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The road to the 58th U.S. Presidential Inauguration

By Arthur Mondale
Pentagram Staff Writer

The president’s inauguration is the largest, most publicized quadrennial event in the nation’s capital. And since 1789, members of the U.S. military have played an instrumental role.

“This really dates back to 1789 when our military local militia and Revolutionary War veterans escorted President George Washington in New York City,” said Maj. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, commander of Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region and U.S. Army Military District of Washington.

Becker recently assumed the role of commanding general of

the Joint Task Force – National Capital Region 58th Presidential Inauguration.

To date, 15 of the 820 projected service members from all branches of the U.S. military have arrived at the task force. Their ranks will grow as the January 20th inauguration approaches. At full strength, the task force will lead 5,000 uniformed participants in support of the presidential inauguration.

The task force will fill a significant and highly-visible role in ceremonial support to the inauguration, including the military’s five service bands, color guards, salute batteries and honor cordons.

Behind the scenes, there’s an

even larger operational support element; chemical, biological incident response force, explosive ordnance disposal and counter-improvised explosive device capability teams, logistics, planning, and more.

“Having been in places where a peaceful transition of power doesn’t necessarily take place routinely, a presidential inauguration is a great symbol that Americans should be proud of,” Becker said. “Every four years either a new administration, or an administration staying for a second term, will transfer power and through that peaceful transfer of power the military

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PHOTO BY U.S. AIR FORCE SRA DYLAN NUCKOLLS, JOINT TASK FORCE – NCR 58TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL
Maj. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, commanding general, Joint Force Headquarters—National Capital Region and U.S. Army Military District of Washington, discusses his new role as commanding general of the Joint Task Force – National Capital Region 58th Presidential Inaugural. He will oversee 5,800 uniformed personnel in support of the inauguration.



PHOTO BY JULIA LEDOUX
Karla Latona swims with Codie, her 5-year-old Golden Retriever, during the outdoor pool season ending Doggie Dip event Sept. 10 at Patton Hall on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

For full story, see page 9

15 Years Later: Former MDW PAO remembers Sept. 11

By Guv Callahan
Pentagram Staff Writer

Army Col. Rich Breen was preparing to check out of a hotel in Columbus, Ohio, the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. He was wrapping up a trip promoting the Army’s traveling “Spirit of America” pageant. Then, two commercial airplanes hit the Twin Towers in New York City.

As the then-director of public affairs and communications for the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, Breen said all he wanted to do was get back to Washington, D.C., but planes were grounded and traffic was a nightmare.

Instead, he went back up to his hotel room, got a dedicated fax and phone line, and helped coordinate MDW’s

crisis communications plan after the tragedy.

“The first thing that goes through your head is ‘I need to get back there right away, even if I have to walk,’” said Breen, now retired from the Army and current director of communications for the Military Health System and Defense Health Agency.

The MDW Public affairs team played a large role in the response that day, telling the stories of MDW Soldiers and civilians onsite at the Pentagon and Ground Zero in New York, drafting talking points for Maj. Gen. Jim Jack-



COURTESY PHOTO
Retired Army Col.
Rich Breen

son, then MDW’s commander, and assisting members of the media covering the plane crash at the Pentagon.

“You want to be back with your people, you know that they’re going through an incredibly challenging time. You want to be able to have that presence,” Breen said.

That was especially challenging while watching the coverage from a hotel room in Ohio. Breen said he focused on providing clear, concise and, above all, calm leadership to his officer and NCO corps to ensure that they accomplished the mission.

By 2 a.m. Sept. 12, he was able to secure a rental car and drove back to Washington D.C., arriving at Reagan

see REMEMBER, page 2

Commissary closed Sept. 26-27 for renovations

By Guv Callahan
Pentagram Staff Writer

The Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commissary will close at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, and remain closed Sept. 26 and 27, for renovations Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) officials say will improve the shopping experience.

During the closure, contractors will install all new shelving throughout the store in an effort to better reflect customer shopping patterns and improve the store’s product flow.

see COMMISSARY, page 5



PHOTO BY GUV CALLAHAN
Customers browse the produce section at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commissary Sept. 12, 2016. The Commissary will close at 4 p.m. Sept. 26 and remain closed Sept. 27 and 28 to undergo renovations officials say will improve the shopping experience.

Enhanced security measures coming to ANC

By Jennifer Lynch
Arlington National Cemetery PAO

Arlington National Cemetery is phasing in enhanced security measures for those who visit the cemetery. In addition to random ID checks and other security measures already in place, the cemetery will require visitors to go through additional screening.

“Arlington is taking advanced security precautions to protect visitors, family members and staff. These security measures will be similar to the ones at museums in the National Capitol Region,” said Patrick K. Hallinan, Arlington National Cemetery executive director.

The new security measures will enhance current security efforts and improve visitor safety while minimizing inconvenience. All vehicle access will require presenting a valid government issued photo identification (driver’s license, passport, etc.) when entering the cemetery and will be subject to random inspections.

Family members with a permanent gravesite vehicle passes may continue to drive to their loved ones’ grave with a valid driver’s license.

Starting in November, Arlington National Cemetery will begin to implement visitor screening. All pedestrian traffic will be required to enter Arlington National Cemetery at set access points: the cemetery’s main entrance on Memorial Avenue, Ord & Weitzel Gate, and the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Old Post Chapel Gate.

Before entering the cemetery from the main entrance, all pedestrians will be screened through the Welcome Center. There will be express screening lines for visitors who do not have bags. Those with disabilities will also have an express line for screening.

Arlington officials urge people to allow additional time to go through security screening when visiting the cemetery, especially large tour groups.

“These processes may result in a delay entering Arlington, but it is vitally important that we protect the safety of all the visitors, family members and staff that enter these hallowed grounds,” said Hallinan. “This is our nation’s premier national cemetery and we want to be sure that when people visit this site they can feel safe and secure.”

For more information, visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit/Security.

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Local forecast

For more weather forecasts and information, visit www.weather.gov.

Obama, DoD leaders honor 9/11 victims at remembrance ceremony

By Terri Moon Cronk
DoD News, Defense
Media Activity

In the 15 years since terrorists attacked the United States, the steadfast love and faithfulness of survivors, families and friends of those who died have been an inspiration to President Barack and the entire country, the commander-in-chief said at the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial observance Sept. 11.

Following a moment of silence, and against the backdrop of an American flag that draped the side of the Pentagon where terrorists attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, by flying American Airlines Flight 77 into the western side of the building, the president said the question of how America preserves the legacy of the victims lies in the generation of those who have stepped forward to defend the nation since then.

They are the “men and women in uniform, diplomats, intelligence, homeland security and law enforcement professionals — all who have stepped forward to serve and who have risked and given their lives to help keep us safe,” Obama said.

“Thanks to their extraordinary service, we’ve dealt devastating blows to al-Qaida. We’ve delivered justice to Osama bin Laden, The president said.” “We resolve to continue doing everything in our power to protect this country that we love.”

‘We Do Not Give In To Fear’

It is important for America to stay true to the spirit of Sept. 11 by defending the country and its ideals, he noted, adding, “Fifteen years into this fight, the threat has evolved. With our stronger defenses, terrorists often attempt attacks on a smaller, but still deadly, scale. Hateful ideologies urge people in their own country to commit unspeakable violence. We’ve mourned the loss of innocents from Boston to San Bernardino to Orlando.”

But terrorists know they cannot defeat the United States, he emphasized.

“Instead, they’ve tried to terrorize in the hopes that they can stoke enough fear that we turn on each other and that we change who we are or how we live, Obama said.”

That’s why it is so important today for America to “reaffirm our character as a nation — a people drawn from every corner of the world, every color, every religion, every background — bound by a creed as old as our founding, E Pluribus Unum. — Out of many, we are one,” the president said.

REMEMBER
from page 1

National Airport around 11 a.m. “It was a ghost town. No aircraft, no people, it’s totally empty. It looked like a Twilight Zone set,” he said.

He got to the Pentagon around noon Sept. 12. The building was still smoldering.

