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JOINT BASE MYER — HENDERSON HALL

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WELCOME



Denise Caskey
Public Affairs Specialist

Greetings from Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall – “America’s Post!” – and welcome to the June 2023 edition of the Pentagongram.

People truly make up the backbone of JBM-HH, and I am so proud to be part of the installation’s rich heritage of putting its people first. In this issue, we say goodbye to Col. David Bowling, hello to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Fisher and hear the story of how Naulin Mombo, an African immigrant, found opportunity and an extended family as an Army civilian.

Also, in this issue, Maj. Shaye Haver, one of the first two women to earn an Army Ranger tab, gives her perspective on how the Army can entice more women to join. We get a behind the scenes view on what it takes to pull off Twilight Tattoo and we peek in on the Marines in the Henderson Hall Single Marines Program to see how they spent their time during Days of Service in April – plus so much more!

The next issue will come out in September 2023. As always, we invite you to share with us any ideas you might have for future issues.

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On the cover:

Clockwise from top left: Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Fisher addresses staff at the 2023 Workforce Town Hall and Awards ceremony April 13 in the Koran room at Patton Hall. (photo by Denise Caskey/JBM-HH Public Affairs)

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander Col. David Bowling greets guests during the 2021 Bakers Creek commemoration in June 2021 at the Bakers Creek memorial on the Myer campus of JBM-HH. (JBM-HH archive photo)

Maj. Shaye Haver, then a captain and commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Liberty, North Carolina, performs radio checks June 9, 2018, on Adazi Base, Latvia, after parachuting from a C-17 Globemaster III during Swift Response 18. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin D. Biven / 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Naulin Mombo shows off his Master of Business Administration from American University during a luncheon May 15 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (photo by Denise Caskey/JBM-HH Public Affairs)



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**Part of the team:
Col. Bowling reflects
on time as joint base
commander**



Col. David Bowling greets Vietnam War Veterans during a pinning ceremony March 2022 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (Photo by Rachel Everett, JBM-HH Public Affairs)

Sherry Kuiper

JBM-HH Public Affairs

It was a rainy Friday morning on April 28, with sounds of The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” practicing in the background, as Col. David Bowling sat down to reflect on his time as the commander of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

“I really loved being a part of the team here at the joint base.”

Bowling took command May 6, 2021, during a global pandemic. Coincidentally, that public health emergency ended May 11, 2023, just two weeks before he turned over command of the joint base.

Bowling said it’s the team, not a single person, that keeps the joint base running and the mission intact.

“I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to serve in this position, because it has provided me a profound understanding of the importance of our Department of the Army civilian workforce and the contributions that team makes daily.”

There are a lot of big tasks on an installation commander’s plate.

The joint base supports more than 160,000 people, providing critical services from housing and barracks to childcare and installation infrastructure for service members, veterans, families and Department of Defense civilians.



Col. David Bowling attends the groundbreaking for the swing space barracks September 2022 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (Photo by Sherry Kuiper, JBM-HH Public Affairs)

Bowling, who comes from a Special Forces background, said what surprised him the most about his time as joint base commander was the complexity of the operating environment.

“Never before have I served in a position that required as much awareness and participation at the tactical, operational and strategic level,” Bowling said. “Sometimes you are involved in the resourcing and construction of a new barracks project, and then sometimes you’re involved in conversations with folks from the Pentagon in response to language that was written in the National Defense Authorization Act.”

Bowling went on to say that understanding the mission of Installation Management Command, senior command and having the Army brigade commander perspective can be complex, and finding balance is challenging.

Even though there are many challenges being

the commander, there are some perks as well, and working with the team is a highlight for Bowling.

“There is nothing more exciting than watching the team in action,” he said. “Watching them come up with creative solutions to quickly solve problems and help the people we serve on the joint base — whether that is helping a family through the Exceptional Family Member Program process or trying to get a pay increase for our direct care workers at the child care center — anytime we can do something that results in helping someone out and taking care of them, that was always pretty joyful.”

When asked what accomplishment he is most proud of during his time as the joint base commander, he said it’s not a “thing” that was most rewarding for him but rather being a part of a team that solved what sometimes seemed like impossible problems.

Bowling's next assignment, although only a short distance away, will allow him to marry up his two great loves: Special Operations and the Army.

"I will be going to the Pentagon to work on the Army staff, and I am looking forward to it," he said. "It is going to afford me the opportunity to continue to understand and participate in some of the priorities of the Special Operations community while being able to operate as an Army officer on the Army staff."

When Bowling makes the move to the Pentagon, there is something he will take with him that was reinforced on the joint base — the continued importance of effective communication.

"Our ability to communicate effectively

directly correlates to mission success," Bowling said. "When I go to my next job and for the rest of my career, I am going to ensure is that I am part of a process that ensures effective communication. To the extent we can do that, we will win; we will accomplish the mission."

Before leaving, Bowling had some parting words for the joint base team.

"The Army Chief of Staff's motto is 'People First, Winning Matters, Army Strong.' I would just offer that same thing to our teammates here," Bowling said. "There is nothing more important than the people with whom we work. It has been my experience, and I firmly believe that if we take care of each other, then everything else is going to take care of itself."



Col. David Bowling hands of the installation flag to Maj. Gen. Allan Pepin, Commanding General United States Army Military District of Washington/ Commander, Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region, during the change of command ceremony May 25 at Comny Hall on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (Photo by Denise Caskey/JBM-HH Public Affairs)



Joint Base Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Fisher addresses the crowd at the Workforce Town Hall and Awards event April 14 at Patton Hall on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (Photo by Denise Caskey, JBM-HH Public Affairs)

JBM-HH welcomes new command sergeant major

Pamela Kulokas
JBM-HH Public Affairs

The joint base's new command sergeant major is in the people business.

