

# Soundoff!

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**Thursday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.:** Thanks-  
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**Dec. 7, 7 p.m.:** U.S. Army Field Band  
Holiday Concert at Meade High

**Dec. 10, 8 a.m.:** Reindeer Run 5K  
and 1-Mile Walk at Murphy



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK  
Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard, Capt. Juergen Looft of the German Attaché, Lt. Col. Luigi Bramati, deputy of the Italian Attaché, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes accompany the Navy Information Operations Command Color Guard to the German and Italian Wreath-Laying Ceremony on Sunday at the Post Cemetery.



# Soundoff!

## EDITORIAL STAFF

**Garrison Commander**  
Col. Thomas S. Rickard

**Garrison Command Sergeant Major**  
Rodwell L. Forbes

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Chad T. Jones 301-677-1301  
Chad.T.Jones.civ@mail.mil

**Chief, Command Information**  
Larry Whitley Sr. 301-677-5602  
Larry.Whitley.civ@mail.mil

**Editor**  
Ganesa R. Robinson 301-677-6806  
Ganesa.R.Robinson.civ@mail.mil

**Assistant Editor & Senior Writer**  
Rona S. Hirsch 301-677-1438  
rhirsch@baltsun.com

**Staff Writer**  
Lisa R. Rhodes 301-677-1432  
lrhodes@baltsun.com

**Staff Writer**  
Maddie Ecker 301-677-5159  
mecker@baltsun.com

**Design Coordinator**  
Warren Walker 301-677-1431  
wawalker@baltsun.com

**Supplemental photography** provided  
by The Baltimore Sun Media Group

## DEADLINES

**Community notices**  
Friday, noon  
rhirsch@baltsun.com

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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

# Thanksgiving: An American tradition

**T**hanksgiving is America's national harvest festival.

It's a time to reflect on our beginning as a nation. It's also an opportunity to celebrate the blessings of all the freedoms we have while being mindful of the hardships we also have to endure.

I am thankful our nation and our armed forces are strong and enduring.

On behalf of the Fort Meade garrison, I want to wish our service members and their families a happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for all of the hard work accomplished amid the challenges of military service during a time of war.

Fort Meade's garrison mission is dedicated to providing quality support to our service members and their families.

Our mission has always been to ensure that you have the support and peace of mind needed to accomplish your mission.

Those of us who are in our homes are blessed to be able to spend this holiday with family and friends. Let's also remember those who are serving



**Garrison Commander**  
**Col. Tom Rickard**

abroad or are unable to celebrate with their loved ones.

Let's also honor families, especially those of the fallen. We should present our heartfelt gratitude to them for theirs and their loved one's service and sacrifice.

On behalf of my family and the Fort Meade garrison, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to our men and women in uniform and their families. You make a difference

every day.

We are strengthened by your support, your resilience and your love of country. Thank you.



## Thanksgiving Day Meal Schedule Freedom Inn Dining Facility

### Meal Times:

- Breakfast (Continental breakfast) 0600-0630 hours
- Lunch (Thanksgiving meal) 1100-1400 hours (Casual dress)
- Dinner (Thanksgiving meal) 1500-1630 (Informal)

### Meal prices for the holiday are as follows:

- Non-meal card holders (All Military Members, Retirees, and Contractors) \$9.05
- Family Member (SGT and above) \$9.05
- Family Members (PVT-SPC) discount rate \$6.80
- Toddler age 5 and under eats for free



# Funds allocated to help transition to civilian life

Federal government earmarks \$4.3M in grant money to assist service members, veterans and spouses in Maryland as they transition to civilian workforce

BY MADDIE ECKER  
Staff Writer

**A** \$4.3 million federal grant will be allocated to programs that will help veterans and service members as they separate from the military to pursue a civilian career.

Anne Arundel County officials held a news conference Tuesday at Fort Meade to announce the National Dislocated Worker Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. Speakers included Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard, Kirkland Murray, president and CEO of the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp. and Anne Arundel County Executive Steven Schuh.

One of the programs that the grant will support is the Maryland Corps Career Connect, a two year program also known as the C3. It's an initiative to connect veterans and their families with jobs during their move into the civilian sector.

The grant will benefit service members at four Maryland installations: Fort Meade, Joint Base Andrews, Naval Air Station Patuxent River and Aberdeen Proving Ground.

One goal of this initiative is to strengthen the partnership between transitioning service members and local businesses.

"What this initiative will do is to make sure veterans that are transitioning — who are looking to stay here, who are looking to get good-paying jobs — have that opportunity," Murray said. "[We want to] make sure that the business community in Maryland has those

veterans to help grow their workforce to bring economic prosperity."

The grant will directly benefit transitioning service members, veterans, military spouses and administrators who will work with veterans, Murray said.

## A Critical Cause

The need for this type of grant is critical for Maryland, said Schuh, who noted that the state has the highest unemployment rate for veterans in the United States.

"The unemployment rate for veterans is 8.5 percent," Schuh said at the press conference. "The unemployment rate for female, active-duty spouses is 32 percent and the unemployment rate for female veteran spouses is 22 percent."

This initiative aims to bring those statis-

tics down and ensure that veterans don't stay unemployed long term.

"No one who has fought for our freedom, who has fought for this nation's freedom, should have trouble finding employment after his or her mission is complete with the United States Armed Forces," Schuh said.

Murray acknowledged the different partners that will contribute to the success of the program and the service members who will benefit from it.

"We work closely with businesses to get them the skilled workforce that they need," Murray said. "A lot of our businesses here in the state of Maryland want to hire veterans. They feel like that's the right thing to do — to reward people who have given to their country. Many employers, many businesses here want to have that skilled workforce."