“It was a horrible sight,” he said. “You can watch it on television, but when you’re looking at it in person, when you’re right there... and you’re seeing the smoke and the damage, you have a combination of anger, of compassion for the families, and you want to make sure that you are there providing whatever support is needed.”

Once the initial shock passed, Breen said his first emotion was anger: “How dare you attack my house?”

But in the days and weeks that followed, he saw the military community band together to overcome their own feelings of sorrow, loss and rage, he said.

“We’re going to take care of the injured. We’re going to evacuate people. We’re going to get this building built up and repaired again. You just saw sheer determination,” Breen said. “Everybody became one team. There was no questioning anything.”

Other Americans seemed to feel the same way. Breen said his uncle, a retired Army officer, called to ask how he could get re-activated in the military to help after the attacks.

“It was one of those signature events that brings the entire nation together, and I think [MDW was] a microcosm of how the nation felt right then – we were very focused on what our job



President Barack Obama speaks during a ceremony observing the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks Sept. 11, 2016, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Seated, are Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Maj. Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Attacks Based On Hate

The attack on the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m., 15 years ago was motivated by barbarism and hate, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told the audience.

Because of the millions of service members who have volunteered to serve and sacrifice since that fateful day 15 years ago, the United States has hammered those who attacked us “with every manner and measure of American power,” Carter said, “[by] choking terrorist networks, thwarting looming attacks and bringing Osama bin Laden to eternal justice.”

Regardless of what groups terrorists call themselves, “nothing changes who terrorists are or what we’ll do to protect our country ... we possess limitless resolve to win,” he said.

Loyalty to High Ideals

“It’s been said in the manner in which a nation or community cares for its fallen reflects the peoples’ respect for their land and their loyalty to high ideals,” said Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“We’re here today in that spirit to honor those who lost their lives on 9/11, to maintain our commitment to never forget, and to demonstrate our loyalty to high ideals,” Dunford said.

Follow Terri Moon Cronk on Twitter, at @MoonCronkDoD



Rachael Fisher, 12, reacts during a ceremony honoring the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks Sept. 11, 2016, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Her grandfather, Gerald Fisher, died during the attacks.

Pentagon Memorial Stark reminder of 9/11 Attacks

By Terri Moon Cronk
DoD News, Defense
Media Activity

The Pentagon Memorial stands as a stark reminder to the Defense Department workforce that the headquarters represents the front lines that fight the battle against terrorism, Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work said in the Pentagon courtyard Sept. 9.

In a community observance of the events 15 years ago when terrorists leveled attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, and flew an airplane into the Pentagon, two more into New York City’s Twin Towers, and another that was forced by passengers to crash into a Pennsylvania field, the deputy secretary said the building’s workforce has a particular connection to the 184 victims who perished that day — 126 DoD employees and all 54 people aboard American Airlines Flight 77.

Our Memories Must Never Fade

“We must never allow — never allow — those who were lost to ever fade from our memories ... as well as those who have sacrificed in the long wars ever since,” Work said. “And we must continue to allow them to motivate us in our continuing struggle against those who would seek to destroy that which we hold dear.”

Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said while the west side of the Pentagon struck by the airplane billowed in smoke, a reminder of what the United States stands for was clear amid the debris.

“You might remember a flag draped over these walls both in unity and in defiance,” the vice chairman said, calling the flag “a symbol of our resilience. Those images are forever etched in our minds.”

Selva called the events of 9/11 a “remarkable legacy of strength and fortitude, a legacy that safeguards American values, a legacy that makes certain we will never forget.”

DoD’s ‘Powerful Resolve’

While attendees at the courtyard observance stood together today to mourn the loss of the DoD workforce and those aboard American Airlines Flight 77, the ceremony carried a broader meaning, the vice chairman said.

“We are also here to remember that moment united our nation with a powerful resolve not only to rebuild [the Pentagon wing], but to combat those who threatened our very way of life,” Selva emphasized.

Fifteen years later, DoD operates in a complex environment, Selva said.

“[In] the complex challenges we face every day, in every corner of this world, I’m confident that we will continue to meet those challenges with ironclad resolve to represent what is the very best of our nation,” he said.

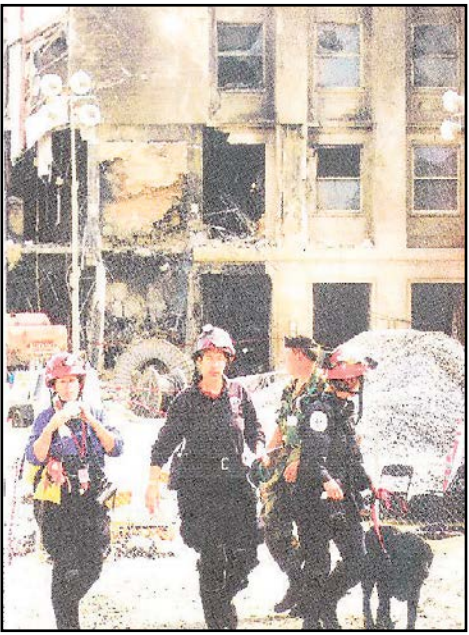
The Enemy ‘Will Fail’

Work said those who seek to stifle or harm the American way of life and its citizens certainly will fail.

“They will fail because all of us as Americans will never forget what we stand for,” the deputy secretary said. “We will remain steadfast in our determination to stamp out this evil and secure a better future for our children. And we will work together collectively to create a world free from terror and oppression.”

Work said he and Defense Secretary Ash Carter are grateful for each DoD military and civilian employee.

“We thank you for your sacrifice, professionalism and dedication to the country,” Work said. “We know that you will continue to make all Americans rightfully proud of their great American military.”



Army Col. Rich Breen, then director of communications for the Military District of Washington, visits the site of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, on Sept. 12, 2001. Along with his public affairs team, Breen was in charge of coordinating MDW’s crisis communications response to the tragedy.

was,” he said.

Breen said the tragedy hasn’t changed military’s or the nation’s values so much as reinforced them in the 15 years following the attacks.

“When you’re faced with a crisis, it’s your core values that are brought to fruition and become part of your strengths,” he said. “They’re highlighted in a crisis situation. Your values help you to focus and achieve success.”

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GENERALS VS. BULLDOGS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS HEAT UP

By Arthur Mondale
Pentagram Staff Writer

Head coaches for the Fort Myer Generals and the National Capital Region Marines Bulldogs men's varsity basketball teams are full-court pressed to fill their 2017 season rosters.

For the past two months, both new and familiar players have participated in tryouts with the hopes of making it to one of the teams.

The Generals have five open spots on their roster. The Bulldogs comprised of hopefuls from Henderson Hall, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. Quantico, and other installations in the National Capital Region have 15.

"No one is safe, everyone has to try out," said James "Red" Jones, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel and head coach for the NCR Marines. He's entering his 36th year coaching this team.

"We're just trying to give all quality basketball players in the region a chance...I'm looking for players with solid skills who want to get better," he said.

Spc. Gary Smith, the Fort Myer head coach, is new to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. He previously coached at Fort Bliss.

"I'm looking for 110-percent," he said. "I'm looking for an athlete with a hustle and a high basketball IQ, who pays attention and is willing to put their heart on the court. That's what I'm looking for."

Strengths and abilities were tested during a Sept. 3 tryout at Cpl. Terry L. Smith Gym.

Tryouts for both teams take place as four-hour scrimmages between the Generals and the Bulldogs, and will continue through November.

The opposing coaches said they team up to conduct joint tryouts because it forces hopefuls for both teams to hone

their competitive edge.

"The tryouts allow the athletes to see their opponents face-to-face and the competition that exists in the league," Smith said.

Last season, the Generals were 11-5 and the Bulldogs finished 6-8, according to the Washington Area Military Athletic Conference (WAMAC) website. Fort Lee's men's varsity basketball team won the 2016 Capital Classic Men's Basketball Championships with a 13-1 standing during the regular season in the nine-team conference.

"Players need patience, commitment and self-discipline," said Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Eric Hudson, who served as a point guard with NCR Marines last year. "We're competitive. Yes, we may not be actively deployed, but there's a commitment to duty and a mission among these men that's built on unit cohesion and camaraderie."

