

# Soundoff!

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE FORT MEADE COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, NOV. 17, 2016 | 68th Year Number 45  
FTMEADE.ARMY.MIL



## Centennial ceremony

Museum marks Veterans Day 100 years  
after U.S. entry into World War I **PG 3**

PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes, Justin Hayes from Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski's office and Brigid Smith from U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes' office watch the Defense Information School Color Guard provide U.S. flag honors to conclude the Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 10 at Museum Plaza.

### COMMEMORATION RUN

Marines celebrate  
241st birthday

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, 8 a.m.:** Turkey Trot 5K, 1-Mile Walk; Murphy Field House

**Sunday, 11 a.m.:** German-Italian Wreath Laying, Post Cemetery

**Nov. 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.:** Thanksgiving at Freedom Inn

**Dec. 6, 11 a.m.:** ROWC Holiday Brunch Meeting at Club Meade

### CRACKING CODES

STEM Fest event  
challenges youths

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# Soundoff!

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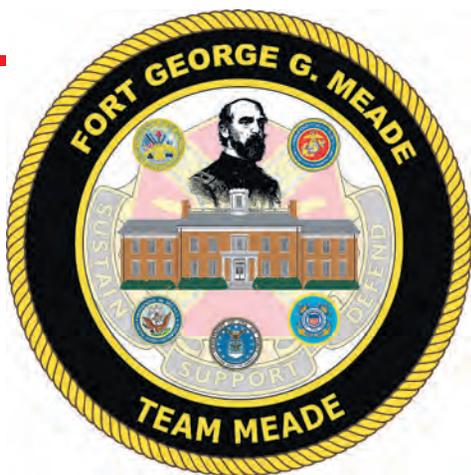
Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon.

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**Guaranteed circulation:** 12,339



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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

# Education is intrinsic to strength of our nation

We recognize American Education Week this week and respect the powerful influence on our national history provided by professional educators.

Education is a center of gravity for each element of our national power — diplomatic, informational, military, economic — and a fundamental requirement for service members and serving civilians.

Our identity as a national platform for intelligence, information and cyber operations demands extremely talented — and properly educated — service members, civilians and their families. For example, the National Security Agency, a longtime tenant at Fort Meade, has hosted and nurtured outstanding math programs. The NSA offers annual paid fellowships, cooperative education programs, internships and scholarships for high school, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as doctoral candidates, primarily in the cyber security and intelligence fields.

Our continued cyber-related growth will bring a consistent flow of talented professionals into this area. Those talented professionals want to serve high-performing, selective organizations; enjoy great life experiences in the surrounding area; and ensure that their children are receiving great educations at quality schools.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools are committed to constantly improving and realigning the course offerings in their system. Fort Meade is home to seven AACPS schools and also partners with Anne Arundel Community College, University of Maryland University College and Central Michigan University through the Army Education Center.

The AEC also provides access to other institutions of higher learning through computers in its Multiuse Learning Facility.

We are fortunate to have some of the most professional and dedicated educators in the nation right here at Fort Meade's schools and local colleges. Our post schools have been awarded grants from the Department of Defense Education Activity, allowing for additional guest speakers, after-school clubs, iPads, field trip funding and classroom enrichment projects, and resources for military-affiliated children.

Beginning in 2010 and continuously through this year, AACPS have had a



**Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard**

DoDEA grant providing better learning opportunities for our children with three main goals: higher math achievement through STEM integration; stronger literacy achievement; and creating a positive climate for Fort Meade students and families.

The grant partnership enables enhanced programs and resources at Manor View, Pershing Hill and Meade Heights elementary schools; West Meade Early Education Center; MacArthur Middle School; and Meade High School.

Also, Maryland's top-shelf International Baccalaureate Programme is part of an enhanced curriculum offering at Meade High School. IB is an academic curriculum for students ages 16 to 19 that offers six core subjects: literature, foreign language, social studies, sciences, mathematics and the arts, and encourages students to engage in critical thinking and explore creativity and community service.

Several sponsored organizations provide scholarship opportunities for academic excellence by Meade High students each year.

These are just some examples of the opportunities to enrich the educational experiences of our children. Our challenge is to "hunt the good stuff" as we're taught in resiliency training. The incredible efforts of our students and their teachers at Fort Meade schools are sometimes overlooked or just not widely known to our community or to those preparing to move here.

Great efforts and achievements happen every day in our schools. Help spread the word and educate others about what you know. Let the teachers and staff know when they are doing superb work with your child. And also let them know when they are not.

We are committed at Fort Meade to attracting the best talent in our nation for the strategically important work we do here every day. Be part of the dynasty of excellence here and support advancements in education to the best of your ability.

Through our Community Covenant partnership, our supporting community helps sustain a positive school environment built upon caring relationships among all participants — students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents and community members.

Be proud of our local schools, educators and school staff. We live in a great community! Team Meade!

# Veterans Day commemorated at post museum

Event marks century after U.S. entry into World War I

BY MADDIE ECKER  
Staff Writer

**S**unshine and a clear blue sky set the backdrop for Fort Meade's annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

Military and community members gathered Nov. 10 at the Memorial Plaza outside the Fort Meade Museum to honor those who have served and sacrificed for their country. The afternoon ceremony was followed by an indoor reception.

The guest speakers were U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes and Paul Cora, the chairman of the Western Front Association East Coast Branch.

The ceremony began with the singing of the national anthem by Sgt. 1st Class Randall Wight of the U.S. Army Field Band. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Cooper gave the invocation.

In their speeches, both Sarbanes and Cora focused on World War I. Sarbanes, who addressed the crowd first, highlighted the 100th-year commemoration of the Great War and the role that Fort Meade played in ensuring America's success.

He went on to explain the fortuitous timing of Veterans Day and the recent national election.

"[Veterans Day is] our first opportunity to demonstrate real solidarity as a nation, where we don't think of ourselves by any political stripe, we only think of ourselves as Americans," Sarbanes said. "There is no better topic, no better focus for that kind of coming together than our veterans."

Sarbanes saluted veterans, active-duty service members and their families for their service and sacrifice.

## A Rich History

Robert Johnson, the curator of the Fort Meade Museum, introduced Cora, who gave a detailed description about Fort Meade's contribution to World War I.

"The genesis of what would be Camp Meade, beginning in the summer of 1917, was part of a massive mobilization that was unprecedented in American history," Cora said. "Within 18 months, some 2 million American troops of the American Expeditionary Forces had arrived in France — some 400,000 of those passing through Camp Meade in the process."

Cora went on to weave a vivid descrip-



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

**Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard, U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes and Paul Cora pay respect during the national anthem Nov. 10 at the Veterans Day Ceremony.**

tion of World War I, the doughboys who fought and the precedent that the war's outcome set for the U.S. as a world power.

He mentioned the historic conscription of black service members and how one of the two black infantry divisions trained at Camp Meade.

"For Americans of color, the unprecedented mobilization of World War I provided a catalyst for advancing the cause of equal citizenship," Cora said. "There were two African-American infantry divisions that would deploy to Europe. ... Elements of one of these, the 93rd Infantry Division, trained right here at Camp Meade."

