

YEAR IN REVIEW

he following is a compilation of stories and photos that made news on Fort Meade in 2016.

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Fort Meade greeted the new year with a historic snowstorm and the opening of a 243-room hotel, welcomed a new garrison commander and command sergeant major, bid farewell to "Mr. Meade," and implemented tighter access control procedures.

Other highlights include the opening of the Defense Information School wing, a new commander of Kimbrough, and a longtime senator's final official visit.

We're sure you'll agree 2016 was an exciting year!





PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Residents walk to their home in Heritage Park on Jan. 25 after Winter Storm Jonas blanketed the region with a record snowfall of 29.2 inches.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Marines walk along Mapes Road to the MacArthur Road Shoppette on Jan. 25, three days after Winter Storm Jonas started.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Amir Hall, 14, of Potomac Place puts extra *oomph* in his shoveling as he helps dig out on Jan. 24.

SOUNDOFF! | THURSDAY, DEC. 22, 2016



HOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Pvt. Chelsea Branch participates in a "shoot/no shoot" exercise in the Individual Weapons Simulator facility during training exercises for several Fort Meade units on March 15 at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

The new wing of the Defense Information School opened March 11, providing state-of-the-art classrooms and offices.



Britnee Shepherd, 15, a sophomore at Meade High, practices before marching with the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps color guard in the Queenstown Day parade in Severn on July 9.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Rosemarie Ceo speaks about her loss during the Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day remembrance ceremony on Sept. 24 at Burba Lake. Ceo is flanked by Janice Chance (left), president of the Maryland Gold Star Mothers, and Michelle Murphy.

TOP STORIES OF 2016

SOUNDOFF! STAFF

- Lt. Col. Jim Keene a violinist, fiddler, pianist and songwriter and a previous commandant of the Army School of Music assumes command of the U.S. Army Field Band on Jan. 23.
- Historic Winter Storm Jonas drops 29.2 inches of snow beginning Jan. 21, closing Fort Meade for four days.
- Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski tours the commissary Feb. 1 after meeting with garrison leaders.
- Candlewood Suites, a 243-room hotel, opens. Anyone who can get on post can stay at the hotel.
- Fort Meade celebrates the USO's 75th anniversary on Feb. 4.
- Fort Meade's Army Community Service is reaccredited by the Installation Management Command's Army Community Service Program on Feb. 17.
- The Brass Lounge celebrates its grand opening at Club Meade on Feb. 19.
- The access control point at Mapes Road and Route 175 permanently reopens Feb. 29. The Llewellyn Avenue gate closed Feb. 26.
- Lt. Gen. Kenneth Dahl, Installation Management Command's commanding general, makes his first official visit to Fort Meade on March 3.
- The Meade High Mustangs boys varsity basketball team defeats the An-



HOTO BY NATE PESCE

(From left:) Outgoing Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley; Davis D. Tindoll Jr., director of the Atlantic Region, Installation Management Command; and incoming Garrison Commander Col. Thomas S. Rickard salute during the national anthem at the Fort Meade garrison change-of-command ceremony held Aug. 4 at McGlachlin Parade Field.



PHOTO COURTESY FORT MEADE FIRE DEPARTMENT More than 300 people attended a memorial service on June 2 for Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Stephen Smith Jr., a 25-year veteran of Fort Meade Fire & Emergency Services, who died May 30 in a vehicular accident.

napolis High Panthers 62-59 in the Class 4A East Regional final on March 4.

