



**Bulldogs in South Korea**  
Photos ■ 10A



**New program teams Army medicine with civilian hospitals** ■ 1B

Thursday, February 7, 2019

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## >> MINER MUSCLE

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Sanders / 1st Armored Division PA

Iron Training Detachment Soldiers give their best flexes for the “flex cam” during Military Appreciation Night at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso Jan. 24. The Soldiers rappelled from the rafters as part of the pregame and halftime festivities during the University of Texas at El Paso men’s basketball game against the Monarchs of Old Dominion University. To learn more about the ITD, a 1st Armored Division element, find them on Facebook at @Iron-TrainingDetachment.

# Next stop: Future

## PEO Soldier road show informs, listens to Soldiers

By Miguel De Santiago | Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

Program Executive Office Soldier is making “Iron Man” movie character Tony Stark-level technology a reality for the U.S. Army. The program was at Fort Bliss for two days, Jan. 30 and 31, to showcase an exhibit of gear the program develops at the Fort Bliss Museum, as well display gear and give out information at Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss, the public-private retail area on West Fort Bliss.

“This organization provides everything a Soldier wears and carries from his weapon system to his night vision, also when it comes to communications, situational awareness on the battlefield,” said Alton Stewart, public affairs officer for PEOS. “We have a total of five project manager shops; their main mission is to make sure the Soldier is capable of dominating the battlefield in any environment that we go to.”

Master Sgt. Marc Krugh of PEOS is the project manager of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS), a futuristic, heads-up display that provides crucial information



Miguel De Santiago / Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

A version of the Integrated Head Protection System (IHPS) developed by Program Executive Office Soldier on display on West Fort Bliss Jan. 31

on the battlefield.

“If you’re familiar with the Microsoft Oculus -- that’s primarily the direction we’re going,” Krugh said. “In approximately 24 months we’re working directly with Microsoft to develop this program - it’s new technology, it’s artificial intelligence, machine learning -

there’s a lot of people involved.”

The PEOS’s IVAS project encapsulates the Army’s continued foray into digitization and harnessing the blooming technology of augmented reality for training in what the Army calls STEs, or synthetic training environ-

See **FUTURE** Page 2A

## RDECOM elements reflag under new AFC

By Argie Sarantinos-Perrin | CCDC HQ PA

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The Army Materiel Command (AMC) and Army Futures Command (AFC) held a ceremony Jan. 31, transitioning the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) from AMC to AFC.

The official day of the transfer was Sunday, which is when RDECOM was renamed Combat Capabilities Development Command.

“The United States Army has been focused on the near-term for the last 18 years, and rightfully so. But as we wind down and come out of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan the message is very, very clear, we need to refocus on large-scale, ground combat and we need to refocus on the future,” said Gen. John M. Murray, commanding general of AFC.

As the Army’s newest command and the largest of AFC’s three major elements, the Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDC) comprises eight major and three international centers and laboratories including: Data & Analysis Center; Armaments Center; Army Research Laboratory; Aviation and Missile Center; Chemical Biological Center; Command, Control, Computers, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center; Ground Vehicle Systems Center; and Soldier Center. The international elements are the regionally aligned Americas, Atlantic and Pacific Centers.

Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity officially became part of AFC during the ceremony and was renamed Data & Analysis Center. It was realigned with existing CCDC analysis organizations to create an integrated analysis center.

The three major elements of the AFC include: Futures and Concepts, Combat Development and Combat Systems.

As part of the Combat Development element, CCDC will focus on fundamental scientific research, technology development, engineering and analysis to support the Army’s six modernization priorities: Long-Range Precision Fires, Next-Generation Combat Vehicle, Future Vertical Lift, the Network, Air & Missile Defense and Soldier Lethality. Key tenets of the CCDC’s mission are speed of delivery and integrating technology into existing weapon systems.

CCDC joining AFC is the next step in the Army’s effort to transform its approach to modernize critical core capabilities that will give Soldiers and allies a decisive edge in battle. As the modernization strategy focuses on delivering capabilities to support Multi-Domain Operations by 2028, CCDC will maintain a balance between scientific research to support MDO and technology that may not be developed until 2050 or beyond.

“As the last commander of RDECOM and the first commander of CCDC -- as a Soldier of more than 30 years -- I see no bitterness in what we do here today. I see a new challenge and more reason to hope as we become part of a bigger team taking bolder action to forge the future,” said Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins, commanding general of CCDC.

To prepare for the move to AFC, CCDC S&T advisors engaged with the Modernization Task Force, which became the AFC Headquarters, and the Cross Functional Teams to help drive the modernization process. The CFTs are composed of subject matter experts from the requirements, acquisition, science and technology, test and evaluation, resourcing, contracting,

See **RDECOM** Page 2A

### inside this issue

**Online: Army BLC program**  
went Army-wide Friday ■ 5A

**US Chamber Foundation launches**  
EP MSEEZ to close spouse employment gap ■ 8A

**Molinari: Remotely**  
romantic ■ 4B

### FORT BLISS

Friday



Sunny, cool  
Hi 58, Lo 28

Saturday



Mostly sunny  
Hi 65, Lo 34

Sunday



Mostly sunny  
Hi 62, Lo 47

■ Unit News .....	3A
■ Community .....	1B
■ Sports .....	7B
■ Off Duty .....	9B
■ Army Classifieds .....	10B
■ Commercial Classifieds .....	11B
■ Puzzles .....	11B



# Carson Soldier values integrity during recent events

By Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield | US Army

FORT CARSON, Colo. – While picking up parts for his vehicle at a local hardware store in Fountain, Colorado, a horizontal construction engineer with Alpha Company, 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, recently encountered a unique situation.

“As I got closer to the store, I noticed that the manager was standing in front of the doorway blocking the entrance,” said Pfc. Adrian Vetner, a native of Umtentweni, South Africa. “A man was trying to get past the manager and he had power tools in his hand. He was clearly trying to rob the store.”

The robber was somehow able to get past the manager and ran toward the exit, Vetner said.

“At that moment, without hesitation, I ran - grabbed him - threw him to the ground and held him until the manager took over,” Vetner said. “I didn’t hesitate or think about it twice because at that moment I knew it was the right thing to do.”

Vetner’s personal courage and eagerness to help those around him didn’t stop there.

Six days after stopping the robbery, Vetner was once again put in a situation where his assistance was needed, this time it involved a fellow Soldier.

“I was on my way to work and it was snowing out, and I saw someone had broken down on the side of the road,” he said. “Their tire was laying down a couple feet behind him. I helped him get his new tire on by lending him my jack, made sure he was good to go and went on with my day.”

However, for Vetner, those actions were nothing out of the norm.

He credits his upbringing in a military family and his father, who is a retired colonel in the South African military, for his acts of courage and selflessness.

“I was raised to do the right thing at all times even when no one is watching,” he said. “Sometimes people get the wrong idea [about] military personnel, and if I can do little things here and there to change that mindset, I am happy to do so.”

Capt. Cory Plymel, who recently took command of Alpha Company, said hearing of Vetner’s actions made him feel proud to become part of the company.

“The fact that we have Soldiers who live the Army values on a constant basis is very fulfilling,” Plymel said. “To see someone put those values into action and show what right looks like, especially in such a young Soldier, just shows how great our Soldiers are.”



Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield / U.S. Army

Pfc. Adrian Vetner, a horizontal construction engineer with Alpha Company, 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stopped a robbery at local hardware store in Fountain, Colo., Nov. 27, 2018.

Plymel said he hopes that Vetner’s actions send a greater message, not only to junior Soldiers but to all Soldiers.

“I think it speaks volumes that someone who is not from the U.S. is serving this country and performing these acts of courage and kindness

without thinking twice about it,” Plymel said. “It’s very humbling to see that and it speaks volumes about the Soldiers we have in our Army regardless of where they are from.”

## FROM THE CHIEF

### Illegally-parked recreational vehicles

By Chief Mike Barnes | Fort Bliss Police PSD/DES

As we enter the New Year it is time to remove some of the “ornaments” that have gathered over our installation during the past year. The ornaments that I am referring to are the numerous trailers, campers, ATVs, etc., that have cluttered our installation.

I am asking that if you have a recreation vehicle, watercraft, ATV, or utility trailer to please place it in an authorized storage location prior to March 1. It is the Garrison’s policy not to have these type of vehicles stored on the installation. The policy states, ‘A vehicle (recreational vehicle, watercraft, ATV or utility trailer) is considered to be parked in an unauthorized manner and able to be impounded under the following conditions...

- The vehicle is parked or operated in such a manner as to cause interference with daily operations on the installation.

This includes the long term storage of cars, trailers, boats, ATVs and RVs in areas that are not specifically designated for long-term storage.

As we prepare to remove these vehicles that are in violation of the policy, it is possible that they could be legally towed, auctioned and sold to another owner. The Provost Marshal’s Office has partnered with the Directorate, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation to support this requirement.

Bliss FMWR has recently opened another storage facility at 5815 Abemethy Road that provides long-term storage of automobiles and recreation vehicles for \$30 a month.

Further information can be ascertained through the FMWR Auto Craft Center at 568-7280 or [www.bliss.army.mil](http://www.bliss.army.mil). The Auto Craft Center is located at 820 Marshall Road on West Fort Bliss.

A copy of the police letter can be picked up at the Military Police desk. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions regarding the removal of vehicles at 744-9363.

and make the equipment better,” Blevins said. “What we do is very important but a lot of people don’t know about our office, so we’re trying to give information briefs so people know who we are.”

As an example, Bliss-based Soldiers from 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, are currently wear testing boots prototypes as part of the Soldier-driven program.