After Cora spoke, Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard presented him with a tile from the roof of the installations original headquarters in 1930. The tile was painted in dedication to Cora from Team Meade.

"Each of us should pause, if we have not already, to think about why we do Veterans Day in the first place," Rickard said.

Originally designated as Armistice Day in 1918, Veterans Day has been observed on Nov. 11 since 1954.

The Navy detachment from the Defense Information School Color Guard lowered the flag for the retiring of the colors after the 45-minute ceremony.

Among those who also attended was Brenda Pullen, program manager of Information, Referral and Follow-Up at Army Community Service.

"This kind of event is important so that we can let the community see how proud we are of our service members who put their life in harm's way to defend our country and their families," she said.

Pullen, who served as a captain in the Army Reserve and a retired Montgomery County teacher, is a Girl Scout troop leader. For the past 16 years, she's been taking her troop to lay wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery.

"[Service members] are the backbone of our country," Pullen said. "Every chance I have to give back to the community, I'm there."

## Pride in Service

Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Chambers, Fort Meade's senior Equal Opportunity adviser, said he was moved by Cora's retelling of those who served in World War I.

"Hearing about the brigade of African-American Soldiers that fought in World War I and trained at Camp Meade was inspiring," Chambers said. "That was pre-Civil War and their service reiterated the fight for civil rights.

*'[Veterans Day is] our first opportunity to demonstrate real solidarity as a nation, where we don't think of ourselves by any political stripe, we only think of ourselves as Americans. There is no better topic, no better focus for that kind of coming together than our veterans.'*

*U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes, Maryland's 3rd Congressional District*

"I have huge respect for them to serve their nation when there were social issues going on at the time."

For Chambers, who has served in the Army for the past 17 years, the importance of celebrating Veterans Day is two-fold.

"First and foremost, I [attended this event] because I am a Soldier and have participated in conflict," he said. "Second, I wanted to pay respect and honor to all veterans past and present."

Events that commemorate the sacrifice of service members help give the military community a sense of belonging, Chambers said.

"We are celebrating 100 years of military service and sacrifice," he said. "That's what Veterans Day is — all branches of service come together on common ground. When we go to war, we go together."

Celebrating Veterans Day extends beyond the gate. Communities surrounding military installations provide service members with discounts on goods and recognition of their service.

"Community members receive us when we come home from war — if we come home," Chambers said. "Veterans sign up to pay the ultimate price. We want local businesses and schools to have a sense of belonging and connection to the military.

"It's important to give them the opportunity to appreciate veterans and say thank you."

# Tradition of partnership

Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion serenades garrison commander before he joins celebration of Corps' birthday featuring run, cake, esprit de corps

By LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

In the early hours of Nov. 10, about 200 Marines ran down Roberts Avenue and stopped outside the home of Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard.

As Rickard stood at attention, the members of the Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion — led by their commander, Lt. Col. Michael R. Challgren — serenaded Rickard with “The Marines’ Hymn.”

Rickard then joined the Marines on their 3-mile run to the Freedom Barracks to commemorate the 241st birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.

“Happy birthday, Marines,” Rickard said as they gathered in the back plaza of the Freedom Barracks after the run. “It’s an honor and privilege to be invited to run with you.”

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes, who began his military service as a Marine, also joined the celebration.

## Show of gratitude

“The reason we invited the garrison commander to run with the unit on the Marine Corps birthday is that we have a long tradition of partnership with Fort Meade, having had elements of the battalion stationed at Fort Meade since the 1960s, with the battalion headquarters moving here in 1995,” Challgren said after the event.

“Inviting the garrison commander to join us is a way to acknowledge and say thanks to Team Meade for the wide variety of services and quality-of-life support that the installation provides to our Marines.”

The Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion has more than 550 Marines serving in eight states and five countries, supporting the global cryptologic enterprise.

The battalion headquarters and two companies are located at Fort Meade.

An additional four letter companies are located at Fort Gordon, Ga.; Aurora, Colo.; San Antonio; and Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, with smaller elements throughout South Asia and a sub-unit in Germany.

As part of the cake-cutting ceremony, Master Gunnery Sgt. Steve Berry, the battalion’s senior enlisted advisor, read a



Lt. Col. Michael R. Challgren talks about tradition and esprit de corps.

*‘The reason we invited the garrison commander to run with the unit on the Marine Corps birthday is that we have a long tradition of partnership with Fort Meade.’*

*Lt. Col. Michael R. Challgren, commander, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion*

message originally sent Nov. 1, 1921, by John A. Lejeune, the 13th commandant of the Marine Corps.

The message was published for every Marine command in recognition of the 241st birthday:

*“In every battle and skirmish since the birth of the Corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term ‘Marine’ has come to signify all that is highest in the military efficiency and soldierly virtue.”*

After the entire message was read, Challgren cut the ceremonial birthday



PHOTOS BY PHIL GROUT

The oldest Marine present, Lt. Col. Michael R. Challgren, cuts the ceremonial birthday cake Nov. 10 to celebrate 241 years of service by the U.S. Marine Corps.



Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard watches from his home the approaching Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion before joining the group for a 3-mile run.

cake and gave a piece to Rickard as the guest of honor.

In accordance with Marine tradition, Challgren then cut a piece for himself, as the oldest Marine present, and a piece for Lance Cpl. Rob Distefano of Company B, the youngest Marine present.

“We’ve got a great team here,” Challgren said. “Everybody’s doing this across the Corps, worldwide.”

## Reason to celebrate

The birthday, Challgren said, “cele-



Lt. Col. Michael R. Challgren leads the Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion in the singing of the "Marines' Hymn" to Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard.

brates those who've gone before us and those who are with us right now."

The esprit de corps expressed during the run was fitting for the Marine birthday, said Challgren.

"It's a great feeling," he said.

The celebration continued Friday evening with the battalion's Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel.



Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard joins Marine Lt. Col. Michael R. Challgren (left) and Master Gunnery Sgt. Steven Berry, senior enlisted advisor.

"The Army and Marines have been working together for a long time and we'll be working together for a long time to come," Rickard said after the run.

After the cake-cutting, the Marines

gathered inside the Freedom Barracks for breakfast.

"This is inspirational and meaningful," Distefano said. "This is what I really want to feel going forward."

The advertisement features a close-up of a green military uniform with a camouflage pattern. The text "MEETING YOUR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WITH FRIENDLY FORCE" is overlaid on the left. The Anne Arundel Community College logo, featuring a stylized bird, is on the right.

If you're an active duty member or veteran, we have the team in place to make it easy for you and your family to reach your educational goals - with extra help from our support staff right here on base! Contact our military advising team at the AACC Fort Meade Army Education Center at its NEW location! While there, apply and register for winter classes, which start Jan. 3, and learn about military scholarships, financial aid for you and your dependents, and how to earn credit for your military experience - all in one stop!