- Fort Meade implements the Automated Installation Entry system at all gates, requiring DoD Common Access Cards or DoD ID cardholders to scan their ID cards to get on post.
- The Defense Information School's new 80,000-square-foot wing providing state-of-the-art classrooms and office space opens March II.
- The DoD launches MilitaryChild-Care.com, which provides a single online gateway for families to access military-operated or military-subsidized child care options worldwide, on March 16.
- During the 2016 St. Patrick's Push-Pull Competition on March 17 at Murphy Field House, Sgt. Keith Barrett of the 48th Combat Surgical Hospital wins the "Best Overall Male" while Ranita Mealer, a lifeguard and daughter of a military retiree, wins "Best Overall Female."
- Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell

- L. Forbes leads 100 service members from Fort Meade and the National Capital Region in an Honor Salute to Vietnam veterans at the 2nd Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day hosted by Hospice of the Chesapeake on March 30 at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel. The Honor Salute Program honors military veterans who are hospice patients.
- Murphy Field House implements 24/7 access to its facility starting April 4.
- Celebrity Chef Robert Irvine visits the Fort Meade USO Center on April 19 to share health tips with military spouses and their children.
- Fort Meade's cadre of 2,660 registered volunteers are honored at the Volunteer Gold Star Awards Banquet on April 21 at Club Meade.
- Fort Meade is presented five gold awards at the 49th Annual Excellence in Federal Career Awards program, hosted by the Baltimore Federal Executive

Board on May 9 at Martin's West in Baltimore.

- Lt. Col. Gittipong "Eddie" Paruchabutr assumes command of Headquarters Command Battalion from Lt. Col. Eric Smith on May 20.
- The Fort Meade Memorial Day Remembrance and 30th Annual Massing of the Colors is observed May 22 at the Pavilion. Navy Adm. Michael S. Rogers, commander of U.S. Cyber Command, director of the National Security Agency and chief of the Central Security Service, is the grand marshal and keynote speaker.
- Fort Meade Deputy Fire Chief Bruce S. Smith Jr., a 25-year-veteran of the Directorate of Emergency Services, dies May 29 after sustaining injuries in a vehicular accident that day on the Eastern Shore.
- A retirement luncheon is held for retired Col. Bert Rice on May 31 at Club Meade. Known as "Mr. Meade," Rice



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Sgt. 1st Class Marcin Piasecki of the 781st Military Intelligence Battalion photographs his 5-year-old daughter Ella during the annual Father Daughter Ball on Oct. 1 at Club Meade.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

"Fireman" Tyler McQuade, 2, concentrates on the candy jar at the Hallelujah Festival on Oct. 31.

retired after a lifetime of military and civilian service including two tours in Vietnam. After arriving on Fort Meade in 1976, Rice held a series of civilian positions on post including acting director of the Directorate of Public Works and director of transformation.

- The Fort Meade Teen Center celebrates its 10th anniversary on June 16 with a cook-out, music and games.
- Col. John D. Branch assumes command of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade from Col. William J. Hartman on June 17.
- Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Steve Smith Sr. leads the P&G Steve Smith Jr. Football ProCamp for 150 Fort Meade children on June 20-21 at the Youth Sports Complex.
- A fire consumes one of the pet kennels at the Fort Meade Pet Care Center on the evening of June 23. No people or animals



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

A tear runs down the cheek of Seaman Josiah David Trombley, a DINFOS student, during the "Illuminating the Darkness Walk" suicide awareness event held Sept. 1 at the Gaffney Track. Trombley lost a military friend to suicide in the summer.

were injured in the blaze.

- Col. Daniel G. Bonnichsen assumes command of the Fort Meade U.S. Army Medical Department Activity and Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center from Col. Laura R. Trinkle on July 19.
- Child Development Center IV opens July 28, helping maintain current levels of service as an interim alternate space to allow renovations to other CDC facilities on post.
- Col. Tom Rickard assumes command from Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley in a change-of-command ceremony on Aug. 4.
- Lt. Col. Jay Birmingham is selected to serve as the deputy garrison commander of transformation at Fort Meade, leading an integrated effort to transform the



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes, Justin Hayes of the office of Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, and Brigid Smith of the office of Rep. John Sarbanes watch as the Defense Information School color guard provides U.S. flag honors to conclude the Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 10 at Museum Plaza.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

The Vietnam War Veterans of America Baltimore Chapter 451 honor guard posts the colors during the second annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration on March 30 at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel.

installation into a state-of-the-art operational platform for information, intelligence and cyber operations.

