

# Soundoff!

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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016 | 68th Year Number 18  
FTMEADE.ARMY.MIL



Fort Meade's Fire and Emergency Services Response Team stand with their Gold Heroic Team Award at the Baltimore Federal Executive Board's award ceremony and luncheon on Friday. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Fire and Emergency Response Team has been a gold winner. The team, along with other Fort Meade employees and service members, were honored for their contributions to American public service. See the story on Page 3.

PHOTO COURTESY FORT MEADE DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

## APPRECIATION

Military spouses  
honored at lunch

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Fort Meade Farmers' Market - Pavilion  
May 21, 8 a.m.: Patriot Pride 5/10K - Murphy Field House  
May 22, 2:30 p.m.: Memorial Day/Massing of the Colors - Pavilion  
May 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.: Community Job Fair - Club Meade

## EASY RIDERS

Fort Meade's Bike To  
Work Day is May 20

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# Soundoff!

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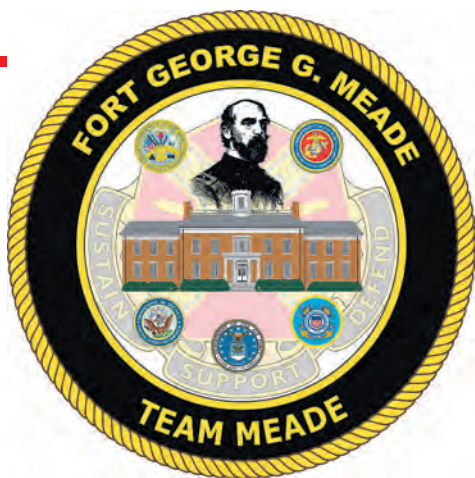
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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

# In praise of moms

**G**reetings, Team Meade. As Mother's Day has just passed, my wife and I express our particular gratitude to all mothers and grandmothers in our military family.

Mother's Day is a day to celebrate the extraordinary importance of mothers in our lives and in the lives of this nation. America's mothers have shaped our values and they have taught us the meaning and importance of making sacrifices to give our children a better life.

Moms ... we could not do our mission without your love and support. Every day you juggle enormous responsibilities, often working full-time outside the home while doing the job of two parents and caring for the needs of your children. At the same time, nearly all of you still find the time to give more by volunteering in our neighborhoods and communities or continuing your own careers.

We can still live out the legacy of our mothers that have passed away by living our lives with dignity, respect, care and love for others — as I have learned throughout the years. Thanks, Mom.

To all mothers in uniform: I am deeply moved by your determination to serve our country, even while balancing the demands of raising a family.

We know the challenges our mothers in uniform face in managing a home and family from thousands of miles away, and we are in awe of the tremendous pride that these mothers take in sacrificing so much to their country to help give their children a better life.

We owe you a tremendous debt for your service and sacrifice, and we are committed to providing you and your families the support you need. Know that we will always honor and support you, because you are what makes this country great.

On Military Spouse Appreciation Day — officially celebrated Friday — we recognized the selfless heroes who stand with the finest fighting force the world has ever known, and we honored their relentless courage and commitment. It was truly an honor for my wife and I to dine with you May 5 at Club Meade.

Congrats to all who were nominated for the "49th Annual Excellence in Federal Career Awards Program" hosted by the Baltimore Federal Executive Board. This program honors the best of



**Garrison  
Command  
Sgt. Maj.  
Rodwell L.  
Forbes**

the best in General Service, Wage Grade and employees nominated from over 130 federal agencies and installations within the state of Maryland. You truly personify "excellence in action" in serving this great Fort Meade community.

Also, I would like to thank Navy Information Operations Command Maryland for providing Sailor support at Fort Meade's Earth Day observance. Your continuous support ensures excellence at our commu-

nity events, and we appreciate your efforts.

The new Army Directive 2016-20 (Authorization to Use Headphones in Uniform) is effective immediately. Soldiers may use headphones, including wireless or nonwireless devices and earpieces, in uniform only while performing individual physical training in indoor gyms or fitness centers.

However, Soldiers may not wear headphones beyond the permitted area in any manner, including around the neck or attached to the uniform. Headphones must be conservative and discreet. Ear pads will not exceed 1.5 inches in diameter at the widest point.

Soldiers may wear electronic devices, such as music players or armbands for electronic devices in the gym or fitness center. Soldiers may not wear the armband beyond the permitted area. Once again, the new Directive 2016-20 is effective immediately and will be posted into AR 670-1 as soon as practicable.

Lastly, Memorial Day is only a few weeks away. May we never forget those who fought for our freedom, and may we celebrate the lives of those who have truly made America the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We must reflect on what it truly means to live in freedom. We must solidify and reaffirm our commitment to our service members and their mission.

We owe all of our veterans, past and present, a debt of gratitude for their sacrifices in the defense of liberty. We owe it to the heroes that died and the loved ones left behind to make sure that their sacrifices are remembered and that their service to this nation must always be honored.

May God bless our veterans and may God bless America.

Have a great Team Meade day!

# Gold standard

## Baltimore Federal Executive Board honors Fort Meade

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

**F**ort Meade was presented five gold awards at the 49th Annual Excellence in Federal Career Awards program, hosted by the Baltimore Federal Executive Board.

The ceremony and luncheon was held Friday at Martin's West in Baltimore.

The event coincides with National Public Service Recognition Week, held May 1-7, and is the only federal employee recognition event in the state.

The Baltimore Federal Executive Board honored the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of 293 federal employees in Maryland with gold, silver and bronze awards.

## The Oscars of Federal Service

"The importance of the gold and silver awards are that they represent the best of the best in American public service," said Chris Heidelberg, acting executive director of the Baltimore Federal Executive Board. "The gold winners are the Oscars of federal employees."

Fort Meade's garrison training team, composed of a cross-section of employees who worked together to provide quality training assets and facilities, were presented a gold award in the Outstanding Administrative Work Group or Team category.

The team members are: Benjamin Rogers; Robert Howard; Matthew Kleier; Alphonzo Lawrence; Christopher Edmonds; and Linda Winkels.

Fort Meade's Fire and Emergency Services Response Team was presented with the Gold Heroic Act Team Award for its response to a multivehicle collision at the intersection of Routes 198 and 32 on Feb. 27, 2015.

The team members are: Division Chief James Evans; Capt. David Hillard; Capt. Tim Massey; Jeremy "Nate" Braham; Tom Gray; Josiah Strickler; Mark Oakley; Joey Van Meter; and Driver/Operator



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS FRANK INMAN

**Keith Stumpf, driver/operator for Fort Meade's Fire and Emergency Services Response Team, raises the ladder on top of his truck Tuesday as part of the routine equipment inspection. The team was presented a Gold Heroic Team Award from the Baltimore Federal Executive Board on Friday.**

Keith Stumpf.

"They just continue a tradition of being the best," Fort Meade Fire Chief E.J. Rouvet said.

The Fire and Emergency Response Team has been a gold winner for the past three years, said Rouvet, and was presented a silver award in 2012.

"It is just another opportunity for Fort Meade firefighters to save lives," Rouvet said.

The other gold award winners are employees at the Defense Information School. The winners are Capt. Selina Meiner, a master instructor; JoAnn Anderson, academic director for public affairs; and Joseph Coslett, director of communications.

Cpl. Benjamin T. Hamilton, a field training officer with the Fort Meade Police, was presented with a Silver Heroic

Act Individual Award.

### Other silver award winners are:

- Thomas Jackson and Charles Brown, both of the U.S. Army Claims Service, in the Outstanding Professional Administrative/Management Specialist category

- Pia Morales, Army Community Service; Davida Harmon, U.S. Army Claims Service; and Marcia Eastland, Religious Support Office, in the Outstanding Administrative/Management GS 8 and Above category.

### Bronze winners are:

- James E. Brousek, U.S. Army Claims Service, and Bryan Logan of DINFOS, in the Outstanding Supervisor GS 13 and Above category.

- Katherine Lamourt, Army Community Service; Harry Lockley, DINFOS; and Heather Tenney, U.S. Army Claims Serv-

ice, in the Outstanding Professional, Technical, Scientific Program Support category.

- George E. Matthews, Directorate of Human Resources, in the Outstanding Professional Administrative Management Specialist category.

- Franklin D. Wood, Directorate of Public Works, in the Outstanding Supervisor Trades and Crafts category.

- Lorrenda Thorton, DINFOS, and Roxanne Thompson, U.S. Army, in the Outstanding Para-Professional Technical, Scientific Program Support Individual category.

- Clinical Prevention Team of the Directorate of Human Resources, and the Quality Assurance Office Team of DINFOS, in the Outstanding Para-Professional Technical, Scientific Program Support Team category.