That is, addressing the complex needs — and sometimes problems — of the joint base community.

“Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall and the National Capital Region offer many unique opportunities to confront complex and ambiguous problem sets,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Fisher. “Whether you’re dealing with counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems rollout from an Army

level while coordinating with Department of the Army fires and the Federal Aviation Commission, or you’re digging up archaic sewage pipes from the Civil War era and trying to fix that and maintain it ... It’s definitely challenging and rewarding is the best way I can put it.”

Since taking responsibility in February, Fisher has continued the career of service he began by enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1999 as a paralegal. He grew up in a military family in Statesville, North Carolina — his brother having served in the U.S. Navy and his father in the Army. Fisher joined Junior ROTC in high school and entered active duty immediately after.



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Fisher, the garrison's senior enlisted adviser, keeps a steady pace and joint base spirit May 19 at the Semper Fit Iwo Jima 7K on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. The route weaved through the base, down "Heart-break Hill" and out the gate to the Iwo Jima Memorial before making the return route. (Courtesy photo)

"I wanted to serve my country and hopefully pursue a meaningful career that wouldn't always bind me to any one area," Fisher said.

And bound to one area he has not been. Having traveled the world and been stationed in Germany and several U.S. states before arriving at JBM-HH with his wife Stephanie and 14-month-old daughter, Isabella, Fisher primarily served as a paralegal and utilized his bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Although his current role as command sergeant major is different from his previous work with the Army JAG Corps, Fisher said it does have commonalities.

"Command Sergeant Major (of the joint base) has a bit different focus and different interests, but the people, the programs, the problem sets — while they may be different, at the end of the day, it's all about helping to get to the right answer for various levels, whether that be our nation, our

Army, this organization, Joint Base Myer Henderson-Hall or to an individual Soldier and their family," he said.

Finding the right answer, according to Fisher, is all about walking a mile in the shoes of those he serves.

"I hope that all sergeants major are in the people business," he said. "We speak with individuals, we address problems, we coordinate resources and we help individuals as best we can. Sometimes that's helping the organization or the nation, and sometimes it's down to the individual level and how that help gets provided or the administration of a program."

The duties of a command sergeant major are determined by the commander they serve and the needs of the organization. Fisher said it takes getting out there and getting to know people as best you can to forge the personal relationships needed to make an impact in the National Capital Region.



A Vietnam veteran, right, receives a handshake from Joint Base Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Fisher, left, March 29 on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Vietnam-era veterans were honored by leaders from the garrison, Exchange and Commissary with commemorative pins given at the JBM-HH Main Exchange on National Vietnam War Veterans Day. (Photo by Pamela Kulokas, JBM-HH Public Affairs)

“There’s literally thousands and thousands of Soldiers in the Pentagon and the Joint Staff and the many areas across the command’s purview for this particular joint base,” he said. “But (it starts with) understanding what problems they’re facing, understanding what concerns they have, understanding the nature of their operations, what they are designed and missioned to do and ways that you can support that and help the command and the organization in their designated missions in supporting that population or in the command of the installation for the joint base commander’s role.”

The best sergeants major get out from behind the desk and find out what the needs of the people and the organization are, Fisher said.

“They work to support (the commander’s) lines of effort in conjunction with the commander’s intent, the commander’s vision and just help

people at the end of the day solve problems,” he said. “That’s what we’re here to do.”

As for what initiatives Fisher is tackling first, he named quality of life matters such as: Army family housing, reception and integration of new arrivals, barracks and infrastructure, educational access and better coordination with agencies and entities to better support both Soldiers and the community.

“I’m hoping to identify and realize the gains that can be achieved through coordinated partnership and progressive movement to better serve both the needs of the community, the citizens of the National Capitol Region, and the military missions of the joint base, the Army, the Marine Corps and the Joint Service as a whole,” Fisher said. “It’s a shared problem set, and working together is the only way to perceive any type of forward movement or realize any gains for the community.”