- Fort Meade's first "Illuminating the Darkness" all-night walk is held Sept. 1 at the Gaffney Fitness Track to raise suicide awareness.
- The DoD Education Activity Grant awards to Anne Arundel County Public Schools the Tapestry Grant, which will benefit the recreational and academic programs of Fort Meade schools.
- The Post Thrift Shop opens Oct. 1 at a larger facility, providing more space for donations.
- For the second consecutive year, the Fort Meade Police Department takes first place in the military police category for the International Association of Chiefs of Police's 2016 National Law Enforcement Challenge in a ceremony held Oct. 18 in San Diego.
- Navy defeats Army 25-8 in Fort Meade's *See* **STORIES**, *page* 6



Service members, including former Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley and former Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes, learn Polynesian dancing at the Asian Pacific Heritage Month observance on May 25.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

World War II veteran James Dalton and his guardian, Tennessee State Rep. Courtney Rogers, are among the 55 veterans who enjoyed dinner at the Freedom Inn after the Honor Flight of Middle Tennessee's daylong trip to Washington, D.C., on April 25.



THURSDAY, DEC. 22, 2016 | SOUNDOFF!

Abuse Prevention Month.

Retired Col. Bert Rice, also known as "Mr. Meade," retires in May from federal civilian service after serving as director of transformation at Fort Meade. His lifetime of military and civilian service included acting director of the Directorate of Public Works.



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Bailey Briscoe, 7, of Ellicott City, plays with a glow necklace during Fort Meade's annual "Red, White and Blue Celebration" on July 1 at McGlachlin Parade Field.



Bill Thornton of Springdale fixes a lure and float on a fishing line alongside his granddaughter Miyoko Mosby, 8, of Bowie during Fort Meade's Spring Fishing Rodeo on April 16 at Burba Lake.



Four-year-old A.J. Arnett chats with former Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley at the Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair held April 5 in conjunction with National Child



Ten-year-old Ryan Tuder of Carroll Cook Recreation Center is amazed by a robot's use of a camera arm during the BWI Summer Youth Initiative's Military Day at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum on Aug. 18. Fort Meade is a partner with the BWI Business Partnership.



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS FRANK INMAN

Former Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes reads to Kortni Hopkins, Aidan Rose, Liam Fowler and Emy Amaya during the Exceptional Family Member Program's "Storytime with Condi and Shea" on June 9 at the Potomac Place library.

PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

New Garrison Command Sgt. Major Brian S. Cullen receives the guidon from Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard during the change-of-responsibility ceremony Dec. 16 as former Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes looks on.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Students at Pershing Hill Elementary School, dressed in Earth Day-inspired fashions, wait to cross the stage for the recycled fashion show on April 28 at the Pavilion.



PHOTO BY JEN RYNDA/BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP

Graduate Sarai Izzard stands up to cheer during Meade High School's graduation ceremony on June 6 at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro.



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Katie, a Sesame Street character who is a child of a military family, greets youngsters during the "Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families" on Sept. 27 at Murphy Field House.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE Ophelia Landin, 3, dashes toward the finish line during the Patriot Run on May 21.



Olivia Rose, 11, and her 8-year-old sister Sophia (right), check out an armored carrier vehicle on display during National Night Out on Aug. 2 at McGlachlin Parade Field.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

(Clockwise from left:) Pfc. Justin Stannard, Pvt. Dylon Sheffer, Pvt. Michael Choi and Pvt. Robert Thompson, of Army Student Detachment, 551st Signal Battalion, celebrate Thanksgiving on Nov. 24 at the Freedom Inn Dining Facility. The feast drew a record crowd.



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Two-year-old Victoria Rolfe, daughter of Nathan Rolfe of Cyber Command, checks out one of the displays at the National Cryptologic Museum's Armed Forces Day and National Police Week celebration on May 22.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski strolls among shoppers, commissary officials and employees during a tour of the Fort Meade Commissary on Feb. 1.

STORIES, From page 8

17th annual Army-Navy Flag Football Game on Nov. 8 at Mullins Field.

■ Anne Arundel County official announce at a news conference held Nov. 22 on post that a federal grant of \$4.3 million will be allocated to programs that will help veterans and service

members as they separate from military to pursue a civilian career.

