



FORGING THE

WARRIOR SPIRIT

# The JRTC and Fort Polk Guardian

Vol. 48, No. 3

Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

Jan. 22, 2021

## Devil Brigade kickstarts LTP prior to March rotation

By **CHRISTY GRAHAM**  
Guardian editor

FORT POLK, La. — Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, spoke to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, or “Devil Brigade,” leaders Jan. 21 at the Berry Mission Training Center, kick-starting the brigade’s Leader Training Program exercise.

LTP prepares units before they “battle” through the crucible that is the JRTC Box. Units scheduled for a JRTC rotation utilize LTP as an opportunity to review and strengthen their ability to execute the military decision-making process by publishing a tactical operations order.

Doyle shared his thoughts on what LTP may provide their unit, what they should expect during the program and offered time to answer any of the leader’s questions.

“In my estimation, the LTP experience is the crown jewel of the JRTC enterprise,” said Doyle.

“JRTC does things that home stations can’t — they may get close, but nobody does that battalion and brigade focus training that you’re going to get during LTP. The

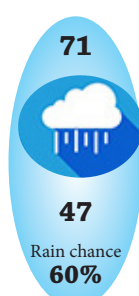
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CHRISTY GRAHAM/GUARDIAN

Col. Theodore W. Kleisner (second from the left), 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division commander, speaks to leaders after an initial brief covering the key focus areas of the Leader Training Program Jan. 21.

### Weekend weather



### Inside the Guardian

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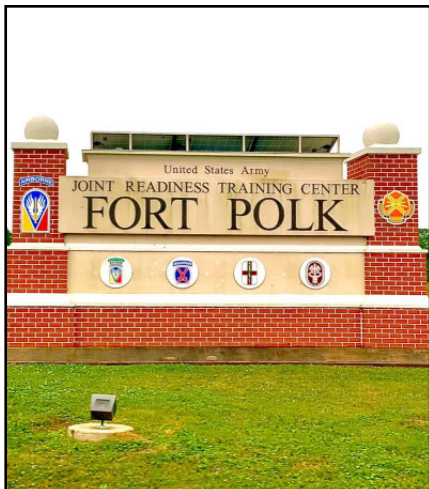


# Viewpoint

## In our view

Guardian staff asked the JRTC and Fort Polk community, "If you could time travel, where and when would you go?"

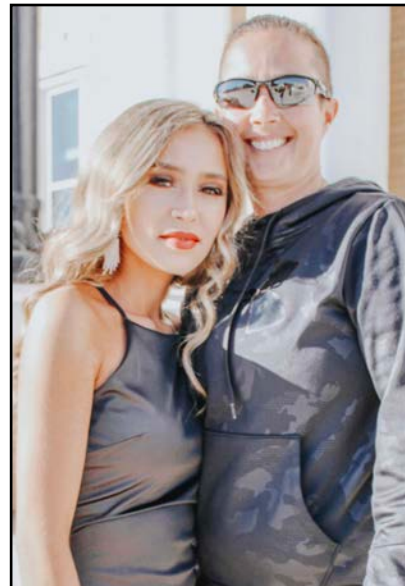
Here are their responses:



**David Bennett:** "I'd go back to 1993 when I was stationed at Fort Polk – those were the best times of my life."



**Martha Gilbert (right):** "I would go back to the mid 1990s to spend some carefree, childhood time with my grandparents and my dad, Paul Duncan (left) who have passed. My dad was a Navy veteran and died of cancer in 2015. Sometimes, it's only after our loved ones are gone that we realize how much of an impact they had on us and our personalities. He never went to college but was the most well-read and well-spoken man I have ever known!"



**Candace Varnes (right):** "I would definitely go to the future to see my kids (Haley pictured left) all grown and see how they turned out."

**Sgt. Robert Matthews:** "I'm going to have to say North America in the 1700s, prior to the War for Independence. Brave men of faith put so much effort into laying the groundwork for our nation. To bear witness to that would be a blessing."



**Megan Smith:** "I would probably go with America's Old West in the 1800s. We used to live in the west, and I love the history and culture from the big skirts to the cowboys."



**Demetrial Washington:** "I think I would go back to 1988. That was when I first chose to go into the service. I might have chosen a different career. It's a curiosity about the path untraveled."