Army Sgt. Christopher Way, a combo guard for the Generals last season,

see TRYOUTS, page 8



PHOTOS BY ARTHUR MONDALE

Men's varsity basketball hopeful's try-out during a scrimmage between the Fort Myer Generals and National Capital Region Marines Bulldogs Sept. 3 at Cpl. Terry L. Smith Gym.



Spc. Gary Smith, Fort Myer Generals head coach, huddles with men's varsity basketball hopefuls at Cpl. Terry L. Smith Gym Sept. 3. "I'm looking for an athlete with a hustle and a high basketball IQ, who pays attention and is willing to put their heart on the court," he said.

Racquetball repurposed: Tool to heal the wounded



PHOTO BY DELONTE HARROD

Herman Brooks and Steven Harper demonstrate what it looks like when singles play against each other before a racquetball training session with wounded warriors Sept 9.

By Delonte Harrod
Pentagram Staff Writer

When Joseph "Joe" Sobek, now deceased, invented racquetball, he was trying to create a new, competitive sport – and the fast-moving offshoot of paddleball has been a resounding, international success in that respect.

But Steven Harper, a retired naval officer, has again transformed the sport by using it for something new to help ill and injured service members heal.

In 2009, Harper founded the Military Racquetball Federation (MRF). The organization hosted its very first racquetball tournament at Fort Myer in 2010.

"This is like a homecoming," said Harper.

Last week, the organization returned to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall to host another tournament and also an adaptive sports exhibition for wounded warriors.

"A lot of our veterans who are coming back home are dealing with a lot of mental and physical stressors from combat," said Harper. We founded this organiza-

tion because [playing racquetball] helps them with some of their injuries."

The organization's goal is to use racquetball as a tool to rehabilitate those who have been injured during combat. The organization offers eight-week racquetball clinics to wounded warriors, disabled veterans and active-duty service members.

Harper, a post-9/11 veteran who also suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and is an avid racquetball player, said that a service member's life after service can be very frenzied. The high-speed, intensely competitive sport of racquetball is perfect for highly-driven, high-energy veterans, who said.

"We are using racquetball as a catalyst to help veterans to come out of their shell," he said.

"When [service members] are hitting that ball, they are releasing some of that frustration they are dealing with," said Harper. "Some of the injuries that service members have could cause them to

see RACQUETBALL, page 8

Get ready, get set: Preparing for the Army Ten-Miler

By Julia LeDoux
Pentagram Staff Writer

For spectators, the Army Ten-Miler is an annual event that takes place on a single Sunday every October. For runners, the training can begin months in advance. But for a small team that works in the Army Ten-Miler office at Fort McNair, preparations for the 2016 race began shortly after the final runner crossed the finish line of last year's race.

Runners participating in this year's Army Ten-Miler will step off from the Pentagon Oct. 9. After that race, work will begin to prepare for 2017.

"We'll close out activities, conduct our after action review and start working 2017 ATM support contracts, mission plan developments and sponsorships," said James Vandak, Army Ten-Miler director.

This will be the 32nd Army Ten-Miler. Some things stay the same from year to year, such as planning wave starts, package pick-ups and water points, Vandak said.

Still, "Every race is unique," he said.

The 2011 Army Ten-Miler moved staging operations from the Pentagon South Lot to the Pentagon North Lot and in 2014, organizers increased the number of wave starts to eight to reduce runner congestion.

"This year, we are allowing runners to carry cell phones along the race course to improve emergency notification capabilities and post-race communication with family and friends for linking up," he said.

One thing organizers are urging runners to think about early is their transportation to and from the race.

This year, Metro will not open early on race day (as it had in years past).

The Metro will open at 7 a.m., and the Orange Line will operate a single train between Vienna and West Falls Church that day.

That means runners in waves one to four should make alternate plans to arrive between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. to access their wave start corrals, Vandak said.

Runners in waves five through eight should access their Wave Start corrals between 7:30 and 8:45 a.m. on race day.

Visitors to the area should also note that no race parking is allowed at the Pentagon, Vandak said.

Commercial parking is available at Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, a paid parking garage at 850 Army Navy Drive in Arlington, Virginia. It opens at 5 a.m. and is across the street from the Pentagon. The other lot is the Crystal City garage, a free parking garage at 1750 Crystal Drive in Arlington, Virginia. It opens at 6 a.m. and is about a half-mile walk from the Pentagon.

Vandak encouraged runners to consider alternative transportation options, such as car-pooling, rider share services such as Uber, Lyft or taxis, bus services, bicycling, or even staying overnight at a hotel near the Pentagon to ensure they arrive rested and ready to race on the day of the event.

Runners who arrive late can start in a slower Wave Start corral. There is no time penalty, because the race doesn't start for any runner until he crosses the start line, said Vandak.

The Army Ten Miler draws military runners and teams from around the world, making it one of the year's most competitive military races.

Olympic silver medalist in the 5,000 meter race Army Spc. Paul Chelimo plans to return to defend his 2015 Army Ten Miler title, Vandak said. Chelimo is also a member of the Army's World Class Athlete Program.

The race draws not only athletes, but other members of the military community together, Vandak said. More than 800 volunteers support the race each year.

"The Army Ten-Miler wouldn't be possible without the support of individual and group volunteers," he said. "We sincerely appreciate their time and dedication to supporting runners and contributing to the success of the race."

For more information on the race, visit armytenmiler.com.

Pentagram Staff Writer Julia LeDoux can be reached at jledoux@dcilitary.com.

Travelling art exhibit promotes reflection, resiliency at Pentagon

By Delonte Harrod
Pentagram Staff Writer
and Photojournalist

American author and artist Mark Rothko once said that he is uninterested in the relationship between form and colors, but is more interested in expressing basic human emotions. The full range of such emotions were on display last week at the Pentagon as part of a three-day art exhibit for Suicide Prevention Month.

The “Reflections of Generosity” exhibit explores spiritual resiliency, military culture, and artistic expression to raise awareness to suicide in the military and to be an instrument of healing for service members who may be struggling with depression or anxiety, which can trigger suicidal thoughts.

Suicide Prevention month is observed by both the Department of Defense and the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs to address the issue of suicide among military service members and veterans.

More than 250 active duty service members killed themselves in 2015 according to statistics released by the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO).

Researchers say the reasons aren’t always obvious, but they are working to identify trends.

The authors of a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association’s JAMA Psychiatry journal in 2015 found service members who die by suicide tend to be male, under age 30, and that currently or previously deployed service members are more likely to use a gun in suicide attempts.

The Reflections of Generosity art exhibit displayed more than 60 pieces from artists around the world, including sculptures, paintings and charcoal drawings.



Reflections of Generosity is a nonprofit organization that looks to foster a conversation around the joy and tragedy of Soldiers and their families. Ret. Army Sgt. Ron Kelsey, who has a college degree in art, started the nonprofit while he was deployed to Iraq. He wanted to use art as a way to communicate his “good and bad” emotions. More than half of the art work is created by former and active duty service members.

More than half of the art in the exhibition was created by the active duty service members, veterans and family members, said Ron Kelsey, a retired Soldier and founder, and president of the Reflections of Generosity, organization.

“It was so deep and expressive. It was good to see that there are so many artistically talented military members,” said Gabrielle Perez, a Marine Corp contractor who viewed the exhibit while it was displayed at the Pentagon.

The travelling exhibit will be on display at the Mark Center federal building in Alexandria, through Sept. 15.

“I had people come up to me to express thanks because we are representing the service members’ experience,” Kelsey said. “[The art] represents the full spectrum of the soldier’s experience: what they go through, whether they are on the bat-



PHOTOS BY DELONTE HARROD

The Reflections of Generosity exhibit display a variety of art created by service members and civilians during an exhibit at the Pentagon Sept. 9. Ret. Army Sgt. Ron Kelsey, who has a college degree in art, started the nonprofit while he was deployed to Iraq. He wanted to use art as a way to communicate “good and bad” emotions.

tlefield or at home, what their spouses go through, what children go through. We represent a full body of work.”