■ A team of six WWE stars visit Fort Meade during the 14th annual Tribute to the Troops on Dec. 13 for a meet and greet and to speak at an anti-bullying rally at MacArthur Middle School.

■ Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes relinquishes



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK Ethel Horton, of Mitchellville, whose late husband retired from the Army, holds Athena at a Fort Meade Veterinary Services information table during Retiree Appreciation Day on Oct. 21.

command to Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Cullen in a changeof-responsibility ceremony on Dec. 16.



The U.S. Army Field Band celebrates its 70th Anniversary with a tribute to the Olympic athletes on Aug. 20 at Constitution Park.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Holding lit candles, children sing Christmas carols during the tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 9 outside the Main Post Chapel.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Ears of corn Elena Avalas (left) and Alia Williams sing with troll Hugo Concha in the Missoula Children's Theatre production of "Rapunzel" on Aug. 6 featuring a cast of Fort Meade youths.

SPORTS



PHOTO BY DANIEL KUCIN JR. Eleven-year-old runner Charlotte-Anne Boyer wins a free turkey after taking first place in the 11-14 age division at Fort Meade's annual Turkey Trot 5K and 1-Mile Walk on Nov. 19.



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Navy head coach Petty Officer 2nd Class D.J. Wright (left) hoists the championship trophy after his team's 25-8 victory in Fort Meade's 17th annual Army-Navy flag football game on Nov. 8 at Mullins Field.



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Rawlinson, 67, of Severn deadlifts 275 pounds during Fort Meade St. Patty's Push and Pull Competition weightlifting event on March 17 at Murphy Field House.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Christian Spear, 14, of Hanover throws a ball during practice at Fort Meade's Youth Bowling program on Jan. 16 at The Lanes.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Baltimore Ravens player Steve Smith Sr. plays quarterback as he runs drills with different groups during the P&G Steve Smith Jr. Football ProCamp for 150 Fort Meade children held June 20-21 at the Youth Sports Complex.



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Meade's Raelyn Muldrow (left) dribbles around Arundel's Jasmine Facey in the second half of a Class 4A East Region Section I semifinal game on March 1. Arundel won 69-40.



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Caiden O'Rourke, 4, demonstrates a move taught to him by Baltimore Orioles All-Star pitcher Darren O'Day during a youth baseball clinic on May 14.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Runners get ready to start the Patriot Pride 5K and 10K, the first of seven themed runs in the Fort Meade Run Series, on May 21.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

During the British Army Medical Services basketball team's 10-day U.S. basketball tour, the team plays three games on post. In the final game, AMS player Omar Forrester (15) and Fort Meade Patriots' Phil Medwinter (34) jump off to start AMS' first matchup against the Patriots on Sept. 16 at Murphy Field House.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Students of Bokwa Punch and Strike pose with instructor Toni Marsden (center). The exercise, which has roots in South Africa, is offered at Gaffney Fitness Center.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Mustangs point guard Keith Duffin (center) celebrates with fans after Meade High's 62-59 victory over Annapolis High School on March 4. Meade headed to the state semifinals for the second straight year, but lost to Greenbelt's Eleanor Roosevelt High Raiders 72-39 on March 11.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Paul Wesley Jr., 8, punts the football during the Punt, Pass & Kick challenge sponsored by the NFL during National Night Out on Aug. 2 at McGlachlin Parade Field.



PHOTO BY DANIEL KUCIN JR. **Retired Sgt. 1st Class Derrick** Bostic, a former boxer, leads **Gaffney Fitness Center's new** co-ed boxing program named for heavyweight champion Joe Louis.

RIGHT: WWE wrestler Alicia Fox is surrounded by students during an anti-bullying rally at MacArthur Middle School on Dec. 13. Six WWE stars visited the Asymmetric Warfare Group, the Exchange and Mac-Arthur Middle before going to Washington, D.C. for their annual "Tribute to the Troops" event.



PHOTO BY JEN RYNDA/BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP