other critical, operational, decision-support activities, and to support the increased integration of autonomy and robotics as part of highly effective human-machine teams.

“For almost 30 years, the Army Research Laboratory has been at the forefront of bold initiatives that foster greater collaboration with U.S. universities,” said CMU President Farnam Jahanian. “At this time of accelerating innovation, Carnegie Mellon is eager to partner with ARL and with universities across the nation to leverage the power of artificial intelligence and better serve the Army mission in the 21st century.”

In support of Multi-Domain Operations, AI is a “crucial technology to enhance situational awareness and accelerate the realization of timely and actionable information that can save lives,” said Andrew Ladas, who leads ARL’s Army Artificial Intelligence Innovation Institute.

Through this work, he said researchers expect to achieve automated sense making, or the ability for AI to recognize scenes and



Photo illustration by Jhi Scott / U.S. Army

The U.S. Army is investing \$72 million in a five-year artificial intelligence fundamental research effort to research and discover capabilities that would significantly enhance mission effectiveness across the Army by augmenting Soldiers, optimizing operations, increasing readiness, and reducing casualties.

generate real-time, actionable correlations, insights and information for humans.

An adversary with AI capabilities could mean new threats to military platforms including human-in-the-loop platforms, or technologies that require human interaction, and autonomous platforms.

“The changing complexity of future con-

flict will present never-seen-before situations wrought with noisy, incomplete and deceptive tactics designed to defeat AI algorithms,” said Ladas. “Success in this battlefield intelligence race will be achieved by increasing AI capabilities as well as uncovering unique and effective ways to merge AI with Soldier knowledge and intelligence.”

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# Army-funded researcher wins Nobel Prize in Chemistry

By Army Research Laboratory

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – An Army-funded researcher won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for research in new enzyme production leading to the commercial, cost-effective synthesis of biofuels.

Frances Arnold is a professor of chemical engineering, bioengineering and biochemistry at the California Institute of Technology, and the fifth woman to win the Nobel Prize in its 117-year history.

Arnold said she’s been interested in how biology can be used in engineering to make everything from diagnostics to medicines to fuels to molecules.

“Biology is a great chemist – and she’s also a great engineer,” Arnold said. “So I’ve been developing methods where by using biology we can solve problems in the real world. We’ve worked on a number of things that I think could have big impact on the Soldier.”

Arnold said many years ago she looked at how one can make liquid fuels in remote locations from resources collected from the

environment. She said they extended that into developing genetically-modified organisms that now make jet fuel.

“I know we’ve flown Black Hawk helicopters on jet fuel made from renewable resources,” Arnold said.

The Army provided a single investigator grant in the 1990s. Through this, Arnold demonstrated the ability to modify an enzyme that provided robust native activity but at higher temperatures.

The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command’s Army Research Laboratory – through the Army Research Office – started funding the research in 2003 through the Institute for Collaborative Biotechnologies in Santa Barbara, California.

“Specifically with ARL we’ve been exploring how the chemistry of the biological world can make energetic molecules, how we can make fuels in chemicals in remote locations and mostly exploring the methods that we can use to build better biology,” Arnold said.

Arnold furthered her research with the

help of her students. She said these students are eager to work on impossible things – and they sometimes make them happen.

“We have this collection of brilliant young scientists who are looking for something useful they can do with their ideas and their technologies,” Arnold said.

The Army continues to invest in groundbreaking research, so it can adapt, innovate and integrate technology at speed and scale to maintain what officials call “assured battlefield dominance into the future.”

Arnold said she is excited about applying biology to solving problems that will be important to the Army.

“Biology makes things and the Army needs things – materials, chemicals, fuels – biology can do this, but we have to learn the basic principles of engineering biology,” she said.

With ARL support, Arnold is working on incorporating machine learning and blending new ideas together to reliably build biological things that she said will be useful.



Courtesy photo

An Army-funded researcher won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for research in new enzyme production leading to the commercial, cost-effective synthesis of biofuels. Professor Frances Arnold is the Linus Pauling professor of chemical engineering, bioengineering and biochemistry at the California Institute of Technology. She is the fifth woman to win the Nobel prize in its 117-year history.

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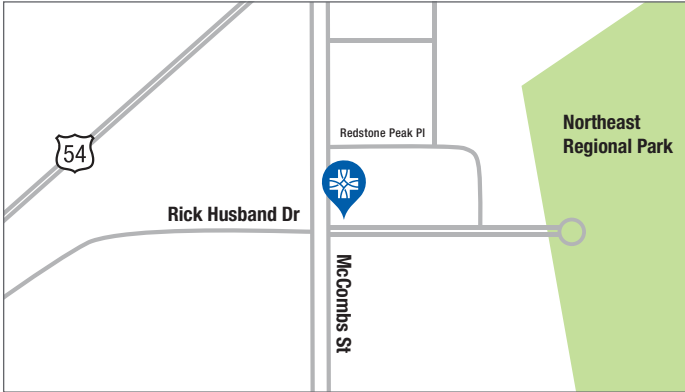
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# New Mexico airmen take on Air Assault training at Bliss

**By Airman 1st Class Austin Prisbrey |**  
377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Nine of Kirtland Air Force Base airmen graduated from the Iron Training Detachment Fort Bliss Air Assault School March 11. The airmen received this training that is respected and known in Joint environments. Kirtland is located in southwest Albuquerque, New Mexico, an approximately two-hour drive from Fort Bliss, Texas.

The former Fort Bliss Air Assault school was broken up into three phases over ten days and qualified participants to conduct airmobile and Air Assault helicopter operations, which include aircraft orientation, sling load operations, rappelling and fast-rope techniques. After all phases are complete, participants must ruck 12 miles in under three hours on the last day in order to graduate.

“Statistically, the Air Force has a high success rate,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell Levart, the former Iron Training Detachment Fort Bliss Air Assault Course chief. “From what I have seen, it’s harder for the Air Force to get a slot here at the school, so it’s usually the best of the best that get the slot and finish the course.”

The following airmen graduated from Fort Bliss Air Assault School class 004-19: 1st Lt. Austin Drake; Staff Sgts. Richard Marrero and James Tienor; Senior Airmen Kimball Butler and Dakota Spikes; and Airmen 1st Class Gabriel Rodriguez, Tyrone Cook, Dennis Hannas and Andrew Severa.

“It provides that extra bit of knowledge for airmen,” said Levart. “If an airman that is Air

Assault qualified gets attached to an Army unit doing sling load missions, that airman can say, ‘I know what to do here.’ It’s just a force multiplier for the airmen.”

The Kirtland airmen that attended said they recognizes the usefulness of the Joint training and appreciated how they had the opportunity to use it to better themselves and their home units.

“Getting to work with a completely different branch of the military is a huge benefactor to us because we get to see how the Army operates, how their culture is, and on top of that, learn critical skill sets,” said 1st Lt. Austin Drake, 377th Weapons Systems Security Squadron flight commander. “We learned those fire aspect skills that are going to carry over into our duty positions and it’s going to help us succeed and continue to grow as [Security Forces airmen].”

The work that the Kirtland airmen did was recognized by Master Sgt. Scott Roy, Air Force Security Forces Center Detachment 3 NCOIC of Current Operations, and the first Air Force cadre to be an instructor at the Fort Bliss Air Assault School.

“Of course they did outstanding,” said Roy. “They were sent by Maj. Chamberlain (377th SFS commander) who holds his Defenders to a high standard. The guys that came here did outstanding. They stuck together and accomplished their goals.”

Ultimately, the goal for the Kirtland airmen was to graduate together.

“These guys killed it,” said Drake. “I was super humbled to have this group come with me. They were absolutely raised to take names and they performed exceptionally well throughout the duration of the course. We worked as a team, both academically and physically, and we came together and knocked this thing out of the park.”



Senior Airman Kimball Butler, an Air Assault trainee from the 377th Security Forces Group, rappels at Fort Bliss, March 8.

Airman 1st Class Austin Prisbrey / 377th Air Base Wing PA

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## >> SNOW MEN

Capt. Daniel Parker / 210th FA Bde., 2nd ID

A five-Soldier team with 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, progresses through the 2019 Bataan Death March Memorial 9-mile Race at Camp Casey, South Korea, March 16. This year's race included 125 Soldiers who participated as individuals and in teams of five. Many Soldiers carried unit guidons as a way to show unit cohesion, and all participants carried rucksacks weighing at least 35 pounds.



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# Soldiers learn cutting-edge features on first shipment of JLTVs

By Sean Kimmons | Army News Service

FORT STEWART, Ga. — While being trained on the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Sowards had a simple, but effective way to test the vehicle’s innovative suspension.

He grabbed a cup, filled it with water and placed it in one of the cup holders found inside the Army’s newest tactical vehicle.

He then drove it along an uneven tank trail. When the test drive ended, the outcome surprised him.

“I hit the bumps going about 35 to 40 mph back through there,” he said, “and I didn’t even spill one drop.”

The JLTV, which is intended to replace many of the Army’s Humvees, is equipped with the TAK-4 intelligent independent suspension system that allows it to maneuver quickly over rough terrain.

For 3rd Infantry Division’s 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, that kind of mobility can help these new vehicles operate with its fleet of M1 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

“The ability for a Humvee to keep up with a tank, you might think it’s easy,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Leimer, the brigade’s senior enlisted leader. “But the terrain a tank can cover and the terrain a Bradley can cover is not the terrain a Humvee can cover.”

### Soldier tested

In January, the armored brigade began to train operators and maintainers on the first shipment of JLTVs a few months after its nine-month rotation in South Korea.

The unit is set to receive about 350 JLTVs, which Soldiers will then use in the California desert as part of a National Training Center rotation early next year before an upcoming deployment.

The initial contract awarded in 2015 calls for the production of nearly 17,000 JLTVs at a cost of about \$250,000 each, excluding add-on armor and other kits.

Currently, JLTVs have two- and four-seater variants and four mission package configurations: general purpose, heavy guns carrier, close combat weapons carrier and a utility vehicle.

Future plans are to procure more than 49,000 JLTVs for the Army and about 9,000 for the Marine Corps by the mid-2030s, as part of a Joint acquisition effort.

That production schedule was shortened from the early 2040s after both services were able to obtain a vehicle with more capability at a lower cost through competitive prototyping — a nearly \$6 billion reduction in planned costs.

“We took several years off and saved cost

at the same time, which is pretty impressive for a program,” said Col. Shane Fullmer, project manager for the JLTV.

### Unique features

The JLTV offers many creature comforts not typically seen in other tactical vehicles.

Besides its smooth ride and cup holders, those comforts include extra legroom, electronic mirrors, map reading lights and climate control for the rear seats. Indentations in the seats also allow for added comfort for those wearing personal water carriers on their backs.

Similar to a touchscreen computer found in a newer car, a driver’s smart display unit on the center console monitors the vehicle’s fluids, filters, tire air pressure and even has a rearview camera.

Routine preventive maintenance checks and services, or PMCS, will still be as important as ever, the sergeant major noted.

“Whatever that brain in the center of the vehicle tells you it can check,” Leimer said, “we still need to ensure Soldiers are getting out of the vehicle and lifting the hood and making sure they’re not cutting corners.”

The smart display, though, could make it easier for a mechanic when specific fault codes pop up on the screen as part of its self-diagnosis capability.

Sgt. Louis Accardi, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the brigade’s 10th Engineer Battalion, said while the display will not replace

See **FEATURES** Page 17A



Photos by Sean Kimmons / Army News Service



(Top right) A Joint Light Tactical Vehicle drives along a tank trail during operator training at Fort Stewart, Ga., Feb. 13. The 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team is the first Army unit to receive the service's newest tactical vehicle.

(Right) Soldiers with 3rd Inf. Div.'s 1st ABCT take part in operator training for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle at Fort Stewart, Ga., Feb. 12.



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FEATURES *Continued from Page 16A*

“It’s going to make my job and my Soldiers’ jobs a lot faster,” he said, “so we can focus on those trucks that need a little bit more care than hopefully the JLTV would need.”

Another unique feature is the electronic adjustable height suspension, which can lower the vehicle to 8 inches from its exhaust to the ground for transport purposes. The vehicle can also be raised up to 30 inches when driven over difficult terrain, such as a waterway crossing.

Accardi, who recently finished a two-week master maintainer’s course for the JLTV, recalled how difficult it can be to transport vehicles on vessels.

“The dock, waves moving, low overhang can all affect how things are loaded or unloaded,” he said. “The fact it can adjust its height is amazing. That will help make a big difference.”

Due to its lighter weight than most tactical vehicles, the JLTV can even be sling loaded by a CH-47 Chinook, unlike a similar vehicle, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle, or M-ATV.

The suspension system can also lower or raise the JLTV on one end, giving Soldiers another option in combat.

Sowards, a cavalry scout with 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, said his unit could possibly benefit from that feature. During a reconnaissance mission, for instance, the vehicle could be hidden behind a berm and then elevated on one or both sides to allow the gunner to see over.

“We’d be able to spy on the enemy a lot better from this vehicle,” he said, adding it is much quieter than his unit’s Bradley vehicles. “We’d be able to identify the enemy and they won’t even be able to see or hear

(Top left) Soldiers with 3rd Infantry Division’s 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team take part in operator training for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle at Fort Stewart, Ga., Feb. 12.

(Left) Soldiers learn the features on the JLTV’s dashboard.

us coming.”

**Iron triangle**

The JLTV represents a drastic improvement in the so-called “iron triangle” balance of protection, payload and performance.

Not only does the JLTV have a maximum speed of 75 mph, it has greater protection and payload capacity than the Humvee.

It is also one-third lighter with a similar payload to that of the M-ATV, as well as the first vehicle to be purpose-built for battlefield networks.

“Despite our best efforts to enhance current vehicles,” Fullmer said, “no current option delivers the balance of payload, performance and protection that Soldiers and Marines need, along with a leap forward in improved maintainability, reliability and fuel efficiency.”

Plans still call for incorporating the JLTV alongside the Humvee, which has been around since the early 1980s. In two or three years, the JLTV is slated to be fielded to two infantry brigade combat teams to see how both vehicles can operate together.

The pilot programs aim to “get a better understanding of what mission roles each is going to fill, because they certainly both have a role,” Fullmer said.

Today’s JLTV could also change over the years, similar to how the Humvee and other vehicle programs evolved.

As a result of Soldiers’ feedback, Army leaders have asked the vendor to look into options to improve visibility from inside the vehicle, mitigate noise and optional seating in the utility variant.

“They’re taking a look at those issues,” Fullmer said, “and we expect a decision on them in the next couple of months and to move forward with production.”

For many Soldiers who have driven it, the current JLTV is already impressive.

“It’s the best Army vehicle I’ve ever been in by far,” said Sowards, a Cavalry scout. “If I’m in a Humvee, it’s shaking, rattling and bumping me all over the place.

“But in the JLTV, I don’t feel anything. Because of that independent suspension, it just takes the hit and keeps going.”

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Photos by Sgt. Ariel Solomon / 128th MPAD  
Filipino soldiers from the Philippine Army's 1st Brigade Combat Team and U.S. Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, conduct military operations in urban terrain, or MOUT, training during exercise Salaknib at Fort Magsaysay in the Philippines, March 8. Salaknib is an annual exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted by the Philippine Army, contributing to and enhancing U.S. and Philippine defense readiness while strengthening multinational relationships.

# Tag team

## US and Philippine service members train side-by-side during Salaknib 2019

By Sgt. Ariel Solomon | 128th MPAD

Teamwork is built on mutual trust and understanding how each member of the team functions. Salaknib, an annual exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted by the Philippine Army as part of the larger Pacific Pathways series of exercises, helps the U.S. Army and its Armed Forces of the Philippines allies stay in step with each other should they be called into a conflict.

Part of learning to work together is sharing a working knowledge of tactics and techniques, even down what weapons each nation uses and how military working dogs are trained.

While out on the range, 1st Lt. Gamaliel C. Carin, a Philippine Army company commander, explained how training with the U.S. and its weapon systems gives his troops a chance to see what their allies are capable of and how the U.S. uses its brigade combat teams effectively.

With U.S. and Filipino Soldiers working closely together, both are learning from each other. The practical experiences from combat in the south of the Philippines and the lessons from the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan are shared between each country.

“My Soldiers got an Improvised Explosive Device class this morning from the Filipino soldiers who have come back from conflicts in the south of their country,” said

Capt. Glendon McCallum, company commander of Co. C, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker BCT, 2nd Infantry Division. “Getting these sorts of hands-on lessons and hearing personal stories are really valuable for my Soldiers. Hearing their experience fighting in their own country has brought it home.”

Military police Soldiers stationed in Hawaii got to see how the Philippine Army trains its working dogs from puppies and how its dogs are also used for search and rescue, two things that aren’t done in U.S. military working dog program. The Filipino K-9 battalion likewise got lessons in how the U.S. prepares its dogs for duty on the battlefield.

“If this training happened every year it would greatly benefit both the U.S. and the Philippines K-9 programs,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Holmes, the K-9 subject-matter expert and plans NCO for a Hawaii-based MWD detachment. “We have a lot to learn from each other.”

On the range, infantry Soldiers from both countries came together to shoot each other’s weapons and to see how those weapon systems each deal with the unique island conditions of the Philippines. Beyond just learning each other’s weapons, training together helped build bonds between Soldiers who may find themselves fighting side-by-side in a future conflict.