Maryland Corps Career Connect will offer a variety of services such as resume building, apprenticeships, internships and work experience to more than 700



PHOTO BY GANESA ROBINSON

During a news conference Nov. 15 at McGill, Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard and Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp. CEO Kirkland Murray listen as County Executive Steve Schuh discusses the federal grant.

veterans, service members and their spouses.

The two-year program will target skills from a variety of industries, based on their growth in Maryland and what veterans are interested in pursuing.

"This is a very holistic grant that will not only help veterans transition, but make sure they have the skills employers are looking for," Murray said. "They need to have the resume that can communicate the skills that they gained in the military. And they can then show how they can be of value to businesses here in the state of Maryland."

## Skilled Employees

During his remarks, Rickard spoke about the prized skills that service members can bring to future employers.

"Sixty-five percent of Fort Meade service member jobs fall into IT and signal field," he said. "As you know, the experience men and women in uniform can bring to the civilian work in terms of leadership, project management and innovation is unmatched."

"I'm sure we can all agree that these are the types of skills and talent we need to keep in this area."



**SFL-TAP**  
**Upcoming Seminars**

<b>Nov. 29</b>	<b>Accessing Higher Education</b> Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Classroom 1
<b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>Dress for Success</b> Friday 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Classroom 1
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Apply for a Federal Job</b> Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Classroom 1

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**TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
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# School event launches PIE partnership

MADDIE ECKER

Staff Writer

Looking around the auditorium at MacArthur Middle School, Georgia Pickard asked the audience to recognize the sacrifices made by military children.

"We should support our fellow students as they quietly endure the hardship of their loved ones being far from home," the seventh-grader said.

Georgia was among the speakers at the school's first-ever Veterans Day Assembly. Service members, students, staff and parents gathered Nov. 11 for the hourlong program and reception.

The event launched the school's partnership with Navy Information Operations Command Maryland as part of Fort Meade's Partners in Education program.

In addition to a musical performance by the school's concert band, the student-led assembly featured a guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Elliott Jr., the senior enlisted adviser at Headquarters Command Battalion.

The emcee, Student Government Association President Elijah Davis, welcomed the audience and introduced MacArthur's Honors Chorus before its performance of the national anthem. Nasir Brockington, SGA vice president, led the "Pledge of Allegiance."

The Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps of Meade High School posted the colors.

## A Path to Success

In his speech, Elliott urged students to make good decisions in order to achieve future success.

"Students of MacArthur Middle School, I will ask you to make the right decision now so that you can reach your goals for tomorrow," he said.

Elliott recounted his youth growing up in a single-parent household in a drug-infested neighborhood in Portsmouth, Va. As the oldest of six children, Elliott saw his mother work tirelessly to provide for their family.

"I saw my mother's hard work, dedication and determination to provide for her family. [It] gave me the ability to see that failure was not an option," Elliott said. "As a teenager, I realized I will not change the culture of my neighborhood, but I will not submit to the culture changing me."

Elliott used his personal history to show how resilience in the face of hardship can lead to tremendous reward.



The Meade High School JROTC Color Guard posts the colors during the Veterans Day Assembly at MacArthur Middle School on Nov. 11.

A family man with a bachelor's degree in homeland security who has served in the Army for 24 years, Elliott said he is a "decorated leader, proud service member, husband, father and son."

## Honoring Veterans

In her speech, Georgia reflected on the significance of Veterans Day.

"At MacArthur Middle School, we are very proud to recognize on this day — Nov. 11 — all of the veterans who are current military, retired or deceased," she said.

Georgia asked veterans and service members to stand and be recognized as she read off the different branches of the military. Standing among them was World War II veteran Paul Booth.

Georgia also paid tribute to military families, including fellow students whose parents are deployed.

"We thank you for your commitment and sacrifice," she said.

Following the speeches, Principal Eugene Whiting called for a moment of silence. He then welcomed eighth-grader Ty'quon Ricks to play "Taps" on the trumpet.

"What a proud principal I am today," Whiting said. "I am proud to be the principal of a middle school located on a military installation with students who are so incredibly talented."

A number of Sailors from NIOC attended the assembly. They are volunteers in Partners in Education, or PIE, Fort Meade's mentorship program with Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Service members and DoD civilians volunteer in schools to mentor, tutor and



PHOTOS BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

Seventh-grader Georgia Pickard reads her Veterans Day reflection.

excited to be able to give that to them."

Among the dozen NIOC Sailors who attended was Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff Kleppe.

"I wanted a chance to interact with students," he said. "I grew up in Iowa and didn't meet anyone in the military until a recruiter showed up. So I wanted to give kids a chance to meet a service member in uniform."

## Supporting Students

Barbara Sanchez, the eighth-grade language arts teacher, hopes that partnering with NIOC and hosting military-centered events will help bridge the gap between the school and the installation.

"We felt disconnected from military families and we wanted to pull them in," she said. "We wanted to do a Veterans Day Assembly, and will do one on Memorial Day, to strengthen our partnership with the installation."

Sanzez, wife of retired Maj. Phillip Sanchez, manages the Department of Defense Education Activity grant at the school level. The DoDEA grant helped to support the success of the assembly.

This year MacArthur had a 5 percent increase in its enrollment of military students, one of the reasons for establishing annual military-themed events, said Sanchez.

Starting in January, she hopes that NIOC will provide mentorship for the boys of MacArthur.

"We would like them to hang out with the boys one day a week to play sports or do an activity," Sanchez said. "The other day of the week they could tutor them."

For Navy Petty Officer Jermaine White, the reason for attending the assembly was simple.