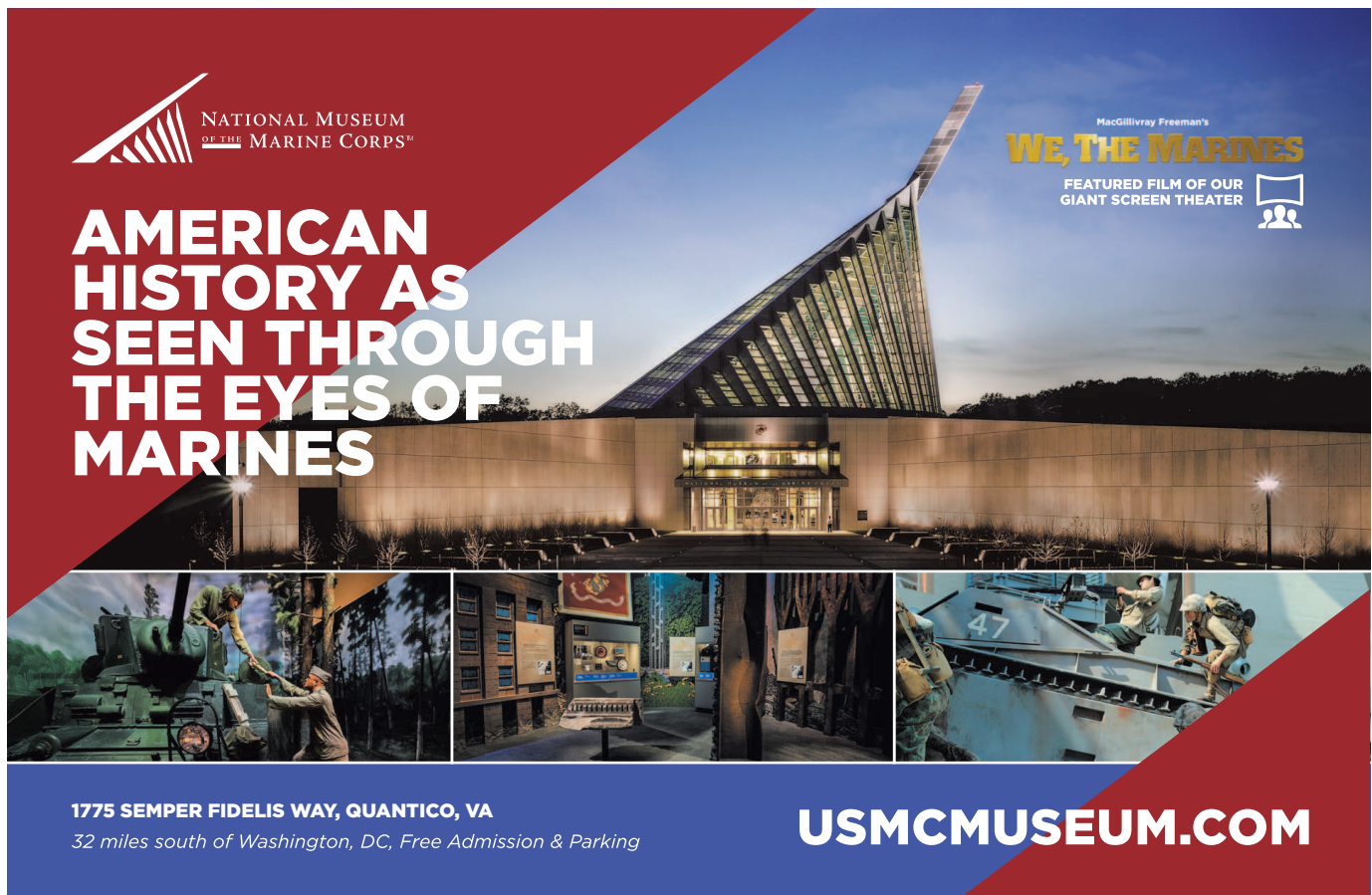
Although Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall is the smallest joint base in the Department of Defense, Fisher said its mission has a different level and scope — with wider ramifications.

“Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall is, of course, geographically small in nature but is extremely large in its importance and role,” he said.

Continuing the partnership with Arlington National Cemetery, housing the Army’s most senior leaders and high-level personnel from the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, and engaging in contingency plans with the Military District of Washington are all unique functions and missions of the joint base Fisher named as vital and having an impact across the National Capital Region.

As he begins forging the relationships needed to succeed in his role as the garrison’s senior enlisted adviser, Fisher said he looks forward to serving the people of the joint base and surrounding community.

“It’s an honor to be here in our nation’s capital,” he said. “It’s an honor to serve in connection with Arlington National Cemetery and The Old Guard and The United States Army Band and our military’s mission and rendering final honors to those that have given a life of service to their country and their nation in so many different ways. And I couldn’t be more thrilled and honored to serve alongside the Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians and DoD personnel within the National Capital Region. I will do my very best to give all that I can, each and every day.”



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African immigrant finds family and possibilities as an Army civilian

Denise Caskey

JBM-HH Public Affairs

When he boarded a plane bound for the United States in 2016, Naulin Mombo spoke four languages, but English wasn't one of them. He left Africa with \$100 in his pocket and a vision of the American Dream dancing in his head.

It all started with a conversation he had with a friend during the 1994 World Cup.

"One of my friend talk about the green card, the lottery green card," Mombo said. "He said, 'If you play the lottery, if you win, you can have the right to study, to go to America and do your life over there.'"

The green card lottery, also known as the Diversity Immigrant Visa program, is a program that awards 55,000 U.S. permanent resident cards to recipients annually and is administered by the State Department under the Immigration Act of 1990.

Mombo, a native of Gabon in Central Africa, was a student in Cote d'Ivoire (the Ivory Coast) when he entered the lottery.

Where there's a will, there's a way

The day Mombo found out he won, he said he was cleaning his room at school and he had a vision of himself in America getting married and having children.

"When I look at my e-mail, I see the word 'congratulations,' Mombo said. "I knew what the word 'congratulations' means, but with the content of the e-mail, because I was French speaking, I didn't know exactly what the e-mail said."

He said he asked a Nigerian man to read the email for him.



Naulin Mombo receives his Master of Business Administration certificate May 13 during a graduation ceremony at American University in Washington D.C. (Courtesy photo)

"He gave me a hug and say, 'Oh, you go to America! You go to America!'" Mombo said. "He was saying, 'OK. Take that letter, go to the embassy and ask them.' He told me, 'Do you know how many times I play? I play five times. I never win.'"

Once the embassy confirmed Mombo had won, they gave him the paperwork to fill out with the recommendation that he hire a lawyer to help.

“They asked me for \$1,200 or something like that,” Mombo said. “I didn’t have that money. I was a student. I said, ‘No, I’m going to do that by myself,’ because they send me everything. I asked a friend who had better English than me how to complete the form. I complete everything.”

Entering the lottery is free; however, winners are expected to pay a fee when they arrive at their embassy or consulate. There are other criteria as well – have at least a high school diploma, pass a health exam and background check – that winners must meet to receive a green card.

Mombo, who was working on a master’s degree in Cote d’Ivoire, met all the necessary requirements, but when it came to the required fee, Mombo hit a snag. He said, being a student and from a poor family, he didn’t have \$1,000, so he went to his church, explained his situation, and the church paid the fee for him.



Naulin Mombo, center, stands with colleagues Noudehou Koutangni, left, and Troy Denison, right, May 13 outside the Kogod School of Business at American University in Washington, D.C., where Mombo completed his Master of Business Administration degree. (Courtesy photo)

After he received his green card, Mombo faced a new challenge: getting the money for a plane ticket to America. Once again, Mombo said, he turned to his church. They took up a collection to get Mombo the money for his plane ticket, and after the ticket was purchased, Mombo had \$100 left in his pocket.

