

# Soundoff!

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FTMEADE.ARMY.MIL



## Holiday spirit aglow

Tree lighting celebration kicks off season on Fort Meade **PG 9**

Holding lit candles, children sing Christmas carols during the tree lighting ceremony Friday evening outside the Main Post Chapel. The 45-minute ceremony also featured holiday music, hot chocolate and a guest appearance by Santa.

PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

### CRITICAL THINKING

IB Program inspires students' creativity

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today, 6:30 p.m.:** ESC Meeting, Potomac Place Community Center  
**Friday, 11 a.m.:** CSM Forbes Change of Responsibility, McGill  
**Dec. 20, 11 a.m.:** Society of Military Widows Brunch, Club Meade  
**Dec. 20, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.:** Winter Camp, Youth Center

### TURNING THE PAGE

Children's Library closes prior to move

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# Soundoff!

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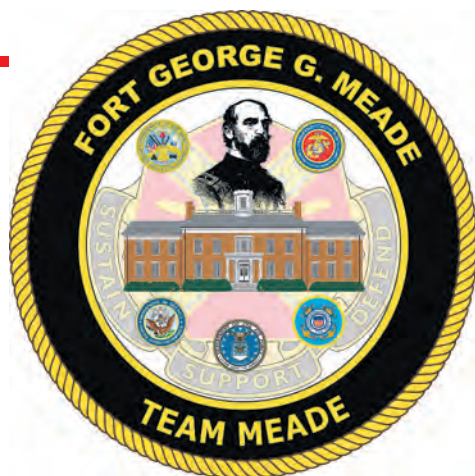
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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN-GUEST

# Farewell, Team Meade!

As I prepared this week's column, it struck me that it will be the last article I write as your garrison command sergeant major.

So I am going to use this as my opportunity to say farewell and thank you for the many invaluable experiences that I have gained during my time here.

It has truly been a privilege to serve you for the last two years and four months. Thank you for being a member of this team, Team Meade, and allowing me to serve you.

When I think about this great team, I think about the acronym "Together Everyone Achieves More" because it best describes my experience working together with command leadership teams, service members, garrison teammates, tenant organizations, community partners, and our veterans and retirees.

As I reflect on the various projects, I credit this team — working with Soldiers, service members, garrison teammates and tenant organizations — for the progress and changes that have taken place during my assignment. You participated in ceremonies honoring our veterans to ensure they know that they continue to be valued members of the military family and ensure they are honored for their contributions.

This was accomplished through ceremonies, tributes and teamwork that have become synonymous with the term Team Meade.

It inspires me to know we have such a talented workforce of people and volunteers who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that Fort Meade continues to move forward to achieve even more. The best is yet to come.

There are far too many teammates to mention by name so to my friends and family at DPW, DHR, DES, DFMWR, DPTMS, PAO, RSO, PAIO, EEO, EEO HAC, ISO, IRACO, RMO, SJA, CPAC, IG, LRC, MICC and the NEC — thank you!

I would also like to recognize especially



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

the command group support team of Karen, Pam, Lorraine, Spc. Jones and the additional drivers in the HQ building for providing prompt service and excellent support to all who served in the garrison. Thank you from the sincerity of my heart.

Our partner commands and tenants, including the many Fort Meade clubs and associations, have been super supportive and deserve great credit and admiration for all they do for the Fort Meade community — seen and

unseen. Thank you!

My very personal thanks to our senior enlisted partners and Headquarters Command Battalion for always covering down when needed and taking care of other partner organizations.

The Better Opportunities for Single Service Members (BOSS) association is the glue that keeps our single service members together. It has truly been an honor to serve with you.

It has been an honor to serve alongside the service members and cadets for the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, BWI Youth Partnership, Queenstown Celebrations, Honor Salutes and Veterans Day observances. Your faithfulness to serve others who served before you speaks volumes to your character.

Fort Meade, Team Meade — people taking care of people must be among the highest priority on your list. Your attitude, spirit and the way you treat people make a difference.

At the end of the day, when all is said and done, technology changes every year, equipment is bought and sold, but people are everlasting and will always be here.

I encourage all of you to continue all of the great work you are doing to transform this installation into the 21st-century operational platform for information, intelligence and cyber operations.

From "Team Forbes" to yours, farewell and have a blessed, fruitful and overcoming day!

## Commander's Open Door

Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard has an open door policy.

All service members, retirees, government employees, family members and community members age 18 or older are invited to address issues or concerns to the commander directly by visiting Rickard's office on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at garrison headquarters in Hodges Hall, Bldg. 4551, Llewellyn Avenue.

For more information, call 301-677-4844.

# The Closer

## Forbes reflects on service as retirement draws near

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

As Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes prepares for his change-of-responsibility ceremony on Friday, he has one piece of advice for his successor.

“Put on your seat belt and enjoy the ride,” Forbes said with a smile.

After two years and four months of service at Fort Meade, Forbes will relinquish command as the installation’s senior enlisted adviser to Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Cullen. Forbes will officially retire on June 14 — the Army’s birthday.

“This has been an honor for me and my wife [Patricia] — a.k.a. ‘Sweet P’ — to be your humble servants,” he said.

### A Superior NCO

Forbes’ tenure began in August 2014 when Col. Brian P. Foley served as garrison commander. Col. Tom Rickard assumed command of the garrison in August.

“Command Sergeant Major Forbes is a consummate senior NCO who provided exactly the counsel and advice I needed in an extremely candid, but always professional manner. ...,” Rickard said. “He has earned the respect of subordinates, peers and superiors for his absolute competence, enforcement of standards and skillful comportment.”