Kelsey said he launched the arts organization responsible for the exhibit while he was a service member deployed in Iraq, several years ago. He said he was motivated to make art while he was deployed because he needed a way to articulate his feelings about both positive and negative experiences.

Wendy Lasko, director of outreach and education at DSPO, said her office brought the exhibit to the Pentagon because appreciating and creating art can be therapeutic for those going through a rough period

in life, by helping them reduce stress and by exploring and processing emotions.

“The Defense Suicide Prevention Office takes a public health approach to suicide prevention,” she said. “That means we look at ways to focus on preventing suicide in several different ways and one of those ways is through a multidisciplinary approach, which brings together a lot of different perspectives and experiences.”

The arts community can be of great benefit to service members who may be suffering alone, Lasko said. “We know that having social support and feeling connected to something is a protective factor for this type of

prevention.”

Kelsey said he hopes his exhibit has a lasting impact by opening a dialogue between people about the arts, emotion, and behavioral health.

“When you influence someone else’s life and you help them to find a purpose, to live beyond the negativity that surrounds them, I hope they then go and help someone else to do the same thing,” said Kelsey.

For more information about the Reflections of Generosity travelling exhibit, visit www.reflectionsofgenerosity.com.

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Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

By Delonte Harrod
Pentagram Staff Writer

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a special performance by the U.S. Army Blues; Sept. 22, 11:30 a.m., at Brucker Hall.

The U.S. Army Blues is an 18-piece ensemble jazz band comprised of musicians from the U.S. Army Band, Pershing’s Own.

Guest musician Army Staff Sgt. Juan Quinones of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point Band will join the U.S. Army Blues for this performance. Quinones, a veteran trumpet player, has performed with numerous times with superstar musicians, including Gloria Estefan, Ricky Martin, and Jennifer Lopez.

For Hispanic Heritage Month, the band will explore the influence of Latin American instruments, rhythms, and performers on American music by playing several jazz standards, including “Mambo Inn,” “A Night in Tunisia,” and “Splanky” at this and several other performances throughout the month.

At the Sept. 22 event, Col. Patrick Duggan, joint base commander, will deliver remarks, and a complimentary luncheon will be served following the performance.

Hispanic Heritage Month was established as a week-long observance during President Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration in 1968.

President Ronald Reagan proposed expanding celebration to 30 days, starting on Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Congress enacted the new observance into law on August 17, 1988.

Additional Hispanic Heritage Month performances by the U.S. Army Blues

Sept. 18, 3 p.m.

Brucker Hall

(Special screening at 2:15 p.m.)

Ignacio Berroa, a Cuban immigrant and jazz drummer who performed with Dizzy Gillespie’s band, joins the U.S. Army Blues for a special screening of his video presentation, “Afro-Cuban Jazz and Beyond followed by the Army

band’s Hispanic Heritage Month performance.

Sept. 23, 6 p.m.

Arlington Mill Community Center plaza

Guest musician Army Staff Sgt. Juan Quinones of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point Band joins the U.S. Army Blues for an encore performance outside the Arlington Mill Community Center at 909 S. Dinwiddie St., Arlington.

Additional information about the celebrations and times can be found at www.usarmy-band.com.

About National Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, is October 12, which also falls within this 30 day period.

For more information, visit www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov.

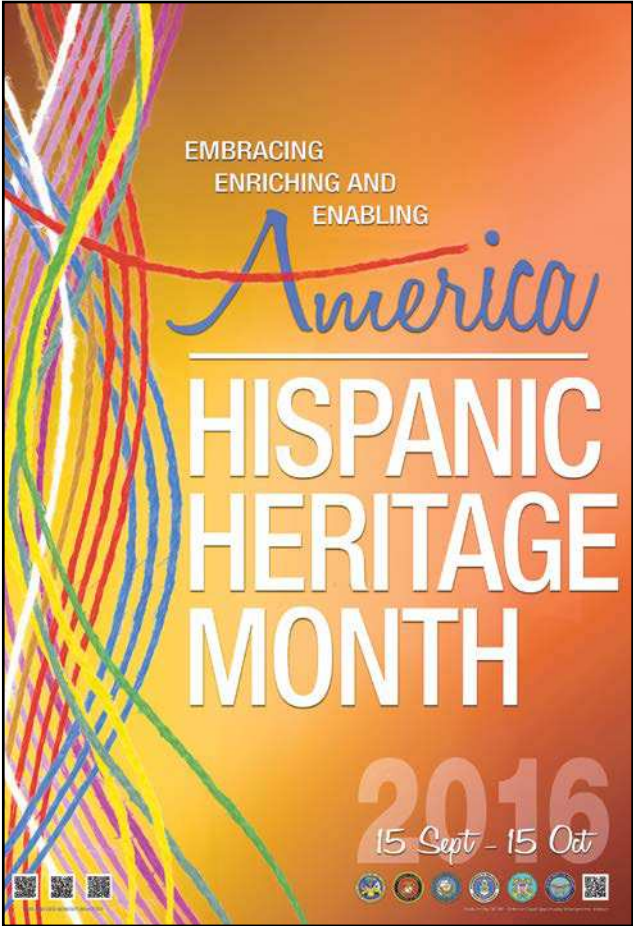


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAWN SMITH, DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

More resources

Experiencing War: Hispanic Americans Service to the Nation

Charles Rodriguez fought with Merrill’s Marauders in WWII Burma. Jose Mares survived incredible hardship as a POW during the Korean War, as a teenager.

Find nine inspirational stories from the archives that illustrate contributions Hispanic Americans have made to our country in the armed forces at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project microsite: www.loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-hispanic.html.

DoD 2016 Hispanic Heritage Month concept artwork

The 2016 Hispanic Heritage Month concept art features threads in colors common to cultures of several Hispanic countries and representing the culture, heritage, diversity, and contributions of these cultures, intermingled with the red, white, and blue colors representing the United States. *website: www.diversity.defense.gov.*

Pentagram Staff Writer Delonte Harrod can be reached at dharrrod@dcmlilitary.com

News Notes

Fort Belvoir gate closure

Fort Belvoir’s Pence Gate (the gate nearest to the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, off Route 1) closes at 9 p.m. Oct. 2 for six weeks of construction related to Virginia Department of Transportation improvements to the Route 1 corridor construction.

Drivers entering the installation should expect delays during peak hours and are asked to adjust arrival times for work, medical or administrative appointments to lessen the impact of the temporary closure.

Tulley Gate (also located just off Route 1, near Fairfax County Parkway), will serve as the 24-hour access point for entry onto Fort Belvoir during the closure.

For more information or a map, contact the Fort Belvoir public affairs office at 703-805-5001.

“Show Some Love”: Combined Federal Campaign 2016

The Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) kicks off Oct. 1 and continues through Dec. 15. The theme for this year’s campaign is “Show Some Love,” and the annual campaign is an opportunity for JBM-HH members to show their love to their community and for a number of charitable causes as part of the Combined Federal Campaign National Capitol Area (CFCNCA) fundraising drive.

CFC is the world’s largest and most successful workplace giving program and has raised more than \$7 billion for charity since its first campaign back in 1964. CFC coordinates charitable solicitations in federal offices as a single, consolidated annual campaign, offering service members, federal workers and retirees an easy way to make charitable donations via a one-time donation of as little as \$1 by direct deposit or through bi-weekly payroll deductions over the course of the year.

JBM-HH organizers say their informal goal is to surpass last year’s base-wide contributions of \$23,000, an amount that exceeded the installation’s formal 2015 goal by more than 10 percent.

Unit representatives have been assigned to make “100 percent contact” with

see NEWS, page 6

Do fence them in: DPW upgrades fencing at Caisson Stables paddock




PHOTO BY GUV CALLAHAN

Three horses assigned to the Army's 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) caisson platoon enjoy some downtime between ceremonies in their newly-fenced paddock behind Caisson Stables Sept. 6. The Directorate of Public Works installed more than 1,300 feet of new fencing around the lower paddock, a project that took three weeks to complete. The horses provide support to The Old Guard throughout the year at ceremonial events and during funerals in Arlington National Cemetery. They are also expected to support the upcoming 58th Presidential Inauguration.

COMMISSARY
from page 1

Shelving will be torn down, replaced and restocked to make the layout and displays more consistent with other stores in the DeCA's network. In the future, DeCA plans to make store layouts available online, to make locating items even easier for its customers.

"The whole idea, in a nutshell, is to get convenience into the shopping experience," said Steve Arland, chief of DeCA's store reset team, in a statement. "Why shouldn't you be able to go to different commissaries and find basically the same layout?"

The reset is the latest improvement in a series of changes to the JBM-HH Commissary that started last fall. The process was projected to continue through January 2017, but the project is ahead of schedule, said Store Director Raymond Lane.

Completed improvements include new, energy efficient refrigeration and freezer units, new décor and an enhanced product line.

"It'll make it easier to shop," Lane said. "The aisles will be a little wider so we won't get jammed up."

The reset will also support offering a wider variety of products to shoppers, including organic produce, microwav-

able produce, and expanded meat and dairy sections.

"We'll be increasing the selection of yogurt, which is very popular, and increasing juices," Lane said.

The new layout brings a selection of grab-and-go items to the front of the store, placing prepared items such as sushi, pre-cooked chicken and other quick, easy meal options near the main entrance to meet the needs of people on the go.

"We want to get that young soldier so they come to the commissary and see what the benefits are," Lane said.

Store officials are hopeful that the freezer section currently under construction on the far left side of the store will be completed by the time the store reopens on Sept. 28.

Closures are historically unpopular with commissary customers. Lane said he hates to close the store, but that regular customers will benefit from the improvements.

"If you look at the store two years ago, a year ago, and then look at what we have now, I think the customers will be very happy," he said.


For more information about the store's layout, store hours, store news and contact information, visit www.commissaries.com.

Pentagram Staff Writer Guv Callahan can be reached at wcallahan@dcilitary.com.


We the People

The NRA Foundation and the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund provide resources to fund programs that preserve the Second Amendment for future generations, and meet the challenges that threaten our Constitutional rights.


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The CFC is the only campaign authorized to solicit and collect contributions from federal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

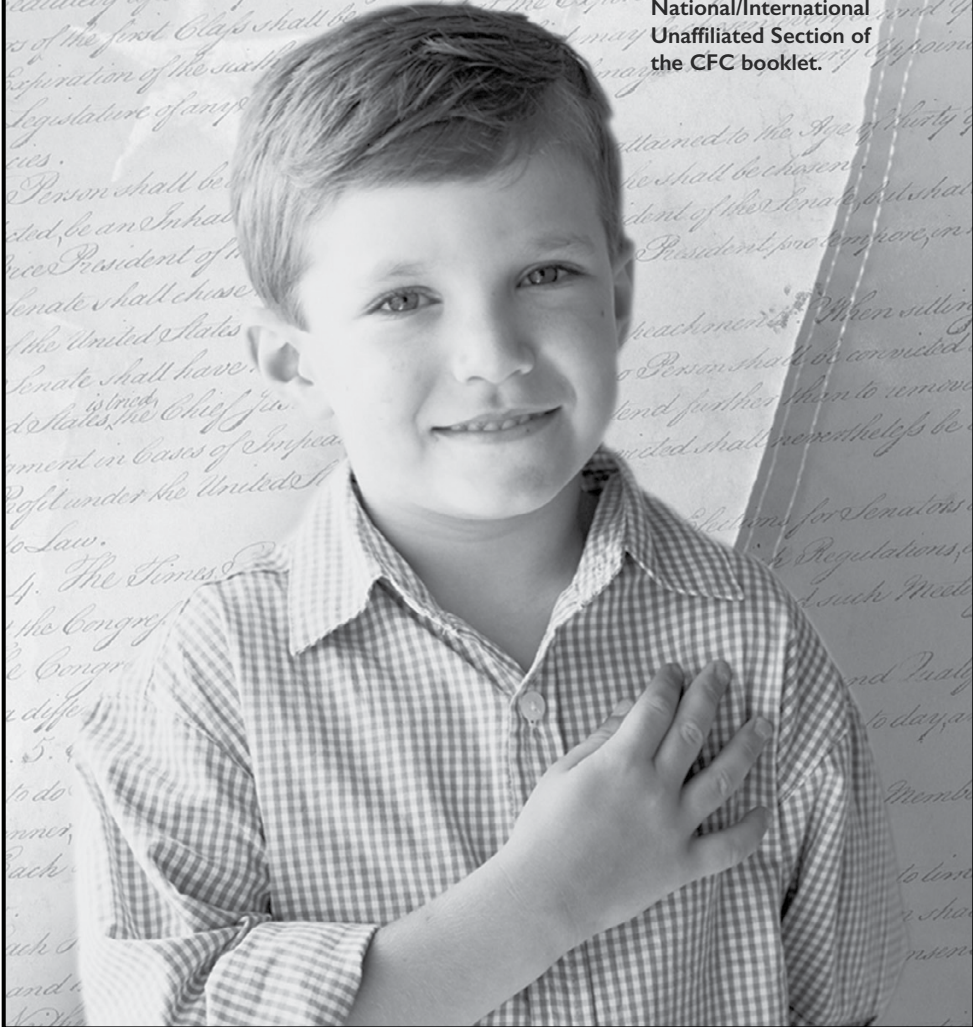


CFC #10006 nrdefensefund.org



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Find us in the National/International Unaffiliated Section of the CFC booklet.





Mike Knutson
Bachelor of Science,
Cybersecurity
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Hundreds of cyclists ride to heal heroes during 9/11 anniversary weekend

By Arthur Mondale
Pentagram Staff Writer

More than 300 cyclists — including veterans in rehabilitation and several Pentagon top brass — put their mettle to the pedal to raise awareness for healing heroes during the second annual Ride 2 Recovery 9/11 honor ride Sept. 10.

Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, Army Vice Chief of Staff, connected the 95 degrees Fahrenheit temperature and humidity participants would endure to the event’s larger purpose, to remember, honor and support military efforts and wounded veterans.

“I [want to] remind you of the thousands of service members that we have [in the Middle East] where it’s about 30 to 35 degrees hotter, and they’re carrying about 70 pounds more kit, and they’re out there each and every day on behalf of us,” Allyn said. “Let’s keep them in our thoughts as we power through... We’ve got resilient, strong warriors who are equally supported by a strong community, and this is just a great example of how a community supports those who served, particularly in the last 15 years.”

Ride 2 Recovery is a nonprofit organization that introduces wounded warriors and veterans to bicycle riding as a form of physical fitness and recreational therapy. Bicycle riding can be physically and emotionally therapeutic, ride organizers said.

The organization coordinates group rides, riders groups, and assists injured veterans in obtaining adaptive equipment, when necessary.

Cyclists traveled 20, 40, or 60 mile routes, which started and finished on McNair Road at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, in front of Brucker Hall.

John Wordin, president and founder of the Ride 2 Recovery Program, said he hoped the ride and show of support was rehabilitative, therapeutic and gratifying for wounded warriors who participated in the event.

“Sixty-two percent of our participants reduce or eliminate their prescription drug use, and that’s one of the leading factors for treating Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression and military suicide,” Wordin said. “It’s one of the great benefits of the Ride 2 Recovery program ... it’s just amazing some of the stories we’ve



PHOTOS BY ARTHUR MONDALE

More than 300 cyclists converge on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall during the Ride 2 Recovery 9/11 memorial ride Sept. 10. Cyclists traveled one of three routes (20, 40 and 60 miles) which started and finished on McNair Road. For wounded warriors who participated in the event, the event was rehabilitative, therapeutic and gratifying, John Wordin, president and founder of the Ride 2 Recovery Program said.

heard over the last nine years.”

The “honor ride” took place one day before the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

“There is never a better time to celebrate how much our veterans have sacrificed than during 9/11,” said Jerry Wall, Ride 2 Recovery vice president for strategic growth.

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall was “a perfect start and ending point,” he said, noting both the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery are located nearby.

The ride marked the first time Jaquelyn and Melvin Hopkins, of Baltimore, Maryland, participated in a Ride 2 Recovery event. Both are life-long military family members — each has a father who retired from the military. They said the event offered a way to feel closer

to their son, an Airman stationed in Japan.

“It’s a great cause particularly with our son serving overseas and supporting this great country, presently. More people should support the military in any capacity—whether it’s a bike ride or any other activity—there’s a lot of support still needed,” Melvin Hopkins said.

Ride 2 Recovery sponsors adaptive cycling events throughout the year to support the costs associated with both mental rehabilitation and physical rehabilitation for wounded veterans. For more information, visit ride2recovery.com.

Pentagram Staff Writer Arthur Mondale can be reached at awright@dc.military.com.



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NEWS
from page 4

members of their organization. Donations support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human services that can benefit your neighborhoods, communities and reach others across the globe. For more information or to search eligible charitable organizations online, visit cfcnc.org.

TMP fueling station closes Sept. 30-Oct. 3

The Transportation Motor Pool fueling station (Bldg. 330, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall), will close Sept. 30 at 4 p.m. to conduct an end-of-fiscal year inventory. The TMP fuel station will reopen at 6 a.m., Oct. 3. Regular TMP customers should fuel their vehicles no later than 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30 (DES vehicles should be fueled no later than 3:30 p.m.). During the closure, customers can refuel at the AAFES gas station use the vehicle credit card and fuel at the AAFES gas station. For more information, call 703-696-7137.

FEGLI Open Season for federal employees

Federal employees can change their Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) options during the FEGLI Open Season, through Sept. 30. This is the first FEGLI open season in 12 years; federal employees are strongly encouraged to evaluate their life insurance coverage and ensure it meets their current and anticipated future needs during the open season period.

Employees can enroll in the program or make changes to their enrollment by logging into their Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) account at www.ebis.army.mil or by speaking to an ABC-C Benefits Specialist at 877-276-9287, 785-240-2222 or by DSN at 520-2222 (benefits specialists are available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Eastern time).

Please note: There is a 12-month waiting period before changes made during open season take effect (for most employees, changes will be effective Oct. 1, 2017 and premiums will be deducted effective that same date). To continue FEGLI coverage into retirement, you must have that coverage for your last five years of Federal service.

Spin classes return

Spin class returns, Wednesdays at 6 a.m. at Cpl. Terry L. Smith Gym-

nasium. Show up ready to work up a sweat! For more information, call 703-614-7214. Also on Wednesdays at Cpl. Terry L. Smith Gymnasium, Zumba® fitness classes are offered at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 703-614-7214.

Volunteer Opportunities

All volunteer opportunities are offered at your own risk; DOD, USMC, and ACS do not monitor or control and are not responsible for listed organizations. Dress code is civilian attire, unless otherwise noted. For information about specific opportunities, contact the POC listed for that opportunity or email: dca.honorfli@dc.military.com.

Honor Flight Greeters and Guardians

Active duty volunteers are needed to greet Veterans upon arrival at Reagan National Airport; additional opportunities are available to serve as Guardians escorting Veterans during their visit to the National Mall. Multiple dates (schedule: <https://honorfli.dca.com/schedule/>). For more information, visit the website listed above or email: dca.honorfli@dc.military.com.

Bowling at the Armed Forces Retirement Home

Volunteers are needed to bowl, for set-up and take-down, and to assist disabled veterans participating in this event. The group meets at the AFRH Scott Building in Washington, D.C. monthly, 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month. Next event is Sept. 20. For more information, email volunteer-friendsofsoldiers@gmail.com.

Service members and civilians completing volunteer hours tracked by their units may be eligible for service or installation recognition or awards. For more information, contact JBM-HH ACS at 703-696-2178.

AFAP seeking quality of life issues

Do you have a quality of life issue you would like to be heard by senior leadership?

Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is a program that provides service members, civilians, retirees and their families a voice in shaping their standard of living by identifying issues and concerns for Army senior leadership. If it is a program or service, AFAP can improve it. If it’s a policy, AFAP can change it. If it’s a law, AFAP can amend it. Issues can be submitted directly to AFAP Program Manager Kathy Feehan at kathryn.k.feehan.civ@mil.mil or online through the AFAP Issue Management System at www.myarmyonesource.com.

DFAC expands on-base dining options for civilian employees

The JBM-HH Dining Facility is now open for civilian employees and military personnel. Monday through Friday, the DFAC serves breakfast, 6:30-8:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Dinner 4:30 to 6 p.m. Weekends, holidays and training holidays, meals offered are brunch, 9 a.m. to noon, and supper, 4-5:30 p.m. Standard pricing is \$3.45 breakfast, \$5.55 lunch, \$4.85 dinner, \$6.25 brunch and \$7.65 supper. Civilians should dine on an occasional basis only (during their regular duty hours) and are not authorized to purchase items ala carte or to use to-go boxes or containers. For more information, call 703-696-2087.

Community counseling available after hours

Marine Corps Community Service offers after-hours community counseling for individuals, couples, families, children and groups by appointment every Wednesday from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in Building 12; JBM-HH. Call 703-614-7204 for more information or to request an appointment.

Need help? Know someone who does? Suicide is preventable

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans and their loved ones in crisis with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For free, confidential support call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net or send a text message to 838255. For more Suicide Prevention information and resources, visit www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/spmonth/leader_message_psa.asp.

Caring for a veteran? Support is available for caregivers, too

Caring for a veteran is important work, and caretakers may need extra support. Call the Department of Veterans Affairs Caregiver Support toll-free line at 1-855-260-3274 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you call after hours, leave a message and someone will get back to you the next business day. If you are in crisis, the message text will give you information, including the Crisis Line number: 800-273-8255, and press 1 to reach an on-call advisor, 24/7.

NEWS
from page 6

Seasonal hiring event at the Marine Corps Exchange
Sept. 17

Marine Corps Community Services Henderson Hall will conduct a hiring events for flexible positions in the Marine Corps Exchange, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Positions open include sales associate, store worker and materials handler. Benefits include free use of pool, fitness center, and shopping privileges. Applicants who can access the joint base should report to Building 26 (MCX), third floor training room for an application. For more information, call 703-979-8420, ext. 306.

Battle on the Base MMA event

Odyssey Fights presents a mixed martial arts event Sept. 24, at the Cpl. Terry L. Smith Gymnasium. According to the organizer, the “Battle on the Base” showcases top military martial arts military veterans, with Myron Baker, Kenny Gaudreau, JD Domengeaux, and Sean Reed scheduled to appear. The show is sanctioned by the Virginia State Athletic Commission. Doors open at 6 p.m. General admission tickets start at \$50 per person or \$35 for active duty only at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.odysseyfights.com.

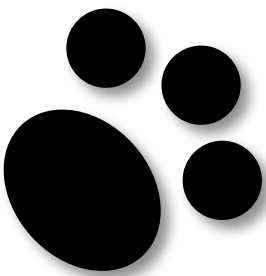
Death notice

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Spc. Denis M. Egbert, Company C, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, must contact Maj. Kristy Gould, the Summary Court-Martial Officer for the Soldier. Egbert recently passed away on Sept. 1. Call Gould at 301-412-7544.

News Notes submissions

Send your submissions for the Sept. 22 edition of the Pentagram via email at catherine.a.caruso.civ@mail.mil no later than noon, Sept. 19. Submissions must be 100 words or less and should contain all “5 W’s” (who, what, when, where, why). Additionally, include a website, email address, or phone number where interested parties can find or request more information. Submission of information does not guarantee publication. Unless otherwise noted, all events listed are free and open to all Department of Defense ID card holders.

Doggie dip



By Julia LeDoux
Pentagram Staff Writer

As the Patton Hall pool closed for summer, the dogs finally got their day during the fifth annual Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall “Doggie Dip.” “The owners love it,” said Todd Hopkins, special events coordinator for the installation’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. “Some of them have to coax their dogs in the water. Some of them throw their dogs in the water. They do all kinds of things with their dogs in the water. It’s hysterical. They enjoy it and for a lot of the dogs, it’s their first time in the water.”

Dozens of dogs brought their “paw-rents” to an event that proved equally popular among both four-legged and two-legged participants.

“She loves the water,” said pet owner Michael Jackson of Jenny, his 7-year-old Springer Spaniel. “This is like her Christmas Day. It’s Christmas in September. When we enter the gate, she knows exactly where she is.”

Jenny needed little coaxing to jump in the water. She led several other dogs in a few laps around the pool deck, who then leaped back into the water as a pack.

“It’s a lot of fun,” continued Jackson. “The dogs act like kids. They are releasing all that energy.”

Karla Latonia and her 5-year old Golden Retriever, Codie, have been to the event every year since it began.

“We take him every year,” Latonia said. “We look forward to this event. It’s so great that they do this.”

Latonia and Codie have attended the doggie dip every year since the event began in 2011.

“We came the first year,” Latonia said. “He was little the first time we came. He loves to socialize.”

Army Lt. Chris White and his Golden Retriever pal, Murphy, swam side-by-side in the water and chased balls together.

“It’s a blast to see them go at it,” White said of Murphy and the other dogs.



PHOTO BY JULIA LEDOUX

Lino Maini and Mr. President enjoyed time in the outdoor pool complex at Patton Hall on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Sept. 10 during the annual Doggie Dip event.



Going down the water slide was no problem for this dog, one of dozens who came out for the outdoor pool season-ending Doggie Dip event Sept. 10 at Patton Hall.

Mr. President, a Yorkshire Terrier who is also a certified therapy dog, spent the day in the pool with his family, Lino and Yoko Maini.

Initially outfitted with a dog life jacket, Mr. President soon gained confidence in the water and shed the vest to swim unassisted.

“This is the best thing I’ve ever seen, having all these dogs in the pool,” Lino Maini said.

Yoko Maini agreed. “I wish we could have it for more than one day,” she said.

Pentagram Staff Writer Julia LeDoux can be reached at jledoux@dcilitary.com.

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INAUGURATION
from page 1

will reaffirm our support to the Constitution and our civilian leadership.”

Come Inauguration Day, the Military District of Washington commander historically assumes one of the military’s most visible ceremonial roles — leading service members from all branches of the Armed Forces in formation down Pennsylvania Avenue during the first pass-and-review of the new president’s term, and rendering the first salute to the newly sworn-in commander-in-chief.

But before that day comes, the international display of democratic American values will require months of planning that begin even before the new president is elected.

Inaugural logistics

Becker and his task force have already had meetings with interagency partners; members of Congress the Secret Service, the FBI, U.S. Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, and others.

The joint task force will work closely with and in support of the political entities that guide all inauguration week activities: The Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC), a committee selected by the president-elect, which will stand up shortly after the election in November and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JICC), a committee in charge of events happening on Capitol Hill only, which began operating in May.

“We serve the role of supporting the two other entities,” said Cmdr. Jonathan Blyth, deputy director of public affairs for the task force. “The armed forces provides continuity every four years while always recognizing this is a peaceful transition of power.”

The president-elect’s committee will have final authority in regards to who participates in the parades, how many balls will happen, and ultimately other roles the Armed Forces will fulfill. But the task force can plan ahead for elements that are typically part of the festivities — ceremonial bands, for example, have performed in almost every inauguration in modern history, Blyth said.

Other specifics won’t be decided until after the president is elected. Becker will have 73 days to provide the new president with plenty of options. Following Election Day, a large percentage of task force staff will move to a location in downtown D.C. where the PIC will also



PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT. DAVID CHAPMAN

Maj. Gen. Michael S. Linnington, commander Joint Task Force — National Capital Region, leads the Presidential Escort during the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade, Jan. 21, 2013. A role Maj. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, commanding general for the Joint Task Force – NCR 58th Presidential Inaugural, will fulfill on Jan. 20, 2017, during the 58th Presidential Inauguration.

be headquartered.

“There’s only one event that has to take place constitutionally, and that’s the swearing in of the president. Everything else is at the discretion of the president-elect and the PIC,” Becker said. “We will work with the PIC and we will execute whatever their vision for this presidential inauguration is.”

Generally, members of the PIC have limited experience with planning such an event, and only a general idea of what an inauguration “should” look like, so the joint task force’s recommendations will likely help shape what will happen Inauguration Day. But changes are not unheard of, Becker said.

During the second inauguration of President Ronald Reagan in 1985, the fanfare and pageantry traditionally seen on the National Mall was brought indoors because of the extreme cold. The president was sworn-in inside the Capitol Rotunda, instead.

As November approaches, Becker is meeting every two weeks with lead directorates and new members who join the task force.

A rehearsal of concept (ROC) drill will take place in December at the National

D.C. Armory. The task force uses a 60-by-40 foot planning map of Washington, D.C. to walk through the entire Inauguration Day process.

“They will walk through line by line, minute by minute, every aspect of every moving part of the inauguration,” Blyth said.

The Sunday before the inauguration, a full dress rehearsal will take place beginning before sunrise. On Inauguration Day, duties for most task force members begin at 3 a.m.

More than 5,000 service members will support the inauguration ceremonially, and several hundred more will provide operational support as part of the joint task force. The National Guard will have an additional 8,000 to 9,000 service members assigned to support law enforcement, security, and crowd management operations. Collectively, they will



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN DYLAN NUCKOLLS

Col. William D. McGarrity, Joint Task Force-National Capital Region, chief of staff, briefs JTF-NCR inaugural staff during a large scale map orientation, Aug. 31, 2016, at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. The 60-by-40-foot planning map will help JTF-NCR plan with partner agencies for the upcoming 58th Presidential Inauguration. The JTF-NCR staff plans, coordinates and provides authorized DOD ceremonial during the inaugural period.

likely represent military personnel from every U.S. state and territory, and every branch of service.

“These service members who are part of the Joint Task Force will represent the more than two-million men and women of our armed services [on inauguration day],” Becker said.

Pentagram Staff Writer Arthur Mondale can be reached at awright@dcmilitary.com.

TRYOUT
from page 3

had hoped to resume play with the Generals this fall, but his intramural season ended early when he was selected to play on the All-Army Men’s Basketball team, instead.

“It’s the highest honor you can have in U.S. Army basketball—out of all the top notch basketball players each U.S. installation has — only 12 men make it to that team,” Way said.

Way played for the Kentucky Wesleyan College men’s basketball team, a NCAA Division II team, before joining the U.S. Army and serving within the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). He said being selected to the elite All-Army roster allows him to continue two passions, basketball and service to his country.

“My next goal is to make it to the Conseil International du Sport Militaire as part of the All-Armed Forces Team and play against other teams representing nations from around the world,” Way said. “It’s like the Olympics. My word of advice to whoever makes this team is keep playing hard, because anything is possible.”

Way is one of two Generals who is leav-

ing the team for the elite All-Army roster, a move Smith hopes other will follow.

“Those that make it to the All-Army team are not only exceptional athletes—they’re monsters if you make it to that level,” Smith said. “I like seeing these players progress, and I’d like to see more service members, overseas playing basketball, semi-pro or wherever their talents take them.

“These men are competitive, just as competitive as the NCAA Division I intercollegiate teams, representing their name, their bases and the military,” he said.

The Washington Area Military Athletic Conference includes teams from JBM-HH (Fort Myer), National Capital Region Marines, Joint Base Andrews, Naval Support Activity Bethesda, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and Forts Belvoir, Lee and Meade. The regular season schedule begins in January.

But basketball hopefuls have many opportunities to impress both coaches and fans leading up to the 2017 season.

“In October there’s the pre-season Capital Classic at Fort Lee, in November there’s the Veteran’s Day Tournament at Fort Belvoir, and then in December there’s a holiday tournament at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall ... Due to



PHOTO BY ARTHUR MONDALE

James “Red” Jones, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel and head coach for the National Capital Region Marines, discusses game strategy in between quarters during a scrimmage and tryout at Cpl. Terry L. Smith Gym at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Sept. 3. “I’m looking for players with solid skills who want to get better,” he said.

operational commitments the roster remains fluid,” Jones said.