# Strong B.A.N.D.S. campaign helps Army stay fit

Army Wellness Center aims to improve Soldier readiness

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

**M**embers of the Fort Meade community can recommit to their fitness goals during this month's Strong B.A.N.D.S. campaign.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Army Installation Management Command has sponsored Strong B.A.N.D.S. — an acronym for Strong Balance, Activity, Nutrition, Determination and Strength — during May to promote garrison fitness and wellness programs at 72 participating Army locations worldwide.

The campaign focuses on fitness and wellness for Soldiers, families, retirees and civilians.

This year's theme is "Trained, Willing, Able," which highlights how the five campaign components improve an individual's readiness.

Lauren Williams, the new director of Fort Meade's Army Wellness Center, said the facility's program correlates to the Strong B.A.N.D.S. initiative.

"The AWC has core programs at our facility for health and wellness," said Williams, who began her tenure in January.

## Core Programs

The core programs are health assessment review, physical fitness, healthy nutrition, stress management, general wellness education and tobacco education.

"Each of these programs can help improve healthy lifestyles for our Army garrison, which is also a goal of the Strong B.A.N.D.S. program," Williams said.

Established three years ago, AWC provides free, holistic health services to help service members, family members ages 18 and older, retirees and DoD civilians build and sustain a healthy lifestyle and prevent chronic diseases.

***"Each of these programs can help improve healthy lifestyles for our Army garrison, which is also a goal of the Strong B.A.N.D.S. program."***

*Lauren Williams, director of Fort Meade's Army Wellness Center*

Children younger than 18 with a referral from a physician may also use the center.

The facility is located at 4418 Llewellyn Ave., sharing the building with Fort Meade's Medal of Honor Memorial Library. AWC operates under the Preventive Medicine Services Division at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center.

## Focus on Readiness

Williams said Strong B.A.N.D.S. is an important initiative because "our military is required to maintain a certain level of health and fitness in order to execute its mission."

According to the Army Medical Command's first Health of the Force report, released late last year, Fort Meade's scores for sleep, activity and nutrition fell in line with the Army's average.

However, Williams said, the rate of Soldiers who are not medically ready is 23.1 percent, higher than the Army's average of 16.9 percent.

"Fort Meade also has a higher rate of chronic disease, behavioral health disorders and substance abuse disorders as outlined in the report," Williams said. "All of these challenges that Fort Meade faces for readiness and resiliency can be changed through initiatives like Strong B.A.N.D.S. and programs like the Army Wellness Center."

The AWC's focus for this year is readiness.

To help members of the Fort Meade community achieve this goal, AWC uses state-of-the-art equipment for metabolic testing including a BOD POD to measure body composition. In addition, there is a health assessment room and a biofeedback room.

The center also offers general wellness education through classes on topics such as healthy lifestyles; increased resiliency and self-care; and tobacco education using assessments to determine an individual's readiness to become tobacco-free.

## Serving the Community

Williams, an Army wife, said she has a "huge passion for helping this community."

Armed with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and a master's degree in sport and exercise psychology, Williams said she became interested in health and wellness because she was a swimmer and lacrosse player.

"When I went to college, I knew I



PHOTOS BY LISA R. RHODES

**Lauren Williams, standing, and Meredith Putnay, the health promotion technician at the Army Wellness Center, take a look at the Army Strong B.A.N.D.S. website. The Strong B.A.N.D.S. initiative kicked off this month to promote wellness.**



**Lauren Williams, the new director of the Army Wellness Center, adjusts a treadmill used to assess clients' cardiovascular health. The center is focusing on Army readiness this year.**

wanted to be in a profession where I helped others," she said. "When I chose my career path, I always knew I wanted a job that gave back to the men and women who defend our freedom."

Williams' master's thesis, she said, evaluated the relationship between exercise and post-traumatic stress disorder in military populations.

A goal for the AWC is to increase the community's awareness of its programs and services.

"It is important that we get the word out

about programs like the AWC because they are here to help improve the readiness of our troops," Williams said. "There is a large population of Soldiers who are failing to meet body composition standards and physical fitness standards.

"These are the individuals who can benefit the most from our program."

*Editor's Note: The Army Wellness Center is open Mondays to Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The center is closed daily for lunch from noon to 1 p.m., and for staff training on Fridays from noon to 3:30 p.m.*

# Mosquito surveillance to begin on post in June

## FORT MEADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

You have probably seen or read news reports about the Zika virus — a disease spread primarily through mosquito bites — and might be wondering about the virus coming to Fort Meade.

The Fort Meade public health, medical and environmental community is well aware of the risks that Zika virus may pose to the Fort Meade community. Steps are in the works to prepare if any evidence indicates that the virus is present in the area.

The Fort Meade Community Health Promotion Team Environmental Work Group is working the specific requirements put out by Army Medical Command and the Installation Management Command. For

Fort Meade residents, the CHPT will begin mosquito surveillance through the use of traps beginning the first week of June.

Public health and environmental technicians may be seen placing and/or collecting mosquito traps around the installation and in housing areas. The traps will not increase the prevalence of mosquitoes but will capture those already in the area.

So far there have been 12 cases of human Zika infection reported in Maryland, but these have all been patients who have traveled outside of the continental United States. There is no evidence, to date, that Zika virus is being carried by local mosquitoes, according to Ben Pagac, a MEDCOM entomologist located at Fort Meade.

The Zika virus is transmitted primarily

through the bite of an infected mosquito, although reports indicate it can be spread through sexual activity as well.

Only about one in five people infected with the Zika virus will feel sick, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In those that do, symptoms are usually mild and can include fever, rash, joint pain and red eye.

Army Public Health and Environmental Communities are tracking this outbreak to assess the risks to Soldiers and their families. All Army medical facilities have been notified of the concerns surrounding Zika infections and are prepared to assist patients who may have been infected.

"I think it is important to note that the state of Maryland has about 60 species of

mosquitoes, only two of which have been determined to be capable of transmitting Zika virus — and one of them is rare in Maryland" said Mick Butler, chief of the Fort Meade Environmental Division.

"At this point there have been no cases of locally acquired Zika virus infections in our area or even the continental United States. Health officials predict that if transmission does begin to occur, it will most likely be in the southern Gulf States where the primary mosquito vector occurs.

"We will remain vigilant and prepared as we monitor the progress of this illness in the Western Hemisphere."

*Editor's note: To learn more about mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry, visit [www.cdc.gov/nceid/dvbd/](http://www.cdc.gov/nceid/dvbd/).*

## Tax Center experiences 33 percent increase in returns

BY ALAN H. FEILER

Staff Writer

For this tax season, the Fort Meade Joint Installation Tax Center prepared 1,588 federal and 1,695 state tax returns for active-duty and retired service members

and their families.

More than 2,000 clients were served.

In addition, the tax center, which operates under the Legal Assistance Division, e-filed 1,549 federal and 1,653 state tax returns for individuals and families.

The total commercial preparation fees

saved by customers using the tax center's services this year totaled \$693,287, resulting in more than \$4.5 million in federal and state refunds, said Yosefi Seltzer, assistant chief of the Office of Legal Assistance.

Seltzer said the tax center experienced a 33 percent increase in prepared tax returns

in 2016 compared to the previous year.

*Editor's note: The Joint Installation Tax Center, located at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 4217 Morrison St., is open year-round by appointment only.*

*For more information, call 301-677-9536 or 301-677-9504.*

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# Spouses in the Spotlight



Military spouse Jillian Harrell of Sykesville receives a USAA tote bag from Paul McElroy, a military affairs representative from the United States Automobile Association. USAA also provided free flashlights and pens as well as a \$100 gift card in a raffle drawing.

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

Spouses are the backbone of the Army families — “the force behind the force” — and contribute directly to the strength, resilience and readiness of the Army and the nation, according to the U.S. Army Stand-To website.

“[My wife is] my support, my encouragement and my drive,” Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes said. “So when she takes care of everything in the

*“It’s encouraging to see all of the spouses here to take part in the day that is offered to them.”*

*Patricia Forbes, wife of Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes*

community and in the home, it enables me to do what I have to do to meet my mission in the Army.”

The Army realizes the importance of taking care of spouses and families to ensure that Soldiers can stay focused on their missions.

Each May, Military Spouse Appreciation Day pays tribute to the spouses who provide steady support and maintain the homefront during lengthy deployments.

After the first Military Spouse Day proclamation was issued May 23, 1984, the date was standardized by declaring the Friday before Mother’s Day as Military Spouse Appreciation Day. In 1999, Congress officially made Military Spouse Appreciation Day a part of National Military Appreciation Month.

This year’s commemoration was celebrated Friday. The theme was “Army Spouses: The Spirit Behind Readiness.”

