

Thursday, February 21, 2019



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Sgt. 1st Class Mikki Sprenkle / U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment fire the M777 howitzer in Southwest Asia, Dec. 2, 2018. The regiment is part of Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve, supporting the Syrian Democratic Forces and Iraqi security forces in Syria as they clear the last remaining pockets of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria from the Middle Euphrates River Valley and prevent them from fleeing into Iraq.

### Shanahan: ISIS crippled in Syria

By C. Todd Lopez | Defense.gov

Meeting with the reporters for the first time since assuming office Jan. 1, acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan touched on the Syria withdrawal, success in Afghanistan, the U.S. Space Force, and his role as the head of the U.S. Department of Defense Jan. 29.



Shanahan, who had served as deputy defense secretary until the first of the year, said that from his new position, "the terrain is not different." What has changed, he told reporters, is that he sees the president more often, and

works more closely with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Cabinet members and defense counterparts in Europe and Asia.

As acting secretary, he said, he expects to travel less, and to "drive more integration between the services and the combatant commands."

**Syria** 

Shanahan said the withdrawal is in the early stages. "We're on a deliberate, coordinated, disciplined withdrawal," he

ISIS is no longer able to govern in Syria, he said.

"ISIS no longer has freedom to amass forces. Syria is no longer a safe haven. We've eliminated a majority of their leadership. We've significantly diminished their financial capabilities," Shanahan said. "The way I would probably characterize the military operations conducted in Syria is that the risk of terrorism and mass migration has been significantly mitigated.'

Inside Syria, he said, "99.5 percent plus" of territory controlled by ISIS just two years ago has been returned to the Syrians. "And within a couple of weeks, it'll be 100 percent," he added.

Along Syria's northeastern border, some 3.5 million Syrian refugees are in Turkey, Shanahan said, and significant numbers of internally displaced people are on the Syrian side of the border.

To ameliorate this crisis, he said, military-to-military conversations are happening, and the State Department is involved as well; looking for solutions.

"There are very important dialogues going on in major capitals in Europe about support to that portion of Syria,



#### >> HIGHS AND LOWS

Sgt. Christopher A. Hernandez / 210th RSG/MoD Bde. – Fort Bliss DPTMS

Spc. Benjamin Hakes, Top, and Sgt. Beau Charney, infantry Soldiers with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, Wisconsin Army National Guard, maintain a high-low defensive posture before moving into building clearing procedures during the company's guardian angel squad training exercises conducted at the McGregor Range Complex, New Mexico, Feb. 9. The company has been taking part in guardian angel STXs to augment their readiness and lethality capabilities, preparing them for Advise and Assist missions. For more on this story, see 5A.

**Electronic warfare** 

Iron Soldiers modernizing capabilities

By Staff Sqt. Felicia Jaqdatt | 2nd ABCT, 1st AD PA

Iron Soldiers with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division teamed up with the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division to train using new electronic warfare equipment and techniques at Fort Bliss in De-

"The purpose of this collaboration is significant to the Army and the future of EW and cyber electromagnetic activities" said Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Insch, an EW technician with the Army's Project Manager Electronic Warfare & Cyber. "These two teams are literally pushing the envelope in helping to determine future Army doctrine and tactics, techniques, and procedures that will influence the entire force.'

The EW systems are prototypes made up of many different parts, some of which are already fielded within the Army. However, these

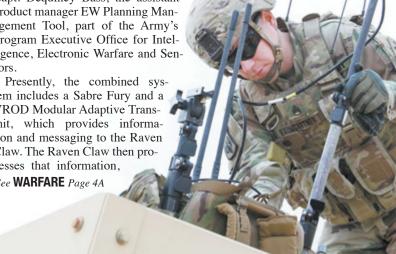
Staff Sgt. Joseph Baumgartner, an electronic warfare specialist with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, fixes his equipment on top of his high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle in December.

teams are learning how to incorporate other, new parts while reviewing the capability's true effectiveness. "The equipment is being fielded in stages to allow the Army to incorporate new tech-

nologies and Soldier feedback," said Capt. Dequincy Bass, the assistant product manager EW Planning Management Tool, part of the Army's Program Executive Office for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sen

tem includes a Sabre Fury and a VROD Modular Adaptive Transmit, which provides information and messaging to the Raven Claw. The Raven Claw then processes that information,

See WARFARE Page 4A



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

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#### Newest electronic warfare vehicle tested at Fort Irwin

By Capt. Scott Kuhn | U.S. Army

Electronic warfare Soldiers from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "Greywolf," 1st Cavalry Division conducted electronic attack and electronic support operations during the month-long exercise using the Electronic Warfare Tactical Vehicle at Fort Irwin, California, in January.

"Our main purpose was to provide support by denying communications to the enemy, jamming 'comms,'" said Sgt. 1st Class Cristian Holguin, the EWTV team leader. "In addition we were able to listen in on FM communications from the enemy and detect enemy electronic signatures to use for call for fire

The brigade received the Army's first dedicated electronic warfare vehicle in September 2018 in time to test it out during the brigade's external evaluation, Pegasus Forge III, at Fort Hood, Texas. The team then provided feedback to the team at the Rapid Equipping Force, which had developed the vehicle.

"It's like version one of the system. And for being version one it is a very good system," said Holguin. "The folks at REF listened to our feedback following Pegasus Forge and actually were making upgrades to the vehicle as we were on ground at NTC.'

According to Staff Sgt. Darron McCracken, an EWTV operator, the shortened timetable between Pegasus Forge and NTC presented a

challenge to the team, but they were able to overcome them and help integrate the system fully at the brigade and battalion levels.

"Initially the battalions were a little skeptical of the system. Not only was it an asset they had to provide forces to help protect, but it's a pretty big vehicle as well," he said. "But once they saw what it could do and they benefited from its effects, they recognized the benefits of the system."

The near-peer enemy, along with the terrain and elements that the brigade faced at NTC, made it an ideal environment to test the EWTV. Once the force-on-force fight was completed, the team conducted situational training that helped further test the capabilities of the vehicle.

"We worked on finding ways to better improve our jamming and detection capabilities,' said Staff Sgt. Francisco Becerra, an EWTV

Measuring the performance of the vehicle at NTC was sometimes difficult to do since there was no immediate feedback through real time measures and sensors. According to Holguin it is something that NTC is working to improve, however they were able to validate and measure effects in other ways.

"There are two aspects of performance - performance of the equipment and performance of the teams themselves," Holguin said. "And I think we've accomplished more than we expected for integration and employment; having and using the EWTV validated our position as an effective asset on the battlefield."

Greywolf was the first to test the vehicle in an austere environment against a near-peer foe, but they won't be the last. The EWTVs belong to III Corps and are being moved to other units

>> 32ND AAMDC PREPARES FOR ROVING SANDS

FORT BLISS ADA COMMAND WILL HOST EXERCISE MARCH 1-11

Staff Sgt. Jason Millhouse, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division electronic warfare tactical vehicle operator, programs the frequencies needed to jam a notional enemy during training in Yuma, Arizona, in 2018.

so that their teams can test them and add their inputs to improve the system.

"The intent is to take all of the lessons learned and build on it," said McCracken. "Towards the end of the process we will have an SOP, something that is predictable and can be translated across the Army."

When asked if, after testing it out at NTC, they felt it was an effective system, McCracken answered, "Absolutely. Absolutely."

The new vehicle was developed to provide Army Electronic Warfare Teams with the ability to detect and attack in the electromagnetic spectrum from an operationally relevant range at the brigade combat team level. It was developed by the Rapid Equipping Force to give the Army's Brigade Combat Team a dedicated electronic warfare vehicle.

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Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade ground guided their vehicles off of the tracks and refueled them before staging them Feb. 11.

#### **ISIS** Continued from Page 1A

as well as very important discussions with our [Syrian Democratic Forces] counterparts there in northeastern Syria," he added. "The discussions hold real promise."

#### Afghanistan

Coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces "have been doing a tremendous job," the acting defense secretary said.

There is no change to the "realign, reinforce, regionalize, reconcile and sustain" plan, known as 4R+S, he said.

Discussions are now between Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and the Taliban. Khalilzad is the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation. "The talks were encouraging," Shanahan said. "I would just add to that, we have to give people time."

The acting secretary noted "a new level of energy" in the situation.

"The reconciliation portion our 4R+S is working," he said. "Now we need to give the diplomats time and space to advance those conversations "

#### **Space Force**

The Defense Department is looking at individuals who might lead a U.S. Space Command, Shanahan said. The "Space Force" will focus on faster development of technol-



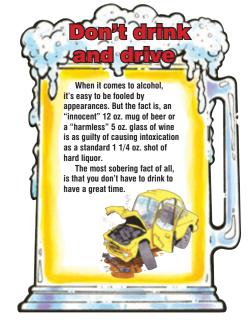
Sgt. Amber Smith / DOD

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan speaks to reporters during an off-camera news conference at the Pentagon, Jan. 29.

ogy, faster delivery of technology, and leveraging of commercially available technology, he explained.

Concerns on Capitol Hill involve avoiding unnecessary cost and not growing a bureaucracv, he said.

His idea of "Space Force" is that it have a small footprint, he told reporters. "That's why I recommend it sits under the Air Force," he said.



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JMC setting stage for largest annual modernization exercise this spring 8A

#### **Unit Briefs**

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(Above) An M109A6 Paladin fires a 155mm inert training round during the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment "Defender," 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division (Rotational) Table VI Gunnery at St. Barbara Range, Camp Hovey, South Korea, Dec. 5, 2018. Table VI Gunnery is an annual training requirement for field artillery units that certify individual howitzer crews and platoon Fire Direction Centers. This training focuses on overall readiness and maintaining field artillery core competencies at the section level.

(Right) Col. Marc Cloutier and Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Oliver, the 3rd ABCT, 1st AD command team, pose for a photo with the 13 ROK Army officers and noncommissioned officers who had returned from National Training Center Decisive Action Rotation 19-03 Jan. 28.

(Center) Soldiers with 2nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd ABCT, 1st AD, graduate from the Head Start Program at Shinhan University, in Gyeonggi province, South Korea, Dec. 13, 2018. The program allows graduates to gain a deeper appreciation of Korean culture and fosters a climate of mutual respect with the host nation.

(Below) Soldiers from 4th Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 1st AD load into a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at Camp Humphreys, for an air assault training mission Jan. 7. This allows Soldiers to move tactically during their mission. Air assault missions allows Soldiers to be strategically inserted in a controlled environments.



Maj. Anthony Clas / 3rd ABCT, 1st AD



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



# BUILDING A LEGACY

# Bulldog Brigade stays busy maintaining readiness in ROK

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

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea - The Army's first priority is readiness - ensuring our Soldiers have the tools and training they need to be lethal and ready to fight and win, as stated by Army Secretary Mark Esper.

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "Bulldog," 1st Armored Division (Rotational Unit) has been deployed to South Korea since September 2018 as the sixth rotational brigade to support the 2nd Infantry Division/ ROK-US Combined Division.

When we arrived here on the ground last October, I told 2ID (2ID/RUCD) we were ready to take over from Raider Brigade (1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division) and support our U.S. and ROK allies," said Col. Marc Cloutier, Marlborough, Connecticut native and commander of 3rd ABCT, 1st AD.

The Bulldog Brigade stayed busy maintaining their readiness posture during the first half of the deployment, conducting several combined small-arms and crewserved weapons ranges, field artillery gunnery ranges, sling-load and air assault exercises, and other training exercises to build the brigade's proficiency in warrior tasks, which enhances their ability to shoot, move, communicate, survive, and adapt in any contingency.

"Since our arrival, Bulldog Soldiers have shown just that. We have done a number of individual and crew served weapons ranges; fired our artillery and mortar crews; maneuvered our tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles, and participated in a number of combined operations with our ROK allies," said Cloutier. "Most notably, we were assigned 13 ROK officers to our brigade and battalion staffs to make us a truly combined staff. These officers just returned from a month-long training exercise at our National Training Center in California. These ROK officers and NCOs will become the continuity for the next rotational force, and that's a great thing for the 2ID/RUCD."

Training is not the only focus for the Bulldog Brigade during its deployment. The rotational unit has circulated its personnel through several cultural awareness events across South Korea to learn the customs and rich history of its ROK allies.

"Our Soldiers are embedded in the social fabric here on the ROK," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Oliver, a native of Detroit, senior enlisted adviser for 3rd ABCT, 1st AD. "We've experienced multiple cultural awareness events since we arrived to include the Shinhan University Head Start program, multiple outreach events in the surrounding communities at Camps Humphreys and Casey, and continue to learn and develop ourselves alongside our KATUSAs (Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army) and ROK Army soldiers."

The brigade has a multitude of cultural awareness and readiness training events planned for the remainder of their deployment. Future training opportunities will afford the rotational Soldiers the ability to increase interoperability with their ROK Army allies and further immerse their Soldiers in South Korean culture, fostering the strong alliance shared between the combined force.

"Going forward, we have a great lineup in the next few months," said Cloutier. "We'll be on the ranges shooting gunnery, we'll be conducting more combined operations with our ROK allies, and finally, we'll be preparing our Soldiers and equipment to return to our families at Fort. Bliss, Texas. They have been the stalwarts of our brigade, supporting us every day in the execution of our tasks. We couldn't do this without their involvement."