Before he arrived at Fort Meade, Forbes served as command sergeant major of the 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Schweinfurt, Germany. When Forbes tracked his Fort Meade assignment, he researched the installation’s vision and mission statements. He learned that he would help manage a garrison with a workforce of more than 55,000 that includes service members from each of the military services, DoD civilians and private contractors.

Forbes said he and Foley worked hard together to serve the needs of the Fort Meade community.

“We did everything we could to support them,” he said. “But if we could not do it, we said ‘No, we cannot.’ But that word ‘no’ was not a word that we want to use frequently.”



FILE PHOTO

**Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes gives the honor salute during this year’s Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day observance.**

Unlike leading a military unit like the 72nd, where a leader can “set up a predictable schedule” for training and other directives, managing a garrison like Fort Meade can be a bit daunting, said Forbes.

“Each day brings unique challenges,” he said.

When people came to the garrison leadership with their concerns, Forbes said they had exhausted all other alternatives and it was up to Foley and him to consult with directorate leaders to see how problems could be solved.

Some decisions could be “a matter of life or death,” Forbes said. “It was very serious business.”

The day-to-day operations of the garrison were paramount, said Forbes, but the recognition and promotion of Fort Meade as a 21st-century cyber operations platform was also a priority.

Foley was a “valuable asset” in that effort, said Forbes.

“I called him ‘The Professor,’” Forbes

said of Foley, because of the colonel’s ability to clearly articulate Fort Meade’s mission as the nation’s pre-eminent intelligence center.

Forbes said he was “The Closer” who brought the colonel’s message home to the garrison’s leaders.

Foley, who is now the chief of the Strategic Initiatives Group and assistant chief of staff for Installation Management Headquarters at the Pentagon, called Forbes “one of the best noncommissioned officers I have worked with in my 26-year career.”

### Honoring Veterans

Rickard said Forbes completely understood the challenges facing an officer with an operational background in the garrison environment.

“He easily translated many of the garrison’s peculiar terms and procedures into readily understood terms for me,” Rickard said. “... He is one of the best public speakers I have observed in 26 years of military service and most gifted in his ability to tailor the message to the right audience.”

Rickard said he is “proud” to have worked with “one of the Army’s absolute best senior leaders.”

For his part, Forbes said the most rewarding experience during his tenure has been the partnership he established with Hospice of the Chesapeake, a nonprofit based in Pasadena, Md., that provides palliative and hospice care.

Shortly after he came on board at Fort Meade, Diane Sancilio, the director of volunteer services at Hospice of the Chesapeake, approached Forbes and asked him if he could help provide service members to participate in the organization’s Honor Salute Program. The program honors military veterans who are hospice patients.

Forbes said he checked with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate to see if Fort Meade service members could participate. After the green light was given, Fort Meade’s service members have participated through the garrison’s Army Volunteer Corps Program.

Forbes was also asked to lead the

Honor Salute for the organization’s first annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day observance on March 30, 2015.

Gov. Larry Hogan had signed legislation establishing Welcome Home Veterans Day on that day.

“I had the distinct honor and privilege to march with 25 service members to render the honors,” Forbes said.

Forbes and the service members saluted the Vietnam veterans who were in attendance. The event was so meaningful that it “sparked something in my heart,” he said.

Since then, the plight of Vietnam veterans, who were not properly honored by the nation for their service, has become a passionate cause for Forbes.

He was the guest speaker for this year’s Honor Salute at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day observance, which was attended by more than 800 military veterans, and plans to speak again next year.

“Forbes has been instrumental in building our honor salute program,” Sancilio said. “By leading salutes of hundreds of active-duty military at our events to celebrate our veterans as well as inspiring them to go to the home of a dying veteran to thank them for their service and to give them a final salute, he has changed lives.”

Fort Meade’s partnership with the Hospice of the Chesapeake has been firmly established and will continue after his departure, Forbes said.

Forbes was involved in many other Fort Meade programs as well.

“The work ... Forbes did with Hospice of the Chesapeake, the BOSS program, the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Program and thanking Vietnam veterans are just a few among the many efforts that will leave a permanent mark on Fort Meade,” Foley said.

Forbes said he hopes he will be remembered as someone who was “open, candid and genuine.”

Forbes said he and his wife will remain active in the Fort Meade community and will relocate to Raeford, N.C., after his retirement.

“As my wife says, ‘The best is yet to come,’” he said. “We believe the garrison is in great and superb hands.”



# IB Programme gives students taste of China

STORY BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

Throughout the morning of Dec. 5, a group of fifth-graders at Manor View Elementary School learned how to add and subtract using an abacus.

The instruction, led by substitute teacher Brendan Kennedy, was part of a Mandarin Chinese class in the school's International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

"I didn't know a lot about [the abacus] before this class," said Legend Campbell, 10. "I like learning about Chinese numbers and different cultures. ... I'd like to get the experience to go to China."

Kennedy, who taught English at a high school in China for a year before he began teaching at Manor View in September, said the purpose of the class is to explore the history and cultural importance of the abacus to China and to teach math skills.

"They seemed very excited to try and learn something new," Kennedy said. "From my perspective, IB is important because it allows students to make connections with

the world, which is so vital in our globalized century."

Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate is a nonprofit educational foundation offering four programs of international education that develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world.

Schools must be authorized by the IB organization to offer any of the programs, according to the IB website.