As part of the garrison’s observance of the annual event, 120 military spouses were treated May 5 to a free luncheon buffet and lots of camaraderie at Club Meade.

“I feel special,” Tasha Barthelemy said of the luncheon.

Wife of Staff Sgt. Samuel Barthelemy of the Air Force’s 315th Warfare Squadron Network based at the National Security Agency, Barthelemy attended the luncheon with her 2-year-old and 9-month old sons and two other military spouses.

“I’m always there to support my husband,” she said. “It’s nice to be acknowledged for what we do as spouses, supporting our men.”

Forbes and his wife, Patricia, also attended the three-hour luncheon to pay homage to military spouses.

Forbes, who greeted spouses as they ate

*“I’m grateful for all my wife did when I was active-duty ... Now when she comes home from work, stresses and tired, I can help her decompress because I understand.”*

*Keoni Akaka-Reis, husband of Capt. Molly Bried, officer-in-charge of the Multiservice Clinic at Kimbrough*



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes and his wife, Patricia, converse with military spouses during a luncheon on May 5 at Club Meade celebrating Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

their lunch, said he couldn't "do what I do" without the support of his wife.

Patricia Forbes said she felt "fantastic" on her special day. "It's encouraging to see all of the spouses here to take part in the day that is offered to them," she said.

Keoni Akaka-Reis, husband of Capt. Molly Bried, the officer-in-charge of the Multiservice Clinic at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, said he doesn't mind being a military spouse.

"It's the best job in the world," he said.

Akaka-Reis, who served as a petty officer second class in the Coast Guard before separating from the service, said he is now a stay-at-home dad, caring for the couple's 3-year-old and 11-month old sons.

"A lot of people take it for granted," Akaka-Reis said of the sacrifices of military spouses.

"I'm grateful for all my wife did when I was active-duty. ... Now when she comes home from work, stressed and tired, I can help her decompress because I understand."

A sponsor of the event was the United States Automobile Association, a Fortune 500 company based in San Antonio that offers banking, investing and insurance services to active-duty service members and retirees. USAA offered the chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card in a raffle drawing and provided free tote bags, flashlights, pens and membership information.

## ***"Military spouses take on the load. That's why it's important to have a Military Spouse Appreciation Day."***

*Retired Navy Capt. Paul McElroy, military affairs representative for USAA*

Retired Navy Capt. Paul McElroy, a military affairs representative for USAA, said military spouses are the "other half of the team in the military."

He said spouses take care of the home, the family and business concerns, easing the minds of their active-duty spouses who would not be ready for duty without their support.

"Military spouses take on the load. That's why it's important to have a Military Spouse Appreciation Day," McElroy said.

Miranda Bouma, wife of Tech Sgt. Chris Bouma of the 315th Warfare Squadron Network, said for her, being a military spouse "is a pride thing."

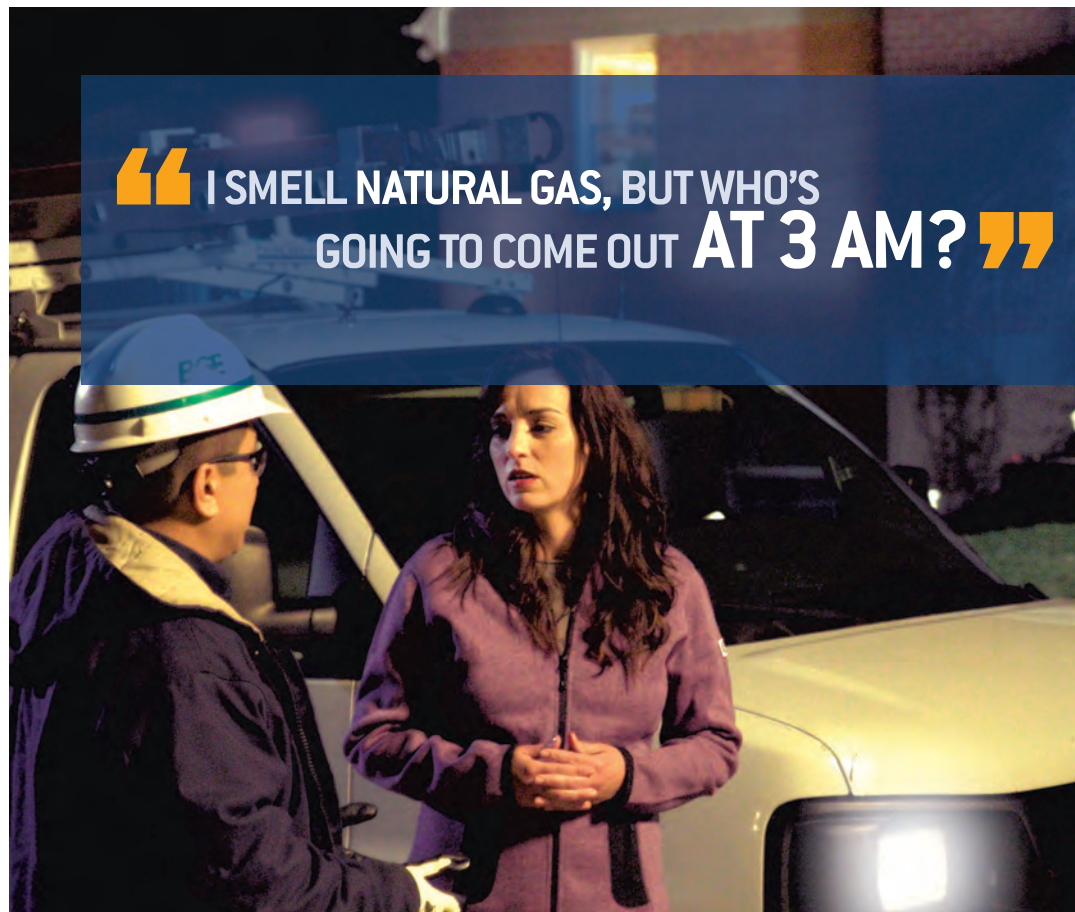
"I'm proud of what my husband does and knowing I have his back," she said. "And it's nice not to be in the background for once."



PHOTO BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

**Military spouses help themselves to the buffet at Club Meade during the three-hour luncheon.**

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# Easy riders

Bike to Work Day promotes alternative commuting option

BY ALAN H. FEILER  
Staff Writer

**W**hile living in Odenton a few years ago and biking to work daily, Rino Sanchez got to a point where he became well-acquainted with the installation's wildlife.

"I'd always see deer on my way home, and I actually got to know them," said the National Security Agency mathematician, who now lives in Laurel. "I could recognize them individually. I'd also see people walking around.

*"Riding to work has always been the best part of my day. It just energizes you."*

Rino Sanchez

"The whole reason for the Bike to Work Day is to promote bicycling for transportation to and from work, and to promote a healthier lifestyle," said Nancy Huggins, assistant director of grants and transportation programs for BWI Business Partnership Inc. "It's a great stress-reducer and environmentally friendly. It gets cars off the streets."

## Bike To Work Day Events

Bike to Work Day events will be held at 30 "pit stop" event locations across the Baltimore metropolitan region, including the Fort Meade area. For the 19th year, local efforts will be overseen by the

"You're more familiar with your surroundings when you're not in your hermetically-sealed box and cut off from the world."

That is why Sanchez will attend the regional Bike to Work Day on May 20. The free event is part of National Bike Month, which was created in 1956 and is coordinated by the League of American Bicyclists.



FILE PHOTO

Participants of the 2015 Bike to Work Day prepare to enter Fort Meade from the Odenton Town Center and MARC station.

Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

Within the Meade area, three sites have been designated as pit stops for participants to gather on May 20 between 7 and 8 a.m.:

■ **Arundel Mills near Best Buy, 7000 Arundel Mills Blvd. in Hanover**

■ **Cafe Joe at the National Business Park, 14 National Business Parkway in Annapolis Junction**

■ **Baltimore Coffee and Tea Company, 1110 Town Center Blvd. in Odenton**

Bicyclists who gather at the Baltimore Coffee and Tea Company will be able to access Fort Meade via the sally port at the Pepper Road gate, just a five-minute ride from Odenton Town Center and the MARC station. The sally port is an unmanned entryway to the installation that uses an optical scanner to check identification cards.

The Pepper Road gate is located on the southeast corner of Fort Meade near the Range Control off Route 175 and adjacent to Route 32.

The BWI Business Partnership, based in Linthicum Heights, coordinates the Bike to Work Day in the area surrounding Fort Meade.

The partnership's service areas include Arundel Mills, Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, and Fort Meade.

The partnership also manages MeadeRide (meaderide.com), a website that provides biking, commuting, car and van pooling, ride sharing, shuttle, mass transit scheduling, and other information pertaining to transportation to and from the installation.