WARFARE Continued from Page 1A

which enhances EW planning and management capabilities, adds Bass.

The system ultimately deciphers "who's talking and where they are talking from," explains Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Beach, an EW specialist with 2nd ABCT, 1st AD.

"Each team has a receiver, which is capable of picking up the frequencies, and a jammer, which is capable of hindering adversary communication," said Insch.

The teams are able to see the frequencies by looking at a screen, which looks like an old school radio that has dials.

"If you look at it like a radio, you're able to see where the spikes are and tune into that station," said Staff Sgt. Christian Lehr, an EW specialist with the 2nd Brigade, 2nd ID. "Then, if I go in 'Direction Find' mode, I can see where it's coming from in space and time."

"The purpose is to give commanders real-time information," said Beach. "This isn't us giving them analysis, but giving them something to make an accurate decision 'now.' This is important because this non-lethal capability augments the lethal capabilities that our brigade already has, which ultimately makes us a stronger fighting force."

The collaboration started off with teams "learning how the overall system works and how to identify what signals are interesting enough to monitor," said Bass.

Once they figured out the ins-and-outs of the system, it was time to test it in the field.

The conclusion, Bass mentions, is, "overall, the Soldiers were grateful to receive EW systems that enable them to become more of an asset to their unit; however, they stressed that the new capability they were evaluating should be the most up-to-date version of the system."

"In the coming months, the EW capability set, will allow the [2nd] ABCT's EW Soldiers the opportunity to identify additional critical training objectives and expand on their understanding of the systems," said Master Sgt. Adam Brege, EW noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 2nd ABCT, 1st AD. "Much of the training being conducted will be during [2nd] ABCT's Strike Focus and Iron Focus exercises, where the Soldiers will be employing the systems in support of the brigades' scheme of maneuver."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Felicia Jagdatt / 2nd ABCT, 1st AD

The new electronic warfare modernized equipment has many parts, some which are already fielded in the Army, and requires teams in order to be fully effective. Staff Sgt. Brett McCaskill, assigned to 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, and Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Beach, with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, locate and decipher enemy frequencies from a known location in December.



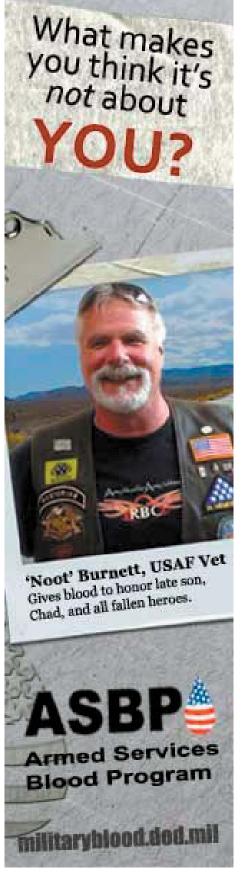
Staff Sgt. Micah Sheean, an electronic warfare specialist, communicates from the high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle in December.



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# Bravo Co., 2nd Bn., 127 Inf. Regt. trains for guardian angel missions

**By Sgt. Christopher A. Hernandez** | 210th RSG/MaD Bde. – Fort Bliss DPTMS

MCGREGOR RANGE COMPLEX, N.M. – Army National Guard Soldiers of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, Green Bay, Wisconsin, performed guardian angel squad training exercises Feb. 8-10 at McGregor Range Complex, New Mexico.

The U.S. military created the guardian angel program in 2012, tailored to counteract green-on-blue (insider) attacks on American troops and NATO allies during their over-



Sgt. Richard Anderson, an infantry Soldier for 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, Wisconsin Army National Guard, conducts perimeter security with other Soldiers during the company's guardian angel squad training exercises at McGregor Range Complex, New Mexico, Feb. 9. Anderson's company has been taking part in guardian angel STXs to augment their readiness and lethality capabilities, preparing them for advise and assist missions.

seas mobilizations. Bravo Co., 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Regt. has been designated for this role, preparing them to provide security for advisers and allies against lethal opposition.

"The concept is that we're the immediate security," said 1st Lt. Daniel Schultz, a platoon leader for Bravo Co., 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Regt. "We secure, provide, and use immediate force protection in areas where the actual KLEs (key leader engagements) are happening."

In addition to rapid security response, guardian angel Soldiers must also be adept in heuristics. In that regard, the Soldiers trained on recognizing telltale indicators in people and being cognizant to their cultural idiosyncrasies. By enhancing these analytical techniques, the Soldiers can mitigate crisis situations in order to resolve conflicts whilst satisfying mission objectives.

"We have a lot of former and current police officers in our unit, and with their role, they help bring a lot to the individual correspondence between Afghans and us because they're good at reading people," said Pfc. Mikko Waino, an infantry Soldier for Bravo Co., 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Regt. "There is obviously a language barrier between the Afghan people and us, so with that, we're able to know signs or things that they do that'll help us understand them more, and we will be able to develop better relationships with them."

Guardian angel elements usually operate in tandem with their Security Force Assistance Brigade counterparts in advise and assist missions, which necessitate joint training exercises with each other.

"Some of the 2nd SFAB Soldiers from Fort Bragg came in for our first joint training together," said Staff Sgt. Ricardo Anderson, a squad leader for Bravo Co., 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Regt. "The training was phenomenal, and it was completely different from anything that we've ever encountered before. As for our guys, they're really receptive and



Photos by Sgt. Christopher A. Hernandez / 210th RSG/MaD Bde. – Fort Bliss DPTMS

Sgt. Alex Zabel and Spc. Lane Luxem, infantry Soldiers for 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, Wisconsin Army National Guard, take part in an advise and assist scenario during the company's guardian angel squad training exercises conducted at McGregor Range Complex, New Mexico, Feb.

want to learn from this since this is all new for us."

Another critical part of their training regimen is close quarters combat (also known as short-range marksmanship), relevant to the unit's hypothetical scenarios while deployed overseas.

"Short-range marksmanship is focused on the M9 and M4 about 25 meters and in," Schultz said. "It was really good to be able to go through everyone's marksmanship development and learn how they have to set up their kit, or how we have to position themselves in an environment to put an enemy down if we have to."

Waino echoes Schultz's sentiments, highlighting the criticality of CQC in confined spaces.

"With our job as guardian angels, that close-range marksmanship is paramount because we may have two individuals standing two feet apart and we (need) to be able

to handle a threat in any scenario with only minimal distance between us," Waino said.

Given the short timeframe for their readiness, proficiency is key.

"I want them to feel confident in their abilities to stop a threat," Schultz said. "It's about getting those (junior enlisted Soldiers) comfortable in where they'll recognize the heuristics of the room...and if a situation does pop up, they need to feel confident in their training in order to eliminate threats."

The Soldiers of Bravo Co., 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Regt. will continue to train and hone their skills here. As Anderson puts it, complacency can have a negative impact. Hence, he stresses that the key to success is to be continuously adaptive to any situation, regardless of conditions.

"I told them what to expect, and to not get their hopes up over a lot of things," Anderson said. "It's never what they would expect to happen, and to always plan for the worst."

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### El Paso-based Army Reserve medical unit plays critical role in Soldier deployment

A 30-minute drive past El Paso's city limits in any direction leads to the Chihuahuan Desert sand, shrub and mountains, as far as the eye can see. Going north, the drive will lead to a secluded training ground, part of Fort Bliss, which holds an important mission in the United States Department of Defense.

McGregor Range Complex consists of more than 678,000 acres of training ground, designed to provide deploying units the space required for pre-deployment certifications, a requirement to deploy. To support the medical needs of service members in training at times more than 14,000 service members - U.S. Army Reserve Medical Command's 7413th Troop Medical Clinic (TMC), out of El Paso, provides 35 Reserve-component Soldiers specializing in everything from preventive health to radiology.

"We're the first TMC to take that building so our mission was to open, set up and support the McGregor Range Aid Station for all Soldiers training, (mobilizing or demobilizing) out of McGregor Range," said Maj. John Bricker, officer-in-charge, 7413th TMC.

Since the 7413th TMC's activation, their mission has evolved from simply setting up and beginning operations at McGregor Range, to supporting more than 4,000 National Guard, Army Reserve and active-duty service members with Level I+, or role one+, medical care. This provides triage and treatment, while also offering laboratory and X-ray services. The small company of 35 Soldiers also supports operations for surrounding primary care, preventive health and dental clinics.

Because deploying units have strict schedules, the health of service members is essential to unit readiness and success.

"We try to get (Soldiers) back to training because that's the whole deal. Soldiers come from [states like] Nebraska, Wisconsin, and they are not used to (hot, dry climates)," said Brinker. "Each individual Soldier has training requirements that they need to complete, if they aren't in the field training they're



Marcy Sanchez / WBAMC PA

Sgt. Joseph Lingeman, practical nursing specialist, 7413th Troop Medical Clinic, checks on Pfc. Casey Shahad of the 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey National Guard, out of Port Murray, New Jersey, during a sick call appointment at the 7413th TMC aid station at McGregor Range Complex, New Mexico, Feb. 6.

missing out on that requirement and essentially their unit may not get certified."

Aside from acclimatization, occupational risks also pose a threat to unit readiness as deploying Soldiers reacquaint themselves with the armored equipment and vehicles needed during missions.

"Most injuries are musculoskeletal injuries and respiratory issues," said Bricker, adding that over the unit's year-long mission, more than 700 cases were due to musculoskeletal injuries.

Preparing for upcoming training is essential for mission success, as the company is kept in the loop regarding upcoming troop movements to prepare for increased operations. One of the unit's busiest periods occurs during exercise Roving Sands, a threeweek long joint Air Defense exercise which welcomes more than 10,000 Soldiers to the training grounds and simulates combat operations in an austere environment.

"They're here to train and get ready to go," said Capt. Bernardo Black, a case manager with the 7413th TMC. "When they are sick, we do what we have to do, if that means we're open for 24 hours then we open 24 hours."

For the 7413th TMC, the year-long activation has tested their readiness, while offering opportunities to develop the Soldiers of the

"We train as if we're going to leave at any time. One of our Soldiers is a retail store

manager, but here he's a medic," explains Black. "He's getting great exposure, got back up to par and is a great medic so if they need him (to deploy overseas) he's ready to go. For a whole year he's been training for what the Army needs him to do."

While the mission comes first, Soldiers within the unit are still taking opportunities during mobilization time to progress their Army skills through courses such as Basic Leaders Course and Air Assault. Regardless of formal training opportunities, Soldiers participate in unit training aimed at increasing proficiency in medical skills. The training, sometimes referred to as Individual Critical Task List, identifies deficiencies in common medical skills and builds on those skills.

Because Fort Bliss serves as one of the U.S. Army's Mobilization Force Generation Installations, which provides training support capability to reserve-component units, McGregor Range stays busy 24/7, which makes tracking each Soldier for continued care complicated for the range's medical en-

"If a Soldier gets hurt we have to track that Soldier from point A to point B and where they are going next," said Black. "Sometimes we have to consult with commanders, but in the end we're the medical authority. We're going to do everything in our power to get Soldiers back to normal, but we make sure Soldiers aren't away from training longer than needed."

The 7413th TMC's effectiveness has been recognized by William Beaumont Army Medical Center as the region's top primary care clerks, as determined by the Joint Outpatient Experience Survey, while also receiving recognition from the U.S. Navy for supporting their training at the range as well.

The unit transferred authority to the 7412th Troop Medical Clinic Feb. 11 and will demobilize in March, returning to their homes to await their next mission, more ready than ever.



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### Airmobile crane aims to improve Army battlefield aviation maintenance

By Sgt. 1st Class Richard Sosa | U.S. Army OTC

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. - The ability of Army helicopter repairers to support maintenance in remote locations may improve enormously if the airmobile Expeditionary Crane proves effective in austere environments during operational testing.

Recently, aircraft maintainers of Alaska's 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, ran five Self-Propelled Crane Maintenance and Positioning, Increment II systems through their paces in downed aircraft and harsh environment scenarios.

Capt. Dick Lofthouse, the product manager for the Aviation Ground Support Equipment office said, "The SCAMP II Expeditionary Crane program embraces the Chief of Staff of the Army's initiative to speed up Army Acquisition by taking advantage of technology available in the commercial mar-

The new crane looks to provide Downed Aircraft Recovery Teams with a crane capable of CH-47 Chinook Helicopter internal transport to a downed aircraft site, as well as the ability to maneuver across various austere terrains.

"The Expeditionary Crane capitalizes on a commercially available crane that already has a proven track record in the public sector as well as Army Aviation for performance and reliability," said Lofthouse.

According to 1-52 AVN Staff Sgt. Ian Van Harper, the SCAMP II reduces repair times.

"I just performed a real-life downed aircraft recovery mission in austere confined space landing zone late last September," he said. "Had I had access to the expeditionary crane with its mobility, we would have done it in half the time - three hours instead of

Brian Apgar / U.S. Army OTO

Spc. William Maldonado, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter maintainer with 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, performs a driven assessment during operational testing of the Self-Propelled Crane Maintenance and Positioning, Increment II (SCAMP II) in January. The SCAMP II Expeditionary Crane capitalizes on a commercially-available crane that already has a proven track record in the public sector as well as Army Aviation for performance and reliability.

The Expeditionary Crane has the potential to increase a unit's ability to conduct splitbased operations, because it is lighter and airmobile.

"If a unit was fielded with multiple systems it would greatly increase the capability during split operations to multiple locations," said Staff Sgt. Bradley Obenland.

"During a previous rotation to Europe, my unit had been split between locations where

there was little to no capability to remove large components from an aircraft without coordinating external support, where the SCAMP II would have been ideal."

A test team from the Fort Hood-based U.S. Army Operational Test Command applied post-mission surveys and after action reviews to collect data directly from the SCAMP II operators and maintenance crews to inform senior Army leaders on whether the mobile crane system is effective, suitable

and reliable on the modern battlefield.

"The team was able to see and hear how the Soldiers interacted with the equipment while driving the SCAMP II across varied terrains and perform major maintenance procedures on the CH-47 and the UH-60," said Gary Vaughn, assistant test officer, with the OTC's Aviation Test Directorate.

During the test, Soldiers employed the Expeditionary Crane under chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive and cold weather environments.

They also maneuvered the system across improved, unimproved, and cross-country terrains under day, night, and night-vision goggle conditions.

"Upon arrival to a simulated downed CH-47, maintenance crews removed and reinstalled an aft aircraft blade," said Sgt. 1st Class Leonel Rubio, operations NCO, with AVTD. "These conditions enabled evaluators to determine the Expeditionary Cranes' overall effectiveness in enhancing the maintenance crews' ability to complete DART operations in austere environments."

To conduct proper testing, OTC coordinated using Category B CH-47 and UH-60 trainer helicopters from the 128th Aviation Brigade at JBLE, along with facility support from Felker Army Airfield, so maintenance teams could remove and reinstall a CH-47 aft pylon and remove and reinstall a UH-60 five pack.

Data collected during the test will support an independent evaluation by the U.S. Army Evaluation Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. AEC will determine the SCAMP's effectiveness, suitability, and survivability as an expeditionary crane. AEC's evaluation will support a full-rate initial production decision later this year.



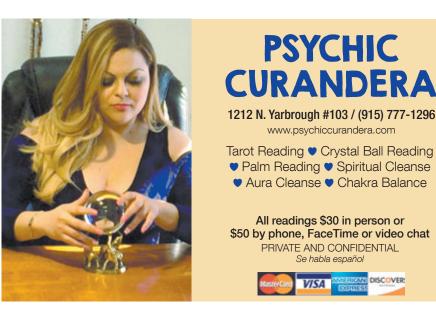




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Spc. Dustin D. Biven / 22nd MPAD

M2 Bradley fighting vehicles are lined up in Grafenwoehr, Germany to be fitted with Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System gear in 2018 in preparation for a field exercise during Combined Resolve X. Exercise Combined Resolve X was an U.S. Army Europe exercise series held twice a year in the major training areas of southeastern Germany. The Joint Warfighting Assessment leveraged Combined Resolve X, along with the Air Force's Blue Flag, that were also occurring in Europe at that time.

# JMC setting the stage for largest annual modernization exercise this spring

By Maj. Rich Marsh | Joint Modernization Command

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. – Fort Bliss' Joint Modernization Command is training hundreds of Soldiers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, in preparation for the Army's largest annual modernization exercise, Joint Warfighting Assessment 19.

The upcoming exercise, taking place April 23 - May 10, will train U.S. and partner-nation Soldiers for combat against a near-peer adversary in Asia and the Pacific.

The ongoing effort by JMC focuses on getting Soldiers ready to use new, experimental technology in the exercise. For the last three weeks, JMC instructors have trained more than 360 Soldiers from multiple units on two



Nancy Jones Bonbrest / PEO C3T
NIE 14.2 featured more than 900 Marines, a British mechanized brigade headquarters and 3,800
Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, who fought side-by-side in a combination of live, virtual and constructive battles in 2018.

Historically, the NIE complimented the JWA, gain-

ing Soldier feedback to help improve government

and industry technologies.

of the many new systems that will feature at JWA 19: the Command Post Computing Environment and the Robotic Complex Breaching Concept.

Both CPCE and RCBC are designed to make units more lethal on the hyperactive modern battlefield. CPCE is a computer software application that combines certain functions of a command post into a single graphical user interface. Capt. Steven Dowell, an I Corps staff officer, praised the way the application enhanced his situational awareness.

"One minute I could be monitoring all the units that are entering or exiting a main supply route," he said, "the next I could be chatting online with joint or multinational naval fires observers."

Dowell believes it will be helpful on the battlefield when identifying and evacuating civilians away from the battle.

JMC instructors also worked with Soldiers from JBLM to develop the training plan for employing the RCBC concept at JWA 19. The RCBC concept employs robotic autonomous systems to reduce enemy minefields. Its remote-controlled mine plows, unmanned aerial vehicles, and autonomous loitering munitions are all intended to lighten the burden placed on Soldiers by the traditionally dangerous task of breaching obstacles under enemy fire.

The JMC training team, led by Bryan Feeser, will remain at JBLM through the start of JWA 19 in the last week of April. With another two dozen systems slated for training, Feeser and the rest of the JMC team have their work cut out for them, but the effort will pay off.

"The training events and the teaching yet to come are, without a doubt, essential to the overall success of the exercise and the nation's rapidly-modernizing Army," Feeser said.



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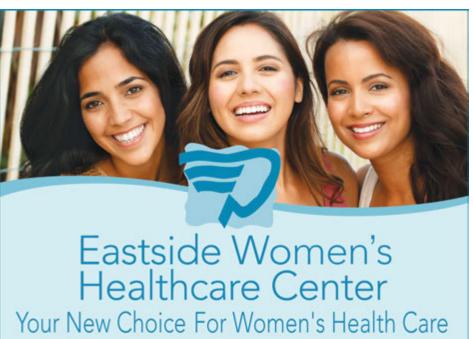
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## Army fields new handgun system to USMPS

By Dawn M. Arden | Fort Leonard Wood PA

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – The Army began fielding M17 and M18 Modular Handgun Systems to the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood in December to replace the force's aging Beretta M9, a weapon that has been in use since the mid-1980s and is quickly reaching its serviceability limits.

Sporting an integrated rail system, a polymer grip module and self-illuminating sights, the modernized 9 mm pistol produced by Sig Sauer couldn't have come at a better time, according to Mark Farley, USAMPS deputy commandant.

"The (Beretta M9s) we currently have are breaking more often, which causes readiness issues," Farley said. He explained that the school's M9s have fired on average about 20,000 to 30,000 rounds, when a typical handgun will last through only about 10,000 before they start to have significant issues.

Gary Homer, USAMPS instructor, added, "With these 17 and 18s, you won't get degradation of the barrel until after 25,000 rounds. The new MHS has an exponentially longer lifespan or life expectancy."

Homer said every MHS is test fired before leaving the factory with 13 rounds -- three to break in the weapon and 10 to test accuracy. He said each one must hit 10 out of 10 at 25 meters in a smaller than 3-inch group attesting to the gun's accuracy level.

Both Farley and Homer agree that one of the biggest selling points of the new MHS is the modular grips, which come in small, medium and large that allow for



Lewis Perkins / U.S. Army

The Army began fielding the modernized M17 and M18 Modular Handgun Systems to the Military Police School in December. The school is expected to receive about 1,400 weapons in total.

the pistol to be modified to the individual shooter.

"The Military Police Corps, is about 16 percent female Soldiers, so this is a big deal when you're talking about Soldier lethality and accuracy," Farley said. "For all Soldiers to be able to hold that weapon with a proper grip and use the right fundamentals of firing — it's very important in order for them to be able to engage the target and thereafter. One size does

not fit all."

In addition to being able to add lights to the guns with the rail system, John Scarbrough, USAMPS instructor, said another thing he likes about the modernized weapons is the consistent trigger. He said this will help the MP students coming through the school's many courses.

"There is a more consistent trigger so you don't have to get used to 12 and then a four-and-a-half or

5 pound trigger," Scarbrough said.
"Your first shot is the same as your
17th shot."

He said the trigger pull in conjunction with the modular grips will improve overall accuracy.

"We have had students before who had to use two fingers to pull the trigger due to strength because of their hand position, or they're holding the gun in an awkward position so it's not managing recoil," Scarbrough said. "Those are "For all Soldiers to be able to hold that weapon with a proper grip and use the right fundamentals of firing – it's very important in order for them to be able to engage the target and thereafter."

>> Mark Farley

the two biggest things that I think will help out whomever is shooting them."

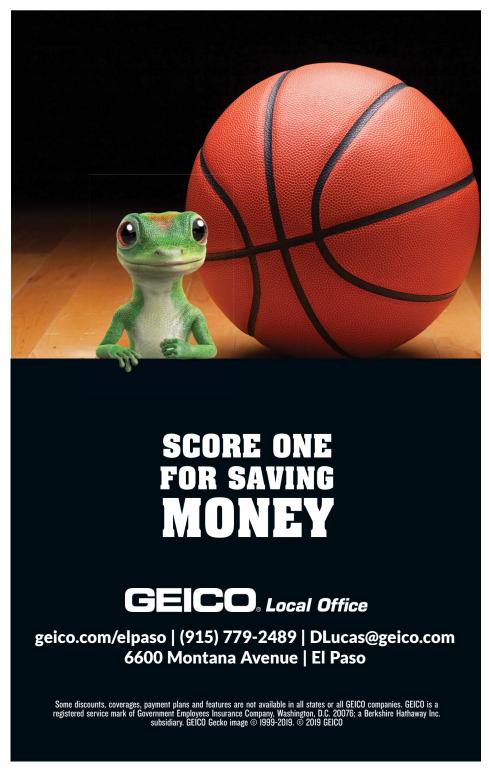
Farley agreed and said it's not just the equipment that's being modernized. He said USAMPS recently changed their qualification tables as well.

"It came at the right time where we were trying to make training a little more stringent and harder. This gun won't make it easier, but it will ease some of the transition on this new qualification table that is just now being exposed to Soldiers in the field," Farley said. "It wasn't coordinated but it worked out well."

Farley said they are excited about the new handgun system, adding that it's long overdue. "The sooner we can get it fully fielded to the operational units and the full training base then operational readiness will be enhanced."

So far the school has only received a few hundred of these systems, but is expecting to receive approximately 1,400.





### Treatment capabilities broaden as medical device introduced at WBAMC

"If more patients

can have the

benefit of the

new device,

that's good news

all around."

>> Kenneth Holshouser

After a tour in Germany, Maj. Elizabeth Holshouser was ready to move back to the United States. to begin an assignment at Fort Bliss. A week before her move, her annual mammogram revealed a pair of tumors.

Prior to leaving Germany, Elizabeth and her husband had started considering treatment options, should tests come back positive for breast cancer, a diagnosis neither were anticipating, and something that would alter future plans for Holshouser, who was slated to deploy with the 131st Field Hospital. Additionally, the couple were concerned the relocation would limit accessibility to first-class care for her condition.

"When you find out you have cancer, you immediately think of (world-renowned cancer centers)," said Kenneth Holshouser, Elizabeth's husband. "You want to make sure you have the best care when it comes to cancer."

As a certified registered nurse anesthetist, returning to Fort Bliss meant an opportunity for Elizabeth to discuss treatment options with familiar medical professionals, as she had previously spent a tour here.

"I hand-delivered the (radiology) disc to the general surgery group (at William Beaumont Army Medical Center)," said Elizabeth, who has served in the Army for 25 vears. "(The staff) scheduled me an appointment quickly for biopsies, which came back positive."

As part of WBAMC's multidisciplinary approach to treating cancer, several healthcare professionals discussed treatment options with Elizabeth, including reconstructive surgery, if she elects to do so.

"They told me like 50,000 treatment options; we talked about it for hours," said Elizabeth. "They wanted to do the best thing

Due to a family history of breast cancer and for emotional well-being, Elizabeth elected to have a double mastectomy.

As part of reconstructive options, Lt. Col. Owen Johnson III introduced Elizabeth to a laser-assisted indocyanine green angiography portable handheld imaging device, a new surgical tool which enables surgeons to visualize microvascular blood flow and related tissue perfusion, making more complex

surgical cases possible. The device had never been offered at WBAMC before Elizabeth's case, but is fairly common at cancer centers.

"(Laser-assisted docyanine green angiography) uses laser and fluorescence from an injectable medication called indocyanine green to look at very small blood vessels which are invisible to the naked eye," said Johnson, chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at WBAMC. "Using this

technique, you can (theoretically) use a permanent implant on the same day as their mastectomy, so it's all done in one day."

Although the one-step breast reconstruction, also known as direct to implant, has been practiced for years on select candidates, Elizabeth's anatomy and location of the tumor made the procedure risky without the aid of the LAICGA device. The device consists of a portable, handheld imager which surgeons aim at the surgical area, and can then visualize minute vessels for perfusion

assessment on displays, a capability Johnson describes as "having x-ray vision".

By doing so, the innovative procedure decreases chances of tissue necrosis. The device is also considered safe for use in microsurgery and gastrointestinal surgery cases.

