



## Town hall answers questions about new child care initiative

By Julia LeDoux  
Pentagram Staff Writer

Current and potential patrons of Cody Child Development Center on the Fort Myer portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall gathered Feb. 24 at Spates Community Club to learn more about how a Department of Defense initiative that seeks to streamline child care wait lists will impact their families.

Militarychildcare.com provides eligible Department of Defense families with a single gateway to access military child care programs around the world for children up to 12 years of age, explained JBM-HH Child, Youth and School Services Director Sunny Smith. The new requirement is in a DoD document titled DoD Instruction 6062.02 — Child Development Programs.

“The National Capital Region is going to align with the Department of Defense instruction on March 16,” Smith said.

The DoD instruction can be found on the JBM-HH Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation website at [www.jbmhmmwr.com/child-youth-and-school-services](http://www.jbmhmmwr.com/child-youth-and-school-services).

The meeting began with a 3-minute video and concluded with a question and answer

session. The website is easy to navigate, according to the video. Authorized users of military child care centers should simply follow screen prompts to access care options that are available across all service branches. Users can also manage child care requests and update important information via the website.

### Cody is already full

Smith said Cody Child Development Center is the largest child care facility in the DoD. The CDC currently has 438 spaces for children 6 weeks to 5 years old and 85 school age spaces. She said the center is currently at full capacity for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old.

“Our wait list currently does not move very quickly because we don’t have a traditional PCS [permanent change of station] season,” she continued. “We have a lot of parents who enroll their children as infants and they stay for five years.”

Smith said the biggest transition period for the center is from June to August, when 5-year-olds age out of the Strong Beginnings program and move on to Kindergarten.

“We have a big push out of children who leave the CDC,” she said. “We have 60 children



PHOTO BY NELL KING

Parents listen to a presentation about the new MilitaryChild-Care.com website during a town hall meeting Feb. 24 at Spates Community Center on the Fort Myer portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. The website will go live on March 16 and will allow parents to build a family profile to better manage their child care needs.



PHOTO BY RACHEL LARUE

Children hold up their pinwheels before the start of the Pinwheel for Prevention parade April 1, 2015, at the Cody Child Development Center. Militarychildcare.com, a new Department of Defense-mandated approach to military childcare, provides eligible DoD families with a single gateway to access military child care programs around the world for children up to 12 years of age, according to JBM-HH Child, Youth and School Services Director Sunny Smith.

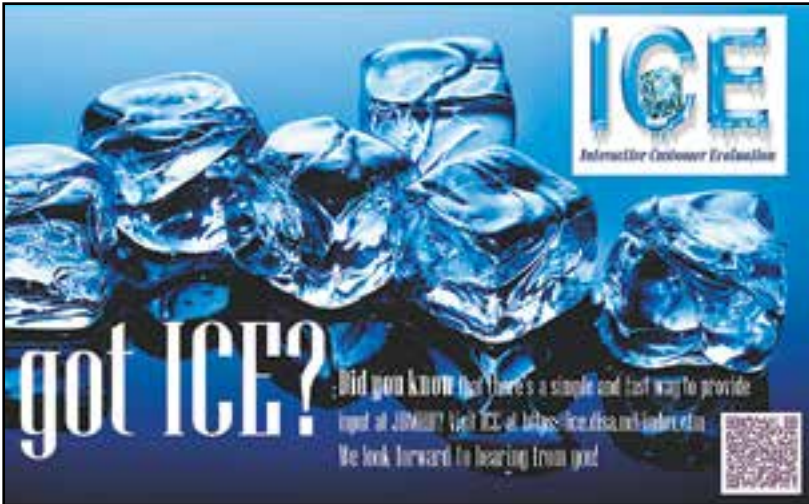
see **CHILDCARE**, page 4

## JBM-HH seeking to improve customer service, support through feedback

By Guv Callahan  
Pentagram Staff Writer

The Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Plans, Analysis and Integration Office is initiating a new effort to get feedback from the joint base community through the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program.

ICE uses a brief survey that asks community members, whether they’re active duty service members, family members, retirees, civilians or visitors, to rate their experiences at the joint base as well as the services they received. The survey allows



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall officials are using graphics like this one to help raise awareness about the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program, a web-based survey system used to generate feedback on customer service and support.

see **ICE**, page 6

## Town hall covers workforce development opportunities, Social Security, Medicare

By Guv Callahan  
Pentagram Staff Writer

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall employees gathered on Feb. 25 and 26 for a series of workforce town hall meetings covering the various career advancement and development opportunities available to them.

The meetings were the latest facet of an effort to increase and improve communication between joint base leadership and the workforce, according to Ken



PHOTO BY NELL KING

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall’s Lead Workforce Development Specialist, Reginald Battle speaks with federal civilian employees during a workforce town hall meeting Feb. 25 at Joe Rosenthal Theater on the Henderson Hall portion of JBM-HH. Battle discussed new opportunities that will be offered to employees based on requests from the first workforce town hall meeting held last November.

see **TOWN HALL**, page 4

## News Notes

### JBM-HH consolidated tax center available for simple returns

The Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Consolidated tax center is open for simple tax returns in Bldg. 205 on the Fort Myer portion of the joint base. The tax center will prepare taxes through April 18. No appointments are necessary. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jointly operated by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington and U.S. Marine Corps National Capital Region Command, the tax center serves military personnel, their families and other eligible customers, including military on active duty; National Guard and Reserve personnel on orders more than 29 days; retirees drawing retiree pay (not retired National Guard and Reserve personnel who have not yet started drawing retirement pay); and family members of the above categories. For more information about the tax center’s services, visit their website at <http://go.usa.gov/cnu9J>. Call 703-696-1040 for more information.

### Elder care workshop – March 4

Marine Corps Community Services Henderson Hall’s Marine and Family Program will hold a workshop on caring for elderly family members March 4 from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Pentagon Confer-

ence Center, Rm. B8. Learn about the complexities of taking care of elderly adults and how to make informed decisions. Topics include strategies for coping with day-to-day challenges. To attend, register by March 3 by calling 703-693-8906/5353.

### Welcome to Korea class – March 4

JBM-HH Army Community Service is hosting a Welcome to Korea class March 4, 10 to 11 a.m. at the Korean Multicultural Center in Washington, D.C. The class will cover topics including sponsorship, household shipments, personal vehicle shipments, driving, pets, pass information, as well as customs, culture and language. For more information or to register, contact Victor Arthur at 703-696-3510/2177 or email [victor.m.arthur.civ@mail.mil](mailto:victor.m.arthur.civ@mail.mil).

### Resume writing class – March 8

JBM-HH Army Community Service is hosting a resume writing class March 8, 9 to 11 a.m. in the ACS classroom in Bldg. 201 on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH. The class will cover writing a resume, the different types of resumes, source documents, headings, resume formats and more. For more information or to register, call Judy

see **NEWS**, page 4





# A somber ride



PHOTO BY CPL. CODY W. TORKELSON

Soldiers of the U.S. Army Caisson Platoon, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), exit Arlington National Cemetery following delivery of a casket during a funeral procession in the cemetery Feb. 24. The platoon conducts daily missions year round, carrying the remains of deceased service members and others to their final resting place, regardless of weather conditions. Two of the platoon’s veteran horses, Quincy and Kennedy, are currently up for adoption. For more details, see related article on page 3.

## Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program seminars and workshops

Reservations are required. Spouses are encouraged to register and attend. Call the SFL-TAP office, 703-696-0973 or log-in at [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil). Available to all registered clients who have completed DD2648/2648-1 and initial counseling. Location of seminars and workshops are in the SFL-TAP Bldg. 404 on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH unless otherwise noted.

### Retiring transition assistance program

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- March 7-11 or 14-18
- April 11-15 or 18-22
- May 9-13 or 23-27

### ETS TAP

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- March 4
- April 4-8
- May 2-6

### Entrepreneur track boots to business

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- March 22-23
- May 17-18

### Business franchise opportunities

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

- April 25
- June 27\*

### Finding and applying for federal jobs

9:30 a.m. to noon

- March 30\*
- April 27
- May 26\*

### Federal resume

12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

- March 24
- April 21\*
- May 19

### Accessing higher education

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- May 10-11\*
- July 12-13\*

### Career technical training

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- April 19-20\*
- Jun 21-22

### TRICARE benefits in depth

10 a.m. to noon

- March 24
- April 21\*
- May 19

### Marketing yourself for a second career

1 to 3 p.m.

- March 29\*
- April 26
- May 24\*

### Capstone

(Every Friday by appointment)  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- March 4, 11, 18, 25
- April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- May 6, 13, 20, 27

\*Located in Education Center Bldg. 417, room 108/\*\*218

## This week in military history

Compiled by Jim Goodwin  
Editor, Pentagonagram

Mar. 3  
1971:

The U.S. Army’s 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) departs South Vietnam after nearly seven years in Vietnam. Special Forces organized and trained guerrilla fighters behind enemy lines, according to the This Day in Military History website. After visiting the Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, N.C., to review the program, President John F. Kennedy authorized the Special Forces to wear the headgear that became their symbol, the Green Beret.

Mar. 4  
1918:

The USS Cyclops, one of four Proteus-class colliers built for the U.S. Navy before World War I, departs from Barbados and is never seen again, according to an entry on Navy.mil. The vessel is presumed lost with all hands somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle.

Mar. 5  
1913:

The predecessor to today’s 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, the 1st Provisional Aero Squadron, is established by the Signal Corps in Texas City, Texas, according to an online U.S. Air Force history “Centennial of Flight.” The unit was created to support U.S. troops responding to a revolution in Mexico and is the oldest squadron in the U.S. Air Force.

Mar. 6  
1960:

The USS Kearsarge (CVS 33) rescues four Russian soldiers from their landing craft some 1,000 miles from Midway Island after drifting several weeks following engine failure, according to an entry on Navy.mil.

Mar. 7  
1951:

U.S. Army Pfc. Leonard M. Kravitz was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions on this date during combat operations in Yangpyong, Korea, according to the This Day in Military History website. The Brooklyn native voluntarily remained at a machine gun position to provide suppressive fire while fellow troops escaped to another position. His actions drew enemy fire on his position, allowing the escape. His actions saved his entire platoon, although he did not survive the engagement.



OFFICIAL DOD PHOTO

U.S. Army Pfc. Leonard M. Kravitz’s niece Laurie Wegner accepts the Medal of Honor on her uncle’s behalf from President Barack Obama in a March 18, 2014, White House ceremony.

Mar. 8  
1945:

Phyllis Mae Dailey receives a commission in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, making her the first African-American nurse to serve during World War II, according to the This Day in Military History website.

Mar. 9  
1864:

Ulysses S. Grant is promoted to the rank of lieutenant general upon authorization of President Abraham Lincoln, making Grant superior to all other Union officers, according to an entry in Volume One of *American Military History*. Grant is also made the new general-in-chief, reporting directly to President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edward Stanton.

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# Four-legged Caisson platoon vets looking for a new home

By Julia LeDoux  
Pentagram Staff Writer

Dogs and cats are not the only “furends” who are looking for their “forever” homes.

Two horses from the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment’s (The Old Guard) Caisson Platoon are now available for adoption.

Quincy is an 11-year-old male Black Quarter Horse who has been diagnosed with navicular disease.

“Navicular disease is a breakdown of the navicular bone or the tissue surrounding it, which makes him lame in his front feet,” said Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Daniel Nicolosi. “With our mission in the cemetery, that doesn’t really work for us, unfortunately, because he’s a great horse.”

The horses of the Caisson Platoon pull

coffins carrying the remains of the fallen to their burial sites in Arlington National Cemetery.

Quincy’s feet have very thin soles which make him sensitive to hard ground, Nicolosi continued, and the therapeutic shoes he must wear limit his ability to work as a Caisson horse.

“Quincy has a lot of character,” Nicolosi said as he stood near the horse, who nodded his head up and down as if agreeing with his words. “Everybody loves him around here.”

Nicolosi said horses are identified for adoption in one of three ways: If they are 10 years of age, have 20 years of service, or have any underlying medical condi-

see **ADOPTION**, page 6



PHOTO BY NELL KING

U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Poe with The Old Guard’s Caisson Platoon walks Quincy, an up-for-adoption Caisson horse out of his stall Feb. 23 at the Caisson stables on the Fort Myer portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Caisson horses are identified for adoption in one of three ways: If they are 10 years of age, have 20 years of service, or have any underlying medical conditions that prevent them from meeting the platoon’s mission.



PHOTO BY NELL KING

Cpl. Kody Sprague of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps Henderson Hall, sails Team CONAD’s boat in the 2nd Annual Single Marine Program Cardboard Boat Regatta Feb. 26 at Zembiac Pool on the Henderson Hall portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Team CONAD’s “U.S. Navy LCAC 17” won the race for the second consecutive year in a row.

# Motor-T defends title against CONAD in 2nd Annual Cardboard Regatta

By Delonte Harrod  
Pentagram Staff Writer

The 2nd Annual Single Marine Program Cardboard Boat Regatta held on the Henderson Hall portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Feb. 26 ended with Team Motor-T defending its championship against Team CONAD.

Master Sgt. Orleath Mattis, Team CONAD, which stands for “Consolidated Administration,” and Cpl. Kody Sprague of Team Motor-T, faced off in a tie-breaking round.

The aquatic event consisted of two rounds in which teams raced their cardboard and duct tape-made boats in Zembiac Pool on the Henderson Hall portion of the Joint Base.

In the first round, contestants were judged on the time it took to complete a lap, enthusiasm and the style of their boats. Teams were penalized if they en-

dangered their opponents while racing or if they did not use proper materials (cardboard and duct tape) to design their boats. After the first round, Teams CONAD and Motor-T had both accumulated a total of 29 points, requiring a tie-breaking second round race. The other two teams (Supply and War Rig) did not manage to keep their boats afloat.

The final race consisted of a down and back lap. The contestants were required to paddle down to the opposite end of the pool, touch the edge, paddle back to their starting points and get all equipment and personnel out of the water to signify to the judges that they were finished.