With his ticket in his hand, Mombo said he had two choices. He could tell his family and friends that he was going to America knowing that they wouldn't believe him, or he could simply pack up, get on the plane and follow the path laid out by God.

"When God said to Abraham, 'Leave your house. I will show you where to go,' I just take that word personal," Mombo said. "I said, 'God, I don't know English. I don't. I never speak English, but I will follow you. I will believe in your word. You never lie.' I just follow my faith."

Welcome to America

Mombo flew into JFK Airport in New York and said he'll never forget the day he landed in America.

"Oh, my God! I will never forget when the plane start to land and then I see the houses," Mombo said. "I see the kind of house I used to see on the TV. I said, 'Oh, I'm really now in America.' It was amazing!"

Before leaving Africa, Mombo arranged to meet a friend of someone at his church, but when he arrived at JFK, there was nobody there to greet him.

An African taxi driver happened to see Mombo waiting and asked who he was waiting for. Mombo replied that he was waiting for a friend. Rather than leave Mombo to continue waiting alone, the taxi driver waited with him.

Mombo said after two hours the driver offered to call the person who was supposed to pick him up, but he was unsuccessful in reaching them. Mombo explained to the driver that he had just arrived in America and he had nowhere to go.



Col. David Bowling, joint base commander, congratulates Naulin Mombo on receiving his Master of Business Administration from American University during a luncheon May 15 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (Photo by Denise Caskey/JBM-HH Public Affairs)

"He asked me, 'Do you have money?' I said, 'Yes.' For me \$100 was big money," Mombo said. "Then he start to laugh. He said, 'OK. Let's go to the Bronx.' He showed me a small space for \$500 and said, 'You're going to start to pay. Give me the \$100.'"

Finding his way

Mombo took classes to learn English while working his first job in America as a dishwasher at a restaurant in Manhattan.

He was in America for three months before he got a phone and could call his mother.

"My mama was crying," Mombo said. "She told me, 'You want to kill me? Are you crazy? Why you do that to me? Why? Why?' I said, 'No, mom. If I tell you, you never believe.'"

Mombo said New York City turned out to be very expensive and destructive for him, so he decided to try his luck in Atlanta, Georgia. However,

without a car, finding a job in Atlanta was almost impossible.

He moved to the National Capitol Region, where he worked as a custodian at the Capital until he got a job as an emergency actions controller for the Directorate of Operations at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in 2020.

While working at the Capital, Mombo started the process to get his degree transferred to a school in the U.S., because he was eager to continue his education. He applied for and was accepted into the MBA program at American University.

“My mama always told me that your first girlfriend is school,” Mombo said.

He graduated in May 2023 and said he plans on starting work on his Ph.D. in September.

Education is power, Mombo said. His mother is a teacher in Africa, and two of his six siblings received scholarships to study in France.

“I was very proud that I take after my mom,” Mombo said. “My mentor is my mom. My mom, she can do everything. I’m very proud of her because she has a job back home. She went to school. She graduate. She worked for the government, as a teacher. I’m very proud of her. She means everything for me.”

Mombo said he’s grateful for his job as a custodian at the Capital because it got his foot in the door as a government employee. With his degree, he wants to continue working for the government, but he wants to do something in economics or finance.

Discovering an extended family

Mombo is very close to his family in Africa, but he said working at JBM-HH is like being among family.

He points to Col. David Bowling, JBM-HH commander, as one of a handful of people who make the community on the installation feel like a family.

“I think we have a good commander,” he said. “I will tell you I never feel in a family like

that. Every time that the commander does the (Operations and Intel meeting), the way he talk to people — even in alibis... You remember we have someone who committed suicide in November last year? The speech that the commander said touch my spirit. Because I don’t have any mom here, I don’t have any dad. I don’t have any girlfriend yet. I feel my family over here.”

Mombo also credits his supervisor, Troy Dennison, chief of operations, for helping him feel like he belonged. He said before Dennison came along, he was ready to quit, but Dennison helped him feel more confident and capable.

“I have a desire to do my Ph.D. because of him,” Mombo said. “I was about to give up, to quit the job downstairs last year because someone was treating me badly. Troy intervened. He said, ‘No, you cannot treat someone like that. You cannot treat someone unfair. That’s not good.’ I’m so glad I meet Troy. I’m so happy.”

Persevering through hardships

Mombo became a U.S. citizen two years ago. Even though he misses his family in Africa — his mother comes to America every six months and is planning to move here permanently after she retires — he said America has more opportunities than Africa.

“Here we have more liberty,” he said. “Immigrant can become somebody here.”

Mombo’s life in America hasn’t been without struggle, but he has persevered because he didn’t give up. He knew what he wanted and he found a way to get it. He said he would tell other people not to give up as well.

“Life is not easy,” he said. “I would tell them to remember where they come from, where they are exactly now, and where they want to go. Life has a process. Trust the process. Many people fail because they don’t follow the process; they don’t follow the steps. Persevere. Learn. Invest in yourself. Invest in your education.”



U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Lisa Jaster, center, became the third woman to graduate from the U.S. Army's elite Ranger School, Oct. 16, 2015, in Fort Moore, Georgia. Jaster joined the only two other women at the time, then Capt. Kristen Griest, left, and then 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, right, in gaining the coveted Ranger tab. (Paul Abell / AP Images for U.S. Army Reserve)

Ranger-tabbbed Infantry officer says Army needs more women

Denise Caskey
JBM-HH Public Affairs

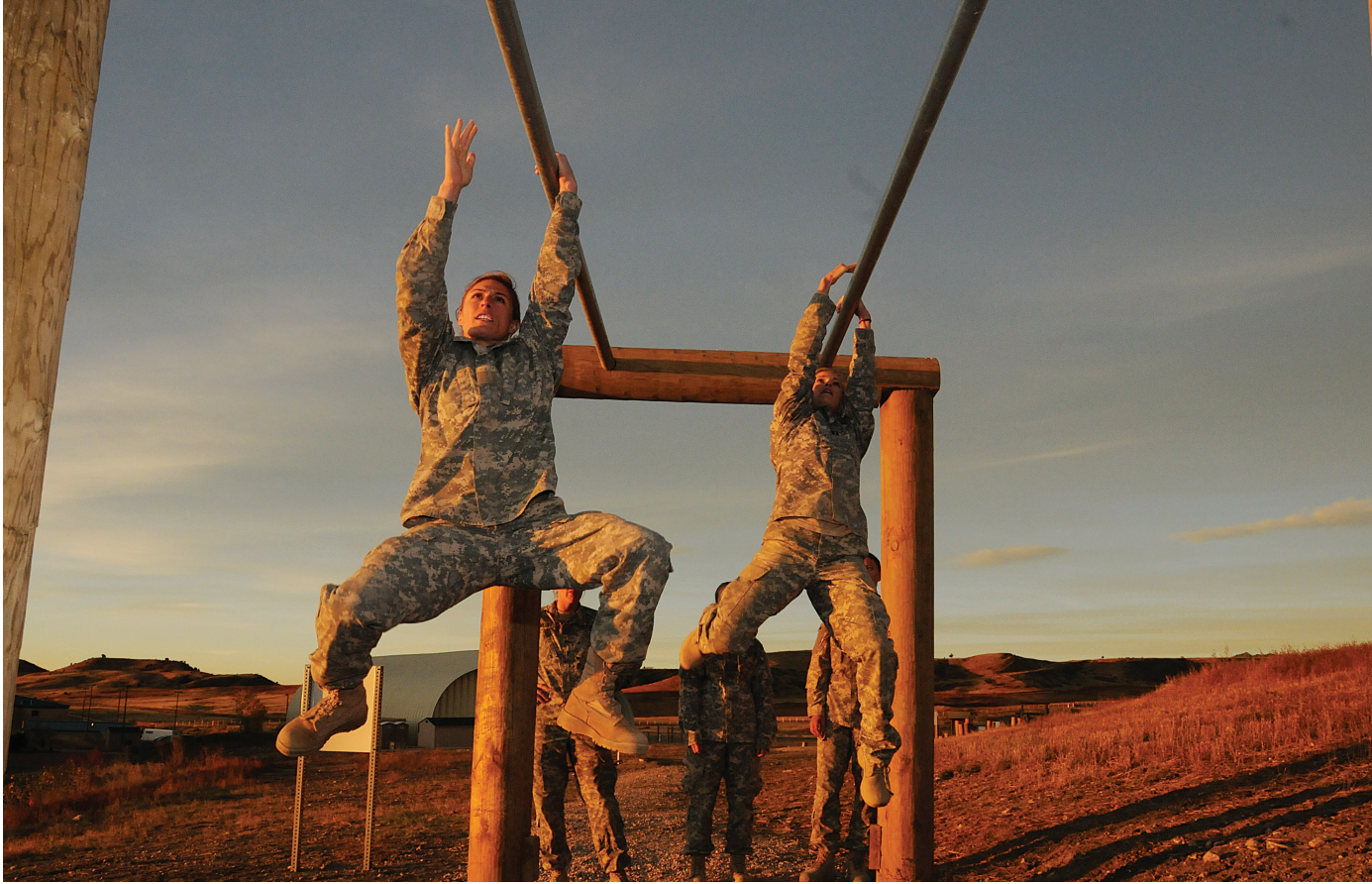
Growing up as a self-proclaimed “Army brat,” Maj. Shaye Haver was an 11-year-old at Fort Novosel, Alabama, when she got her first inkling, while watching the events of 9/11 unfold, that perhaps she wanted to be part of the community that worked to defend America.

When she was 12, Haver said she remembers asking her mother if women can have careers in the military, to which her mother responded,

“Yeah, they’re lawyers and doctors and pilots and stuff like that.”

Haver, a 2012 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, said helping people is in her DNA. Initially, she thought she wanted to do something in the medical field, but as it turns out she took a completely different path.

Haver commissioned as an aviator and attended flight school at Fort Novosel. As an aviator, she said she felt like she could make a significant contribution to the military either as a troop transport pilot or an attack helicopter pilot.



Maj. Shaye Haver, then a first lieutenant and Apache pilot, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, left, traverses an obstacle during the Ranger Assessment Oct. 24, 2014, at Fort Carson, Colorado, to improve the participant's chances of completing Ranger School. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Eric Glassey, 4th Inf. Div. PAO)

"I originally chose fixed wing, but I knew in my heart of hearts that that was not what I wanted to do with my time in the military, so I traded with a classmate and became an Apache pilot," Haver said.

Ranger School

Haver was a First Lieutenant stationed as an aviator at Fort Carson, Colorado, when she got the opportunity to attend Ranger School at the Maneuver Center of Excellence in Fort Moore, Georgia, and in August 2015, she, along with Maj. Kristen Griest, made national news by becoming the first two women to complete the Ranger Course and earn their Ranger tabs — opening the door for other women to follow. A third, Lt. Col. Lisa Jaster, U.S. Army Reserve, would complete the course in October 2015.

However, Haver said that she and Griest just

happened to be in the right place at the right time and it could have been anyone else at any other time.

"I think what graduating from Ranger School did was show that women are capable," Haver said. "It doesn't take a superhero. It just takes hard work, and they're doing it every day, which is amazing."