"All IB programs encourage critical thinking and questioning, global awareness and perspective, problem-based learning and meaningful action," said Mary Austin, IB coordinator for the Anne Arundel County Public Schools. "The IB was originally designed to be 'portable education' that allowed students who traveled from country to country to pursue a consistent educational program. For these reasons, IB is a natural fit for military children."

Manor View is one of three Fort Meade feeder schools that offer the IB Programme. MacArthur Middle School offers the IB

Middle Years Programme to all its students. Meade High School offers the IB Middle Years Programme to freshmen and sophomores, and the IB Diploma Programme to juniors and seniors. Currently, 18 county schools offer IB at three high schools, three middle schools, 10 elementary schools and two public charter/contract schools.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

**Fifth-grader G'quiveon Oates, 10, uses an abacus during class.**

Mandarin is Manor View's choice of language.

For example, Manor View's second-grade students are currently working on the IB theme of Where We Are In Time and Place. They are inquiring the central idea of "Environment Impacts Homes and Journeys," which includes a focus on how communities depend on active citizens and how environment impacts homes and journeys.

As part of this Unit of Inquiry, Lisa Griffin-Shortt led her class in a reading assignment about how the Pilgrims journeyed to America and how they were affected by the change in their environment.

"The focus here was to develop the students' reading skills, as well as being globally minded about other places and times," Griffin-Shortt said, while also developing research and communication skills.

The lesson draws on social studies and science content as well.

Attitudes are one of the essential elements of the Primary Years Programme and are included in all Units of Inquiry. "Some of the IB attitudes we were addressing were appreciation, empathy and curiosity," she said.

Griffin-Shortt said the IB curriculum is beneficial to students because it allows for more creative thinking, and teachers can connect to other subjects while following standards.

The Primary Years Programme is the curriculum for the entire school and enrolls between 325 and 350 students at any given time due to the transiency of the military population. "Manor View is a neighborhood school, so students must live within our district boundaries," Ross said. "We accept students who speak languages other than English and who have a variety of academic and social needs."

Austin said the IB is an excellent choice for Fort Meade families.

"IB World School students develop strong academic, social and emotional characteristics," she said. "They are also likely to perform well academically, often better than students in other programs."

Ten-year-old Yosuar Rivera said he likes being an IB student. Not only is he learning Mandarin Chinese, but in his world history class he is learning about World War I and World War II. He plans to enlist in the Air Force.

"I want to touch the skies in a fighter plane and make airplanes, too," he said.

Austin said IB can inspire curiosity. "I hope that in addition to knowledge and skills, my IB students gain or further develop a love of lifelong learning," she said.

For more information, go to [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).



## Anne Arundel County Public Schools

### Upcoming Events

<b>Dec 16</b>	Meade Mustangs v. Glen Burnie Basketball Game Glen Burnie High School, 6:45 p.m.
<b>Dec 16</b>	Winter Dance Concert, 4-7 p.m. Meade High School, Tickets: \$6.25 Purchase at <a href="http://www.tututix.com/MeadeHighSchool">www.tututix.com/MeadeHighSchool</a>
<b>Dec 20</b>	End of Marketing Period for AACPS
<b>Jan 22</b>	Meade Mustangs v. Chopticon Basketball Game Meade High School, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Dec 23</b>	Start of Winter Break for AACPS
<b>Dec 28</b>	Register for Jan. 23 SAT, late registration by Jan. 12 Visit <a href="http://MeadeSeniorHigh.org">MeadeSeniorHigh.org</a> for more information.
<b>Jan 3</b>	AACPS reopen

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For more information, visit: [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org)



# Jazz Ambassadors bring the swing in holiday concert

BY LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

**T**he U.S. Army Field Band's annual "Sound The Bells!" holiday concert featured the smooth sounds of the Jazz Ambassadors.

The 75-minute concert, presented Dec. 7 at Meade High School, showcased popular Christmas and seasonal songs performed with instrumental solos and the cool melodic vocals of Sgt. 1st Class Randall Wight.

"It was great," said Darlene Lurz of Pasadena, who attended with friends. "We're not really jazz fans, but this was fabulous. They are really gifted musicians."

Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard welcomed the audience and presented Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Wood, director of the Jazz Ambassadors, with a Fort Meade plaque of appreciation.

The holiday concert is a Fort Meade tradition. "Our mission is to serve and inspire the American people by telling the Army story and honoring our Soldiers and veterans as the musical ambassadors of the Army," said Jonathan Agee, public affairs officer for the Field Band. "Our holiday concerts are another opportunity to accom-

plish our mission and connect the American public with the Army."

Last week's concert began with a musical prelude of "Deck the Halls," followed by "The Star-Spangled Banner" led by Wight.

The performances showcased the swing of jazz, with renditions of "Winter Wonderland" and "Sleigh Ride." A highlight of the evening was "Have Yourself A Very Merry Christmas" by the Jazz Ambassadors' Dixieland Band.

Wood invited the audience to sing along to such Christmas favorites as "Here Comes Santa Claus," "Frosty the Snowman" and "Jingle Bells." Audience members stood up and sang along to the lyrics printed in the concert program.

The concert ended with a jazzy rendition of selections from "The Nutcracker," followed by the Armed Forces Salute and "God Bless the USA."

"The whole group of musicians are so talented and very impressive," said retired Col. Robert Cochran of Ellicott City who came with his wife, Becky.

Odenton resident Mable Wright said she attended last year's concert and made it a point to come this year as well. "It was wonderful," she said, noting that the Armed Forces Salute is one of her favorite songs. "I am so proud to be an American."