Coaches for the Fort Myer Generals and National Capital Region Marines Bulldogs will host another joint tryout Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cpl. Terry L. Smith Gymnasium on JBM-HH. Tryouts are open to all active duty, reservists, dependents, Department

of Defense contractors and civilians.

To learn more, contact NCR Marines coach James “Red” Jones at 571-256-2752 or james.a.jones7@usmc.mil or Fort Myer coach Gary Smith at 254-681-2217 or gary.r.smith24.mil@mail.mil.

Pentagram Staff Writer Arthur Mondale can be reached at awright@dcmilitary.com.

RACQUETBALL
from page 3

be angry about them, but when they play racquetball they find themselves not so stressed, not so angry.”

Herman Brooks, a retired Marine, traveled from Texas to Fort Myer to teach participants how to play and to compete in the tournament. He’s been playing since the late 1980s and helped numerous wounded warriors get started in the sport.

While he declined to share specifics, he said one particular service member he worked with stands out in his mind. The service member had very serious injuries, and faced particularly difficult challenges in taking up the sport.

In the end, “he thanked me for taking the time for helping him to come back into this world,” Brooks said. “His injuries took something away from him. We took the time to teach him racquetball, to show him what was going on in the world. He actually became a good racquetball player.”



PHOTO BY DELONTE HARROD

From left, Herman Brooks, Military Racquetball Federation volunteer, Margo Scott, MRF and JBM-HH Morale, Welfare and Recreation volunteer, Lavon Washburn, athletics and aquatics chief for JBM-HH MWR, and Steven Harper, executive director of the MRF, pose for a photograph at the Fort Myer Fitness Center Sept. 9. The MRF is a nonprofit organization that travels the country teaching veterans with multiple disabilities how to play racquetball. Harper’s goal is to use the sport as a tool to bring healing to those who have incurred injuries while in battle.

Nearly 50 service members participated in the clinic or tournament, conducted Sept. 9-10 at the Fort Myer Fitness Center.

Margo Scott, a volunteer for both

JBM-HH Morale, Welfare and Recreation and MRF, said adaptive and recreational sports help disabled veterans connect with programs that can help them transition back to civilian life

while fostering a sense of community.

“I still believe that with all the advertisement, wounded warriors and disabled veterans are still underserved with regards to therapeutic outlets,” she said.

Scott said a group of local racquetball enthusiasts meet every Tuesday at Fort Myer Fitness Center to play.

“They will not miss [a night of playing racquetball], even if they are injured and cannot play. They come because of the camaraderie they share with other guys that they serve with. They have a huge bond.”

Scott said MWR and MRF are working together in an effort to establish a racquetball league for the base and the National Capital Region.

Harper said after he leaves Fort Myer, his next stop will be in North Carolina, and afterward to Las Vegas, to use racquetball as a tool to help veterans working to overcome substance abuse.

Pentagram Staff Writer Delonte Harrod can be reached at धारrod@dcmilitary.com

SPOTLIGHT

During the next few months, men and women from around the country and representing all branches of military service, will deploy to the National Capital Region as part of a Military District of Washington's joint task force in support of the 58th Presidential inauguration. Each week, the Pentagonam will take you behind-the-scenes to meet the military men and women making this ceremony possible.



U.S. Air Force Capt. Diana Hall

Name: Capt. Diana “Ricki” Hall
Branch: U.S. Air Force
Hometown: Sacramento, California
Military job: Most recently, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for 455th Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
Task force job: Food Service Officer

Inauguration Day will involve a whole lot of military personnel to handle the logistics of such a massive event. And all of those military personnel will need to eat throughout that January day. That’s where Air Force Capt. Ricki Hall comes in. Hall is the food service officer for the 58th Presidential Inauguration, meaning she’s in charge of coordinating food for medical tents, warming stations along the parade route and other posts.

“All of those locations have food in them. I coordinate getting everyone food, getting it paid for and getting the contracts done, because some of it is catered and some of it is the ever-popular MREs,” she said.

The job on Joint Task Force-National Capital Region is technically a deployment for Hall, who has been in the area since July and will leave in October.

“I had actually just gotten back from a deployment to Afghanistan, so when they told me I had another deployment and it was to D.C., I was very happy,” she said. “Very, very happy.”

Hall said she’s learned a lot about the Navy through working in a joint environment.

“We work a lot with the Army, but very rarely do we get to work with the Marines and the Navy, but now I sit in the office with two Navy people and I’ve learned so much about them,” she said. “The joint environment is just such a cool experience, because you get a little bit of everything.”

And she’s been finding the time to enjoy the different attractions around the National Capital Region, which she noticed so many people can take for granted.

“This whole city just never ceases to amaze me. Our director here is very supportive and really wants us to be active,” she said. “I didn’t know Darth Vader was on the National Cathedral. You need binoculars to see him, but that was pretty cool.”

Pentagram Staff Writer Guv Callahan can be reached at wcallahan@dcilitary.com.

Thrift Shop purchases pay back into community

By Julia LeDoux
Pentagram Staff Writer

When you shop or consign merchandise for sale at the Fort Myer Thrift Shop on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, you’re not just saving or potentially making money for yourself – you’re supporting the joint base community. “We are military families helping military families,” said Kathy Candido, Thrift Shop chairperson and volunteer coordinator, a role she has served in for the past ten years.

The facility opened in 1977 and has been serving the joint base for nearly 40 years, Candido said.

Sales that average over \$500,000 annually are returned back to the community in the form of scholarships and community grants.

“The Thrift Shop originally opened on South Post, then it closed, then it reopened [in its current location at Bldg. 224 on Forrest Circle]. We’ve been here ever since,” she said.

The Thrift Shop’s main store is in a building constructed in the early 1900s, and originally used as stables. Today, that spirit of repurposing survives in the store, home to a large and constantly-changing variety of goods for sale, including clothing, household items, seasonal decorations and furniture.

“This is one of my favorite thrift shops in the whole area,” said thrift shop customer Safira Piro, who is married to a retired Army Soldier. “The prices are great, the quality is good.”

Customer Thomas Whitford compared shopping at the thrift shop to a treasure hunt. He browsed the shop’s large selection of books while his wife,



PHOTO BY JULIA LEDOUX

Crowds of shoppers brought home bargains Sept. 10 from the Fort Myer Thrift Shop.

Celia, looked for Halloween decorations.

“We enjoy coming here,” he said. “You never know what you will find when you come.”

Shoppers Lester and Bertha Etheridge sought gifts for their young grandchildren while browsing the toy selection.

“They love doing [jigsaw] puzzles and cars and playing with balls,” Bertha said.

There are some items you won’t find at the thrift shop. The store doesn’t sell mattresses and box springs, or large appliances.

“We just don’t have the room for them,” Candido said.

But the thrift shop has a large selection of other household items, maintained by six employees and as many as 50 volunteers.

After expenses, thrift shop profits are returned to the community as scholarships and community grants, Candido said.

Scholarships are awarded only to U.S. Army family members. Eligible applicants must be high school seniors, college students

or U.S. Army spouses who need funding to finish a college degree or complete a certification.

Information about how to apply for this year’s scholarships will be available on the thrift shop’s website in October. Questions about the scholarship program can be directed to FMTS-Scholarships@gmail.com.

Community grant applications are open to any 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that benefits any branch of the military service, Candido said. Grant questions can be submitted to FMTSCommunityGrants@gmail.com.

The Fort Myer Thrift Shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.fortmyerthriftshop.org or call 703-527-0664.

Pentagram Staff Writer Julia LeDoux can be reached at jledoux@dcilitary.com.

CORRECTION:

Due to a reporter’s error, Kelley Mustion’s name was misspelled in the Sept. 8 Pentagram (“SAY Committee partners with Army to ensure bright future for nation’s youth,” page 1). We regret the error.



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Pentagram

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