Blevins said Soldiers don’t have to wait to be selected to have their inputs heard. The PEOS Soldier Enhancement Program encourages Soldiers to go online or email their ideas or suggestions to their office.

“If they have a better idea for a piece of equipment that we can improve on, we take their suggestions and we see if it’s feasible to make the change – it’s all about innovation and making equipment better for the Soldier.”

For more information on Program Executive Office Soldier visit <https://peosoldier.army.mil/>. To make a suggestion on a piece of gear via their Soldier Enhancement Program visit <https://peosoldier.army.mil/sep>.

#### FUTURE *Continued from Page 1A*

ments.

Krugh said the further development of augmented reality can make planning and training more streamlined since possible mission environments can be constructed digitally, which can eliminate the need to travel or transport Soldiers for mission trainings.

“At the end of the day we’re trying to take the best product and make the Soldier more lethal and give the Soldier the ability to manage combat on the battlefield,” Krugh said.

Master Sgt. Sean Blevins, project manager of Soldier protection and individual equipment, said a Soldier’s helmet and body armor can greatly affect a Soldier’s mobility, lethality, and survivability on the battlefield. He added that PEOS regularly tests equipment by giving it to Soldiers that conduct limited user evaluations in which they can point out the advantages and disadvantages and what could be improved upon.

“We bring it back and the engineers and scientists do the study

#### RDECOM *Continued from Page 1A*

cost and sustainment communities.

The command also launched an across-the-board campaign plan to gain greater visibility of operations and become more effective and efficient. The campaign plan included reorganizing the command’s portfolio and management structures to mirror the Army’s modernization priorities and naming a lead center for each modernization priority.

CCDC collaborates with hundreds of international and domestic academic and industry partners to maintain a steady stream of world-class technology. Becoming part of AFC will enable CCDC to partner in new ways and provide greater clarity and focus for all of the Army’s major commands.

“The world-class scientists and engineers, technicians and support staff of this organization are some of the most talented and respected professionals in their fields. So on behalf of the countless Soldiers you have supported while you’ve been a member of the AMC family for the last 4,450 days, I personally say ‘thank you’,” said Gen. Gustave F. Perna, commanding general of AMC.



Conrad Johnson

From left: Gens. Gustave F. Perna and John M. Murray, the commanding generals of Army Materiel Command and Army Futures Command, respectively, and Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins, commanding general of the newly-flagged Combat Capabilities Development Command, during a Transition of Authority ceremony Jan. 31 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

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UNIT NEWS

>>

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



Army offers more flexibility with new parental leave policy ■ 11A

Unit Briefs

**Hiring Fair:** Looking for a job? If so, make sure to stop by the hiring fair today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. Remember to dress to impress and bring plenty of resumes. The fair is open to DOD ID cardholders. 569-5838

**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. to 3 p.m. 2910 Cassidy Road. 568-1040

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# Foot Soldiers

## 2nd ABCT, 1st AD troops join Army 4-month boots wear test

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

Every Soldier understands the importance of their feet to complete Army missions and rely on their boots to remain sturdy, comfortable and flexible, which is why the U.S. Army is conducting a wear test to eventually issue new hot weather combat boots.

Recently, U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) gave out the prototyped boots to approximately 800 Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division to initiate a four-month long study with the Iron Soldiers.

At the beginning of 2019, NSRDEC kicked off testing four different prototypes of Army hot weather combat boots to receive feedback from Soldiers and ultimately improve the issued combat boots, said Anita Perkins, the technical lead for the boot evaluation with NSRDEC.

Perkins went on to say that a Congressional survey showed “over half of the Soldiers who participated noted they purchased commercial boots once the initial entry phase was complete. That is how we knew that there was some needed improvements. This, then, became an opportunity for us to now take advantage of the current technology and manufacturing footwear industry processes.”

“We started off in a study that compiled the ten most liked boots, which then led us to the four prototypes that we have now,” said Jay McNamara, another footwear research engineer at NSRDEC. “They are meant to be more lightweight, flexible and comfortable. It’s meant to really improve a Soldier’s quality of life.”

Locally, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Williams, senior enlisted advisor for the 2nd ABCT, 1st AD, said he wasn’t surprised the Army chose 2nd ABCT to be a part of the evaluation.

“I understand why the Army chose the Iron Brigade to conduct this test,” Williams said. “Our Sol-

dier’s mission is extremely diverse and will provide a wide array of feedback for the Army’s research and development of new combat boots. I’m glad we can help the Army figure this out while we train on combined arms maneuvers.”

The NSRDEC team has a personal tie with this mission to create a new way to maneuver in comfort and Perkins said the first scores have been positive.

“One of the best feelings I have is being able to see a Soldier put their foot in a boot and look at me wanting to hug me,” explained Perkins. “Just in the initial issuing of the boots, the Soldiers are giving great feedback; but, nothing’s official yet until we complete the entire study.”

Pfc. Austin Tryon, an infantry Soldier with 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment and a wear tester said he was excited by the potential for a new direction for the standard boots.

“I am definitely excited about the new boots that we may be getting,” he said. “The old ones, even though they were the right size felt like they were too long. Well, the inside fit too tight, but the outsides were very big.”

With the training posture of 2nd ABCT, NSRDEC hopes “to come back after four months to collect the data, which will then go on to make real improvements to the hot weather combat boots for all future Soldiers,” says McNamara.

Capt. Lucas Makens, a planner with 2nd ABCT, 1st AD, said he hoped NSRDEC’s visit would serve as proof that the Army is going to its most knowledgeable experts for feedback on the Army’s road forward – Soldiers themselves.

“A study like this goes to show that Soldiers’ voices are being listened to and steps are being made to mitigate their grievances,” he said. “As we move forward, we hope that Soldiers continue to speak out their opinion in these surveys to improve the future of the Army.”



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

Spc. Walter Thomas, an infantry Soldier with 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, puts on one out of four prototypes of the Army hot weather combat boots. The boots were issued to approximately 800 Soldiers from 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

### >> INTERMODAL OPERATIONS

Photos by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Benjamin Lewis / Naval Station Rota, Spain PA



Soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division and 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group load an AH-60 Apache helicopter onto a C-5 aircraft during Intermodal operations at Naval Station Rota, Spain, Jan. 30. Intermodal operations combine sea and air transportation to reduce cargo handling, improve security, minimize damage and allow quicker transportation.

(Left) Airmen assigned to the 22nd Airlift Squadron and Soldiers assigned to the 1st AD and 1109th TASMGM load an AH-60 Apache helicopter onto a C-5 aircraft during Intermodal operations at Naval Station Rota, Spain, Jan. 30.







# Online: Army BLC program went Army-wide Friday

By Danielle O'Donnell | Fort Bliss NCO-L COE

The time has come for the newly redesigned Basic Leader Course to become fully operational at all active component Non-commissioned Officer Academies. With the publishing of EXORD 236-15, Armywide Implementation of the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System, in July 2015, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command called for the redesign of BLC.

In the last eight months, many changes have occurred with the new BLC model.

One change in particular has all 34 of the active-component NCOAs launching their BLCs to start and stop on the same calendar days, allowing for predictability across the component and maximizing the available school seats through the Institutional Training Common Operating Picture.

The ITCOP offers commanders and leaders a holistic view of training slots available for NCOPDS, allowing them to capitalize on the vacancies and gain opportunities to schedule Soldiers for training.

Through this scope “the Order of Merit List is used to ensure the right Soldier is attending the right course at the right time,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Simmons, director, NCO Professional Development and Education.

BLC provides the foundation for further development along the Professional Military Education learning continuum. Across the globe, Soldiers in the rank of specialist (promotable), will start attending their first enlisted leadership school.

Throughout the history of The United States Sergeants Major Academy, BLC has evolved.

What was originally called the Primary Leadership Development Course changed in October 2005 to the Warrior Leader Course. The then, battle-focused training was tailored to the operational Army environment of the time while the junior NCOs were taught basic skills needed to lead Soldiers in



David Poe / Fort Bliss Garrison PA

A Basic Leader Course student researches a project at the Fort Bliss Noncommissioned Officer Academy in 2018. The Fort -wideBliss NCOA was the first NCOA across U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command to field the reformed professional development course.

a learning environment of static slides and lectures.

The new BLC emphasizes the necessary leader attributes to fight and win our nation’s wars (through promoting critical thinking, problem solving, resiliency, agility, innovation, creativity and adaptability). BLC is designed to build leader and trainer skills

needed to lead a team-size element.


A Soldier in the new BLC can expect collaborative learning in groups of four working through problems as a team. There will now be an emphasis on writing, critical thinking and speaking, to ready our future enlisted leaders in understanding their operational environment and their Soldiers.

“The Army’s greatest asset is our people, which is why the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence develops the programs of instruction for the Army’s NCO PME courses based on current doctrine and the Leader Core Competencies”, said by Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Henry, deputy commandant, NCOL CoE.

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# 'Cautious optimism'

Afghan security forces taking lead with new capabilities says returning BCT commander

By Sean Kimmons | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – After an insider attack killed the police chief of Kandahar Province and wounded two U.S. Soldiers, the Afghan government had a defiant response, a senior Army officer said Jan. 30.

The Taliban had hoped the Oct. 18 attack would deter the country's parliamentary elections, which were only a few days away. Instead, the government carried them out and its security forces protected polling sites and delivered election material on their own in what was believed to be their first time doing so. As a result, voter turnout in Kandahar came in higher than expected.

"They planned the security, they collaborated and they ultimately conducted it," said Col. David Zinn, commander of 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "It demonstrates the resiliency of the Afghan security forces we saw in the south following that very tragic attack."

Zinn, who also served as the deputy commander of Train Advise Assist Command-South, spoke to reporters recently about his brigade's nine-month deployment that ended in November.