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# West Point grad uses internship to connect Army, Silicon Valley

Cybercrime skills asset to both public, private sectors

BY U.S. ARMY CYBER COMMAND

Showing a wide spectrum of talent and dedication, a U.S. Army Cyber Command captain is advancing his military development, building ARCYBER capabilities, deepening Army partnerships with industry and academia, and helping to curb cybercrime, all at once.

Capt. Pete Renals is a Cyber Warfare officer currently attending Carnegie Mellon University as part of the ARCYBER scholarship program. To complete one of the requirements for his master's degree in information security, Renals spent his summer completing an internship program with a cybersecurity company.

During that time, he learned threat intelligence skills that helped him discover information that will be used to stop more than 100 cybercriminals from spreading malware.

Renals graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 2008 with a degree in computer science and was commissioned as a military intelligence officer. After a stint with the 10th Mountain Division and deployment with the division's 1st Brigade to Afghanistan, he was assigned to the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Meade, serving as a company commander and assistant operations officer.

Following that assignment, Renals was selected to join the Cyber National Mission Force, U.S. Cyber Command at Fort Meade. In 2015, he transferred to the newly established Cyber Branch.

## Skills acquisition

After getting some hands-on cyber experience, Renals wanted to expand his technical skills by pursuing a master's degree. He applied to attend Carnegie Mellon through ARCYBER's scholarship program, and is currently in his second year of study there.

His curriculum has included course work in areas such as networking, pro-

gramming, host forensics, malware reverse engineering, network forensics and cyberintelligence. He also was required to complete an internship in private industry.

With the approval and support of ARCYBER, Renals applied directly for an internship with a technology company that builds security solutions and often engages in dialogue with the Army to help bridge the gap between the Department of Defense and Silicon Valley.

As an intern, Renals worked with the company's threat intelligence team. Company officials said one of the company's goals is to figure out how cyber bad guys operate and to use that knowledge to improve its products.

Renals was asked to look into the activities of a group that had been considered nuisance hackers.

The captain made some interesting findings, and ultimately uncovered more than 100 malicious cyber actors and isolated their infrastructure — the websites and domains they used to carry out their activities.

"I think its critical to note that these actors have begun registering domains that impersonate legitimate U.S. government organizations, in order to conduct fraudulent activities and support their malware," Renals said.

Company officials said Renals' research, and the ways he designed to find these adversaries, made the company realize that the group had evolved from a nuisance into cybercriminals. Identifying them and their infrastructure enabled the company to take proactive measures to shut down those threats and protect the Army and thousands of other customers from these types of malicious attacks.

## Ties beneficial

Putting the brakes on dozens of cybercriminals is a pretty significant achievement in itself, but Renals said the time he has devoted to his studies and internship has had even further-reaching benefits for all concerned.

It has strengthened the relationships between ARCYBER, the technology sector



COURTESY PHOTO

**Capt. Pete Renals' findings during his summer internship with a tech company helped put a stop to the activities of more than 100 malicious cyberactors.**

and academia; provided him with first-hand knowledge of the intern and scholarship programs that he can use to encourage other young officers to apply; and has given him an opportunity to represent the Army in a positive way that he hopes will encourage companies to recruit more interns from the Army's ranks.

And, of course, there are professional benefits for Renals that also benefit ARCYBER and its partners as well. He said knowing how private industry operates is important to all Army senior leaders, and understanding the capabilities of private industry — specifically how they track and defend against malicious cyber actors — is critical knowledge for anyone assigned to a Cyber Mission Force team.

Company officials had high praise for Renals' talents and contributions during his internship. As a result of that success, he said, the company is planning to expand its intern program.

But perhaps the greatest benefit of Renals' internship is not easily quantifiable.

"I think the most important value I got out of this is building relationships with a world-class intelligence shop and bridging the gap between them and [the military]," Renals said.

Company officials echoed that sentiment. He said the private sector and the military both have a great deal of capability, recognize that they need to work

together, and place great value on their partnership.

Renals expects to complete his master's program in May and will be assigned to a position within the Army to strengthen the operational force by applying the skills he has learned.

## COMMUNITY CRIME WATCH

**Nov. 5, Shoplifting:** AAFES loss personnel stated she observed the subject, via closed circuit TV, take a bag to the electronics aisle and remove the PlayStation Player out of its bag and place it in his trench coat. The subject placed the bag back on the shelf and passed the last point of sale without rendering payment.

**Nov. 8: Larceny of government property:** Investigation revealed that the victim's government-issued iPhone was stolen. The iPhone was left unsecured and unattended on his work desk.

Moving violations: 39  
Nonmoving violations: 2  
Verbal warnings for traffic stops:

61

Traffic accidents: 4  
Driving on suspended license: 1  
Driving on suspended registration: 0  
Driving without a license: 0

# Legislation creates category of leave for disabled veterans

BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

**N**ew legislation gives veterans with a service-related disability up to 13 days of paid sick leave if they are hired by the federal government on or after Nov. 5.

On Nov. 5, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 (Pub. L. 114-75). The legislation adds Section 6329 to Title 5, United States Code.

This new section provides a separate new leave category to be known as "disabled veteran leave," or DVL.

Congress was concerned about veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 30 percent or more who have zero hours of accrued sick leave when newly hired in a civilian position in the federal government.

Congress wanted such newly hired veterans to have immediate access for up to 13 days (104 hours) of paid leave so they do not have to take unpaid leave for treatment of their service-connected injuries.

Here are some of the key points of DVL, effective Nov. 5, 2016:

◆ DVL is a separate leave category and provides 104 hours of leave upfront.

◆ This new leave category is a one-time benefit and is limited to a 12-month period.

◆ DVL not used during the benefit period may not be carried over to subsequent years and will be forfeited.

◆ Once an employee has exhausted the leave benefit and/or the one year has passed, he or she will not have any further entitlements to the benefit.

◆ The leave benefit is a one-time only benefit for the employee's federal civilian service career. This includes return to federal service after a break in service.

◆ DVL is only available to veterans who are hired on or after Nov. 5, 2016 and who have (or will have) a service-connected disability rating of 30 percent or more. Veterans hired before Nov. 5 are not entitled to this benefit.

◆ For veterans hired on or after Nov. 5 who have a service-connected disability of 30 percent or more upon hiring, DVL is available during the first 12 months of employment and may not exceed 104 hours.

◆ Veterans hired on or after Nov. 5 and are later determined to have a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more will be eligible for DVL. In such cases, the start date of the 12-month benefit period will be the date the VA claim is filed.

◆ Veterans hired before Nov. 5 and are later determined to have a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more are NOT eligible for DVL.

For more information, <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/disabled-veteran-leave>.



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If you are unable to access the form

online, pick up hard copies at the Demps Visitor Control Center at 902 Reece Road.

3. Bring the completed form, along with your DoD ID or permanent Automated Installation Entry badge, to the VCC.

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# Hiring civilian lawyer requires due diligence by service members

By JANE M. WINAND

Legal Assistance Attorney

The attorneys in the Legal Assistance Division of the Fort Meade Office of the Staff Judge Advocate provide free legal assistance to service members, retirees and their family members in the areas of estate planning, family law, military administrative law, consumer law, landlord-tenant disputes and income taxation.