From helicopter pilot to Infantry officer

After completing Ranger School, Haver went back to Fort Carson, where she was picked up for a promotion and sent to the Maneuver Captain's Career Course at Fort Moore.

While she was stationed there, the exclusionary clause that prohibited women from serving in combat roles in the military was lifted, so she voluntarily transferred into Infantry and continued her Army career as an Infantry officer.

"I loved flying, both the technical and tactical aspects of being an Army aviator, but my experience at Ranger School reminded me that I love people more," Haver said. "When the time came to make the decision to transition to the Infantry, just like my decision to fly Apaches, I knew in my heart of hearts it was the right thing for me to do."

Haver served from 2020 to early 2023 as the memorial affairs company commander with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, The 3d U. S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. She was the first woman to lead one of these rifle companies. During her tenure as commander, she had the honor of escorting the remains of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg for her laying in state at the Capitol.

The Army needs more women

Haver challenges the assumption that the Army is a man's sport.

"It's not any gender sport," she said. "It is a team sport, and we need people on the team who want to better themselves and better the strength of our national security because it is so vital to preserving the way that we get to live."

With more than 200 career tracks available, Haver said to encourage more women to join, the Army needs to show them that they are needed. She added that by demonstrating how serving can offer them stability and opportunities to apply their skills and explore their interests, the Army can help women "Be All You Can Be."

"They absolutely belong in these organizations because of the unique skills, talents and abilities that they bring," Haver said. "Whatever skills, talents and abilities we think women have, they're well suited for these jobs just like anyone else."

She added that people sometimes wrongly assume that for their experience to matter, they need to make the military their career.

"Even if you stayed only two, three, five or 10 years, not only are you getting the benefit of stability and a steady paycheck and medical and school



Maj. Shaye Haver, then a captain and commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Liberty, North Carolina, gathers her equipment June 9, 2018, on Adazi Base, Latvia after parachuting from a C-17 Globemaster III during Swift Response 18. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin D. Biven / 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

benefits, but you're also getting on-the-job, hands-on experience in an environment where it is more acceptable to learn through trial and error," Haver said. "I honestly think that it's more effective for us to be able to learn from our mistakes than by demanding perfection, and I think that provides an opportunity for specificity, for subject matter expertise, for being genuinely good at and enjoying your job whether you choose to stay in the military or not."

Haver knew long ago that she wanted to make a career out of the Army. As she transitions to her next duty station at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, she said she is excited to keep going and contribute for as long as she can.

"The thing that keeps me in the Army is that I still think I can contribute and help," she said. "I'm at that next level, and I still believe in it so much. Maybe the system isn't perfect, and neither are people, but anywhere I go I want to be able to influence positively the people around me. Because it is such a people-centric organization, that speaks to me personally. That's my desire in a career."

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#PeopleFirst Profile

Name: Christopher Tamayo

Title: Casualty Operations Coordinator

JBM-HH Casualty Assistance Office

Number of years at JBM-HH: 18

How does the Army help you #BeAllYouCanBe?

The Army made me realize nothing is impossible and everything is possible if you dream it and believe it!

Being 'all I can be' has opened doors for me and instilled faith and confidence in my supervisors and leadership to trust me with the most important tasks.

I have been trusted to deliver critical information senior leaders and their families where I am able to show my talents expressing and articulating national and state benefits and entitlements for deceased Soldiers and their families.

What is your favorite thing about working at JBM-HH?

My favorite thing about working at JBM-HH is that obstacles don't have to stop me. If I run into a wall, I don't have to turn around and give up. I am always given a chance to figure out how to climb the wall, go through the wall, or work around it. Working on JBM-HH makes it very convenient for me to get to work because of the closeness to the Metro, the free parking and most importantly working with a great staff and leadership. Leadership is understanding and supportive and cares about me, my family and my health.

From Albert Brown, Casualty Assistance Center supervisor:

Christopher is the Casualty Center technical guru with a passion for his work to help Soldiers and their survivors. Some people might think that "Go Beyond" is just a phrase; however, he lives it. His ability to perform tasks with utmost sincerity has been a great motivator for the Casualty Center personnel. His attitude and fit with the team are exceptional, and other team members come to him frequently with questions, and their trust in him speaks volumes.

His customer management skills are fantastic, and his can-do attitude is well displayed as he effectively provides casualty information to survivors and expedites the processing of their entitlements. He has contributed considerably to the success of the casualty center mission and was recognized by leadership for his due diligence and willingness to go the extra mile.

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Commentary

TDY provides learning opportunity for Army civilian

Claire Kelley

JBH-HH Plans, Analysis & Integration Office

I recently completed a 120-day temporary developmental detail at the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison at the Pentagon.

The detail opportunity was recommended to me by a fellow alum of the Army Fellows Program, which I completed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in early 2022. I applied with the support of my supervisor, Matt Steger, and the command team. The application included a personal narrative, resume, and an endorsement letter from my supervisor. I was then interviewed and offered the position.

My main responsibilities during the detail were managing Congressional tasking requirements of the Army from the Committee versions of the National Defense Authorization Act, preparing Army senior leaders for Congressional engagements and liaising between Army senior leaders and professional staff members of Defense Oversight committees on multiple staff delegation trips.

The most impactful part of my experience was learning how the Army and Congress work together to create change. During my time at OCLL, I gained a robust understanding of the annual battle rhythm of the NDAA. Learning this annual process and reading through the NDAA itself gave me an inside look into Congress's priorities, values, and goals for the Army.

Additionally, I got the opportunity to manage



Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall program analyst Claire Kelley stands at the podium in the visitors center at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Kelly served a temporary developmental detail at the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison at the Pentagon in late 2022. (Courtesy photo)

a congressional staff delegation to Camp Pendleton, California, for Army Futures Command's Project Convergence 2022. To be on a team that brought together international partners, our sister services, and Congressional power brokers in an effort advance joint and multinational interoperability in future operational environments was life changing.