While deployed, he said his brigade observed Afghan security forces continually take the lead and roll out a series of improved capabilities.

The Afghan National Army, for instance, employed unmanned aerial sensors to identify targets for artillery and assist with close air support. Afghan pilots carried out missions on Afghan attack and transportation helicopters.

"Afghan security forces conduct patrols and offensive operations and are responsible for the security of their country," Zinn said. "Coalition forces have a small footprint and provide training, advising and enabler support."

Soldiers in his brigade also worked closely with coalition partners. Romanian and Bulgarian troops helped them secure Kandahar Airfield, while Australian officers filled critical roles on the TAAC-South staff.

Zinn's brigade mainly focused on advising at the corps level, he said, while the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade concentrated at the brigade level and below.

One of Zinn's battalions, however, served as a theater response force and sent groups of Soldiers to advise Afghans at outposts as part of expeditionary advisory operations.

At the same time as its Afghanistan de-



Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield / U.S. Army Sgt. Patrick Cooperider, an infantry Soldier with 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducts a fingerprint scan with the Biometrics Automated Toolset in 2018 during a ground defense area patrol in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Col. David Zinn spoke to reporters at the Pentagon Jan. 30 about his brigade's nine-month deployment, which ended in November.

ployment, his brigade also deployed a cavalry squadron to Kosovo as part of Operation Joint Guardian. There, Soldiers performed reconnaissance and security along the administrative border between Kosovo and Serbia.

Being able to split up its forces and still complete both missions, the colonel said, showed the effectiveness of his brigade to conduct operations in separate locations.

"It suggests that a U.S. Army brigade combat team is suited to conduct expeditionary operations [with] a mission command capability," he said.

The brigade plans to embark on another unique journey after Army leaders announced last year the unit would convert from an infantry BCT to a Stryker BCT in the spring of 2020.

The decision is part of the Army's realignment of forces to deter near-peer adversaries or, if needed, to defeat them.

Earlier in the deployment, Zinn also recalled how the Afghan government unilaterally declared a three-day ceasefire in June for the Islamic holiday of Eid. It was the country's first cessation of hostilities at the national level, he said.

While the Taliban did not publicly agree to it, Zinn said enemy fighters could still be seen across the country celebrating the temporary peace alongside Afghan security forces and the Afghan people.

When the ceasefire ended, the Taliban resumed its attacks. The brief pause in fighting still gave Zinn and others hope.

"The Afghan army continues to improve and the summer ceasefire provided proof to the Afghan people," he said. "Even so, Kandahar remains in conflict. The environment remains dynamic and complex."

"While challenges remain," he added, "we [returned home] with a sense of cautious optimism that momentum is building for a resolution to the conflict."

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# ‘Leaning Forward’

## WBAMC Soldiers, Reservists stay response-ready during NDMS exercise

By Marcy Sanchez | WBAMC PAO

In 2017 Hurricane Harvey devastated the Houston region, causing catastrophic flooding, the evacuation of nearly 780,000 Texans, and submerging nearly 80,000 homes.

Over 31,000 federal employees responded to the disaster, including the Departments of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Defense and others. Also responding to such emergencies is the National Disaster Medical System, a federally coordinated system that enhances the nation’s medical response capability.

“We’re linked to an active duty mission,” said Lt. Col. Mark Remy, NDMS administration chief, Federal Coordinating Center (FCC) El Paso. “We’re always leaning forward in the saddle. If that hurricane hits, we’re going to activate.”

Remy, along with a handful of other Soldiers, are U.S. Army Reserve-component Soldiers currently assigned to the NDMS mission as Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) conducting annual refreshers on patient reception procedures in case of an emergency.

“This is a very important exercise with a

real-world situation we are dealing with,” said Remy. “We’re testing the front end and the back end of these scenarios, including when the patient gets to a hospital, how the hospital is getting paid, and how are we going to get patients home.”

The overall purpose of the NDMS is to establish a unified medical response to assist state and local authorities with medical efforts during disasters. Additionally, NDMS is charged with supporting the DoD in response to mass casualties during conventional conflicts.

Recently the FCC (El Paso) conducted a patient reception and processing exercise at a secondary location to test the capabilities and identify obstacles. The exercise, a mock category four hurricane in Florida, tested the group’s ability to coordinate and evacuate approximately 30 casualties with local and federal emergency responders, hospitals, transporters, as well as triage patients during reception.

“It’s not a matter of if it’s going to happen, it’s a matter of when for us,” said Sgt. Maj. Byron Grubb, chief medical noncommissioned officer, NDMS, FCC El Paso. “We’re



Photos by Marcy Sanchez / WBAMC PA

William Beaumont Army Medical Center Soldiers prepare to transport a mock patient during a field exercise with the National Disaster Medical System, Federal Coordinating Center El Paso, at the El Paso International Airport Jan. 17. The exercise, a mock category four hurricane in Florida, tested the group’s ability to coordinate and evacuate approximately 30 casualties with local and federal emergency responders, hospitals, transporters, as well as triage patients during reception.

always on standby, watching the weather or if there’s a war that happens and there are casualties. You never know, so we keep that duffle bag ready to go.”

By testing the new site, the organization was able to identify concerns such as fiscal restraints for security, transportation and

other needs to meet objectives.

“We found everything that we needed to find, there’s a lot of things that we didn’t know,” said Grubb. “There’s a lot more involved than just (transporting the patient). We don’t go home until the last patient goes home.”

In support of the NDMS mission, Soldiers with William Beaumont Army Medical Center provided patient transport and administrative functions, an example of the unified command structure of the NDMS and the partnerships which maximize unit effectiveness. Also participating in the exercise was the El Paso Fire Department, El Paso International Airport, American Red Cross, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), and the El Paso Border Regional Advisory Council (BorderRAC).

“It’s a team effort. We could not accomplish our mission without everybody else,” said Remy



WBAMC Soldiers prepare to transport a mock patient during a field exercise with the National Disaster Medical System Jan. 17.

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Andrea Hutchins / U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
From left: Jacqueline Matlock, education advocate and spouse of the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss commanding general; Kevin Cardoza, military affairs officer for the El Paso Chamber of Commerce; Maj. Gen. Patrick Matlock, the 1st AD and Fort Bliss commanding general; and Carlos Keating, El Paso Chamber chairman, pose for a photo during the launch of the Military Spouse Empowerment Economic Zone held at the El Paso Chamber of Commerce recently. The MSEEZ program encourages workforce solutions for military spouses looking for employment.

# US Chamber Foundation launches El Paso MSEEZ to close military spouse employment gap

**By Andrea Hutchins** | U.S. Chamber of Commerce

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Heroes program, the City of El Paso, the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, and Fort Bliss leadership announced the launch of a Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone (MSEEZ) in the El Paso community recently.

“When communities come together to recognize the talent and potential military spouses bring to the table, we collectively take another step in the right direction to combat military spouse unemployment and underemployment,” said Eric Eversole, president of Hiring Our Heroes and vice president at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. “Hiring Our Heroes has a strong history of creating meaningful employment connections for thousands of military spouses in communities around the world. We are proud to welcome the El Paso community into a growing network of communities working to provide local solutions to barriers to entry for military spouse employment.”

Established to connect military spouses with companies committed to hiring, MSEEZs are collaborative efforts among business, civic, and military communities to build employment networks in municipalities around the country — now including the El Paso community.

“The El Paso Chamber is pleased to partner with the Hiring Our Heroes initiative, through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in order to cultivate meaningful employment opportunities for service members, military spouses and veterans in the greater El Paso region,” said David Jerome, president of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce. “The Chamber has supported endeavors not only to connect Fort Bliss personnel to the services and support systems of El Paso, but to foster an environment where spouses and veterans can find employment and their own connections to the El Paso economy.”

The MSEEZ program grew from the findings of a recent U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation study, titled “Military Spouses in the Workplace,” which found that an overwhelming majority of employed military spouses thought having two incomes was vitally important to their families. However, the study said, only 50 percent of military families reported having dual incomes.

This disparity reflects added strain on military families and can ultimately factor into a service member’s decision to stay in — or leave — the military. Such decisions, in turn, can affect overall military readiness and retention. In El Paso, Fort Bliss is home to almost 100,000 troops and family members, so improvements to encourage military spouse employment opportunities through the “Hiring our Heroes” initiative is something Maj. Gen. Patrick Matlock, the 1st Armored Division and base commanding general, called “vital” to Soldier readiness.

“I am honored to participate in the launch of the Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone initiative,” Matlock said. “The initiative leverages a vast network of connections to address military spouse workforce issues at a local level. In many military households, spouse employment is essential to family readiness, and family readiness is vital to Soldier readiness. The Fort Bliss community truly appreciates the U.S. Chamber for their efforts in making military spouses a priority.”

Hiring Our Heroes has launched MSEEZs throughout 2018 in communities across America. Building on a robust network of national and local employers, educational institutions and community resources, these MSEEZs foster collaboration between key stakeholders to help identify best practices that will support and advance the mission of connecting military spouses with meaningful employment opportunities — and ultimately strengthen the financial security of our 21st century military families.