"This is the third year that the part-

nership has participated in this exciting and very fast event," Greg Pecoraro, the nonprofit organization's executive director, said of Bike to Work Day. "It is wonderful to see employees from many of our major employers in the region participate in a clean, fun and healthy way to get to their jobs"

## What To Expect

After welcoming remarks from Pecoraro, Huggins and other BWI Business Partnership representatives and volunteers, preregistered bicyclists at the three sites will receive Bike2Work T-shirts and other giveaways provided by regional sponsors. The event also will feature free food and beverages as well as raffle drawings.

Then, bicyclists will embark on group rides led by convoy leaders on safe routes to their particular work sites on or near the installation.

"Most of them are avid bicyclists but some newbies come, too," Huggins said. "This is all new to them and they want to try it out and bike to work, so they see how easy it is.

"Congestion [in the area] is not an issue because you're going with a large group and you're taking different routes," she said. "And most of the bicyclists are experienced and careful."

More than 90 bicyclists participated in last year's event. Huggins said she hopes to attract more than 100 this year.

She estimated that about 80 percent of participants are installation employees or work at nearby defense-related companies that "support the mission."

Huggins noted that some of the event's participants live on post and ride with the groups to advocate cycling as an alternate form of transportation to work. She said bike maps of the area will be available at the pit stops.

## Benefits of Cycling To Work

Sanchez, who belongs to the Cyclists Advocacy Network at the NSA campus, said he hope bicyclists and others come out in full force for the event to promote the importance of this issue.

"To me, cycling is multifaceted," Sanchez said. "It can improve your health and add years to your life. You're outside and breathing in air; it brings community and businesses together; there's a cost savings; and there's an environmental benefit in not spilling all those pollutants into the world.

"It's a little tricky with cycling; you have to coordinate and plan, and you have to be hydrated and have stuff to fix a flat. But once it's part of your routine, it's so easy.

"Riding to work has always been the best part of my day. It just energizes you."

*Editor's note: The BWI Business Partnership encourages preregistration for the event. To preregister or for more information, visit [www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com](http://www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com) or [www.meaderide.com](http://www.meaderide.com).*

To obtain a bike gate pass at the Pepper Road gate, call the Directorate of Emergency Services at 301-677-6618 to schedule a date to pick up the pass.

Passes will be available for pickup within two days.

# 5 ways to say thanks to our military heroes

BY GANESA R. ROBINSON  
Editor

It's National Military Appreciation Month and the Fort Meade's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation shares its gratitude for our military heroes.

Whether it's you, your family or a group project, there are numerous ways to get involved and show appreciation to our military men and women.

Here are five ways to say "thank you" to those who serve through FMWR:

• **Volunteer your professional skills and talents.**

Sometimes the best gift you can offer is your own expertise. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities within Army Community Service. You can volunteer your professional skills and talents to teach workshops and assist with volunteerism on the installation.

Volunteer opportunities are available to teach classes about military life, job preparation skills, resilience training, budgeting and parenting classes through the ACS Army Volunteer Corps.

Opportunities also are available at Sarah's House, located just outside Fort Meade on Annapolis Road. A supportive housing program, Sarah's House offers emergency and transitional housing and



FILE PHOTO

**Sarah's House, a supportive housing program that offers emergency and transitional housing and other services for homeless families in Anne Arundel County, provides volunteering opportunities.**

other services for homeless families in Anne Arundel County. For information, call 410-551-7722.

• **Honor the fallen.**

Show your respect to the fallen by attending an event that honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. There are also opportunities to volunteer with local cemeteries, during the holidays that honor U.S. military, to help set up flags on the gravesites of the fallen.

Another way to honor the fallen and surviving family members is to learn about the Army's Gold Star Pins Campaign and

the meaning behind the Gold Star pins at [goldstarpins.org](http://goldstarpins.org).

• **Learn.**

There are literally thousands of books about military history, from famous battles to famous firsts. If you're not into long reads, you can pull up some videos that cover the history of a certain time or place rich in military tradition.

The idea is that more knowledge will lead to a better understanding and appreciation of what the military does. Learn more about the Army MWR library resources available to you by calling the post Library

at 301-677-5522 or visit 4418 Llewellyn Ave.

• **Send a care package to a Soldier.**

Everyone loves getting care packages, especially our Soldiers away from home. Whether they're stationed away from home or on deployment, receiving any bit of home in a package can make anyone feel special.

Check with ACS or the USO to find or organize a group that makes care packages.

• **Send a thank-you card.**

Writing letters to Soldiers is a wonderful way to show your appreciation for their sacrifice, courage and selfless service.

Even in this digital age, service members love to receive handwritten letters and notes.

Children also can get involved in this activity. It will boost their spirits just as much as the Soldiers'.

As a bonus, all it costs you is a bit of time and a stamp.

Through the many volunteer opportunities in FMWR, we can show our appreciation and pay our respect to those who have given so much to our nation.

Visit ACS at 830 Chisholm Ave. or call Marie Miles, the Army Volunteer Corps program manager, at 301-677-5590 to learn about volunteer opportunities and how your service will impact Soldiers and families in our community.

## Social Security benefits available for eligible ex-spouses

BY HENRY MARTIN

Social Security District Manager, Glen Burnie

Mid-April featured both Ex-Spouse Day and tax day. These two observances are extra important if you are an ex-spouse because Social Security pays benefits to eligible former spouses. And, you may need to claim this income on your tax forms.

If you are age 62, unmarried, and divorced from someone entitled to Social Security retirement or disability benefits, you may be eligible to receive benefits based on his or her record.

To be eligible, you must have been married to your ex-spouse for 10 years or more. If you have since remarried, you can't collect benefits on your former spouse's record unless your later marriage ended by annulment, divorce or death.

Also, if you're entitled to benefits on

your own record, your benefit amount must be less than you would receive based on your ex-spouse's work. Social Security will pay the higher of the two benefits for which you're eligible, but not both.

You can apply for benefits on your ex-spouse's record even if he or she hasn't retired, as long as you divorced at least two years before applying. The same rules apply for a deceased former spouse.

The amount of benefits you get has no effect on the benefits of your ex-spouse and his or her current spouse.

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/divspouse.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/divspouse.htm) to learn whether you're eligible for benefits on your ex-spouse's record and to learn about your monthly benefit amount.

If your ex-spouse died after you divorced, you can still qualify for widow's benefits. You'll find information about that in a note at the bottom of the website.



## New youth summer programs

Fort Meade CYSS Youth Sports now offers new, six-week summer programs. Registration is underway. Early registration is encouraged to avoid the wait list.

**SUMMER SPORTS**

- Ready, Set, Run
- Autobahn Junior Cart Team
- Beach Volleyball
- Friday Night NFL Flag Football

The fee for each programs is \$20. To register, go to the CYSS Youth Sports & Fitness Office, 1900 Reece Road. For more information, call 301-677-1329 or visit [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

# During WWII, Fort Meade housed prisoners

Prisoners allowed to work in orchards, farms nearby

BY KEVIN LEONARD  
Baltimore Sun Media Group

*Editor's note: Part 1 of this history article ran in the Feb. 26 edition of Soundoff! and is available at [bsun.md/1QYBy90](http://bsun.md/1QYBy90).*

Fort Meade housed an internment camp at the start of World War II for primarily German-American and Italian-American citizens and foreign nationals. In 1943, however, the military found itself in a bind with thousands of captured POWs and nowhere to house them in Europe or Africa. The solution was to convert many of the internment camps on U.S. military bases, including Fort Meade, and former Civilian Conservation Corps camps for POWs.

When World War II started, Fort Meade's mission was to train Army ground forces. According to "Maryland in World War II," published by the Maryland Historical Society, Fort Meade trained numerous Infantry Divisions and State Guard groups, as well as Medical Corps; Signal Corps; field, coastal or anti-aircraft artillery; military police; and Women's Army Corps.

Fort Meade was also assigned a top-secret activity once the war began: formation of the Enemy Prisoner of War Bureau.

"The bureau's workers maintained records on all enemy prisoners of war captured by American forces," according to "Maryland in World War II."

"The file was complete from the first Japanese prisoner pulled from the waters of Pearl Harbor early in the morning of December 8, 1941, to the last enemy captured in 1945. All letters and packages addressed to German, Italian and Japanese prisoners of war came to Meade for forwarding, the mail frequently running to a hundred and fifty bags a day."