“I am very thankful we can have this exercise with the U.S. armed forces,” said Carin, adding that this training helped build comradery between his soldiers and the U.S. Soldiers.

The strong partnership and deep bonds created through training together will continue to benefit both countries into the future.



Filipino soldiers from the Philippine Army's 1st BCT and U.S. Soldiers from 5th Bn., 20th Inf. Regt., 1st SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div., conduct military operations in urban terrain.

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Tech. Sgt. Erich Smith / National Guard Bureau

Sgt. Daniel Bryd, with the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 230th Aviation Regiment, replaces an engine starter on a hardware maintenance trainer as part of a reclassification course at the Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Feb. 27. The trainer is a non-flyable airframe that gives students hands-on experience with maintenance and repair procedures.

# Army Guard helicopter maintainers tout realism in training

By Tech. Sgt. Erich B. Smith | National Guard Bureau

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – For Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Moyer's maintenance students at the Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, making mistakes is unofficially part of the training curriculum.

"There are no lives at risk here at the school-house, which is why I tell the students 'here is where you need to make the mistakes and ask all of your questions,'" he said. "Making them here is a lot cheaper than in real life."

As a way to make and learn from those mistakes, students have access to UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook Hardware Maintenance Trainers – stationary, non-flyable airframes that allow hands-on experience with maintenance and repair procedures.

"It would be a lot more of a steeper learning curve without having the trainer opportunities here," said Sgt. 1st Class Greg Woods, the course manager for the EAATS Chinook maintenance transition course.

The trainers, key elements of the maintenance and repair courses taught at the site, augment traditional classroom instruction.

"When it comes to maintenance, it's really hard to duplicate learning just by discussing it," said Woods.

Moyer said by mixing traditional classroom instruction with the tactile experiences of the trainers – such as the ability to power up and test helicopter systems that vibrate – is an added benefit for the students.

"The helicopter [trainer] actually shakes and you can feel the test happening," he said. "It adds that extra level of realism."

Prior to the trainers, Woods said, Soldiers in need of additional training would learn on their unit's flyable aircraft while the helicopters were in for annual inspections. At that point, he said, training was based on aircraft availability, instead of the Soldiers' needs.

"It was all timing," he said. "One [Soldier] may get to remove rotor blades, but the next [Soldier] would just work on fuel cells."

Because the hardware maintenance trainers are once-flyable aircraft – now grounded with auxiliary equipment to allow for activation of hydraulic and electrical components – students get full access to all aircraft systems.

This, said Woods, allows for running a variety of scenarios maintainers may encounter.

"There's a list of faults we can interject into the training," he said.

Once students are able to recognize a mechanical or electrical problem, they can then troubleshoot and fix the problem, said Woods.

Working on the trainer, he added, lets them get visual verification – such as seeing hydraulic fluid is no longer leaking from a fitting – of successfully completing the task.

That, said Moyer, gives students further confidence in both their abilities and in following the maintenance manuals.

"They [the trainers] can actually be a morale and confidence booster when the students actually see the product of their work playing out," he said.

Moyer added the maintenance section of the EAATS takes pride in having trainers that reflect the latest helicopter models, even if the students' units don't have the latest versions.

"Our courses go over the old version and the new version of [the] airframes," he said. "So we are setting up a lot of units for success in the future."

Part of that success, added Woods, comes from having training sites, like the EAATS, that won't disrupt an aviation unit's operations.

"These trainers allow for realistic training to occur in a controlled environment without affecting the readiness of aircraft," Woods said.

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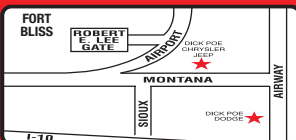
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## Things to Do:

**Poppies Festival:** The 13th annual Poppies Festival is 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain in Northeast El Paso (west of U.S. 54). Free. 755-4332 or archaeology.elpasotexas.gov

**GAFADC German Spring Bazaar:** The German Air Force Air Defense Center of Fort Bliss will host its 16th annual spring bazaar 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 30 at the former Oktoberfest Building, Building 747 on Carter Road in Fort Bliss. Hobby craftsmen and women will display various goods, including items for Easter. There will also be German specialties like bratwurst, waffles and German cakes and pastries, German beer, coffee and soft drinks. Free. 201-5939, 201-5942 or betreuinginel Paso.com

**Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo:** More than 150 tattoo artists from across the nation will be on hand during the Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo, noon-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday at El Paso Convention Center. Cost: \$20; \$45 weekend pass; free for age 12 and younger. 231-1100 or starcityexpo.com

**El Paso Psychic Fair:** The Psychic Fair is 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday at Hawthorn Inn, 1700 Airway. Cost: \$5. 345-6245 or elpasopsychicfair.com.

**Las Cruces Game Convention:** The Las Cruces Game Knights' 7th annual Las Cruces Game Convention is March 29-30 at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University, Las Cruces, N.M., with a cosplay contest, a ramen-eating contest, canned food and charity donation drive, martial arts demonstration, gaming opportunities, tournaments, vendors, special guests, and more. Special guest will be Eric Wile, of the popular EverQuest game series. Cost: \$15 (eventbrite) for both days; \$25 at the door. Saturday only: \$20. Free for active duty military/veterans. 575-621-3858, lcgameknights@gmail.com or lcgamecon.org

**Trinity Site Tour:** The White Sands Missile Range Trinity Site semiannual tour to the site of the first atom bomb explosion is April 7. Free. No reservations. 575-678-1134 or wsmr.army.mil

**Alice in Wonderland:** No Strings Theater Company presents a version of Lewis Carroll's classic, created by The Manhattan Project Friday through April 7. Cost: \$15 (\$12 students and seniors over 65; \$10 all seats Thursday). Black Box Theater, 430 N. Main, Las Cruces, N.M. 575-523-1223 or no-strings.org

**Sun City Craft Beer Festival:** The Downtown El Paso celebration of craft beer is April 21-22, at the El Paso Convention Center Plaza. Age 21 and older only. Cost: \$20, \$35 for both days. suncitycraft-beerfest.com

**Spring Cactus Garden Tours:** El Paso Cactus and Rock Club and Native Plant Society hosts its garden tour and plant sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 30 at Westside/Central gardens, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, March 31 at Northeast gardens. The residential landscapes feature cactus and native plants. Gardeners will be on hand to discuss plants and their care. Tickets: \$5 per carload per day; available at each site and good for all gardens on that day. 240-7414, elpasodesert/epcrc or on Facebook at EPCRC.

**'A Night In the '40s:'** Paso Del Norte Big Band, a 17-piece group, hosts 1940s style dancing and music 8 to 11 p.m. Friday at Shundo Ballroom Dance Studio. All ages welcome; BYOB, food and snacks. Door prizes and raffle offered; participants are encouraged to wear 1940s theme attire. \$15. 120 N. Paragon, Suite 201 532-2043, 203-7292, music@pdnbigband.com or on Facebook at PDN-bigband

**Mission Trail Art Market:** Area artisans and craftspeople display their fine arts and crafts from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. the third Sunday of each month through November in the historic Veterans Memorial Plaza in San Elizario, with arts and crafts, music, reenactments, food and more. Pets welcome. This Sunday will include a car show, new Farmer's Market starting at 10 a.m., and live music from Mestizo Band 4-8 p.m. Free. 851-0093 or mission-trailartmarket.com

**Cesar Chavez Day at Lincoln Park:** Lincoln Park Conservation Committee hosts the outdoor picnic in celebration of Cesar Chavez Day noon-5 p.m. March 31 at Lincoln Park, 4001 Durazno, with live music, picnic in the park, "Wheels, Pedal Car and Vela" and more. Free. 204-1584 or lincolnparkcc@aol.com.

## Awesome sauce Bliss culinary troops compete as Top chef event kicks off JCTE

By Terrance Bell | U.S. Army Garrison Fort Lee Public Affairs

Chefs decked out in aprons and toques hustling about the kitchen.

The sizzle of meat as it comes into contact with a hot skillet.

A symphony of aromas permeating the classroom kitchens and beyond.

All of these sight, sounds and smells – accented by the spice of pure professionalism – signaled the start of the Joint Culinary Training Exercise, the Quartermaster School's long-running, multi-layered showcase of the military food service profession.

This year's feast for the senses attracted more than 200 personnel from each of the five uniformed services representing installations all over the world, as well as a contingent of international participants.

The JCTE's marquee event, Armed Forces Chef of the Year, kicked off the training agenda March 12 at the Joint Culinary Training Center at Fort Lee, Virginia. AFCOY requires military personnel to prepare a four-course meal in four hours with the help of an apprentice.

Sounds simple, right? Not so much.

The main ingredients for the meal are not revealed to participants until a few minutes before start time. The mystery basket, as it is called, requires contestants to demonstrate composure and creativity in using what is provided along with the ability to think quickly.