Eliana Mondok, 1, enjoys the concert with her father, Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Mondok, of the 94th Intelligence Squadron; mother, Erin; and brother, Connor, 3.



Sgt. 1st Class Randall Wight, vocalist, sings a holiday song with musicians from the Jazz Ambassadors during the 75-minute concert.



The U.S. Army Field Band's Jazz Ambassadors perform during the band's annual "Sound the Bells!" holiday concert on Dec. 7 at Meade High School.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Epley, a guitarist with the Jazz Ambassadors, solos during one of the popular Christmas and seasonal songs presented at the concert.

PHOTOS BY STEVE RUARK



# Children's and Young Adults' Library moving to Medal of Honor

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

**D**ue to a reduction in staff, the Children's and Young Adults' Library Annex at Kuhn Hall will close and relocate to the Medal of Honor Memorial Library located at 4418 Llewellyn Ave.

"The Children's Library collection will remain intact and will be transferred to the Medal of Honor Memorial Library next door as soon as shelf space becomes available," said Karen Hayward, supervisory librarian.

Hayward said the staff is now working to make space for the children's collection. Airmen have volunteered to move the collection to the Medal of Honor Memorial Library throughout the week.

"My plan is for the children's books to become available for checkout on Tuesday," she said.

Hayward is leaving her position at the Medal of Honor Memorial Library on Jan. 6 after 11 years of service.

Beginning Jan. 9, Hayward will be a librarian at the Defense Information School Library.

The remaining library staff is one full-time librarian technician and one part-time library technician.

The Children's and Young Adults'



PHOTO BY LISA R. RHODES

**Karen Hayward is leaving her position as supervisory librarian on Jan. 6.**

Library was established at 4415 Llewellyn Ave. in 2013 before the opening of the Army Wellness Center that summer.

The Army Wellness Center is located in the same facility as the Medal of Honor Memorial Library. The children's collection had been moved to Kuhn Hall to accommodate AWC.

Beginning Tuesday, the Medal of Honor Memorial Library will be open Tuesdays to Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Know your rights when using layaway to purchase an item

**BY JANE M. WINAND**  
Legal Assistance Attorney

**D**uring the holidays, you may want to purchase gifts for family and friends while also attempting to pay down your credit card balance to eliminate debt and reduce high, monthly interest charges.

One option is to buy an item through a layaway program rather than charging the purchase on your credit card.

A layaway is an arrangement in which you agree to purchase an item by making a down payment and then follow-up payments until the item is paid in full. The merchant agrees to hold the specific item or an identical item for you until you've made all the payments.

The Maryland Layaway Sales Act requires the merchant to provide you with a written layaway contract that specifies all of your rights and obligations. If the merchant fails to provide you with an agreement or fails to follow all of the requirements of the law, you may cancel the agreement and receive a full refund of all the monies that you paid.

The agreement must state the store's name and address, your name and address, a complete description of the item being placed on layaway, the price of the merchandise, the amount of the initial deposit and the balance still owed, the number of payments you must make, and the date that each payment is due.

Finally, the agreement must state that you have a 15-day grace period in which you may still make a payment after it is due.

In a layaway situation, the merchant must hold either the specific item that you selected (or an identical item), and deliver the merchandise to you on a specific date after you have paid for the item in full. The merchant also must give you a receipt each

time that you make a payment.

The merchant has to sell you the item at the price set in the agreement, even if the price goes up during the layaway arrangement. A benefit to the buyer is that, if the price goes down within the 10-day period after signing the layaway agreement, the merchant has to sell it to you at the lower price and adjust the balance owed accordingly.

If you request it, within 10 days of the date of the request, the merchant must give you a written statement clearly showing the price of the merchandise on layaway and the balance owed.

If you decide to cancel the layaway arrangement, you may do so within seven days of making the layaway agreement with the merchant and you will receive back all the money you've already paid.

If you cancel the agreement eight days or more after making the layaway agreement, or if you don't make a payment within 15 days of a due date, the merchant is allowed to keep the lesser of the money you've already paid or 10 percent of the full price of the item.

These refund provisions must be specified in the written layaway contract. If the merchant refuses to give you a refund, he or she is in violation of the Maryland Layaway Sales Act, which will overrule the store's own refund policy.

Should you have a problem with a layaway arrangement, contact the business and give the merchant a chance to solve the problem. If that doesn't resolve the issue, contact the Maryland Consumer Protection Division at 410-528-8662 for assistance in resolving the complaint.

You also may schedule an appointment to meet with a Fort Meade Legal Assistance attorney at 301-677-9504 or 301-677-9536.

## COMMUNITY CRIME WATCH

**COMPILED BY FORT MEADE  
DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY  
SERVICES**

**Nov. 26, Shoplifting:** AAFES loss prevention personnel at the Exchange stated he observed, via closed circuit TV, the suspect select one box of EPT 2 test kits. Subject proceeded to next aisle and opened box. She removed two test sticks, concealed the items in her purse and discarded the packaging within the display. Suspect failed to render payment for the items.

**Dec. 5, Shoplifting:** AAFES loss prevention personnel at the Exchange stated she

observed subject in cosmetic department select a bottle of Perry Ellis cologne and place it in child seat portion of cart. Subject proceeded to checkout and paid for all items in her cart except for the cologne.

**Dec. 5, Shoplifting:** AAFES loss prevention personnel at the Exchange stated he observed the subject leaving the store without rendering payment for a Sheffield 3-inch blade pocket knife.

**Dec. 8, Shoplifting:** AAFES loss prevention personnel at the Exchange witnessed subject, via closed circuit TV, exit store with multiple items in a cart, without rendering payment.