'We're always in a position where we have to make a prediction or guess as to whether there is enough blood supply that (skin) will live," said Johnson. "If we're wrong, if we think the skin looks okay, and

we put in tissue expanders or soft tissue implants and a week later all that skin is dead, then the implants get infected we go back to surgery and remove everything. It's a huge disaster because now the patient has had additional surgeries, they have infected wounds that will take a while to heal, and the reconstruction basically starts all

According to Johnson, Elizabeth's tumors were very close to the surface, so close that following

the mastectomy the skin was so thin doctors could see their fingers through the skin.

"This is the exact scenario that if I had not had (the device) I wouldn't have proceeded," said Johnson, a native of Woodbridge, Virginia. "Under normal circumstances I would have abandoned reconstruction. If (surgeons) proceed with reconstruction (in cases such as Elizabeth's) and they're wrong, it's devastating for the patient. Reconstruction would take multiple surgeries and probably two years to recover from that, so it's a very high-stakes decision (operating without the aid of the device) to make."

While the Holshousers wait for test results from biopsies to determine if all the cancer was removed, and for medical reasons, Elizabeth opted for tissue expanders, which will allow her time to recover and adjust before her final surgery for permanent implants. Without the use of the device, Elizabeth would have been looking at a longer reconstruction period than what was offered her.

"I felt completely blessed to have (WBAMC Oncology and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery) as my medical team. They've been on board with each other and I've had appointments with both to discuss at the same time," said Elizabeth.

"The amount of time these guys put in with (Elizabeth) and thinking outside of the box, it's amazing, these guys are incredible," said Kenneth. "If more patients can have the benefit of the new device, that's good news all around."

Aside from minimizing procedures and recovery time, the introduction of the device at WBAMC changes the operations available to breast cancer patients while providing confidence that WBAMC may provide the same cutting-edge technology available at other medical centers.

"It really has opened a new frontier of breast reconstruction at WBAMC because now there's truly no treatment we can't offer in terms of breast cancer treatment or reconstruction," said Johnson.

The surgical team at WBAMC has already conducted multiple surgeries using the device, including a successful direct to implant case. The device can potentially be used for trauma patients as well.







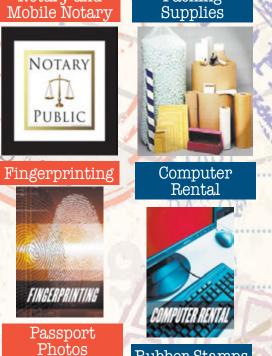


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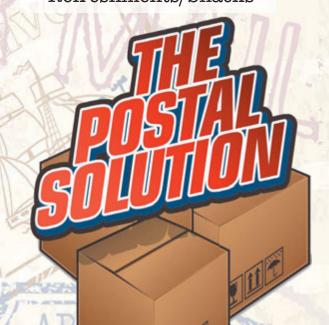








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Cadets from the University of Guam's U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program view a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system assigned to Task Force Talon as part of leader development partnership at Andersen Air Base, Guam, recently.

# E-3 ADA (THAAD) and Task Force Talon partner with University of Guam Army ROTC

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Pernot | U.S. Army

Co-located on the island of Guam, the University of Guam and Task Force Talon have a unique opportunity for professional development.

TFT is assigned to Andersen Air Force Base in Yigo, Guam. TFT is comprised of Echo Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, staff and support elements.

In turn, the University of Guam is located in Mangilao, Guam. The university has an impressive Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps department, which commissions approximately 12 cadets to second lieutenants every year.

In the spring of 2018 a connection was established between the professor of Military Science from the Guam Army ROTC, Lt. Col. Christopher Rivers, and the Task Force Talon Commander, Lt. Col. Johannes Castro.

Echo Battery began to send personnel from their unit to teach the cadets at the University of Guam. Lieutenants from Echo Battery gave firsthand advice on taking command of a platoon and interacting with Soldiers. This was an especially unique opportunity given that new lieutenants in the battery could give firsthand advice on taking command of a platoon and interacting with their Soldiers to the cadet.

First Lt. Wei Ye commented on his experience with the partnership of both units.

"It was a very different opportunity and I think both the students and ourselves benefited from it," said Ye. "Giving valuable advice from the perspective of a new platoon leader and getting the chance to improve our mentoring and communication skills at the same time."

Second Lt. Joyce Boria was able to at tend physical readiness training with TFT and Echo Battery. Borja is part of the staff at the university and looks to gain experience before heading to Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Borja commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery officer and is in a prime location to learn branch-specific skills. She now has a better understanding of the dynamics of a battery so she will be better prepared for her career in Air Defense Artillery.

The cornerstone of this relationship has been tours of the THAAD site given to ROTC cadets at the university. These tours give the students a glimpse of the mission of Echo Battery, the Soldiers that defend Guam, Security Forces and the equipment used at the THAAD site. They now have a better understanding about the high state of readiness that exists in a unit that is constantly prepared for any threat that may present itself. For the cadets, this experience adds context to their education.

In 2018, at the spring commissioning ceremony for the University of Guam, Capt. Jared Kuntz, the former commander of Echo Battery and Lt. Col. Castro, the commander



Capt. Jared Kuntz, left, and Lt. Col. Johannes Castro, right, pose for a photo with newly-commissioned 2nd Lt. Joyce Borja, during her commissioning ceremony in Guam recently.

of TFT, attended the ceremony to show their support for the commissioning second lieutenants. Also in attendance was Brig. Gen. Sean Gainey, then commander of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

In addition to their attendance at the ceremony, they administered a leader professional development sit-down with the cadets before the ceremony started.

As the commanders of their respective units, Castro and Rivers gave their perspective of this unique partnership.

"This program provides 'real world' leadership and helps prepare the students for BOLC; It is especially helpful for the students who are branching Air Defense Artillery, like 2nd Lt. Borja, but it is not just Air Defense, the students get a perspective from Task Force Wolf (Security Forces at the THAAD site) and maintenance, which are valuable parts of what we do," said Castro.

"The MS3 and MS4 cadets get to participate in dialogue at the university, giving them an opportunity to ask questions of Soldiers in positions they will be in very soon," stated Castro. "The MS4 cadets also get to partner up with lieutenants on site, and get a perspective from them on the ground, actually doing their job."

Rivers said the partnership gives cadets exposure to ADA capabilities, and what is expected of them as future leaders.

"It lets them understand what makes a second lieutenant successful, and gives them an experience of life on site, performing daily functions in a real unit," Rivers added. "For the future, the program will continue regardless of the leadership that may change. The program has been excellent so far. In the future we would like to have staff officers or maintenance personnel, the subject matter experts, come in to teach the MS4 cadets to give them context."



Dave Burge / Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle Brig. Gen. Clem Coward is the commanding general for the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command. This is his fifth tour at Fort Bliss, dating back to 1989.

# 32nd AAMDC CG, career Air Defender a 'normal guy'

By Dave Burge | Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

The commanding general of the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command is so thrilled with his latest assignment, he has a hard time describing what it means to him.

It certainly is "something more than a dream" come true or some other cliché like that, said Brig. Gen. Clem Coward.

"I don't know how to describe it," Coward said. "It is a privilege and an honor. I never really expected anything like this."

Coward, a 52-year-old from Fayetteville, North Carolina, took over as commanding general of the 32nd AAMDC Nov. 7. It is his fifth tour at Fort Bliss - a place he and his family have grown to love over the years.

"Being gone for three-and-a-half years, it wasn't too strange coming back here," Coward said. "It felt like I just left. But obviously, I had to pinch myself knowing the job I was about to go into and the opportunity to serve with Soldiers. It felt like old home week."

Most recently, Coward served on the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

His previous assignments at Fort Bliss included being a battalion commander for the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment and brigade commander with the 11th ADA Brigade.

"This patch (the 32nd AAMDC) was the first patch I ever wore as a second lieutenant," Coward said. "Wearing that patch, kind of book-ends my career."

As commanding general for the 32nd AAMDC, Coward oversees a far-flung division-level command with 8,000 Soldiers scattered at five U.S. installations and four Middle Eastern countries. That includes the 11th ADA Bde. here at Fort Bliss.

Coward's main focus is on producing ready forces who can deploy anywhere in the world on a moment's notice, he said. In particular, he wants to emphasize batterylevel training.

es coming up that are designed to enhance

Roving Sands will be held the first two weeks of March in the Fort Bliss training area and will draw troops from all over the

The exercise – which revived the name of the large-scale Fort Bliss training exercise from the 1990s --- is now in its second year after a 15-year hiatus.

Coward said it is an Air Defense version of a National Training Center rotation.

"This gives you the opportunity to do multiple moves, stress the unit, obviously maintain safety, but at the same time boost the unit past its limitations," Coward said.

Roving Sands will help train Air Defense Soldiers so they are ready for the conflicts of the future, he added.

"We know - the experts and leaders - that conflicts will be different," Coward said. "They will be hard. We have to get back into the business of shooting, communicating and maneuvering. Those things are a perish-

In April, Soldiers from the 32nd AAMDC who are deployed in the Middle East will participate in an Air and Missile Defense exercise. The command's headquarters will travel to the Middle East to participate as well.

The exercise will be a chance to work with partner nations and also make sure the 32nd AAMDC is able to work with higher echelon commands such as U.S. Army Central Command in the Middle East and the Air Force equivalent, Coward said.

The 32nd AAMDC's headquarters is based at Fort Bliss and has about 225 Sol-

It is responsible for making sure its Soldiers are ready and trained, but also for the day-to-day functions of the widespread command, Coward said.

Coward said when his command tenure is done, he wants to be remembered as a "nor-

when I'm at the headquarters here or on the

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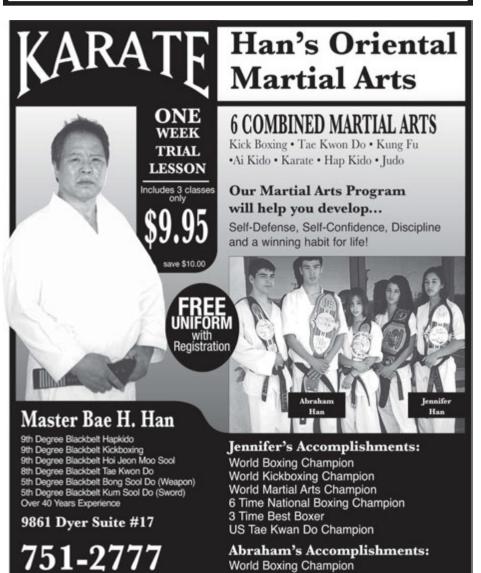


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# >> 32ND AAMDC PREPARES FOR ROVING SANDS

The Fort Bliss Air Defense Artillery command will host the exercise March 1-11

Photots by Sgt. LaShawna Custom / 32nd AAMDC



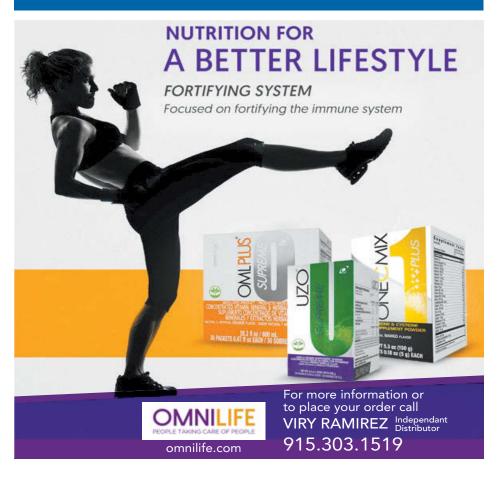
Vehicles from 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade were staged at the Fort Bliss rail yard Feb. 11 for the upcoming Roving Sands exercise.



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th ADA Regt., 108th ADA Bde. ground guided their vehicles off of the tracks and refueled them before staging them Feb. 11.



Vehicles from 3rd Battalion, 4th ADA Regt., 108th ADA Bde. were downloaded and refueled





Staff Sgt. Shawnta Gloria Bynum, Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army Limited User Test NCOIC with the U.S. Army Operational Test Command's Mission Command Test Directorate, shows the different points of data entry of the new IPPS-A personnel and pay system recently. The LUT is taking place and spread out over six Pennsylvania cities, which include Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg, Allentown, Horsham, and Philadelphia, which includes 11 user locations and 17 user sites, replicating the way IPPS-A would be used on a battlefield.

# New Army personnel, pay system tested by PA National Guard across 6 cities

**By Lt. Col. Rudy Grimes** | Mission Command Test Directorate, U.S. Army OTC

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – Despite numbing cold, whiteout snow conditions, high winds, freezing rain and occasional falling two-foot icicles, Soldiers of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard here are midway into testing a radically different personnel and pay system called the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army.

"It's a system that will transform the Army's disparate personnel and pay environment into a single modern system serving all National Guard, Reserve and active-duty Soldiers," said Richard J. Licata, deputy product manager for IPPS-A. "At the same time, IPPS-A is bringing full accountability while ensuring human resources transactions drive pay entitlements."

Before it can be fielded to National Guard units in other states and territories, IPPS-A must prove its mettle with the PAARNG.

The Limited User Test is taking place and spread out over six Pennsylvania cities, which include Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg, Allentown, Horsham, and Philadelphia, which includes 11 user locations and 17 user sites, replicating the way IPPS-A would be used on a battlefield.

"Feedback provided from guard Soldiers will ensure the system is developed, tested, and operating the best it can when it comes time to eventually push the live system to the rest of the state national guards, and the active and U.S. Army Reserve components in the possible near future," said Larry E. Wollenberg, test officer with the Mission Command Test Directorate, U.S. Army Operational Test Command.

A test team with the Fort Hood, Texas-

based OTC, is collecting test data while the U.S. Army Evaluation Center from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, performs data analysis using standards and protocols that compare IPPS-A performance to the Army's current (legacy) system – the Standard Installation/Division Personnel System.

"OTC's data collectors are working overthe-shoulder with full time active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers during the week to collect data on IPPS-A transactions and with Multiple Unit Training Assembly Soldiers, inputting IPPS-A transactions during weekend drills," said Lt. Col. Steven Rodgers, deputy personnel director with the PAARNG.

"There were hiccups at the start of testing as the Soldiers familiarized themselves with the new IPPS-A way of doing personnel transactions," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Louis Burge, a subject matter expert and observer on loan to the test from the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia.

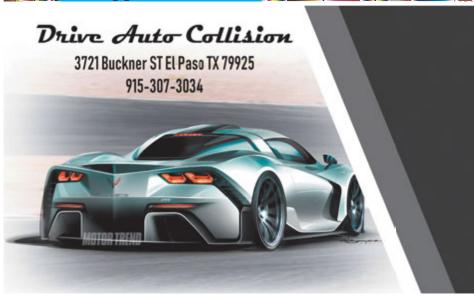
"But things have stabilized and it's now pretty much business as usual," he continued. "Every state does things a bit differently and the architects of IPPS-A have taken these differences into account."

One immediate challenge for PAARNG was to use IPPS-A to successfully execute six days of Soldier Readiness Processing to prepare 600 Soldiers for a future deployment.

According to Licata, the IPPS-A PMO team is able to use LUT data to implement software fixes, provide feedback to users on those fixes, and to develop best practices that will improve current and future deployment versions of IPPS-A.

IPPS-A testing is midway through the LUT which began Jan. 7.



















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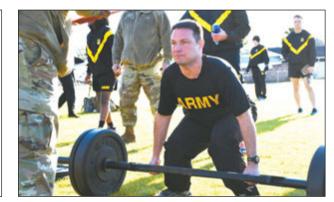


WWII veteran tours exhibits,

shares stories 2B



2019 Post Championship Commander's Cup 5K ■ 7B



Army may use nutritionists, sports trainers to boost readiness ■ 8B

### Things to Do:

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

ACS Newcomers' fair: Are you new to the Fort Bliss and El Paso community? Or are you looking to see what resources are available in the surrounding area? Que Pasa, a newcomers information fair, will be the place to be! Join ACS from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., today at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. Free. 569-4227, ext. 0.

\$10 Tuesdays: Join the Art and Hobby Shop this Tuesday and every Tuesday in February and March from 6-7 p.m. for a cutting system class and learn how to use your Cricut or Silhouette Cutting Machine to their full advantage. Bring your own machine to practice with, or see what ours has to offer. Cost: \$10, includes instruction. Open to DOD ID card holders and family members 15+. 568-5563

Donate your old military boots to SOS: Survivor Outreach Services is in need of 200 military boots. The organization will use the boots for a commemorative display at the Run for the Fallen in April. Take donations to SOS at 241 Sheridan Rd. 568-5970

EPSO's 'The Emperor:' El Paso Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bohuslav Rattay, presents guest pianist Daria Kiseleva, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Plaza Theatre. Cost: \$16-\$45; \$9 and \$11 for students (Ticketmaster). 532-3776 or epso.org.

Gabriel Iglesias: The comedian's "Beyond the Fluffy" World Tour" is 8 p.m. Friday at UTEP's Don Haskins Center. Iglesias is one of the few elite comedians who has headlined and sold out the Staples Center, Madison Square Garden and the Sydney Opera House. Cost: \$40-\$75 (Fluffyguy.com and Ticketmaster)

The Museum Rocks Gem and Mineral Show: The 6th annual gem and mineral show will be Saturday and Sunday at New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces, N.M. Sponsored by Friends of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Cost: \$7 (\$4 age 6-11; free for age 5 and younger); includes museum admission. (575) 522-1232 or lcmuseumrocks.com

Pet Fair: El Paso Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual event to help pet owners respect and care for their pets 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at Westside Community Park, 7400 High Ridge, with vets, adoptions, local pet-oriented vendors on-site promoting their programs, live entertainment and food vendors. Free. 212-0092 or elpasotexas.gov/

Hal Marcus Gallery: See "Latina Arte," with works by Latina artists Teresa Fernandez, Carmen Navar, Romy Hawkins, Martha Arzabala, Leticia Luevanos, Lillian Sandoval, Erica Zamora and Isabel Olivares, on display through Feb. 28. Gallery is open 12-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. 1308 N. Oregon. 533-9090 or halmarcus.com

Pot of Gold Bingo: Everyone who plays from Wednesday, March 2, 6, 9 and 13 can enter for a chance to win the gold! The winning name will be drawn during St. Paddy's night Bingo March 16 at the Centennial Club. The winner must be present to claim the prize. Bingo Bliss is every Wednesday and Saturday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Paper packs start at \$15 on Wednesdays and \$20 on Saturdays. Open to DOD ID cardholders and their guests, age 18+. 744-8427

Underwood Golf tourney: Underwood Golf Complex is having their Spring Trifecta Golf Tournament, March 2 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This is a two person team, 27-hole tournament. It will be 9-holes of scramble, 9-holes of best ball and 9-holes of alternate shot. \$50 includes green fee, cart fee and lunch. Registration deadline is March 1. Open to the public, ages 18+.

CYS Date Night childcare March 2: CYS will provide child care Saturday at Milam CDC Mar. 2 from 1 to 11 p.m. For more information about Saturday child care, or reservations, please call Milam CDC at 744-7879

Army Warrior Trials: Wounded Warrior athletes will compete in adaptive sports March 7-15 at different Fort Bliss FMWR physical fitness centers. 744-1532

Auditions for Verdi Requiem: Do you love to sing? Audition to join the El Paso Choral Society on the Abraham Chavez Theatre stage for the Verdi Requiem March 23, with professional orchestra and soloists. Rehearsals are Mondays 7-9:30 p.m. 833-0263 or www.epchoralsociety.org



Local High School students from the El Paso Independent School District compete at Fort Bliss Feb. 13.

### Culinary Cook Off: Students compete for state title at culinary arts competition at Bliss

By Stephanie J. Santos | 1st AD Public Affairs

Serious faces and precise, defined motions depicted the tone for local high school students as they competed in the annual El Paso Independent School District's Culinary Arts Competition Feb 13 at Fort Bliss. More than 50 participants, ranging from sophomores to seniors were challenged in three categories: baking, cooking and fine dining.

The participants showed off their skills in an industry-sized kitchen for the three-day event. Judges included military food services personnel, civilians, military chefs, contractors and local restaurant employees.

"Students are judged on their cuts, cooking, cleaning practices and presentation skills,' said Sgt. Danielle Marquez, who has been a military chef for the past six years, and was

selected as one of the judges for the event.

In the past, Marquez has competed in military culinary competitions and added that it "felt good to be on the other side of the table."

The military chef slowly walked around each cooking station and took copious notes while students made entrées such as poached salmon with sauce and sautéed tomatoes, croutons, soup and salad during the four-hour

Students competing in the baking category were moving quickly throughout the kitchen area as their challenge included making pastries, baking pie crusts, breads, and muffins, as well as decorating cakes.

Culinary Arts teacher Christopher Puga judged the students' baking abilities, and emphasized that the competition was an overall, positive experience.

"This is good for the students, this is their field. People will criticize them, but we can share our knowledge and lead them in the right direction," he said.

Fine dining judge Rebekah Dudley echoed Puga's sentiments as she critiqued students on napkin folding, table setting and cleanliness.

"I enjoy watching the students learn how to excel under pressure, said Dudley. "They quickly overcome their first-time jitters and focus on hosting, and customer service."

In order to compete in this regional competition, students had to first compete in their respective high schools. The overall winners move on to represent the state in Corpus Christi.

### Fort Bliss commemorates African-American History Month

By Master Sgt. Alex Licea | 1st AD Public

Soldiers, families and civilian personnel from across Fort Bliss gathered at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center Feb. 13 to celebrate African-American History month.

This year's observance was themed "Black Migrations" and was hosted by the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Col. Michael J. Trotter, commander of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, expressed the importance of the event highlighting the significant contributions that African-Americans have made throughout the nation's history.

"Every year we come together to celebrate the countless contributions and sacrifices made African-Americans, many

of whom lived through and surmounted the scourge of segregation, racial prejudice, and discrimination to enrich every fiber of American life," he said. "Many African-Americans have served our nation at war leaving a mark of heroism in service to our nation."

Trotter then introduced the keynote speaker for this year's event, Command Sgt. Maj. Willie T. Grandison. The Fort Jackson, S.C.-based leader spoke about the importance of this year's theme and its impact across our nation.

"From 1916 to the early 1970s, the Black migration consisted of over six million African-Americans who had endured the life of oppressive conditions, lynchings, an unfair legal system, and a lack of education," he said. "These people made a very brave decision to migrate to different cities in the North and West in search for better opportunities and just a simple way of life."

Grandison expressed how the migrations from the Jim Crowera South reshaped the demographic landscape of America, starting new lives in several cities and making them epicenters of cultural changes, artistic innovation, and thriving productivity.

"The children of the Black migration would have not had the chance to reshape professions had their families not left," he said. "Because of their actions, African-Americans today have contributed in sports, music, literature, and arts."

Grandison added that the significance of the Black migration had no true leader like the leaders who emerged during the Civil Rights Movement like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.

"During the Black migration there was no leader, there was no set date," he said. "Millions of people just decided that enough was enough and they needed a better life and a better job."

"That was the amazing thing about the Black migration, and it lasted from 1916 to 1970," he added. "Can you imagine something that long without a predominate leader? People were just

Grandison received a standing ovation following his remarks. Trotter, along with his senior enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. Tony T. Towns, presented Grandison with a gift from the Fort Bliss community in appreciation for his participation in the

# World War II veteran tours exhibits, shares stories during 10th Mountain Division Museum visit

By Mike Strasser | Fort Drum Garrison Public Affairs

FORT DRUM, N.Y. - Moving from one exhibit to another at the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum, Howard Hall saw a few reminders from his time in service more than 70 years ago.

Sometimes this would prompt the 99-yearold World War II veteran to share a story or two with his family members and Sepp Scanlin, museum director, during his visit Jan. 29 to Fort Drum.

Hall was drafted in the U.S. Army in 1943, and he left his job at Sealright Company in Fulton, New York, for 14 weeks of basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"First time in 40 years they had snow down there," said Hall, a lifelong Oswego, New York, resident. "Some of those guys had never seen snow before."

Hall said that he made good friends with a Soldier during basic training who struggled to pass the physical.

"He went to Europe when I went to the South Pacific, but we were good buddies," he said. "They would tell you not to get too wellacquainted with the guy next to you - don't make good friends – but you can't help it."

He also received three months of infantry training at Fort Ord, California, before shipping out to the Pacific theater. Hall served as a truck driver for Headquarters Company, 32nd Infantry Division, and he is still proud of his unit, known as the "Red Arrow Division."

"More days in combat than any other division during the war," he said.

Hall said that his job was moving hundreds of gallons of water from treatment plants to the front lines.

"They told me that it was a seven-day-aweek operation, but you don't have to stand in any formations, so I took the job," he said. "I was all over the islands, but I don't think anyone even knew who I was. I don't even remember my first sergeant's name."

While deployed in the Philippines, Hall

was fortunate enough to meet a few service members from his hometown.

"One time, I was stuck in the water and I got out of my truck and went to the guy ahead of me," Hall said. "I rapped on the door to say 'gimme a tow out of this mud,' and it was the guy down the street from where I lived. I think there was five guys that I met from home in one month."

Hall brought a scrapbook to the museum filled with newspaper clippings and photos that he had taken during his deployment that captures his time in the Philippines, New Guinea and Japan.

"I had one of those box cameras, and I would stuff it in the bottom of my duffel and kept it covered up," he said. "It never got damaged. We would send the film down to the Air Force on the coast of New Guinea, and they would develop it and send it back quick."

Not everything he photographed made it back home, though.

"Everything was censored and you couldn't take any pictures of any military equipment or vehicles, but I was taking lots of pictures of people," Hall said. "I sent one home, and it was censored. The next week I sent it home in another letter, and I got it back again. Three times it came back. The next thing I knew, the captain wanted to see me up in headquarters."

The officer explained that the self-portrait of Hall was fine, just not the body of water in the background.

"That was the only lake in New Guinea, and he told me if that letter was ever intercepted by the enemy then they would know right where we were," Hall said.

Hall also brought a second scrapbook with him that told the story of his younger brother's Army service. He still has the letters and photos that his brother Bob mailed home while training with the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale, Colorado.