**Colby Warner:** "It would have to be the 1950s in America. I love the atmosphere and music of the time, and it would be amazing to experience that culture and time firsthand."



**Sgt. Rodolfo Esparza:** "I would say 10 years into the future. I'm impatient to see the new technology that may help solve the many health, communication and social issues of today. I'm excited to see what happens next."



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For more information on Fort Polk units and happenings visit the following Facebook pages: **@JRTCOperationsGrp**, **@BayneJonesACH** or **@fortpolkmwr**.



## Briefs

### Career fair

The Pollock Federal Correctional Complex (1000 Airbase Road, Pollock) is hiring correctional officers at a career fair held Jan. 20 and 21 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Those interested should send a resume to **POL-PersonnelSecurity-S** prior to the hiring event.

The salary ranges from \$43,495 to \$66,119. The base rate does not include shift differential, overtime, holidays and more.

The job offers 10 paid holidays, life insurance options, 401K with 5% matching, safe work environment and more. For more information call (318) 561-5300.

### CIF inventory

The Central Issue Facility, located in bldg 4374, will be closed to conduct inventory today through Jan. 29.

During this period, Soldiers will continue to clear.

Emergencies will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Customers are asked to plan accordingly. CIF reopens for business at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 1. For more information call 531-0950/2883.

### Unit highlight

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk's Public Affairs Office wants to highlight tenant units on the installation. PAO's intent is to cover Leader's Time Training weekly, featuring a different unit each time. If interested, please contact the Guardian editor at 531-1416 or by emailing [christy.a.graham7.civ@mail.mil](mailto:christy.a.graham7.civ@mail.mil).

### BJACH holiday hours

Are you ready for the Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital Preventive Medicine 10,000 steps a day 90-day step challenge?

The competition begins Sunday and ends April 18. To participate, form a team of two to 20 Soldiers or civilians. Then select a team captain to collect and report weekly steps. Register teams with the Health Promotions Team at [geneva.h.meridith.civ@mail.mil](mailto:geneva.h.meridith.civ@mail.mil).



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

During the question-and-answer session at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Medical Evacuation Conference, held Jan. 14, Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, JRTC and Fort Polk commanding general, talks to Neal Fudge, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, assistant deputy director, about the information provided at the conference.

## MEDEVAC conference provides Army protocols

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Guardian staff

FORT POLK, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk hosted a Medical Evacuation Conference Jan. 14 at the Bayou Theater. Fort Polk command and JRTC leaders from the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, Directorate of Emergency Services, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment — Cajun Dustoff-Judge Advocate General and others attended the event, along with representatives from state and local emergency agencies.

The off-post agencies were briefed about current Army protocol and regulations centering on cooperation between Fort Polk and state and local agencies during emergency situations.

Mark Leslie, DPTMS director, led the conference and thanked everyone for attending.

"This conference is important to us, and I'm glad it's important to you," he said.

Leslie said the purpose of the conference was to set a baseline understanding of the laws, regulations and rules that Fort Polk has to follow to assist its parish partners.

"Over the years, Fort Polk has cultivated

a great relationship with our parish partners," he said.

"In the emergencies over the last year — pick one, we've had a lot of them — we had a positive dialogue with most of you," he said.

Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, JRTC and Fort Polk commanding general, said the relationship Fort Polk has with the community matters.

"The way that we interact and communicate and the frequency with which we work together is a significant factor in our collective success," he said.

Doyle said Fort Polk has assets and requirements, as do its parish partners.

"The more we understand what's possible, the better off we will be as we move forward," he said.

Doyle said after studying the after action reviews of some of Fort Polk's emergencies in 2020, he realized that the installation depended on support from surrounding parishes and the state.

"Some of the things we were able to accomplish were largely enabled by your work with us. I want to say thank you on behalf of JRTC and Fort Polk for that ef-

Please see **MEDEVAC**, page 5



# Army News

## New app for Soldiers, Families simplifies housing repair requests

By JOSEPH LACDAN  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers living in barracks and other non-privatized Army housing are now able to file and track maintenance orders from the convenience of their smartphones using one uniform system.

The Army Maintenance Application, or ArMA, allows Soldiers to instantly interact with public works clerks instead of making walk-in appointments or phone calls. The app will not apply to residents of privatized installation housing.