Staff Sgt. Carlos Mercado from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, was among the 19 culinarians who fired up stoves for the occasion.

"This event is awesome," said the culinary specialist, who has prior experience at the JCTE. "Just to see all my battle buddies here from every branch of the military ... and it's just amazing to see the craft and the skills we all have. We're sisters and brothers with two jobs: protecting the country and feeding our Soldiers."

Mercado sees AFCOY as an exercise in quick decision making and efficient execution of required tasks. Second-guessing and slip ups can turn the best laid plans into chaos.

"You never know what they're going to throw at you," he said. "You can plan ahead, but you never know."

When the surprise ingredients were all laid on the table, so to speak, Mercado said he kept the menu basic – cilantro rice with roasted pork, red wine sauce and sautéed vegetables for his entre and bread pudding with fruit coulis for dessert.

"I'm a simple man," he said, smiling. "I just cook."

A heavily emphasized point about AFCOY is that it's not merely a contest, but more of a culmination exercise requiring participants to bring with them everything learned as culinarians – from the management techniques gleaned over the years of preparing meals for large groups to the intricate knife-cutting skills required for special events – along with the ability to push through the intangibles that make the event challenging and competitive.

That's what attracted participants like Sgt. Daniela Marquez, a member of the Fort Bliss culinary team.

"I wanted the challenge and a new experience," she confirmed.

Marquez competed in another capacity at the JCTE two years ago, and with various experiences under her belt, felt confident to enter the signature event. She began training five



Photos by Terrance Bell / U.S. Army Garrison Fort Lee PA

Spc. David Pang, an Armed Forces Chef of the Year participant, puts the finishing touches on a dessert March 8 during the Joint Culinary Training Exercise at Fort Lee, Virginia

months ago.

"It was more challenging," she said of the actual competition. "I thought it was going to be a little easier."

She struggled with the mystery basket, but received assistance and support from judges. JCTE is unique because of its sanctioning by the American Culinary Federation and the squad of experts from that organization who serve as mentors and teachers at the event, providing participants with thorough critiques after each cooking session.

Appreciating the emphasis on camaraderie and creativity, event mainstays that foster the interactive experience, Marquez confirmed the positive outcome for her was the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills from the AFCOY heat.

"It was worth it," she said of her preparation and event participation. "It was a good experience. I don't think a lot of people want to compete for this event, or take the time to train for it, but it was worth what I got from it."

The same can be said for the apprentices assigned to each of the chefs. They can gain just as much as the participants; fetching ingredients, preparing cooking areas and test-tasting the creations. Pfc. Tahandra Honore, the apprentice for Mercado, did not downplay her second-fiddle role, saying it is an experience that pays dividends.

"I feel like sometimes you have to be a follower before you can be a leader," she observed. "A lot of people see apprentices as a 'do-boy' or 'do-girl,' but it's a great opportunity and a way to get your name out there. If you don't know how to be an apprentice, how can you know what it takes to be a chef?"

Honore, who is assigned to a dining facility



Sgt. Ariana Elliot, a Fort Bragg, culinary team member, plates her main dish during.

at Fort Campbell, said one of the most important lessons she learned was time management and making quick decisions.

"The DFAC has a much slower pace," she said. "You have a lot more time for people to work with you on things. Here, there's a much faster pace, but you just have to figure it out. Something goes wrong, just figure it out."

Honore has plans to become certified through the ACF. To that end, the foundation provides various credentialing opportunities for all food service personnel to pursue at their



# DFAS explains civilian relocation tax changes during town hall

By Mary Ann Davis | U.S. Army IMCOM

SEMBACH KASERNE, Germany – The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed in December 2017 made the majority of government civilian employee relocation entitlements taxable, causing some concern and confusion over what elements would be taxed.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service and U.S. Army’s Personnel Division held a town hall here to provide transparency and answer questions regarding civilian relocation taxable entitlements at the Installation Management Command-Europe’s Workforce Development Center, March 12.

“I know this is a sensitive subject, and it’s been a little over a year now since the tax law was implemented in December of 2017,” said Shannon Coppinger, DFAS deputy director of Corporate Communications. “Since that time, we’ve worked with the IRS, [General Services Administration], [DFAS] internal general council as well as DOD general council to make sure we are implementing the law according to how it was put forward.”

According to Coppinger, Civilian Permanent Change of Station orders issued prior to 2018 and reimbursements received for those moves were not affected by the TCJA, only the moving expenses paid in 2018 that were taxable prior to the TCJA were reflected as income on civilians’ travel W-2s.

Travel reimbursement claims processed between Jan. 1 – Oct. 29, 2018, did not reflect the accurate amount of taxes withheld in accordance with the TCJA.

To correct this, DFAS implemented a system change Oct. 30, 2018, to properly calculate the tax withholding and pay that amount to the IRS on the travelers’ behalf. Travelers are responsible for reimbursing DFAS, which resulted in more than 3,500 debt letters issued in February. Travel W-2s that reflect the withholdings paid by DFAS to the IRS were issued to travelers and should be included when they file their 2018 income taxes by the IRS deadline.

Travel claims processed on Oct. 30, 2018, and later reflect the appropriate amount of

tax withheld from reimbursements per the TCJA, and no debt will be owed by travelers to DFAS.

Although moving expenses paid to third-party vendors for entitlements like temporary storage were properly calculated, corrected W-2s and tax debts may be incurred for Household Goods shipments and other PCS entitlements paid to third party vendors. DFAS is currently working on a secondary system change to properly withhold taxes from third-party vendor payments to rectify the issue.

According to DFAS, the following are taxable PCS entitlements:

- En route travel, lodging, meals and transportation including individually billed account and personally procured airfare, government-issued airline tickets-commercially billed account, privately owned vehicle mileage, tolls, taxis, etc.,
- All House Hunting Trip expenses, including Government Procured Airfare and per diem,
- All Temporary Quarters Subsistence Expenses, including lodging and meals,
- All real estate expenses,
- Non-temporary household goods storage (CONUS),
- Temporary HHG storage,
- Miscellaneous Expense Allowance,
- Relocation services (i.e., Home Marketing Incentive Payments, property management, etc.),
- Withholding Tax Allowance,
- Relocation Income Tax Allowance,
- Household Goods Shipment,
- Privately Owned Vehicle Shipment (CONUS) and
- Mobile Home Transportation.

Those entitlements are taxed at a mandatory 22 percent federal income tax withholding, 6.2 percent Social Security tax and 1.45 percent Medicare tax. Since state and local taxes are not withheld, people must determine if relocation wages are taxable under their current state and local government laws and regulations.

**What PCS expenses are exempt?**

- Long-term storage of household goods for employees with duty assignments outside the continental United States.
- Privately owned vehicle shipments to, from and between overseas locations; and
- Residential sales conducted through the agency relocation services company home sale program.

According to DFAS, travelers may file a claim for Relocation Income Tax Allowance after filing their income tax returns for the year their PCS reimbursement was received. These claims are used to ease the federal and state burden associated with their PCS move. RITA can be used by all civilian travelers except:

- New appointees,
- People assigned under the Government Training Act, and
- Individuals returning from overseas assignments for the purpose of separation from government service (to include retirees).

Travelers can elect Withholding Tax Allowance, which serves as an advance on RITA and is deducted from any RITA reim-

bursement computed in the following year. WTA protects travelers from having to use their relocation expense reimbursements to pay for federal income tax withholding. It is calculated on federal income tax withholding only and does not cover state, local, social security and Medicare taxes and is taxable as well.

Instructions for filing RITA can be found on the DFAS website at: <https://www.dfas.mil/civilianemployees/civrel/relocationincometax.html> or view the eTutorial at: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhx\\_8nsfXqVj-Pf34sZ8p-PVe4MOuxXN5-](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhx_8nsfXqVj-Pf34sZ8p-PVe4MOuxXN5-)

Travelers can elect WTA by filling out the WTA employee agreement form and submitting it with their PCS claims. If WTA is elected, travelers must file a RITA claim within the first 120 days of the following calendar year.

For more civilian relocation information, visit the DFAS website at [www.dfas.mil/tax-lawchange](http://www.dfas.mil/tax-lawchange).

### CULINARY *Continued from Page 1B*

home stations; a point it actively promotes at the training exercise.

In addition to the award hardware for each of the JCTE’s competitive categories, participants are afforded the opportunity to earn spots on the Army Culinary Arts Team, which represents the U.S. Armed Forces in events such as the Culinary Olympics held in Germany.

The Quartermaster School’s Joint Culinary Center of Excellence administers the JCTE. The training event was established in 1973.

U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Vaughan places vegetables on plates during the Joint Culinary Training Exercise’s Armed Forces Chef of the Year competition March 8 at the Joint Culinary Training Center at Fort Lee, Virginia. Vaughan was one of 20 vying to earn the title of the military’s top culinarian.