However, a client may need to hire a civilian attorney to provide in-court representation or to assist in an area outside the scope of Legal Assistance law practice such as corporate law.

There are important things to consider when selecting an attorney.

To practice law, a lawyer must pass a state examination in law, successfully complete an investigation for character and fitness to practice law in a particular state, and receive a license from the Supreme Court of the state.

Once eligible to practice, a lawyer may practice across a broad range of areas or specialize in one or two such as just family law or estate planning. For example, a bankruptcy lawyer will be an expert in the federal and state bankruptcy code provisions and have experience in preparing petitions for and representing clients in Bankruptcy Court hearing and creditor meetings.

A family law attorney will have expertise in negotiating marital property settlements, litigating motions for child custody and alimony, and preparing court documents for garnishment.

Once you have ascertained the kind of lawyer you will need, you should contact the Fort Meade Legal Assistance Division for further guidance.

We may be able to provide you with a list of local attorneys. If the problem requires the services of an attorney in another state, we can attempt to reach out to a Legal Assistance Division in that state for an attorney referral list.

To find an attorney, you also may contact the local bar association in the geographical area in which you intend to file a lawsuit or seek guidance from a civilian attorney.

## Prepare for meeting

In preparation for your first consult with an attorney, write down all relevant facts and your questions.

Also, bring copies of all important documents for the attorney to review. If you are uncertain as to whether a document may be relevant or not, bring it along just in case.

Some important issues to seek clarification from the attorney include:

- Whether the attorney will work personally on your case or delegate work to an associate or paralegal

- Whether the attorney will work with another attorney in a different law firm if special expertise is needed, and how much additional expense you may incur as a result of such an association

- Potential outcomes of your case

- The medium in which the attorney will provide you with copies of relevant documents and communicate with you to keep you informed on developments and potential settlement offers

- Payment arrangements

for the attorney's fee

- The process for handling disputes over the attorney's services.

Prior to agreeing to retain the services of an attorney, carefully review the written representation agreement.

If you have any questions or concerns, have those issues resolved before you sign the representation agreement.

The Legal Assistance attorneys can assist you in determining the type of attorney you may need and may be able to give you some specific referrals.

For more information about the hiring of a civilian attorney, call the Legal Assistance Division at 301-677-9504 or 301-677-9536.

**EVERY MOMENT COUNTS**  
USO Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore

Every day your local USO provides moments that count in the lives of our troops and their families. From a hot cup of coffee, to a place to relax while traveling and critical services such as emergency housing, the USO Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore is dedicated to serving those who serve.

Take a moment to support our troops and their families by donating to your local USO at [USOMetro.org](http://USOMetro.org).

# Md. National Guard Soldiers compete for Soldier of the Year

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY SGT. DEVON BISTARKEY  
Maryland National Guard

**G**UNPOWDER MILITARY RESERVATION — White engineer tape marked the finish of a 7-mile ruck march for Soldiers competing in the Best Warrior Competition on Nov. 5 at Gunpowder Military Reservation.

However, completing the rigorous ruck was not the end of the daylong competition. One more obstacle stood in the way of distinguishing each Soldier as a competitor, and only one as the best. The final challenge: a live-fire stress shoot.

In total, 12 Soldiers from the 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade and the 58th Troop Command, a part of the combined competition, were tasked with firing an M4 assault rifle where pressure and fatigue contributed to the intent of the range — stress.

As the final station in a series of warrior tasks, Soldiers dropped their 35-pound rucks, executed 10 pushups and were given 10 seconds to engage pop-up targets while identifying friendly from enemy silhouettes.

“Anyone that accepted this challenge has gone above and beyond,” said Master Sgt. Adam Erickson, 58th EMIB operations sergeant and noncommissioned officer in charge for the competition.

In order to compete, Soldiers were selected at the company level, and then representatives were chosen at the battalion leading up to the day’s test competing at the brigade level.

Eligibility and prequalification necessary to vie for the title of best included successful completion of the combat life-saver course, Army Level 1 combatives as well as qualifying as sharpshooter on an M16 rifle and completion of a board exam.

Soldiers competed for Soldier, non-commissioned officer and company grade officer of the year.



Donning protective gear, including a gas mask, was one of the tasks during the competition.

**‘Everything tested during the competition is a basic Soldier skill, but we took it to the next level.’**

*Sgt. Maj. William Hartman, 58th TC operations.*

Training alongside the best elevates skills, and respective of military occupational specialty, in the Army being a Soldier comes first. “Everything tested during the competition is a basic Soldier skill, but we took it to the next level,” said Sgt. Maj. William Hartman, 58th TC operations. “For example, at the weapons station we took three weapons a part, put them in a box and said go!”

In total, the Soldiers completed six warrior tasks, in addition to reporting to a board, and the culminating ruck march and stress shoot. Warrior task test stations included: Preparing an Advanced System Improvement Program radio for operation; search an individual in a tactical environment, weapons assembly and functions check on an M16 assault rifle, M19 pistol and M249 light machine gun; protect themselves from chemical injury and contamination with a Joint-Service, Lightweight, Integrated Suit Technology; complete a written map reading and land navigation test; and send a nine-line MEDEVAC request.

“The competition represents an opportunity to expand individual skills and sets an example for others to follow,” Erickson



Spc. Samuel Cosentino, 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade, was named Enlisted Soldier of the Year after the daylong competition that included weapons assembly and functions check.



Staff Sgt. James Hawley, a military technician for towed and small arms repair assigned to the 110th Information Operations Battalion, reads a map during the Best Warrior Competition on Nov. 5 at Gunpowder Military Reservation.

said. “Each Soldier will benefit from this experience and enhance the readiness of the Maryland National Guard.”

For many competitors, the tested warrior skills are something they do not get to touch every month and preparation for the competition was critical. To prepare, noncommissioned officer competitor Staff Sgt. James Hawley, a military technician for towed and small arms repair assigned to the 110th Information Operations Battalion, reached out to his fellow Soldiers as his greatest resource.

Using the expertise of his fellow Soldiers across a variety of military backgrounds in communications, medical or infantry, his resourcefulness proved

successful, earning him the title of best noncommissioned officer. When asked what it means to be the best, Hawley’s answer was simple — the best warrior competes against himself.

Enlisted Soldier of the Year was awarded to Spc. Samuel Cosentino, 58th EMIB. Officer of the Year was awarded to 1st Lt. Chris Hunckler, 629th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Winners and first alternates in each category will receive further training on tasks during the January and February time frame. They will go on to represent the 58th EMIB at the 2017 Maryland Army National Guard officer, NCO and Soldier Best Warrior Competition on March 16-19.



Abigail Verney, 7, of Pasadena watches a demonstration of the machinery of a replica of the German Enigma, which was used to send tactical messages in World War II.

## Seeking to unlock youths' potential

Puzzles used to ignite interest of students at Cryptologic Museum's STEM Fest event

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer  
PHOTOS BY STEVE RUARK

Figuring out the six-digit combination that opened a locked briefcase was one of the challenges presented at the "Training Mission-Cyber Security" scavenger hunt held Nov. 10 during "Bringing STEM To Life" at the National Cryptologic Museum.

The museum was one of 200 organizations that participated in the second annual Maryland STEM Festival, which began Nov. 4 and ended Sunday.

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"The mission of the festival is to encourage all students — regardless of experience level, location or background — to take a greater interest in STEM, with the hope that they will pursue a STEM-related career," said Phil Rogofsky, volunteer director of the festival. "We see this as necessary for Maryland to remain a major, successful player in the changing world economy."

Hundreds of children participated in six activities at the museum to test their skills in math and logic as part of the scavenger hunt. At each activity, the children collected information and clues that introduced them to the challenges faced in cyber security. They also had to solve a logic puzzle to deduce and decipher the correct combination to a brief case — much like the cryptologists at the National Security Agency decipher codes.

By using 8-year-old Siana's Kabria combination, an NSA employee was able to open the briefcase. She gave the youngster a Z-Card, which provided additional brain-teasers and information about NSA careers. "I think it was fun trying to open it," Siana said. "It was cool trying to figure out the answers."

For the second consecutive year, the National Cryptologic Museum has participated in the festival. This year, more than 500 adults and children attended the two-hour event.

"STEM is a huge part of our outreach,"

said Louis Leto, public affairs officer at the museum.

The scavenger hunt was sponsored by the NSA's Math (now STEM) Education Partnership Program, which supports local schools and students in STEM fields.

The NSA is the largest employer of mathematicians in the country, according to the Math Education Partnership Program brochure.

"[Participating in the STEM festival] is an effort to get young people interested in math, science, technology and engineering," Leto said. "We want to show kids there are a lot of different ways to apply these skills and knowledge."

"Hopefully, they will go into these fields to help our nation."

The festival is affiliated with STEMAction, a nonprofit organization that sponsors STEM activities around the state. This year, more than 480 events were held.

Rogofsky said every one of the state's public library branches, numerous public and private schools, the Maryland Science Center, National Aquarium, Maryland Zoo, Morgan State University, University of Maryland, and many community colleges participated. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration hosted several online events.

Staff Sgt. Martina Garcia of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade helped her

At the National Cryptologic Museum, about 20 NSA employees led STEM-related activities, including how to make microchips for computers and cellphones; deciphering radio signals to identify "bad guys"; how math is used in juggling; using math and critical thinking skills to stop a simulated terrorist attack; and creating bracelets using binary numbers.

A popular activity was learning how the famous German Enigma worked.

During a demonstration of the Enigma, an instructor took apart a replica and explained to parents and children how the German military used the complex machine to send tactical messages during World War II. Allied cryptologists, however, eventually deciphered the messages and shortened the war by two years.

"I like how they made the passwords," said Zachary, 9, of the Enigma.

He came to the event with his 6-year-old sister Lalia and father Skip Purich.

"I'm trying to encourage them to get interested in technology," said Purich, a West Laurel resident. "I think there is definitely a need for math and science skills for future jobs. Hopefully, this will lay the foundation for them to enter those fields."

Staff Sgt. Martina Garcia of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade helped her



Participants decipher clues in a scavenger hunt that tested their math and logic skills at "Bringing STEM to Life" held Nov. 10 at the National Cryptologic Museum.



Terrence Jakes of Odenton and his 8-year-old daughter Zora learn how microchips are made from Air Force Maj. Manuel Trejo (second from right) of the NSA, and Mike Kogel, a Fort Meade engineer, during the two-hour event.

7-year-old son Patrick create a trihexaflexagon out of paper, which consists of 18 equilateral triangles. When folded into a hexagon, it reveals three different sides.

An NSA employee who led the activity said making a trihexaflexagon has "advanced math behind it, called topology."

"But we are making simple shapes that show kids the math behind simple

projects," she said. Garcia said Patrick enjoys working with computers.

"If it has anything to do with STEM, I try to encourage him," she said.

Patrick said he wants to be a chemist when he grows up.

"I like science," he said. "You can discover brand new things."

## American Education Week celebrates schools, teachers

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

In 1921, a representative of the National Education Association called for the designation of a weeklong observance that would recognize the significance of public schools and educators.

The NEA and the American Legion called for the initiative due to the concern about illiteracy among World War I draftees.

In December of that year, the NEA and the American Legion co-sponsored the first observance of American Education Week.

Today, American Education Week is celebrated annually during the week prior to Thanksgiving. The observance recognizes "public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education," according to the NEA website.

The theme of this year's observance, which started Monday and ends Friday, is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility."

In his proclamation, President Barack Obama wrote:

"Empowering students of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs to challenge themselves to reach higher education can lift up a generation, allowing them to carry the torch of progress forward and make our world a better place."

"This week, let us recommit to the important work that remains and ensure every student in America can access the support, resources and opportunities they need to thrive."

The NEA suggested daily themes throughout the week to help schools and educators acknowledge the observance.

•Monday-Kickoff Day: The event presented all Americans with the opportunity to celebrate public education.

•Tuesday-Parents Day: Schools were encouraged to invite parents into the classroom for hands-on experience of what the day is like for their child.

•Wednesday-Education Support Professionals Day: Schools were encouraged to recognize support professionals who make up 40 percent of school employees nationwide.

•Today-Educator Day: Community leaders across the country are invited to



PHOTO BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

Alejandra Ramirez, a member of the Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps, heads to class at Meade High.

serve as educators in their local public school district to get a glimpse of a day in the life of a school employee.

•Friday-Substitute Educators Day: Schools are encouraged to recognize substitute teachers who are called upon to replace regularly employed teachers.

Several Fort Meade schools are celebrating American Education Week with activities and events for both students and parents.

•Manor View Elementary School conducted several parent information sessions earlier in the week that included inviting parents to have lunch with their child and sponsoring an introductory Mandarin Chinese class for parents.

Manor View is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school and offers Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language for its IB students.

On Friday, the school will host a science assembly.

•MacArthur Middle School offered a series of morning activities for students focusing on kindness and bullying, college and career readiness, and literacy.

•Meade Middle School is hosting Parent Involvement Day today to provide information on topics ranging from Common Core math requirements, preparing for college, and the social and emotional development of children.



## COACH SPOTLIGHT

Air Force Staff Sgt. Marissa Strickland

Soccer Coach

### FAST FACTS

-  Hometown: Fairfield, Calif.
-  Performed with Tops in Blues in 2015
-  Playing the bagpipes since 2008
-  Wants to join Cirque du Soleil as an aerial dancer
-  Favorite Sports Team: SF Giants
-  Favorite Dancer: Misty Copeland
-  Favorite Sports Movie: "A League of Their Own"
-  Favorite Health Snack: KIND Bars

### MEET COACH STRICKLAND

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE COACHING?

I don't have any experience coaching, and this is my first year volunteering as a youth coach.