"We want to support our schools any way we can," he said.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

HCB Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Elliott Jr. speaks about his.

coach students and show support at school events. They dress in uniform during the hours they spend at their partner school.

The mission of PIE is to contribute military resources and services to schools in order to nurture the intellectual, emotional, social and physical growth of children in the Fort Meade community.

During the reception, Navy Chief Petty Officer Sarah Stewart, the command volunteer coordinator for NIOC, mingled with students.

"Today we are honored to be here and represent the armed forces," she said. "It's important for children to know they have a whole future ahead of them and because of the [service members in] the armed forces, they have options."

NIOC joined the program at the request of Army Child and Youth Services, said Stewart.

"Youth Services reached out to us to partner with MacArthur," she said. "They requested that Sailors come out and get involved with the STEM program. We're



# Colleges offer programs at education fair

**STORY AND PHOTOS**  
**BY LISA R. RHODES**  
 Staff Writer

**T**he Army Education Center hosted its biannual education fair Nov. 16 at McGill Training Center.

Representatives from more than 20 colleges and universities attended the three-hour fair to promote their traditional and online degree programs and certificates.

About 125 service members, family members, veterans, retirees and DoD civilians participated.

"The fair was held to inform the Fort Meade community of the latest and best programs offered by our colleges and universities and to make sure they know that certification can be a key to employment opportunities," said John Anderson, director of the Army Education Center.

The participating colleges and universities included Stratford University, Excelsior College, University of Oklahoma, Kaplan University and Prince George's Community College.

## Making The Right Choice

Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes stopped by the fair to encourage participants and thank the college representatives.

"Each of us, if we are hungry for lifelong learning, is looking forward to some of the opportunities and programs that you present," Rickard said. "We're very grateful for the partnerships and relationships we have with your educational institutions."

Kenyetta Northcutt, wife of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Keith Northcutt who is assigned to Joint Base Andrews, attended the event to inquire about a master's degree program in social work.

"I'm looking for a face-to-face program," Northcutt said. "I can find online programs. I've been to the education center at Andrews, so I'm looking around to find a school that has a campus."

Northcutt said the fair is important for military spouses and younger service members who may be unaware of the educational opportunities available to them.

"It's like a little shopping mall," Northcutt said of the education fair, where prospective students can select



**Airman 1st Class Hasan Nguyen (center) talks to Robert Bossick, a recruiter for Shenandoah University, about its undergraduate programs as Airman 1st Class Alphonso Morgan (left) and Airman Elijah Wimes read academic materials.**



**Robert Hassinger of American Military University discusses its online programs with Leslie Burks, wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Burks, and Kenyetta Northcutt, wife of Air Force Chief Warrant Officer 4 Keith Northcutt.**

the colleges and universities appropriate for them.

"It's hard to know what's out there if the school is not local," she said.

John Cordero, military admissions recruiter at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va., said the university caters to military-affiliated students who make up 28 percent of the student body.

"This is a way for us to serve those who are serving or who have served," said Cordero, a former instructor at the Defense Information School.

Regent University offers 95 undergraduate degrees and seven graduate schools. Its Military Resource Center helps service members transition to civilian life.

"A lot of service members are not aware of all the benefits they are entitled to," Cordero said.

Staffers at the Military Resource Center keep students abreast of military education and veteran benefits as well, Cordero said.

Sgt. Mario Diaz of Headquarters Operations Company, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, stopped to talk to Cordero about a bachelor's degree in teaching or nursing.

"I think the fair is very enlightening," Diaz said. "There's so much information that I can get here that I couldn't get online at the website. There are informed people who can answer your questions."

Shirleene Prioleau, administrative assistant and coordinator of Enrollment Outreach and Veteran Services for Morgan State University, said the university offers 46 bachelor degree programs, 37 masters programs and 15 doctoral programs.

The university offers nine online programs that include a community college leadership program, electrical and computer engineering, and a sustainable urban communities program.

"We are veteran friendly, and our mission is to ensure that service members make a smooth transition to civilian life," Prioleau said. "We have [programs] at our campus that can make that transition happen."

## Preparing For The Future

Robert Bossick, the Veteran-to-B.S.N. recruiter for Shenandoah University, said two years ago the university received a federal grant to enroll veterans in its registered nursing program.

The university's Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program specifically designed for veterans with health care experience.

"The federal government believes there will be a shortage of nurses in the future," Bossick said. "There are a lot of good skills that the military teaches in its first aid and medic programs that we feel should not be wasted."

Sgt. Tasia Pickett, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the outpatient pharmacy at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, inquired about the university's Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Pickett called the education fair "essential."

"To get a promotion in the military, it is required to have some sort of advanced degree," Pickett said. "And a lot of young service members are not taking advantage of their tuition assistance benefits."

Anderson said the education fair is an opportunity for service members, dependents and veterans to gain the knowledge and skills that can take them to the next level in their lives and careers.

"Getting an education shows that you've worked hard to achieve a goal — and employers take that very seriously," he said. "They're looking for the best and the brightest."



# DINFOS instructor uses Israeli martial art to stay safe, fit

STORY AND PHOTO BY AIR FORCE

TECH SGT. BOB JENNINGS

Defense Information School

**V**eronica Montes is a ready warrior. Inside her small, unassuming frame beats the heart of a lion. Behind her ginger hair, freckles and constant smile lies an alert, focused machine capable of taking down opponents twice her size. With her bare hands.

What makes such a slight, happy person so deadly? Montes studies the Israeli martial art Krav Maga.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Veronica Montes is a Basic Photojournalist Course-USAF instructor at the Defense Information School. She has been studying Krav Maga for a year and a half, to stay fit and keep herself safe.