The thing that surprised me most during my detail was the access and opportunities I was given as a new member of the team. From my first day on the detail, I was empowered to give my opinion and engage with decision makers at the highest level.

One of the unique features of the joint base is our physical proximity to Congress. This frequently shines a more intense light on our operations here.

This detail highlighted the importance of transparency with our Congressional leaders and the benefits that come with positive communication with the legislative branch. Also, the contacts I made during the detail continue to reach out to me to inform me of developments that could potentially affect JBM-HH.

I would absolutely recommend this detail to others. It allowed me to see the Army from a bird's-eye view. At the installation, we operate at the tactical level, working hard every day to support Soldiers and their families. This detail allowed me to understand how the Army operates at the strategic level to set policy and plan for the Army's future.

The details run January to April, May to August and September to December and are open to any motivated grade GS-11 through 14 Department of the Army civilian. People interested in doing one of these details can contact Victor Samuel at victor.h.samuel.civ@army.mil or Courtney Cocoran at courtney.s.corcoran.civ@army.mil for more information.



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Marines lend a hand during SMP Days of Service

Denise Caskey

JBM-HH Public Affairs

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Marines from the Single Marines Program took part in SMP's annual Days of Service event April 17 to 22, lending a hand to a variety of organizations around the community on and off the base.

SMP Days of Service was implemented in 2015 to align with the program's pillar of community service and recognizes the value of community involvement as part of leadership development. Days of Service takes place during National Volunteer Week, which began in 1974.

"Days of Service is essentially a whole week of community service that Marines do for their city or the installation, whether on a joint base or a Marine Corps installation," said Cpl. Dylan Brito, president of the JBM-HH SMP Council.

In previous years, joint base Marines have volunteered to clean up Arlington National Cemetery, feed the hungry around the National Capital Region with Grate Patrol, a mobile outreach program operated by the Salvation Army, and mentor children at the Cody Child Development Center.

This year, in addition to feeding the homeless on Grate Patrol, the Marines also volunteered at the Fort Myer Thrift Store, helped the USO prepare items for distribution around the NCR and, on April 21, closed out the event by cleaning up the Henderson Hall campus.

"A small group of Marines assisted the Thrift Store with unloading deliveries, moving large items, itemizing, cleaning aisles, and tagging



Marine Lance Cpl. Jasmyne Wright, left, and SMP employee Allie French, center, assist Jeane Moore, director of the JBM-HH Thrift Shop, right, with organizing and labeling items while a customer browses in the background April 18 as part of the Single Marines Program Days of Service. (Courtesy photo)

inventory," Ethan Coddington, SMP coordinator, said of the day SMP aided thrift store employees. "We happened to go on the day that they got a ton of items donated, so the workers were incredibly grateful."

Some volunteer opportunities, such as Grate Patrol, are ongoing events Marines participate in outside of Days of Service. Brito, who joined the Marines in January 2020 and came to JBM-HH in July 2020, said Grate Patrol is his favorite volunteer event and he does it as often as he can.

Although the SMP program emphasizes community service, Brito said Marines are not required to volunteer or take part in Days of Service, but he thinks volunteering gives them good experience and a different perspective on the outside world.

Whether the Marine is volunteering at the CDC, providing mentorship and leadership to children, or helping to nurse a dog or cat back to health at a local animal shelter, Brito said he believes volunteering creates a sense of pride that comes from feeling like what they've done has had some kind of impact on someone else's life.

"You're essentially taking care of the community which is your family," he said.

Organizations seeking volunteers can reach out to Ethan Coddington, at 703-220-1001 or ethan.coddington@usmc-mccs.org. For Marines interested in volunteering, visit the Henderson Hall events page on Eventbrite.



Marine Sgt. Isaiah Fox power washes grime off a wall April 21 at Henderson Hall campus of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall during the final day of the Single Marines Program Days of Service. (Courtesy Photo)

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Soldiers with the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) perform a bayonet charge as part of the Military District of Washington's "Twilight Tattoo" May 3 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy)

Twilight Tattoo is back and better than ever

Hannah Frenchick
JTF-NCR/MDW Public Affairs

The sounds of cannons firing in the distance is not unusual on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, and on April 19, 2023, it provided a familiar soundtrack signaling that Twilight Tattoo is back in full effect on Summerall Field.

One of the key Joint Task Force-National Capital Region/ U.S. Military District of Washington productions, the action-packed Army experience dates back to World War II and features Soldiers from the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own."

This rehearsal was not just any rehearsal; it was the commanding general's validation. This validation was the final step before Twilight Tattoo made its season debut May 3.

The planning process for the 2023 show began immediately after the 2022 season ended, as show creation is an intricate process.

"We generally do an (after action review) within the month while we're still thinking of 2022," said Marci Seeger, deputy director of the Ceremonies and Outreach Directorate and chief of strategic outreach.

That review is done with all the participants and organizations that help make Twilight Tattoo possible.

The Ceremonies and Outreach Directorate takes the lessons learned from the prior season, coupled with Army messaging and information, to begin the scriptwriting and logistical planning.

“We start briefing that as early as November to the commanding general to say what we’re thinking and give him an opportunity to really provide some guidance at that very early stage,” Seeger said.

Some of the new items incorporated into the 2023 Twilight Tattoo show include new characters and a new storyline.

“We have a whole section where we are featuring people like General Cavazos and Dr. Mary Walker, (people) who aren’t necessarily top of mind,” Seeger said. “They have great stories and are going have bases renamed for them.”

Seeger said they didn’t want to just include them and say a base is going to be named after them, but wanted Twilight Tattoo to tell their stories to bring better recognition of their contribution to the Army and the history of the nation.