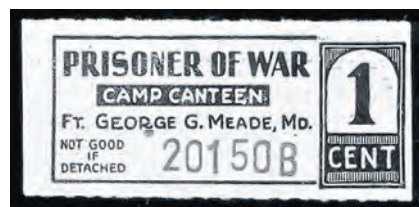
There was also an interrogation center at the fort. It's unknown how much valuable information it uncovered, but one case had deadly consequences. U-boat prisoner Werner Drechsler collaborated with the intelligence branch at Fort Meade. When he was transferred to Camp Papago Park in Arizona, his fellow German POWs somehow found out and hanged him.

When the decision was made to convert the camps for POWs, internees were shipped out, security at the camp was reinforced and temporary wood frame buildings were added to handle the increased population. New security regulations issued by post headquarters mandated that "all persons on foot, whether soldiers or civilians, are directed to keep at least 30



COURTESY OF FORT MEADE MUSEUM

The Fort Meade POW camp, 1943. German and Italian prisoners were kept apart as there was no love lost among the Axis partners.



COURTESY OF FORT MEADE MUSEUM

The scrip used to pay POWs for their labor could only be used in the camp store.

paces from the outer fence of the prisoner of war stockade, and to keep moving at all times. Guards have been instructed to fire on any person attempting to converse or otherwise make contact with prisoners."

In September 1943, the first POWs, mostly Italian but also a few dozen German, arrived. As the POWs began to filter in, the administrative burden kicked in. In her book, "Stalag, U.S.A.: The Remarkable Story of German POWs in America," author Judith Gansberg wrote, "Their Hitlerite education had taught Germans that Americans were disorganized, undisciplined, and senile — characteristics Germans despised most. The Property Branch of the Enemy Information Bureau at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, did nothing to dispel that image. Medical instruments, watches, pens, eyeglasses, cash, cameras, and untold other items were 'misplaced.' Naturally, the sheer volume of property contributed to the confusion at Fort Meade. But, too often, tags were lost or items added to a G.I.'s 'souvenirs.'"

Like most POW camps across the coun-



COURTESY OF HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POWs from Fort Meade taking a break from their work as butchers.

try, Fort Meade was populated with German soldiers mostly from the Wehrmacht (army). Later studies would reveal that a small percentage of POWs, possibly no more than 10 percent, were Nazi diehards. The military sent the hardcore Nazi sympathizers to special camps segregated from the regular POWs.

Even so, in an inspection report by the Red Cross, dated Sept. 6, 1944, the "Anti Nazi Section" of the Meade POW camp is

described. This was a section that housed prisoners who "have provided very useful information since capture" and are segregated because "they would be in considerable danger from loyal Nazis." Among this population were some Polish citizens who "said that they accepted service in the German Army as the lesser of two evils and made efforts to be taken prisoner at the earliest possible moment."

## POW Labor

In 1943, with so many American men off fighting the war, the sentiment to use the POWs as a labor force gained steam. The War Department relented and came up with new regulations for this. In Maryland, Fort Meade remained the main POW camp, but 18 smaller regional camps were set up across the state. Nationwide, 650 camps were constructed for approximately 400,000 German and 50,000 Italian POWs.

The Geneva Convention forbids forced labor by POWs, so participation was voluntary. Many POWs welcomed the opportunity to get out of the camp and keep busy, so participation was high. POWs worked at a variety of jobs, such as agriculture and manufacturing. The POWs from Fort Meade worked all over the area, including Howard, Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties, as well as Baltimore City.

In Howard County, POWs from the regional camp in Frederick helped with the construction of Brighton Dam. POWs doing agricultural work were dropped off at Hardman's Tourist Home, on Frederick Avenue and St. John's Lane, where the farmers would pick them up. This program was run by County Agent Warren Myers and civilian supervisor John Yingling, the former principal of Ellicott City elementary and high schools.

Meade itself benefited from the labor pool. In addition to performing tasks like laundry, engineering, mail sorting and repair of base residences, German POWs built three stone bridges on base that are still in use.

The workforce was paid the equivalent of 80 cents a day in scrip that could only be used in the camp store. Employers paid the prevailing wage to the state for the labor, meaning that not only did the program pay for itself, the state of Maryland actually made a profit on the POWs. Employers also benefited — state officials at the time reported that the POW labor created a 35 percent increase in Maryland's tomato crop in 1945.

## Security challenges

When the POWs first arrived at Fort Meade, they had to be segregated from the hardcore Nazi crew of the S.S. Odenwald, who had been sent to the camp with the internees. The Odenwald crew intimidated and terrorized the internees until they were separated from the rest of the camp. Fort Meade officials were not going to make the same mistake again with German Wehrmacht troops who were mostly content to sit out the war. The ship's crew was transferred to New Mexico shortly after the POWs arrived.

Prisoners of war were issued denim shirts



COURTESY OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Prisoners of war from Fort Meade during World War II pick fruit in a Howard County orchard.

and pants with "PW" stenciled on them. They were allowed to keep their uniforms to wear to church and were escorted to the post chapel to attend Protestant or Roman Catholic services, which must have been a startling sight for Fort Meade families.

The German and Italian troops had to be segregated, since there was no love lost between the Axis partners. This was demonstrated after Italy surrendered to the Allies in September 1943, and one month later declared war on Germany. According to the *New York Times*, "Italian hatred of the Germans unquestionably grew as the fighting spirit waned, and episodes between German and Italian soldiers and civilians before and after the armistice have shown pretty clearly a complete and incontrovertible end of all sympathy between the former Axis partners."

The Fort Meade Post reported the reaction of Italian POWs on Oct. 15, 1943: "Italian prisoners of war held at this post are ready right now to join in their country's fight against Germany." The Baltimore Sun reported a prisoner shouted "We Allies now, we Allies." In May 1944, the former Italian POWs at Fort Meade were activated in the Army as three Italian Service Companies with quartermaster duties at the fort.

At the conclusion of the war, the long process of repatriating the POWs began, and Meade's Enemy Prisoner of War Bureau

played a major role. According to a Department of Defense report titled "Historic Context: World War II Prisoner-of-War Camps on Department of Defense Installations," some German POWs were dismayed by the U.S. policy of repatriation at the end of the war: "Some Germans liked America and even asked permission to remain in the United States and become citizens. All were denied. It was a firm American policy that all POWs must be repatriated back to the nation in whose army they were captured."

## Laurel connection

Laurel resident Mikolaj (Mike) Kogut's war experience proved fascinating and serendipitous. Kogut died in 2008, but his wife, Violette, still lives in their home in West Laurel.

Kogut, born in Ukraine, was captured by the Nazis when he was 15 and sent to a work camp. After being processed, Kogut was waiting in a packed railroad cattle car that was pointing west, toward the Black Forest where he was being sent. Everyone knew that was the direction you wanted to go because trains heading east, to Russia, were filled with people no one would ever see again. As Kogut's train pulled out, he looked at the train pointing east and caught a

glimpse of the rest of his family in that cattle car. He never saw them again.

Kogut was put to work on a farm in the Black Forest. The farmer was in the German Army so Kogut never met him. The farmer's wife was very kind to Kogut and he never forgot it.

After the war, Kogut came to the United States and went to work for the Department of Defense, eventually at Fort Meade. Kogut and his wife settled in Laurel in 1971, and both their children are Laurel High School graduates.

On a trip to France, Kogut told Violette he wanted to go see the farm in the Black Forest. They drove to it and met the farmer, who still lived there. His wife had died, but the farmer recognized Kogut's name because his wife talked about him so much over the years. The farmer told Mike and Violette Kogut all about his wartime experiences and revealed that he had spent a few years as a captured POW — at Fort Meade.

*Barbara Taylor, from the Fort Meade Museum and Archives, and the Howard County Historical Society provided assistance for this story.*

*Editor's note: This article is reprinted for one-time publication with permission from the Baltimore Sun Media Group. It originally ran in the April 7 edition of the Laurel Leader, and is available online at [bsun.md/1Nqx801](http://bsun.md/1Nqx801).*

## JIBBER JABBER - OPINION

# Off the wagon

About this time last year, I chronicled the most embarrassing moment of my adult life: Getting thrown out of a Little League baseball game for arguing with the umpire.

The walk of shame from the diamond to my car that sun-soaked morning still haunts me, and it has guided my behavior on the field and court ever since.

I've proudly bit my tongue on a few occasions this season, but like addicts who slip off the wagon the second they become complacent with sobriety, poor sportsmanship can rear its ugly head when the coach gets too caught up in the moment.

Case in point: Tuesday afternoon. Your 8U Cougars were playing at Corkran Field in Glen Burnie, the scene of my original crime. And wouldn't you know, the same disgruntled dude who ran me last year was behind the plate pulling the same hijinks: Screaming, selective enforcement, and he even made one of my kids sit out for his earrings, which he had been wearing the entire season — forget about the first four innings of the game!

Some of my parents were getting frustrated. I was too, but I'm proud to say I maintained a majority of my composure. That is until the fifth inning!