"I love the (Ultimate Fighting Championship) fights," she said. "I really like fighting, I like boxing, stuff like that. So I've always wanted to learn how to do it."

Montes said she looked into multiple styles of martial arts before deciding on Krav Maga.

"There was a gym that opened up in Spokane, Washington — where I was — that was a Krav Maga gym," she said. "[The



Air Force Staff Sgt. Veronica practices the Israeli martial art Krav Maga.

staffers] were doing a couple of promotional things, trying to get it going more and gain more people. So I went down there to check it out, and I really liked it right away."

Despite Montes' typically jolly demeanor, she studies an extremely violent art. Krav Maga was developed for the Israeli Defense Force and is a combination of several other martial arts with a focus on real-world situations.

"Level 1 is mostly a lot of punches like hammer fists, different kicks, elbows,

knees," she said. "You're supposed to be really aggressive to get someone away from you."

Part of the appeal, said Montes, is that Krav Maga is actor Jason Statham's go-to martial art in his action films.

"I pretend that's what I look like," she said, laughing. "But I don't. But in my mind, I do."

Class participants embrace a strong fitness component and train for real-world scenarios. Instructors teach youth anti-

bullying classes and lead active-shooter seminars where participants are taught how to defend themselves from real threats.

"They try to do really realistic situations," Montes said.

That's something Montes' husband — Air Force Staff Sgt. Alex Montes, a photojournalist with the 70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing at Fort Meade — appreciates.

"It gives her another skill," he said. "In case she's on the street or out by herself or anything like that, she can defend herself, which is good."

Alex Montes, who often stands in as his wife's sparring partner, studies Brazilian jujitsu, which focuses more on grappling than striking.

Smiling, he admitted that his wife could probably take him. "If she sneak-attacks me," he was quick to add.

Montes said she is currently at Level 2 in her training and hopes to move up to Level 3 soon. At her gym, she can go as high as Level 5, which means she will only be better prepared.

Despite her never-ending smiles and rapid-fire, excited speech, one thing is clear to those who know her:

You don't mess with Montes.

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# Soldiers, civilians battle to be cyber champ

BY 780TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE

**F**ifty-nine Soldiers and civilians competed in physical and mental challenges, hoping to win enough points to be named champion.

The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade hosted its 4th Annual Army Cyber Skills Challenge, also known as ACSC, at Fort Meade on Oct. 28.

Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians from across the cyber community were invited to compete to be crowned the area's top cyber warrior.

The event provided a fitting end to Cyber Awareness Month, offering Soldiers and civilians an opportunity to showcase their cyber talents.

The competition promotes professional expertise and growth in its participants.

Soldiers and civilians from five different brigades accepted the challenge.

"I think the competition is absolutely fantastic," said Command Sgt. Maj. Sheldon Chandler of the 780th MI. "The event allowed Soldiers and civilians from across the brigade and from our partner cyber and intelligence organizations to come together and test both their physical fitness and technical abilities."

"This is what the Army expects from our cyberspace professionals — the total Soldier concept."

First Lt. Christian Sharpsten of Echo Company, 782nd MI Battalion was crowned



Physical events included a modified Army PT test and 4-mile ruck march.

ACSC Champion. Second place went to Pfc. Elijah Harmon of the 704th MI Brigade.

The Soldier with the highest physical fitness score, crowned the Iron Warrior, was Spc. Ryan Roden of Alpha Company, 741st MI Battalion. The Soldier with the highest technical score, crowned the Cyber Warrior, was Spc. Stephen Cosolito of Delta Company, 781st MI Battalion.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 John O'Reilly, the 780th MI's senior technical adviser, praised the efforts of the brigade's noncommissioned officers and officers in its ranks.

"An event like this requires hundreds of hours to put together and execute," he said. "Without the dedicated support and selfless service of these Soldiers, an event like this



PHOTOS BY 55TH SIGNAL COMPANY/COMBAT CAMERA

Soldiers and civilians from five brigades test their physical fitness and technical abilities in the annual 780th MI Brigade's Army Cyber Skills Challenge on Oct. 28.

doesn't happen."

Since its inception in 2013, the event has grown from 11 participants to a record-breaking 59 this year. The goal of the ACSC is to challenge participants physically and mentally with the hopes of being crowned the ACSC Champion, which is determined by an individual's composite scores.

The physical events included a modified Army physical fitness test, a 4-mile ruck march with a 35-pound rucksack, a modified

Army combat readiness test, and a timed run through the Marine obstacle course.

The technical events included programming, exploitation, forensics and a cryptanalysis challenge.

"The ACSC competition enables Soldiers and civilians to compete against their peers from other organizations," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Raul Negron, lead organizer. "It assesses how they compare from both a physical and technical aspect."

## Army Reserve Fort Family Program helps Reservists 24/7

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

**A**rrmy Reservists and National Guardsmen have an advocate that can help them through difficult times this holiday season.

"They may go to the Army Community Service, but if they are not on active-duty, they are not entitled to the assistance that ACS may provide," said Susie Carter, Family Program manager, 200th Military Police Command.

But, she noted, Reservists and Guardsmen can seek assistance through the Army Reserve Fort Family Program.

ARFP's mission is to enhance "the readiness and resilience of Army Reserve Soldiers, family members, command teams and civilians," according to the program's website.

"ARFP responds, connects, refers and

provides resources in the communities of geographically dispersed Army Reserve family, including those called to active-duty."

Carter said the ARFP's Fort Family Outreach and Support Center is the "rallying point" for family programs.

Fort Family's 24-hour phone line offers access to community outreach assistants, who provide referrals to around-the-clock to community-based services and programs for Reservists, Guardsmen and their family members.