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Sgt. Brian Micheliche / 1st SBCT, 1st AD Public Affairs

1. An infantry Soldier from 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, fires rounds down range with the newly developed Squad Designated Marksman Rifle at McGregor Range, New Mexico, Jan. 25. Feedback from infantry Soldiers will assist Program Executive Office Soldier, an Army program used to field and develop equipment for Soldiers.
2. The Heckler & Koch Squad Designated Marksman Rifle, was tested over a two-week period here at Fort Bliss recently. The SDM-R is designed to give Soldiers at the ground level increased effective range while still maintaining close quarters capability. The 1st SBCT, 1st AD, was selected by U.S. Army Forces Command to be the first BCT fielded with this weapons system. This rifle is designed shorter, and lighter than previous models. It includes an Image Intensifier Night Vision Sight (AN/PVS-3) to maintain combat operations limited visibility.
3. Spc. Trey Judy assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Bn., 36th Inf. Regt., fires the newly developed SDM-R at a range, Jan. 25. Judy, along with 15 other Soldiers assigned to 1st SBCT, 1st AD, fired the weapon and offered feedback to PEO-Soldier to collect data and make potential changes to the SDM-R weapon system or ammunition before mass fielding. The SDM-R is part of the U.S. Army modernization process, leveraging commercial innovation, cutting-edge technology, prototyping and Warrior feedback.
4. Sgt. Mark Rittikaidachar, assigned to 6th Sqdn., 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 1st AD, fires the newly developed SDM-R. The 1st SBCT, 1st AD was selected by FORSCOM to be the first BCT fielded with the rifle.

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>> **BULLDOGS IN SOUTH KOREA**

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



Senior leaders and staff from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division and 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division pose for a photo with the 13 ROK Army, Bulldog Brigade, officers and noncommissioned officers who returned from National Training Center Decisive Action Rotation 19-03, which took place place, Jan. 4-27, at Fort Irwin, California.



Col. Marc Cloutier, commander of 3rd ABCT, 1st AD welcomes back the 13 ROK Army, Bulldog Bde.



Col. Marc Cloutier, right, commander of 3rd ABCT and Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Oliver, senior enlisted advisor for 3rd ABCT sign the "welcome" banner for the 13 ROK Army, Bulldog Bde. who returned from NTC Decisive Action Rotation 19-03, at Fort Irwin, California.

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Sgt. Asa Bingham / U.S. Army

Under the Army's new parental leave policy, Soldiers can now apply for 21 days of parental leave as a secondary caregiver or 42 days if designated primary caregiver.

## Army offers more flexibility with new parental leave policy

By Gary Sheftick | Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — The Army has doubled the amount of parental leave available to fathers and other secondary caregivers of newborn infants with a policy that also provides more leave flexibility for mothers.

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper signed a directive Jan. 23 that increases parental leave from 10 to 21 days for Soldiers who are designated secondary caregivers of infants. The new policy makes the Army's parental leave comparable to that of other services and in compliance with the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act.

Mothers will now be granted six weeks of convalescent leave directly after giving birth and can be granted another six weeks of leave as primary caregiver to bond with their infant anytime up to a year after birth.

"We want Soldiers and their families to take full advantage of this benefit," said Larry Lock, chief of Compensation and Entitlements, Army G-1, and a retired Army colonel. He said parental leave is a readiness issue that ensures mothers have the time they need to get back in shape while it also takes care of families.

The new policy is retroactive to Dec. 23, 2016 – the date the NDAA legislation was signed for fiscal year 2017.

In other words, Soldiers who took only 10 days of paternal leave over the past couple of years can apply to take an additional 11 days of "uncredited" leave as a secondary caregiver.

An alternative would be to reinstate 11 days of annual leave if that time was spent with their infant.

Eligible Soldiers need to complete a Department of the Army Form 4187 and submit it to their commanders for consideration regarding the retroactive parental leave.

Fathers can also be designated as primary caregivers and granted six weeks or 42 days

of parental leave, according to the new policy. However, only one parent can be designated as primary caregiver, Lock pointed out.

If a mother needs to return to work and cannot take the six weeks of leave to care for an infant, then the father could be designated as primary caregiver, he said. However, if the mother has already taken 12 weeks of maternity leave, that option is not available.

Until now, mothers could receive up to 12 weeks of maternity leave, which had to be taken immediately following childbirth. Now, only the six weeks of convalescent leave needs to be taken following discharge from the hospital. The second six weeks of primary caregiver leave can be taken anytime up to a year from giving birth, but must be taken in one block.

In the case of retroactive primary caregiver leave, it can be taken up to 18 months from a birth.

This provides Soldiers more flexibility, Lock said.

The new directive applies to Soldiers on active duty, including those performing Active Guard and Reserve duty as AGRs or full-time National Guard duty for a period in excess of 12 months.

Summing up the new policy, Lock said the Military Parental Leave Program, or MPLP, now offers three separate types of parental leave: maternity convalescent leave, primary caregiver leave, and secondary caregiver leave.

Mothers who decide to be secondary caregivers are eligible for the convalescent leave and the 21 days for a total of up to nine weeks.

Parents who adopt are also eligible for the primary or secondary caregiver leave.

The new policy is explained in Army Directive 2019-05, which is in effect until an updated Army Regulation 600-8-10 is issued.

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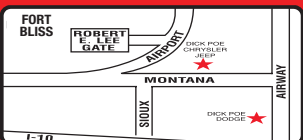


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Union Army doc still used today ■ 3B



Warriors on the way:  
Athletes to participate here in March ■ 7B



Fit tip: Keep a food  
and activity journal ■ 8B

## Things to Do:

**Family Fun Fridays:** Are you ready to have some family fun? Join the Art & Hobby Shop for Family Fun Fridays, Feb. 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and decorate a ceramic piece, all while watching a family-friendly movie. You're welcome to bring your own snacks to enjoy. Cost: \$15, discount for groups of 3+. 568-5563

**Shakespeare in Love:** Just in time for Valentine's Day, fall in love with some of William Shakespeare's most romantic couples and scenes when the El Paso Community Foundation Jewel Box Series at the Philanthropy Theatre presents Shakespeare in Love! 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Philanthropy Theatre on the second floor of the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre. Cost: \$16 at the Plaza Theatre box office, ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000

**Sunset Yoga:** Start off the new year with a relaxing yoga class at the EP Museum of History. As the sun sets, why not unwind from your daily routine and take some time to find yourself. Within the Museum galleries, take some time to expand and evolve your mind and body. Free. Sign up at freetheyoga.com/elpaso.

**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

**\$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

**Willie Nelson and Family:** The iconic Texan is the creative genius behind historic recordings such as "Crazy," "Hello Walls," "Red Headed Stranger" and "Stardust." The country legend returns at 8 p.m. Feb. 14 at Abraham Chavez Theatre. Cost: \$39.75-\$79.75. Ticketmaster.com

**Coin Show:** The International Coin Club of El Paso's 56th annual Coin Show is Feb. 15-17 at El Maida Hall, 6331 Alabama. More than 50 tables of coins, paper money, medals and tokens will be on display by dealers from around the country. Special guest this year is former American Numismatic Association President Walt Ostromecki with a "Youth & Family Treasure Hunt." Hours are 1-6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Free. The annual kids auction is 2 p.m. Saturday for ages 7-14. The kids auction is a no-cost auction; script provided for the bidding. 241-6977 or on Facebook at International Coin Club of El Paso.

**Tuff Hedeman West Texas Shootout:** Four-time world champion bull rider and El Paso native Tuff Hedeman presents the 13th annual Tuff Hedeman Championship Challenge bull riding event at 8 p.m. Feb. 16, at the El Paso County Coliseum, 4100 Paisano. Tickets: \$15-\$80 (Ticketmaster). 534-4329 or CBRbull.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 elpasosartsandculture.org

**Pet Fair:** El Paso Parks and Recreation Department hosts its annual event to help pet owners respect and care for their pets 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 23, 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

**Black History Month Parade/Rally:** The annual Inter-Club Council Black History Month Parade begins at 10 a.m., Feb. 23, 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. Parade/booth entry fee is \$75. Registration forms available at 861-0064. 861-1745 or elpasocc@hotmail.com

## BRAVE NEW WORLD

### New program teams Army Medicine with civilian hospitals

By Gigail Cureton | Regional Health Command - Atlantic

CAMDEN, N.J. — A group of 10 Army medical professionals are the first to participate in a new program designed to help them sustain battlefield medicine skills.

But the doctors and nurses are training far from combat support hospitals in austere locations, instead they are honing their skills in two of the nation's civilian teaching hospitals.

The program, called Army Military-Civilian Trauma Team Training (AMCT3), is a two-to-three year program at Cooper University Health Care (Cooper Univ.) in Camden, New Jersey, and Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon. The goal of the program is to advance military trauma operational readiness for deployment around the globe by partnering with high-volume civilian trauma centers to gain critical teamwork and technical trauma skills.

"We are good at trauma care but remain relentless in our pursuit of zero preventable battlefield casualties," said Brig. Gen. Telita Crosland, commanding general, Regional Health Command-Atlantic, who recently signed letters of commitment on behalf of the Army Surgeon General symbolizing the partnership. "Partnerships with leading trauma centers like Cooper and OHSU allows Army Medicine to leverage a national and global network of support that brings us closer to our goal," added Crosland.

The program gives Army surgical teams and individual Soldiers the opportunity to maintain proficiency and sustain their trauma skills by working alongside civilian counterparts at high-volume Level 1 trauma centers, according to Crosland. Level 1 trauma centers are comprehensive regional facilities capable of providing total care for every aspect of injury.

"This is another first for Cooper, and we



Crosland signs letter of commitment Jan. 18 recognizing the partnership between Army Medicine and Cooper University Health Care. This partnership will provide advanced surgical trauma training allowing U.S. Army medical professionals to sustain their skills by working alongside civilian counterparts at high-volume Level 1 trauma centers. Cooper joins the Oregon Health & Science University as one of the two trauma centers partnering with Army Medicine.