## Digital Resources

The Army MWR Library features a wide variety of digital resources and services.

To utilize them, patrons only need to set up an account on the library website.

Steps to set up an online account:  
♦ Visit [mylibraryus.armybiznet.com](http://mylibraryus.armybiznet.com).  
♦ In the upper-left corner of the page, click on the link "Forgot or need a PIN?"

♦ Enter the same email you provided to the library when you registered to become a borrower.  
You will receive an email with a PIN that allows you to access your account.

## Local Libraries

♦ **Odenton Regional Library**  
1325 Annapolis Road  
Odenton, MD 21113  
Tel: 410-222-6277

♦ **Maryland City at Russett Community Library**  
3501 Russett Common  
Laurel, MD 20724  
Tel: 301-725-2390

♦ **Severn Community Library (formerly Province Branch)**  
2624 Annapolis Road  
Severn, MD 21144  
Tel: 410-222-6280



# Holiday spirits soar at annual tree lighting

BY MADDIE ECKER  
Staff Writer

**B**edecked in Santa hats and winter jackets, Fort Meade families brought their holiday cheer to combat the cold for the garrison's annual tree lighting ceremony Friday evening outside the Main Post Chapel.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes merrily welcomed families as they arrived.

"Merry Christmas and happy holidays!" Forbes said. "Thanks for bringing the cold weather; it wouldn't be the tree lighting without it. Get ready to light up the night, sing some carols and have a joyous time."

The 45-minute ceremony, sponsored by the Religious Support Office, featured holiday music, carols, refreshments and a guest appearance from Santa Clause.

"Our goal is for the Fort Meade community to have a safe, fun, family-friendly event to kick off the holidays," said Garrison Family Life Chaplain (Maj.) James Covey.

Volunteers passed out hot chocolate and cookies to eager children while the U.S. Army Field Band's Federal Brass Instrumentalists performed a festive musical prelude.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Cooper greeted the crowd and Garrison Chaplain (Col.) Warren Kirby led the invocation.

Troops from Fort Meade's Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts amped up the holiday spirit with renditions of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Jingle Bells" and "Frosty the Snowman."

Cooper urged children and parents to move closer to the tree for the official lighting while chaplain assistants from the RSO handed out candles and lit them for the attendees.

It took three days for Todd Gribbling, grounds manager for Melwood, and his team to decorate the 65-foot tree. The decorations will stay up until Jan. 2.

"This community is very special," Gribbling said. "Families can come here while their loved one is away. No matter how cold it gets, everyone still comes to this event. It's a very tight-knit community."

Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard made his way to the front of the crowd to choose "one highly motivated Scout to help light the tree." Cooper encouraged everyone to join in the countdown before the switch was flipped.

As the audience shouted "one," the tree lit up with hundreds of multicolored string lights. Parents and children clapped, cheered and whistled to welcome the official start of the holiday season on Fort



A waxing moon hangs from the eastern sky to highlight the lit Christmas tree during the ceremony on Friday evening outside the Main Post Chapel.



Christmas carols are accompanied by the U.S. Army Field Band's Federal Brass Instrumentalists, who also performed a musical prelude to welcome guests.

Meade.

The Federal Brass Instrumentalists performed "Silent Night" while the crowd sang along.

Suddenly, in the distance, the shriek of fire truck sirens could be heard.

"Something's happening," Cooper said to the crowd. "Something's coming! What could that be?"

As the fire engine pulled up to the chapel, Cooper announced "It's Santa Clause!"



PHOTOS BY PHIL GROUT

The team of Col. Thomas Rickard and Nicole Drew high-five after flipping the switch to light the Christmas tree.

Marine Staff Sgt. Jeremy Morrow held his 2-year-old son Jameson as children lined up to get a picture with Santa.

"This event helps get the kids out of the house," Morrow said. "We try to teach them about the holiday spirit, togetherness and giving."

For Morrow, who was stationed in Hawaii before coming to Fort Meade, the 32-degree temperature was "a lot colder than anticipated."

Morrow attended the event with his wife, Megan, and their 9-month-old daughter Annabel.

"With any military service, there's a sense of brotherhood and togetherness," Morrow said. "There's [a lot of people] who can't relate to what we do, so it's nice to come out and spend time with brothers and sisters in arms."

Bethany Hancock, wife of Lt. Jeremy Hancock, waited in line with daughters Ansley, 7, and Blaire, 4, to snap a picture with the tree.

This was the family's first time at the Fort Meade tree lighting ceremony, but it wasn't their first time coming together with a post community to get in the holiday spirit. Before arriving at Fort Meade this past summer, the Hancocks were stationed in Georgia and Florida.

When asked what they were most excited for this Christmas, Ansley and Blaire were quick to respond.

"Snow, snow, snow!" Blaire shouted.

"My birthday," Ansley added. "And seeing Santa!"

For Hancock, attending the ceremony was a way to do something fun with her family.

"Our daughters love the tree lighting," she said. "It's a tradition."



# Santa, Mrs. Claus host breakfast

By LISA R. RHODES  
Staff Writer

PHOTOS BY PHIL GROUT

**M**ore than 300 children gathered Saturday morning at Club Meade for Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The annual event, which featured a buffet

breakfast, was sponsored by Child and Youth Services.

After a hearty breakfast of waffles, scrambled eggs and sausage, children busied themselves with arts and crafts projects such as making picture frames, decorating cookies and ornaments, and writing letters to Santa. A highlight was a Christmas interpretive dance performed by Fort Meade dancers.