The services and programs include partnership activities and youth programs, temporary housing, emergency funds, disaster relief, debt management, emergency home repair, separation or coping issues, suicide and sexual harassment and assault prevention, and information locating a Common Access Card office.

"We work to assist Reservists and their family members wherever they are located," Carter said. "Even though a Soldier may be assigned to Fort Meade, they may live in Virginia and complete their annual two-week training someplace else."

Carter said the community outreach assistants refer people to organizations, within their geographic location, that have been vetted to provide services and programs for the military.

Since Reservists and National Guardsmen may live, work and train anywhere in the United States, Fort Family is accessible 24/7 by phone, its website or through the Battle Buddies app.

"People don't have to come into contact directly with a person to get help," Carter said.

By downloading the Battle Buddies app, Reservists carry the program with

them wherever they go.

"It is great," Carter said. "When we go out and do training about the program, we highly recommend that people download the app on their smartphone."

Fort Family also provides wellness and emergency service calls to families of deployed Reservists.

Carter said outreach assistants can contact family members to see if they are in need of any services or resources during a deployment or natural disaster.

"They are trained to help fill in the gaps," Carter said. "We are here to support each other."

*Editor's note: The ARFP telephone number is 1-844-ONE-FAMILY.*

To contact the Army Reserve Fort Family Program, go to the Fort Family Outreach and Support Center website at [www.arfp.org/fortfamily.php](http://www.arfp.org/fortfamily.php)



# Taking flight

## Runners compete in Turkey Trot 5K Run before Thanksgiving holiday for free turkey

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

To usher in the Thanksgiving holiday, about 250 people participated in Fort Meade's annual Turkey Trot 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk on Saturday morning.

The 3-mile run and 1-mile walk began and ended at Murphy Field House.

"It was a great race," said Beth Downs, sports specialist for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The event was part of the 2016 Fort Meade Run Series sponsored by FMWR.

The overall and first-place male winner was Bukhari Abdul-Salaam with a time of 17:41.

The first-place female winner was Stephanie Staub at 20:26.

Winners in each age group received a medal and a free Thanksgiving turkey donated by FMWR.

The final event in the run series is the Reindeer 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk at 8 a.m. Dec. 10 at Murphy Field House.



Bukhari Abdul-Salaam finishes as the overall and first-place male winner at the Turkey Trot 5K Run.



Stephanie Staub is the first-place female runner during the 3-mile run on Saturday morning.



Eleven-year-old Charlotte-Anne Boyer, winner in the 11 to 14 age division, takes home a free turkey after the run.



About 250 runners and walkers take off during Fort Meade's annual Turkey Trot 5K and 1-Mile Walk Saturday morning at Murphy Field House. The event kicks off the Thanksgiving holiday.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.





The Navy Information Operations Command Color Guard exits the Post Cemetery at the conclusion of the annual wreath-laying ceremony.

# Post pays tribute to WWII POWs

Fallen soldiers honored at installation cemetery

BY MADDIE ECKER  
Staff Writer  
PHOTOS BY STEVE RUARK

Miniature German and Italian flags fluttered by the grave sites of 33 World War II German prisoners of war and two Italian POWs at the Post Cemetery.

Despite the cold wind gusts, representatives from both the German Navy Military Attaché and Italian Military Attaché in Washington, D.C., stood at attention as they paid tribute to the POWs during the annual German and Italian Wreath-Laying Ceremony on Sunday.

Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard was joined by Capt. Juergen Looft of the German Attaché and Lt. Col. Luigi Bramati, deputy of the Italian Attaché, to speak at the wreath-laying.

At the start of the 30-minute ceremony, the Navy Information Operations Command Color Guard posted the colors. Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Satterlee gave the invocation and benediction.

Acting as emcee, Public Affairs Director Chad Jones introduced each speaker. Rickard spoke first.

"Thank you for attending our ceremony today to commemorate the 35 brothers in arms from Germany and Italy who are laid to rest here at Fort Meade, far from their homelands," Rickard said.

These German and Italian POWs were housed at the Fort Meade detention camp during the war and subsequently died during captivity.

"I'm grateful to join our distinguished allied guests ... as we unite today to respect fallen comrades, to honor the common bond that all professional military share, and to affirm the strength of our alliance today," Rickard said.

Rickard also spoke of the bond that has been forged between the United States, Germany and Italy.

"Our three nations have built strong alliances and stand together today, united in memory, just as we stand united in commitment against threats from state and non-state actors," he said. "As we honor the fallen here today, let us remain united in our alliance to preserve the common bond of professional military that transcend the ephemeral winds of politics."

In his remarks, Looft thanked Rickard for hosting the ceremony, Bramati for jointly



Lt. Col. Luigi Bramati, a deputy with the Italian Military Attaché, speaks at Fort Meade's annual German and Italian Wreath-Laying Ceremony on Sunday morning.

commemorating the event, and the Fort Meade German Women's Club for preparing "the graves for today in such a nice and dignified manner."

In addition to the flags, the German Women's Club decorated the graves with bouquets of red and yellow flowers.

## Commemorating POWs

Germany recently marked Volkstrauertag, the country's National Day of Mourning. The public holiday commemorates the victims of the two world wars and those who died in other armed conflicts.

"The Day of National Mourning in November admonishes us not to forget the victims of war and tyranny," Looft said. "We need to remember who they were and what they died for. Their courage should perhaps strengthen our resolve and generosity in helping those now fleeing the horrors of war [who] yearn for the freedoms we enjoy."

Looft reminded those in attendance that there are ongoing conflicts taking place around the world and it is important to pay tribute to those who risk their lives to preserve democracy.