Kristyna Wentz-Graff / OHSU

Brig. Gen. Telita Crosland, commanding general, Regional Health Command-Atlantic, left, takes a tour of the OHSU ICU department with Col. (Dr.) Martin Schreiber, chief of OHSU Healthcare's Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery Division and a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, in Portland, Oregon, Jan. 22.

are honored and proud to train this elite Army medical team," said George E. Norcross III, Chairman of Cooper's Board of Trustees. "As a high-volume, academic tertiary care Level I Trauma Center, our experience and reputation uniquely positions us to provide the hands-on training and skills this elite team needs to help them save lives on battlefields around the world."

The AMCT3 program addresses the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017 directive for the Military Health System to establish partnerships to maintain trauma care competency along with developing standardized combat care instruction to enhance quality of care outcomes for trauma care.

"Our military medical treatment facilities lack the case acuity, case volume and case diversity that we need to sustain operational readiness," said John Ramiccio, Program Manager, Civilian Partnerships and Programming, G-3/7 Readiness & Training Division, Army Medical Command. "That is why Congress got involved and mandated it in the NDAA because this has been identified as contributive to addressing battlefield outcomes," added Ramiccio.

The program is also inspired by national efforts to stop preventable deaths in people with traumatic injuries. Research has shown that deaths and disabilities due to trauma can be prevented with better training, coordination and streamlined trauma care systems. AMCT3 promotes a two-way exchange of ideas and can help both military and civilian trauma centers improve outcomes for their patients.

"OHSU is proud to partner with the Army in enabling health care professionals to provide advanced trauma care and experience it from new perspectives," said John Hunter, M.D., OHSU executive vice president and chief executive officer of OHSU Healthcare.

"We collaborate because we know it will benefit our patients and help us meet our mission to improve the health and well-being of Oregonians and beyond."

The Soldiers assigned to the program were selected because they have medical specialties typically used in military forward surgical teams, such as emergency medicine physician, trauma surgeon, nurse anesthetist, and intensive care and emergency care nurses.

Beyond their medical specialties, Col. Jason Seery, the AMCT3 task force chairman and the Army's senior participant at Cooper University, said the Army looked for Soldiers who could work well with our civilian partners. "They are pathfinders and helping to establish this program for the Soldiers and partner hospitals to follow," said Seery. "We looked for officers who are collaborative, understand the goals of this effort and have a deeper understanding of what trauma team training is about."

One of those officers is Capt. Simon Sarkisian, an Army Forward Surgical Team emergency physician.

"I received great training with the military in my emergency medical residency. Here [at Cooper] I'll get to continue that and really get to do trauma, try to excel at trauma and be a trauma expert for the betterment of our Soldiers overseas when we get deployed."

Both Ramiccio and Seery see this strategic partnership as transformational in changing the culture of military medicine from competition to collaboration.

"The program is one of the most significant things Army Medicine has done with individual and team readiness in decades," said Seery.

Over the next few years the Army Medical Command hopes to establish at least 10 trauma team training partnerships across the country.

**"We are good at  
trauma care but  
remain relentless in  
our pursuit of zero  
preventable battle-  
field casualties."**

>> Brig. Gen. Telita Crosland





Courtesy photo

Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment and their “Outstanding Activity” award for January. Each month, senior leaders from the Fort Bliss Garrison command, the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, and the 1st Armored Division meet to discuss ongoing community events and unit participation within the El Paso area. Upon evaluation of each unit’s efforts in continuing to strengthen relationships and teamwork during each month, one unit is selected and presented the award.

## HHB, 3-43 ADA ‘The Legion’ earns Bliss senior leaders’ community partnership ‘Outstanding Activity’ award for January

By 2nd Lt. John Stoll | HHB, 3-43 ADA

Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, were presented January’s “Outstanding Activity” award for providing outstanding support to the 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, and the El Paso community. The award was in recognition for the unit contributing over 200 volunteer hours during the month of October.

The award was presented by Maj. Gen Patrick Matlock and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Cobb, the command team for the 1st AD and Fort Bliss.

Each month, senior leaders from the Fort Bliss Garrison command, the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, and the 1st AD meet to discuss ongoing community events and unit participation within the El Paso area. Upon evaluation of each unit’s efforts in continuing to strengthen relationships and teamwork during each month, one unit is selected and presented the “Outstanding Activity” award.

HHB Soldiers received the award for assisting the USO with the 2018 Oryx Challenge Bike Tour last fall. During the event, the unit handled resupply operations throughout the 50-mile bike route and provided food and water to over 250 participants.

While the award only reflects the efforts of the unit during the month of October, they are dedicated to helping the community year round. The command frequently volunteers in schools, such as Charles Middle School, Nixon Elementary School, and Richardson Middle School, as part of the Partners in Education program. Soldiers of the command mentor young people in the area of health, fitness and teamwork.

The unit also volunteers at Providence Hospital locations throughout El Paso.

Upcoming events for HHB, 3-43 ADA Soldiers include a science fair at Horizon High School and Nixon Elementary School’s Chili cook-off. In May, they will support the Charles Middle School Social Studies Symposium.

## Army HRC program aims to improve management of civilian talent

By Bill Costello | U.S. Army

FORT KNOX, Ky. – Six Department of the Army civilians with U.S. Army Human Resources Command recently began a year-long professional development program intended to vastly improve the command’s civilian talent management efforts.

With civilian employees comprising more than 70 percent of its workforce, HRC created the Gemstone Program in late 2018 after Maj. Gen. Jason T. Evans, HRC’s commanding general, designated “Civilian Workforce Development” as a command priority.

Gemstone is a blended development program consisting of a combination of briefings, senior leader shadowing experiences, brown bag luncheons, seminars, classroom instruction, distance/distributed learning, professional readings, and other applicable developmental opportunities.

Available to all HRC government employees, Gemstone consists of three levels – Sapphire, Emerald, and Diamond – with each level corresponding to grades GS 04 – GS 10, GS 11-13 and GS 14-15. The intent is to develop potential candidates for Senior Executive Service, the Senior Enterprise Talent Management, and the Enterprise Talent Management programs, further advancing talent in the next generation of senior Army civilian leaders.

“The ideal candidate for the Gemstone program is concerned about achieving their professional goals, dedicated to helping the organization meet or exceed its goals. Demonstrating the ability to connect their daily duties to the larger mission, with a commitment to a lifetime of professional and personal growth,” said Jamie K. Worthy, Sr., HRC command civilian workforce development officer and Gemstone Program manager.

Internal to HRC employees, Gemstone is conducted during the employee’s normal

civilian duty hours, meeting monthly for developmental events, and does not require any TDY travel for training other than for Civilian Education System requirements.

“I saw the Gemstone Program as an opportunity for professional development that aligned with my work-life balance. Most professional development courses require one to go TDY; however, the Gemstone Program is conducted at HRC or other locations on Fort Knox. With Gemstone, I can have the growth experience and fulfill my obligations at home,” said Suzanne Brummet, a human resource specialist enrolled in the program Emerald level.

Participants will learn to strengthen their leadership abilities and other skills through interpersonal skills; oral communication; written communication; creativity and innovation; strategic thinking; conflict management; leveraging diversity; team building; decisiveness; problem solving; partnering; and influencing/negotiating, and other transformations stimulating commitment to personal and professional development.

HRC will use shadowing opportunities and short-term job assignments (up to 120 days) to provide experiential development and broadening opportunities. Participants will be assigned to at least one developmental assignment within the command working in a different organization, division, function, or doing substantially different work than in position of record. This helps participants get out of their comfort zone, exposing them to more complex environments and different leadership experiences.

To be eligible for Gemstone, HRC employees must be in a permanent Army civilian appointment, unless otherwise directed by statute, have completed grade- and position-appropriate Civilian Education System (CES) and Foundation Course (if applicable), have served at least one year at full performance level in his/her occupation and have a performance rating of “3-Fully Successful” or higher on the most recent performance appraisal.



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# Techniques, reforms of Civil War Union Army doc still used today

By Ronald Wolf | U.S. Army

FALLS CHURCH, Va.- During the second week of December in 1862, the Battle of Fredericksburg raged halfway between Washington and Richmond. Although the Union suffered 12,000 casualties, the battle was significant for Army Medicine, not because of the battle's outcome on the Civil War, but because it was the first test of Maj. Jonathan Letterman's insightful organization of battlefield medicine to rapidly evacuate and care for the wounded. Letterman also was an early promoter of readiness by improving health and wellness of Union troops.

In 1862, the Army of the Potomac was ragged in terms of health and fitness. Regular Army Soldiers and tens of thousands of new recruits were cobbled together into fighting units that were proving to be ineffective. One key reason for lack of effectiveness was illness and wounds. Maj. Gen. George McClellan replaced his medical director in July with Maj. Jonathan Letterman on the recommendation of the William Hammond, the Surgeon General.

Letterman found the Army of the Potomac had more than 100,000 men and nearly 30 percent were not able to fight. McClellan ordered Letterman to solve this problem of inability to fight because of sickness and wounds. Letterman rapidly developed an understanding of the problems and later wrote that it was critical to support commanding generals by keeping the Army healthy, resilient, and in the fight.

First, Letterman attacked the problem of



Courtesy graphic

Maj. Jonathan Letterman is one of the great figures in the history of Army Medicine. In 1862, Maj. Gen. George McClellan appointed Letterman as his Medical Director. The Army of the Potomac at that time had more than 100,000 men with nearly 30 percent not able to fight because of illness or injury. Letterman rapidly developed an understanding of the problems and instituted a number of changes to improve care of wounded and health of Union troops. Many of the fundamental tenets of Army Medicine today can be traced to Letterman. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

poor sanitation that was compounding the severity of illness.

Letterman ordered changes to personal and unit hygiene. He required troops to bathe weekly in a river for at least 15 minutes. Pits were to be dug for latrines and six inches of fresh earth thrown into them each day. When filled within two feet of the surface, they were to be completely covered, and a new pit dug. A similar approach is used for kitchen and animal waste.

Letterman's second problem was battle-

field organization and the logistics of moving wounded Soldiers. To relieve physicians of their burden of assessing wounded Soldiers on the battlefield, and also moving them to regimental hospitals, Letterman made the physician's sole responsibility to provide clinical care in treatment areas.

At the time, no wagons dedicated to transport the wounded existed; most wagons had multiple functions and were used by both the Quartermaster Corps and the Medical Department. Until the summer of 1862, quar-

termasters had the primary responsibility to transport the injured.

Ambulances with dedicated personnel, including stretcher bearers, were needed, so Letterman established the Ambulance Corps. He procured wagons to support the frontline units. To build esprit de corps and make the Ambulance Corps easily recognized, Letterman ordered distinctive changes to the uniform caps and chevrons.

Letterman moved on to his third issue: medical supply logistics. To ensure supplies got to where they were needed and not lost when brought too far forward, Letterman ordered changes in the medical supply system in Oct. 1862. His plan makes the brigade surgeon responsible for distribution and accountability. Letterman even created a standardized stocking system for the hospital wagons and ambulances for dressings, medical instruments, and medications. Regimental Surgeons are furnished with stocked medicine chests to be carried on horseback; enlisted orderlies are issued the equivalent of a modern day aid bag.

Finally, Letterman focused the organization of field hospitals at the division level. In this plan, one physician from each regiment established an aid station near the front; the remainder gathered at the division field hospital.

To read the full story, visit [https://www.army.mil/article/216935/techniques\\_of\\_civil\\_war\\_medical\\_innovator\\_jonathan\\_letterman\\_still\\_used\\_today](https://www.army.mil/article/216935/techniques_of_civil_war_medical_innovator_jonathan_letterman_still_used_today).





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# Remotely romantic

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

Valentine’s Day is coming, and while your civilian friends are picking out new lingerie and making dinner plans with their hubbies, you’re wallowing in self-pity because your Soldier or sailor is deployed.

You imagine that your friends will float through the upcoming week buoyed by the anticipation of foil hearts, velvety roses, and soft kisses, while you scan Netflix for something to binge watch alone on that Thursday night after the kids go to bed. Maybe an alien invasion movie or a documentary about serial killers? Definitely not “The Bachelor” or “Fifty Shades of Grey.”

With a heavy sigh, you slump your shoulders and drag your feet, resigned to being a

lonely military spouse while the rest of the world enjoys the exquisite expressions of love and abundant sensual pleasures of Valentine’s Day.

But I’m here to tell you, my fellow military spouses, you’ve got it all wrong.

Having your spouse deployed on Valentine’s Day is a blessing in disguise. Believe it or not, that Thursday night will be much more romantic for you than your civilian friends, and here’s why:

Just like growing up, New Year’s Eve parties, and eating Taco Bell, Valentine’s Day seems really wonderful until you actually experience it. You tend to glamorize these overrated events in life, when the reality can be sadly disappointing.

For married couples on Valentine’s Day, there is pressure to be thoughtful, to look sexy, and to perform, despite the unavoidable realities that permeate our day-to-day lives. Bills and babysitters. Receipts and razor burn. Cat boxes and cold sores. Migraines and minivans. Dust bunnies and dragon breath. Stretch marks and soap scum.

Romance does not come easily for husbands and wives who have passed through the honeymoon phase and are fully en-

trenched in hectic modern family life. After they fight traffic to get home from work – stopping at Walmart to get the cards and heart-shaped box of chocolates they almost forgot – they pick up the babysitter, and rush to make their seven-thirty reservation at The Melting Pot for dinner. They’re hungry, but they hide their annoyance because they know it will kill the mood. They order a bottle of wine, and hold hands over the table, but inevitably, they find themselves talking about the kids, the in-laws, and the carburetor. By the time the check comes, they are muffling yawns.

At home, they muster the energy for the obligatory romp in the sack, even lighting a candle for extra atmosphere. But it’s not the stuff that romance novels are made of. It takes too long or not long enough. The dog jumps on the bed. A kid wakes up. Something embarrassing happens. The days of sexual nirvana have long passed, and they must now be satisfied with the unaltered affections of normal married life.

At least they’re together, you argue. But you still don’t get it – this Valentine’s Day, you’ll be living every woman’s romantic fantasy.

Somewhere across the planet, there is a man. Not just any man. Your man. A man in uniform. In blues, greens, khakis and camouflage.

He’s not stopping to buy a box of chocolates for you. He’s not picking up the babysitter. He’s not spritzing himself with cologne. He’s not paying the dinner bill.

He’s serving his country. He’s doing something brave and honorable to protect you, your children, and everyone else back home. Normally, he doesn’t stop to think about what he’s missing while he’s away. He must keep his mind on the mission.

But on this Valentine’s night, your husband lays in his bunk, looking up at the dim ceiling of his barracks, quarters, or bivouac. As he listens to the ambient sounds of engines, wakes, aircraft, and foreign lands, his mind wanders away from his military duties, to you, his wife.

Maybe he was able to video chat, call, or email you today to wish you a Happy Valentine’s Day. Maybe not. Regardless, he won’t just miss you tonight. He’ll long for you – your hair, your perfume, your lips, your curves. And he’ll envision every last detail of what would happen if you were together.

See? Lucky girl, you are the envy of women everywhere.



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# The frontline or the O-Line: Who is a ‘hero?’

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Christopher Degn | Fort Bliss deputy installation chaplain

I hope you enjoyed Super Bowl LIII a few days ago. I personally enjoy watching the Super Bowl every year. It is pageantry, sport, and sometimes even a little bit of patriotism. We get to see hard-working, talented athletes at the pinnacle of their profession battle for a coveted championship. We get to see a sort of brotherhood - men of various creeds, colors, and colleges united in a common cause to achieve victory and to be the best of the best.

But, as cool as that is... Super Bowl Sunday doesn't hold a candle brotherhood-wise (or hero-wise) to another event celebrated this past Sunday in the United States - Four Chaplains Day.

Seventy-six years ago last Sunday, the USAT Dorchester, sailing in 36 degree water off the coast of Greenland, was torpedoed by a German U-boat and went down.

Chaplains Fox, Goode, Poling, and Washington (two protestant ministers, a Catholic priest, and a Jewish rabbi), gave their own life jackets to other crew members, united themselves arm-in-arm, and then went down with the ship singing together, and praying for those around them. That is true brotherhood that exemplifies the Army Values - especially those of "Selfless Service" and "Personal Courage".

So, what is a "hero"? One dictionary I read defined a hero as "a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities." Another said, "a person noted for courageous acts or nobility of character."

Holy writ describes "heroes" as sacrificial

in that they are willing to stand up for - or to pay a price for - doing what is right. Heroes are courageous and unwavering in following their principles:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." - John 15:13 (5)

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." - 2 Timothy 1:7

In the Army, we find the word "hero" defined within our service's creedal statements (www.army.mil/values): heroes "bear true faith and allegiance," "fulfill obligations," "do what is right," and "face fear, danger, or adversity" (Army Values); heroes "never quit" and they "never leave a fallen comrade" (Warrior Ethos); and heroes "place the needs of [teammates] above [their] own" (NCO Creed).

The Four Chaplains, of course, are not the only great Americans who have deservedly earned the title of "hero". We all know of fine service members - and those of other professions around us - who demonstrate great moral and/or physical courage, some laying their lives on the line on a regular basis for those whom they serve.

Yes, scoring touchdowns is athletically impressive. Our football "heroes" worked hard to get to the highest level of their profession - and we pay them a lot of money to score those touchdowns, win games, and earn championship rings. But saving lives - and giving up your own in the process like the Four Chaplains did - well, that's just another level of "heroism" altogether, is it not? You spent a couple of hours watching sports heroes WIN a mere game for a trophy,

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Samoan Service 11:15 a.m.

**1st Armored Division**  
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Chapel Next 11:30 a.m.  
Latter Day Saints Service 1 p.m.

**USASMA Memorial Chapel**  
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Traditional Service 10 a.m.

**WBAMC Protestant Community**  
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Protestant Service 10 a.m.

money, and fame. Will you take a few minutes to read an article or watch a video clip on heroes who LOSE their very own lives for their battle buddies?

## 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 p.m.

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

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

### OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

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

**Buddhist Service**  
(Bldg. 449, Religious Activities Center)  
Friday 5 p.m.  
Meditation, Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.

**Introduction to Nichiren Buddhism**  
(Bldg. 449, Religious Activities Center)  
Friday, 6 p.m.

I encourage you to look up and read the truly inspirational story of Chaplains Fox, Goode, Poling, and Washington. Then ask yourself who a real "hero" is.

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# SPORTS

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## Sports Briefs

**Michelob Ultra Marathon:** Michelob Ultra Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K — The 12th annual half and 5K marathon races are 7 a.m. Feb. 17, starting and finishing at Southwest University Park, 1 Ballpark Plaza Downtown. [elpasomarathon.org](http://elpasomarathon.org).

