

Always Ready wins DFAC competition



ABOVE LEFT, Sgt. 1st Class Stefan Coburn, manager for the Always Ready Dining Facility, gives remarks after receiving the trophy for the Thanksgiving DFAC competition Nov. 26 at the Always Ready DFAC at Fort Cavazos. The Fort Cavazos Thanksgiving DFAC competition is a way for DFACs on post to share their holiday spirit with attending Soldiers by using decorations, sculptures and a big holiday meal served by the respective DFAC companies' leadership. Each DFAC is attended and ranked by team members of Fort Cavazos leadership, such as Lt. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral, commanding general of Fort Cavazos and III Armored Corps. **ABOVE RIGHT**, Col. Robert Cope, chief of staff, 13th Armored Corps Sustainment Command, serves Soldiers a Thanksgiving meal Nov. 26 at the Always Ready DFAC at Fort Cavazos.



Photos by Sgt. Tanner Dibble, 13th ACSC Public Affairs



Photo by Christine Luciano, DPW Environmental

Col. Lakicia Stokes, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Loyd A. Rhoades, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos command sergeant major, receive a certificate of recognition for the installation's achievement of the 2024 Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence from Lt. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral, III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos commanding general; Command Sgt. Maj. John P. McDwyer, III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos command sergeant major; and Chip Howell, district liaison, on behalf of Rep. Pete Flores for Texas State House District 24 on Nov. 25 at the Community Events and Bingo Center at Fort Cavazos.

Recognizing excellence: Phantom Warrior Awards lauds Soldiers, civilians alike

BY CHRISTINE LUCIANO
DPW Environmental

Lt. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral, III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. John P. McDwyer, III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos command sergeant major, celebrated the exceptional contributions of the warfighter and civilians Nov. 25 at the Phantom Warrior Awards ceremony at the Community Events and Bingo Center. The two recognized Soldiers and civilians for their leadership, volunteerism and selfless

service to the community. The 27th year of the Phantom Warrior Awards ceremony highlighted the dedication of individuals who embody the Army values and warrior ethos. "Each Soldier and civilian that we honor today, stands on this stage not by chance, but by their unwavering personal commitment to excellence," Admiral said. "Many of the awardees gave their time and energy to the community through volunteer work, to forge partnerships between this installation and the

See **Award**, A6

New system is fast, fuel-ious

BY BLAIR DUPRE
Sentinel News Editor

A new Type III Hydrant Fuel System became operational Oct. 11 at Robert Gray Army Airfield at West Fort Cavazos. The facility is government owned/contract operated by Maytag Aircraft LLC. "Under this contract, the fuel terminal manager, Bradley McCombs, and contract employees provide exceptional fuel services in support of the Warfighter and the entire Fort Cavazos installation around the clock," said Jose Nieves, supervisory logistics management specialist with the Army Field Support Battalion-Cavazos. Construction on the new fuel system began in early 2021 where the in-ground hydrant system was demolished in place, while the fuel tanks remained in operation.

See **Fuel Sytem**, A5



Photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Workers fuel an airplane using the Type III Hydrant Fuel System Nov. 18 at Robert Gray Army Airfield at Fort Cavazos.

NEWS BRIEFS

<p>Post holds annual tree lighting</p> <p>Fort Cavazos' annual tree lighting is at 5:15 p.m. Friday at the III Armored Corps Headquarters flagpole. Festivities include performances, photos with Santa, caroling and refreshments. This event is free and open to the public to attend. For more information, call the Religious Support Office at 254-286-6748 or 254-288-6545.</p>	<p>24th and 27th Street 9:55-11 a.m. and between 72nd Street and Pleiku Drive 9:55-11 a.m. Friday. Please plan accordingly.</p>	<p>AUSA postpones cleanup</p> <p>The Central Texas chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army's fifth annual Great Place Cleanup is postponed. More information will be given at a later date.</p>	<p>Orchestra plays free concert</p> <p>Fort Cavazos Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host "A Nutcracker Christmas," a free concert from the Williamson County Symphony Orchestra, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Howze Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>DFMWR hosts Trees for Troops</p> <p>Trees for Troops will be held Dec. 13 at Phantom Warrior Stadium. Trees are given on a first-come-first-serve basis. Each household may only receive one tree. Please come prepared to load the tree with sup-</p>	<p>plies. For more information, visit cavazos.armymwr.com/view-event/trees-troops/6623898/94233.</p>	<p>Veterans ride free in CenTex</p> <p>The Central Texas Vet-Ride Program offers veterans, their spouses and dependents free transportation through The HOP for uses including medical appointments, government offices, grocery stores, school and shopping. For more information, visit ctadvrc.org/programs/veterans/central-texas-vet-ride-program.</p>	<p>Submit Impact Aid survey</p> <p>Anyone working on Fort Cavazos in any capacity who has children attending school in a local school district should fill out an Impact Aid survey. Impact Aid helps to fund instructional materials, salaries and enrichment programs for schools, and the amount of funds received is dependent on the number of surveys received.</p> <p>To fill out the survey or for more information, call the School Liaison Office at 254-288-7946.</p>
<p>Road closes temporarily</p> <p>Legends Way will close between</p>							

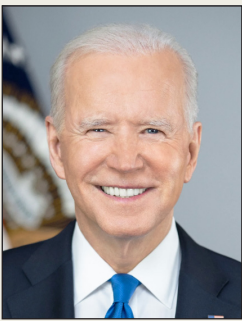
Biden honors veterans, military families

BY JOSEPH BIDEN JR.
President of the United States

Each veteran and military family represents a link in a chain of honor that stretches back to our founding days, unwavering in their devotion to their loved ones who served in uniform. This month, we honor all of our military and veteran families. They too serve and sacrifice to answer our nation's call to duty. We owe them a debt of gratitude we can never fully repay.

I often say, as a nation, we have many obligations, but only one is truly sacred: to prepare and equip those we send into harm's way and to care for them and their families when they come home.