#### WHY DID YOU BECOME A COACH?

I played soccer growing up. Being part of a team helped teach me teamwork, life and social skills.

#### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT COACHING SPORTS?

Working with kids is a lot of fun. I wanted to make a positive impact on the community by volunteering as a coach.



Child, Youth and School Services is looking for volunteer coaches for various sports programs offered throughout the year. Volunteers will receive free training and certification by the National Alliance of Youth Sports. Coaches also will receive a discount for their children who participate in CYSS sports. If interested, call CYSS Sports Office at 301-677-1179.



## SPORTS SHORTS

### Fort Meade Run Series

The next race in the 2016 Fort Meade Run Series is the Turkey Trot 5K on Saturday at Murphy Field House.

The race starts at 8 a.m. and includes a 1-mile walk.

Each race, sponsored by Fort Meade's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, is open to the public.

Registration costs \$25 per person, and \$60 per family of three to six people.

The final race is the Reindeer Run 5K on Dec. 10 at Murphy Field House.

Preregistration fee for the Reindeer Run is \$15 for individuals; \$60 per family of three to six; and \$85 for groups of seven to 10.

All preregistered runners will receive a T-shirt. Register online at [meade.armymwr.com/us/meade/programs/run-series](http://meade.armymwr.com/us/meade/programs/run-series).

For more information, call 301-677-7916.

### Black Friday Bowling Special

The Lanes at Fort Meade is offering a Black Friday Bowling Special on Nov. 25 from noon to 11 p.m.

Cost is \$1 per game per person and \$1 shoe rental.

Black Friday Pin Deck Specials features \$1 specials for the following: one hamburger, pizza slice, hot dog, French fries and fountain soda.

For more information, call 301-677-5541 or go to [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

### Pigskin Pick'em Contest

Take part in the NFL Football contest at The Lanes that runs through December.

Participants can pick up a free entry form and select the anticipated game winners of all Sunday NFL games.

Entry forms will be available every Tuesday beginning at 4 p.m. for that Sunday's game.

Entry forms must be submitted by 1 p.m. Sunday at The Lanes.

Weekly winners will receive a prize pack and be entered for a chance to win the grand prize.

The free contest is open to the Fort Meade community.

Watch Sunday games on The Lounge's large TV screens, and enjoy food and beverage specials.

For additional contest guidelines and rules, visit [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

### Turkey Torcher Aerobathon

The Turkey Torcher Aerobathon is Nov. 25 at 10 a.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center, 6330 Broad-

foot Road.

Participants will cycle, dance, squat, curl and seat the morning away, then finish with relaxing yoga.

For more information, call 301-677-3716 or visit [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

### EFMP Bowling

The Exceptional Family Member Program offers bowling for exceptional families on the third Wednesday of every month from 5:30-7 p.m. at The Lanes.

The next event is Dec. 21.

Exceptional family members can bowl one free game with free shoe rental.

Discounted games and shoes are available for \$2 each to other family members.

To register, call Sonya Zoller at 301-677-4779.

### Dollar Day

Dollar Day is offered at The Lanes every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bowling, shoe rental and food specials each cost \$1.

For more information, call 301-677-5541.

### Youth Sports registration

Registration for the 2016-2017 Youth Sports winter season is underway.

Sports include futsal and basketball.

Volunteer coaches are needed for all sports, and will receive free training and a coach's discount for their children.

For more information, call the Youth Sports & Fitness Office at 301-677-1329 or 301-677-1179.

### Gaffney fitness classes

Gaffney Fitness center offers a variety of fitness classes.

Classes are open to authorized users ages 18 and older.

Cost is \$3 per drop-in class; \$20 for a 10-class pass; and \$40 for a 20-class pass.

- Spin and Hip-Hop Spin
- Virtual Wellbeat
- Vinyasa yoga
- Pilates
- Body Tone
- Belly Dancing
- Metabolic Effect
- Strength and Core
- Rip and Roll Cyle + Abs
- Zumba

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

## Jibber-less

Jibber Jabber will return next week.

As always, if you have any comments about Jibber Jabber or anything to do with the world of sports, e-mail [chad.t.jones.civ@mail.mil](mailto:chad.t.jones.civ@mail.mil).



### Concert Band & Soldiers' Holiday Performances 2016

Date	Time	City	Concert Information
December 3	7:30 pm	Baltimore, MD	The Hippodrome Theatre at The France-Merrick Performing Arts Center For information call 301-877-6588
December 4	3:00 pm	Baltimore, MD	The Hippodrome Theatre at The France-Merrick Performing Arts Center For information call 301-877-6588

### Jazz Ambassadors Holiday Performances 2016

Date	Time	City	Concert Information
December 7	7:00 pm	Ft Meade, MD	Meade High School Auditorium For information call 301-877-6588
December 10	3:00 pm	Elliott City, MD	Centennial High School Auditorium For information call 301-877-6588
December 10	7:00 pm	Elliott City, MD	Centennial High School Auditorium For information call 301-877-6588

## Winter is coming

### How to check garrison weather status

In preparation for inclement weather, garrison leaders met with community partners on Wednesday to develop the installation's adverse weather plan.

The goal is to make weather status decisions by 4:30 a.m.

Possible weather status categories are: Early Release, Delayed Arrival, Delayed Opening and Reduced Operations.

Each operating status results in a variety of changes to programs and activities.

Be sure to check the details of each operating status at [ftmeade.army.mil](http://ftmeade.army.mil). Click on Garrison Status.

Ways to get weather alerts:

- ◆ Fort Meade Home Page: [www.ftmeade.army.mil](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil)
- ◆ Fort Meade Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ftmeade](http://www.facebook.com/ftmeade)
- ◆ Fort Meade Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ftmeademd](http://www.twitter.com/ftmeademd)
- ◆ Fort Meade text alert: Text "follow ftmeadealert" to 40404 to begin receiving emergency alerts.
- ◆ Fort Meade weather hotline: 301-677-MEAD (6323)
- ◆ Baltimore and DC TV and radio outlets

## 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](http://facebook.com/ftmeade).

### How to submit announcements

Community members can advertise their upcoming event, meeting or class on the *Soundoff!* community announcements page by visiting [ftmeade.army.mil](http://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.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### VCC hours

Operating hours at the Demps Visitor Control Center are Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 902 Reece Road. The VCC is closed weekends and from 7 a.m.-noon on the third Wednesday of each month for training.

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 or visit the Fort Meade Facebook page for announcements on temporary changes to operating hours.

### ACP holiday operating hours

Operating hours for the installation access control points will be reduced during the following holiday periods:

◆ Nov. 24-27

◆ Dec. 23-26

◆ Dec. 30-Jan. 2

• Reece Road: Open daily 24 hours  
• Mapes Road and Route 32: Open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

• Rockenbach Road: Closed

• Mapes Road and Route 175: Closed

For more information, call Joseph Shinskie, chief of Physical Security, at 301-677-6618 or email [joseph.r.shinskie.civ@mail.mil](mailto:joseph.r.shinskie.civ@mail.mil).