"I remember my brother telling me that they would ski on the weekends, and the MPs



Mike Strasser / Fort Drum Garrison Public Aff

Howard Hall, a 99-year-old World War II veteran, talks about his brother's experience training with the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale, Colorado, while his son John holds up a picture of his uncle. Hall and members of his family visited the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum Jan. 29 for a tour with Sepp Scanlin, museum director.

(military police) were all over the place writing up guys who were speeding on skis," he said. "Eighty-miles-an-hour downhill, and they were written up, because you belong to the Army and if you wind up in the hospital because of an accident, they lose good help

Hall said that his brother wanted to be a ski instructor when he returned home, but, unfortunately, that did not happen. The young private transferred to another unit – the Americal Division (23rd Infantry Division) - and was killed in combat on the island of Cebu, Philip-

During the museum tour, Scanlin was able to show the family some of the equipment that their relative would have trained with as a ski trooper. He also provided some historical context to some of Hall's stories.

"Often the family lore and legend that people understand is factual at the local level, but they don't have the background to understand the larger forces at play," Scanlin said. "In this case, the visit was particularly poignant in that not only was he able to share his personal experiences with the 32nd Infantry Division, but he shared memories of his brother who trained at Camp Hale."

Scanlin said that he enjoys meeting visitors with an interest in military history, but it takes on a greater significance when that person is a WWII veteran. Given the restrictions to entering post and the small museum staff, he said that they make every effort to host these veterans and their families.

"It is our local version of an honor flight," Scanlin said.

Hall said that he wanted to visit Fort Drum after he had spoken with Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division Band when they performed in Fulton, New York.

"We tried to get on post once before, but we couldn't get through security," he said. "This was nice, though, getting to see all of this for the first time."

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## Rapping recruiters 'giving all' to share their Army story

By Devon L. Suits | Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – In case you missed it, U.S. Army Recruiting Command dropped its newest music video "Giving All I Got," beckoning all potential recruits to step up and help strengthen the Army team.

Sgts. 1st Class Arlondo Sutton and Jason Brenner Locke, who are assigned to the Atlanta and Houston recruiting battalions, respectively, wrote and produced the new single.

"We're trying to convey this positive message, [that] you can maintain your individuality and still be a Soldier," Locke said about producing music to support Army recruiting. "[Soldiers] have emotions, dreams, and aspirations, just like anybody else.

"We just decided to throw on a pair of boots, wear this uniform [to help] carry our nation and carry on our family name."

Starting with the track's hook – "Giving all I got. I'm never going to stop. Army changed my life. Gave me a new clock" – the song highlights the positive impact the Army has had on both recruiters, Sutton said.

Sutton had a humbling start to his life while growing up in a single-parent home in Norfolk,

Virginia.

"Growing up in poverty is very difficult," he said. "I didn't know whose shoes I had on, I didn't know whose clothes I had on. I grew up staying with my grandmother ... in one room, and sleeping at the edge of the bed."

On the cusp of going down the wrong path in life, his high school track coach, who was a retired Soldier, reached out to mentor him.

"My father figure: My coach. He [mentored me] when I was going through a hard time," Sutton said. "He was the one to actually notice my [athletic] talents. I joined the Army to better myself, [and] to follow in [his] footsteps."

It was long after joining the Army when Sutton realized he had some musical talent. While deployed to Iraq as a young sergeant, he produced hip hop tracks to help ease his mind.

A friend later convinced him to compete in a rap music competition and Sutton took third place. This evolved into his new passion and profession, Sutton said.

Similar to his partner, Locke also said he had a rough childhood as he grew up in a "not so great area" of Houston. And while Locke did not share much about his past, he remains focused on the positive in life.

"I just wanted to kind of change the lifestyle I was in. I knew that one of the ways of changing my life was to step outside the confines of comfort," he said. "It doesn't matter where I was at. What matters is what the Army did for me and where I'm going now."

Locke admitted hip-hop was not his first choice in music. During his early teenage years, Locke spent most of his time bouncing from band to band, or as he called it, "bandhopping."

"I was trying to find people that were as invested in music as I was. I never found them," Locke said.

Locke then turned to a friend for help, who explained to Locke how his talent was better suited for hiphop. After some changes to his lyrics, Locke was hooked. "It changed my perception of how to write [music]. It turned into a poetic ordeal and ... an emotional outlet for me," he said.

"Giving All I Got" was created as a way to bridge the gap and speak the language of to-day's youth, according to both recruiters.

"I think it's easier to bend someone's ear

when you throw it into a rhythmic pattern," Locke said. "You're going to be a little bit more inclined to listen."

While some may criticize their work, the duo keeps their eyes on the bigger picture.

"The main target audiences are not people that are in the Army," Locke said. "The main aim is the people that are not aware of the Army, and all the preconceived notions and ... stereotypes [they have]. That's what we, as recruiters, are consistently having to overcome. That is what we're doing with this music."

In their music video, both recruiters can be seen singing and dancing in locations throughout Fort Benning, Georgia, and the streets of Atlanta. The video features a variety of Army career fields, to include military working dogs, infantry, snipers, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band.

Behind the scenes, Army visual information specialists helped put the video together. Moreover, Soldiers stationed at Fort Benning assisted in bringing the video to life.

Recently, the Army identified 22 focus cities with growing populations, known to have minimal exposure to the Army. The new video aims to inspire highly-qualified 18- to 24-year-olds, as part of a larger USAREC-led social media engagement effort.

In the end, reaching the Army's recruitment goals will require all recruiters and Soldiers to go that extra mile, Sutton said.

"There are going to be people out there that have a lot of good talent," Sutton said, commenting on his career and music success.

"My talent is just outworking my competitors. We all could get up at the same time, but I choose to get up earlier."

Inspired by one of his role models, Sutton is determined to be the LeBron James of the Army, he said, smiling.

"If [James] went out there and said, 'Hey, I need 50 people to come and join,' people would join based on his character and his beliefs," Sutton said. "That's what I want to do for the Army."

Likewise, Locke is motivated to leave his mark on the Army, all while solidifying the idea that you can be both an individual and a Soldier.

"I want to be remembered as someone that made a difference," he said.





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## Becoming a leader worth following: Part I of VI

By Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Mucher |

Family Life Chaplain, USAG Fort Bliss

The following is part one of a six-part series. Let me begin by introducing myself and inviting you to join me on a journey of leading well and becoming a leader worth following. I am your new installation family life chaplain. My family and I arrived in El Paso just



Chaplain (Maj.) **Kevin Mucher** 

over a month ago and we are excited to be part of the Fort Bliss community and leadership team. My wife Jennie and I have been married over 18 years and we have six children. Over the next several weeks, I will be discussing the importance of leading well. I will begin with the topic of self-

leadership.

Over my 27-year profession as a Soldier, I have served in numerous leadership positions. Leading others and my family well remains one of my top priorities, but if I am to lead others well, it begins with leading myself. Self-leadership begins with the discouraging

realization that I have participated in every bad decision that I have ever made. I was there for all of them--all of the bad financial decisions, professional decisions, relational decisions, parenting decisions--the list goes on and on. The common denominator of all my bad decisions was me.

How about you? You know when we stop and think about it, we were the masterminds behind our own greatest regrets.

Truth be told, I am difficult to lead. A couple of months ago, I heard Andy Stanley teach on this subject and he gave three reasons why it's important to lead yourself well.

The first one is pretty obvious. Here it is. You won't be a leader worth following if you don't lead yourself well.

We all know leaders in our organizations who get results and are exceptional performers professionally but are a mess personally. They are succeeding as organizational leaders but failing in their personal and family lives.

We follow them because we have to. Our report cards will be impacted if we don't. However, if we are honest, we don't want to be like them. We don't consider them leaders worth

following. The context where we first see this played out is at home. Think about it. Whether you want to be like your mother and father has far less to do with what they said to you, than it does with how well they lead themselves.

We want to be like our parents, not because they taught us well but because they modeled well. That's what garners respect in our hearts for our parents. The same is true in leadership.

Perhaps the greatest example of self-leadership in my opinion is seen in the life of Jesus Christ recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Luke tells us that Jesus "grew in wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52, NIV).

Essentially, he led himself well intellectually, physically, and relationally with his father and others. Jesus modeled exceptional self-leadership, which was caught more than taught. In fact, many years after his death, the apostle Paul passionately proclaimed to his followers, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1,

"We all know leaders in our organizations who get results and are exceptional performers professionally but are a mess personally."

>> Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Mucher

You and I have family members, Soldiers, and employees who are observing us every day and looking to us to lead them well. If we are going to be a leader worth following, then we must lead ourselves exceptionally well. Next week, we will continue our journey on becoming a leader worth following.

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#### **Hope Chapel**

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

#### **1st Armored Division**

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

#### **USASMA Memorial Chapel**

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

#### **WBAMC Protestant Community**

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

#### **RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES**

#### **Catholic Women of the Chapel**

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

#### **Protestant Women of the Chapel**

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

#### **Protestant Youth Group**

(11275 Biggs St. 568-4334)

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

Post-wide Bible Study (Bldg. 449) Wednesdays 6-8 p.m.

#### **CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICES**

#### St. Michael's Catholic Community

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



#### **WBAMC Hospital Chapel**

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

#### **German Chapel**

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

#### **OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

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

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

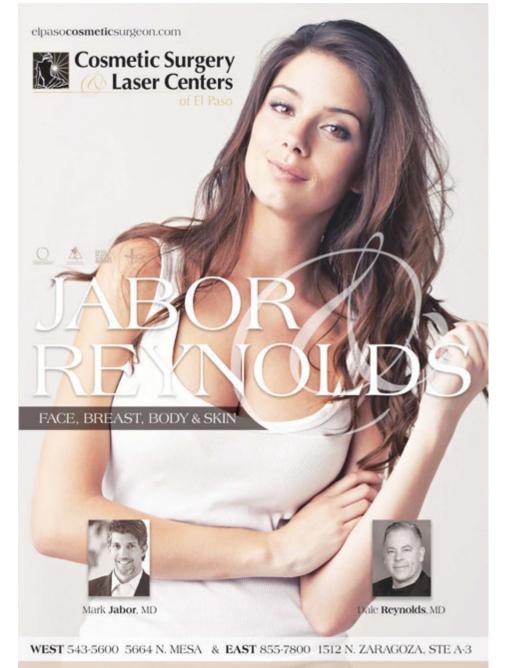
#### **Buddhist Service**

(Bldg. 449 Pershing Road) has returned with new times: Thursday 6 p.m. Intro to Nichiren Buddhism every other Tuesday 5 p.m.

### **Introduction to Nichiren Buddhism**

(Bldg. 449, Religious Activities Center) Friday, 6 p.m.









Troops to Teachers is a military career transition program that helps eligible members of the armed forces begin new careers as K-12 public school teachers. Skills acquired in the military like leadership, initiative, discipline, integrity, and the ability to thrive in an everchanging environment are a natural fit for the classroom. Apply at proudtoserveagain.com. Become a part of the Texas teaching family.

Contact us at texastroopstoteachers.org or 800-810-5484.

### Know your rights when filing wind damage tort claims

By Jeffrey Tasher | Fort Bliss Claims Office

With the approach of the customary windy season in the El Paso area, damage to property from strong winds occurring on Fort Bliss is fairly common.

Before July 5, 2017, the Fort Bliss Claims Office considered claims for damage to Soldiers' personal property from heavy wind under the Personnel Claims Act enacted by Congress as a gratuitous payment statute and with no requirement that the claimant show fault by the government in order to recover. However, since then, the centralized Army Claims Office at Fort Knox, Kentucky, is handling those personnel claims.

For example, a Soldier claiming damage from heavy winds to a privately owned vehicle parked at the barracks will be referred to the Fort Knox Claims Office for adjudication. Soldier personnel claims for losses incurred from heavy winds are processed for payment under the lighter "incident to service" standard of the PCA. When a wind damage claim cannot be considered for payment under the PCA because the party is not an eligible claimant (i.e., not a Soldier) or the damage is not incurred incident to service, then the claim will next be evaluated as a tort claim.

Tort claims are filed with and adjudicated by the Fort Bliss Claims Office. A tort claim, in general, may subject the government to liability when the negligent act or omission of an Army employee, occurring within the course and scope of that person's employment, causes damage to the person or property of another. In cases of property damage, the tort claimant property owner may be either a Soldier on a non-Soldier. Typical tort damage claims seen at this installation are damage to POVs from wind-driven objects propelled into the vehicle from unsecured post entry gates, runaway Commissary or PX shopping carts, or other debris blown into the vehicle, with the allegation that the Army as premises owner acted negligently in causing or allowing the damage to occur.

The general principle of tort law is that a premises owner is not responsible for dam-



age to another person's property occurring on the premises where the damage was caused by the wind, rain, hail, snow, or other Acts of God. As a matter of tort law, applicable to the installation, the owner is only liable where the damage was foreseeable and there is a showing of independent acts of owner negligence, such as failure to secure the object that actually caused the damage (e.g., unsecured gate or shopping cart) under circumstances where it was foreseeable that the failure to take preventive measures would result in the damage sustained.

For example, if the post MPs, during the months of heavy winds (usually March and April) fail to secure an entry or exit gate which swings open and strikes a POV, then it is foreseeable that this failure will result in property damage and such incident will probably be payable as a tort claim.