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# New talent system to eye tech-savvy Soldiers for future network

By Sean Kimmons | Army News Service

SPRINGFIELD, Va. – As the Army undergoes the largest modernization of its network in decades, technically skilled Soldiers may be placed in jobs outside their career fields to help push it forward, the Army’s vice chief of staff said.

“Talent management is one of the biggest things we’re doing behind the scenes in the Army right now,” said Gen. James C. McConville, while speaking at an Army signal conference recently.

Currently, the Army has three separate personnel systems for the National Guard, Army Reserve and regular Army.

Part of the Army’s larger talent management strategy includes providing commanders with a tool, known as the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army, which allows them to identify talents across the Total Force. IPPS-A is now being tested by the Pennsylvania National Guard.

By 2020, the goal is to have the system Army-wide, making it easier for leaders to better manage Soldiers based on their knowledge, skills, behavior and even give them preference on where they want to serve, regardless of their military occupational specialty.

McConville said the system could benefit Soldiers who have backgrounds in Signal, Cyber and Intelligence.

“If you have specific talents, you may be promoted ahead of your peers, you may get special compensation for your skills, or you may go to graduate school so we can expand your talent as we go forward,” he said.

Earlier this year, the Army stood up the Artificial Intelligence Task Force. Based at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, the task force engages with academia and industry partners to further develop AI technology.

While building it up, McConville said it took weeks to find the right people to join the task force since the service still uses an “industrial-age” personnel management system.

The general, though, was impressed when the Army finally found Soldiers with AI experience, even some with doctorate degrees, hidden in other career fields.

“We have people in the Army who have all these capabilities,” he said, “except that they’re masked by their MOS.”

McConville also credited the Army Signal Corps for being behind past modernization efforts that improved communication on the battlefield.

“You’ve always been the stewards of innovation in our Army,” he said, “you’ve always embraced change and you used every method available to get the message through.”

In his remarks, Lt. Gen. Bruce Crawford, Army chief information officer/G-6, said last year’s National Defense Strategy also sent a message to the Army: the service must change the way it fights from irregular warfare to great power competition with our near-peer competitors.

To do so, the Army network modernization strategy aims to develop a unified network and common operating environment, increase interoperability, and boost the mobility and survivability of command posts.

“Our quest is to deliver a network that is fundamentally different in many facets than the one that we have today,” Crawford said.

One goal from these initiatives is to allow units to operate quicker in contested environments.

“This future network that we envision has to not only come back and be resilient enough to overcome the threat,” he said, “but it also has to dramatically increase speed of decision making.”

Tangible actions by the Army are expected in the next four to five months to help tackle its data challenges as part of these efforts, he added.

“We’ve made great progress, but given this era of great power competition, there’s still a lot of work to be done,” Crawford said.

In the future, McConville sees the Army using a wireless mesh network. That sort of



Sgt. Kris Wright / 358th PAD

“If you have specific talents, you may be promoted ahead of your peers, you may get special compensation for your skills, or you may go to graduate school so we can expand your talent as we go forward,” Gen. James C. McConville, the Army’s vice chief of staff, said recently. The Army is recruiting tech-savvy Soldier from all fields to bolster Army network advancements.

network could be more resilient and self-healing compared to standard systems that rely on a central point of connectivity.

The Army could also learn from technology found in smartphones, he said, which sometimes perform better in combat areas than military systems.

“The iPhone has the type of communication we want,” McConville said. “They’re

very easy to use, they’re agile, they’re adaptable.”

Bottom line, he said, if Soldiers cannot communicate in combat, then they can’t win.

“And for the Army, winning matters,” he said. “When we send the Army somewhere, we don’t go to participate. We go to win, because there’s no second place or honorable mention in combat.”

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# Can a victim of a crime get out of a lease?

By Donna K. Herron | Fort Bliss Legal Assistance Office  
**Can a victim of a crime get out of a lease?**  
The answer is: It depends.

The answers are found in Chapter 92 of the Texas Property Code. The landlord has a duty to provide a healthy and safe premise and is required to provide certain security devices by law. Those devices are: 1) a window latch on each exterior window of the dwelling; (2) a door knob lock or keyed deadbolt on each exterior door; (3) a sliding door pin lock on each exterior sliding glass door of the dwelling; (4) a sliding door handle latch or a sliding door security bar on each exterior sliding glass door of the dwelling; and (5) a keyless bolting device and a door viewer on each exterior door of the dwelling.

A landlord has seven days to repair or replace the device upon request of the tenant. All requests for repairs should be in writing, although it is not always required by law.

If the tenant informs the landlord that: 1) an unauthorized entry occurred or was attempted in the tenant's dwelling; (2) an unauthorized entry occurred or was attempted in another unit in the multiunit complex in which the tenant's dwelling is located during the two months preceding the date of the request; or (3) a crime of personal violence occurred in the multiunit complex in which the tenant's dwelling is located during the two months preceding the date of the request, the landlord has only 72 hours to replace or repair the security devices.

**What is your remedy if your landlord does not comply with the law?**

You have a couple of options. The first is make the replacement or repair yourself and deduct the expense from next month's rent IAW 92.166 of the Property Code.

Your second option is to terminate the lease. Your last option is to sue the landlord in small claims court (Justice of the Peace Court in Texas) to force him to comply or for damages suffered.

**Can you terminate your lease after you have been a victim of a crime in your leased property but the landlord provided the proper security devices?**

A single criminal act is probably not enough to show a breach of duty by the landlord to provide a healthy and safe premises. The tenant would need to prove a history of criminal activity on the property, and that the landlord had knowledge of this activity. This is a high standard, and that argument is always hard to prove.

This can be bad news for the tenant if he or she is ordered back into the barracks. The tenant is still liable to the landlord for re-letting fees (early termination fees), the remaining amount of lease (until it is rented out again), and any damage to the premises that was not fair wear and tear.

A commander does not have the authority to terminate a lease on behalf of the tenant just because he ordered the tenant into the barracks. A commander can call the landlord and attempt to negotiate on behalf of the Soldier for termination of the lease, but keep in mind the landlord does not have a legal obligation to relieve the tenant from obligations except as mentioned above.

However, the Property Code gives special protections to victims of "domestic violence" or other "sex crimes." A tenant may terminate the lease without any penalties or future rent if the landlord is provided with 1) a copy of a temporary injunction issued under Chapter 6 of the Texas Family Code; 2) a copy of an ex parte order under Chapter 83 of the Family Code; or 3) a copy of a protective order issued under Chapter 85 of the Family Code.

If the domestic violence was committed by a co-tenant, the victim is not required to give the landlord notice. If the tenant is the victim of sexual assault or is the parent or guardian of a victim of sexual assault, the tenant may terminate the lease and avoid all future rent or penalties. All that is required is documentation from a medical or mental health professional.

If you have any questions on this issue, please make an appointment to speak with a Legal Assistance Attorney at 568-7141, or you can go to Building 113 on Pershing to make an appointment in person.

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# Becoming a leader worth following: Part V of VI

By Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Mucher | USAG Fort Bliss

My worst self-leadership moments were not alone, but with others. In fact, they were with people and friends I actually liked. We shared common interests but not necessarily common values. Before I continue, let me remind us of two decisions leaders must make when it comes to self-leadership.

First, I will not lie to myself even when the truth makes me feel bad about myself. Exceptional self-leadership begins with being brutally honest with ourselves.

Second, I will prioritize what I value most over what I want now. Exceptional leaders value people because people are our most valuable asset.

This brings us to the third decision we must make if we want to become a leader worth following: I will not lead myself by myself.

You can't lead yourself by yourself. Think about it. Your greatest regrets were made with people you wish you never met. In fact, my greatest regrets were made with friends, who now I wish I never met.

My greatest regrets were not with people who were against me. They were with people who I liked and who liked me. We may not have shared common values, but we shared common interest.

We do life with people. Our lives will be influenced and shaped by the people we spend time with. Your friends and the people you hang out with will determine the direction and quality of your life. You and I need to be in community with people who share our values - people who are moving in the same direction. People who will tell you the unfiltered truth because they value you. That

is why my family and I attend and serve in a chapel service everywhere we are stationed. We know we will connect with people and families who share our common values.

In the chapel community, there is common unity of imperfect and wounded people living life together - and together is better. In the book of Acts, the historian and doctor Luke tells us, "All the believers were together and had everything in common," (Acts 2:44, NIV) and "were of one heart and soul" (Acts 4:32, NIV). "They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" (Acts 4:45-46, NIV). This community shared common values of generosity, faith, and family togetherness. I don't know about you, but that community sounds amazing. Even if you are not a religious person, you must admit that being a part of a community who shares your common values is extremely rewarding and beneficial both for you and your family.