### RAB Meeting

The next Fort Meade Environmental Restoration Advisory Board meeting is tonight 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.

### Thanksgiving at Club Meade

Celebrate Thanksgiving with a Thanksgiving Day Buffet on Nov. 24 at Club Meade.

Two seating times: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Cost is \$24.95 for members, \$28.95 for nonmembers, and half-price for children ages 10 and younger. Buffet is free for children ages 3 and younger.

Reservations are required.

For reservations or more information, call 301-677-6969.

### WWE Tribute to Troops

The WWE will hold its annual Tribute to the Troops show on Dec. 13 in Washington, D.C.

The USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore is partnering with the WWE for the event.

USO-Metro will distribute thousands of tickets to local military.

In addition, there will be visits from the WWE's cadre of stars.

One team of four to six stars will visit Fort Meade on Dec. 13.

The interactions and matches will be filmed and will air Dec. 14 on the USA network.

WWE schedule at Fort Meade:

◆ Meet and Greet at Asymmetric Warfare Group: 8-9:30 a.m. Team will participate in challenges.

◆ Anti-bullying rally at MacArthur Middle School: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

◆ Meet and Greet at the Exchange: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Fort Meade USO at 410-305-0660.

### 'Sound the Bells' holiday concert

The U.S. Army Field Band's Jazz Ambassadors will present "Sound the Bells! A Holiday Celebration" on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Meade High School auditorium.

The free concert is open to the communi-

See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14

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Registration is encouraged.

To register or for more information, visit armyfieldband.com or call 301-677-6586.

**Tax Center seeks volunteers**

The Fort Meade Office of the Staff Judge Advocate seeks full-time and part-time volunteers to work as tax preparers or administrative personnel at the Joint Installation Tax Center from January through April.

No tax experience is necessary. All required training will be provided and conducted on Fort Meade in January.

This is an opportunity to build your resume, gain experience in tax preparation, and develop customer service skills.

This is also an opportunity to support the community by providing free, electronic filing of federal and state income tax returns for service members, retirees and family members from all military services.

For more information, contact the Tax Center attorney in charge, Yosefi Seltzer, at yosefi.m.seltzer.civ@mail.mil or 301-677-5038.

**Brass Lounge**

The Brass Lounge is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 4-8 p.m. at Club Meade.

An assortment of beverages and appetizers are available.

Music and television entertainment will be provided.

The Brass Lounge is open to all military ranks and services, and civilians.

Lunch service and lunch buffets are no longer available at Club Meade.

For more information, go to meade.armymwr.com for more details.

**Thrift Shop hours**

The Post Thrift Shop, located at 392 Llewellyn Ave., is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Consignments are taken by appointment only.

For more information, call 410-672-3575.

**Child care providers needed**

Fort Meade Family Child Care is in need of providers.

Providers will receive valuable training including: activity organization, USDA-approved meal planning, designing learning environments, child development, and becoming infant/child/adult first aid and CPR certified.

For more information, call the Family Child Care office at 301-677-1160.

**Vehicle Resale Lot**

Sell or buy all types of vehicles at the resale lot on Rock Avenue.

To place a vehicle on the lot, stop by Outdoor Recreation at 2300 Wilson St.

For more information, call 301-677-3810.

**Freedom Inn open to post employees**

The Freedom Inn Dining Facility, located at 8502 Simonds St., is open to all active-duty service members, military retirees, DoD civilians, contractors, and Department of the Army security guards and firefighters on Monday through Friday.

Active-duty service members on Basic Allowance for Subsistence are also authorized for meals on the weekend. Family members of military personnel may purchase meals on weekdays if they are accompanied by the service member.

All other categories of customers may purchase meals as the garrison commander deems appropriate. These categories include youth groups, MEPS candidates, civilian dignitaries, guests and other visitors.

Service members with a meal card will continue to have priority over cash-paying customers.

For more information, call 301-677-5503.

**Anne Arundel libraries close for holiday**

All 15 branches of the Anne Arundel County Public Library will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Wednesday and Nov. 24. All libraries will reopen Nov. 25 at 9 a.m.

Following library policy, no fines are charged for overdue materials on days the library is closed for a holiday.

Materials can be renewed any time online at <http://www.aacpl.net> or by using the library's mobile app, available in iOS App Store and in the Google Play Store. Apps are also available for the Kindle Fire and Windows Phone.

Even when the library is closed, customers can still check out eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines on the library's website or through the mobile app.

A complete schedule of library hours, including scheduled closings, is on the AACPL website at <http://www.aacpl.net>.

**Open Mic Night**

Show off your talents at Open Mic Night every Saturday from 6-11 p.m. at The Lounge at The Lanes.

Sing your favorite song or perform music, stand-up comedy, poetry or magic.

Youths under the age of 18 are permitted in The Lounge until 9 p.m. All youths must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

For more information, call 301-677-5541.

**EDUCATION****Financial, Job 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.

**Military**

- Pre-Deployment Brief: Today and Dec. 15, 10-11:30 a.m., FFSC
- Pre-Separation Brief: Dec. 1, 9-11:30 a.m., FFSC

- Relocation Readiness Sponsorship Training: Dec. 2, 2-3:30 p.m., FFSC

- TGPS Five-Day Workshops (Transition, Goals, Plans, Success): Dec. 5-9: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., FFSC

- Retiree Brief: Dec. 12, 8-11:30 a.m., FFSC

**Financial**

- Planning for the Holidays: Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., ACS

Get tips on how to save for holiday expenses. Learn to develop strategies to avoid overspending and excessive debt.

- Planning to Reduce Taxes: Nov. 29, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ACS

**Employment**

- Salary Negotiation: Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to noon, ACS

- Interviewing Skills: Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to noon, ACS

**Life Skills**

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

- Healthy Relationships: Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

To register, call FFSC at 301-677-9017 or ACS at 301-677-5590, or visit [fortmeadeacs.checkappointments.com](http://fortmeadeacs.checkappointments.com).

**YOUTH****Project Elf**

The Fort Meade USO Center will conduct Project Elf on Dec. 14 from 4-7 p.m. at the USO at 8612 6th Armored Cavalry

Road.

The annual project matches military children to donors to make sure that the children have presents for Christmas.

More than 400 Fort Meade children will receive gifts.

For more information, call 410-305-0660.

**Dance classes**

Child, Youth and School Services is offering dance classes for children ages 3 and older on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Youth Center.

Cost is \$45 and up, depending on age of child and class.

All participants must be registered through CYSS.

To register or for more information, call Parent Central Services at 301-677-1149.

**Swim lessons**

Youth swim lessons will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at Gaffney Fitness Center's indoor pool.

Cost is \$72 for eight classes.

Registration ends Wednesday.

To register or for more information, call Parent Central Services at 301-677-1149 or 301-677-1156.