"By remembering the dead, we are

making a significant contribution to peace and democracy in the present," he said. "Moments of remembrance allow us to learn from our mistakes and better ourselves."

"Most importantly, it enables us to inspire younger generations to understand the freedom they have been given and to dedicate themselves to preserving it and passing it on to future generations."

Bramati followed with a detailed description of the history of Italian POWs during World War II.

He painted a picture of ill-equipped Italian service members, armed with only their courage and dedication to Italy.

Of the service members who fought under the Italian flag, 600,000 were captured and detained by Allied forces — 51,000 of whom were brought to the United States "as prisoners of war, as enemies," Bramati said.

He later reiterated the strength of the alliance between Italy, German and the United States.

"This ceremony helps to remind us that since the end of the second world war, our American, German and Italian soldiers have been training together, serving together side



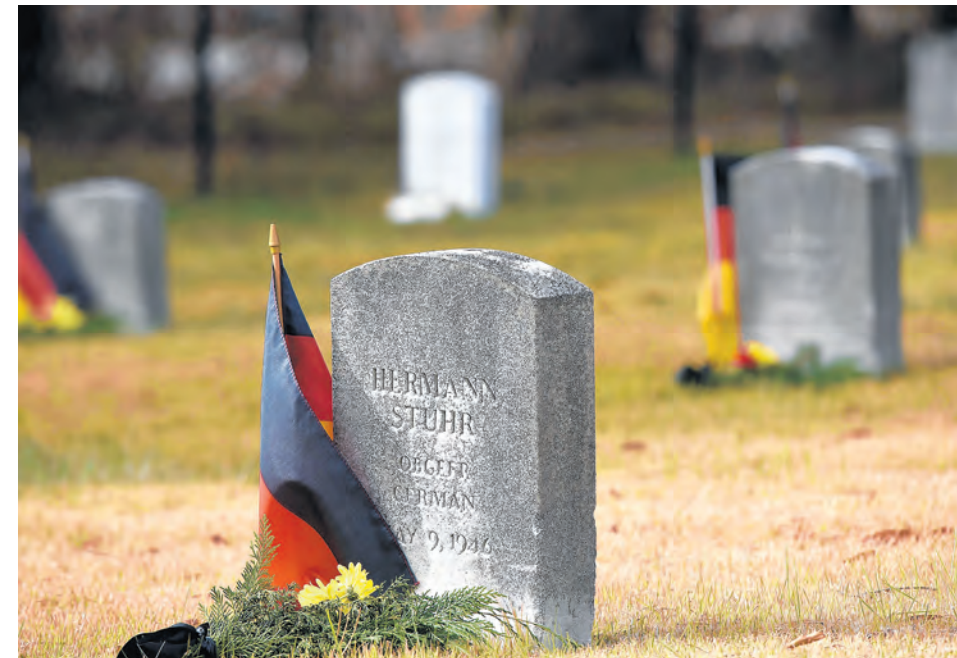
Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes, Capt. Juergen Looft of the German Navy Military Attaché, Lt. Col. Luigi Bramati, deputy of the Italian Military Attaché, and Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard salute the German and Italian wreaths.

by side in many theaters of operations, committed to peace and stability," Bramati said.

"Today, we commemorate the fallen Soldiers, and our thoughts and prayers are for all the men and women who have served their countries and for those that are still serving."

After the remarks, Rickard, Looft, Bramati and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes saluted the German and Italian wreaths.

The ceremony was followed by brunch at Club Meade. Rickard led a toast to the continued partnership between the U.S., Germany and Italy.



Decorated before the ceremony by the Fort Meade German Women's Club, the grave-stone of a German POW is marked by a German flag and fresh flowers.



STEVE RUARK/BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP

An Italian flag and fresh flowers mark the headstone of an Italian World War II POW buried in the Post Cemetery.

This was German Army Master Sgt. Christian Hassdenteufel's first time attending the ceremony and his fifth month in the United States working at the German Armed Forces Command in Reston, Va.

"I think it was a wonderful ceremony," he said. "It is important to attend these kinds of events."

Growing up in Germany, Hassdenteufel observed Volkstrauertag by attending church services or visiting a cemetery.

"For me, [honoring fallen Soldiers] is kind of a routine every year," he said.

Isolde Fletcher, president of the German Women's Club for the past three years, has participated in preparing the flower bouquets during the seven years she's lived at Fort Meade.

"It is our honor to provide flowers and the flags," Fletcher said. "As long as we can, we will."



## JIBBER JABBER - OPINION

# New level of thankfulness

As if you needed to ask, there is no better day than Thanksgiving.

In fact, as I'm finishing things up before my annual pilgrimage to Michigan, I'm hard-pressed to find a better weekend on my calendar than Thanksgiving weekend.

This magical time brings together all of life's necessities into one, tidy 96-hour package. I call them the four Fs: Food, Football, Family and Fighting.

Fighting is the last thing people match with the spirit of Thanksgiving weekend. But let's be real. Thanksgiving is nothing if not contentious:

White meat vs. dark meat; sweet potato vs. pumpkin; stuffing vs. mashed potatoes; undue the belt vs. elastic waistband; crazy, drunk Uncle Art vs. crazy, drunk Aunt Daw; Trump vs. Clinton; in-laws vs. true bloods; Claw vs. Booger. Do I really need that third extra scoop of gravy?

And that's just on Thursday. Don't get me started on Black Friday shopping, leftovers, the best holiday movies, or "Is it too soon to put lights up?"

However, this weekend's conflicts are being taken to a new, unprecedented level because this time of battle is being joined by the two biggest beefs in my fandom.

On Thursday, the Dallas Cowboys play the Deadskins. Then on Saturday, Michigan plays Ohio State, aka THE worst team in sports.

My disdain for The Skins and Ohio State is well-documented, deep and warranted. I am that dad who would send his kids to their room (actually, it will be Aunt Rosie's room) crying, simply for rooting for the wrong squad. I am that man pushing his car across the state line simply to avoid giving Ohio any of my hard-earned money.

I know this is a bit intense for a Thanksgiving column, so let me bring



**Chad T. Jones**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
OFFICER

things down to a more cheerful level and close with a few things I'm thankful for:

1) Tony Romo:

I know Dak is the man in Dallas, but how Romo handled his benching was class personified. He could have gone the route of so many other stars who dropped a chaos grenade in the middle of the locker room as opposed to accepting athletic reality.

Instead, "Tony Terrific" took the high road. I'm confident his time will come — probably even this season — and when it does, his team will have his back because he had theirs. <http://bit.ly/2fBNDC0>

2) "The Raiders March":

No I'm not talking about the Oakland Raiders, though at 8-2, the Silver and Black are tearing up the AFC West — as I predicted. I'm talking about composer John Williams' masterpiece theme song for "Indiana Jones." <http://bit.ly/2gcJRnf>

I've had it on loop for the past few weeks. During which time, I've kicked more booty than the proverbial donkey.

3) College basketball:

I know it is technically football season, but the next couple of weeks will have a ton of great college basketball games, which will help fill any dead time you may have between football and fighting.

4) Family: I have a great one.

5) My staff: See No. 4.

6) The Fort Meade community:

You keep me on my toes, Team Meade, and I can't say enough how much I appreciate your continued support, Jabber Nation.

Have a safe, happy Thanksgiving. Go Blue and long live The Star!

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

## SPORTS SHORTS

## Fort Meade Run Series

The final race in the 2016 Fort Meade Run Series is the Reindeer Run 5K on Dec. 10 at Murphy Field House.

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

The 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.

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 Friday from noon to 11 p.m.

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

Black Friday Pin Deck Specials includes \$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).

## Turkey Torcher Aerobathon

The Turkey Torcher Aerobathon is Friday at 10 a.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center, 6330 Broadfoot 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).

## 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).

## 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.

## Tae Kwon Do

Child and Youth Services offers a Tae Kwon Do class Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Youth Center.

Classes are broken into different age groups.

Classes for ages 4 to 6 cost \$45 per month. Classes for ages 7-17 cost \$85 per month.

For more information, call 301-677-1149.

## 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.



**REMEMBER TO SUBMIT  
YOUR FOOTBALL PICKS!**

**Win prizes every Sunday! Entry forms  
available every Tuesday at The Lanes.  
Questions? Call (301) 677-5541**



## NEWS & NOTES

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

- ◆ Thanksgiving Day to Sunday
- ◆ Dec. 23-26
- ◆ Dec. 30-Jan. 2

Access Control Points:

- 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).

### Thanksgiving at Freedom Inn

Enjoy Thanksgiving at the Freedom Inn Dining Facility, 8502 Simonds St.

Seating time on Thursday is 11 a.m. to noon for service members only, and noon to 2 p.m. for service members and civilians.

Eligible patrons include active-duty service members, Reservists, retirees, DoD civilian employees, contractors and guests.

The holiday menu features roast turkey, three suckling pigs, T-bone steak, honey-glazed ham, roast beef, shrimp bisque, shrimp cocktail, sweet potato casserole, stuffing, mac and cheese, vegetables and dinner rolls.

Desserts range from pies and red velvet cake to cupcakes, bread pudding and cheesecake-flavored frozen yogurt.

Beverages include sparkling apple cider and eggnog.

Traditionally, the Thanksgiving lunch meal is served by senior enlisted and officers of the participating tenant activities.

Cost is \$9.05 for active-duty service members (E-5 and above), military retirees, DoD civilians, contractors, family members of sergeant and above, and guests.

Discount rate is \$6.80 for family members of meal cardholders (private and specialist).

No charge for toddlers ages 5 and younger.

For more information, call Bridget Hall at 301-677-9413 or email [et.a.hall.civ@mail.mil](mailto:et.a.hall.civ@mail.mil).

### Thanksgiving at Club Meade

Celebrate the holiday with a Thanksgiving Day Buffet at Club Meade.

Two seating times: Thursday, 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 community.

Registration is encouraged.

To register or for more information, visit [armyfieldband.com](http://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](mailto: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.

For more information, go to [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com) for more details.

### Thrift Shop hours

See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14



NEWS & NOTES, *From page 13*

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.

**Symphony of Lights**

Symphony of Lights, a 20-minute drive-through of more than 100 larger-than-life holiday light displays, is open through Jan. 1 on Wednesdays through Sundays from 5:30-10 p.m. at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia.

Military appreciation nights, on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, offer service members a 50 percent discount off tickets to the drive-through. Active-duty service members, retirees and Reservists with government-issued IDs and their dependents qualify.

Symphony of Lights features refurbished light displays and 20 new custom displays, a laser light show and a 3-D holiday video projected 50 feet high.

Tickets regularly cost \$20 per car except Saturdays, when the cost is \$25. Symphony of Lights is closed to vehicles on Dec. 31.

An ice skating rink also opened at Symphony of Lights — Howard County's only outdoor rink — through Jan. 8.

The rink, located near the corner of Little Patuxent Parkway and Broken Land Parkway, is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 3 to 8 p.m. and Fridays through Sundays from noon to 9 p.m.

Two-hour admission tickets cost \$9 for adults and \$7 for children, with skate rentals for \$4.