After chatting with Santa and Mrs. Claus, 3-year old Grant Ngo shows off the new stuffed animal he received as a Christmas gift.



A Fort Meade dance troupe entertains the large gathering with a Christmas interpretive dance routine during Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning at Club Meade.



Jolly jester Doug Bennett of the Fort Meade Teen Center gets a smile from Camdyn Scott, 2, at a table of Christmas tree ornaments.



Bridgette Stomach, 5, fills her plate with waffles, eggs, sausage and a muffin at the breakfast buffet.



While 5-year-old Shane Cox takes a bite of his muffin, 11-month-old Finn tries to have a conversation with his big brother.



Myla Barringer, 4, decorates her Christmas cookie, one of several activities during Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning at Club Meade.



## ARMY-NAVY GAME

# Cadets triumph over Mids, bring 14-year streak to end

BY SEAN KIMMONS

Army News Service

Wearing a short-sleeve T-shirt in the frigid cold with his face painted black and gold, the cadet joined other West Point classmates in taunting their rival midshipmen Saturday before the Army-Navy game.

"We beat Temple! We beat Temple!" they belted, referring to the Army's first win of the season against the Temple Owls, a team that managed to beat Navy in the American Athletic Conference Championship Game a week before.

The midshipmen waited until it was their turn and then quickly responded with a chant of their own: "14 years! 14 years!" — the number of years since the last time Army won against Navy on the gridiron.

"This is an unforgettable experience," Alek Kauffman, the cadet leading the Army chant, said about the annual game. "It's my favorite day of the whole year."

A few hours later, the day got much better for Kauffman and his fellow cadets when the Army sneaked by with a 21-17 victory over their archrival.

"It still doesn't even feel like it's real," said Edgar Poe, a senior wide receiver with the Black Knights, following the game. "People were always talking about the [losing] streak. We're starting our own streak now."

Swarms of cadets emptied the bleachers and rushed onto the field after the final seconds ticked away. Army players, like senior quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw, were caught up in the mayhem.

"I honestly just went blank [when] I saw a bunch of cadets running at me," he said. "It was an amazing feeling. ... We haven't won in 14 years, so they were waiting for that to happen."

"They took my helmet," Poe chimed in, grinning. "I have no idea where it is."

At the annual event, the pageantry of marching cadets and midshipmen joined a sellout crowd of loyal fans who fervidly cheered as the teams faced each other for the 117th time.

"It's one of the greatest rivalries of sports history," observed Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley before the game.

"But at the end of the day, no matter who wins or loses, these young cadets and midshipmen will all get commissioned as officers in the United States military, and shoulder to shoulder they will fight and destroy the enemies of the United States of America when the time comes."

This year, the Army football team donned special uniforms honoring the 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers of World War II. Their jerseys sported the 82nd patch, while their helmets were emblazoned with symbols of individual units in the division, along with a lattice design similar to the netting covering of the helmets worn by the paratroopers during the war.

Three days after the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks, which catapulted the nation into the war, Milley said, it was an appropriate time to honor the 82nd, the Army's only paratrooper division.

"We wanted to single out the 82nd as a tribute to Soldiers from World War II who formed the greatest generation," Milley said, adding that each and every Army division is special.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth "Rock" Merritt, who jumped into enemy territory with the 82nd during the D-Day invasion, represented the division at the game.

Walking around gloveless in temperatures in the mid-30s, he shrugged when he was given a pair of gloves to wear.

"This weather is not near as cold as it was in the Battle of the Bulge; I almost froze to death," he later said. "Today's weather is nothing compared to that."

Even if the game's winning score was what the cadets ultimately wanted, Ferrer and others agreed that the spirit of the yearly matchup is a worthy experience in itself.

"Regardless of the outcome, we're one team in the end," Ferrer said before the game. "As soon as this game is over, we go right back to being brother and sister."

## SPORTS SHORTS

## New Year's Eve cosmic bowling parties

The Lanes is hosting cosmic bowling parties on Dec. 31.

♦ Family Party: 5-8 p.m.

Package for up to six people includes:

One lane rental and shoe rental for all; one bottle of sparkling cider; one large single-topping pizza; one pitcher of soda; snacks and party favors; and games and prize drawings.

♦ Prime Time Party: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Package for up to six people includes:

One lane rental and shoe rental for all; one bottle of sparkling cider or one bottle of Champagne; one large single-topping pizza; one pitcher of soda; snacks and party favors; and games and prize drawings.

Families with children under age 21 will only be served sparkling cider. All others will be served Champagne only upon request.

Advanced reservations are recommended.

To reserve a lane, call 301-677-5541.

## 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 Wednesday.

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 301-677-4779.

## Lifeguarding classes

The American Red Cross is offering full courses in lifeguarding, first aid and CPR/AED.

♦ Lifeguard training will be offered Jan.

21, 22, 28 and 29; Feb. 4, 5, 11 and 12; March 4, 5, 11 and 12; March 4, 5, 11 and 12; April 11-14; and May 13, 14, 20 and 21. Classes meet 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration fee is \$250.

You must present current, valid certification at registration.

Registration fee is \$150.

For more information, call 301-677-7916 or go to [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

## 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.

## Tae Kwon Do

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

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.

- Boxing Circuit Training
- Water Aerobics
- Spin
- Belly Dancing
- Vinyasa yoga
- Pilates
- Metabolic Effect
- Strength and Core
- Rip and Roll Cyle + Abs
- Zumba
- Zumba Gold for seniors

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

## Coaches needed

Youth Sports is seeking volunteer coaches for futsal or basketball.