Sprague started off fast, paddling his way to a huge lead that Mattis was unable to overcome. While Mattis was on the first leg of a lap, Sprague was on his

see **REGATTA**, page 6

# NCR service members give Special Olympics athletes motivation, support at four-day bowling event

*Organizers seeking volunteers for Summer Games*

By Arthur Mondale  
Pentagram Staff Writer

The sounds of pins being struck and the sight of automated bowling pin setters moving was constant at the Special Olympics District of Columbia – Bowling Championships Feb 24. The four-day event brought hundreds of athletes and service members to the AMF Capital Plaza Bowling Center, in Hyattsville, Md., beginning Feb. 24 and ending March 3.

Two-hundred-and-eighty athletes, comprised of approximately 80 adults and 200 students from nine District of Columbia high schools, competed in the annual event, according to Anthony Sokenu, assistant director of sports for Special Olympics District of Columbia.

Athletes trained for 10 weeks prior to opening day to ensure they were ready to compete. Teams played two games on the first two days of the championships, and three games on the final two.

“These athletes are really great bowlers and attendees should be surprised by the scores,” said Olivia Hunter, Naval District of Washington regional community service program manager said. “I mean, my husband has been bowling for years and he can’t even produce some of these scores.”

But the competitive edge witnessed on the lanes required the support from coaches and cheerleaders in uniform across the National Capital Region.

“We have many volunteers from

see **BOWLING**, page 8



PHOTO BY ARTHUR MONDALE

U.S. Marines from installations across the D.C. metro area assist with opening day of the Special Olympics District of Columbia – Bowling Championships Feb 24. The four day event brought hundreds of athletes and service members to Hyattsville, Md., Feb. 24 through March 3.

★ ★ ★ The United States Army Band ★ ★ ★		
CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
March 3	7:30 p.m.	The U.S. Army Blues will perform a concert featuring the German Youth Jazz Band: Phoenix Foundation at Brucker Hall on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH.
March 6	3 p.m.	The U.S. Army Blues will perform a tribute to the Tonight Show Band of the Johnny Carson era in Brucker Hall on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH.
March 6	4 p.m.	The U.S. Army Chorus will kick off a year of concerts and events in honor of the 60th anniversary of the group’s founding in 1956 during a performance with many past members at the First Presbyterian Church of Annandale at 7610 Newcastle Drive, Annandale, Va.
March 9-12	Various times	The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” hosts its annual Army Band American Trombone Workshop in Brucker Hall on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH.
March 12	7:30 p.m.	The U.S. Army Concert Band and guest soloists will perform as part of the American Trombone Workshop at the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio.
March 14	7 p.m.	The U.S. Army Band Saxophone Quartet will perform a recital at the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio.
March 14	7 p.m.	The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” will host its annual Young Artist competition at Brucker Hall on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH.
March 20	3:30 p.m.	The U.S. Army Chorus will perform at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., as part of a year of concerts and events in honor of the 60th anniversary of the group’s founding in 1956. The anniversary concert series will include a concert reunion of past members, many of whom have had successful careers in music education and as soloists on Broadway and opera stages around the world.

Performances are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. All outdoor concerts are subject to cancellation or location change due to weather considerations. Call 703-696-3399 for up-to-date information on concert cancellations or location changes. For additional details and a full calendar of performances, visit [www.usarmyband.com/event-calendar.html](http://www.usarmyband.com/event-calendar.html).



CHILDCARE  
from page 1

who will leave the CDC.” Those spaces are then filled internally by children who are “aging up,” continued Smith. Whatever spaces are left are then made available to those on the CDC’s wait list. “That’s how spaces are given to the wait list,” she said. “Once those spaces go to the wait list, that’s where militarychildcare.com kicks in.”

**Setting priorities** Under the new initiative, those children of combat-related wounded warriors, CDC staff, single military service members on active duty or dual active duty service members have the highest priority for child care. Those with the next-highest priority are active duty service members with a working spouse, followed by single DoD civilian employees or a dual DoD civilian couple.

“Next is DoD civilians with a working spouse who is not Department of Defense,” continued Smith. “And the final order of precedence category is surviving spouses of military members who died from a combat related incident. This is a change to our current practice, and this is what we are going to fall into line with.”

Smith said anticipated wait times at Cody are “at least a year, and that’s because we are currently full. We are going to enter the militarychildcare.com phase of our wait list full.”

Patrons who were on Cody’s wait list by last December were sent a form asking them to identify their family type.

“If you’ve already done that and returned your form, we already know your family type,” she said. “If you came in after December and got on our wait list, we got that information from you face-to-face.”

All that information has been sent to militarychildcare.com and will be available for patrons to view when the system goes live March 16.

**Benefits of new initiative** Ana Maria White, acting director of Parent Outreach Services, said the new initiative not only streamlines the process of signing up for child care wait lists, but streamlines communication by being a “one stop shop” where families can have questions answered.



PHOTO BY NELL KING

**Cody Child Development Center Child and Youth Services Director Sunny Smith and Acting Director of Parent and Outreach Services Ana Maria White answer questions during the MilitaryChildCare.com transition town hall Feb. 24 at Spates Community Center on the Fort Myer portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. During the event, parents were provided an overview of the Department of Defense’s new MilitaryChildCare.com website. Parents were also able to receive answers to questions about the DoD’s new child care waitlist priorities. MilitaryChildCare.com will go live March 16.**

“On this website you will be able to go in with the needs you have, with the date of care you need and adjust that as things change,” she said.

**Patron concerns** Nearly 50 people attended the town hall session, including JBM-HH Commander Col. Mike Henderson and Command Sgt. Maj. Randall Woods.

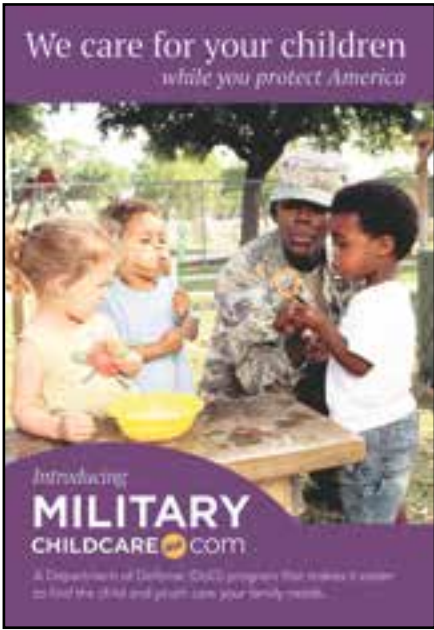
Attendees’ questions centered around the order of precedence that will be used to establish wait lists, as well as whether would-be patrons’ pre-Military Childcare.com wait times will be taken into consideration when the website goes into effect later this month.

“Unfortunately, your time on the wait list now won’t be taken into consideration when we go live March 16,” Smith said. “I do understand, as much as I can while not being you, the impact that has on your family. We do have to see that every day.”

Army Lt. Col. Tim Schiffer has a nearly 3-year-old child who he hopes to get into Cody.

“I now understand how this computer system is going to work,” he said. “I feel much better about that.”

Smith told patrons to use the wait list as a good estimator of how long it might be before a child care space might come available at Cody. She urged families to have a good child care plan in place while they are waiting to come to Cody.