**RECREATION****Out & About**



**SFL-TAP**  
**Upcoming Events**

<b>Nov. 29-30</b>	<b>Accessing Higher Education</b> Tuesday, Wednesday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Classroom 1
<b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>Dress for Success</b> Tuesday 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Classroom 1
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Disability Claims Information</b> Wednesday 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. HHC Conference Room 8501 Simonds Street

To register, call: 301-677-9871

Workshop Location:  
McGill Training Center  
8452 Zimborski Ave.  
Fort Meade, MD 20755

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@FortMeadeSFLTAP

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Start Strong • Serve Strong • Reintegrate Strong • Remain Strong

• **Holiday Shopping Trip** is offered by Leisure Travel Services on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to the Cowtown Farmers Market and Flea Market, and Christiana Shopping Mall. Bus leaves at 7 a.m. Cost is \$40 and includes transportation. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

• **Festival of Trees** by Kennedy Krieger Institute will be held Nov. 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium.

The three-day event features fairyland forests, gingerbread towns and toy train gardens, complemented by over 100 craft boutiques, holiday goodies, nightly entertainment and children's activities.

Tickets cost \$13 for adults; \$8 for seniors ages 65 and older; and \$6 for children ages 5-12.

Breakfast With Santa And Mrs. Claus is Nov. 27 from 8-10 a.m.

Breakfast and admission tickets cost \$35 for adults; \$35 for children ages 3 to 12; and free for ages 2 and younger but they must sit on adult's lap. Family 4-pack costs \$120.

For more information, call 443-923-7300, email events@kennedykrieger.org or visit [www.festivaloftrees.kennedykrieger.org](http://www.festivaloftrees.kennedykrieger.org).

• **Williamsburg Shopping Trip** is offered by Leisure Travel Services on Dec. 17. Shop at the Williamsburg Pottery Factory Mall in Virginia. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

• **BOSS National Aquarium trip**, sponsored by Better Opportunities for Single Service Members, is Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Cost is \$15. Only 15 spaces are available.

For reservations or more information, see your BOSS representative or visit [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

• **Toby's Dinner Theatre** presents "A Christmas Carol through Jan. 8 at 5900 Symphony Woods, Columbia. Discounted tickets are available at Leisure Travel Services. For more information, call LTS at 301-677-7354 or Toby's at 410-730-8311.

• **Christmas Spectacular** featuring the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on Dec. 8. Bus leaves at 7 a.m. Cost is \$155. Purchase tickets at Leisure Travel Services. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

• **Leisure Travel Services** will offer its next monthly bus trip to New York City on Dec. 24 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Cost is \$60. Discounted tickets to attractions will be provided. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

## MEETINGS

• **Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda on the third

Thursday of every month. The next meeting is today from 1-2 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the America Building, River Conference Room, third floor.

Spouses/partners are invited. Military ID is required for base access. Men without a military ID should call the Prostate Center at 301-319-2900 at least four business days prior to the event for base access.

For more information, call retired Col. Jane Hudak at 301-319-2918 or email [jane.l.hudak.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:jane.l.hudak.ctr@mail.mil).

• **Enlisted Spouses' Club** meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Potomac Place Community Center, 4998 Second Corps Blvd. Location and time subject to change. The next meeting is tonight at 6:30 p.m.

For child care during ESC functions, email [membership@FtMeadeESC](mailto:membership@FtMeadeESC).

For more information, call 301-908-3773.

• **Meade Area Garden Club** will meet Friday at 10 a.m. at the Jessup Community Hall located at the corner of Route 175 and Wigley Avenue.

Patty Hankins of Fine Art Floral Photography will present the program "How to Take Great Flower Photos with Your Smart Phone."

Refreshments will be served.

Annual membership is \$20. You may attend one meeting before you are required to become a member.

For more information, call Jennifer Garcia, membership chair, at 443-949-8348, or Sharon Durney, club president, at 410-761-5019.

• **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](http://1686.toastmastersclubs.org) or call 410-305-9190.

• **Marriage Enrichment Group**, sponsored by Army Community Service, meets the second and fourth Monday of every month from 3-4 p.m. at the Community Readiness Center, 830 Chisholm Ave. The next meeting is Nov. 28. For more information, call Celena Flowers or Jessica Hobgood at 301-677-5590.

• **Single Parent Support Group** meets every second and fourth Monday of the month from 5:30-7 p.m. at School Age Services, 1900 Reece Road. Children welcome. The next meeting is Nov. 28. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

• **Monthly Prayer Breakfast**, hosted by the Religious Support Office, is held the first Thursday of every month at 7 a.m. at Club Meade. The next prayer breakfast is Dec. 1. There is no cost for the buffet. Donations are optional.

Menu features eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy, grits, Danish pastries and fruit.

All Fort Meade employees, civilian and military personnel, and family members are invited. For more information, call 301-677-6703.

• **"Sip and Share,"** hosted by the Exceptional Family Member Program, meets the first Thursday of every month from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Fort Meade USO, 8612 6th Armored Cavalry Road. The next get-together is Dec. 1.

Inform each other about resources available in the local community.

For more information or to register, call 301-677-4779.

• **Fort Meade First Class Petty Officer Association** meets the first Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. at The Lanes. The next meeting is Dec. 1. All first class petty officers are invited. For more information, call PO1 Jennifer Wonch at 410-854-2763.

• **Meade Rod and Gun Club** meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Perry's Restaurant and Odie's Pub at 1210 Annapolis Road, Odenton, in the banquet hall in back of the building. The next meeting is Dec. 1. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. For more information, call Charisma Wooten at 240-568-6055.

• **Retired Officers' Wives' Club's** Holiday Brunch Meeting is Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. at Club Meade.

The meeting will feature a performance of holiday music by the Archbishop Spalding High School Chorus.

Cost of the brunch is \$20.

Call your area representative or Betty Wade at 410-551-7082.

## 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](http://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. 3-D Movies: \$8 adults, \$5.50 children.*

## Today through Nov. 27



DANIEL MCFADDEN/AP

**Friday: "Boo! A Madea Halloween" (PG-13).** Madea winds up in the middle of mayhem when she spends a haunted Halloween fending off killers, paranormal poltergeists, ghosts, ghouls and zombies while keeping a watchful eye on a group of misbehaving teens. With Tyler Perry, Cassi Davis, Patrice Lovely.

**Saturday: "Kevin Hart: What Now?" (R).** Comedian Kevin Hart performs in front of a crowd of 50,000 people at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field. With Kevin Hart, Don Cheadle, Halle Berry.

**Sunday: "Ouija: Origin of Evil" (PG-13).** In 1965 Los Angeles, a widowed mother and her two daughters add a new stunt to bolster their séance scam business and unwittingly invite authentic evil into their home. With Elizabeth Reaser, Lulu Wilson, Annalise Basso.

**Nov. 25 & 27: "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" (PG-13).** Jack Reacher must uncover the truth behind a major government conspiracy in order to clear his name. With Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Aldis Hodge.

**Nov. 26: "Keeping Up With the Joneses" (PG-13).** A suburban couple becomes embroiled in an international espionage plot when they discover that their seemingly perfect new neighbors are government spies. With Zach Galifianakis, Gal Gadot, Jon Hamm.