The app will eventually become the primary tool for maintenance inquiries for residents at service-operated housing across the Army, said Luis Miranda, a housing management specialist at U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

Residents currently file requests differently at various installations with some sending email requests and others inquiring through their post's website. Doug Enfield, a management and program analyst at IMCOM, said ArMA will simplify the filing process.

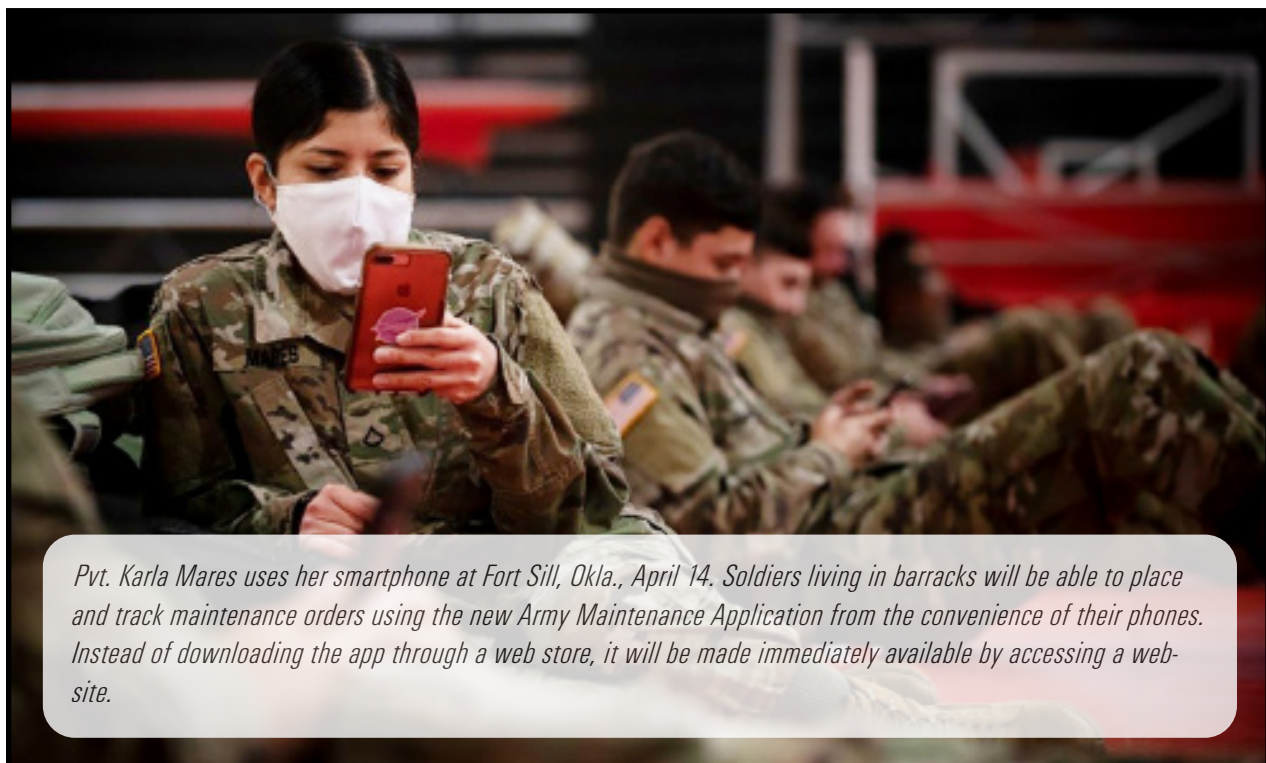
"Wherever they live, they're going to have one single place for them to go," Enfield said. "When they move, they'll just change their registration and what building they're in, but they'll still use their same account and the same app."

"(ArMA) is absolutely going to create ease of use as opposed to having to talk to somebody (and) find out their phone number. They're going to be able to do this all from their fingertips."

The app, developed by IMCOM and a private contractor, was released Jan. 19. Instead of launching ArMA in app stores, IMCOM made it available through a website — [www.armymaintenance.com](http://www.armymaintenance.com) — where users must register to access the application.

"The app is actually the website," Enfield said. "It makes us available on all platforms without having to update the app. It allows us to be available on any device in the world, at any time, as long as they're connected to the internet."

ArMA, part of the Army's wider effort to improve quality of life for Soldiers, will also be accessible through the service's Digital Garrison app. Digital Garrison connects



SGT. DUSTIN BIVEN/ARMY NEWS SERVICE

residents with installation services including their post exchange and morale, welfare and recreation programs.

ArMA uses a simple interface where residents can submit requests and provide a description of their case. Residents can take photos of the maintenance problem using the app's camera feature, and they can also access a maintenance catalog and list of services.

A request must meet certain requirements to qualify as a work order. For instance, Enfield said, a request to wash a barrack's windows would not qualify, while a broken window would warrant repairs.

Users have an option to submit questions and provide feedback in the app. When a work order has been approved, residents will receive a text message or email when the status has changed.

Miranda said that public works employees can submit questions about work orders directly to the customers who filed the request, and the residents in turn can provide instant replies. Responses in the app's user surveys will be instantly viewable by garrison command teams.

"(The app) will be the most productive and efficient way for the residents to submit their work orders," Miranda said. "Instant feedback is what ArMA provides to the customer, which is something that we've never had before."

Enfield added that barracks residents

have experienced delays in filing requests through different entities, which prompted the need for a more direct connection to public works.

"When the resident had a problem in their barracks room, it wasn't always getting up to the right channels at (directorates of public works) to get fixed," Enfield said. "We wanted to connect the residents directly to their maintenance without creating the need to find the right person or get it into the right channel."

Enfield added that the maintenance app, as well as Digital Garrison, are run through a secure, federal network, assuring that residents' personal data will be protected. The app also provides Soldiers another option to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

"People are just spending more time in their residences as lockdowns happen and they work from home," Enfield said.

"We wanted a way for our tenants to be able to interact with maintenance through an application, so they could report a problem at any time of the day or night," he added.

### Got News?

Call the Guardian  
at 531-1416



# Military tax services available through military OneSource

By TERRI M. CRONK  
DoD News

WASHINGTON — Filing taxes can be a daunting task every year, but the Defense Department has helpful resources for active-duty service members and their Families, and it's all free through Military OneSource.

Tax services for the military — also known as MilTax — is DoD's approved tax-filing and tax-support service — including tax preparation and e-filing software and personalized support to deal with issues such as deployments, combat and training pay, housing and rentals, multi-state filings and living overseas.

"They can connect with a (tax) consultant during the tax season, and even past (it), through October. In addition to having that live support walking through the filing process and answering questions that are specific to military taxes, they're able to access the MilTax software," said Kelly Smith, program analyst with the DoD's Military Community and Family Policy.

MilTax consultants are available virtually.

An advantage to the MilTax software, Smith noted, is that it's designed and tailored for

the military community.

E-filing allows service members to file their federal returns along with up to three state returns at no cost.

That's huge in the military community, because our Families are (going through permanent changes of station) and moving multiple times," she noted.

Overall, the MilTax services are designed to be stress-free, Smith said.

"(People) can rest assured that they are working with tax professionals who know and are familiar with military tax situations," she said, adding that many MilTax consultants return to offer their services every year in high numbers, which provides continuity and knowledge of the armed forces' needs.

At this point, this year's tax deadline for filing 2020 taxes is April 15, although last year it was extended to July 15 because of COVID-19.

If there is an extension this year, Smith said MilTax is prepared for it.

"Our staff and consultants are positioned to fill in the gaps where there may be additional need for that support online and over the phone," she said.

MilTax availability runs until mid-October for service members who need extensions.



"That's simply because we know that the tax season usually ends in April, but for our military community, sometimes people are overseas or they are in a combat zone, so they're able to file those extensions, and (we're) there to help them file their taxes at a later time," Smith said.

Smith said she is not tracking any significant changes in tax law for the 2020 filing year that would affect service members and their Families.

"However, the 2020 Social Security tax deferral is a big thing at this time," she noted.

"We are referring and connecting filers with (the Defense Finance Accounting Service)

and the Internal Revenue Service regarding questions and concerns they have outside of the tax deferral."

Also, MilTax can guide its military filers who have questions surrounding the economic stimulus package from 2020.

"I want to ensure that our service members and Families know they can turn to Military OneSource and the tax service as a trusted source, and (MilTax services) understand taxes as it relates to the military community," Smith said.

For assistance or more information, call Military One Source at (800) 342-9647, or visit the website at [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil).

## MEDEVAC

Continued from page 3

fort," he said.

Doyle said some of the conference's objectives included keeping the lines of communication open and being as transparent as possible.

"As we discuss things today, you are going to see there are no secrets, and we want to engage with you to see what your requirements are moving forward," he said.

Neal Fudge, Governor's Of-

fice of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, assistant deputy director, attended the event and said networking at a conference like this allows emergency agencies the opportunity to have a better response during emergency events. "Now you can put a name with a face and talk to an individual that you know, and that makes things easier," he said.

Fudge said in addition to

meeting new people, he likes learning about things.

"I always gain knowledge, and that makes for a better emergency reaction," he said.

Calvin Turner, Vernon Parish Sheriff Department chief deputy, said he appreciated being invited to the MEDEVAC conference. "It's so important for us to make contact with our Fort Polk counterparts, know what's available and the procedures

necessary to obtain help. We have to work together. Fort Polk provides a beneficial support system to people and emergency agencies in the surrounding parishes," he said.

Turner said the last time there were floods in Vernon Parish, Fort Polk provided air support for rescues. "Discussing what's possible gives us a better idea about how to make (a response to an emergency situation) all

# Don't fall victim to temptation of distracted driving

## CORVIAS

ATLANTA, Ga. — One of the many educational promotions the Centers for Disease Control provides deals with the dangers of distracted driving.

Every day about eight people in the United States are killed in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. The definition of distracted driving is driving while doing another activity that divides attention away from driving. This type of driving can increase the chance of a motor vehicle crash.

Anything that takes attention away from driving can be a distraction. Sending a text message, talking on a cell phone, using a navigation system and eating while driving are a few examples of distracted driving.

There are three main types of distraction:

- Visual — taking your eyes off the road
- Manual — taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive — taking your mind off driving

About one in five of the people who died in crashes involving a distracted driver in 2018, were not in vehicles — they were walking, riding their bikes or otherwise outside a vehicle.

Many of the distracted driving incidents in the U.S. in 2018 were found to involve youth and teen drivers.

Twenty-five percent of the distracted drivers involved in fatal crashes were young adults aged 20–29.

Drivers aged 15–19 were more likely to be distracted than drivers aged 20 and older, among drivers in fatal crashes.

Of these drivers, eight percent of them, aged 15 to 19, were distracted at the time of the crash.

Nine percent of all teens who died in motor vehicle crashes were killed in accidents that involved distracted driving.

CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System monitors

health risk behaviors among U.S. high school students, including texting or emailing while driving.

A study analyzing data from the 2019 survey revealed the following:

- In 2019, 39% of high school students who drove in the past 30 days texted or emailed while driving on at least one of those days.

- Texting or emailing while driving was more common among older students than younger students.

- Students who texted or emailed while driving also were more likely to report other transportation risk behaviors such as not always wearing a seat belt; riding with an intoxicated driver; and driving while intoxicated.

It is vital to prevent this kind of distraction — regardless of age or driving experience.

Do not multitask while driving. Whether it's adjusting your mirrors, picking the music, eating a sandwich, making a phone call or reading an email do it before or after your trip.

Passengers can also help prevent distractions by speaking up if you are in a car with a distracted driver. Ask the driver to focus on driving. Passengers can also reduce distractions by assisting with navigation or other tasks.

Parents can talk to their children about the rules and responsibilities involved in driving. They can share statistics related to teen/young adult drivers and distracted driving, remind them driving is a skill that requires the driver's full attention and emphasize that texts and phone calls can wait until they get to their destination.

States are cracking down on distracted driving. Parents should familiarize themselves with their state's graduated driver licensing system and enforce its guidelines for their driving teen children.

**You never know who you'll run into at Fort Polk**



**Especially when you're texting and driving**

**Other safe driving tips include:**

- Talk with your teen about the consequences of distracted driving and make yourself and your teen aware of your state's penalties for talking or texting while driving.

- Set consequences for distracted driving. Fill out the CDC's parent-teen driving agreement together to begin a safe driving discussion, and set your Family's rules of the road. Your Family's rules of the road can be stricter than your state's law. You can also use these simple and effective ways to get involved with your teen's driving.

- Set an example by keeping your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel while driving.

Many states have enacted laws to help prevent distracted driving. These include banning texting while driving, implementing hands-free laws, and limiting the number of young passengers who can ride with teen drivers.

Some states have also installed rumble strips on highways to alert drowsy, distracted or otherwise inattentive drivers that they are about to go off the road. These rumble strips are effective at reducing certain types of crashes.

Though teens and young adults are a major focus of edu-

cation, that doesn't mean adults don't fall victim to the lure of distracted driving. Several federal regulations have been put in place to target distractions for workers:

- In 2009, President Barack Obama issued an executive order prohibiting federal employees from texting while driving government-owned vehicles or when driving privately owned vehicles on official government business.

- In 2010, the Federal Railroad Administration banned cell phone and electronic device use for railroad operating employees on the job.

- In 2010, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration banned commercial vehicle drivers from texting while driving.

- In 2011, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration banned all hand-held cell phone use by commercial drivers and drivers carrying hazardous materials.

You can visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) for more information and statistics on teen distracted driving and how data on motor vehicle crash deaths are collected and the limitations of distracted driving data.





ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

## Tax time

The Fort Polk Installation Tax Center, located inside the Home of Heroes Soldier Recreation Center, 2165 Ninth St., hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 22 to celebrate that the center is open for business. Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general (center), helped tax center staff cut the ribbon.

# Devils

Continued from page 1

(trainers) are going to help you not only get ready for your rotation, but they're going to invest in your people."

Doyle focused on three key areas for leaders during LTP: Guidance over doing, relationships and leveraging the LTP coaches. "First, allow your teams to churn, work and struggle — allow them to learn and grow. If you're substituting for them, you're missing out," he said.

Doyle went on to highlight the importance of relationships and team building during LTP.

"LTP isn't just in this build-

ing. If you're doing it right, LTP encompasses what happens in the break rooms and at chow — these moments build bonds. You don't want your relationships to be weak or so transactional that you're unable to overcome challenges together," Doyle said.

Lastly, Doyle underscored the wealth of knowledge each of the LTP coaches maintain. "Leverage your coaches. These folks are hired for a specific reason — they've got the aptitude, skill, experience and a network that is unassailable," said Doyle.

Col. Theodore W. Kleisner, 1st BCT, 82nd Abn Div commander,

said that he told his leaders to accomplish three things during LTP.

"Get team building out of this experience, take advantage of the unique environment to do MDMP better now than ever before and demystify the brigade fight — there should be no doubt, only transparency, with what that means in this brigade," he said.

Kleisner took command of the brigade Jan. 11. This LTP experience, in preparation for JRTC Rotation 21-05 in March, is his first major training event as the brigade's commander.



Kleisner

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# Total Force Fitness: Emotional, behavioral, social fitness

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES  
BJACH PAO

FORT POLK, La. — The Military Health System is committed to the long-term health and vitality of the nation's warfighters, their Families, retirees and civilians. Part of maintaining readiness is preventing the onset of diseases and injuries that pose a threat to the defense community.

In 1735, Benjamin Franklin published a letter, "Protection of Towns from Fire," in "The Pennsylvania Gazette" that began with the now famous phrase, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." His letter was meant to illustrate that the monetary cost of fire prevention was much less than the devastation of a fire.

This phrase is easily applied to 21st century medical science and MHS who state that it's easier to prevent injury or illness than recover, especially from chronic conditions.

Total Force Fitness describes the medical and dental prevention dimension as the ability to sustain health and wellness and facilitate restoration to meet medical and dental standards of fitness for duty, return to duty and medical readiness. This means proper preventive health care keeps service members ready for duty, minimizing impacts to the mission from injuries and illness.

Lt. Col. Michelle O'Neil, a registered nurse and the emergency department officer-in-charge for Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, said medical preventive care is more than meeting annual periodic health assessment requirements to be "green" in the Army Medical Protection System.

"To me it is a culmination of facets that make up total well-being: How we fuel our bodies, get enough rest, ensure we are active and incorporate cardiovascular and strength training exercises along with flexibility or range of motion exercises that are vital to health and injury prevention," she said. "Soldiers should seek help when we need it; whether for managing behavioral health symptoms, working towards recovery from habits like smoking or drinking excessively, to visiting the Army Wellness Center for assistance with optimizing your health."

O'Neil said medical preventive care is important for readiness and overall wellbeing.

"I would want to know that the Soldier to my left and my right is focused and physically capable of performing their mission,"



she said. "Lack of sleep, poor nutrition and not maintaining physical fitness impact combat effectiveness and job performance."

Capt. Larry Zhang, a dentist and doctor of dental surgery at Shira Dental Clinic, said oral health is critical to Soldier readiness.

"Dental issues, left unchecked, can cause debilitating pain for Soldiers in a training environment or on the battlefield. The pain can become their focus instead of the mission," he said. "In the Army, annual dental exams are required while some civilian providers recommend check-ups every six months."

Zhang said during exams dentists look for anything that could potentially cause Soldiers pain and distract them from their ability to focus on the job.

"Preventive dental care is important," he said. "When we repair a tooth, it's better than it was before the repair, but it will never be as good as the original, so we need to keep an eye on it to ensure the repairs are maintained."

Zhang said by practicing good oral hygiene and getting regular exams and cleanings, Soldiers can stay focused on their mission and not on a sore tooth.

Lt. Col. D. Scott McIlwain, outgoing chief of preventive medicine and the hearing program for BJACH, said hearing is a critical Warrior sensor that increases survivability and lethality.

"When hearing loss is present, the ability to conduct auditory tasks is greatly diminished. Good hearing is required to perform such tasks as localizing sound, gauging auditory distance, identifying a sound source and understanding verbal orders and radio communications," he said. "This multidimensional



Capt. Larry Zhang performs a routine dental exam.

sense provides an indispensable amount of information on the battlefield. Good hearing can mean the difference between life and death in combat, as well as in training."

McIlwain said hearing loss is an invisible injury that is often viewed as having little or no impact on military operations. He said sound is frequently the first source of information a Soldier has before direct contact with the enemy. Unlike visual information, auditory cues come to us from all directions, through darkness and over or through many obstacles.

"Often, Warriors are exposed to an explosion, such as an improvised explosive device or a mortar round, and have no apparent injuries, but they can sense their hearing has decreased and tinnitus is present," McIlwain said. "With no visible injuries, the Warriors return to their duties. This is where the term 'invisible injury' is derived. Hearing loss can affect home and social life. Prevention of hearing loss is important for quality of life."

TFF recommends taking care of yourself through diet and exercise, staying up-to-date with recommended screenings and regularly communicating with your health-care provider. Something that seems like a small problem now can get worse through neglect or continued overuse.

**Editor's note:** This is the third in a series of articles about Total Force Fitness, the first line effort in the National Defense Strategy of building a more lethal force. To learn more about TFF visit the Military Health System website.



# Visit Shadows fair to soak up fun, history

## GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — Celebrate the first signs of spring and get a little fresh air at the Shadows Arts & Crafts Fair held March 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Shadows-on-the-Teche, 317 E Main St., New Iberia — a little less than three hours from Fort Polk.

Shadows-on-the-Teche, located in New Iberia's Main Street District, is a two-story, 3,750 square foot historic home designed in the classic revival-style with a Louisiana colonial floor plan and a garden that aims, no matter the season, to be as breathtaking as the history preserved within the building.

The home is set among towering live oak trees, draped with Spanish moss, on the banks of Bayou Teche. The Shadows, built in 1834 for sugar planter David Weeks, paints a vivid picture of life for the four generations that made this property their home.

The Shadows Arts & Crafts Fair is held in the gardens of Shadows-on-the-Teche.

More than 100 artists and vendors from all over Louisiana participate in the event, displaying and selling their original work.

A variety of hand-crafted products, including paintings, metalwork, woodwork, jewelry, clothing, soap, candles, jams, bread, toys and more will be available for



COURTESY/SHADOWS-ON-THE-TECHE

visitors to peruse and purchase.

After appreciating the artwork, you may work up an appetite. Food vendors will have plenty of tempting lunch items available.

Admission is \$5 for ages 12 and older, \$3 for children 6-11 and children under age 6 get in free. Admission to the Fair includes a guided tour of the Shadows-on-the-Teche, a National Historic Landmark and National Trust for Historic Preservation site.

Raffle tickets will be sold with all prizes donated by vendors. Food and dessert vendors will offer a ton of delicious choices.

This is a wonderful opportunity to en-

joy the day with Family and friends, while supporting local artists, craftsmen, and the Shadows-on-the-Teche.

In order to make this event as safe as possible for staff, volunteers, visitors, and vendors, the Shadows will implement coronavirus precautions that are in line with federal and state guidelines. Masks are required for entry and visitors are asked to practice social distancing.

Smoking is not allowed on the Shadows grounds. Pets are not allowed in the Shadows gardens.

For more information call (337) 369-6446 or visit [shadowsontheteche.org](http://shadowsontheteche.org).

## Take note of 2020 tax-year return timelines, tools

### OSJA

The Internal Revenue Service announced that the nation's tax season will start Feb. 12, when the tax agency will begin accepting and processing 2020 tax-year returns. The Feb. 12 start date for individual tax return filers allows the IRS time to do additional programming and testing of IRS systems following the Dec. 27 tax law changes that provided a second round of Economic Impact Payments and other benefits.

To speed refunds during the pandemic, the IRS urges taxpayers to file electronically with direct deposit as soon as they have the information they need. People can begin filing their tax returns immediately with tax software companies, including IRS free file partners. These groups are starting to accept tax returns now, and the returns will be transmitted to the IRS starting February 12.

Under the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act, the IRS cannot issue a refund involving the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit before

mid-February. The law provides this additional time to help the IRS stop fraudulent refunds and claims from being issued.

The IRS anticipates a first-week-of-March refund for many EITC and ACTC taxpayers, if they file electronically with direct deposit and there are no issues with their tax returns.

This would be the same experience for taxpayers if the filing season opened in late January. Taxpayers will need to check "Where's My Refund" on the IRS website for their personalized refund date.

There are several important dates taxpayers should keep in mind for this year's filing season:

**Jan. 15** — IRS free file opens. Taxpayers can begin filing returns through free file partners; tax returns will be transmitted to the IRS starting Feb. 12. Tax software companies also are accepting tax filings in advance.

**Jan. 25** — the Fort Polk Installation Tax Center starts processing tax returns. Taxpayers can file their returns, but the office

will not be able to transmit the returns to the IRS until Feb. 12.

**Feb. 12** — the IRS begins the 2021 tax season. Individual tax returns begin being accepted and processed.

**Feb. 22** — the projected date for the IRS.gov "Where's My Refund" tool being updated for those claiming EITC and ACTC, also referred to as PATH Act returns.

**First week of March** — tax refunds begin reaching those claiming EITC and ACTC (PATH Act returns) for those who file electronically with direct deposit and have no issues with their tax returns.

**April 15** — the deadline for filing 2020 tax returns.

**Oct. 15** — the deadline to file for those requesting an extension on their 2020 tax returns.

The Fort Polk Tax Center is taking appointments now; the doors open Jan. 25. If you need to get your taxes done please call 531-1040. If you need to meet with a legal assistance attorney, please call the front office at 531-2580.



# Soldiers found guilty, separated for UCMJ violations

## OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — At the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, the commanding general and subordinate commanders take good order and discipline seriously. However, certain disciplinary issues continue to be prevalent across Fort Polk. Below are recent examples of adverse legal actions for units within the Fort Polk jurisdiction.

- A captain, assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, was issued a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for committing a lewd act with a minor, in violation of Article 120b and 133, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

- A specialist, assigned to 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, was punished under Article 15 for failing to

report to accountability formation, in violation of Article 86, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to E-4; forfeiture of \$1,085 pay for one month; extra duty for 45 days, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated within 180 days; 45 days of restriction, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated within 180 days; and an oral reprimand.

- A specialist, assigned to 519th Military Police Battalion, was found guilty at a Summary Court-Martial for assaulting another service member, in violation of Article 128, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to 25 days of confinement.

- A specialist, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, was punished under Article 15 for being disrespectful and willfully disobeying a lawful order from their superior commissioned officer, in violation of Article

89 and Article 92, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to E-3; forfeiture of \$1,085 pay for two months, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated within six months; extra duty for 45 days, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated within 180 days; 45 days of restriction, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated within 180 days; and an oral reprimand.

- A private, assigned to 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, was punished under Article 15 for wrongful use of a controlled substance, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to E-1; forfeiture of \$866 pay for two months, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated within six months; extra duty for 45 days; restriction for 45 days; and an oral reprimand.



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stacey.r.delgado.civ@mail.mil  
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