So, give it a shot and connect with one of our chapel communities this week. Here is a warning. If you choose to lead yourself with people who share your values, you just may lose a friend or two because those who "value most" are threatening to people who live for "want now." There is a conflict. Everyone in life will end up somewhere. I want you to end up somewhere on purpose and there is only one person that can determine where you ultimately end up and it is not your parents or your friends or your leaders. It is the person in the mirror.

We all face our greatest leadership challenge every morning in the mirror. But we face something else as well. Every morning you face someone who was made in the image of God and that person deserves the truth from you. You face someone who was created for community and you face someone who does better when they prioritize what they value most over what they want now. So, come on, lead yourself well. The person in the mirror is depending on you and if you are a parent, there are some little faces, with some smaller mirrors who are depending on you as well.

If you are single, here is what I know about you: you are looking for someone who is leading himself or herself well. So, be the leader you want to follow. If you do, he or

she will be easier to spot. Nothing says more about you then how well you lead yourself. *The is part five of a six-part series.*

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**Hope Chapel**  
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Crossroad Service Sunday 9 a.m.  
Samoa 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

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(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

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Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 p.m.

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**St. Michael's Catholic Community**  
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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.  
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# Lesson lost? Admissions scam aside, college-bound kids should feel they’re good enough

By Lisa Smith Molinari | www.themeatandpotatoesofflife.com

Back in 1983, I showed up for my SAT test with two number two pencils and a pack of gum. The night before, I talked to my best friend on the phone for two hours, but never cracked a book. I don’t think there were test prep books back in those days. Besides, we figured SATs were aptitude tests. You were either smart, or you weren’t. Not much you could do about it.

When my score came back, I hadn’t broken a thousand, so I took the test again. That time, I got a 1070, and thought, “Well, I guess that’s it then.”

I picked schools from one of those three-inch-thick catalogues listing all the colleges and universities, sent off application packets, and got accepted to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Miami cost my parents \$12,000 per year, a small fortune for them.

When it came time for each of my three children to go through the college application process, I learned quick that times have drastically changed. With my SAT score, mediocre grades, and no recruitable skills, I would have never been accepted to Miami of Ohio today.

Not to mention the staggering cost of college in the 21st century, which has nearly quadrupled since the 1980s. And then, there’s the application process, which is now like entering a College Admissions Thunderdome. Every applicant for themselves, in a cutthroat, competitive rat race. Featherweight kids are thrown into the ring, wide-eyed and naïve. Their parents act as cornermen, urging them to fight and applying adrenaline to stop the bleeding.

Rather than allow their high school students to shoot hoops with friends after school, parents sign them up for admissions test prep courses starting in tenth grade. Piles of thick test prep books adorn students’ bedroom floors. The least expensive online courses cost several hundred dollars, but many parents shell out big bucks for one-on-one tutoring to the tune of hundreds of dollars per hour.

Kids are told that they won’t stand a chance if their college applications don’t show evidence of leadership, advanced academics and community service, so they found obscure

clubs, suffer through AP courses, and stage lame fundraisers.

If their kids have the slightest glimmer of athletic ability, parents sign them up for teams, camps, lessons, tournaments and showcases, in hopes that college coaches will take notice. They dip into their thinning wallets to pay sports video companies to create recruitment films of their kids running on soccer fields and returning groundstrokes to jazzy music.

College interviews are scheduled, and parents help prepare their kids in the car on the way, firing questions at them and zhuzhing their hair.

Students begin writing college essays a year in advance. Original drafts are funneled through teachers, tutors, parents, and counselors who offer “editing advice.” The end product is unrecognizable, but everyone hopes the essay is improved enough to get the student into college, or earn him the Pulitzer Prize.

Applications are sent in, but that’s only Round One. Blood, sweat, and tears are shed as parents and students brace themselves for the painful uppercuts of rejection. Having been through the College Application Thunderdome with my own children, I fully understand the agony of waiting for that final bell to ring. Hoping you did all you could. Hoping your kid will get what they want.

And as if this hellish process wasn’t competitive enough, we find out that some wealthy parents have been using bribery to get their kids accepted. While the rest of us are feeling guilty that we helped our kids change a few words in their college essays, rich lawyers, wealthy CEOs, hollywood actresses, famous fashion designers, and other elites are paying upwards of one million dollars to bribe college coaches and admissions test proctors to cheat the system.

But the real losers in this process aren’t kids who got rejected from their favorite schools or necessarily the scammers facing 20 years in prison, it’s any parent - criminal or not - who makes their kid feel not good enough to get into college on his own merit.

That’s the real sucker punch.



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# SPORTS

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## Sports Briefs

**Javier Arana Jr. Memorial 5K:** The 7th annual Fallen Trooper 5K run and 1-mile walk is 2 p.m. Saturday at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta. Cost: \$20 (\$10 kids). [raceadventuresunlimited.com](http://raceadventuresunlimited.com).

**El Paso Locomotive FC:** El Paso's new professional soccer team hosts Rio Grande Valley FC at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Southwest University Park. Cost: \$5-\$49. [235-GOAL.com](http://235-GOAL.com), [eplocomotivefc.com](http://eplocomotivefc.com), or [tickets@eplocomotivefc.com](mailto:tickets@eplocomotivefc.com)

**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. All participants have a chance to qualify for the Texas State Senior Games. 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](http://elpasotexas.gov/parks)

**Kick Ball Tourney:** Eta Iota Zeta Sorority hosts a fund-raising kick ball tournament from 11 a.m.-p.m., March 31, at Franklin Park, 6050 Quail. Register at [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite.com). (919) 961-8272 or Facebook at [etaiotazeta.elpaso](https://www.facebook.com/etaiotazeta.elpaso)

**Family Day at the wall:** How's the view from the top? Find out during Family Day at the Wall from noon-6 p.m. every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at the SAC. 744-1532

**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

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

**POUND®:** Are you guys ready to Sweat, Sculpt and Rock with POUND®? Using Ripstix®, lightly weighted drumsticks engineered specifically for exercising, POUND® transforms drumming into an incredibly effective way of working out in this exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning, and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements. Cost: \$3 per class or \$35 for unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

**Indoor Cycling:** Get back on the bike and push your endurance at Indoor Cycling. Classes are held at Soto and Stout PFC. Cost: \$3, or \$35 unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

**Iron Divas:** This well-rounded class is designed to improve muscular strength and endurance. With no choreography to learn, you can focus on strength and cardio splits effectively. This class will leave you sweating glitter like the Diva that you are! Classes are held at Soto and Stout PFC. Cost: \$3, or \$35 unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

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

**Deep Water:** Get ready for Group Fitness' newest class, Deep Water! Using a flotation belt, deep water exercisers will jog, sprint in intervals, wall walk or do a variety of multidimensional movements, including cross country skiing, long-levered kicks, twists and jumping jacks. Cost: \$3 per class or \$35 for unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

**AquaFloat:** AquaFloat is changing the location to Replica Aquatic Center for Mondays class. Classes take place atop a floating exercise mat, prepare for your core to be firing the duration of this one hour class that focuses on HIIT training as well as increasing flexibility while introducing elements of balancing with Yoga and Pilates inspired movements. 744-5800

**Texas Concealed Handgun License classes:** The Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club offers Texas License to Carry Classes from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. the first and third Saturday of every month. Cost: \$45-\$80 depending upon membership status. Open to the public. [armymwr.com](http://armymwr.com) or call 861-4789

**Early Bird Golf:** Swing by Underwood Golf Complex for Early Bird Golf. Play nine holes Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. for \$15, price includes cart rental. 568-1059

## Don't mess with Texas

Texas native, Bliss WTB Soldier overcomes adversity, competes at 2019 Army Trials

**By Marcy Sanchez** | U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition

After deploying in support of combat, border security, and humanitarian operations, there isn't much Sgt. Christopher Campos hasn't done.

That is until 2018, when Campos was assigned to the Fort Bliss Warrior Transition Battalion, an Army unit designed to manage care and recovery of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers, to prepare them for return to duty or successful transition to civilian life.

"I'm out of the mindset I had when I first came (to the WTB). At first, I was wondering what was really going to happen to me," said Campos, a native of Amarillo. "I learned that you don't stop pushing, you don't stop fighting, you make the end goal of everything yours."

In 2017, the Texas National Guard Soldier was conducting patrol operations during a deployment to Djibouti, when loose ground caused him to fall, resulting in injuries to both knees.

"(My injuries) are a mixture of a lot of wear-and-tear from doing infantry operations," said Campos.

After spending several months recovering from bilateral torn meniscuses in his knees, damage to cartilage, knee caps, and other injuries, Campos set out to begin his recovery at the WTB through the adaptive sports program.

"I've done a lot of adaptive sports, I go to the gym with physical therapists, shoot air rifle," said Campos. "Going to adaptive sports, going to the Army Trials, using everything they've given us, it's helped me see things in a broader aspect. There are still things I can do to make myself better and continue to push to do my job."