We are continually working to make sure our nation's veterans and service members have access to the benefits and care they deserve. I have signed more than 34 bipartisan bills to better support our service members, veterans and their families, caregivers and survivors. One of those bills, the Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, or PACT, Act, was the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxic-exposed veterans and survivors in nearly 30 years. To date, more than 1.1 million veterans and over 11,000 survivors are now receiving new service-connected disability benefits, and over 796,000 veterans have newly enrolled in Veterans Affairs health care since the law was enacted. This law is helping families who lost loved ones to toxic illness gain access to critical resources and services, including monthly benefits, educational assistance, home loans and more. Actions outlined in our national strategy to prevent military and veteran suicide are tackling the root causes of the military



Joseph Biden Jr.

and veteran suicide crisis, including by better supporting families through the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among service members, veterans and their families. And we are making progress in eliminating homelessness and improving financial security for veteran and military families. Too often, veteran and military families become the targets of bad actors and scam artists. My administration's Veteran Service Member Family Fraud Evasion initiative is providing easy, one stop access to resources to report fraud and receive help from the federal government to combat scams. Additionally, I signed an executive order that implemented historic, bipartisan military justice reforms to transform how the military handles sexual assault and domestic violence cases. And I directed the Department of Defense to review pay and benefits for our service members — an important step toward ensuring their compensation reflects their service and sacrifice.

Military-connected families sacrifice for our country, answering the call to duty over and over again. Many military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors struggle to achieve their desired career goals due to unique challenges military-connected families face. This is why I signed an executive order that takes the most comprehensive set of administrative actions in history to support the economic security of military families and veterans' spouses, caregivers and survivors. I encouraged federal agencies to do more to retain military spouses through flexible policies, ensuring they have access to stable jobs throughout their careers. Last year, I signed an executive order that directed more than 50 actions to improve the care economy, which included critical actions to better support military and veteran caregivers and expand

access to military child care. These orders build on the efforts taken by my administration to improve the quality of life for military families, including initiatives to ease military moves, afford housing and find child care. Joining forces, the first lady's initiative is working to better support military and veteran families — doing everything from making school transitions easier for military children to expanding economic opportunities for military spouses and caregivers.

This is personal for my family and for me. We know the pride of seeing your child wear the uniform of the United States. We know the pain of long deployments far from home. We know what it is like to pray for the safe return of someone you love. This month, may we show our immense gratitude for our military and veteran families, whose courage and dedication represent the best of who we are as a nation.

Now, therefore, I, Joseph R. Biden Jr., president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2024 as National Veterans and Military Families Month. I call upon the people of the United States to honor veterans and military families with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.


Joe Biden

GREAT PEOPLE AT THE GREAT PLACE



Photo by 1st Lt. Russell Shirley-Jones, III Armored Corps Public Affairs
Pfc. Stiven Ramirez, wheeled vehicle mechanic, Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, connects the fuel pump line on a M1097R1 High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, or HMMWV, Nov. 7 at Fort Cavazos.

BY 1ST LT. RUSSELL SHIRLEY-JONES
III Armored Corps Public Affairs

The Army's wheeled vehicle mechanics serve in difficult roles, requiring technical skill and physical resilience to keep critical equipment operational. Whether they are serving in Poland or Fort Cavazos, Texas, they continually work under tight deadlines to ensure mission readiness.

Pfc. Stiven Ramirez, wheeled vehicle mechanic, Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade,



Photo by Sgt. Lyca Williams, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs
Pfc. Stiven Ramirez, assigned to Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, receives the Army Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. Robert Born, 1st Cavalry Division's deputy commander, Nov. 7 at Fort Cavazos. Ramirez was recognized for his exceptional work ethic and reliability within his unit.

was recognized and awarded the Army Commendation Medal by Brig. Gen. Robert G. Born, 1st Cavalry Division's deputy commander, for his hard work and dedication to the maintenance of the vehicles in his company, on Nov. 7 at Fort Cavazos.

"Ramirez has always been someone that I can go to and count on to get a job done," said Sgt. 1st Class John Inglod, maintenance supervisor, Echo Co., 1st Bn., 227th Aviation Regt., 1st Air Cav. Bde., and Ramirez's sponsor for his award. "I do not have to go out there and check on him.

"I trust him because of his work ethic," Inglod continued. "He is quick to go get after it and comes to me if he needs a question answered. Just doing that gives me the confidence to know he wants to be the best Soldier and teammate in the shop."

Born in the Dominican Republic, Ramirez moved to Paterson, New Jersey, when he was 8 with his mother and father. After high school, he enlisted in the Army during the summer of 2023 where he started from square one, learning about being a wheeled vehicle mechanic.

"In AIT (advanced initial training) was the first time I touched a vehicle in my whole life," Ramirez said. "I was a little bit scared."

Once he arrived at Fort Cavazos, Ramirez quickly began to take on tasks that helped him grow as a Soldier and a mechanic.

"All it takes to be a good Soldier is just doing what you are told, helping others when you can and learning a lot," Ramirez said. "I am learning a lot as a vehicle mechanic in this unit. The project I am working on right now is a HMMWV (high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle). I am working on the engine."

Ramirez gained his motivation to do well from observing his mother.

"I feel like most of the hard work that I do is thanks to my mom because I saw her working hard, when I was little," he expressed. Ramirez ultimately has the goal of becoming a warrant officer in the Army but wants to make sure he has a foundation set before applying.

"I want to learn my job, making sure I know every single bit of it," Ramirez said. "You need to know your job upside down, and every single thing about the vehicles."



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Photo by Sgt. Jacob Nunnenkamp, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The crew of “Boston,” an M109 Paladin assigned to 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, work together to clean the barrel after firing during Dynamic Front Nov. 18 on Forward Operating Site Toruń, Poland. Dynamic Front took place from Nov. 4-24 in Finland, Estonia, Germany, Poland and Romania, and demonstrates NATO’s ability to share fire missions, target information, and operational graphics from the Arctic to the Black Sea.

1-82 FA Regt strengthens interoperability during exercise

SGT. JACOB NUNNENKAMP
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING SITE Toruń, Poland — U.S. Army Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, showcased precision and interoperability during Exercise Dynamic Front 25 Nov. 4-24 across multiple European nations.

Dynamic Front is a U.S. Army Europe and Africa-led exercise designed to enhance NATO’s ability to execute coordinated long-range fires. This year, the exercise brought together over 3,700 service members from 28 allied and partner nations to demonstrate the alliance’s capability to synchronize fire missions from the Arctic to the Black Sea.