The issue of damage to POVs from run-

away shopping carts and the compensability of such claims is handed under this same general analysis, but with an additional inquiry of who actually was responsible for the operation or movement of the cart at the time of the incident. The government by statute is not responsible under tort law for the negligent acts or omissions of its contractors, those hired by the contractor, or persons granted permission by the installation commander to engage in on-post business, all of whom are known legally as "licensees" and not government employees. Commissary baggers who take control of the shopping cart in the parking lot while carrying groceries to patrons' vehicles are not considered government employees. They are considered

For example, during a period of heavy winds, a shopping cart handled or under the control of the bagger slips out of his grasp and rolls into a patron's vehicle, causing damage to the POV. In such cases, unless the patron can point to an independent act of government negligence (such as damage actually caused by a runaway cart ejected by the wind from a cart corral not property secured), the claim is not payable. In the case of damage occurring from heavy winds where the cart simply slipped from the bagger's grasp or control and struck the claimant's POV, the claim will be denied and the claimant will be referred to seek a remedy directly from the bagger.

Persons wishing to file a tort property damage claim stemming from a wind-driven incident occurring on the installation may do so contacting the Fort Bliss Claims Office located on the first floor of Building 113 on Pershing Rd. at 568-5846/6587.



# 'Girls will be girls:' The hidden dangers of social aggression

**By Lisa Smith Molinari** | www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com Lilly was our easy child.

As a baby, she sat contentedly on my hip while I did home therapy with her developmentally-delayed older brother, or while I argued with her stronger-willed big sister. In school, Lilly made friends easily at every duty station. Her teachers would move Lilly's desk away from her pals to stop her from chatting, but she would simply strike up new conversations with whomever sat nearby.

One afternoon while stationed in Germany, I raced out of our base apartment to our minivan, because I had forgotten to pick Lilly up from elementary school, and it was raining. Gunning the engine up a hill, I saw Lilly happily running alone down the sidewalk, arms outstretched and eyes closed, her backpack flopping under her bob of sandy brown hair. As fat raindrops splatted on her sweet face, she grinned from ear to ear with pure joy.

That was Lilly.

Not surprisingly, she amassed a group of 17 girlfriends in high school, despite being the military kid on scholarship at a prestigious private school. I snapped copious photos of her fun-loving group dolled up for dances, so proud that Lilly's easy-going personality had allowed her to breeze through the complex social quagmire of adolescence.

But now, Lilly is a freshman in college, struggling with negative body image issues, low self-esteem, and depression.

Not Lilly! How did this happen?

In an attempt to help, I am looking back at Lilly's seemingly problem-free adolescence for answers. It turns out, her situation was not as simple as it seemed.

In today's violent society, parents, educators and experts are talking openly about the potential dangers of chalking aggressive male behavior up to "boys will be boys." In the #MeToo era, girls are told they must band together to fight the real problem — male aggression. Few would suspect that girls might actually hurt each other, and subtle "mean girl" manipulations often go unnoticed until lasting psychological damage is done.

Although "relational aggression" has long been considered a form of bullying that can include "gossip, rumor spreading, public embarrassment, social exclusion, and alliance building," this behavior is sometimes accepted by parents and educators as a right of passage for girls. However, research indicates that this type of subtle bullying can lead to the development of low self-esteem, eating disorders, anxiety, depression and even suicide for both the victims and the mean girls themselves.

Although Lilly hid her angst from us to keep her "happy-go-lucky" reputation in our family, she has now admitted what was really going on in high school. Although she still fiercely defends her friend group, she admits there was a social ladder that she clung to precariously, with two particular girls con-

sistently at the top. These "ringleaders" were often mean in subtle ways — using their control to temporarily exclude or shame members of the group over minor conflicts. The ringleaders were intimidating enough that the other girls in the group did not stick up for each other, for fear that they might be the next victims of embarrassment or isolation.

Petty jealousy over a boy who had a crush on Lilly prompted one ringleader to scream at her to, "Get the f\*\*\* out of my room!" Even though the dozen other girls present later admitted that the ringleader's behavior was completely unjustified, not one of them came to Lilly's defense. She was not accepted back into the group for a week.

Also, comments made within the friend group about weight profoundly affected Lilly. On one occasion, Lilly's friend held up a very large pair of pants she found in her room and said in front of the group, "Lilly, these are way too big for me, but it looks like they might be your size." I assume this friend hadn't meant to hurt her, but soon Lilly stopped eating in the dining hall. This and other weight-related comments were permanently burned into her fragile adolescent psyche.

Now, I grit my teeth. I should have asked more questions when I had the chance. But instead of seeing the insidious dangers under the surface, I obliviously snapped photos of those beautiful, glittering girls.

#### Links:

https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/worry-free-kids/201801/why-we-need-address-mean-girl-behavior-early-and-often www.stopbullying.gov

https://www.verywellfamily.com/bullying-linked-to-eating-disorders-460616

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/ youthviolence/bullyingresearch/index.html

https://www.melissainstitute.org/documents/2006/Meich\_06\_genderdifferences. PDF

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4695776/

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2018/07/26/little-mean-girls-helping-your-daughter-swim-in-those-chop-py-social-waters/?utm\_term=.653cc782efba

https://www.verywellfamily.com/relational-aggression-bullying-460498

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/ Sarah\_Coyne2/publication/7677457\_ An\_Integrated\_Review\_of\_Indirect\_Relational\_and\_Social\_Aggression/ links/5491ae730cf269b04861699b/An-Integrated-Review-of-Indirect-Relational-and-Social-Aggression.pdf

https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/social-emotional-learning/socialskills-for-kids/bullies-disguise.html

https://www.forbes.com/sites/alicegwalton/2013/02/21/the-psychological-effectsof-bullying-last-well-into-adulthood-studyfinds/#43e927721592





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# SPORTS PRT is an integral part of a Soldier's day.

### **Sports Briefs**

Underwood Golf tourney: Underwood Golf Complex is having their Spring Trifecta Golf Tournament, March 2 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This is a two person team. 27-hole tournament. It will be 9-holes of scramble, 9-holes of best ball and 9-holes of alternate shot. Cost: \$50 includes green fee, cart fee and lunch. There will be prizes to win during the tournament. Registration deadline is March 1. The event is open to the public, ages 18 and older. 568-9979

Army Warrior Trials: Wounded Warrior athletes will compete in adaptive sports March 7-15 at different Fort Bliss physical fitness centers. Come out and support the competitors throughout the week. 744-1532

St. Paddy's Day 1/2 K Race: Register now, then head over to the Monti Warrior Zone March 16 from 3-9 p.m. for a one of a kind 0.5k race. Choose from two entry fee packages: \$25 - gets you two adult or other beverages, a t-shirt, a finisher's medal, a snack at the quarter-mile mark, a sticker & entry to our prize drawings. \$50 - gets you the VIP treatment - everything plus transportation to the finish line (no sneakers required) and extras for your (lack of) effort! Additional sporting events will follow on that day. Register online at raceroster.com or at Stout, Milam and Soto PFCs through March 14. 741-3000 or 744-5785

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

Tennis Scramble: The Tennis Scramble is on the last Wednesday of every month. There is a \$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. 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 pilatesinspired 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. Group Fitness classes between 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. are free for Active-Duty Soldiers in PT Uniform, 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 per person, or \$35 unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

Deep Water: Get ready for Group Fitness' newest class, Deep Water! Using a flotation belt, deep water exercisers will iog, sprint in intervals, wall walk or do a variety of multidimensional movements, including cross country skiing, longlevered kicks, twists and jumping jacks. Classes are 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Aquatic Training Center. The cost is \$3 per class or \$35 for unlimited monthly pass. 744-

Aquafloat: Aquafloat is changing is location to Replica Aquatic Center for Mondays class from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Don't worry there will still be classes at the Aquatics Training Center Thursdays from 9-9:30 a.m. 744-5800

Texas Basic Hunters Education Class: Are you interested about learning how to hunt? If so, head over to Rod and Gun Club on the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This Texas Basic Hunter Education Course is a six hour classroom taught by a Texas Parks & Wildlife-certified instructor. Cost: \$15 and registration is required. It's open to the public. 594-0159



More than 800 runners participated in Friday's Commanders Cup 5K.

Photos by Miguel De Santiago / Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

### 2019 Post Championship Commander's Cup 5K



Sgt. Brandon Jackson of 3rd "Armored Brigade" Combat Team, 1st Armored Division was the first runner to cross the finish line at 17:59.

By Miguel De Santiago | Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

More than 800 runners participated in the Commander's Cup

The yearly event's starting point was at the Soto Physical Fitness Center and the weather was a brisk 30 degrees.

Sgt. Brandon Jackson of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division was the first runner to cross the finish line at

"I just love to run, so it doesn't matter if I'm last or first, I'm just happy to run," Jackson said. "Today was a good day, just

First Lt. Alberto Castro ran through the finish line at 21 minutes and placed 15th overall in his age group, 20-29. He said cold weather can affect a runner's performance.

"As soon as you hear the gun go off, you forget about the cold and you just take off and you just keep going," Castro said. "You don't feel it until mile one, that's when your lungs start hurting; my hands are a little numb but other than that it feels good."

Castro also hoped his teammates were fast enough to earn some medals.

"I wanted to bring them out here to give them a chance to see how they rank against their peers," Castro said. "I just want to see the results. I hope my guys did well."

Tia Mack of Bliss FMWR said the Commander's Cup is made up of a variety of competitions and each unit that participates receive Commander's Cup points. Those points are tallied up at the end of the year and the brigade with the most points wins the Commander's Cup trophy. She added that the competition's 5K grows bigger each year.

"This is one of our largest participations for the Commander's Cup 5K, so it's really nice to see all them come do this," Mack said.

The 5K's results can be found at https://www.facebook.com/ teamblisssports.



Capt. Jessica Donnelly / U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers conduct the deadlift event of the new Army Combat Fitness Test in Georgetown, S.C., Feb. 9. The 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery Regiment is one of six battalions in the National Guard and 63 Armywide selected for the pilot program to help validate scoring and administration of the ACFT.

# Army may use nutritionists, sports trainers to boost readiness

"...for the first

time, really links

physical fitness

with the demands

and rigors of the

battlefield."

>> Mark T. Esper

WASHINGTON - The Army may soon place nutritionists, physical therapists and sports trainers at the unit level to improve individual readiness, said Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper.

The idea is "to really start looking at Soldiers as professional athletes," Esper said Feb. 8 while speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The athletic trainers and therapists are slated to be assigned to brigades and some

battalions later this year as part of a pilot program under the Army's holistic health and fitness system.

The H2F system is overseen by the Center for Initial Military Training and a spokesperson there confirmed that 130 military authorizations will be allocated to units by the end of fiscal year 2019 to "enhance personnel readiness."

Occupational therapists may also be in that mix, Esper said.

While most of the positions will go to brigades, some will be assigned to the 30 maneuver battalions that U.S. Army Forces Command selected last fall to train with health and fitness professionals in hopes of reducing Soldier injuries.

"In the future, once these take place and really take hold, we'll have a more deployable and more capable force," Esper said.

In 2016, the Army began placing athletic trainers at its initial-entry training centers. That year, 20 of them went to Fort Benning, Georgia, to work with Soldiers at all five of the post's training battalions. One goal was to prevent musculoskeletal injuries.

Athletic trainers were also brought into basic combat training sites at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The sports trainers not only educated Soldiers on injury prevention, they also provided treatment to Soldiers following injuries to reduce their recovery times. Instead of sending injured Soldiers to hospitals, they were treated at their units and this saved a significant amount of training time, officials said.

The Army is also extending infantry initial-entry training to improve personnel readiness. A pilot program last year at Fort Benning, Georgia, extended the infantry one-station unit training, or OSUT, from 14 to 22 weeks.

Esper visited Benning to observe the extended OSUT training and said the results

were dramatic. "You're seeing

Soldiers with much higher physical fitness scores," he said, adding that the Infantry graduates were "much more competent, tactically and technically."

The Army has also developed a new fitness test that Esper said better prepares Soldiers for the rigors they will face in combat.

The Army Combat Fitness Test with its six events "for the first

time, really links physical fitness with the demands and rigors of the battlefield," he

In October, the Army selected 63 battalion-sized units to try out the ACFT as part of a pilot program. Mobile training teams went to the battalions to train NCOs on how to conduct the tests. Now these 63 units will begin "field-testing" the ACFT.

Each of the battalions will need to conduct two ACFTs before October and space them about six months apart, according to the Center for Initial Military Training. The field tests will provide data to possibly adjust the ACFT grading standards before the test is adopted by the entire Army.

In October 2020, when the ACFT is implemented across the Army, officials expect it to further decrease injuries, as well as personnel readiness and combat effectiveness.

"At the end of the day, the Army is a people business," Esper said, "and people are our most important asset."