According to Campos, he was thrilled to be competing at the 2019 Army Trials and is shooting for a spot to represent Team Army during the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games this summer at Tampa, Florida.

"My spouse says she's proud of the fact that I'm pushing myself, learning, out here competing with all these other athletes," said Campos, whose wife and three kids traveled to Fort Bliss to cheer him on during the competition. "That is my goal, to go to Warrior Games. If I don't make it, I gave it a shot and I'll just have to work harder for next year."



Photos by Marcy Sanchez / U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition

Sgt. Christopher Campos prepares for a discus throw during the field competition at the 2019 Army Trials, at Fort Bliss March 11. Army Trials is an adaptive-sports competition March 5 through Saturday with nearly 100 wounded, ill and injured active-duty Soldiers and veterans competing in 14 different adaptive sports for the opportunity to represent Team Army at the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games in Tampa, Florida.



Sgt. Christopher Campos competes in the powerlifting competition during the 2019 Army Trials at Fort Bliss March 8.

But I feel I have a good opportunity with the things that I'm competing in."

During Army Trials, Campos competed in powerlifting, archery, air rifle, shotput and discus competitions.

For Campos, a lieutenant in the Texas state penitentiary system, recovering at the WTB provides him an opportunity to grow as a Soldier and as an athlete.

"I'm going to push myself, I'm going to get to a point where I want to be," said Campos. "I've learned patience, technique, and to appreciate the smaller things in life. Some athletes are missing limbs and have severe conditions. Seeing them compete gives me motivation, if they can do anything then I can do it too. I won't be done until the job is done."

Campos is not only inspired by other athletes, he's also inspiring fellow Soldiers at 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, his home unit in Amarillo.

"I have Soldiers in my home unit asking if I'm going to go back home, and I tell them yeah, I'm going to go back, I'm doing everything possible to make sure I come back to you guys," said Campos. "If you're a Soldier coming back from deployment and you were injured, push yourself. Just because you're hurt doesn't mean it's the end. Just keep going, learn, make friends, network, don't ever stop, don't ever throw in the towel and call it quits because you never know when it's actually going to be the end."



# ‘Getting up’

## Artillery Soldier shows no signs of quitting at Army Trials

By Annette P. Gomes | Warrior Care and Transition

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Fontenot carries his grandfather’s name with good reason. “His nickname was ‘Speedy’ because he used to drive a school bus. I have the utmost respect for him and that’s why I go by Joseph and not Joe. He was a hard-working man that took care of his family and lived for his children,” Fontenot said.

Although Fontenot’s grandfather did not serve in the military, his character, family, commitment, and a chance encounter with a Soldier are just a few of the reasons his namesake chose to serve his country.

“I joined in 2006 at the age of 31. I met a Soldier at a truck stop and I told him thank you for serving. He said ‘No need to thank me, I do what I do for my family.’ At that moment I knew I wanted to be a Soldier,” Fontenot said.

During more than 13 years of service, the field artillery platoon sergeant would endure several injuries in and out of combat.

“I’ve suffered from re-injuring my right knee every year pretty much since 2007. I have had eight surgeries to rebuild my knee with another on the way. I’ve injured it several ways, Level II (Army) Combatives, patrolling in Iraq, playing sports during PT and coming out the side of a Blackhawk,” Fontenot said.

The avid athlete says he refused to let the injuries sideline his athleticism.

“It’s ingrained in me and is part of who I am. My parents believed in getting my sister and I involved in sports at an early age. I was in basketball by the time I was five. I played football, basketball and ran track in junior high, and into my high school years,” Fontenot said. “Typically, within two-to-three days after surgery, I’m back in the gym working out and doing physical therapy. At the age of 44, I’m older than most competing at the [Army Trials] and because of this I work hard to not let off the gas and try to stay in shape.”

While most Soldiers encounter adaptive sports during their recovery time at their respective warrior transition battalions, Fontenot’s encounter came just two weeks ago.

“The staff at the Fort Campbell WTB is caring and willing to go the extra mile for you, not to mention our adaptive reconditioning program staff are truly amazing,” Fontenot said. “I think one of the things I’m slowly learning is that just because I can’t ‘lead the charge’ the way I once did doesn’t mean I can’t still lead. I get out there and do my best and encourage others to do their best.”

Fontenot was doing just that as he joined nearly 100 wounded, ill or injured athletes at Fort Bliss Texas last week as they com-



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class, Joseph Fontenot, a wounded warrior athlete from Louisiana, competes during the 2019 Army Trials at Fort Bliss, March 8. Army Trials is an adaptive sports competition that took place March 5 through Saturday, with nearly 100 wounded, ill and injured active-duty Soldiers and veterans competing in 14 different sports for the opportunity to represent Team Army at the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games in Tampa, Florida.



Fontenot, who competed for a spot on Team Army at Fort Bliss last week.

peted for spots on Team Army at the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games, June 21-30 in Tampa, Florida. Fontenot competed in rowing, powerlifting and wheelchair basketball.

“The best thing about being around these Soldiers is that they have similar situations to your own or even more extreme, it humbles you. I don’t care what anyone’s rank is out here, we are all athletes and that’s something I’ve missed. Being around all of these tremendous people has been a true honor,” he said.

Fontenot says a recent practice session put everything in perspective for competition and the game of life.

“Falling down gives you an opportunity to do something great by getting up. I could have chosen to just sit out the rowing event after I fell out, but I decided to keep fighting and that’s what we do as Soldiers. I placed third,” he said. “You can’t allow an injury or a profile to dictate your level of success. We are all capable of accomplishing great things, wake up, get up, and keep fighting to be the best you that you can because you only have one chance today, and once it’s over you can never get today back – it’s gone forever.”



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**Arts showcase:** The Borderland Rainbow Center will host the Borderland Queer Arts Showcase March 30. The first place winners in each category will receive a prize of \$200. A panel of judges will select winners. Visual artists may also submit drawings, paintings, and photography for an exhibit at the event. The Drag category is open to any drag performer under 25. The Live Singing category will be open to any young performers under the age of 25. martin@borderlandrainbow.org

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

**Upper Valley Artists/Farmers Market:** The Upper Valley Artists and Farmers Market is 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, at the Substation on Doniphan at Sunset. Free. Facebook at Upper Valley Artist and Farmers Market.

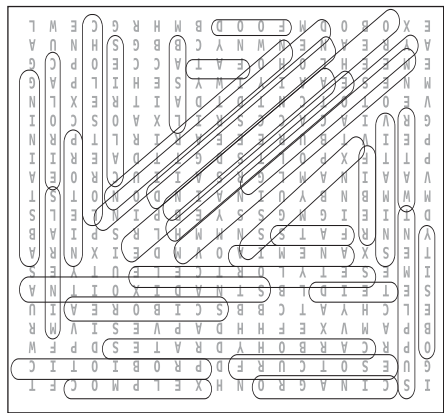
**Youth Trans Visibility Celebration:** PFLAG is hosting a Youth Trans Visibility Celebration to celebrate International Transgender Day of Visibility. There will be guest speakers, food, games, goodie bags, and games. It will be held at EPCC Valle Verde Campus Annex March 31. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Sun City Craft Beer Festival:** The Sun City Craft Beer Festival is March 30-31, at the El Paso Convention Center (indoor and outdoor event). The two-day event features more than 170 national, regional, local and newly released craft beers, ciders, wine and mixed drinks, as well as a game zone, food trucks, vendor booths, a liquor lounge, live bands and djs. Age 21 and older only. Cost: \$20 per day; \$35 for both days. Designation driver admission \$10 per day. suncitycraftbeerfest.com

**Brew at the Zoo:** The El Paso Zoological Society's host its Brew at the Zoo from 6-10 p.m. March 30, at the El Paso Zoo, 4001 E. Paisano, with beer samples paired with BBQ bites from local restaurants, live music, animal encounters, prizes and more. Tickets at webstore1.centaman.net. 212-0245, elpasozoosociety.org or Facebook at El Paso Zoological Society

**'PAW Patrol Live! The Great Pirate Adventure':** The Nickelodeon presents a live adventure Saturday-Sunday, at El Paso County Coliseum. Chase, Marshall, Rubble, Skye, Rocky and Zuma take over the stage for an action-packed, music-filled live stage show with stars of the top-rated animated preschool series. Tickets start at \$20.

**One World Water Lantern Festival:** The premier water lantern festival is 4:30-9 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at Ascarate Park 6900 Delta. Tickets: \$35 through March 29, and \$40 day of event; includes entry into festival area, floating water lantern, LED flashlight keychain, marker and wristband. Food trucks, music and activities from 4:30 to 7, with lantern designing at 6:30 p.m. and lantern launch 7 to 8 p.m. waterlanternfestival.com/elpaso



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See answers on page 10B

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to music.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 19 = o)

A. 17 25 3 9 19  
Clue: Beat

B. 13 19 17 25 11  
Clue: Specific tones

C. 3 25 20 19 2 6  
Clue: Sequence of notes

D. 7 18 16 3 19 13 6  
Clue: Note combinations

Answers: A. tempo B. notes C. melody D. harmony

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to music.