That's when the opposing team batted out of order. And by out of order, I mean they skipped the three or four bottom hitters of their lineup and moved right to the top, which had just tagged us for the 5-run maximum the previous inning.

Intentional or not, my scorekeeper brought the issue up to me after a leadoff double. I, in turn, brought it up to the umpire, who confirmed the mistake but decided to not enforce the rule of an automatic out.

Then things got nuts, and everybody at the field (except the kids playing, of course) started getting involved. I avoided getting ejected, though the ump did threaten to toss me because I refused to



**Chad T. Jones**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
OFFICER

argue with him and walked away.

However, my nature of getting the last word made its way to the field when I turned to my boys and screamed: "That's it boys. No holds barred!"

An absolute horrible choice in phrases commiserate with the situation on the field. What I wanted to say, and teach my kids, is that sometimes life isn't fair, and the only thing you can do is play through it. That is the

message I gave them on the bench in between innings, and I'm proud to say our boys responded with a 5-run inning of their own.

The damage, though, had been done because I forgot what I was there to do: Use sports to teach kids how to be better people, not teach a bunch of 7- and 8-year-olds how to win a game at any cost, which is what the phrase "No holds barred" suggests.

A parent on our team was courageous enough to call me later in the evening. He had pulled his son off the field, in part or maybe in full, because of my outburst. Talk about feeling like a jerk.

My primary goal as a coach is to teach kids to love the game and have fun with it. My goal is for kids to want to stay on the field, not run them off it.

But, like the addict, I thought I was past having to think about good sportsmanship. In fact, I made several arguments to myself about how much better I handled this year's run-in with the ornery ump.

Then I thought back to last year's walk to the car and realized resting on my laurels and making excuses will only enable more bad behavior. That's why, just like last year, I'll be back in the dugout, apologizing to my team for their coach acting like a dingle.

*If you have comments on this or anything to do with sports, contact me at [chad.t.jones.civ@mail.mil](mailto:chad.t.jones.civ@mail.mil) or hit me up on Twitter @CTJibber.*

## SPORTS SHORTS

## Strong B.A.N.D.S. Group Fitness Challenge

Take the Group Fitness Challenge at Gaffney Fitness Center in May and you could win a 2016 Strong B.A.N.D.S. T-shirt.

To compete, take any of the group fitness programs in one week.

Participants must be authorized patrons of Gaffney and ages 18 or older.

For more information, call 301-677-3716.

## Wellbeats free classes

Experience a lineup of Wellbeats virtual group fitness classes every Friday in May at Gaffney Fitness Center.

The free classes are offered from 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m.

All classes are suitable for all levels as modified, basic and advanced variations of movements and exercises are given.

Participants must be authorized patrons of Gaffney and ages 18 and older.

Participants will receive a strong band and be entered in a drawing for a T-shirt.

For more information, call 301-677-3716.

## Armed Forces Free Bowling

The Lanes at Fort Meade will offer Armed Forces Free Bowling on May 21 from noon to 5 p.m.

Unlimited free bowling and shoe rental will be provided to active-duty military ID cardholders and family members.

Two free games and shoe rental will be provided to retired military ID cardholders and family members.

A 100 percent ID check will be in effect. For more information, call 301-677-5541.

## Free water aerobics

A free water aerobics class will be offered May 25 from 5:30-6:15 p.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center.

For more information, call 301-677-2349 or 301-677-3716.

## Zumbathon

A free Zumbathon will be held June 3 from 5-7 p.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center.

For more information, call 301-677-2349 or 301-677-3716.

## Youth Sports spring, fall registration

Registration is underway for summer and fall Youth Sports.

Summer sports include: beach volleyball, NFL Flag Football, "Ready, Set, Run" and indoor cart racing.

Fall sports include: volleyball, NFL Flag

Football, NFL Flag cheerleading, soccer, tennis and "Ready, Set, Run."

To register, go to the Child, Youth and School Service' Youth Sports & Fitness Office, 1900 Reece Road.

For more information, call 301-677-1329 or 301-677-1179 or go to [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

## 24-hour fitness facility at Murphy Field House

Murphy Field House offers unmanned extended hours after normal operating hours.

Murphy is open to authorized registered patrons ages 18 and older to utilize the cardio equipment and Nautilus weight machines.

The free weights, basketball and racquetball courts are NOT open during unmanned hours.

The facility is unmanned, so exercise responsibility and come with a buddy.

Murphy is fully equipped with surveillance cameras. All users will be monitored at all times while in the facility.

Registration is required to gain access to the facility by fingerprint reader.

Pick up a registration form at Gaffney Fitness Center or Murphy Field House and submit the completed form to the facility in advance so your information is in the system when you come for your appointment at Gaffney to enter your fingerprint for entrance to the facility.

Schedule an appointment for registration for 24/7 access.

For more information, call 301-677-3867.

## Fort Meade Run Series

The 2016 Fort Meade Run Series offers themed races through December.

Each race, sponsored by Fort Meade's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, includes a 1-mile walk.

All runs start at 8 a.m. and are open to the public.

- Patriot Pride: 5/10K: May 21, Murphy Field House

- Army Birthday 5K: June 11, Pavilion

- Football Fanfair 5K: Sept. 17, Constitution Park

- Ghosts, Ghouls & Goblins 5K: Oct. 22, Pavilion

- Turkey Trot 5K: Nov. 19, Murphy Field House

- Reindeer Run 5K: Dec. 10, Murphy Field House

Register online at [meade.armymwr.com/us/meade/programs/run-series](http://meade.armymwr.com/us/meade/programs/run-series).

For more information, call 301-677-3318.



Follow us on Twitter @ftmeademd  
Join the conversation using the  
hashtag #soundoff

## NEWS & NOTES

The deadline for Soundoff! community "News and Notes" is **Friday at noon**. All submissions are posted at the editor's discretion and may be edited for space and grammar. Look for additional community events on the Fort Meade website at [ftmeade.army.mil](http://ftmeade.army.mil) and the Fort Meade Facebook page at [facebook.com/ftmeade](https://facebook.com/ftmeade).

## NEWS & EVENTS

### New way to submit announcements

Community members can advertise their upcoming event, meeting or class on the Soundoff! community announcements page by visiting [www.ftmeade.army.mil](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil) and clicking on the Press Center tab.

Once you are in the Fort Meade Press Center, click on PA services, story or promotion request and electronic inquiry form.

Inquiry forms should be submitted at least two weeks before the date of the event, meeting or class.

### VCC hours

The operating hours at the Demps Visitor Control Center are Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

All individuals who do not have a DoD-issued identification card must go to the VCC for a day pass.

Visit the VCC at least 10 business days in advance to apply for a long-term access pass.

Visitors who arrive on post when the VCC is closed must be escorted on post by an authorized DoD cardholder. This includes weekends and federal holidays.

For more information, call the VCC at 301-677-1064.

To find out how to preregister, go to [goo.gl/xyTzhg](http://goo.gl/xyTzhg).

### Bike to Work Day

Bike to Work Day is May 20. The free event is part of National Bike Month.

Within the Meade area, three sites have been designated as pit stops for participants to gather between 7 and 8 a.m.:

■ Arundel Mills near Best Buy, 7000 Arundel Mills Blvd. in Hanover

■ Cafe Joe at the National Business Park, 14 National Business Parkway in Annapolis Junction

■ Baltimore Coffee and Tea Company, 1110 Town Center Blvd. in Odenton

Bicyclists who gather at the Baltimore Coffee and Tea Company will be able to access Fort Meade via the sally port at the

# Massing of the Colors



FILE PHOTO

**The Fort Meade Memorial Day Remembrance and 30th Annual Massing of the Colors will be held May 22 at 2:30 p.m. at the Fort Meade Pavilion. The guest speaker is Navy Adm. Michael S. Rogers, commander of U.S. Cyber Command, director of the National Security Agency, and chief of the Central Security Service. Dress is duty uniform for service members and business attire for civilians. Reservations are required by Sunday at 301-677-4844 or email [Pamela.r.miskel.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Pamela.r.miskel.civ@mail.mil).**

Pepper Road gate, just a five-minute ride from Odenton Town Center and the MARC station.

The sally port is an unmanned entryway to the installation that uses an optical scanner to check identification cards.

The Pepper Road gate is located on the southeast corner of Fort Meade near the Range Control off Route 175 and adjacent to Route 32.

The BWI Business Partnership encourages preregistration for the event.

To preregister or for more information, visit [www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com](http://www.Bike2WorkCentralMD.com) or [meaderide.com](http://meaderide.com).

### Bike gate pass

To obtain a bike gate pass for the Pepper Road gate, call Joseph R. Shinskie, chief of physical security at the Directorate of Emergency Services, at 301-677-6618 to schedule a date to pick up the pass.

Passes will be available for pickup within two days.

### RAB meeting

The next Fort Meade Environmental Restoration Advisory Board meeting is May

19 at 7 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott, 2700 Hercules Road, Annapolis Junction.

Community members are invited.

RAB meetings are held to keep the public informed of Fort Meade's environmental cleanup and restoration program, and to provide opportunities for public involvement and open discussion.

Members of the public who would like to learn more about the restoration program or to become a RAB member are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call 301-677-7999 or visit [www.ftmeade.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environment](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environment). Click on RAB link.

### Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage observance

In observance of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the 780th Military Brigade and Fort Meade garrison command are hosting "Mana Polynesia" on May 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McGill Training Center, 8452 Zimborski Ave.

The theme is "Walk Together. Embrace Differences. Build Legacies."

Admission is free.

All Fort Meade service members and

civilian employees are encouraged to attend with supervisory approval and without charge to annual leave.

Administrative leave is authorized.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Crawley at 301-833-6412 or Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Chambers at 301-677-6768.

### Retirement luncheon

A civilian retirement luncheon for retired Col. Bert L. Rice, director of transformation at Fort Meade, will be held May 31 at 11:30 a.m. at Club Meade.

The event celebrates Rice's 40 years of federal service.

Dress is duty uniform for service members and business attire for civilians.

Reservations are required by Wednesday. Call 301-677-4844 or email [Pamela.r.miskel.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Pamela.r.miskel.civ@mail.mil).

### Pet photo contest

A Cat & Dog Photo Contest is being held through Wednesday.

Three top prizes will be awarded for each category.

Post entries on the FMWR Facebook page.

For more information, call the Family Pet Care Center at 301-677-4059 or go to [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

### Post library update

Due to an unavoidable technological upgrade by the Army MWR Library Program, patrons of Fort Meade's Medal of Honor Memorial Library will experience intermittent interruptions in service.

That includes borrowing; updating and changing patron record information including PINs; electronic access; and non-availability of newly released material for the next several weeks.

The post library and the Children's Library at Kuhn Hall will maintain regular business hours, but all services may not be available or may be limited for brief periods of time. This does not include faxing, scanning and patron computers.

For more information, call the post library at 301-677-5522 or 301-677-4509.

### Change in service at Club Meade

The Brass Lounge at Club Meade is now open for dinner on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 4-8 p.m.

Club Meade will remain open for lunch service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and now offers a variety of international-themed buffets that vary daily including a Mexican buffet on Wednesday; Italian buffet on May 19; an Indian buffet on May 26; and a Korean buffet on May 31.

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## NEWS & NOTES, *From page 13*

Cost is \$7.95 for members and \$8.95 for nonmembers.

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

## R&B Night

Celebrate R&B Night at the Brass Lounge in Club Meade on Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight.

There is no cover charge.

The nightclub ambience will feature food and drink specials.

The event is open to all ranks and services and civilian employees.

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

## Barbecue at The Lanes

The Lanes at Fort Meade offers summer Wednesday barbecue.

Menu includes hot dog, sausage or hamburger on Wednesday and chicken or ribs on May 25.

Cost is \$9.

For a complete menu or more information, call 301-677-5541 or go online at [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

## Team Trivia

Trivia Maryland, Team Trivia Night is held every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at The Lounge at The Lanes.

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Game starts at 7 p.m.

Teams must have a minimum of two people and a maximum of 10.

Weekly prizes will be awarded to the top three winners.

For more information, call 301-677-5541.

## Change of command

Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) will host a change-of-command ceremony Friday at 10 a.m. at 8910 Love Road.

Capt. Jeremy D. Haines will relinquish command to Capt. Brandon Tuell.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Angelos Katsaitis at 301-833-9103 or email [angelos.a.katsaitis.mil@mail.mil](mailto:angelos.a.katsaitis.mil@mail.mil).

## Community Job Fair

Fort Meade's Community Job Fair will be held May 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Club Meade, 6600 Mapes Road.

A free, frequent shuttle service will be available to take attendees from the Demps Visitor Control Center to Club Meade.

Individuals who do not have a Department of Defense ID card must go to the Demps Visitor Control Center at Reece Road and present a valid photo ID card or driver's license, and Social Security number.

Meet employers. Bring resumes. Dress for success!

Arrive early and anticipate lines at the Reece Road gate and job fair.

Free resume evaluation and preparation assistance service will be available.

To schedule reasonable accommodations with an American Sign Language interpreter, email [jerome.duncan@maryland.gov](mailto:jerome.duncan@maryland.gov) by Friday.

The job fair is hosted by the Fort Meade Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; DLLR/American Job Center; Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation; Army Community Service; Navy Fleet & Family Support Center; and Soldier For Life-Transition Assistance Program.

For more information, go to [dllr.maryland.gov](http://dllr.maryland.gov) or [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com), or email [jerome.duncan@maryland.gov](mailto:jerome.duncan@maryland.gov).

## Farmers' market

The Fort Meade Farmers' Market will open Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pavilion.

Vendors will sell a variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers and breads.

The farmers' market will be open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 12.

The farmers' market is open to the public.

Individuals without DoD-issued ID cards must obtain a Fort Meade gate access pass from the Demps Visitor Control Center, 902 Reece Road.

Frequent visitors are encouraged to preregister for a long-term pass. You will need your driver's license or approved photo ID and be asked to provide your Social Security number at the VCC.

For more information, call 301-677-3579 or 301-252-8688.

## National Museum of Health and Medicine

The National Museum of Health and Medicine, located at 2500 Linden Lane in Silver Spring, features hundreds of artifacts on display that take visitors on a journey through the history of military medicine. As visitors walk from gallery to gallery, they can see just how far military medicine has come through innovations that have also contributed to civilian medicine.

On May 24, at 6 p.m., Air Force Col. Todd Rasmussen, director of the Department of Defense Combat Casualty Care Research Program headquartered in Frederick, will share how the program optimizes the survival and recovery of U.S. service members in current and future operational scenarios, with a focus on treating bleeding control and traumatic brain injury.

Rasmussen, a decorated vascular surgeon, will review the evolution of U.S. battlefield medicine and how war-fighter care has developed over the decades.

Rasmussen also will discuss products and innovations that have helped treat and prevent traumatic brain injuries, which are a major concern on the battlefield and can affect the service member over a long-term basis.

NMHH's Medical Museum Science Cafes are a regular series of informal talks that connect the mission of the Department of Defense museum with the public.

For more information on upcoming events, call 301-319-3303 or visit [medicmuseum.mil](http://medicmuseum.mil).

## Colonial Williamsburg free admission

This Memorial Day weekend, Colonial Williamsburg honors service to America with free admission tickets for active-duty military, Reservists, retirees, veterans, National Guardsmen and their dependents, made possible through a \$100,000 grant from the Home Depot Foundation.

The free ticket includes admission to more than 40 historic trades and sites, the military encampment, and the art museums of Colonial Williamsburg.

The service member need not be present, and free Honoring Service to America tickets will be provided to dependent family members of currently deployed troops with appropriate identification.

Veterans who separated before retirement can bring a copy of their honorable discharge paperwork, form DD 214, as identification of service.

These weekend-long admission tickets are available on site at the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center, Lumber House ticket office and the Merchants Square ticket window.

A Memorial Day commemorative service begins May 30 at 10 a.m. to honor service members who died serving their country. A procession with the Fife and Drum support will begin at the Governor's Palace and proceed to Bruton Parish Church, ending at the Capitol in Colonial Williamsburg.

Wreaths will be placed, prayers given, and volleys fired to honor Soldiers of the American Revolution, the Civil War and other conflicts.

For more information, call 855-296-6627 or visit [colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://colonialwilliamsburg.com).

## EDUCATION

### ASIST workshop

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training will offer a workshop on suicide "first aid" Wednesday and May 19 from 8:20 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cavalry Chapel, 8465 Simonds St. and 6th Armored Cavalry Road.

The workshop is open to service members, civilian employees and family mem-

bers ages 18 and older.

There is no fee, but a two-day commitment is required. Civilian attire, no uniforms.

To register, call Capt. Paul Kunnas at 301-677-7778 or email [paul.e.kunnas.mil@mail.mil](mailto:paul.e.kunnas.mil@mail.mil).

## Financial, Employment Readiness

Joint Services offers workshops and briefings by Army Community Service at the Community Readiness Center, 830 Chisholm Ave., and the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center at 2212 Chisholm Ave., unless otherwise noted.

The free classes are open to active-duty service members and family members, DoD civilian employees and retirees.

Registration is required for each class.

### Financial

- Car Buying: Tuesday, 9-11 a.m. at ACS Strategies to help determine how much you can afford to spend, how to negotiate effectively and how to research potential vehicles.