**UFC 234:** Don't miss out on the UFC 234 - the middleweight champion and Australian resident Robert Whittaker makes his return as he takes on the current No. 4-ranked contender Kelvin Gastelum. Come watch the fight live on pay-per-view for free and enjoy food and 21+ drink specials, Saturday, 6-11 p.m. at the Monti Warrior Zone. 18+. 741-3000

**Hueco Tanks Rock Rodeo:** The 26th anniversary of the bouldering competition is Feb. 15-17, at Hueco Tanks, with cash and prizes offered. Registration and other events are at Hueco Rock Ranch; competition is at Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site, along with a party, demonstrations, food trucks and pro climbers present. Cost: \$55 for the weekend; \$20 for Saturday night only. [huecorodeo.com](http://huecorodeo.com)

**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. 20732 Constitution Avenue. 744-1532

**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 pilates-inspired movements. Cost: \$3 per class or \$35 for unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

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

**Body Pump:** The original Les Mills barbell class will sculpt, tone and strengthen your entire body fast. Focusing on low weight loads and high repetition movements, you'll burn fat, gain strength and quickly produce lean body muscle. Class are held at Soto and Stout PFC. Cost: \$3, or \$35 unlimited monthly pass. 915-744-5790

**Deep Water:** Get ready for Group Fitness' newest class, Deep Water! Using a flotation belt, deep water exercisers will jog, sprint in intervals, wall walk or do a variety of multidimensional movements, including cross country skiing, long-levered kicks, twists and jumping jacks. Classes are 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Aquatic Training Center. Cost: \$3 per class or \$35 for unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

**AquaFloat:** AquaFloat is changing its 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. to 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. 594-0159

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

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



Roger Wollenberg / DoD

Sgt. Chris McGinnis and his son Ace celebrate Army's gold medal in wheelchair basketball, the final event of the 2018 DoD Warrior Games at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs June 9, 2018. The Warrior Games are an annual event, established in 2010, to introduce wounded, ill and injured service members to adaptive sports as a way to enhance their recovery and rehabilitation.

## Warriors on the way: More than 100 athletes to participate in 2019 Army Trials here in March

By Whitney Delbridge Nichols | Army Warrior Care and Transition

ARLINGTON, Va. — U. S. Army Medical Command, Deputy Chief of Staff, Army Warrior Care and Transition is proud to announce the selection of more than 100 wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and veterans who will compete at the 2019 Army Trials. The event will take place at Fort Bliss, March 5-16 with wounded warrior athletes competing in 12 events with hopes of earning a spot on Team Army for the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games hosted by the United States Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida, June 21-30.

For first-time participants like Spc. Nikita Bowen, the journey to Army Trials has been one filled with training and discipline.

“I want to be a Soldier athlete as long as I can. I have my sights on Warrior Games. [It's been] all about training, eating right, sleeping right. There's always [an] opportunity to become better, so that's my focus,” said Bowen during the Pacific Regional Trials at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the preliminary competition for active duty athletes to qualify for Army Trials.

The Warrior Care and Transition Program equips wounded, ill and injured Soldiers with the resources to return to duty or transition

into veteran status. As part of Army Warrior Care's whole-Soldier approach, adaptive reconditioning is introduced to Soldiers in transition to help them remain active and teach them new ways to do different activities, like the sports they have always loved or new activities they never thought possible. With every push forward, the Army athletes at the heart of these games show just what happens when resiliency overpowers fear and the impossible becomes attainable.

“Army Trials is a great event for our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers,” said Lt. Col. Heidi Schuster, officer-in-charge of the Warrior Care and Transition Adaptive Reconditioning Program. “Not only will they receive world class training from our coaching staff, but this year they will get to experience a variety of therapeutic recreation events that they can take back with them to help with their recovery.”

This is the second year in a row that Army Trials will introduce new events to the competition. This year, wheelchair tennis, wheelchair rugby and golf have been added to the roster of events, which also includes archery, cycling, field, powerlifting, rowing, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track, and wheelchair basketball.





Master Sgt. Matt Hecht / U.S. Air National Guard

With each meal or entry, ask yourself, “Am I truly hungry?” You might be starving, need a snack, or not be hungry at all. Take note of this in your journal. It helps to write down your thoughts, feelings, and symptoms. They play a part in why you want to eat. Doing these things can help you make better choices in the future.

# Fit tip: Keep a food and activity journal

By Angela Gerrity | RDN, LD Ireland Army Health Clinic

Starting something new can sometimes be daunting, and restarting your healthy lifestyle might seem an overwhelming task. But one of the tools you can use to help you reach your goals is a food and activity journal.

When you start a journal, try to take it all in. What that means is logging everything throughout your day—for example what you ate and drank, what you did and where you went.

### Nutrition

Write down what you eat and drink all day starting with when you wake up and end when you go to bed. Include how much you ate—portion sizes. If you’re not sure, use an estimate. This will give you an idea of how much you consume each day. If possible, record the amount of calories you ate or drank. Capture your water intake as well. It is important to stay hydrated throughout the day.

With each meal or entry, ask yourself, “Am I truly hungry?” You might be starving, need a snack, or not be hungry at all. Take note of this in your journal. It helps to write down your thoughts, feelings, and symptoms. They play a part in why you want to eat. Doing these things can help you make better choices in the future.

### Activity

Write down your physical activity each day. Include the type of activity and length of time. For instance, if you ran for 30 minutes or bicycled for an hour. Be sure to include routine things, such as doing household chores and walking the dog. Add a note to capture your thoughts, feelings, and symptoms. This could be how you felt before and after, or if you had any pain.

### Your Whole Self



Something else to keep track of is any-

thing that you reflect on throughout the day. This could be emotions, insights, or goals. Be sure to include hobbies and time spent with others. You also should make note of any questions or concerns that you want to discuss with your doctor.

### Here are a few other things to consider:


- Commit to writing in your journal every day and reflecting on what you have learned.
- Keep track of the times you are doing these things to help you figure out any patterns or habits. This could be when you ate, how long you were active, or what you felt.
- Try to carry your journal with you, so you can write things down before you forget. But if you don’t have your journal, write a note and add it in later.
- Each day, look at what you wrote down in your journal and compare it to other days to learn patterns and become more aware. For instance, did you eat from all five food groups? Did you skip a meal? This assessment will help you make healthy changes in your daily life. You may be surprised by what you find out and how helpful a journal can be.
- If you find it hard to keep a paper journal, consider an online journal. There are many mobile apps that allow you to track food, drink, and activity. Try to find an app that has an emotional or mental component as well. Examples include Rise Up, My Fitness Pal, Yazio, and Lose It!
- Remember to consult with your primary care physician about any health conditions and schedule yourself for a routine physical.

*NOTE: Information contained in this story can also be found at fromfamilydoctor.org and American Academy of Family Physicians.*



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# OFF DUTY

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

## Bliss Briefs

**Hiring Fair:** Looking for a job? If so, make sure to stop by the hiring fair today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. Remember to dress to impress and bring plenty of resumes. The fair is open to DOD ID cardholders. 569-5838

**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. to 3 p.m. 2910 Cassidy Drive. 568-1040

**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

**DHR Training Holiday hours:** The Directorate of Human Resources will have reduced operations Feb. 15 and will be closed closed Feb. 18. For info on specific service impacts, contact Military Personnel Division at 568-3302, Army Substance Abuse Program at 744-5192/5148/5149, Administrative Services Division at 569-5817, Education Center at 568-6682/6831 or Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program at 568-7165/7396/4210/7996/3870. For DHR-related emergencies during upcoming Feb. 18 holiday observance, call 568-3093.

**WSMR Bataan March:** Register for the 2019 Bataan Memorial Death March before the registration rates change to last-minute rates after Monday. Event registration ends March 3. \$110, \$500. <http://bataanmarch.com>

**McGregor/FBIX ammo point closings:** The McGregor Range/FBIX 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 (SLDC) is a new 40-hour course run by the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence (NCO-L CoE) and United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA). 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

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

## FMWR

**Family Fun Fridays:** Are you ready to have some family fun? Join the Art & Hobby Shop for Family Fun Fridays, Feb. 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and decorate a ceramic piece, all while watching a family-friendly movie. You're welcome to bring your own snacks to enjoy. \$15 per person, discount for groups of 3+. Open to DOD ID cardholders and their family members. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 568-5563

**True West:** Come out for an evening of the arts starting at 7 p.m., Friday at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. A group of talented-actors, from Arts in the Armed Forces, will be telling the story of True West. Free. Tickets are available at the Leisure Travel Services location at Freedom Crossing. DOD ID card holders. 588-8247

**\$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. \$10, includes instruction. Open to DOD ID card holders and family members 15+. 568-5563

**Paint N' Pour:** Valentine's Edition: The Library After Hours presents: Paint N' Pour, a social painting class. Get together for the Couple's Edition of Paint N' Pour. This month's theme is: Country Couple. The Mickelsen Library will provide appetizers, tapas, cheese/meat plate, desserts and champagne (one glass per person). Wear clothing you don't mind getting paint on. The event will be from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday. \$50 per couple. Must register as couple. Space is limited to 10 couples. No children please and no refunds for missed sessions. 568-1902

**UFC 234:** Don't miss out on the UFC 234 - the middleweight champion and Australian resident Robert Whittaker makes his return as he takes on the current No. 4-ranked contender Kelvin Gastelum. Come watch the fight live on pay-per-view for free and enjoy food and 21+ drink specials, Saturday, 6-11 p.m. at the Monti Warrior Zone. 18+. 741-3000

**Couples Pottery:** Are you ready for a fun filled day with your significant other? Register today for the Art & Hobby Shop's Couples Pottery this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Art & Hobby Shop. You will create a usable decorative serving platter to enjoy for years to come! \$40 per couple. Materials and instruction included. Open to DOD ID cardholders. 568-5563

**Snowshoeing in N.M.:** Join Outdoor Recreation for snowshoeing Trip at Lincoln National Forest, N.M. Saturday. \$20 for Soldiers, \$30 for civilians. Snowshoes and transportation provided. 14+ 744-1532

**Cupid's Cantina:** Don't let Valentine's Day bring you down this year, come out for loads of fun! Cupid's Cantina will have you off your seat mingling with new people, listening to mu-



INFO

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sic, enjoying food and drink specials, Feb. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at the Sam Adams Pub on East Fort Bliss. Free. Open to the public, ages 21+. 479-0103

**'Top Rope Belay' certification:** Join Fort Bliss Outdoor Recreation and climb to new heights with the Top Rope Belay certification Tuesday. Taught by certified climbing wall instructors from the American Mountain Guide Association. Climbers will learn proper knots for tying in, safety checks, and top rope belay techniques for top rope climbing at the Robert Loeza SAC. No experience required. Cost: \$8. 12+ 744-1532

**St. Paddy's Day 1/2K:** Register now, then head over to the Monti Warrior Zone March 16 from 3 to 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 and entry to our prize drawings. \$50 - gets you the VIP treatment - everything plus transportation to the finish line (no sneakers required) & extras for your (lack of) effort! Additional sporting events will follow on that day. Register online at [raceroster.com](http://raceroster.com) or at Stout, Milam and Soto PFCs through March 14. Late registration is March 16 starting at 2 p.m. with a \$10 late fee incurred. 741-3000 or 744-5785

**Kick it at the Monti Warrior Zone:** The Monti Warrior Zone is open Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. to midnight; Saturdays from 12 p.m. to midnight and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. 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 and older only. 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. Cost: \$5 per hour with \$10 deposit. Reservations required. 568-4198, 744-7879 or visit the office at 3503 Story Rd.

**Harry Potter Book Night:** Are you ready to find out what "house" you will be sorted into? Join the Mickelsen Community Library for Harry Potter Book Night, today from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This year's theme will be "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft." Get sorted into your house, sign up for a game of Quidditch on the front lawn, and enjoy the Gryffindor common room and much more! Free. Open to DOD ID card holders of all ages. 568-6156

**Social art class "Love Birds:"** Join the Mickelsen Community Library for their social art class Saturday 2-3:30 p.m. Come and try your hand at acrylic painting with a theme. Each month the Brushstrokes Club will meet in the community Room to complete a unique work of art. Open to DOD ID card holders 8+ (with guardian). 568-6156

**SKIESUnlimited:** SkiesUnlimited offers a variety of fun and educational programs geared for children of all ages and talent levels. Music classes like piano, voice, guitar and drums are available. SKIES also has a variety of art, sports, driver's training and babysitting courses. Call our team today at 568-5544. All students must be currently enrolled with CYS Services Parent Central. Class registration opens from the 20th of the month prior to the 7th of the month you are enrolling for. 568-4374 or [www.bliss.armymwr.com](http://www.bliss.armymwr.com) for appointment.

**Story Time:** It's Story Time! Stop by the Mickelsen Library every Tuesday from 10:15-11 a.m. or 11-11:45 a.m. as children ages two to five listen to stories read aloud. There will also be crafts, activities and refreshments available. Start children on the road to literacy. 568-6156

**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 as well. 568-6156

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

**Babysitting Course:** Do you have a teen who wants to earn some extra money? Then, make sure they take advantage of the SKIESUnlimited Babysitting Course. This babysitting curriculum is designed to help middle school and teenage youth learn what it takes to be a responsible, caring, trustworthy and competent babysitter. The course is open to children ages 12-older. Cost: \$10. Registration required and can be done at SKIESUnlimited. 568-5544

**Teen Basic Automotive Maintenance:** 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

**You Made the Grade:** Fort Bliss students who excel in the classroom have a chance to receive \$5 Exchange gift cards every grading period during the 2018-19 school year and can

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Debt collection notices:

This is a debt collection notice for **Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Bray**. All services under Bray's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Bray or for this information regarding collections, call 2nd Lt. Wesley Ferguson at (614) 849-8302

This is a debt collection notice for **Cpl. Cole T. Wixom**. All services under Wixom's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Wixom or for information regarding collections, call Lt. Tamas Gyalay at (805) 358-3521



enter a worldwide sweepstakes for a chance to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 Exchange gift card. Students can send completed forms to: You Made the Grade, P.O. Box 227398, Dallas, TX 75222-7398.

Community

**Valentine’s Concert:** Sofar Sounds brings intimate music performances to unique spaces around El Paso. Discover new artists and locations. Join us Thursday, 7 p.m. Cost: \$20. Secret lineup, secret location. Limited tickets available. RSVP at [www.sofarsounds.com/el-paso](http://www.sofarsounds.com/el-paso)

**Volunteers needed:** El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank needs your help to help feed our community. Volunteers will sort food, pull orders, and assemble emergency food boxes. Volunteers are most needed from Monday-Thursday between the hours of 8a.m.-noon and 1p.m.-4 p.m. 298-0353 or email [volunteer@epfhfb.org](mailto:volunteer@epfhfb.org) to make an instant impact today!

**Boy Scouts Food Drive:** Please join the Boy Scouts of America in helping the less fortunate by donating non-perishable food items. Place food items to be donated in a bag by your front door by 8 a.m. Saturday. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Venture Crews from Fort Bliss will collect your donations. Donations may also be left at the Fort Bliss Boy Scout Hut located at Building 452 on Pershing Road. All donations will be provided to the Fort Bliss Junior Enlisted Center to support our needy Fort Bliss families. 472-6790 or 772-2292

**Sun City ‘Commit to be Healthy’ memorial walk:** The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department will celebrate American Heart Association month with a community walk and health fair at Memorial Serve Park. Services provided will include heart health, screenings, diabetes information, and many more 9-12 p.m. Saturday. 3100 Copper Street. 562-7071 or [bellnm@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:bellnm@elpasotexas.gov)

**El Paso Coin Show:** Sponsored by the International Coin Club of El Paso, Inc. 50+ Vendor/Dealer Tables. Coin Exhibits to view. 2019 Medals available honoring “Engine 3420, an El Paso Locomotive” Feb. 15, 1-6 p.m.; Feb. 16, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Auction for Kids at 2 p.m. Feb. 16. Free. El Maida Shrine 6331 Alabama. 241-697 7

**Black History Month celebration:** The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department invites you to join us at Mary Webb Park for the city’s first Black History Month celebration. Activities for all ages, entertainment presentations, guest speakers, informational booths, games and jumping balloons. Food trucks will be on site, along with arts and crafts vendors displaying original works for sale to the public. Feb. 16, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 3401 E. Missouri. 562-7071

**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 on Mondays 7-9:30 p.m. 833-0263 or [www.epchoralsociety.org](http://www.epchoralsociety.org).

ARMY

**CLASSIFIEDS**

[fortblissbugle.com](http://fortblissbugle.com)  
[classifieds@lavenpublishing.com](mailto:classifieds@lavenpublishing.com)

Baby Items

Toddler car seat, good condition. Safety First brand. Secure belts for back seat bottom and upper support. Tilt option. \$25 obo. (253) 209-2481

Boys toddler cold weather jackets. One brand new two tone blue, never worn. One used green plaid, excellent condition. Both 5T. \$25 for both, or \$20 blue, \$10 green. (253) 209-2481

Homes for Sale or Rent

Mobile home for sale: 2 bdrm/2 ba., 2010 model. All appliances included, full size w/d, refrig. air, gas stove and fur-

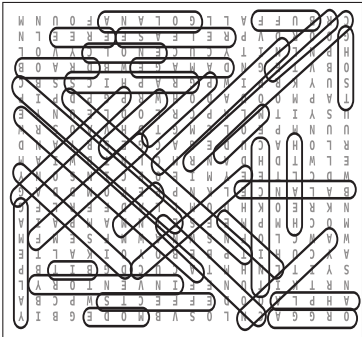
**U.S. Army OCS Alumni Assoc. Reunion:** Calling all branches, all classes 1941- Present. This is going to be a great time with the opening of Phase I of the OCS Heritage Center; the dedication of more bricks, pavers, and class memorials; the induction of the 2019 The U.S. Army OCS Alumni Association 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. [ocsalumniunion@gmail.com](mailto:ocsalumniunion@gmail.com), (813) 917-4309 or [www.ocsalumni.org/](http://www.ocsalumni.org/)

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

**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

**UTEP Cheerleading Competition:** The 11th annual UTEP Cheerleading Championships are 10 a.m., Feb. 17, at UTEP’s Don Haskins Center. 241-4676, [bmarquez6@utep.edu](mailto:bmarquez6@utep.edu) or on Facebook at UTEP Cheer.

**El Paso Bridal Showcase:** The El Paso Bridal Showcase is Feb. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Epic Railyard Center, 2201 E. Mills, with fashion shows, VIP area, vendor rooms and more. Free. 544-9550 or [elpasobridalshowcase.com](http://elpasobridalshowcase.com).



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

nace. Eastwind park, 79938. Great cond. \$30k. 637-1150  
Duplex for rent: Central on Arizona street. Large living room, kitchen and spacious storage area adjacent to bedroom. Own gated parking area, private back yard with patio and washer/dryer. No utilities. \$610/\$500 dep. 491-5240 or 487-7113

Miscellaneous

Harley Quinn snowglobe, Jack-in-the-box style collectible. Brand new, mint condition. Limited production, one of 2,200 made. Plays musical song. \$200 obo. (253) 209-2481

Yard sale

Garage sale: Sat. 9, 8-2 p.m. Furniture, house hold items, kitchen, dyer, clothes, shoes, toys, pictures and xmas items. 4329 Loma Del Norte. 667-3236

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Morning Worship 11 am

**TUESDAY**  
Prayer 9-10 am  
Prayer 6:15 pm  
Bible Study 6:45 pm  
Mission Study 7:30 pm

**THURSDAY**  
Prayer 7 pm  
Night Service 7:30 pm

**FRIDAY**  
Prayer 9-10 am

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