A F S F T

Answer: Staff

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New York on March 15, 1955. As a child I was selected to the All-State Chorus. I went on to be a heavy metal singer with some "twisted" bandmates.

Answer: Dee Snider

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For more information about the telescope and the McDonald Observatory visit <http://www.as.utexas.edu/mcdonald/het/het.html>.

To view a complete job description, salary, benefits and application instructions visit <https://utaustin.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/UTstaff> and refer to job posting number: R\_00002087.

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AEROBICS	COMPLEX	FOOD	PROBIOTIC
ANEMIA	CONSUMPTION	FRUCTOSE	PROTEIN
ANTIOXIDANTS	DEHYDRATION	GLUCOSE	SUPPLEMENT
BALANCED	DIET	HEART RATE	VITAMINS
BASAL	DIGESTION	METABOLISM	WATER
CALORIE	ELECTROLYTES	MINERALS	
CALORIES	FAT	NUTRITION	

## COMMERCIAL CLASSIFIEDS >>

"All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise 'any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin, or any intention to make such preference, limitation or discrimination. The Bugle will not accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. All dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis."

RENTALS

**RENTALS EAST**

2845 Beachcomber B .....\$650  
1582 Diego Rivera.....\$850  
11023 Oasis.....\$875  
12412 Tierra Bella.....\$925  
1472 Sierra de Oro.....\$950  
1694 Leroy Bonse.....\$975  
4529 Joseph Rodriguez..\$995  
11212 Pony Soldier.....\$1025  
12640 Tierra Tigre.....\$1050  
12230 Saint Mark.....\$1050  
14121 Tierra Leona.....\$1100

2220 Azure Point.....\$1125  
13942 Vaquera Rock....\$1150  
14333 Patriot Point.....\$1195  
14314 Wood Point.....\$1195  
1444 Cedar Point.....\$1200  
12883 Hidden Grove....\$1250  
2416 Escape Point.....\$1295  
12433 Paseo Alegre.....\$1295  
12325 Sombra Grande..\$1350  
14708 Oldenberg.....\$1450  
14425 Lacota Point.....\$1475

**HORIZON**

14328 Desert Cactus...\$1125

**LOWER VALLEY**

7211 Safford.....\$795

**CENTRAL**

3526 Nation 1/2.....\$475

**NORTHEAST**

3905 Flory #10.....\$425  
5429 Yarmouth.....\$825  
10048 Kellogg.....\$850  
10963 Nathan Bay.....\$875  
10465 Orpheus.....\$875  
10465 Omega.....\$895  
11048 Middledale.....\$1050  
6836 Ridgetop.....\$1000

5241 Sweetwater.....\$1025  
10863 Golden Sands....\$1050  
11107 Redstone Cove..\$1200  
10043 Paloma.....\$1300  
5453 Rick Husband.....\$1300

**WEST**

6262 Escondido Studio ..\$695  
6262 Escondido.....\$1100

**UPPER VALLEY**

4200 Roxbury.....\$1175



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Prices starting at \$30  
Washer Leasing Service

779-0048

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[dhillshopdog13@yahoo.com](mailto:dhillshopdog13@yahoo.com)



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FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING,  
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<p><b>2008 VICTORY VEGAS LOW</b> MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15857</p>  <p><b>\$5,995</b></p>	<p><b>2017 CHEVY EXPRESS G3500</b> 15 PASSENGER VAN, STK# A15482</p>  <p><b>\$20,995</b> WHAT A STEAL</p>	<p><b>2018 FORD TRANSIT-250</b> CARGO VAN</p>  <p><b>\$25,995</b> TWO TO CHOOSE FROM</p>	<p><b>2008 HARLEY-DAVIDSON VRSACA</b> MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15854</p>  <p><b>\$7,995</b></p>
<p><b>2018 NISSAN ARMADA SV</b> STK# A15801</p>  <p><b>\$29,995</b> HONEY OF A DEAL</p>	<p><b>2018 RAM 1500</b> <b>CREWCAB, 4X4</b></p>  <p><b>\$29,995</b> THREE TO CHOOSE FROM</p>		<p><b>2017 JEEP WRANGLER</b> SAHARA JL, SIX TO CHOOSE FROM</p>  <p><b>\$39,995</b> WHAT A STEAL</p>
<p><b>2018 TOYOTA TUNDRA LTD.</b> 4X4, STK# A15557</p>  <p><b>\$39,995</b> ONLY 7K MILES</p>			<p><b>2017 FORD F-250</b> STK# A15550</p>  <p><b>\$42,995</b> BIG FORD TRUCK</p>
<p><b>2007 VICTORY VEGAS JACKPOT</b> MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15856</p>  <p><b>\$5,995</b></p>	<p><b>2018 RAM 2500 SLT DSL</b> 4X4, CREWCAB</p>  <p><b>\$46,995</b> THREE TO CHOOSE FROM</p>	<p><b>2019 BMW 740i</b> STK# A15888</p>  <p><b>\$68,995</b> WHY BUY NEW</p>	<p><b>2001 HARLEY-DAVIDSON FXD</b> MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15855</p>  <p><b>\$5,995</b></p>

**\$29,995**

## THREE TO CHOOSE FROM

A15763N	2013 CHEVY SONIC LT .....	\$6,995	A15475	2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT .....	\$16,995
A15450A			A15654		
260754A, TAX TIME	2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT .....	\$6,995		2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT .....	\$16,995
25893A			A15528		
A15565A	2016 NISSAN VERSA .....	\$8,995	A15514A	2017 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE .....	\$16,995
A15783	2011 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING .....	\$8,995	A15601		
25932B			A15565	2011 MERCEDES E350 .....	\$16,995
A15700A	2011 FORD ESCAPE XLT .....	\$8,995	A15519		
25957A	2017 NISSAN VERSA SV .....	\$11,995	A1540B	2017 FORD FUSION SE HYBRID .....	\$17,995
A15615			A15595		
A15381A	2016 CHEVY CRUZE LT .....	\$12,995	A15454	2017 DODGE JOURNEY SE .....	\$17,995
A15570	TWO TO CHOOSE FROM		A15386A	2018 CHEVY CRUZE LT HATCHBACK .....	\$17,995
A15568	2017 CHEVY SONIC LT .....	\$12,995	A15641	2017 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN .....	\$17,995
4827A	2011 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE VAN .....	\$12,995	A15598	2017 HONDA CIVIC EX .....	\$17,995
A15607A			26038A		
25754A	2015 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT .....	\$14,995	A15485, ONLY 2K MILES	2016 TOYOTA RAV 4 XLE .....	\$17,995
A15624	FIVE TO CHOOSE FROM				
A15608	2017 NISSAN SENTRA SV .....	\$14,995		2018 FORD FUSION SE .....	\$18,995
A15578	2014 TOYOTA TACOMA .....	\$14,995			
				2017 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS .....	\$18,995
	2015 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT .....	\$15,995			
				2018 TOYOTA COROLLA SE .....	\$18,995
	2016 JEEP COMPASS SPORT .....	\$15,995			
	2017 CHEVY CRUZE LT .....	\$15,995			
	2015 NISSAN ALTIMA SV .....	\$15,995			
	2017 TOYOTA COROLLA LE .....	\$15,995			
	2015 HONDA CIVIC EXL .....	\$15,995			
	2017 HYUNDAI VELOSTER .....	\$16,995			
	2017 NISSAN ALTIMA SV .....	\$16,995			
	2017 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT .....	\$16,995			
	2016 KIA OPTIMA LX .....	\$16,995			

**2018 AUDI Q3**  
STK# P1772

A blue 2018 Audi Q3 sedan is shown from a front-three-quarter view. The car is parked on a light-colored surface, and its shadow is visible to the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**2019 TOYOTA TUNDRA**  
STK# P1685

A brown 2019 Toyota Tundra pickup truck is shown from a front-three-quarter view. The truck is a crew cab model with a short bed. It features a chrome grille with the Toyota emblem in the center, chrome accents on the headlights, and a chrome bumper. The truck is parked on a light-colored surface.

**18 RAM 2500 DIESEL**  
STK# P1656



**2016 VW PASSAT SEL**  
STK# A15439



**2018 RAM 1500 SLT 4X4**  
**CREWCAB**



**2018 CADILLAC XTS LUXURY**  
STK# A15452

A blue 2018 Cadillac XTS Luxury sedan is shown from a front three-quarter view. The car is parked on a light-colored surface. The image is part of a larger advertisement for a car dealership.

**\$29,995**  
PURE LUXURY



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