“This exercise proved that a single fires command is able to control multiple units over a large area,” said Capt. Yancy Zachertl, the fire direction officer for 1-82 FA Regt. “Our Polish allies are incredibly professional; our ability to combine fires onto a single target location proves our two armies operate with the same speed and professionalism.”

1-82 FA Regt. integrated with Polish Land Forces’ 2nd Battalion, 1st Field Artillery ‘Masurian’ Regiment. Both battalions executed artillery fire missions using their respective platforms: 1-82 FA with its M109 Paladins and the Masurian Regt. with its K9 Thunder self-propelled howitzers. These missions were part of a broader effort coordinated by the U.S. Army’s 56th Artillery Command, which directed fire missions to seven artillery battalions positioned across Europe.

“This is my first time working with the U.S. Army,” said Pfc. Maciej Jedynak, a traffic controller, 1st FA Regt. “It’s important

that we train together, so that if the time ever comes, we are able to stand together and defeat any threat.”

As part of the Regionally Aligned Forces supporting Operation European Assure, Deter, and Reinforce, 1-82 FA Regt. has been stationed in Lithuania. Their deployment to FOS Toruń for Dynamic Front tested the unit’s ability to rapidly reposition and operate in a multidomain environment alongside allies.

“One of our mission-essential tasks is to deploy,” said Lt. Col. Douglas McDonough, 1-82 FA Regt. commander. “Being able to conduct this exercise distributed over distance gives us an advantage in large-scale combat operations, while building capability with our multinational partners.”

Stressing the importance of interoperability and readiness, Soldiers from 1-82 FA Regt. and their Polish counterparts trained by conducting shared fire missions and refined their ability to respond to simulated threats as a part of a multinational force.

The exercise featured concurrent operations across host nations — Finland, Estonia, Germany, Poland and

Romania — and demonstrated NATO’s ability to operate across diverse terrains and distances, while testing the use of host-nation capabilities to expand operational reach and improve logistical efficiency.

“I am very proud of my section,” said Staff

Sgt. Chandler Holland, a Paladin section chief, 1-82 FA Regt. “I am so happy they got this experience to come to Europe and shoot together with multiple armed forces from different countries all to accomplish one mission.”



Photo by Sgt. Jacob Nunnenkamp, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Douglas McDonough, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment commander, right, speaks with Polish Land Forces Maj. Jarosław Skiczewski, 2nd Battalion, 1st Field Artillery ‘Masurian’ Regiment deputy commander, during Dynamic Front Nov. 16 at Forward Operating Site Toruń, Poland.





Photo by Spc. Julian Winston, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

RIGHT, An M109 Paladin, assigned to 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, fires a round of high-explosive artillery during Dynamic Front Nov. 19 at Forward Operating Site Toruń, Poland. **ABOVE**, Pfc. Keith Tunis, a cannon crewmember, 1st Bn., 82nd FA Regt., prepares to fire an M109 Paladin during Dynamic Front Nov. 16 at Forward Operating Site Toruń, Poland.



Photo by Spc. Julian Winston, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



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Soldiers with 1st Cavalry Division Artillery and staff members of Maude Moore Wood Elementary School pose for a picture at Sept. 23 at the elementary school at Killeen, Texas.

Instilling Army values: DIVARTY bonds with students through Adopt-a-School

BY SGT. JONATHAN GOMEZ
DIVARTY

KILLEEN, Texas — 1st Cavalry Division Artillery continued to strengthen its bond with Maude Moore Wood Elementary School through its dedicated participation in the Adopt-a-School program Nov. 8.

Since the program’s inception, Soldiers from DIVARTY have engaged in various activities to connect with students and enhance their learning experiences. One notable event was the Freedom Walk Sept. 11, where 20 Soldiers joined students and staff in a remembrance walk around the school, chanting “USA” to honor those lost in the 9/11 attacks.

“The Freedom Walk was more than just an event; it was an opportunity to reflect, share stories and build a deeper sense of unity,” said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Perkins, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery home station mission command first sergeant, DIVARTY.

Following the walk, Soldiers participated in classroom activities, assisting with lessons and engaging in lunch and recess with students.

Staff Sgt. Bryant Rhoads, Target Acquisition Platoon sergeant and a consistent leader in the DIVARTY Adopt-a-School initiatives, shared a memorable story from the first day of school.

“There was a young student who looked really sad and scared,” Rhoads recalled. “I walked with him to his class and talked to him, trying to make him feel comfortable. The next time I visited the school, I saw him on the way to the cafeteria for lunch. He waved and smiled at me. It was a powerful reminder of how much these small moments matter.”

Additionally, Rhoads taught flag etiquette to the school’s student council Nov. 6.

“The students were eager to learn how to handle and respect the American flag properly,” he said. “It was rewarding to

see their pride and attention to detail. The training covered raising, lowering, folding and carrying the flag — an essential lesson in patriotism and responsibility.

Throughout the fall, DIVARTY Soldiers supported numerous activities, including helping in math classes, reading to special education students and participating in physical education sessions.

Nine Soldiers had the opportunity to join math studies and lunch with military students Oct. 24, and students shared personal stories, including how frequent relocations impacted their lives.

“Hearing those stories reminded us why these connections are vital,” said Staff Sgt. Adam Morgan, an operations non-commissioned officer, DIVARTY.

Being active in the community is important, said Maj. Brandon Eans, operations planner, DIVARTY.

“Our families are also a part of the community, and we want to give back to the community that supports us and our families,” Eans expressed. “By hosting events like this, we share our stories and profession, inspiring potential future service members and building strong ties within our community. It is our responsibility to coach and mentor the next generation, instilling pride and a sense of shared purpose that strengthens our nation.”

A pivotal aspect of the program’s success is the visual reminder it leaves for students. Soldiers recently created a DIVARTY bulletin board adorned with camouflage netting and photos, symbolizing their ongoing presence and support.

“We want every military student walking by to feel seen and understood,” Eans explained.

The Fort Cavazos Adopt-a-School program provides school with additional resources to enhance student learning while also allowing Soldiers to practice their leadership skills, said Kristine Caparco, a school liaison officer with the Fort Cavazos School Liaison Office.