# OFF DUTY<sub>32</sub>

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

#### **Bliss Briefs**

**Tax Center open:** The Fort Bliss Tax Center is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturdays and training holidays from 10 a.m. -3 p.m. 2910 Cassidy Road. 568-1040

**WSMR Bataan March:** Register for the 2019 Bataan Memorial "Death March.' Registration ends March 3. \$110, \$500. http://bataanmarch.com

**Army Warrior Trials:** Wounded Warrior athletes will compete in adaptive sports March 7-15 at different Fort Bliss FMWR physical fitness centers. Come out and support the competitors throughout the week. 744-1532

**Center Chapel 1 closed**: Due to necessary construction/repair, the Traditional worship service at Center Chapel 1 (no change in time) is now being held at neighboring Sage Hall until May 1. 568-1519

McGregor/FBTX ammo point closings: The McGregor Range/FBTX Ammunition Supply Point will be closed March 18-22; June 17-21; and Sept. 16-20. Issue documents can be submitted through TAMIS during the closures. 569-9528

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

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

ACS Newcomers' fair: Are you new to the Fort Bliss and El Paso community? Or are you looking to see what resources are available in the surrounding area? Que Pasa, a newcomers information fair, will be the place to be! Join Army Community Service from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., today at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. There will be on-post resource tables, El Paso businesses, giveaways and more. Free.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **Debt collection notices:**

This is a debt collection notice for **Pfc. Tyree Ward**. All services under Ward's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Ward or for information regarding collections, call 1st Lt. Ryan Dau at 551-427-2152

This is a debt collection notice for **Sgt. Farhad C. Meskoob**. All services under Farhad's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Farhad or for information regarding collections, call 2nd Lt. Adam W. Turek at 951-212-9533

569-4227, ext. 0.

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

#### **FMWR**

Acrylic Painting Master Class: Join Art & Hobby Shop on a journey through the art and artistry of acrylic painting. You will learn, many tips and techniques of acrylic painting from some of El Paso's finest artists. \$25 includes instruction and materials. DOD ID cardholders and their family members, ages 15 and older. 568-5563

\$10 Tuesdays: Join the Art & Hobby Shop this Tuesday and every Tuesday in February and March from 6–7 p.m. for a cutting system class and learn how to use your Cricut or Silhouette Cutting Machine to their full advantage. Bring your own machine to practice with, or see what ours has to offer. Cost: \$10, includes instruction. Open to DOD ID card holders and family members 15+. 568-5563

**St. Paddy's Day 1/2 K Race:** Register now, then head over to the Monti Warrior Zone March 16 from 3–9 p.m. for a one of a kind 0.5k race. Choose from two entry fee packages: \$25: you get two adult or other beverages, a t-shirt, a finisher's medal, a snack at the quarter-mile mark, a sticker and entry to our prize drawings. \$50: you get the VIP treatment - everything plus transportation to the finish line and extras for your effort! Additional sporting events will follow on that day. Register online at raceroster.com or at Stout, Milam or Soto PFCs through March 14. 741-3000 or 744-5785

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**Pot of Gold Bingo:** Everyone who plays from Wednesday, March 2, 6, 9 and 13 can enter for a chance to win the gold! The winning name will be drawn during St. Paddy's night Bingo March 16 at the Centennial Club. The winner must be present to claim the prize. Bingo Bliss is every Wednesday and Saturday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Open to DOD ID cardholders and their guests, age 18+. 744-8427

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

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

**Pershing Pub:** The Pershing Pub is a great place to gather at the end of a long week. Open every Friday at 4 p.m. (except training holidays). Come enjoy weekly drink specials and free snacks. 568-6272

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

**Kick it at the Monti Warrior Zone:** The Monti Warrior Zone is open Mondays through



#### Que Pasa Fort Bliss!

Date: Feb 21 2019, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Centennial Banquet & Conference Center - 11199 Sgt. E. Churchill St Fort Bliss , TX

→ Google Map

Are you new to the Fort Bliss and the El Paso Communities? Here is your one stop shop to learn what we have to offer! Join us for Que Pasa Fort Bliss at the Centennial Banquet & Conference Center! There will be giveaways, activities, entertainment and door prizes!

Open to the public.

For more information, call 915-569-4227 ext. 0

Sundays. There's lots to do with a fully stocked bar and snack bar, six pool tables, two mini-bowling lanes, Alienware, Playstation/Xbox gaming center, outdoor basketball, sand volleyball and more! Open to the public, ages 18+. 741-3000

#### Go Youth

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

CYS Date Night childcare March 2: CYS will provide child care Saturday at Milam CDC Mar. 2 from 1–11 p.m. For information about Saturday child care, or reservations, call Milam CDC at 744-7879

**Folklorico Dance Saturdays:** Join SKIESUnlimited for their Folklorico Dance Class open for ages 6–18 years old. Students participating in this course will learn a variety of traditional Latin American dances, as well as dances and culture of various regions of Mexico. Cost: \$40 per month, Saturdays 12:15–2 p.m. 568-5544

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

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

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

#### Community

**Pet Fair:** El Paso Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual event to help pet owners respect and care for their pets 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, at Westside Community Park, 7400 High Ridge, with vets, adoptions, local pet-oriented vendors on-site promoting their programs, live entertainment and food vendors. Free. 212-0092 or elpasotexas.gov/parks

**EPSO's 'The Emperor:'** El Paso Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bohuslav Rattay, presents guest pianist Daria Kiseleva, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Plaza Theatre. Selections include Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, op. 73 "Emperor", and Prokofiev's - Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, op. 100. \$16-\$45; \$9 and \$11 for students (Ticketmaster). 532-3776 or epso.org.

Black History Month Parade/Rally: The annual Inter-Club Council Black History Month Parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, at Montana and Pershing and travels east on Montana to Copia then south to Missouri ending at Mary Webb Park, 3401 E. Missouri. This year's theme is "Black Migration." A rally follows the parade noon—3 p.m. in Mary Webb Park, with vendor booths, family activities and entertainment. Free. 861-1745 or elpasoicc@hotmail.com

**Gem and Mineral Show:** The 6th annual gem and mineral show will be Saturday and Sunday at New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces, N.M. Sponsored by Friends of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Wednesday. \$7 (\$4 age 6-11; free for age 5 and younger); includes museum admission. (575) 522-1232 or lcmuseumrocks.com

**Gabriel Iglesias:** The comedian's "Beyond the Fluffy" World Tour" will be at UTEP's Don Haskins Center, 8 p.m. Friday. Iglesias is one of the few elite comedians who has headlined and sold out the Staples Center, Madison Square Garden and the Sydney Opera House. \$40-\$75 (Fluffyguy.com and Ticketmaster)

OCS Alumni Assoc. Reunion Apr. 28: Calling all branches, all classes 1941- present. There will be an OCS Alumni Association Reunion April 28. This is going to be a great time with the opening of Phase I of the OCS Heritage Center; the dedication of more bricks, pavers, and class memorials; the induction of the 2019 The U.S. Army OCS Alumni Association Hall of Fame class; and the presentations of the Nett Award and the Patterson Award. Mini class reunions are welcome to celebrate with the national reunion. www.ocsalumni.org/ or ocsalumnireunion@gmail.com

More parking at Playa Drain Trail: The El Paso County Parks and Recreation Department has made parking easily available for those traveling to enjoy the Playa Drain Trail at the Ascarate Park entrance. The County Tax office parking lot is now open on Saturdays and Sundays from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. with the exception of Parks and Recreation Department designated Holidays and Special Events. The parking lot is located at 301 Manny Martinez Drive off of Delta Drive.

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

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

Verdi Requiem opera: Experience the drama of the Verdi Requiem, an opera in disguise of an orchestral and choral masterpiece March 23. Performed by a 150-voice choir, professional orchestra, and professional soloists. Directed by Prentice Loftin. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.com, the Plaza Theater Box Office, and the El Paso Choral Society. \$10-40

Hal Marcus Gallery: See "Latina Arte," with works by Latina artists Teresa Fernandez, Carmen Navar, Romy Hawkins, Martha Arzabala, Leticia Luevanos, Lillian Sandoval, Erica Zamora and Isabel Olivares, on display through Feb. 28. Gallery is open 12–5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. 1308 N. Oregon. 533-9090 or halmarcus.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Chartering party: The newest members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority at Fort Bliss/El Paso, invites you to their chartering ceremony and reception March 2, 3 p.m. The ceremony will take place at the

Paso Del Norte Community Center, 45380 Ellerthorpe Ave. (310) 913-6394 or www.sigmaswregion.com

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

Cowboy Days: The 20th annual celebration of Southwest pioneer heritage is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 2 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 3, at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces, with two days of cowboy demonstrations, chuckwagon cooking, children's activities, mounted shooting, the 3rd annual CASI Chili Cook-Off, cowboy music, pony rides, gunfight re-enact-ments, and food and craft vendors. Cost: \$5; 4-younger free. Mechanical bull and mini-train rides are \$3 each, and pony rides are \$5. (575) 522-4100 or nmfarmandranchmuseum.org

El Paso Senior Games: The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department's 36th annual games for those age 50 and older run March 2-May 22 at various locations around El Paso. All participants have a chance to qualify for the Texas State Senior Games. Registration: \$15 for 2 events and t-shirt, plus \$5 for each additional event; \$45 for all events. Includes t-shirt. Opening Ceremony is 9 a.m. March 2, at the Polly Harris Senior Center, 650 Wallenberg.Basketball Skills — 10 a.m. Saturday, March 2, at Polly Harris Center. 503-6544 or elpasotexas. gov/parks

Las Cruces Int'l Film Festival: Comedian, film and television star George Lopez and actor and producer Edward James Olmos will appear at the 2019 Las Cruces International Film Festival, presented by New Mexico State University and Visit Las Cruces thru Sunday. Daily screening passes are \$20. Single screening tickets, if available are \$10; available in advance at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall. Other special guests include actress/producer Beverly D'Angelo, actress Zoe Perry, writer/producer Dan Foster, and actress/producer Kathleen

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

One car garage, private front/back yard. No pets. Ready to move-in. Excellent condition. 4702 Frankfort Ave. 525-

#### Miscellaneous

Cherry Poptart comic books, excellent condition. Small collection of 11 books, all kept bagged and boarded. From circa late 1980's. Pics available. \$60 for all. (253) 209-2481

DC Comics Harley Quinn snowglobe, limited edition, mint brand new. Jack in the Box style, features musical song. One of only 2,300 made. \$200 obo. (253) 209-2481

Playboy Centerfolds Collection Book, brand new, mint condition. Includes all monthly playmates from 1954-2007, full color. Hardback, still sealed. \$150 obo. (253) 209-2481

#### **Sporting goods**

Like new Buck Commander 24-Gun Safe. Item BC-24-MB-E-S. Convertible interior, door storage. Five locking points. Electronic lock, back up key. Failed password alarm. \$450

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Boys toddler cold weather jackets, one brand new and one used. New one is two tone blue with inner liner, used one is plaid forest green. Size 5T, both have hoods. \$15 for new, \$10 for used, \$20 both. (253) 209-2481

Chenille black square fabric sofa pillows, set of 4. Slightly used, excellent condition. \$15 for all. (253) 209-2481

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### PUZZLE time.

 $\odot$ \*  $\stackrel{\star}{\cong}$   $\stackrel{\star}{\otimes}$   $\stackrel{\star}{\sim}$   $\stackrel{\star}{\sim}$ 

Solve the code to discover words related to love and affection. (Hint: 26 = e)

18 17 5 5 26 5

Clue: Pecks on the lips

10 23 3 5 Clue: Embraces

25 11 2 7 6 24 26 Clue: Excitement about love

1 7 14 26 6 16 17 6 26

Clue: Sweetheart

#### WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell

OLWREF



Answer: Flower

#### Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Germany on February 14, 1972. I played in a few bands since 1995, but made it big with my current band before doing solo work. One of my biggest hits features a smooth guitar legend.

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**WORDS** ANNIVERSARY BOUQUET CANDY CARDS CELEBRATION CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE CUPID
DESSERT
DOVES
EMBRACE
FEELINGS
FLIRT
FLOWERS
GIFTS
HEARTS
HOLIDAY
HUG
JEWELRY
KISS
LACE
LOVE
MARRIAGE
MEMORIES
MUSIC P0EM RELATIONSHIP

SAINT SERENADE

TRADITION VALENTINE

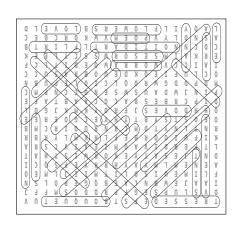
#### **SUDOKU**

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

				2		3	1	
	6						7	5
4					1			
				8			6	
		1			9		5	
3			6	5				2
					6			
7		9						1
			2		8			

2       8       1       2       9       4       9         1       2       9       2       4       6       8       4       2         8       4       9       9       4       6       8       1       7       9         7       6       1       4       9       9       8       4       8         8       9       4       6       8       1       4       9       9         8       9       4       6       8       1       4       9       6         9       4       7       9       9       4       6       8       7       9       1         9       4       7       8       8       7       9       1       6       8       7       9       1									
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3       6       1       7       9       9       8       6       8       7       9         6       8       7       1       9       9       1       7       9       6         6       8       7       1       9       9       1       1       7       9         9       1 </td <td>L</td> <td>2</td> <td>9</td> <td>G</td> <td>†</td> <td>ε</td> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>7</td>	L	2	9	G	†	ε	6	8	7
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	9	L	ε	۷	2	Þ	G	6	8



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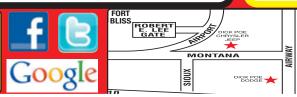
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