OFFICIAL DOD GRAPHIC

**Militarychildcare.com provides eligible Department of Defense families with a single gateway to access military child care programs around the world for children up to 12 years of age, explained JBM-HH Child, Youth and School Services Director Sunny Smith. Under the new initiative, those children of combat-related wounded warriors, CDC staff, single military service members on active duty or dual active duty service members have the highest priority for child care**

“My promise is we will work our spaces as efficiently as possible to give them to the wait list,” she said. “That is the one thing we can control.”

*Pentagram Staff Writer Julia LeDoux can be reached at [jledoux@dc-military.com](mailto:jledoux@dc-military.com).*

TOWN HALL  
from page 1

Washington, JBM-HH director of Human Resources.

During brief opening remarks, JBM-HH Chief of Staff Glenn Wait encouraged employees to be active participants both inside and outside of the forum, and not to hesitate if they have questions of their supervisors.

“This is your opportunity to let us know what you want to know,” Wait told the crowd in the Joe Rosenthal Theater on the Henderson Hall portion of the joint base. “We’ve incorporated these town halls into our battle rhythm, and they’re only going to be successful if you all say, ‘Hey, this is what I’m interested in doing, this is what I want to know.’”

**Mentor program** A significant portion of the meeting focused on U.S. Army Installation Management Command’s Headquarters Centralized Mentorship Program, which links approved candidates up with mentors to help bolster employee skillsets and broaden horizons beyond their occupational specialties.

Wait, who is a mentor for an employee at the Pentagon, sang the program’s praises.

“It’s just a great opportunity, and it’s allowing me to get to know somebody that I never would have met before,” he said. “I’m learning from him, he’s learning from me, and it’s a really great program.”

IMCOM runs the program annually. Wait noted that it is highly selective but certainly worth applying to if an employee meets the requirements. (More information can be found at <http://go.usa.gov/cvJJW>.)

Ian Wilson, an employee in JBM-HH’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, and a mentee in the program, said the program is all about “betterment.”

“You want to advance in life, and

the mentor program is a step forward to that,” he said.

**Upcoming opportunities**

The town hall also featured a rundown of upcoming development opportunities of which employees could take advantage, including an on-line supervisor development course, Microsoft Excel training, pre-retirement seminars and more.

All new supervisors are required to take the supervisor development course within the first year of their appointment. All experienced supervisors are required to take a refresher course at least every three years.

“It’s a great tool with a lot of information that actually bridges the trust that we have between supervisors and employees,” Washington said. “It gives supervisors a good understanding of what their goals and responsibilities are. You really need to take advantage of that.”

The Microsoft Excel training will be a one-day course that will give attendees an intermediate command of the spreadsheet program.

Although there was no set date for the course, Reginald Battle, lead workforce development specialist, said the program was coming up soon and would only be available to a portion of the workforce. Seats will be allocated per directorate, he said.

Additional training opportunities discussed at the town hall can be found online at <http://goo.gl/SPkCd1>.

**Social Security**

The town hall concluded with an explanation of social security benefits and the things employees need to consider before collecting this benefit.

Diana Varela, Social Security Administration public affairs specialist, explained that Social Security benefits are based on a person’s average indexed monthly earnings, the monthly average of a person’s 35 highest earning years.



PHOTO BY NELL KING

**Ken Washington, director of Human Resources for Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, speaks during a workforce town hall meeting Feb. 25 at the Joe Rosenthal Theater on the Henderson Hall portion of JBM-HH. The town hall, the second in a series JBM-HH leadership host every three months, focused on a U.S. Army Installation Management Commander professional development mentorship program and other current and forthcoming advancement opportunities available for JBM-HH employees.**

Furthermore, if a person retires before their “full retirement age,” they’ll get a reduced portion of their benefits. The earliest a person can retire to receive their benefits is 62, but there are different full retirement ages for people depending on when they were born.

For example, full retirement age for somebody born from 1943 to 1954 is 66 years old. If a person born in those years retired at age 62, he or she would only receive 75 percent of the earned benefits. If a person retires at 66, he or she would receive the full benefit. Those who wait until age 70 to retire will receive 132 percent of the benefit.

“I hear this all the time, ‘When do you think is the best time for me to retire?’” Varela said. “I’m unable to answer that question because it’s a very personal question...With this information that we’ve provided, you’ll be able to figure out when the best time is for you.”

Varela urged employees to visit [socialsecurity.gov](http://socialsecurity.gov) for more information.

*Pentagram Staff Writer Guw Callahan can be reached at [wcallahan@dcmilitary.com](mailto:wcallahan@dcmilitary.com).*

NEWS  
from page 1

Joyner at 703-696-3047 or email her at [judy.by.joyner2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:judy.by.joyner2.civ@mail.mil).

**Play morning – March 10 and 31**

JBM-HH Army Community Service hosts a morning playgroup for parents and their pre-school children March 10 and 31, 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the ACS classroom in Bldg. 201 on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH. The playgroup provides time for socialization, play, craft, music and story time. For more information or to register, call 703-696-3512.

**Introduction to Medicaid waivers March 10**

Concerned about the Medicaid waiver process and not sure if it applies to you and your family? Moms in Motion, a consumer-directed Medicaid Waiver Service Facilitator will discuss the benefits of applying for intellectual disability, developmental disability and the elderly and disabled consumer directed waiver March 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Memorial Chapel on the Fort Myer portion of the joint base. If you are in need of services such as respite, day support, assistive technology, skilled nursing services and promotional services, this is the workshop for you.

For more information or to register, call 703-696-5353. Lunch will be served. RSVP required. Registration deadline is March 7.

**Prostate cancer support group March 10**

The Prostate cancer support group meets at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital march 10 from 1 to 2 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Urology Clinic, Sunrise Pavilion, 2nd floor. Spouses/partners are invited. For more information, contact retired Col. Jane Hudak at 301-319-2918 or via email at [jane.l.hudak.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:jane.l.hudak.ctr@mail.mil).

**American Dream U Vetracon – March 11**

American Dream U’s Vetracon is March 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rosenthal Theater on the Henderson Hall portion of the joint base. The event gives service members the unique opportunity to get the best advice from top business leaders. The Vetracon is free of charge and lunch will be provided. Join industry leaders to discover the tactics, techniques, and procedures needed to develop leadership skills, land a dream career or start a business. This event is open to all members of the military community: active duty, retirees, veterans, civilian employees and spouses. For more information, call 703-696-9603.

**Seven Habits workshops March 11, 21, April 8**

MCCS Henderson Hall’s Marine Corps Family Team Building program offers three opportunities at the Pentagon to take a one-day The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People workshop. Dates are March 11 and 21 and April 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will experience innovative exercises, case studies and poignant video segments, as well as learn from other participants. Registration is required. Call 703-693-8905 for more information and to register.

**Video game tournament – March 12**

USO-Metro is hosting its annual Operation Game On, a video game tournament for active duty service members March 12, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the USO Warrior and Family Center at Naval Support Activity Bethesda. The tournament is played on Xbox One and feature play on the game Call of Duty: Black Ops III. Participants will enjoy complimentary morning refreshments, lunch and raffle prizes. Service members can sign up to participate individually or in teams of five by registering online at <http://goo.gl/JWrrHHo>. For more information, call 703-402-7840.

**Netcetera class – March 14**

JBM-HH Army Community Service is hosting a class to give parents and caregivers easy steps on the “how to” talk to children about Internet etiquette and safety March 14, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the ACS classroom in Bldg. 201 on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH. For more information or to register, call 703-696-3512.

**Interviewing 101 – March 16**

Want to learn the secret to successful interviewing? Find out at this workshop held March 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. in Bldg. 21 on the Henderson Hall portion of the joint base. You’ll learn about the interview process, effective and confident communications and how to respond to challenging questions. Be prepared to meet your future employer. Register to attend by calling 703-614-6828.

**VA assistance available March 17**

An American Veterans organization representative reviews service member medical records and provides assistance with the Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation process March 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 29 on the Henderson Hall portion of the joint base. Register in advance by calling the Career Resource Management Center at 703-614-6828.

**Women’s History Month celebration – March 17**

Join the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall community in celebrating Women’s History Month at the Fort Myer Officers’ Club (Bldg. 214) March 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The guest speaker is Joan Bradley Wages, president and CEO of the National Women’s History Museum. For more information, call 703-696-8729.



# Neller’s words resonate with local Marines

By Julia LeDoux  
Pentagram Staff Writer

Leveraging technology. Combating drunk driving. Communication between senior and junior Marines.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller’s remarks were centered around those three main points during a town hall meeting Feb. 12 at Conmy Hall on the Fort Myer portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. His discussion on those topics resonated with Marines assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall.

Technology

In his discussion, Neller said that technological advances will help bring the Corps into the future and that examining the ways technology can be used to deceive the nation’s enemies will help to give American forces an edge in combat.

Henderson Hall Marines like Cpl. Joshua L. Bettis, who is assigned to the battalion’s Distribution Management Office, said the use of technology in warfare will only grow in the years to come and that the Corps has to be ready to face that challenge. Before he joined the Corps, posting on social

media was a relatively risk-free task, he said. Now, he views everything he posts through the lens of operational security.

“As the nation’s force in readiness, we constantly strive to hold that edge on our enemies that wish us harm,” he said. “As technology progresses and times change, our Corps must be ready to change with them to maintain that edge.”

Staff Sgt. Francis Garcia is a career retention specialist who has been in the Corps for nearly nine years. He said recent technological advances have impacted his career in a myriad of ways.

“Not only does it aid in my work-life balance, it also allows me to look up orders and directives much quicker than my Marine forefathers had to,” he said. “I can’t imagine having to rely on printed materials and publications to get through the day.”

Garcia said that the nation’s enemies are always looking for ways to exploit any technological vulnerabilities they

may find.

“I think that educating the older generation of Marines is paramount in the success of keeping our networks strong,” he continued. “One click on a hyperlink in an email and the

entire network can be infiltrated. This needs to be emphasized more and through education, I think it can happen.”

Drunk driving

During Neller’s presentation, Marines heard from Elizabeth Davis, whose husband, 1st Lt. Matthew Davis, 30, was killed by a drunk driver in at crash at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in November 2014. His widow delivered a heartfelt plea for Marines to consider their actions before drinking too much and getting behind the wheel of a car.

Cpl. Bridget H. Winglass, who is assigned to the battalion’s Distribution Management Office, has been in the Corps nearly two years, said the Corps needs to identify potential risk factors so it can prevent Marines from driving after drinking.

“Drunk driving puts lives at risk on the home front and us as Marines need to be worried about enemies foreign and domestic instead of seeing the Marine to the left and right of them.”

Pfc. Daniel O. Rosas of Headquarters Company, said drunk driving is not only an issue for the Corps, but for the country as a whole.

“[The Corps] can do its best to prevent it from happening, and I don’t mean death by PowerPoint, but by Marines doing what they do best and looking out for the guys and girls to their left and right,” he said.

Communication

During his presentation,

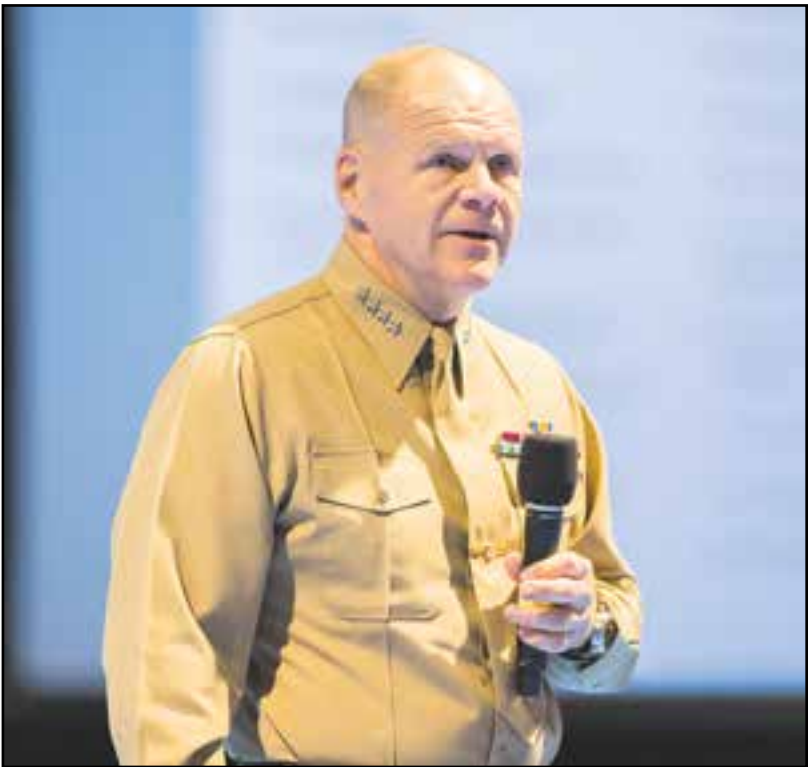


PHOTO BY NELL KING

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller addresses Marines from the National Capital Region during a town hall meeting Feb. 12 at Conmy Hall on the Fort Myer portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Neller spoke about the future of the Corps, technological advances and health issues.

Neller encouraged senior Marines to have compassion for those they lead and to assist junior Marines who approach them for help.

Sgt. Alan Flores, who has been in the Corps for nearly five years, agreed with Neller and said that senior leaders set the tone of the relationship between themselves and junior Marines.

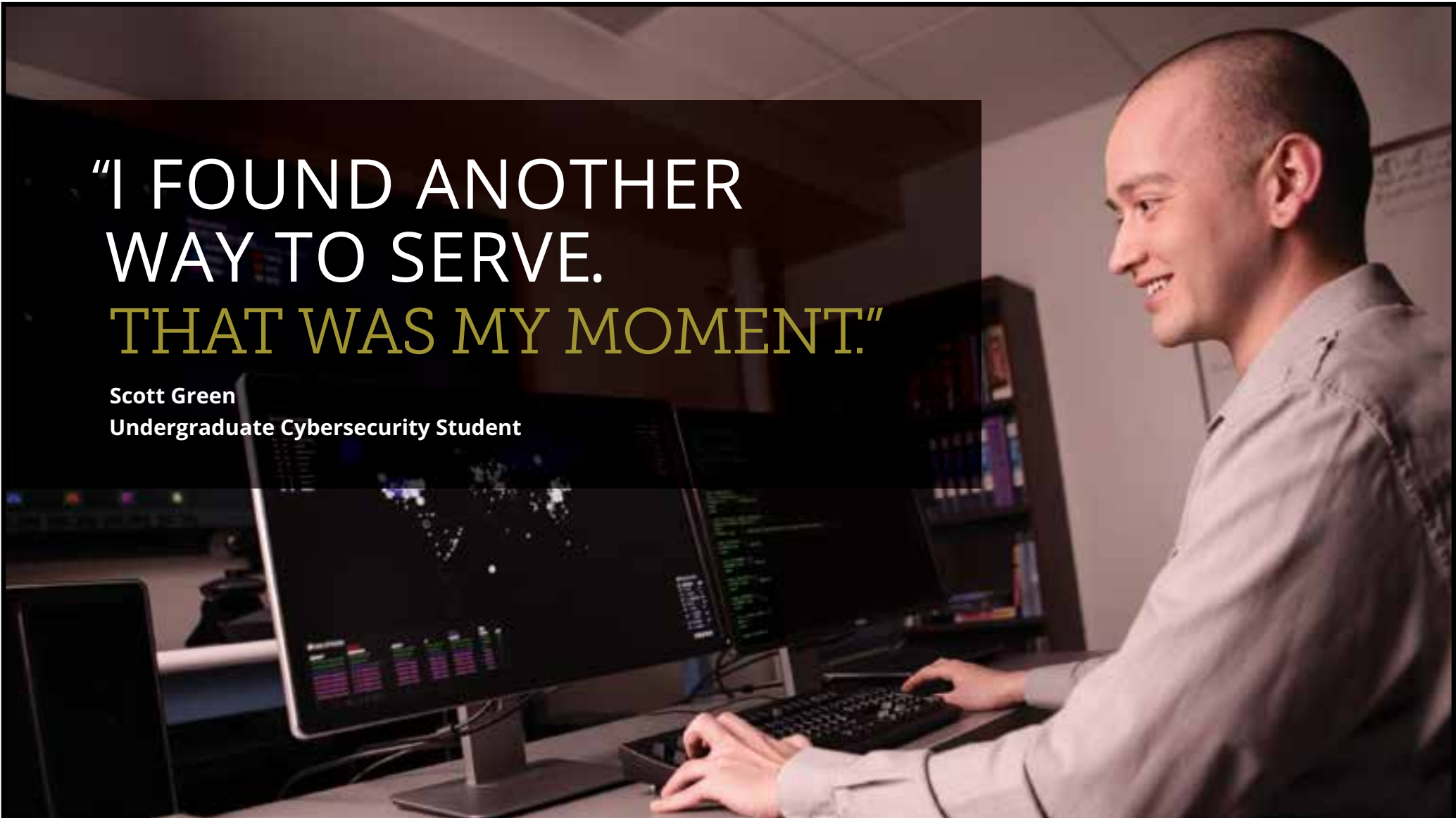
“As senior leaders, we have to ensure that we are doing everything we can to make ourselves approachable, attentive and trustworthy so that the ju-

nior Marine may have no second thoughts about coming to us when they need to do so,” he said. “We have to continue to learn as much as we can about our Marines so we can better read their changes in personalities.”

Flores also stressed that junior Marines need to be honest with senior leaders and “understand that they are here to help us.”

Pentagram Staff Writer Julia LeDoux can be reached at [jledoux@dcmilitary.com](mailto:jledoux@dcmilitary.com).

For more JBM-HH event photos from this issue, visit us online at:  
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ADOPTION  
from page 3

tion that prevents them from meeting the platoon’s mission. “These guys are both under 10 years of service and under 20 years of age,” said Nicolosi. Kennedy is a 16-year-old male Black Standardbred who came to the platoon following a racing career. He was used as the Caparison (riderless) horse in funeral escorts and is in excellent health. “He’s a little more temperamental,” Nicolosi said. “He works really well with experienced riders, but not really well with new riders.” A seven-page adoption form is available at <http://go.usa.gov/cvStJ>. Completed forms can be emailed to [usarmy.jbmhh.mdw.caisson-platoon@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbmhh.mdw.caisson-platoon@mail.mil). Potential adopters are initially pre-screened to make sure they have the proper facilities to care for the horses. “We’re looking for a home for these guys and not to go into the horse trade for them to be bought and sold, and bought and sold,” Nicolosi. Soldiers from the platoon will visit the facilities of the top three or four potential adopters and base their decision on their observations, he said.

“You can have an applicant that looks fantastic on paper from Oregon and someone who looks okay on paper from Virginia, but when you visit that facility, it turns out that Virginia facility that maybe wasn’t as clean or as pretty and nice is really the best home. The visit is really going to be the determining factor.” Nicolosi said a potential adopter for Quincy should have experience in working with horses with navicular disease or a farrier who has experience with the disease. “He can be ridden by children, adults, really anybody,” he said. “He’s not great right now on hard surfaces because it hurts his feet.” Kennedy’s potential adopter should have plenty of horse riding and training experience in their background. “Kennedy was used in the therapeutic riding program we had at Fort Belvoir,” explained Nicolosi. “He’s had experience working with disabled veterans.” Both Quincy and Kennedy have an anticipated lifespan of between 26 and 32 years, continued Nicolosi. There is no fee to adopt either Kennedy or Quincy, but adopters are responsible for transporting the horses to their new homes. Nicolosi said it’s hard to say goodbye to any of the pla-

toon’s horses. “We definitely bond with each and every one of these horses,” he said. “All the guys love all the horses, but some of the Soldiers have favorite horses. There’s a lot of guys who love Quincy and a lot of guys who love Kennedy. We’ll definitely be sad to see them go. In the end, it’s the right thing to do for these horses, and that’s what we have to stick by.” More horses from the platoon will be up for adoption soon. “Our focus for them is really going to be retirement homes, where they can relax and be part of someone’s herd, someone’s family,” said Nicolosi. Kennedy and Quincy will be at the stables on the Fort Myer portion of the joint base until they are adopted. Visitors can stop by and meet them during the stables walk-in tour hours, Tuesday through Saturday from noon until 4 p.m. “We do have a really strict vetting process for every applicant,” Nicolosi stressed. “If we don’t find the best possible home for these guys, they will not be adopted out. We are very serious about these guys. It’s not for the Army. It’s not for the platoon. It’s to get the horses to the best possible home.” *Pentagram Staff Writer Julia LeDoux can be reached at [jle-doux@dcilitary.com](mailto:jle-doux@dcilitary.com).*



PHOTO BY NELL KING  
Kennedy, an up-for-adoption Caisson horse, poses for a photograph Feb. 23 at the Caisson stables on the Fort Myer portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Kennedy is a 16-year-old male Black Standardbred who came to the platoon following a racing career. He was used as the Caparison (riderless) horse in funeral escorts and is in excellent health, according to Caisson Platoon officials.



PHOTO BY NELL KING  
Quincy, an up-for-adoption Caisson horse, poses for a photograph Feb. 23 at the Caisson stables on the Fort Myer portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Quincy is an 11-year-old male Black Quarter horse that has been diagnosed with navicular disease. “Navicular disease is a breakdown of the navicular bone or the tissue surrounding it, which makes him lame in his front feet,” said Caisson Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Daniel Nicolosi.

## JBM-HH Lenten and Easter services

**Services will be held on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH in Memorial Chapel, as follows:**

**March 4, 11 and 18** – Lenten Fridays – 6 p.m. – Stations of the Cross; 6:30 p.m. Penitential Supper

**March 4** – Eucharistic Adoration – 10 to 11:45 a.m. (Blessed Sacrament Chapel, inside Memorial Chapel)

**March 10** – Penance Service – 7 p.m. – Service with opportunity for individual confession

**March 24** – Holy Thursday – 7 p.m. – Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper – no noon Mass

**March 25** – Liturgy of our Lord’s Passion and Death – 7 p.m. – no noon Mass

**March 26** – Holy Saturday – 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

**March 27** – Easter Sunday – Special Liturgical Music – 9 a.m. Mass

Easter schedule continues through May 15.  
For more information, call 703-696-6635.

REGATTA  
from page 3

way back to completing his last, sealing the team’s victory and securing their championship status. Sprague said he used long strokes to beat Mattis in the final race. “I didn’t look to see where [Mattis] was,” said Sprague. “I just focused on making it to the finish line.” Even though Team CONAD lost, Mattis, who described the race as being crazy and intense, said she had a great time. “It was awesome, so I will do it again next year,” said Mattis. “Hopefully, our boat is built better to win the competition.” Sprague, who will be exiting the Marine Corps in less than 20 days, said that he felt a lot of pressure to win. “I didn’t want to mess it up for everybody,” he said. Sprague alluded to the fact that it would have been embarrassing to lose and have to face his colleagues afterward. However, he described winning before leaving the Marine Corps as a “good gift.” The competition began with four teams who had specially-designed boats made of cardboard and duct tape. Judges of this competition included: Headquarters and Service Battalion Commander Col. Andrew Regan, battalion Sgt. Maj. Robert Pullen and Master Sgt. Stephen Lorenzetty.



PHOTO BY NELL KING  
Lance Cpl. Christopher Varnell, a Marine with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps Henderson Hall, participates in the 2nd Annual Single Marine Program Cardboard Boat Regatta Feb. 26 at Zembiec Pool on the Henderson Hall portion of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Unfortunately, the “Mad Max”-themed boat did not prove to be seaworthy and sank soon after Varnell entered the water.

Marissa Johnson, the Single Marine Program coordinator at Marine Corps Community Services on the Henderson Hall portion of the joint base, is responsible for bringing the event to the base a couple of years ago. She created and started the same event while working at Naval Station Great

Lakes, Illinois. “I thought it would be really fun [for service members to do] something that is out of the box, something they haven’t done here before,” said Johnson. *Pentagram Staff Writer Delonte Harrod can be reached at [dharrod@dcilitary.com](mailto:dharrod@dcilitary.com).*

ICE  
from page 1

broad aspects of their experience, like the base’s appearance and whether they were satisfied, and more specific elements, like the organization that helped them and the kind of service they needed. Emily Mihalik, PAIO installation specialist and ICE program manager, said the purpose of the new push is to gather more constructive feedback and change the community’s preconceived notion of what ICE is actually for. “At the moment people are interpreting it as a complaint form,” she said. “We want people to see it more as an opportunity to make the base a better place.” The hope is to increase participation in order to gather more data for quarterly reports that departments can use, according to Mihalik. “We want to increase participation because individual departments can use that data to improve their services,” she said. PAIO currently gets about 200 comments per quarter, according to

Mihalik. Her goal is to increase that number by 50 percent. She also hopes to get customers’ overall satisfaction ratings to increase. As of now, many people taking the ICE survey don’t fill out the section that asks if they were satisfied with the service they received, Mihalik said. “We want to get satisfaction ratings up,” she said. “Increased participation is how we get more data. Plenty of people write glowing comments on their cards but don’t tick the satisfied section.” Mihalik said PAIO is producing posters, speaking at staff meetings and holding training sessions with service providers around the joint base. “I don’t think people realize this is a direct link to the commander,” she said. “It’s a great way to get your voice heard.” The ICE survey is available online and on paper comment cards at the various departments around the base. “When you’re interacting with a customer and it went well, think about giving them a comment card,” Mihalik said. Ultimately, use of the ICE program directly correlates to improving the joint base for everybody, according to Mihalik.



COURTESY GRAPHIC  
The following QR code can be scanned via smartphone to take users to the JBM-HH ICE page.

“It’s about customer service,” she said. “Greeting somebody at the front gate, that’s customer service... Better customer service will make JBM-HH a better place. If you look at how businesses are run, when customer service is good, everything else works better as well.” For more information or to take the ICE survey, visit JBM-HH’s ICE program at <http://go.usa.gov/cpeEJ> or email Emily Mihalik at [emily.a.mihalik.civ@mail.mil](mailto:emily.a.mihalik.civ@mail.mil). *Pentagram Staff Writer Guv Callahan can be reached at [wcallahan@dcilitary.com](mailto:wcallahan@dcilitary.com).*

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NEWS  
from page 4

2016 Commander’s Race Series begins March 18

The first road race in this year’s Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander’s Series begins with the Shamrock Shuffle 5K race and 1-Mile walk March 18 at the Fort Myer Fitness Center beginning at 6:45 a.m. The race is coordinated by the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate, in partnership with the Military District of Washington Sgt. Audie Murphy NCO Club and JBM-HH Army Emergency Relief. The race is open to all Department of Defense ID card holders. Registration is available online for the race at [www.jbmhhMWR.com](http://www.jbmhhMWR.com); race day registration opens at 5:45 a.m. Awards will be presented for a variety of finisher categories in the men’s and women’s divisions, as well as age groups. For more information, call Todd Hopkins at 703-696-0594 or 703-939-1045.

MOPH meets March 19

The Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter 53, Military Order of the Purple Heart will hold its monthly meeting at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield, Va., March 19 at 1 p.m. The Warrior Cafe will be open prior to the meeting should anyone wish to come early and enjoy lunch. All recipients of the Purple Heart Medal are invited, especially new medal recipients. For more information, contact Commander Gordon Sumner at [gordon.sumner53@gmail.com](mailto:gordon.sumner53@gmail.com) or William Lee at [wlee95678@outlook.com](mailto:wlee95678@outlook.com).

Job search for newcomers class – March 22

JBM-HH Army Community Service is hosting a job search for newcomers class

for those seeking employment in the National Capital Region March 22, 9 a.m. to noon in the ACS classroom in Bldg. 201 on the Fort Myer portion of JBM-HH. The class will cover everything from conducting a job search, to planning transportation and travel routes to and from work. Registration is required to attend. For more information or to register, call Judy Joyner at 703-696-3047 or email her at [judy.b.joyner2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:judy.b.joyner2.civ@mail.mil).

Military-friendly job fair – March 23

Meet face-to-face with dozens of employers and government agencies with immediate staffing needs, as well as military-friendly schools and veteran service organizations March 23 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Va. Early registrants include National Security Agency, National Institutes of Health, HITT Contracting, AECOM, State Farm, PenFed, Pepco Holdings, Sears Home Services, Endeavor Air, BAE Systems, Prince William County Police, and more. This job fair is especially for transitioning and former military and family members seeking employment. Free and open to all job seekers. Business attire for attendees is recommended. Pre-register through <http://corporategray.com> to receive a job fair directory before the event; this also makes resumes available in advance to the participating companies.

Social Media workshop – March 23

The JBM-HH Public Affairs Office is hosting a social media workshop for directorates, tenant and partnered organizations March 23, 9 a.m. to noon. The event is intended for those organizations currently using any social media platform and will help administrators of social media sites develop a content strategy that will improve audience engagement and

overall social media presence. The training takes place in room 218 in the Fort Myer Education Center (Bldg. 417). For more information, or to register, contact Andrew Frazzano at 703-696-8993 or email [Andrew.w.frazzano.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Andrew.w.frazzano.civ@mail.mil).

Save the date: Teen employment fair – March 24

JBM-HH and the Fort Belvoir Army Community Service teams are hosting a Teen Employment Workshop and Job Fair March 24, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Fort Belvoir ACS office (9800 Belvoir Road, Bldg. 200). This event provides a unique opportunity for teens to enter the job market. For more information or to register, please call 703-805-4590/1836.

Sign up for the JBM-HH eBulletin: News you can use

Want to know what’s happening around Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall right away? Then sign up for the weekly JBM-HH eBulletin, delivered directly to patrons via email. This regular update includes the latest traffic, readiness, family and other key events happening at all three portions of JBM-HH (Fort Myer, Fort McNair and Henderson Hall). Sign up to receive the eBulletin via the JBM-HH website at: [https://lists.army.mil/mailman/listinfo/jbm-hh\\_bulletin](https://lists.army.mil/mailman/listinfo/jbm-hh_bulletin). Recipients can also opt out at the same website.

Army Civilian Education Course available online

The Army Management Staff College (AMSC) is offering eligible Army Civilian Corps members an opportunity to experience and provide feedback on a 100 percent distance learning version of the Civilian Education System Basic Course. This on-line course consists of approximately 120 hours of self-paced distance learning. Completing this course awards graduates CES course credit for both the Phase 1 and Phase 2

portions of the current Basic Course. Eligibility requirements include completion of the CES Foundation Course, must not have completed the resident portion of the Basic, Intermediate or Advanced Courses. All paygrades are welcome; the course is open to the first 100 registrants. Employees who want to take this course will register in CHRTAS for the course named AMSC Basic Course Field Test <http://go.usa.gov/cy9Jm>. Students must complete all course work by April 30.

2016 Thrift Shop/AOWCGWA scholarship applications now being accepted

In partnership between the Fort Myer Thrift Shop and Army Officers’ Wives’ Club of the Greater Washington Area, applications are now being accepted for the 2015-2016 school year. Applications must be received and/or postmarked by March 25, 2016. Information about the scholarship program and applications to include the eligibility requirements are now available on the following websites at [www.fortmyerthriftshop.org](http://www.fortmyerthriftshop.org) or [www.aowcgwa.org](http://www.aowcgwa.org) under “scholarships” and “community grants” links. In 2015, the partnership awarded \$105,500.00 for scholarships. Dedicated volunteers and staff generously give of their time, working numerous hours every year at the thrift shop to raise funds for deserving students through scholarships. The thrift shop is a 501c (3) tax exempt organization that raises fund for both scholarships and community grants through donations and consignments. Tax receipts are available for all donations made to the Thrift Shop.

News Notes submissions

Send your submissions for the March 17 edition of the Pentagongram via email at [pentagramjbmhh@yahoo.com](mailto:pentagramjbmhh@yahoo.com) no later than noon, March 9. Submissions must be 100 words or less and contain all pertinent details. Submission of information does not guarantee publication.



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**BOWLING**  
from page 4

last year who were excited to volunteer again this year,” said Kelly Layne, Family Readiness Program trainer and Volunteer Opportunities program manager at Henderson Hall. “We have volunteer Marines from Marine Barracks 8th and 1 [Washington, D.C.], Headquarters and Service Battalion [Henderson Hall], the Pentagon and a handful from Fort Belvoir and Quantico,” Layne said.

Volunteers from each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces were designated a specific day to assist during the championships: members of the U.S. Marine Corps volunteered Feb. 24, the U.S. Air Force and Coast Guard volunteered Feb. 25, the U.S. Navy volunteered March 2 and the U.S. Army volunteered during the medal presentation ceremony, March 3.

During the opening ceremony, U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Tim Bairstow, executive officer for Headquarters and Service Battalion Henderson Hall, spoke of the significance of service members

supporting individuals and communities beyond the confines of their respective installations.

“Everyone has fairly busy schedules, but for our service members to come out here and give back to the community speaks very highly of their character,” Bairstow said.

Sentiments echoed by volunteers who were open about the long-term benefits of volunteering their time and support.

“More service members should make the time to help out and their leadership should accommodate them with rescheduling their shifts if need be, as well,” said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Pamela Posey. “This is an opportunity for military members to give back. We have support shown to us, so service members should show support as well—and Special Olympics is a great way to do it.”

“My first cousin has special needs, so I know the importance of the Special Olympics and the sense of camaraderie they get by us coming out to support them,” said Lance Cpl. Jacory Tatum. “This is also an opportunity for me to pick up rank. Leadership will look at how I turned my free time into beneficial volunteer hours to help others. Just showing up to work on time and being



PHOTOS BY ARTHUR MONDALE

Lance Cpl. Jacory Tatum, right, gives a high-five following her successful strike during the Special Olympics District of Columbia – Bowling Championships Feb. 24. “My first-cousin has special needs so I know the importance of the Special Olympics and the sense of camaraderie they get by us coming out to support them,” said Tatum.

proficient on your job does not make you competitive. It’s also about looking out for your fellow man and the extracurricular activities.”

Special Olympics District of Columbia is currently seeking volunteers for the 2016 Summer Games. That weeklong event means a larger pool of athletes and considerably more external support is needed.

“Track and field, soccer, tennis, volleyball and bocce are played in one week and will feature 1,600 athletes,” Sokenu said.

Sokenu told the Pentagon he will need to recruit 3,000 volunteers.

“If you ever wanted to come to an event that changes your life once you leave, you should come to a Special Olympics event,” Sokenu said. “These athletes have an amazing ability to touch people just by being who they are.”

Service members interested in volunteering with the Special Olympics District of Columbia can call 202-408-2643 or email [asokenu@specialolympicsdc.org](mailto:asokenu@specialolympicsdc.org).

*Pentagram Staff Writer Arthur Mondale can be reached at [awright@dcilitary.com](mailto:awright@dcilitary.com).*



Service members across the National Capital Region volunteer as coaches and provide motivational support for approximately 280 competitive bowlers during the Special Olympics District of Columbia – Bowling Championships Feb. 24 in Hyattsville, Md. The tournament lasted four days, ending March 3.



An athlete with the Special Olympics D.C. Adult Delegation awaits his score as volunteer scorekeepers huddle to calculate team averages on opening day of the Special Olympics District of Columbia – Bowling Championships Feb. 24 in Hyattsville, Md.

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