No experience is necessary. Training is provided.

For more information, call 301-677-1329.

## Hiring lifeguards, water safety instructors

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is now hiring lifeguards for various lifeguard and water safety instructor positions at Gaffney Fitness Center.

For more information, call 301-677-6660; or visit [meade.armymwr.com](http://meade.armymwr.com).

## Jibber-less

Public Affairs Officer Chad T. Jones, author of Jibber Jabber, is out of the office.

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).



## NEWS & NOTES

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

### 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:

◆ Dec. 23-26

◆ Dec. 30-Jan. 2

Access Control Points:

• Reece Road: Open daily 24 hours  
• Mapes Road and Route 32: Open daily, 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).



### Final day to donate to CFC

Fort Meade's 2016 Combined Federal Campaign ends today.

Donate to a local, national or international charity through payroll deduction, cash or check by the end of the day.

To pledge, visit the campaign website at [cbacfc.org](http://cbacfc.org).

Search for the charities of your choice.

Note the five-digit codes for those charities, then log on to myPay to enter the per-pay deduction amount and the amount designated for each charity you have selected.

For more information, contact your unit or organizational representative, or email Capt. Jerry Tseng at [jerry.j.tseng.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jerry.j.tseng.mil@mail.mil).

### Library closing early Friday

The Medal of Honor Memorial Library will be open Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and then be closed so that staff may attend the annual holiday party for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

For more information, call 301-677-5522.

### Holiday Decorating Contest

Corvias Military Housing invites all residents to participate in Corvias' annual Holiday Decorating Contest.

Winning houses will be chosen based on creativity and the overall impression of the yard.

Email your photo submission directly to your community office, or inbox a photo to the Corvias Facebook page between now and Sunday.

All submissions will be posted to the Corvias Facebook page on Monday.

The photo with the most likes in each community will receive a gift card and recognition.

Winners will be announced Dec. 22 on the Facebook page.

For more information, call the leasing office at 410-305-1258 or email [meadefamilyhousing@corvias.com](mailto:meadefamilyhousing@corvias.com).

### Newcomers Orientation

Army Community Service will now host the Newcomers Orientation briefing every other week.

But during the months of May through September, which are considered high peak for service members who are undergoing a PCS move, the briefing will be held every week.

This will assist in eliminating a backlog and will provide a smooth transition for service members experiencing a PCS move.

The next Newcomers Orientation briefings are scheduled for: Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, April 5, April 19, May 3, May 10, May 17, May 24, May 31, June 7, June 14, June 21 and June 28.

For more information, call 301-677-4107.

### Wing It Thursdays

The Brass Lounge at Club Meade offers wings for 50 cents every Thursday night from 4-8 p.m.

Dine-in only, no carry out.

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

### 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.

### 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.

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 Family Support Center at 2212 Chisholm See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14



## NEWS &amp; NOTES, From page 13

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, 10-11:30 a.m., FFSC

**Financial**

• Home Buying: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon, ACS

**Employment**

• Interviewing Skills: Today, 9 a.m. to noon, ACS

**Life Skills**

• Healthy Relationships: Friday, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

**Navy**

• Budget for Baby: Friday, 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).

**Homeschool Group**

The Fort Meade Homeschool Group meets throughout the year for field trips and social outings.

For information on upcoming events, visit the "Fort Meade Homeschool Group" on Facebook. Go to [facebook.com/groups/FortMeadeHomeschoolGroup](https://facebook.com/groups/FortMeadeHomeschoolGroup).

## YOUTH

**Youth Center activities**

The Youth Center is offering the following events in December:

- ◆ 2016 Winter Camp: Dec. 23-30, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ◆ Power Hour: Every school day, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Lego Robotics Club: Fridays, 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 301-677-1437.

**Teen Center events**

The Teen Center offers several activities in December:

- ◆ Wii Sports Olympics: Today, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Rock Band Tournament: Monday, 2:30 p.m.
- ◆ DIY Holiday Gifts: Dec. 22, 4 p.m.

For more information, call 301-677-6054.

## RECREATION

**Out & About**

• **Christmas Village** at the Inner Harbor, modeled after traditional German Christmas markets, is open at 11 a.m. daily

## Lightning start



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Competitors pass in front of Murphy Field House at the start of Fort Meade's Reindeer 5K Run & 1-Mile Walk on Saturday. For more pictures from the run, see next week's edition of *Soundoff!*.

through Dec. 24 at West Shore Park, 501 Light St.

The free event features gift vendors, food and visits from Santa. For more information, visit [baltimore-christmas.com](http://baltimore-christmas.com).

• **Antique & Collectible Market** will be held Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium. The event will feature 100 dealers. For more information, call 443-841-8022 or go to [marylandstatefair.com](http://marylandstatefair.com).

• **Six Flags Holiday in the Park** tickets is offered by Leisure Travel Services through Jan. 6. Admission only: \$26 each. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

• **Toby's Dinner Theatre** presents "A Christmas Carol" through Jan. 8 at 5900 Symphony Woods, Columbia. Reserve seats for the 2017 season: "Showboat," "Disney's Beauty and the Beast," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "Dreamgirls." Discounted tickets are available at Leisure Travel Services. For more information, call LTS at 301-677-7354 or Toby's at 410-730-8311.

• **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).

**• Moms of Multiples Club**

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. The next meeting is today. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

• **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 information, call 301-908-3773.

**• 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.

**• 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.

• **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.

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.

• **The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)** Fort Meade chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Potomac Place Neighborhood Center, 4998 2nd Corps Blvd. The next meeting is Tuesday.

For more information, visit [trea.org](http://trea.org) or call Charles Green, the local chapter president, at 443-610-4252 or Otis Whitaker Sr., chapter secretary, at 443-306-1104.

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

• **Military District of Washington Sergeant Audie Murphy Club** meets the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is Wednesday. For more information, email Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Barfield, club vice president, at [aaron.a.barfield.mil@mail.mil](mailto:aaron.a.barfield.mil@mail.mil).

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



• **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 Jan. 5.

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** next meeting and holiday gathering is Jan. 5 from 7-9:30 p.m. at Severna Park United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall), 731 Benfield Road, Severna Park.

Guests are welcome.

Tom McCarriar, 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 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 Jan. 5.

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 Jan. 5. 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. The next meeting is Jan. 5. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. For more information, call Charisma Wooten at 240-568-6055.

• **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. The next meeting is Jan. 5. For more information, visit namiaac.org.

• **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 Jan. 9. For more information, call Celena Flowers or Jessica Hobbgood at 301-677-5590.

• **Glen Burnie NARFE Chapter 1519** meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 7436 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Glen Burnie.

The next meeting of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees is Jan. 10.

The speaker is Anne Healy from Blue Cross/Blue Shield who will discuss health care changes.

Federal employees and retirees who are members of NARFE are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Barbara Jacobs at 410-969-5980.

• **Fort Meade E9 Association** meets the second Friday of every month at 7 a.m. in the Pin Deck Cafe at the Lanes. The next meeting is Jan. 13. The association is open to active, retired, Reserve and National Guard E9s of any uniformed service. All E9s in this area are invited to attend a breakfast and meet the membership. For more information, go to e9association.org.

• **Meade Branch 212 of the Fleet Reserve Association** meets the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at VFW Post 160, 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie. The next meeting is Jan. 14. Active-duty, Reserve and retired members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are invited.

For more information, call 443-604-2474 or 410-768-6288.

• **Couples Communication** meets 2:30-3:30 p.m. every Monday at the Family Advocacy Program Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave.

The session is aimed at helping couples develop tools to enhance their relationship, gain problem-solving strategies, and create a long-lasting relationship. For more information, call 301-677-4118.

• **Cub Scout Pack 377** invites boys in first through fifth grades, or ages 7 to 10, to attend its weekly Monday meetings at 6 p.m. at Argonne Hills Chapel Center.

For more information, email pack377\_cc@yahoo.com.

• **Boy Scout Troop 377** meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Argonne Hills Chapel Center on Rockenbach Road. For more information, refer to the troop's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/bsa377](http://www.facebook.com/bsa377) or call 443-542-0545.

• **Catholic Women of the Chapel** meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. for fellowship, prayer and Bible study in the Main Post Chapel, 4419 Llewellyn Ave.

For more information, email [ftmeadec-woc@gmail.com](mailto:ftmeadec-woc@gmail.com).

• **Women's Empowerment Group** meets Wednesdays from 2-3:30 p.m. to provide a safe, confidential arena for the support, education and empowerment of women who have experienced past or present family violence.

Location is only disclosed to participants. To register, call 301-677-4124.

• **Parenting With A Purpose**, for parents of children of all ages, meets 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays at the Family Advocacy Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave.

To register, call 301-677-4118.

• **Protestant Women of the Chapel** invites the community to join in fellowship while learning together through interactive Bible study. The PWOC meets 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Argonne Hills Chapel Center. For more information, call 301-677-6703.

• **Moms Walking Group**, sponsored by Parent Support, meets Thursdays from 8:30-9:15 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. To register, call 301-677-3617.

• **Moms Support Group** meets Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. The group is for mothers of young children up to age 3. Mini playgroup included.

Topics include potty training, stages and development. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-677-4118.

• **Dancing with the Heroes**, free ballroom dance lessons for the Warrior Transition Unit, meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Argonne Hills Chapel Center in the seminar room.

Participants should wear loose clothing, comfortable shoes with leather soles. No super high heels or flip-flops.

• **Project Healing Waters** meets Thursdays at the Rascon Building, 2481 Llewellyn Ave.

The project is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of wounded warriors and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying and outings.

For more information, call 443-535-5074.

• **American Legion Post 276** is open to veterans and active-duty service members at 8068 Quarterfield Road in Severn. Breakfast may be purchased beginning at 9 a.m. Lunches may be purchased from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Happy Hour is 4-6 p.m. Dinner may be purchased at 6 p.m. on Fridays and the fourth Sunday of every month.

Membership discounts are offered for active-duty military. For more information, call 410-969-8028.

## 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. 30



JAN THIJS/PARAMOUNT PICTURES/TNS

**Friday & Sunday: "Arrival" (PG-13).** A linguist is recruited by the military to assist in translating alien communications. With Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker.



FOCUS FEATURES/TNS

**Saturday: "Loving" (PG-13).** The story of Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, whose challenge of their anti-miscegenation arrest for their marriage in Virginia led to a legal battle that would end at the U.S. Supreme Court. With Ruth Negga, Joel Edgerton, Will Dalton.

**NO SHOWINGS DEC. 23-25**

**Dec. 30: "The Edge of Seventeen" (R).** High-school life gets even more unbearable for a teen when her best friend starts dating her older brother. With Hailee Steinfeld, Haley Lu Richardson, Woody Harrelson.

**NO SHOWINGS DEC. 31 & JAN. 1**