In addition to the new characters, the storyline of the show centers on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

Seeger said the Hal Moore sequence recognizing Vietnam Veterans was augmented to include the work of his wife Julia Moore.

“The Vietnam War was 50 years ago; there’s so much history between then and now,” Seeger said. “We had a tendency before to kind of walk through all the conflicts through World War I, the Civil War, World War II, and get to Vietnam and think, ‘Oh, now we have to end the show,’ and skip forward. This year we got through that early history much more quickly.”



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), perform at Twilight Tattoo May 24 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. XaViera Masline)



Soldiers with the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) portray the “Harlem Hellfighters” of the 369th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard in a vignette on the 369th’s World War I service as part of the Military District of Washington’s “Twilight Tattoo” May 3 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy)

Seeger said when discussing what to include in the programing, Maj. Gen. Allan M. Pepin, commanding general JTF-NCR/MDW, also thought it was important to include the more recent Afghanistan and Iraq operational history and acknowledge the Afghanistan withdrawal and the efforts of the 82nd Airborne Division there.

Once developers decided on the new material and messaging, the next step included finalizing a script and beginning the audition process.

“We’ve got a script that everybody’s at least seen and is provisionally okay with,” Seeger said. “We can audition in early February before the Old Guard goes out to do their (Expert Infantry, Soldier or Field Medical Badge) training.”

This year, those auditions were held February 13 to 15 in the 4th Battalion, 3d U.S. Infantry

Regiment Headquarters on JBM-HH. Most of the Soldiers cast in the performance are members of The Old Guard.

“We ended up seeing over 90 Soldiers, and we have 16 speaking roles (to cast),” Seeger said.

Although several of the Soldiers who auditioned for the 2023 Twilight Tattoo have also participated in other JTF-NCR/MDW outreach events, not all were seasoned performers.

“We try to work with them a little bit in the audition process,” Seeger said. “There’s nerves, and some have never auditioned before, but once they memorize it, they can be very dynamic. Part of it is trying to see through the audition process to see what the possibilities could be.”

While the actors are being cast, COD also works with The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own”

to create the music that uplifts the show from just spoken words to a full experience.

“We basically say, ‘here’s what we’re thinking, what do you think works’ and they come to us with ideas for the underscore,” Seeger said. “Their contribution to the show is incredibly important because music on a live show is the key to the energy level. It’s the music that really helps it still feel like a full experience.”

Seeger said show collaborators are fantastic, valuable partners, and that the teamwork between COD, JBM-HH, The Old Guard and The U.S. Army Band is incredibly important to putting together a great show for audiences that visit the installation almost every Wednesday evening from May to July.

After all the hard work that is put into planning Twilight Tattoo, the team is ready for the validation. Pepin, along with members of JBM-HH, The

Old Guard and The U.S. Army Band leadership then watched the rehearsal April 19 to provide the final approval.

Pepin praised the team for the work they have put in so far and offered some final adjustments to make but gave the word to continue moving forward.

The next step in the Twilight Tattoo season was opening day May 3. For Seeger, the crowds filling the bleachers is what she most looks forward to each season.

“The kids are dancing in the stands and they’re singing along,” Seeger said. “It’s that energy that comes from the crowd that then gets the cast excited that then just creates this really fantastic experience.”

Twilight Tattoo takes place every Wednesday, with a break from June 28 to July 5. For more details, visit: <https://twilight.mdw.army.mil/>.

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Stopping mold is a joint responsibility

Sherry Kuiper

JBM-HH Public Affairs

It's the four-letter word that pops up everywhere, on everything, and if it is not addressed, it can get out of control.

Mold.

"Mold is naturally occurring, and it is everywhere," said Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall director of safety, Leonard Davis. "From the vents in your home or car to the walls, and even your skin, mold is all around us."

Molds can be found almost anywhere, according to Army Medicine. It can grow on virtually any surface, provided moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet and food.

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall is ready to fight the fungus, but to do so involves everyone.

The best way to counter mold is to work toward preventing its growth in living and working spaces in the first place by keeping the heating and air conditioning systems in good working condition, cleaning up areas that have moisture and keeping up with general cleaning.

When mold first appears, it can be cleaned up with a non-bleach general-purpose cleaner. Simply wipe, rinse and dry the area.

"If a Soldier or Marine living in the barracks sees mold, they need to address it right away," Davis said. "If it is a small patch, the service member can get a cleaning kit from their regimental facility manager and take care of it easily and quickly. If it's a larger issue, they should take a photo and submit a workorder using ArMa"

ArMa is the army maintenance workorder site for barracks, which can be found on the Digital Garrison App that is available on any app store.

Davis said if the spread of mildew or mold in



Pictured is an example of how mold can look when it's found. Mold can be found on virtually any surface, provided moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods. (Courtesy Photo)

residential areas is less than 10 square feet, the understanding is that residents should be able to handle it themselves with cleaning products.

However, if a workspace is having problems, the process is slightly different.

Mold in workspaces needs to be reported to the facility manager, who will then decide if it can be cleaned up or if a work order must be submitted.

If a work order needs to be submitted, the facility manager will handle that process.

To find out who the facility manager is for a particular building, call the JBM-HH Department of Public Works at 703-696-3264.

Common sources/causes of mold include:

- Exterior leaks
- Uncontrolled humidity
- Plumbing failures
- Condensation

Immediate reporting of water leaks and system failures will go a long way to help stop mold.

"Correcting mold problems as soon as possible is key," Davis said. "First by fixing the source of the moisture problem and removing contaminated materials, then cleaning the surfaces and finally, drying the area completely."

For more information on mold and resources to help keep it at bay, visit the JBM-HH mold resources page at home.army.mil/jbmhh.



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