“The goal of the program is to support the 10 districts in the local Fort Cavazos area by providing enhanced student learning and enjoyment at their campus,” Caparco said. “These visits and activities provide an opportunity for Soldiers to give back to their community and grow partnerships that might not have otherwise developed. The impression and impact these visits have on the students and staff are life changing and priceless. We are thankful for this program and the Soldiers who give their time to ensure its success.”



Sgt. Eric Molina, communications sergeant, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, assists a second-grade math class using playing cards Oct. 25 at Maude Moore Wood Elementary School at Killeen, Texas.

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Dining Facility Operations Schedule

For the most updated schedule, visit home.army.mil/cavazos

OPEN (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

OPEN (Brunch & Supper)

CLOSED

HOLIDAY

Phantom Centralized HUB Building #41018
Old Ironside & 77th St.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
WR Manager: SFC Philpott

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM Building #21020
Battalion & 58th St.

Closed due to renovation.

BLACK JACK Building #34002
Old Ironsides Ave. & Pyongyang Dr.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
COR: Richard Johnson: 254-535-6845

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD TRUCK 1 The Lonestar Conference Center

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday
Lunch: 11:30a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday
Dinner: Closed
NCOIC: SSG Lopez: 787-414-1259

PATRIOT INN Building #12007
Old Ironside & 33rd St.

Closed until further notice.

CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD TRUCK 3

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Food Advisor: W01 Greene: 843-901-0260

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.

ALWAYS READY Building #91226
HQ Ave., West Fort Cavazos

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday
Lunch: 11:30-1 p.m. Monday-Friday
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Manager: 254-288-9538

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

NORTH FORT CAVAZOS Building #56320

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Breakfast: 5:30-8:30 a.m. Sunday-Saturday
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday-Saturday
Dinner: 5-7:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday
COR: Richard Johnson: 254-535-6845

Building #56447 is only for overflow.
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT Building #9205
Battalion & 21st St.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
COR: Richard Johnson: 254-535-6845

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:50 p.m.
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD KIOSK Old Ironsides and Pyongyang Drive

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

BRK, LUN, DIN: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday
(WNNK): 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Food Advisor: SFC Moore: 254-618-8914

CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD TRUCK 2 1-44/4-5 ADA BN area parking Lot

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday
Dinner: Closed
NCOIC: 254-288-9538

Culinary Outpost Food Truck 3 has the same hours of operation as Food Truck 2, operating on a rotation

Installation Food Service: 287-6595 III Armored Corps Food Service: 287-0573 Division Food Service: 287-3134

Soldiers, civilians exude leadership, selfless service



Fort Cavazos Directorate of Public Works individuals and teams, who were recognized for 15 awards, gather for a group photo with Brian Dosa, director of DPW, back row and second to the left, at the conclusion of the Phantom Warrior Awards ceremony Nov. 25 at the Community Events and Bingo Center at Fort Cavazos.

Award: *Continued from A1*

members of the Central Texas community, and, finally, several of our awardees today prioritized caring for Soldiers, civilians and their families.”

The ceremony recognized 45 Phantom Warrior individuals and teams who were nominated by their leaders and peers and selected as award recipients for the third and fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024. From military units and community organizations to Soldiers and civilians, awardees were honored for a range of initiatives that fostered professionalism, leadership, teamwork, mission readiness and community.

“When I first took command of the III Armored Corps, I designated four enduring priorities — warfighting, developing leaders, partnership and Soldiers, civilian and family care,” Admiral said. “These enduring priorities, which guide everything we do in the Phantom Corps and on this installation, are a testament to our commitment to excellence.”

The first awardee to be recognized among the 45 honorees was Pfc. Christopher Desir, a junior paralegal at the Fort Cavazos Client Legal Services Office, who was cheered on by his peers for his excellence in customer service. Highlights of his accomplishments include processing 1,316 virtual inquiries for legal assistance, offering in-person support to an additional 1,000 clients and participating in community service initiatives, like the Adopt-a-School program and food drives.

“Receiving the Phantom Warrior Award made me proud of the work I’m doing and grateful for the support of my team,” Desir said. “Their presence and encouragement reminded me of the strong camaraderie we share, and I deeply appreciate how they have helped me grow both professionally and personally.”

Several Directorate of Public Works staff were recognized for 15 awards that included Customer Service Excellence; Individual Quality; Team of Excellence; Volunteer in the Community; Outstanding Commitment to a Job; Community Support to Fort Cavazos; Employee of the Quarter; and Customer Service Warrior Awards.

DPW individuals and teams who went above and beyond their duties to be recognized included Deborah Frith, staff actions control assistant; Pollution Prevention Services and Bioremediation Team; Roads and Grounds Shop; Michael Clark, lead environmental protection specialist; Monte Reed, facilities maintenance superintendent; Tommie Driver, management analyst/security manager; Glenn Johnson, engineering technician; DPW Safety Office and Unit Safety officers; Dr. Amber Dankert, wildlife management supervisor; Michelle Lenis, branch chief of the Management and Outside Oversight Team; Shawn James, environmental protection specialist; Fort Cavazos Recycle; Kandice Hines, recycle

operations manager; Tracey Foster, housing manager; and Earl Hawkins, environmental protection specialist.

A few highlights include Dankert and Lenis who collectively volunteered 350 hours to organize and host a community mermaid-themed children’s event; Johnson, whose actions contributed to the safety of over 350 individuals during two consecutive emergencies — a tornado warning and a diabetic student in distress; Hines, who enhanced the operational efficiency of the installation’s recycle program and ensured a safety-first mindset; and Hawkins, who took on the role of Special Program Operations and fosters a culture of empathy and respect that delivers exceptional customer service at the Classification Unit and Bioremediation Site.

“I couldn’t be prouder of our incredible DPW team,” said Brian Dosa, director of DPW. “Those who were recognized are making a difference for our Soldiers, units and families. Each of them demonstrated exceptional dedication, hard work, teamwork and commitment to making a positive impact on Fort Cavazos. I am thrilled to see these teammates receive

public appreciation for their amazing work.”

The ceremony concluded with Fort Cavazos’ recognition as the winner of the 2024 Commander in Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence. On behalf of Rep. Pete Flores for Texas State House District 24, Chip Howell, district liaison, joined Admiral and McDwyer in presenting Col. Lakicia Stokes, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Loyd A. Rhoades, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos command sergeant major, with a certificate of recognition.

“This installation is The Great Place because we focus on mission excellence and standards, teamwork and caring for each other,” Stokes said. “That focus is exemplified by the accomplishments of today’s awardees. Individually and collectively, they represent a passion for service, a steadfast purpose of ensuring the Army can fight and win our nation’s wars and an unwavering commitment to the people, our Soldiers and their families who willingly sacrifice to support and defend our nation.”



Pfc. Christopher Desir, a junior paralegal at the Fort Cavazos Client Legal Services Office, receives the Customer Service Excellence Individual award from Lt. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral, III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. John P. McDwyer, III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos command sergeant major, Nov. 25 at the Community Events and Bingo Center at Fort Cavazos.

Type III Hydrant Fuel System powers up RGAAF operations



Sgt. Maj. LaQuaine Bess, left, senior enlisted advisor for Army Field Support Battalion-Cavazos, and Lt. Col. Richard Martinez, AFSBn-Cavazos commander, listen intently as Bradley McCombs, fuel terminal manager with Maytag Aircraft LLC, shares details of the fueling system with them Nov. 18 at Robert Gray Army Airfield at Fort Cavazos.

Fuel System: *Continued from A1*

“Modification of the Maytag fuel contract occurred, to maintain the refueling mission at Robert Gray Army Airfield by utilizing 8,000-gallon fuel tankers with their existing hydrant trucks to refuel aircraft,” Nieves said. “This modified refuel operation resulted in longer refueling times and delays that impacted missions, as refueling an aircraft could take anywhere from three to eight hours depending on the type and size.

“With the new Type III Hydrant Fuel System, a large aircraft such as a C5-Galaxy (51.1K gallon fuel tank capacity) or Boeing C17 Globemaster III (28K gallon fuel tank capacity) takes approximately 45 minutes to 1.5 hours for refuel depending on the quantity of fuel required,” he continued. “Smaller aircraft can now refuel in 15-30 minutes. This timeframe is a two- to five-hour reduction in the refueling time, in comparison to the previous refuel operations under the old hydrant system.”

The system also has upgrades in technology, safety for employees and the environment.

“It is automated and provides fuel on demand to the six hydrant pits with pumping rates up to 1,800 gallons per minute for the system,” Nieves said. “In comparison to the old system, the new system operates with reduced mechanical controls and upgraded monitoring and control systems. It effectively reduces the quantity of product required to maintain the hydrant loop by 10,000 gallons, with simplified and efficient systems for pipeline maintenance.

“Other improvements that enable future cost savings include the operational pig station and leak detection system installed on the system,” he added. “The construction of the system is fully compliant with the most recent Unified Facilities Code for refueling systems and supports all necessary maintenance requirements with minimum risk to the environment and ease for the technicians.”

On Nov. 18 the AFSBn-Cavazos command team was given a tour of the new fuel system by McCombs at West Fort Cavazos, where they were shown the technical side of the system, the ins-and-outs of the machinery and were able to observe a plane being topped off on fuel.

“The new fuel point at Robert Gray Army Airfield brings a tremendous improvement to our airfield operations and power projection capabilities,” said Lt. Col. Richard Martinez, AFSBn-Cavazos commander. “This alleviates a huge operational shortfall for the airfield and provides a tremendous new capability from the old refuel system, which decreases large body fueling times by 50-70%. We fully expect this system to support the Robert Gray Army Airfield for the next 50 years.”



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Brittany Chase, DOD

ABOVE, An aerial view of the Pentagon May 11, 2021. **BELOW,** Pallets of ammunition are loaded onto an 86th Airlift Wing C-130J Super Hercules Aug. 7, 2022, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

U.S. provides more security assistance to Ukraine

BY DAVID VERGUN
DOD News

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III spoke with Rustem Umerov, Ukraine’s defense minister, Monday morning to discuss battlefield dynamics and U.S. security assistance to Ukraine, said Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary.

This security assistance provides key capabilities to support Ukraine’s most urgent battlefield needs, including air defense, munitions for rocket systems and artillery and antitank weapons, Ryder said.

This announcement is the 71st tranche of equipment to be provided from the Department of Defense inventories for Ukraine since August 2021. This presidential drawdown authority package has an estimated value of \$725 million, per a DOD press release Monday.

In other news, the ceasefire between Israel and the terrorist organization Lebanese Hezbollah is holding, with the plan for the Lebanese Armed Forces to provide security in southern Lebanon.

Army Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffers III, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command Central, is working

with the Department of State to help coordinate with the Israeli Defense Forces, France and others to ensure the LAF has the training, capacity and strategy to provide security there, Ryder said.

Jeffers will serve as a co-chair, alongside Amos Hochstein, senior advisor to President Joe Biden, for the implementation and monitoring mechanism of the cessation of hostilities, according to a Nov. 29 U.S. Central Command press release.

The monitoring and implementation activities will be chaired by the United States and consist of the LAF, Israel Defense Forces, the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon and France, per the press release.

Separately, Ryder said DOD is closely monitoring events around the Aleppo area of northwest Syria, where the terrorist group Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham is battling forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The U.S. is not involved in the fighting, he said, adding the U.S., together with allies and partners, is urging de-escalation.

DOD remains fully prepared to defend and protect U.S. personnel and assets deployed to the region, including U.S. forces in eastern Syria, who are there to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS so it can never again resurge, Ryder said.



Photo by Air Force Capt. Emma Quirk, 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing

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The logo for the 2024 Fort Cavazos Nature In Lights event. It features a large red Santa hat with a white pom-pom. The year "2024" is written in white cursive on the hat's band. Below the band, "Fort Cavazos" is written in a smaller white font. The words "Nature In Lights" are written in a large, stylized white cursive font across the front of the hat. A string of warm white lights is visible at the top. A small globe icon is in the bottom right corner.

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The first lights riders see is a display before entering Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area at Fort Cavazos that reads “Nature in Lights” with poinsettias. Photos by Ayumi Davis, Sentinel Editor

Nature in Lights delights eyes

BY AYUMI DAVIS
Sentinel Editor

I’ve seen the occasional house on the block that goes all out for Christmas with the blowup Santas and snowmen, the decorative deer and lights that line the house’s edges for days. There’s always a bit of joy in seeing someone visibly show their joy of the holiday season, and I always drive just a tad bit slower to admire the work. So, seeing as it is my first time living in this area of Texas, I had to drive through the annual Nature in Lights.

Now, I’m no stranger to a dazzling display of lights. Japan does have some pretty lights they display in certain areas of Tokyo for Christmas, and there’s also Jewellumination at Yomiuri Land, which is, quite frankly, highly not recommended for those with light sensitivity and definitely a must visit for those looking for something unique.

And while Nature in Lights isn’t as big and flashy as Yomiuri Land, it definitely did not lack in festive cheer and creativity. A surfing Santa, cannon-shot elf, moose saxophonist and golfing Santa are just a few of the light displays I saw while driving through the trail. I’m particularly partial to the moose saxophonist, as it is a super fun, weird combination.

The lights were spaced out enough to give you time to really take in each display, and there

was enough variety to keep interest. I especially loved the ones you could drive through, like one shaped as a wreath and a myriad candy canes that strung atop the road and lined the sides.

There were also a theme to certain sections, like nativity and religious lights displays and Santa being sporty. For those of you with looking some Texas in Christmas, there was a blue-bonnet and the Texas flag in a star.

Being five-and-a-half miles long, there’s bound to be a light display that’ll catch your eye. It’s things like these that bring fun and wonder into the holidays to everyone, not just children.

The grand finale was pretty sick, with a tunnel of lights that glowed an array of colors, making it feel like you were in a moving rainbow.

For someone looking for a quiet, enjoyable thing to do during the holidays, Nature in Lights is the way to go. Plus, with the weather getting colder, an activity where you don’t necessarily have to get out of your car but can still enjoy is a win in my book.

Along with the lights, there is also an area with booths of crafts and concessions, pony rides and train rides that take riders one through a separate trail of lights.

For more information, visit cavazos.armymwr.com/view-event/93405.



ABOVE, One of my favorite light displays was a moose playing a saxophone, as it was just so wonderfully random, showing some of the creativity of the lights at Nature in Lights. **RIGHT**, Some of the light displays were just decorated words that had interesting designs on the letters at Nature in Lights.



Santa, Mrs. Claus, reindeer and some elves ride on a fluffly caterpillar in a light display at Nature in Lights.

MONTY'S SPORTS CORNER

Break-in, breakouts occurs this holiday season

BY MONTY CAMPBELL
Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

We are knee deep in the holiday season, professional football, basketball and hockey leagues have yet to provide any insight as to who will be in the post season. I have experienced many different circumstances recently that I once experienced as a young boy, making me reminisce about my childhood growing up.

Wait? How are those topics even related?

Well, exactly my point. This month, while all of the above statements are true, personal statements, I'm taking my column back to mirror one of my favorite childhood late-night talk shows topics — Arsenio Hall's "Things that make you go hmmm."

Since nostalgia has set in, just when has protecting one's personal belongings and securing property become a thing? Or a thing that grown professional athletes are receiving security briefings about their homes and property being targeted by

organized crime?

Well, since the FBI has been notifying professional sports teams that South American theft groups have been known to target athletes' and high net-worth people's homes.

Kansas City Chiefs stars Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce have both had their homes burglarized Oct. 6 and Oct. 7, respectively. Not to mention, the Minnesota Timberwolves' Mike Conley's home was burglarized Sept. 15 while he was away watching the Minnesota Vikings play football.

While it is extremely maddening these athletes had someone infringing upon their lives and steal property, I am sure they had secured their property as well as they possibly could have, or, at least, they thought they had.

And now we need the leagues' front offices to tell these grown men to be more cautious because they are targets of organized crime? Huh?

Speaking of outlandish scenarios, when did the young men at West Point make Army an excellent football team?

Although the Black Knights dropped a tough game against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish on Nov. 23 at Yankee Stadium, they are still ranked in the Top 25, are in first place of the American Athletic Conference and are 9-1 on the season. They also beat the University of Texas at San Antonio 29-24 Saturday.

Looking into the future, if Army wins out in the regular season (Navy) and picks up a victory over Tulane in the American Athletic Conference championship game, would it be far-fetched to see the Black Knights in the College Football Playoffs? Huh?

Finally, back to Travis Kelce. Yes, he has been all over the place this season. From having a very subpar regular season thus far, to having his brother breaking admiring fan's phones, to having his home burglarized, is this the time of the year that he proposes to Taylor Swift?

Kelce and Swift have officially been recognized as a couple since the two were seen galivanting in his convertible after the Chiefs' game against the Chicago Bears Sept. 24, 2023. Swift attends his games when she can, to include the Super Bowl, and Kelce goes to as many T-Swizzle concerts as possible with his schedule. Although, he will have a lot more time with her now that the Eras Tour ends Sunday.

And why am I and many others clamoring to see this relationship mature into a long-lasting marriage? Huh?

I just wanted to give everyone a little something to ponder this holiday season.

As always, be safe!



Photo by Class of 2025 Cadet Eli Wright, West Point

The Army West Point Black Knights dogpiles the Navy Midshipmen during the annual Army versus Navy game Dec. 9, 2023.

Fort Cavazos

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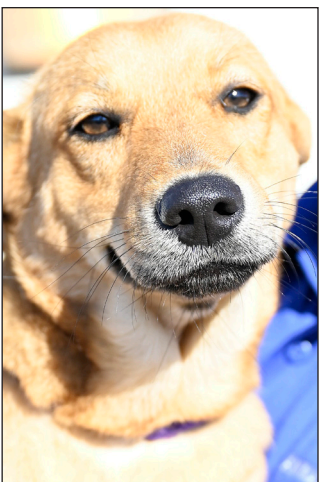
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Shania
1-yr-old, basenji mix, tan & white, female.



Dallas Mae
4-mo-old, German shepherd mix, tan & black, female.



Harley
1-yr, 1-mo-old, Labrador retriever mix, tan & black, female.



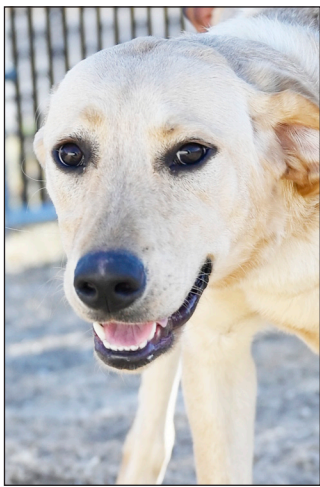
Jolly
1-yr, 1-mo-old, Labrador retriever mix, brown & white, male.



Princess
7-yr-old, Anatolian shepherd mix, black & white, female.



Spencer
3-yr-old, pit bull mix, white & black, male.



Star
1-yr, 1-mo-old, Labrador retriever mix, gold & white, female.



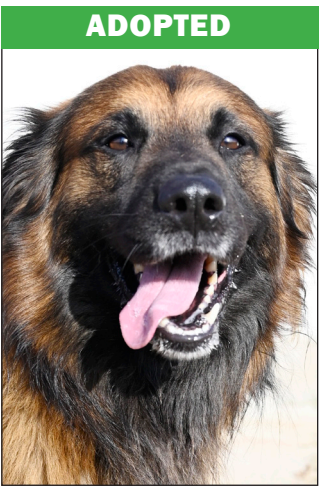
Pumpkin
1-yr, 8-mo-old, domestic short hair, gray & white, female.



Spincer
5-yr-old, domestic short hair, gray & white, male.



Thomas O'Malley
1-yr, 1-mo-old, domestic short hair, orange & white, male.



Apollo
5-yr-old, German shepherd mix, brown & black, male.



Dash
2-yr, 1-mo-old, domestic short haired tiger, gray & white, female.

HEALTH

CRDAMC hosts MRC, West 2024 Best Medic Competition awards ceremony



Photos by Rodney Jackson, CRDAMC Public Affairs

ABOVE, Staff Sgt. Dominic Kochen, right center, operating room technician, and Cpl. Nolan Wallace, left center, practical nurse specialist, both with Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, pose for photo holding their award with leadership from Medical Readiness Command, West and Brooke Army Medical Center after winning first place in the MRC, W Best Medic Competition in an awards ceremony Nov. 21 at Fort Cavazos. The two competed over three days in various scenarios, from providing emergency medical care under fire to navigating complex tactical situations. **RIGHT**, Brig. Gen. Yolonda “YR” Summons, commanding general of MRC, W, addresses the audience during the MRC, W Best Medic Competition Awards Ceremony Nov. 21 at Fort Cavazos. **BELOW**, 1st Sgt. Scott Samson and Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Carter, both assigned to Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, pose with Brig. Gen. Yolonda “YR” Summons, commanding general of MRC, W, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Francis, senior enlisted leader of MRC, W, during the 2024 MRC, W, Best Medic Competition Awards Ceremony Nov. 21 at Fort Cavazos.



Houses of Worship

FORT CAVAZOS CHAPEL SERVICES



CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Main Chapel, [www.https://www.facebook.com/FtCavazosRomanCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/FtCavazosRomanCatholic)
Noon Mass, Monday through Friday, Main Chapel
Confession after Mass or by appointment, call 254-286-6749, Main Chapel

PROTESTANT

St. George Parish (Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopalian), Sunday, 9 a.m., Old Post Chapel, <https://www.facebook.com/SaintGeorgeFortCavazos>

SPANISH PROTESTANT

Alcance, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Veterans OIF Chapel.

GOSPEL CONGREGATION

Gospel Service, Sunday, 11 a.m., Memorial Chapel, <https://www.facebook.com/ComancheHappeningsNow>

TRADITIONS

Traditions Service, Sunday, 10 a.m., Ironhorse Chapel, www.facebook.com/groups/fhtpws/

CHAPEL NEXT

Contemporary Service, Sunday, 11:15 a.m., Main Chapel, <https://www.facebook.com/FortCavazosChapelNext>

OPEN TABLE

All-Inclusive Christian Chapel, www.facebook.com/OpenTableChapel

WFC PROTESTANT

Non-Denominational Protestant, Sunday, 10:30 a.m., West Fort Cavazos Chapel, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064944031364>

JEWISH

Shabbat Service, Friday, 6 p.m., Lucky 16 Chapel

MUSLIM

Friday Jumma Prayers at 1:30 p.m., 25th Street Chapel

OPEN CIRCLE

Camp Finlayson, contact Linn Vodisek, vodiseklinn@gmail.com

BUDDHIST

Soku Gakkai International (SGI) Nichiren, Online, contact Martin Bonner, 254-258-0844
Theraveda, Thursday, 11:45 a.m., Memorial Chapel

NORTH FORT CAVAZOS

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ADDITIONAL SERVICES/STUDY

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Men of Honor, Contact Ken Wooten, 254-466-6254
Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC), Tuesday, 9-11:30 a.m., Main Chapel, www.facebook.com/FortHoodPWOC
Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS), www.facebook.com/FortHoodMOPS
Club Beyond-High School, Contact Frank Ayala, fayala@clubbeyond.org
Club Beyond-Middle School, Contact Frank Ayala, fayala@clubbeyond.org
Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC), Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., bimonthly Thursday 5-7 p.m., Main Chapel. Facebook: Fort Cavazos CWOC (Catholic Women of the Chapel)

Catholic Youth Ministry-Crusaders, 8-12 grades, Contact Maria Fuavia, 573-842-8181
Catholic Religious Education-CCE, Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Main Chapel, Contact Maria Fuavia, 254-287-0241
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Institute of Religion Classes, Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 13th ACSC Chapel, Contact Chap. Seth Porter, 281-235-7841

* Holiday hours and events are posted on the Garrison Chaplain's Facebook page, [facebook.com/FortCavazosChaplain](https://www.facebook.com/FortCavazosChaplain)*

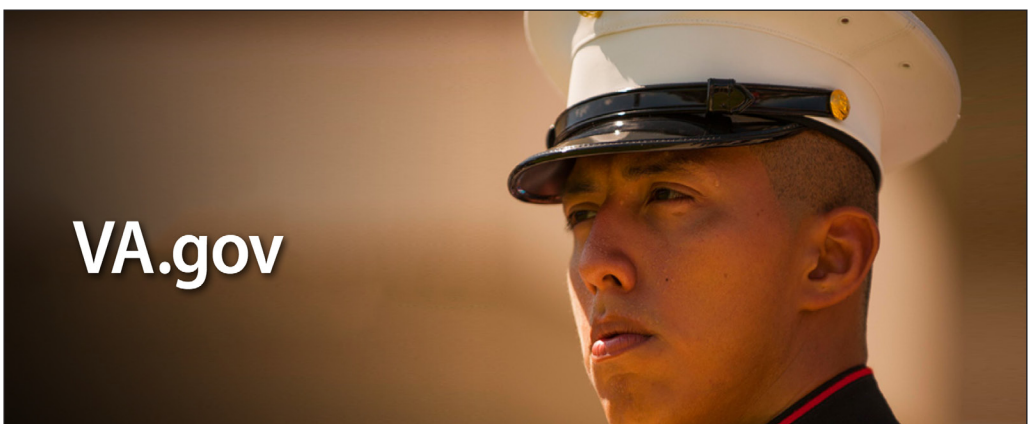
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Fort Cavazos celebrates Thanksgiving with competition



Photo by Sgt. Tanner Dibble, 13th ACSC Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Amador Aguillen Jr., senior enlisted advisor of 13th Armored Corps Sustainment Command, serves Thanksgiving food to Soldiers Nov. 26 at the Always Ready Dining Facility at Fort Cavazos.



Photo by Sgt. Nicholas LaRocco, 7th MPAD



Photo by Sgt. Kyler Yoder, III Armored Corps Public Affairs

LEFT, Maj. Brian Sutherland, the commander of the 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, carves brisket during the Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 26 at the Operation Iraqi Freedom Dining Facility at Fort Cavazos. **ABOVE**, Soldiers prepare to serve other Soldiers a Thanksgiving meal prepared by the military staff of the Black Jack DFAC during the Fort Cavazos Thanksgiving DFAC competition Nov. 26 at Fort Cavazos. **BELOW**, Soldiers from across Fort Cavazos eat a Thanksgiving meal during the Thanksgiving DFAC Competition Nov. 26 at Operation Iraqi Freedom DFAC at Fort Cavazos.



Photo by Sgt. Nicholas LaRocco, 7th MPAD



Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel Johnson, 7th MPAD

ABOVE, Brig. Gen. Robert Born, deputy commanding general of 1st Cavalry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Adams, command sergeant major for 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., cut the cake for the Thanksgiving meal Nov. 26 at Black Jack Dining Facility at Fort Cavazos. **RIGHT**, Operation Iraqi Freedom DFAC hosts an annual Thanksgiving luncheon, offering units the opportunity to create custom pastries, including this cake made for 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., during the Thanksgiving DFAC Competition Nov. 26 at Fort Cavazos. **FAR RIGHT**, A decorative cornucopia sits on display Nov. 26 at Black Jack DFAC at Fort Cavazos.



Photo by Sgt. Nicholas LaRocco, 7th MPAD



Photo by Sgt. Kyler Yoder, III Armored Corps Public Affairs

A Rugged Wish: Holiday program warms hearts of many

BY PFC. STANISLAV MITCHELL
7th MPAD

As winter’s chill settles in every holiday season, warmth radiates from Capt. Jamie Webb, a behavioral health officer with the 36th Engineer Brigade. Her mission, however, extends beyond her military duties. Through the Rugged Wish Program, Webb ensures children in need experience the magic of the holidays, one wish at a time.

Launched in 2013 while volunteering as a civilian spouse with the 1st Medical Brigade, the program has grown into a beacon of hope for families facing financial difficulties. What began as a small initiative in her husband’s unit has blossomed into a brigade-wide effort supported by Soldiers and volunteers.

“I’ve always believed that service and unexpected acts of kindness create meaningful connections, build cohesion and foster high morale,” Webb reflected. “The Rugged

Wish Program is my way of showing love for our Soldiers and their families. Seeing the relief on a Soldier’s face when they receive their family’s gifts is indescribable.”

Webb’s motivation came from personal experience. As a former single mother who worked multiple jobs to support her young daughter, she understands the challenges parents face during the holidays. “I know what it feels like to worry about paying bills versus buying groceries,” Webb said. “I wanted to ensure no child feels forgotten, especially during a time when joy should be abundant.”

In the early years, Webb encountered logistical and legal obstacles.

“The first couple of years were tough. I definitely heard a lot of nos before I pieced together enough yeses to make it happen,” Webb said. “At times, I was running the program out of my garage, and there were moments when I wasn’t sure we’d meet the demand.”

Despite these challenges, the Rugged Wish Program has profoundly impacted the lives of those it touches. Webb recalled a particularly poignant experience.

“There was a single parent we supported one year,” she said. “What she didn’t tell me at the time was that one of her children had osteosarcoma. Months later, I ran into her in the community, and she told me her son had passed away.

“When you realize you were a part of a child’s last Christmas, it’s incredibly powerful and humbling,” she continued. “Unfortunately, that’s not the only child we supported on their final Christmas.”

Another story illustrated the depth of the program’s impact.

“One year, we learned about two children who had been sleeping on the floor because their family couldn’t afford beds,” Webb said. “A sponsor bought a trundle bed, mattresses and all the bedding. That was the first time in months those kids had

a comfortable place to sleep. It’s so much more than toys and smiles; it’s moments like those when you know you’re truly making a difference.”

One of Webb’s daughters, Solana Anderson, is among those most impacted by Webb’s dedication. Growing up with a mother who balances military service and a philanthropic mission has profoundly influenced her.

“My mom inspires me every day,” Anderson shared. “Watching her work so hard to help others, even after long days in uniform, shows me the kind of person I want to be.”

Anderson’s involvement has grown over the years. What began as accompanying her mother evolved into a passionate commitment to helping other children.

“I remember the first time I helped with the program when I was 8; now, it feels like a part of who I am,” she said. “It’s something we do together, and it brings us closer.”



Photo by Sgt. Myenn LaMotta, 7th MPAD

Capt. Jamie Webb, a behavioral health officer for the 36th Engineer Brigade, and one of her daughters, Acassia Webb, 7, pose for a photo during an interview about the Rugged Wish Program, a seasonal charity that provides support and resources around the holiday season to service members in the brigade, Aug. 23 at Fort Cavazos.

Sbarro celebrates grand opening at Fort Cavazos



Photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Fort Cavazos, Sbarro, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service leadership cut a ribbon signifying the grand opening of Sbarro, welcoming the eatery into the Clear Creek food court Tuesday at the Clear Creek Exchange at Fort Cavazos. Sbarro serves New York-style pizza 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.



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