Special-rate tickets cost \$7 for service members on Wednesdays, and for seniors on Tuesdays through Thursdays. Group rates, season passes and private rink rentals are also available.

For more information, call 410-740-7666 or visit [www.hcgh.org/symphonyoflights](http://www.hcgh.org/symphonyoflights).

**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



COURTESY OF ARMY RESERVE FORT FAMILY PROGRAM

**The Combined Federal Campaign is an annual authorized solicitation of federal employees in their workplace that runs from Sept. 1 through December 15. The proceeds from CFC are donated to approved charitable organizations.**

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-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

- Pre-Deployment Brief: Dec. 15, 10-11:30 a.m., FFSC

**Financial**

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

- Thrift Savings Plan: Dec. 13, 9-11 a.m., ACS

- Home Buying: Dec. 20, 9 a.m. to noon, 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: Dec. 1, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

- Anger Management: Dec. 6, 9-11 a.m.,

**FFSC**

- Effective Communication: Dec. 7, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

- Time Management: Dec. 8, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

- Healthy Relationships: Dec. 16, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

**Navy**

- Navy Family Orientation: Dec. 14, 5-7 p.m., FFSC

**Navy and Marine Corps (only)**

- Budget for Baby: Dec. 16, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.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).

**Swinging Squares**

Dance classes for the Swinging Squares Square Dance Club, which features Modern Western Square Dancing, are offered Thursday nights from 7-9 p.m. at Meade Middle School.

Session 1 runs to Dec. 15, with a class dance night on Dec. 17.

The session is open to adults and children ages 9 and older.

No experience, no partner and no fancy clothes required.

Swinging Squares dances the third and fifth Saturday of each month (excluding school holidays) to May from 7:30-10 p.m. at Meade Middle School.

For more information, call Carl at 410-

271-8776 or Darlene at 410-519-2536.

**YOUTH****ESC Children's Holiday Party**

The Enlisted Spouses' Club will host its annual Children's Holiday Party on Dec. 3 from noon to 4 p.m. at Pershing Hill Elementary School, 7600 29th Division Road.

The festive event will feature free photos with Santa, games, face painting, crafts and giveaways.

The first group of families will receive a fresh Christmas tree.

For more information, email Mavi at [vicepresident@ftmeadeESC.org](mailto:vicepresident@ftmeadeESC.org).

**Breakfast with Santa**

Breakfast with Santa Claus is Dec. 10 from 8-11 a.m. at Club Meade.

The annual event is open to the Fort Meade community.

Space is limited. Tickets are required and are only available at the Youth Center. Purchase in advance.

Tickets cost \$8 per child ages 5-11 and \$14 for ages 12 and older.

Activities include a letter-writing workshop, cookie-decorating station, Santa's Elves Workshop, story time with Mrs. Claus and photo with Santa Claus.

The breakfast buffet will feature scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage patties, home-fried potatoes, French toast, grits, biscuits, waffle and omelet stations, assorted cereals, fresh fruit and a hot chocolate bar.

For more information, call the Youth Center at 301-677-1437 or 301-677-6054.

**Project Elf**

Fort Meade USO's Project Elf is 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 and Youth 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 CYS.



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

## RECREATION

### Out & About

• **Festival of Trees** by Kennedy Krieger Institute is Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 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 Sunday 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.

Tickets include hot buffet breakfast and all-day admissions to Festival of Trees. Children 12 and younger will receive a gift from Santa, unlimited train and carousel rides, and access to the fun house.

Santa Land features visits with Santa, train ride, carousel, fun house, carnival games, wildlife adventures (mini petting zoo), remote control race track, race car simulator ride, "reindeer" pony rides, letter writing to Santa and vendor activities.

For more information, call 443-923-7300, email [events@kennedykrieger.org](mailto: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

• **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 Monday. 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 Monday. 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.

• **Anne Arundel Genealogical Society's** meeting and holiday gathering is Dec. 1 from 7-9:30 p.m. at Severna Park United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall), 731 Benfield Road, Severna Park. Guests are welcome.

Tom McCarriar, the AAGS president, will discuss "Sarah Goldsborough: Civil War Widow — Persistence Pays Off."

Shelley Pollero, AAGS past president, will present on "Using Power Point to Share Your Family History Research."

Louis Sapienza, research volunteer for AAGS, will share "Tips for Finding Maiden Names."

Refreshments and networking will follow the meeting.

For more information, visit [aagenso-c.org](http://aagenso-c.org) or call the group at the Kuethe Library at 410-760-9679 from Thursday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **"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 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. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. For more information, call Charisma Wooten at 240-568-6055.

• **Moms of Multiples Group** meets every first and third Thursday of the month from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

• **National Alliance on Mental Illness of Anne Arundel County** offers a free support group for families with a loved one suffering from mental illness on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Odenton Library, 1325 Annapolis Road. For more information, visit [namiaa-c.org](http://namiaa-c.org).

• **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 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.

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

## 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 Dec. 4



DAVID JAMES/AP

**Friday & Sunday: "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.

**Saturday: "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.

**Dec. 2: "Hacksaw Ridge" (R).** World War II Army Medic Desmond T. Doss, who served during the Battle of Okinawa, refuses to kill people, and becomes the first man in American history to win the Medal of Honor without firing a shot. With Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington, Luke Bracey.

**Dec. 3: "Doctor Strange" (PG-13).** A former neurosurgeon embarks on a journey of healing only to be drawn into the world of the mystic arts. With Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams.

**Dec. 4: "Trolls" (PG).** After the Bergens invade Troll Village, Poppy, the happiest Troll ever born, and the curmudgeonly Branch set off on a journey to rescue her friends. With the voices of Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Zooey Deschanel.