- Job Search Strategies: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon, FFSC

- Ten Steps to a Federal Job: May 24, 9 a.m. to noon, FFSC

- Credit Management: May 24, 9-11 a.m., ACS

- 1st Term Financial Readiness: May 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., ACS

### Military

- Pre-Deployment Brief: May 19, 10-11:30 a.m., FFSC

- Retiree Brief: May 23, 8-11:30 a.m., FFSC

- TGPS (Transition, Goals, Plans, Success) Workshop: Monday through May 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., FFSC

- Pre-Separation Brief: May 26, 9-11:30 a.m., FFSC

Mandatory brief is the first step in the transition process.

### Life Skills

- Stress Management: Today, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

- Assessing Higher Education: May 25-26, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., FFSC

To register, go to [fortmeadeacs.checkapointments.com](http://fortmeadeacs.checkapointments.com) or call 301-677-5590.

For more information, call ACS at 301-677-5590 or FFSC at 301-677-9017/9018.

## YOUTH

### Teen skate park

The Teen Center Skate Park is open the first and third Friday of the month.

The skate park is free to members and \$2 for nonmembers.

Helmets are required.

For more information, call 301-677-6054.

## Storytime

The Children's Library offers pre-kindergarten Storytime on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at Kuhn Hall, 4415 Llewellyn Ave.

- Today: "Hooray for Mother's Day!" — celebration of all mothers and their special day!

- May 19: "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom to the library!" — Storytime about things that "go"

- May 26: "Dogs Love Books & We Do Too!" — Stories about dogs

For more information, call 301-677-5522 or 301-677-4509.

## RECREATION

### Out & About

- **Comic Con**, hosted by the Anne Arundel County Public Library, will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Odenton Regional Library, 1325 Annapolis Road.

Participants include cartoonists Kofi Simmons, Jordan Clark and Keir Lyles; "Star Trek" writers/artists Dave Galanter, Robert Greenberger, Howard Weinstein and Steve Wilson; comic book authors and creators; and comic book enthusiasts.

The free, family-friendly event will feature:

- Workshops on how to create your own comic and draw characters
- Panel discussions on creating a fantastic costume on a budget
- Insights from "Star Trek" writers
- A Super Art Fight: the greatest live art competition in the known universe
- Free crafts, artist gallery and costume contest

For more information, call 410-222-6277 or go to aacpl.net.

- **The Bowie Baysox** will host its third annual Helicopter Candy Drop on May 29 following the 2:05 p.m. game at Prince George's Stadium.

A helicopter will drop thousands of pieces of candy onto the outfield for children ages 12 and younger to collect, weather permitting.

The date also celebrates the birthday of the mascot Louie, with free cake for children while supplies last, and a Louie T-Shirt giveaway.

Members of Louie's Kids Club can purchase discounted tickets to this event and get early admission at 12:30 p.m. for free use of the Kid's Park until 1 p.m.

Single game tickets are now on sale online at baysox.com.

- **Leisure Travel Services** will offer its next monthly bus trip to New York City on Saturday. Cost is \$60. Discounted tickets to attractions will be provided. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

- **Better Opportunities for Single**

**Soldiers** is sponsoring a trip to Busch Gardens on June 11 in Williamsburg, Va.

The trip is open to all single service members. Registration is required by May 25.

Cost is \$30 and includes admission and transportation.

To register or for more information, see your BOSS representative, call 301-915-5389 or email boss.ftmeade@gmail.com.

- **BOSS Rehoboth Beach Weekend** in Delaware for all single service members will be held July 22-24. Only 30 spaces are available. Register early. Cost is \$75 and includes transportation and lodging.

To register or for more information, see your BOSS rep, call 301-915-5389 or email boss.ftmeade@gmail.com.

- **The 24th annual Wine in the Woods** will be held May 21 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 5950 Symphony Woods Road in Columbia, rain or shine. The event will feature live entertainment on two stages, 35 food booths, arts and crafts vendors, and samples from Maryland wineries.

No pets. Identification is required for wine-sampler wristband.

Wine Taster tickets on May 21 cost \$32 in advance and \$40 at gate. Tickets for Designated Driver and youths ages 3-20 cost \$25.

Wine Taster tickets on May 22 cost \$27 in advance and \$35 at gate. Tickets for Designated Driver and youths ages 3-20 cost \$20.

Designated Driver wristband allows four complimentary beverages at the Designated Driver Booth.

For more information, call 410-313-4700 or wineinthewoods.com.

## MEETINGS

- **Fort Meade E9 Association** meets the second Friday of every month at 7 a.m. in the Pin Deck Cafe at the Lanes. The next meeting is Friday.

The association is open to active, retired, Reserve and National Guard E9s of any uniformed service. All E9s in this area are invited to attend a breakfast and meet the membership. For more information, go to e9association.org.

- **Meade Branch 212 of the Fleet Reserve Association** meets the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at VFW Post 160, 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie. The next meeting is Saturday. Active-duty, Reserve and retired members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are invited. For more information, call 443-604-2474 or 410-768-6288.

- **Families Dealing with Deployment** meets the first and third Monday of every month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. Children welcome. The next

meeting is Monday.

The group is for families experiencing an upcoming or current deployment, or the service members who have recently returned from deployment. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

- **Daddy & Me** interactive playgroup for fathers with children ages 2-4 meets the first and third Monday of every month from 5-6 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. The next meeting is Monday.

Children and their dads engage in activities conducive to improving social interaction, and cognitive and motor skills.

Space is limited. Registration is required for each session. For more information, call 301-677-4118.

- **Kritikos Toastmasters Club** meets on the first three Mondays of every month at 6:15 p.m. at Perry's Restaurant, 1210 Annapolis Road, Odenton. The next meeting is Monday.

The club offers an opportunity to service members and civilian residents in the Fort Meade community to improve their public speaking skills in a supportive environment.

For more information, go to 1686.toastmastersclubs.org or call 410-305-9190.

- **The Retired Enlisted Association** meets the third Tuesday of the month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Perry's Restaurant, 1210 Annapolis Road, Odenton. The next meeting is Tuesday.

For more information, visit trea.org or call Elliott Phillips, local president, at 443-790-3805; Charles M. Green, local president at 443-610-4252; or Arthur R. Cooper, past national president, at 443-336-1230.

For more information about becoming a TREA member, go to trea.org or call Charles Green, the local chapter president, at 443-610-4252 or email Cgreen151@verizon.net.

- **Society of Military Widows** meets for brunch the third Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. at Club Meade. The next meeting is Tuesday. For more information, call Betty Jones at 410-992-1123.

- **Military District of Washington Sergeant Audie Murphy Club** meets the third Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Dining Facility in Virginia. The next meeting is Wednesday.

All members and those interested in joining the club are welcome. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Erica Lehmkuhl at erica.lehmkuhl@us.army.mil or 301-833-8415.

- **Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 254** meets the third Wednesday of every month from 3-4 p.m. in the auditorium of the Airman Leadership School, 8470 Zimborski Ave. The next meeting is Wednesday. For more information, call 831-521-9251 or go to AFSA254.org.

## MOVIES

*The movie schedule is subject to change. For a recorded announcement of showings, call 301-677-5324. Further listings are available on the Army and Air Force Exchange Service website at www.aafes.com.*

*Movies start Fridays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. PRICES: Tickets are \$6 for adults (12 and older) and \$3.50 for children. 3D Movies: \$8 adults, \$5.50 children.*

## Today through June 4



HOPPER STONE/AP

**Friday & Sunday: "The Boss" (R).** A titan of industry is sent to prison after she's caught insider trading. With Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Bell, Peter Dinklage.

**Saturday: "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (PG-13).** A Portokalos family secret brings the beloved characters back together for an even bigger and Greekier wedding. With Nia Vardalos, John Corbett, Michael Constantine.

**May 20 & 22: "Barbershop: The Next Cut" (PG-13).** As their surrounding community has taken a turn for the worse, the crew at Calvin's Barbershop come together to bring some much needed change to their neighborhood. With Ice Cube, Regina Hall, Anthony Anderson.

**May 21: "Criminal" (R).** In a last-ditch effort to stop a diabolical plot, a dead CIA operative's memories, secrets, and skills are implanted into a death-row inmate in hopes that he will complete the operative's mission. With Kevin Costner, Ryan Reynolds, Gal Gadot.

**May 27, 29 & June 4: "The Jungle Book" (PG).** After a threat from the tiger Shere Khan forces him to flee the jungle, a man-cub named Mowgli embarks on a journey of self-discovery with the aid of the panther, Bagheera, and the free-spirited bear, Baloo. With Neel Sethi and the voices of Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley.