



THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



Members of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, staff pose for a photo inside a replica of a Higgins boat landing craft at a monument memorializing the key part the boat played in the successful off loading of Soldiers on the beach during the Allied invasion of France Dec. 20 at a beach off the coast of Normandy.

History Develops Leaders

'Dagger' brigade sustains professional readiness in staff ride to Normandy

Story and photo by Capt. Orlandon Howard
2ND ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ZAGAN, Poland — Officers and noncommissioned officers from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, attended a four-day staff ride in Normandy, France, Dec. 17 to 20, to draw lessons from the division's battle for Cantigny, France, in World War I as well as lessons from World War II "D-Day" operations during the Allied invasion of German-occupied France.

Army units and training organizations use staff rides to teach history and encourage contemplation, analysis and discussion about their applicable lessons.

"These events are important because they also contribute to readiness," said Capt. Jonathan Hawkins, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd ABCT. "Professional development of our officers and NCOs is a force multiplier and we should to make it a priority."

The event also contributed to the unit's esprit de corps, as participants learned about

the history of the division's role in WWI and WWII, as well as the history of their own brigade's involvement in the invasion of France as an airborne brigade.

The three things that mattered most in these conflicts were organization, doctrine and personalities, said James S. Wheeler, staff ride tour guide and author of "The Big Red One, America's Legendary 1st Infantry Division from World War I to Desert Storm."

The idea of organization came across forcefully as Wheeler enumerated the deliberate composition and array of forces that were arranged by capability to meet specific objectives. Examples included the airborne units deployed behind enemy lines, responsible for securing key terrain and the engineer brigades sent forward to reduce natural and emplaced obstacles.

The WWI portion of the tour offered insight into the evolution of military doctrine as a debate waged about the best ways to maneuver and defeat opposing forces in a conflict where machine guns and trench warfare dominated the battlefield. The

adaptations they developed and the lessons they learned paid dividends for preparation for the next large-scale war. During WWII, the synchronization and employment of combined arms, a major lesson from WWI, provided the notable doctrinal takeaway, Wheeler said.

Wheeler also highlighted the role leaders, which he refers to as personalities, played in WWII; leaders such as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme Allied commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, who he said was favored because of his ability to get along with leaders from the Allied countries; and other leaders chosen prior to the invasion, such as Maj. Gen. Clarence Huebner, commander, 1st Inf. Div., because of his preferred leadership style. Wheeler believed personality traits such as those they displayed played a key role in the success of the campaign.

One additional point he emphasized was the ingenuity of the Soldiers who fought and the entire American industrial complex

See NORMANDY, page 2

'Defending' Operation Santa Claus with toy run

By Sgt. Casey Hustin
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, conducted a toy run in support of Operation Santa Claus Dec. 15 at Fort Riley.

It was a dark, frozen morning, but the "Defender" battalion warmed to the challenge as Command Sgt. Maj. Tresia Huell, from Syracuse, New York, addressed the Soldiers before the run.

"In this season of giving and camaraderie, we just want to do this run," Huell said. "Thanks to those that actually brought some toys just to give back to the community."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Medina, this is the 33rd year of Operation Santa Claus, and his third year of operating it in a row.

"This is a great program that will bring happiness to Soldiers on and off post," Medina said.

There are more than 800 "Big Red One" children who have received toys from Operation Santa Claus this year.

"Operation Santa Claus gives toys to children that aren't as advantaged as others," said Capt. Jennifer L. Houle, commander of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

The color guard mounted up and followed the runners while their wagon rounded up the procession, decorated for the holidays and carrying the toys donated that morning.

"I've done about fifteen toy runs over the years and donated a toy for the children," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew A. Miller, HHBn. operations noncommissioned officer in charge from Lexington, Virginia. "It's always been a good program."

This is the first time he's set it up.

"It's a little bit more work involved, making sure it's a successful event," Miller said.

The unit coordinated with Operation Santa Claus to find out the dates they were accepting toy donations. Then they contacted the CGMCG so they'd provide riders and the wagon for the toys.

Each individual company within the battalion was also involved in providing an opportunity for Soldiers to donate toys during the run, Miller said.

"This event is important because there are families on the installation who have children that could use some good toys for Christmas," he said.



Marta Piotrowska, a Polish high school student, sings a Christmas carol for the Soldiers of the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, during a holiday concert in Swietoszow, Poland, Dec. 22. The Soldiers are deployed in support of Atlantic Resolve, a U.S. endeavor to fulfill NATO commitments.

Polish children perform holiday concert for deployed Soldiers

Story and photo by Spc. Hubert Delany
22ND MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

ZAGAN, Poland — The sound of Christmas carols bounced off of the walls of an auditorium in Swietoszow, Poland, Dec. 22. The songs, reminiscent of what one might hear in the U.S., had a Polish accent to them.

A group of children no taller than their microphone stands were showered with applause from a collection of Soldiers with the 5th Squadron,

4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, after their performance.

"I've been on plenty of deployments, but something like this is literally the nicest thing you can do for a Soldier overseas," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeremy Carey, the senior enlisted advisor for 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt.

The students traveled from a school in Wschowa, Poland, and hosted the Christmas concert for the Soldiers in hopes of bringing joy to the deployed service members during the holiday season.

"I know all the Soldiers here appreciate what's been done here for them during this time away from family," Carey said.

The students played a variety of songs on different instruments and even a few solo acts from members of the choir.

"It's so good to be able to be here and do this for the Soldiers," said Marta Piotrowska, a singer in the performance. "This is our Polish way of saying cheers and merry Christmas for all the deployed Soldiers away from home."

The deployment the Soldiers are on is a part of Atlantic Resolve, a U.S. endeavor supporting NATO by rotating units through the European theater to deter aggression against U.S. allies and partners in Europe.

As the performance concluded, the students presented the Soldiers with an American flag and belted a loud and thunderous "God Bless America" to the crowd.

The students concluded with a speech that explained

See CONCERT, page 8

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Sgt. Treyon Wallace is recognized by USO Fort Riley for regular volunteering efforts and participation in activities at the center. He gives special attention to creating a family atmosphere for Soldiers and their families. He often takes the lead in community events and fundraisers.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call Becky Willis, Army Volunteer Corps Program manager, at 785-239-4593.

IN THIS ISSUE



SINGLE SOLDIERS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT FORT RILEY, SEE PAGE 9

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CREEPY CRAWLIES OF THE WORLD IN AN INSECT ZOO, SEE PAGE 14

Irwin Army Community Hospital holds Relinquishment of Command ceremony

By Tywana Sparks
IACH PAO

Soldiers, civilians and community leaders from the Central Flint Hills region of Kansas bid farewell to Col. John Melton during a Relinquishment of Command ceremony for the Irwin Army Community Hospital Dec. 15 at 1st Infantry Division Headquarters.

Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Tempel Jr., commanding general, Regional Health Command – Central, presided over the ceremony.

In a traditional act that represents the official transfer of command and responsibility, the Medical Department Activity colors were passed from Melton to Col. Mark MacDougall, who will serve as the acting IACH commander.

During the ceremony, Tempel praised Melton for his exemplary performance as the IACH commander and emphasized his contributions to the community, command and Army readiness.

“Within this community, you are clearly recognized as a leader of outstanding character, one who has given a lot of your talents to build lasting relationships with this community,” Tempel said. “You’ve partnered with the Veterans Eastern Kansas Health Care System and established resource sharing agreements with more than 25 healthcare and educational institutions. Having our

mayors, city managers and congressional staffers here is so comforting to see. That is truly the secret to success not only for this hospital, but for this community and what makes Fort Riley a wonderful place to live and come home to.”

During his remarks, Tempel also acknowledged Melton for planning and executing a seamless transition into the new facility during his first 100 days of command and designing health care services that fit the needs of Fort Riley families and Soldiers.

“He could easily be the comptroller for Army Medicine,” Tempel said. “He excels at all metrics we track. Col. Melton balanced the delivery of healthcare with the readiness needed for an infantry division. That’s a tough task.”

Tempel concluded by sharing Melton’s contribution to readiness, “... every division under III Corps has hit the readiness standard for the first time of under 10 percent, which is an unbelievable accomplishment and hard to do. You were the right person at the right time to come here, and you’re the right person at the right time to go Fort Bragg.”

Melton thanked Tempel and Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Infantry Division commanding general, for the opportunity to have led IACH.

He also acknowledged community partners for their efforts and contributions to IACH.

“I have to thank you for the many collaborative opportunities afforded to me and the “Big Red One” hospital toward making lives better for those that live in our communities, some of whom have yet to be born,” Melton said. “Know that the Big Red One hospital is and always will be a steadfast and engaged partner in the Central Flint Hills.”

Melton concluded his remarks by stating IACH empowers those who fight and win our nation’s wars and no one does it better than IACH.

“Finally, know that you, all of you, have made me a better leader, officer, husband, man and human being, for that I am truly grateful,” he said.

Melton has been the IACH commander since June 2016 and will move on to become the commander of Womack Army Medical center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The hospital provides health care to Soldiers, families and retirees in the Central Flint Hills region and operates Farrelly, Custer Hill and Aviation Clinics at Fort Riley and the Flint Hills Medical Home in Junction City, Kansas. The Warrior Transition Battalion is also under the command and control of the Medical Department Activity, Fort Riley, in support of ill, injured and wounded Soldiers’ and families’ healthcare needs.



Jorge Gomez | IACH PAO
Col. John Melton, left, Irwin Army Community Hospital commander, returns the hospital colors to Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Tempel Jr., commanding general, Regional Health Command – Central, Dec. 15 to symbolize the relinquishment of his command. Melton has been the IACH commander since June 2016 and will become the commander of Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

GIs of Comedy bring laughter to ‘Long Knife’ Soldiers in Poland



Benari Poulten, a comic with the GIs of Comedy and a master sergeant with the U.S. Army Reserve, tells a joke to Soldiers of 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Swietoszow, Poland, Dec. 22.

Story and photo by Spc. Hubert Delany
22ND MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

ZAGAN, Poland — Army Entertainment provided a comedy show for Soldiers deployed in support of Atlantic Resolve in Swietoszow, Poland, Dec. 22.

The show, performed by the all-veteran group GIs of Comedy, was presented to Soldiers of the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

The comedians — Benari Poulten, Ralph Figueroa and Patrick “P.J.” Walsh — entertained a collection of Soldiers in an effort to boost the morale of the “Long Knife” squadron during the holiday season.

“It’s important for us to remind the troops that we care about them, we think about them and we appreciate what they do,” said Poulten, who in addition to comedy serves as a U.S. Army Reserve master sergeant and public affairs chief. “The military is a family unto itself. We are a part of that family and that bond is very strong.”

The group of veterans travels the world using stand-up comedy as way to spread laughter and raise spirits of deployed service members.

Walsh, who served as a petty officer third class in the U.S. Navy, said he and a lot of the

other members of his troupe use their experiences in the military to fuel their work. Memories of spending Christmas alone as a sailor are what fuel Walsh’s comedy.

“It was so lonely and I never forgot that,” Walsh said. “I know that if we can bring people here laughter during the holidays, then we are giving them a little piece of home.”

Walsh emphasized giving comedy and other forms of enjoyment to Soldiers strengthen the overall welfare, morale and readiness of all service members overseas.

“I believe it’s recognition and saying that you are not alone,” Walsh said. “We travel to deployment locations every year, and it makes a difference. Even if it’s just to shake hands and make you laugh. You can’t beat it.”

The visit from the GIs of Comedy helps support the resiliency of the Soldiers deployed in support of Atlantic Resolve, a U.S. endeavor supporting NATO by rotating units through the European theater to deter aggression against allies and partners in Europe

“This is my first time being away from my family this long,” said Spc. Jonathan Johnson, an M1 tank crewman with 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 2nd ABCT. “Even though I’m away from my family, this event during the holiday makes me feel like the military is really trying to do something for us. This was a huge morale boost.”

NORMANDY Continued from page 1

that consolidated to deliver equipment that increased Soldiers’ survivability and gave them a fighting chance to prevail over German defenders during the invasions. Examples include the massive deception plan the AEF conducted to mask their intended invasion location, the casualty marking techniques Soldiers used on the beachheads to prioritize medical care and the landing crafts

known as Higgins boats that successfully delivered platoon-sized elements on the beach.

Throughout the staff ride, Col. David Gardner, commander, 2nd ABCT, charged his officers to consider the operations, actions and lessons from the perspective of their specialties and leverage those lessons to perform their roles with equal distinction.



Capt. Orlandon Howard | 2ND ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS Staff Sgt. Michael Hubbard, left, and Maj. Christofer Franca from 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, look at an exhibit at the Museum of the Battle of Normandy, in Bayeux, France, Dec. 18. The museum tour was part of a staff ride 2nd ABCT conducted for the professional development of its attendees.

AVOID*SPOT*TREAT

FROSTBITE & HYPOTHERMIA

In cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced, which can lead to serious health problems.

**** AVOID ****

When the weather is extremely cold, try to stay indoors. If you must go outside, dress properly and know what is at high risk for hypothermia or frostbite.

When going outside, know how to survive:

- A TANK OR HOT MUG: HOT DRINKS: FACE & MOUTH
- A HAT
- A WATER RESISTANT COAT
- SEVERAL LAYERS OF LOOSE-FITTING CLOTHING

When going outside in winter, make sure body parts most often affected by frostbite are covered in warm, dry clothing:

- NOSE
- EARS
- TOES
- CHEEKS
- CHIN
- FINGERS

Know who is at high risk:

- People with poor circulation
- People who are older
- People who are taking certain medications
- People who are not used to the cold
- People who are not used to the cold

**** SPOT ****

FROSTBITE

Signs & Symptoms:
- Numbness or tingling
- Redness or white patches
- Swelling
- Pain
- Itching
- Blisters
- Ulcers
- Gangrene

HYPOTHERMIA

Signs & Symptoms:
- Shivering
- Numbness
- Confusion
- Slurred speech
- Loss of consciousness
- Fatigue
- Drowsiness

If a person's temperature is below 95°F, get medical attention immediately.

**** TREAT ****

If a person is experiencing hypothermia or frostbite...

REMEDIAL ACTION

- GET THEM WARMER
- GET THEM DRIER
- GET THEM DRYER
- GET THEM DRYER

PLACE AREA AFFECTED IN WARM (TOUCH) WATER

FROSTBITE CAUTION

Since this may be useful, victims of frostbite can learn themselves further the caution when treating frostbite and:

- DO NOT RUB
- DO NOT USE A HEATING PAD
- DO NOT USE A HEATING PAD
- DO NOT USE A HEATING PAD

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MEAT AND TOURS

'Santa Fe' Division history commemorated through conference room dedication



Master Sgt. Mark Hanson | U.S. ARMY
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carol Sprawka, 35th Infantry Division, poses with the portrait she painted of World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Staff Sgt. James Ira "Junior" Spurrier Dec. 22. The painting now hangs at the 35th Inf. Div.'s forward-deployed headquarters in the newly dedicated Spurrier Conference Room, renovated and named for the division's historic figure.

By Capt. Margaret Ziffer
35TH INFANTRY DIVISION

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division held a ceremony dedicating a conference room in honor of a historic figure at the division forward-deployed headquarters building Dec. 22.

The newly remodeled Spurrier Conference Room was named in honor of Staff Sgt. James Ira "Junior" Spurrier, Company G, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Inf. Div., who received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions while serving in World War II.

Prior to the renovations, the conference room was due for some updates.

"You could say it was a neglected conference room," said Col. Timothy Bush, chief of staff, 35th Inf. Div. "But it was right in the middle of our office space and we wanted it to reflect the pride and professionalism of the current division."

So the division staff organized a committee of Soldiers who took steps to make improvements. Updates included a fresh coat of paint, new chairs and a conference table and original artwork courtesy of some of the unit's own artists.

"I wanted to have a space that we can take pride in and see and use every day where the history of the division comes alive," Bush said. "I wanted the unit to connect to our record of achievements of bravery and selfless service — to emphasize the long lineage of the 35th Infantry Division by creating a tangible connection to a hero from the past."

That connection to the past and celebration of accomplishments came in the form of two large paintings. One painting capturing the division's current mission depicts the five brigades that fall under Task Force Spartan,

which the 35th oversees, painted by Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Anderson.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carol Sprawka completed the painting representing the division's past — a portrait of Spurrier.

"I'm honored to be a part of this," Sprawka said. "This is part of our history. As I did some research to complete this painting, I learned a lot about the 35th that I didn't know. So hopefully, someone will see the painting and be encouraged to learn about it too."

During the invocation at the dedication ceremony, 35th Inf. Div. Chap. (Maj.) Richard Dunn remarked it is the hope of the division the facility will assist future units in their ongoing efforts to promote national security and regional stability.

"We ask, Lord, that this room, dedicated in Staff Sgt. Spurrier's honor, will long serve as a consecrated space for planning, shaping and reporting on future operations, many of which remain known only to you at this time," Dunn said.

Following the invocation, both Anderson and Sprawka received coins from 35th Inf. Div. commanding general, Maj. Gen. Victor Braden, for their efforts.

While the division may not be certain of the future, digging into Spurrier's story did uncover a small, previously forgotten piece of their legacy. Spurrier's records reveal his time serving in the Army, dotted with episodes of confrontations with senior leaders and periods of absence without leave, is not a story one would expect to result in the achievement of such a prestigious award.

However, the classic tale of the underdog is one many in the division see as a fitting representation for the current division.

"He was certainly no boy scout," Bush laughed. "But he

was an unconventional figure who was able to think on his feet, adapt to a changing environment and make the best of a situation."

"I think he is a great example for all of us and his story still speaks to how the division operates today in many ways. I would like for people to think of the 35th division that way today — that we can get the job done, we are going to do it in a way that surpasses everyone's expectations."

Staff Sgt. Junior J. Spurrier's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

General Orders: War Department, General Orders No. 18, March 15, 1945.

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Staff Sergeant Junior James Spurrier, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company G, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, in action against the enemy at Achain, France, on 13 November 1944. At 2 p.m., Company G attacked the village of Achain from the east. Staff Sergeant Spurrier armed with a BAR passed around the village and advanced alone. Attacking from the west, he immediately killed three Germans. From this time until dark, Staff Sergeant Spurrier, using at different times his BAR and M-1 rifle, American and German rocket launchers, a German automatic pistol, and hand grenades, continued his solitary attack against the enemy regardless of all types of small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. As a result of his heroic actions he killed an officer and 24 enlisted men and captured two officers and two enlisted men. His valor has shed fresh honor on the U.S. Armed Forces.

On-post Cub Scout group accepting girls

Staff Report
1ST INF. DIV. POST

In the wake of the October announcement by the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors to allow girls to participate in Cub Scout groups, the Fort Riley committee has echoed the announcement with one of their own.

According to local committee chair Inga Klusa-Curit, Pack 3660 will follow the national organization's lead in 2018.

"I would like to announce that pack 3660, (that) meets at the Scout Hut, will accept ... youth applications from girls (in the) first through fifth grade starting on January 1, 2018," Klusa-Curit wrote in a recent email to the 1st Infantry Division Post.

The national organization left the final decision up to each unit and, in a press release, cited repeated requests and a desire to serve the family of today with a more complete scouting experience.

"This decision is true to the BSA's mission and core values outlined in the Scout Oath and Law. The values of scouting — trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, brave and reverent, for example — are important for both young men and women," said Michael Surbaugh, the BSA's chief scout executive. "We believe it is critical to evolve how our programs meet the needs of families interested in positive and lifelong experiences for their children. We strive to bring what our organization does best — developing character and leadership for young people — to as many families and youth as possible as we help shape the next generation of leaders."

According to the BSA press release, families today are busier and more diverse than ever.

Most are dual-earners and there are more single-parent households than ever before, making convenient programs that serve the whole family more appealing. Additionally, many groups currently underserved by scouting, including the Hispanic and Asian communities, prefer to participate in activities as a family. Recent surveys of parents not involved with scouting showed high interest in getting their daughters signed up for programs like Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, with 90 percent expressing interest in a program like Cub Scouts and 87 percent expressing interest in a program like Boy Scouts. Education experts also evaluated the curriculum and content and confirmed relevancy of the program for young women.

"The BSA's record of producing leaders with high character and integrity is amazing," said Randall Stephenson, BSA's national board chairman. "I've seen nothing that develops leadership skills and discipline like this organization. It is time to make these outstanding leadership development programs available to girls."

This decision expands the programs the Boy Scouts of America offers for both boys and girls. Although known for its iconic programs for boys, the BSA has offered co-ed programs since 1971 through Exploring and the Venturing program, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2018. The STEM Scout pilot program is also available for both boys and girls.

For more information about expanded opportunities for family scouting, visit the family scouting page at www.scoutingnewsroom.org/family-scouting/. For information about local scouting opportunities, call the Coronado Area Council at 785-827-4461.

Special ops, conventional forces evolving to meet modern threats shaped by war

By Jim Garamone
DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON — There is a blurring line that separates conventional operating forces from special operations forces, and the defense secretary expects general purpose forces will eventually shoulder missions once the province of their special forces brethren.

Defense Secretary James N. Mattis told Pentagon reporters on Friday the experiences of war since 9/11 have blurred the lines.

This change will not be enshrined in strategy, he said, but will come about as a result of policy and the growth of general purpose forces' capabilities.

GROWTH OF GENERAL PURPOSE FORCE CAPABILITIES

Mattis said he expects more general purpose forces to take on missions in Iraq and Syria.

"In the Trans-Sahel (region of Africa), many of the force supporting the French effort are general purpose forces," the secretary said.

If a mission comes up, the secretary said he'll determine the parameters of it and pass that to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The chairman will then determine what forces take on that mission. They may be special operations forces or general purpose forces with unique capabilities to best handle that particular mission.

U.S. MILITARY EVOLVES THROUGH WAR EXPERIENCES

This is an evolution of the U.S. military spurred by the lessons of war, the secretary said.

Mattis said he does not want a force that is dominant in yesterday's challenges, but irrelevant in today's. The

general purpose force, he added, is going to have to have the capabilities that were once associated only with special operations forces.

The secretary gave the example of remotely piloted vehicles. In 2001, he said, the only people who ran drones were special operations forces.

In 2007, an Army captain on one street was looking at a feed from a drone overhead with strike capabilities from the Navy and Army standing by, the secretary said. In the meantime, a "CIA guy was in his headquarters talking with one of his agents in an Army brigade," Mattis said. "That is not what an Army brigade did in Desert Storm or the Fulda Gap (in what was then West Germany). The change happened because war initiated those changes. Those are now common capabilities."

Post photos, including many that haven't been printed, are on flickr!

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VERSE OF THE DAY

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Philippians 3:7-9

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TRAFFIC REPORT

ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS

Those with a valid military ID card, or who have an access pass or badge, wanting access to Fort Riley on weekends should use Estes, Ogden, Henry or Trooper gates.

For more information about Fort Riley access procedures, visit www.riley.army.mil.

The access control point hours are:

Henry/Trooper/Ogden/Estes:

Open 24/7. Commercial traffic at Estes is required to have an access pass or badge prior to trying to access.

12th Street:

Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday, closed weekends and federal holidays. This gate will have inbound commercial vehicle lanes only. Although

personally owned vehicles will be allowed access, there is no designated POV lane.

Outbound traffic is not authorized. Badges and passes may be issued to commercial drivers prior to access at the gate.

Grant:

Grant Gate is open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is closed weekends and federal holidays.

CAMPBELL HILL ROAD CLOSURE

Campbell Hill Road is closed north of Huebner Road for repairs.

Traffic will be diverted to the tank trail parallel to Campbell Hill Road.

The repairs will take about one month to complete. Access to the landfill will still be possible during the repairs.

K-State Polytechnic offers free drone webinar

K-State News

SALINA, Kan. — Unmanned aircraft systems, more commonly known as drones, are popular gifts over the holiday season and a widespread hobby for flying enthusiasts. Many systems are sold and marketed as ready to fly; however, it is important consumers are up-to-date with important regulations and safety practices.

Kansas State Polytechnic is offering a free webinar and live question-and-answer session with Kansas State University UAS experts to discuss important safety practices, flying rules and regulations and tips for operating a UAS.

Join the Kansas Polytechnic UAS experts at 7 p.m. Jan. 9, to discuss the difference between hobby and commercial UAS operations, safety considerations when operating your UAS, important Federal Aviation Administration rules and regulations to ensure compliance

when operating your system. The webinar is free, but registration is required at <https://ksu-uas.com/dronewebinar>.

Kansas State Polytechnic is an expert in the UAS industry and has been part of numerous research projects advising rules and regulations in the industry. Kansas State Polytechnic offers two UAS bachelor's degrees at www.polytechnicexperience.com/academics/droneexperts, in which students are provided a hands-on experience and research opportunities with industry.

Register online at <https://ksu-uas.com/dronewebinar> for the free webinar. Contact the Kansas State Polytechnic Professional Education and Outreach office with questions at 855-552-0079. Schedule a personalized campus visit with Kansas State Polytechnic admissions online polytechnic.k-state.edu/admissions/visit/index.html or by calling 785-826-2640.

Fort Riley to begin monthly testing of public alert system

Fort Riley Public Affairs Office

Starting Jan. 9, the Fort Riley Emergency Management Office will begin monthly testing of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. The mass-notification warning system tests will take place at noon the first Tuesday of each month.

The system transmits alerts through mobile phones, television, radio and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration radios.

During the tests and in actual emergencies, people with WEA-capable devices will

receive text messages with the alert or warning information. This is similar to other emergency alerts and AMBER Alerts in that users don't need to opt in, download an app or subscribe to a service.

The system is designed to reach all cell phone towers within a given geographic region. Fort Riley emergency managers expect some mobile phone users in surrounding communities may also receive these alerts and monthly tests. No action or response is required for the tests.

The system is a modernization and integration of the

nation's alert and warning infrastructure. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency website, IPAWS "will save time when time matters most, protecting life and property."

The system enables public safety officials to use multiple communication technologies to send emergency alerts and warnings, increasing the likelihood of people receiving those messages.

Types of messages that may be sent via this system include weather warnings, AMBER Alerts and presidential alerts during a national emergency.

WINTER SAFETY

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

- Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks
- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean and ventilated to the outside
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys
- Install a smoke detector and test batteries monthly
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available
- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries regularly
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headaches, nausea and disorientation
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your home

WINTERIZE YOUR CAR

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level
- Check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car

WINTER TRAVEL TIPS

- Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories
- If you must travel, inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival
- If stranded in car, stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away but continue to move arms and legs.
- Stay visible by putting bright cloth on the antenna, turning on the inside overhead light and raising the hood when snow stops falling
- Run the engine and heater only 10 minutes every hour
- Keep a downwind window open
- Make sure the tailpipe is not blocked

WINTER KIT FOR HOME OR CAR

- Include food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers
- Have a fully charged cellphone
- Keep battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio and lamps
- Store extra batteries
- Keep a first-aid kit and extra medicine
- Have baby items on hand
- Include cat litter or sand for icy walkways

For more information, contact the Garrison Safety Office at 785-240-0647. To learn about safety across the installation, visit www.riley.army.mil/Units/GarrisonCommand/Safety/



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Why?



"To give because of the satisfaction and the pure joy on their face."

PVT. TREVOR LABATZKY
PLANO, TEXAS

1st Replacement Company



"It's better to give because I think giving makes people feel special."

MARTHA DEPEN A
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Wife of Staff Sgt. Robert Depena, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment



"To give because if you know someone cannot afford a gift, it's better to just give them one. Plus it feels good."

PVT. JAVIER VILLALOBOS
HENDERSON, NEVADA

1st Replacement Company



"Giving a gift because it is a special thought."

ALEXUS LINNEAN
BOISE, IDAHO

Daughter of Chief Warrant Office 3 Shawn Linnean, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division



"Give. I love to see their face of joy."

SARAH CUMMINGS
GRANTSVILLE, UTAH

Dental assistant, Dental Activity

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SAFETY CORNER

Workplace resolutions for the new year

By Dawn J. Douglas
GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Each new year is an opportunity to start fresh and make resolutions to change. Most resolutions tend to center around personal well-being, such as promising to spend more time at the gym to get fit and setting goals to achieve professionally.

However, very few take the time to ponder on how to improve health and safety while in the workplace. Preventing accidents and injury does take planning and commitment. Most organizations say safety is a priority, but every organization knows priorities shift as the operational tempo changes. By resolving to act on improving the health and safety of the workplace, employers can set an achievable resolutions that will pay back dividends in lowered workman compensation costs, reduced lost time and job restrictions and improved employee morale.

How do you set workplace resolutions for the new year? Here are a few tips:

LOOK BACK ON THE PAST YEAR

Blindly making resolutions for the new year without considering the events that happened in the previous year will only result in half-baked goals. Review the accidents of the year that just ended. Have there been any documented health hazards due to slip, trips or falls due to poor housekeeping or other safety problems? Were safety trainings sufficient throughout the year or could this have been improved upon and thereby have prevented the accidents from occurring? In what areas did injuries result in the most lost time or job restrictions? Use the happenings from the year before to create better resolutions regarding safety at the workplace.

REVIEW POLICIES ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

Take some time to look through the directorate or unit policies and review health and safety rules and regulations. Has the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made any significant regulatory changes that might affect work in your industry? Has the designated safety person retired, changed duty stations or had a job change or transfer? Have new functions or operations been introduced in your work area that have not had a Job Hazard Analysis conducted to determine the risks? The new year is a perfect time to review standard operating procedures, dust off old safety policies and make updates and changes to building number, points of contacts and safety procedural changes.

ASK QUESTIONS

Some tasks may be too dangerous or too difficult for one single person to perform. Has a reduction in manpower caused others to assume more responsibility? When in doubt about the safety of a certain job, don't be afraid to speak out. Asking questions opens the line of communication between the worker and the management and may prompt the higher ups to modify safety rules and regulations should one task be found to put health or life at risk.

INSPECT PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND GEAR

The holiday season preceding the new year is a great time to check personal protective equipment and equipment. Is the safety vest still properly fitted or have the boots lost their non-skid ability? Do the safety glasses still allow clear vision or does the helmet need replacement? Don't skimp on this resolution and ensure all your safety

equipment and PPE in tip-top shape before starting work in 2018. Otherwise, it's out with the old and in with the new.

RECOVER FROM SEASONAL DEVIATIONS

Activities that distract from tasks that need to be accomplished are distractions that should be thrown away along with the previous year. Have you adequately cleaned and stored all your holiday decorations and other seasonal equipment? Have you replaced your tornado shelter signage and emergency evacuation maps that may have fallen or been removed for building renovations? Have you stocked up on ice melt and other winter weather/inclement weather items to ensure your facility is safe for visitors and employees? As staff comes back from the holidays, it is important to re-institute organizational norms that may have been deviated or suspended during the holiday break.

UPDATE SAFETY TRAINING

For any workplace safety-related concerns, knowing is half the battle. Is there new technology available to aid in training employees? Are there classes being offered to train the new Collateral Duty Safety Officer? Are there new process or procedures seasoned employees need refresher training or new employees need initial training? The new year is the perfect time to review training records to update the annual training calendar.

Team Riley, we have had remarkable success in reducing accidents and injuries in previous years. Safety works best when it is a team effort to create a safe and healthful work environment. Start 2018 by reviewing your directorate of unit safety program and implementing the necessary changes or improvement to protect your most valuable assets: people. For more information, contact the Garrison Safety Office at 785-240-0647.

WINTER WEATHER

Staying prepared in freezing temperatures

By Collen McGee
FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Editor's note: Facts and information found within this story were provided by an article from the Kansas National Guard Division of Emergency Management.

Winters are relatively new for me and my family. Before moving to Kansas, we lived in Texas. Thanks to tips from friends, neighbors and our own Fort Riley Garrison Safety office, I've learned a lot about being ready for winter weather and we are starting to feel like we can handle cold weather. I'll be honest, last week was still tough.

Not only is extreme cold weather an issue for me, but it also is for my outdoor pets and my car.

For me, I have learned to layer; for the car, we don't skimp on preventative maintenance; and for our outdoor animals, we make sure they have shelter and easy access to a warm place out of the wind and can reach fresh water and food easily.

The following are some more general preparedness tips from the Kansas National Guard Division of Emergency Management.

Emergency kits should include a minimum three-day supply of water — one gallon per day per person, nonperishable high-energy foods, extra blankets, flashlights and extra batteries, a safe alternate heat source, extra medications and other essentials.

If you have to work outside, observe the following safety precautions:

- Use many thin, warm layers rather than a few thick layers. It will insulate better and allow you to strip off layers if the temperature climbs.
- Do not work alone, if possible. Working with a partner allows you to keep an eye on each other.
- Work in short periods to avoid over-exertion.

Outdoor pets are especially vulnerable to bitter cold and extreme wind chills. Bring outdoor pets inside if possible or ensure that they have a draft-free enclosure with straw-type bedding is large enough for your pets to lie down, but small enough to hold in body heat if they must remain outside. Always make sure your pets have access to food and non-frozen water.

For additional pet safety information, go to avma.org, and for general winter preparedness information, go to www.ksready.gov.

If you must travel, make sure you and your vehicle are prepared. Check the fluid levels, ensuring the radiator is winterized, the gas tank is over half-full and there is plenty of windshield washing fluid. Check tire treads for adequate traction and replace windshield wiper blades if they are worn.

Keep an emergency kit in the trunk that includes at least:

- An ice scraper and shovel
- Jumper cables
- Flashlights
- Sand or kitty litter for traction
- Extra blankets or clothing
- Non-perishable food
- A first-aid kit
- Matches and candles or flares
- Tow rope or chain

On the road, buckle up and properly secure children in safety seats.

Road conditions are available through the Kansas Department of Transportation. Check conditions before travel by going to www.kandrive.org or on a mobile device, go to <http://511mm.ksdot.org>. You may also call 511 from any phone.

For a complete list of items for a home or car emergency kit and for other helpful preparedness information, go to www.ksready.gov.

Even with these ideas, here's something I never said in Texas: "I'm looking forward to when the temperatures rise to freezing."

Consumer Corner: Using gift cards wisely

By Derek Schmidt
KANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Gift cards have become a popular way for givers to make sure the recipient gets something he or she wants. If you unwrapped a gift card under your tree this year, now is your chance to choose your own perfect gift.

As you venture out to the stores or log on to your computer to spend that gift card, make sure you're aware of the fine print that comes with your gift. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Under Kansas law, gift cards cannot expire for at least five years. If the gift

card does not have an expiration date printed on the card, then it is good until you redeem it, no matter how long that is.

- Merchants can begin charging inactivity fees against the card's balance 12 months after the card is issued. These fees are required to be printed on the card or the packaging it comes in.
- Pre-paid bank cards — the ones that are issued by a bank or credit card company, not by a specific store — can, and usually do, charge additional fees for

purchasing the card and on the balance.

- Be aware even with legal protections in place, the value of a gift card may be lost if the store goes out of business before the card is used.
- You should also remember to keep unused gift cards in a safe location. Treat them like cash. Unlike credit cards, if a gift card is lost or stolen, it can be difficult to prove the card belonged to you. Some retailers will allow you to register your card online, which protects the value of the card if something does happen.

If you happen to receive a card for a place you do not shop, it is unlikely the retailer will let you exchange your card for cash. However, there are websites that allow you to sell or exchange your unwanted gift cards. Use caution when dealing with these online sites to be sure you don't become a victim of fraud. You can also consider donating your unwanted gift cards to a local charity, especially cards for grocery, clothing or department stores.

For more consumer tips or to file a complaint, visit our consumer protection website at www.InYourCornerKansas.org or call 800-432-2310.

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Army scientists: regrowing limbs could be the future for military medicine



Heide Couch | U.S. AIR FORCE

A juvenile California tiger salamander migrates across the Travis Air Force Base, California, airfield in search of a suitable burrow. Military researchers are studying how some animals, such as salamanders, are able to regrow limbs. The research is designed to help those with amputations regrow their own arms and legs.

By Armed with Science
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S OFFICIAL SCIENCE BLOG

WASHINGTON — For some animals, such as salamanders, regrowing a missing limb is a common healing process. But what if people could do the same? Could the future of treating amputations include Soldiers regrowing their own muscle, bone and nerve tissues?

“We’re not quite there yet,” said Lt. Col. David Saunders, extremity repair product manager for the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, Fort Detrick, Maryland. “What we’re trying to do is develop a toolkit for our trauma and reconstructive surgeons out of various regenerative medicine products as they emerge to improve long-term outcomes in function and form of injured extremities.”

Saunders was part of a session focusing on the research of extremity regeneration — part of a larger theme of regenerative medicine at the Military Health System Research Symposium. Saunders said while there’s been amazing progress in the areas of using synthetic grafts to start the regrowth of muscle, nerve, vascular and connective tissues, it’s still not the same as the real thing.

“We would like it to be as restorative as possible, resist infection ... and be durable,” he said. “This is going to be implanted in young people who may go on to live another 60 to 70 years.”

One researcher is using fillers to bridge the gap in damaged bones, hoping to figuratively bridge the gap between current regenerative techniques and the ideal: people regrowing lost limbs.

Stephanie Shiels with the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, talked about her research to develop a synthetic bone gap filler that heals bones and reduces infection by infusing those grafts with a variety of anti-microbials.

“We know that it reduces infection,” said Shiels. “Other things to consider include adding a bulking agent ... to help regenerate bone.”

Other research focuses on regrowing muscle lost in traumatic injuries, as well as recovering nerves, or at least preserving them, for future use. But besides treating those deep tissue wounds, there’s something a bit more on the surface that can impact troops: skin. The skin is known for its regenerative properties. Research is being conducted to help it do that job better and recover scar tissue.

Jason Brant with the University of Florida has turned to a mouse to help the military

reduce scarring of injured Soldiers. He said the African spiny mouse has evolved a capability to lose large parts of its skin when a predator tries to grab it, allowing the mouse to escape and live to recover. The mouse is able to recover scar-free in a relatively short amount of time, which is remarkable considering the amount and depth of tissue lost. Brant wants to know how the mouse is able to do that.

“Warfighters and civilians alike suffer large surface (cuts) and burns, and these result in medically and cosmetically problematic scars,” said Brant. “The impacts of these scars ... are really staggering. The ability to develop effective therapies will have an enormous impact not only on the health care system but on the individuals as well.”

He believes a certain protein in the mouse could be the key, but he’s still trying to figure out how it could apply to humans.

Another way to reduce scarring involves the initial treating of wounds. Maj. Samuel Tahk, a research fellow with the Uniformed Services Health Consortium, passed around to attendees’ samples of biocompatible sponges he’s investigating for their ability to promote skin healing, and thus, reduce scarring.

“It provides a scaffold to start regenerative growth,” said Tahk. “This could simplify patient care and also reduce costs.”

While the field of regenerating body parts is still new, Saunders believes it will be the future of wounded warrior care.

“Extremity wounds are increasingly survivable due to the implementation of body armor and damage control surgeries,” he said. “(There are) many wonderful things emerging in the field of regenerative medicine to restore form and function to our wounded warfighters.”

Director of Office of Business Transformation says innovation needed to keep Army on top

By David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Army must build a culture of innovation or risk obsolescence, said Lt. Gen. Edward C. Cardon.

Cardon, director of the Office of Business Transformation, spoke at the 2017 Association of the U.S. Army’s Annual Meeting and Exposition.

“We’re slowly losing our overmatch and we’re losing our competitive advantage, becoming outgunned, outranged, etc.,” he said. “What that means is over time, readiness will degrade.”

There are two types of innovation, incremental and disruptive, he said. For years, the Army has incrementally improved upon its existing equipment with upgrades.

However, that approach has come against the law of diminishing returns, he said, referencing vehicles and aircraft.

What’s needed is a shot of disruptive innovation, he said.

An example of disruptive innovation, Cardon illustrated, would be “a 10-times rifle (with) 10 times the stopping power, 10 times the range, 10 times the ammunition.”

Imagine the firepower of an attack helicopter wielded by an infantry Soldier, he continued.

In other words, disruptive innovation is a completely different way of thinking about something, he said.

The Army has always been an innovative organization, he said. Of special note are the innovations that have come out of the wars. And, a lot of that innovation has come from

the lower ranks, when innovation has been measured in lives saved.

HOW TO UNLEASH ALL OF THAT INNOVATION TODAY?

Robin Swan, Cardon’s deputy, explained there’s no shortage of great ideas. “But if you can’t share them with decision makers, they die on the vine.”

The entire Army culture needs to change in order for innovation to take hold, Swan said.

The current culture is risk averse, he said. “The Army doesn’t prize failure.”

For instance, a program manager is not rewarded for delivering a failed program, so the program manager acts in a risk-averse manner, avoiding what might be a promising approach with high rewards but high risk, he said.

An approach might be to set aside a portion of the budget toward high reward, high risk strategies in certain critical areas, he said. Even failed attempts can be learning experiences with new ideas built upon them.

Another approach to fostering innovation is through talent management — getting the right team in the right place at the right time — combined with an incentive program, he said.

The reward doesn’t necessarily have to be monetary, although that could be effective. An innovator, he said, could receive recognition from top Army leaders, perhaps at a large event like the Army birthday celebrations or Association of the United States Army.

Finally, he said Soldiers and Army civilians need encouragement from their leaders — encouragement to try something even if it means failure.

Swan said everyone can get involved in innovation, even if they don’t work in a research lab.

When people think about innovation in the Army, they think of materiel solutions, he said. But innovation can also be in such areas as information technology, leader development, doctrine and organizational structure.

Cardon added that too many people think that innovation means saving money or cutting jobs. He said the chief of staff of the Army said innovation should be measured in improved lethality and overmatch.

The general concluded that leaders often are not as proficient as the people they’re leading. Getting the right leaders who realize they might not have all the answers to create an environment of innovation is what’s needed, he said. Otherwise, these talented men and women will leave the Army and go to industry or academia where they’re ideas are valued.

RECENT INNOVATION EFFORTS

The Army launched three efforts to innovate within the past year.

In October, the Office of Business Transformation released its “Army Innovation Strategy 2017-2021.”

Jennifer Mootz, a strategist with the office, said the strategy is a five year plan designed to change the culture by increasing tolerance for failure through rewarding experimentation, prudent risk taking and learning from mistakes.

The strategy also will target the way the Army plans and programs resources to better support innovation, and looks for ways to generate ideas from the total force, she said.



COURTESY PHOTO

A Soldier cuts some steel for up-arming vehicles in Kuwait early in the war in Iraq. Lieutenant Gen. Edward C. Cardon, director of the Office of Business Transformation, said innovations like this often come from the lower ranks and war has been an incubator of innovation.

About a year ago, the Army launched Army Ideas for Innovation, or AI2, a digital crowdsourcing program that solicits ideas for how the Army can become more innovative.

Any member of the Department of Defense community with a common access card can participate. AI2 is located at www.milsuite.mil/book/community/spaces/ai2.

Once posted, the idea is crowdsourced for a period of two weeks, she said. During that period, participants can add their inputs and vote up or down on the idea.

At the end of that period, the idea goes to a functional moderator at the headquarters level. For example, if the idea involves logistics, it goes to the logistics moderator. The same holds true for finance, human resources, installations, training, security, communications and other communities. But an idea can sometimes cross communities, Mootz said, and in such a case, the

communities will approach the idea collaboratively.

Finally, the new U.S. Army Futures Command with its eight cross-functional teams will provide the unity of effort and command needed to reduce the requirements development process from 60 months down to around 12, Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper told lawmakers during a Senate Armed Services Committee, Dec. 7.

The process for getting requirements met will be streamlined, he said, consisting of an iterative process including prototype development, demonstration and testing, and evaluation.

If the evaluation results in failure, then that three-step cycle will be repeated until a successful outcome is obtained, followed by production and fielding decisions, he said.

Success, he added, could just be getting to the 80 percent solution on a requirement.



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FORT RILEY

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FEB. 8, 2018



Army Corps of Engineers Blue Roof mission progresses across Puerto Rico

By Codi Kozacek
ARMY NEWS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — With the new year fast approaching, Quality Assurance specialist Andrew Lorenz was busy visiting Operation Blue Roof installation sites in neighborhoods across Mayagüez, a city of 80,000 people on Puerto Rico's west coast. Here and across Puerto Rico, the effort to provide residents with the temporary blue roofs has gained steam with nearly 4,000 installations occurring island-wide each of the past two weeks.

Operation Blue Roof is a program managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The program's goal is to help protect property and allow residents to stay in their homes after a natural disaster by providing temporary, plastic-sheeting roofs to eligible homes until permanent repairs can be made. The temporary roofs are designed to last 30 days.

To date, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, working with government contractors, has installed more than 30,000 blue roofs to help Puerto Rico residents recover from Hurricane Maria. By Dec. 27, the average number of installations had reached approximately 800 roofs per day.

In Mayagüez, Lorenz said his Quality Assurance team is seeing a transition in their work as the mission progresses. During the initial stages of the blue roof effort, the Quality Assurance teams focused on obtaining Right-of-Entry forms from residents who requested a

blue roof and performing the initial assessments. Now, they are doing more material adjustments requested by the contractors during installation, and checking on homes that have already received blue roofs.

"There are still new ROEs and still new house assessments that are going on, but a lot of this area you see has been covered," Lorenz said. "You see blue roofs all over the place. So a lot of our work is (quality) spot checks and adjustment forms."

An adjustment is required when contract crews begin working on a blue roof installation and find that they have either too much or too little material — such as two-by-fours, plywood, or reinforced plastic sheeting — to do the job.

"Once they actually get up on the roof, they can get a better picture of what they actually need," said Lorenz. "We'll get a call from the QC (contractor Quality Control specialist) saying we either need more wood or we don't need the wood that was on the original work order. So we either subtract or add on an adjustment for materials."

The Corps' Quality Assurance teams coordinate closely with the QCs to make the material adjustments as quickly as possible. They also work together if there are any fixes that need to be made to blue roofs that have already been installed — for example, if heavy rain or wind causes any pooling or leaks in the roofs.

"After a big rainfall, you'll get calls that a (blue roof) is leaking," Lorenz said. "Then we'll coordinate with (the QCs) on whatever complaints we're getting, to get it fixed."



Eric Jones | U.S. ARMY
Andrew Lorenz, right, a Quality Assurance specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, works with contractors to make a material adjustment at a home receiving a temporary blue roof in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, Dec. 30.

Health survey indicates uptick in Army patient satisfaction

By David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Results of the Joint Outpatient Experience Survey, or JOES, are in for 2017 and Soldiers, retirees and family members reported an overall satisfaction rate of 93 percent for their experience at medical treatment facilities, said Dr. Melissa Gliner, senior health policy analyst, with the Office of the Army Surgeon General.

Gliner said the other two big metrics were ease of access to provider, which garnered an 83 percent positive rating — highest in the military health services — and a 78 percent positive rating for overall experience with the pharmacy.

The results of the survey show an overall increase in satisfaction of about 2 percent for those three questions over 2016, the year the Army first participated in the survey, she said.

A total of about 2.7 million surveys go out annually to about 10 percent of patients who have visited an MTF in a random selection process, she said. At first, only paper surveys were distributed, but since last month, a website has been set up for taking the short, two-page survey.

Strict confidentiality is maintained at all times, she added.

Gliner, who is a statistician by training, interprets the results and shares them with representatives from all of the MTFs on a regular basis.

She said MTFs are eager to learn the survey results and understand what's working and what can be improved.

One incentive for getting high survey scores is a monetary award that's given to the best performing MTFs, she noted. Also, performance reviews are tied to the results.

Besides sharing the results with the MTFs, Gliner said she

also offers advice on ways to improve the patient experience.

For instance, Gliner said she looks at civilian treatment facilities to see what works well and shares that with the MTFs. One example, she said is having staff members circulate in the waiting area to chat with patients so they don't feel they're being ignored. That's one way to elevate scores.

Another finding from the survey was some patients experience frustration during their initial call to schedule an appointment. Some are told to call back because there were no appointments. Some MTFs are now retraining the clerks who take the calls to get the appointments set up without having to call back, she said.

Gliner said that the U.S. Army Medical Command is working to stand up a website that will better help MTFs share their ideas and further elevate patient experience and survey scores.





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CONCERT

Continued from page 1



Spc. Hubert D. Delany III | 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
The Soldiers of the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division give a round of applause after listening to a holiday concert performed by a group of Polish students in Swietoszow, Poland on Dec. 22.

how they want to give the troops the flag as a piece of home to take back with them.

For some of the Soldiers of the “Long Knife” squadron, this Christmas marks the first time being away from friends and family during the holidays.

Private 1st Class Brandon DeFilippo, a Rolla, Missouri, native and an M-1 Abrams tank system maintainer with 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., is one of many Soldiers on his first deployment. He said he enjoyed seeing people show empathy during the holidays because it helps make time away from home a little easier.

“It felt great,” DeFilippo said. “When they gave us the flag, when they sang us the songs, just seeing them there made me feel like everyone supports us.”

New tools developed by Army engineers map safer routes from shore to inland objectives

By David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Anti-access, area-denial, also known as A2AD, methods are used by enemy forces to slow or stop an invasion through such things as the placement of mines in the seabed near shore and concealment of forces inland.

New littoral and inland mapping tools are being developed by Army researchers to breach some of the A2AD threats. Experts spoke about these developments at the 2017 Annual Meeting and Exposition of the Association of the U.S. Army in October.

LITTORAL MAPPING

Soldiers and Marines will often travel from ship-to-shore in small landing craft.

Surf zones can be extremely dangerous places to navigate, with unseen sandbars that can ground vessels, large waves that can overturn them and strong currents that can affect navigation, according to Katherine Brodie, a research oceanographer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Engineer Research and Development Center.

The current method for littoral entry, she said, relies on charts that indicate water depths and underwater contours.

The problem with charts, Brodie said, is that they can become outdated within just hours — for example, when a storm hits, sandbars form or disappear, along with beach erosion.

The ERDC has developed a suite of inexpensive littoral imaging sensors that use video and radar to quickly map the

underwater terrain, she said, explaining they measure speed, direction and shapes of waves to accurately infer water depths, currents and underwater contours.

The methods used are so accurate, she said, they can detect mines hidden under the water.

The sensors can also operate at night and during storms, she added.

Data is collected using unmanned aerial vehicles, which may have one or multiple cameras, as well as radar. In this manner, she said whole sections of coastline can be scanned in just minutes and the data can then be presented in the form of a map to the landing force commander.

She said the system was tested earlier this year at Camp Pendleton, California. It is still in the research and development stage at this time.

A second effort associated with this littoral mapping technology, she said, is building forecasting models and algorithms that can predict what the seabed will look like hours and days in the future. That effort involves collaboration between ERDC, the Naval Research Laboratory and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

INLAND MAPPING

Damon Conover, an electronics engineer at the Army Research Laboratory, said his team is developing a 3-dimensional terrain visualization system that will help guide Soldiers over the safest land route to their objective.

The system relies on two types of sensors for collecting data: Light

Detection and Ranging, more commonly called LIDAR, and video, which can be mounted on a small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, he said.

In just minutes, the imagery from the UAV can be captured and a stereoscopic map can be produced, he said.

With LIDAR, the resolution is just one meter across, Conover said. That means a small, mountain trail would be invisible. However, the photo imagery from the video produces pixels that are 10 centimeters across, allowing Soldiers to see minute detail such as the trail. Both LIDAR and the photo imagery are blended onto the 3-D map.

In addition to LIDAR and video, Conover said his team has incorporated other sensors, such as acoustic and seismic, into the mapping process.

Once these sensors are placed in the terrain by a reconnaissance unit or dropped by UAV and activated, they send signals directly to the same 3-D map, providing additional information about such things as enemy movement, he said.

During testing over the summer at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, Conover said while watching the 3-D map at his command outpost, he could track the movement of Soldiers, who unknowingly set off the acoustic and seismic sensors on the desert floor.

Although the 3-D mapping is considered still in the research stage, Conover said “we are actively trying to get it in the hands of Soldiers.”

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Fort Riley Mass Warning and Notification System Smartphone App

The Fort Riley Mass Warning and Notification system now includes a mobile notification smartphone application.

The AtHoc Notifier is a smartphone app which displays as a purple globe on your main mobile phone screen. It is available for iOS and Android smartphones.

The app is not currently approved for government mobile devices.

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For more information and installation instructions visit www.riley.army.mil/Community/Ready-Army/

S P R E A D I N G HOLIDAY CHEER



Spc. Melissa Vanderburg, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, adds gumdrops to her gingerbread house in a contest during the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Holiday Party Dec. 21 at the Warrior Zone. Other activities at the party included trivia games, video gaming tournament, karaoke, movies and a nacho bar.

Single Soldiers celebrate holidays with party, contests, games

Story and photos by Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The evening was merry, jolly and bright during the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Holiday Party Dec. 21 at the Warrior Zone. The party was the first in a few years for BOSS to celebrate the holiday season with Soldiers not traveling or returning home.

“It’s important to remember that we do have individuals who would like to go home but can’t go home ...”

SPC. DELANO VANKUREN | PRESIDENT, BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS

allow for this to happen and what this really is, is a chance for camaraderie, fellowship and to have a good time,” said Spc. Delano Vankuren, president of BOSS.

Vankuren, who did not return home for the holidays himself, said the party was about getting the Soldiers out of the barracks to enjoy the holiday season and show

“In the past few years, BOSS hasn’t done a lot for single Soldiers who are staying here for the holidays either because they can’t or something is stopping them from going home, so we’ve reinvigorated the program to

allow for this to happen and what this really is, is a chance for camaraderie, fellowship and to have a good time,” said Spc. Delano Vankuren, president of BOSS.

Vankuren, who did not return home for the holidays himself, said the party was about getting the Soldiers out of the barracks to enjoy the holiday season and show

See SINGLE, page 10



Spc. Ricardo Phillips, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, presses a candy wreath onto his gingerbread house in a contest during the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Holiday Party.



Tatiana Ferracioli Da Silva, BOGA Fit instructor and lifeguard, Fort Riley Aquatics Program, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, demonstrates a pose that can be performed on the BOGA Fit mat Dec. 13 at Eyster Pool. For 2018, two new fitness classes are being offered at Eyster Pool – BOGA Yoga and BOGA Fit.

Stretching yoga into uncharted territory

Eyster Pool making a splash with BOGA Fit, BOGA Yoga classes

Story and photo
by Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

With the new year, Eyster Pool is bringing two new fitness classes to Fort Riley — BOGA Fit and BOGA Yoga.

Held almost every day of the week, BOGA Fit and BOGA Yoga take yoga to the water using specialized mats that feel similar to a paddle board. During the weekdays, the classes will rotate on which is held, but Sundays will have both classes available.

“BOGA Fit is yoga in the water,” said Tatiana Ferracioli Da Silva, BOGA Fit instructor and lifeguard, Fort Riley Aquatics Program, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. “Since we don’t have the ocean around here, we’ve created a way for us to use a mat instead of a paddle board, but it feels just like a board ... They’ve combined different yoga and Pilates (moves) and some aspects of paddle board racing and some aspects of surfing.”

BOGA Fit and BOGA Yoga differ slightly with the former focusing on strengthening and engaging the core and the latter working toward mindfulness and personal balance.

“One of the classes will be more similar to yoga in the traditional sense,” Ferracioli Da Silva said. “The difference is because we will be on top of the water, we’ll have that instability that will make you be more aware of the muscles that you are using and that’s one of things I like about it.”

Ferracioli Da Silva said she spent years surfing in Japan and Hawaii, but with no ocean near Fort Riley, she put her time into life guarding and teaching yoga classes. Those are what led her to discover BOGA Yoga and BOGA Fit, offering a combination of two things she loves.

She said the classes will help people relax and build new relationships as some of the moves will require a partner.

“We’re going to do a lot of things that require working together,” Ferracioli Da Silva said. “They’re going to meet a lot of people and make new friends.”

Space is limited in the classes as there are only 11 mats available. Participants do not need to know how to swim to take the class.

BOGA Yoga and BOGA Fit are \$3 per class. A punch card and monthly pass are also available. For more information, call 785-239-4854.

REVELERS ROLL IN 2018 WITH GLOWING FUN

Owen Gray, son of Lt. Col. Peter Gray, professor of military science at Kansas State University, and Maggy Gray, 2017 Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley pie queen, preps his bowling ball to roll it down the lane during the New Year’s Eve Glow Party Dec. 31 at Custer Hill Bowling Center. Revelers bowled their way into 2018 with black lights, music, food and family-friendly activities.



Season Osterfeld | POST

FORT RILEY POST-ITS

YOUTH CENTER MIDNIGHT SPORTS

All Middle School and Teen Program members from sixth to 12th grade are welcome to join in on this activity for free at Custer Hill Youth Center, 5800 Thomas Ave.

The fun event begins at 8 p.m. For more information call, 785-239-9222

NEW YEAR FITNESS ROUND ROBIN

What better way to kick start the new you of 2018 with several of the most popular fitness classes at Fort Riley for free beginning 9:10 a.m., Jan. 6?

Classes include body pump, cycling, Insanity, Core de Force, Kettlebell, TRX, MixxedFit, pilates, yoga, Zumba and Kettlebell Strong by Zumba.

All classes are held at Whitside Fitness Center at 684 Huebner Road. For more information, go to facebook.com/rileyfitness, riley.armymwr.com or call 785-239-2583.



INTRODUCTORY SPORT SHOOTING

Come out to Range 34 on Vinton School Road to try out trap and skeet shooting Jan. 6 for \$20 a person. Registration includes instruction, rental firearm, ammunition, ear protection and eye protection.

Advance registration is required. For more information, call 785-239-9058.

FRAMING AND MATTING CLASS

Learn how to select mats, cut them, chop frames, assemble the frame and mat and slice glass in this one-night class at the Arts and Crafts center 6 p.m., Jan. 8, 6918 Trooper Drive.

This class is a prerequisite to using the matting and framing area. All materials are provided.

Advance registration required and costs \$10 a person. For more information call 785-239-9205.



BARLOW THEATER

Barlow Theater will have the following free screenings:

Saturday, Jan. 6 - Paddington 2 (PG) 2 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 13 - 12 Strong (R) 5 p.m.

Tickets are available at all Fort Riley Exchange Food Courts. General seating available 30 minutes prior to show time. Seats are first come, first serve.



COCKTAILS & CANVASES

Hang out, express your creative side and paint while sipping at Riley's Conference Center at 7 p.m., Jan. 6 for Cocktails and Canvases.

Seats sell out quickly and advance purchase is recommended.

The cost is \$25 a person and includes supplies, professional instruction and a beverage ticket.

For more information and to sign up call 785-784-1000.

CYS PARENT CENTRAL SATURDAY HOURS

Parent Central is extending their business hours Jan. 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for parents who have trouble making it to Child and Youth Services during the work week to take care of business.

Stop by 6620 Normandy Drive this Saturday to take care of registration, payments or other needs. For more information, call 785-239-9885.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Child and Youth Services are providing childcare from 6 to 11 p.m. at 6620 Normandy Drive Jan. 6. Services will be provided to kids through fifth grade.

There is a flat fee of \$20 a child, or deployment-hours benefits can used.

Advance registration is required. For more information, call 785-239-9885.

BUBBLE GUPPIES

The Fort Riley MWR is hosting Bubble Guppies at Eyster Pool Jan. 13 between 9 and 10 a.m.

The cost is \$5 per family for 20 minutes of instructional class with a certified water safety instructor and 40 minutes of free social swim time

For more information visit Fort Riley MWR on Facebook or call 785-239-4854.

CARE PACKAGES

Decorate and send a care package for free to a loved one Jan. 25 at Custer Hill Bowling Center, 7485 Normandy Drive, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The event is open to families of deployed Soldiers, Blue Star and Survivor Outreach Services families. Reservations are required for the event by Jan. 19.

To reserve call ACS Outreach program at 785-239-9435.

FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER SCHEDULE

Friday, Jan. 5
Wonder Wheel (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 6
Studio Appreciation Paddington 2 (PG) 2 p.m.
Roman J Israel ESQ (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 7
Last Flag Flying (R) 5 p.m.

Theater opens 30 minutes before first showing
For more information, call 785-239-9574.

Regular Showing: \$6
3D Showing: \$8
First Run: \$8.25
3D First Run: \$10.25

BLUE STAR PROGRAM

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers the Blue Star Program to family members who are geographically separated from their service member. The benefits are also open to Gold Star families and Soldiers in the Warrior Transition Battalion. Discounts and events are available to those enrolled in the program.

For information about eligibility, call 785-239-2172 or email bluestar@rileymwr.com.



AQUA ZUMBA CLASS

Looking for a new workout? Check out Aqua Zumba at Eyster Pool.

Classes are held at 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. View the schedule on the aquatics page at riley.armymwr.com/us/riley/programs/aquatics.

The cost is \$3 per class or \$25 for a 10-class pass.

For more information, call 785-239-4854.

FORT RILEY LEISURE TRAVEL

Discount tickets are available for events in the surrounding area as well as major theme park destinations.

Upcoming events with discount tickets include:

Great Wolf Lodge - Kansas City Hotel: Blackout dates apply. Waterpark tickets included for all guests.

B&B Junction City Gem Theater: \$30 value gift card for \$25 good for movie tickets and concessions.

Kansas City Sprint Center: Disney on Ice - Dream Big tickets for the Sept. 14 to 17 performances for \$20 to \$33 depending upon show and seats selected.

And much more!

For more information on tickets and travel packages available through the Leisure Travel Center, call 785-239-5614/4415.

COMMUNITY CORNER

New year, new you: finding right resolutions

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

Love them or hate them, we make resolutions every day, not just for the new year.

Some popular ones each year include: shed a few pounds, exercise regularly, save money, quit smoking or spend more time with family and friends. Many people ask, "Why bother?" since about half of most Americans struggle to keep their resolutions year in and year out.



Colonel Lawrence

Whatever changes you want to make in your life this year, start small, pick the right time and remember the old adage about not biting off more than you can chew. If you try to change your whole life at once, it will be overwhelming and increase your possibility of failure.

By the simplest definition, a resolution is a firm decision to do or not to do something. Some of those decisions are major ones. I would bet though, the most important ones end up being the smaller ones.

The root word of resolution is "resolve" and is an action

word that requires mindfulness. For one to be mindful, you need to be intentional. Being intentional also means you have to be present in the moments of your life. Your attention needs to be right where you are — if it is at work, be fully at work. If it is at home, be fully at home. There are always distractions; choose only the important ones to follow.

So as we begin this new year, set priorities and do your best to stick to them. Write them down and share them with your closest friends or relatives — they can help you achieve your goals. In other words, be intentional about living life. Use critical thinking skills to be resolute in your responses to daily interactions and decisions in your life.

Again, smaller resolutions will add up to big changes for positive outcomes.

Through resolutions, goal setting and working together, we have an excellent opportunity to make 2018 our best year yet at Fort Riley. I look forward to accomplishing great things as a team and wish each of you a happy new year.

— To comment on this article or to suggest a topic for Community Corner, email usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil.

SINGLE Continued from page 9

them a festive, fun time could still be found.

"It's important to remember that we do have individuals who would like to go home but can't go home, so therefore (we need to) get them out of their room and around friends to see that this isn't so bad," he said.

Pfc. Kody Seiler, member of BOSS and a Soldier in the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, agreed with this idea, adding he wished something had been done like this in past years too.

"It's nice for the Soldiers who aren't going home for Christmas like myself," he said. "It's just so they have somewhere to go so they experience holiday fun and all that Christmas stuff."

The party featured contests including gingerbread house building, ugly sweaters and several trivia games. Karaoke, movies, 30 door prizes, a



Season Osterfeld | POST

Ashley Calvert, wife of Spc. James Calvert, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, decorates her gingerbread house in a contest during the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Holiday Party Dec. 21 at the Warrior Zone. Calvert won first place in the contest.

candy cane estimate game and video gaming tournament were also available. Free food, like candy, cookies and a nacho and hot chocolate bar rounded out the treats.

Seiler said the turnout was great, but most who participated weren't there for

the party itself, they had come to use the facility and found it as an early holiday gift.

"I think it's a nice surprise," he said. "If you come here enough, you walk in, it's just the Warrior Zone again and it's the same old stuff, but if you walk in and there's Christmas activities going

on, there's more fun stuff to do that's holiday related and it's fun, a nice surprise."

Vankuren said the party would not have been possible without the support of and planning by fellow BOSS members.

"A lot of the information was given to me by my team," he said. "I got a lot of the energy from them to put this on. They are really the masterminds and energy holders behind it."

As for where the team came up with ideas, Seiler said they pulled from a little of everything, including family traditions.

"We were thinking about like what people would find fun in regards to something like this," he said. "Some of them we took from a holiday get together that we had with our garrison, the trivia game, we got that from our first sergeant and I got the candy cane thing from my own family because that's what we do. It's really just what would be something they would like and appreciate."

DON'T FORGET ABOUT FIDO

Heading to the grocery store this week? Update your pet's emergency kit by adding extra pet food and water to your grocery list.

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Don't Wait. Communicate.

FEMA Ready

WORSHIP

Protestant Services

Victory Chapel

239-0834

Contemporary Protestant Service

Sunday Worship.....1100

Children's Church.....1115-1215

Morris Hill Chapel

239-2799

Gospel Protestant Service

Sunday School.....0900

Sunday Worship.....1100

Main Post Chapel

239-0834

Traditional Protestant Service

Sunday Worship.....1030

Catholic Services

Victory Chapel

239-0834

Sunday Mass.....0845

Sunday Catechism.....1000

Saint Mary's Chapel

239-0834

Saturday's Vigil Mass.....1630

Sunday Mass.....1200

Mid-day Mass— Mon., Wed., & Fri.....1200

Tuesday & Thursday Mass.....1800

IACH Chapel

239-7872

Mid-day Mass— Tue. & Thur.....1200

Jewish Service

For Sabbath Services please contact the Division Chaplain at 240-6268.

Open Circle Service

Kapaun Chapel

239-4818

Fort Riley Open Circle— SWC

1st & 3rd Friday monthly.....1800

Wednesday Family Night

Weekly classes from 1900-2000 at Victory Chapel

785-239-3359. Watchcare provided for birth-2yrs.

Club Beyond - Faith Based Youth Program

Grades 6th - 12th, Meets Sundays

MS Youth-1530-1700 at Morris Hill Chapel

HS Youth-1830-2000 at Morris Hill Chapel

785-370-5542

Club Beyond is a Non-Federal Entity and is not part of the DoD or any of it's components and it has no government status.

AWANA

Meets Sundays, 1400-1600 Victory Chapel

785-239-0875

Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)

Weekly Tuesday Meeting 0900-1130 & Evenings at 1830-2000 at Victory Chapel

Childcare Provided.

For more information email rileypwoc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley PWOC"

Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)

Weekly Wednesday Meeting at St. Mary's Chapel 0900-1130

Childcare provided.

For more information email fortrileycwoc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley CWOC"

Check for schedule over Training Holiday weekends



Santa Claus reads to a group of parents and children during Story Time with Santa Dec. 23 at the USO Fort Riley Center. Story Time with Santa was one of several events held at the USO throughout December as part of their annual Jolly Days event. Santa held two reading sessions and every child who attended received a copy of the book that has a recordable feature to it so they can hear their parents read it, no matter where they are.

Story Time with Santa creates jolly mood

More than 330 family members show up for USO Fort Riley event

Story and photos by Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Santa Claus paid a special visit to USO Fort Riley Dec. 23 to read to children and parents alike during Story Time with Santa at the center.

Story Time with Santa was part of a series of events hosted throughout December by USO Fort Riley referred to as Jolly Days. Other events included three-dimensional snowflake making, sugar cookie decorating and greeting card creating.

"We try to create family friendly programs and activities because a lot of people can't go home or they're getting ready to (Permanent Change of Station), so they have an empty house," said Theresa Guadagno, center

operations supervisor at USO Fort Riley. "We try to make it really children friendly as well because we know a lot of the service members have young children and just bring the whole community together for fun events during Christmas."

More than 330 parents and children huddled together on the floor and in a few chairs lining the room to listen to Santa read in two sessions that day. Each child received a copy of the book with a record feature, so their parents could always read the book aloud to them, even when they could not be there in person.

"Everybody is in such a good mood," Guadagno said of the readings. "I was shocked at how well behaved the kids were. All the kids were so happy to be there and so happy to have a sugar cookie and be able to put frosting on it."

Staff Sgt. Seth Blaben, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st

Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, attended with his wife and three children — ages 5, 4 and 2. He said he appreciated them receiving a copy of the book because they could listen to him reading it even when he is deployed or in the field.

"It was cool," Blaben said of the event. "It was Santa reading and then they got to sit on his lap for pictures ... It's really great, I didn't know they did this."

The pictures and time with Santa were two things most requested from parents who frequent the USO, Guadagno said. She added it can be tricky for families to get to locations like a mall for photos and time with Santa, so they made the USO that place for families to enjoy.

"This is a very good, contained area," she said. "If your child gets away from you for some reason, there's less chance of you losing the child, so it just seemed like a really good idea to

DID YOU KNOW?

• **Story Time Santa** was part of a series of events hosted throughout December by USO Fort Riley referred to as Jolly Days, that included three dimensional snowflake making, sugar cookie decorating and greeting card creating.

have all that come together in a nice, safe place where the kids have a little more freedom."

Guadagno said she and other USO volunteers and staff enjoy hosting Jolly Days because of the joy it brings to families. She said she loves seeing families connect with one another as they bond over a craft or cookie.

"We really enjoy having families here," she said. "We really enjoy being able to take some of the stress off of the holiday season for everybody."

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of Jan. 3 was: Where on riley.army.mil might I find the Weather Effects Matrix, which uses snowburst levels, road conditions and training and daily operations information?

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/471181/weather-effects-matrix/

This week's winner is Spc. Zac Vakadewatabua, of Company. B., 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Pictured above is Spc. Zac Vakadewatabua.

CONGRATULATIONS ZAC!

WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL

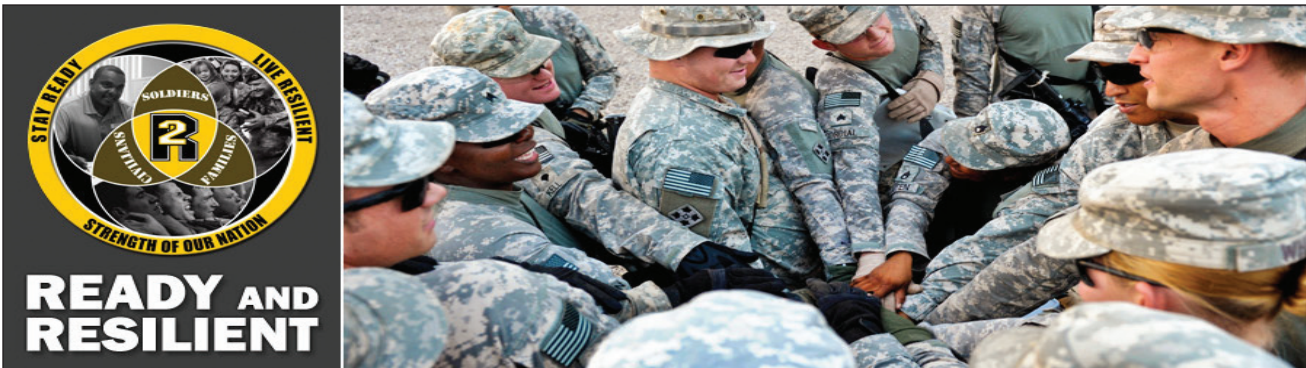
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*According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION



ABOVE: A USO Fort Riley volunteer assists a family in creating three-dimensional snowflakes out of construction paper Dec. 20 at the center. The 3-D snowflake crafting was one of a several events held by USO staff and volunteers during their Jolly Days event in December. Jolly Days ran from the beginning of December through Christmas and included different activities building up to the holiday. Some of the other activities were gift wrapping, a hot chocolate bar, greeting card making and Story Time with Santa. RIGHT: Dianne Gant, 13, left, helps her friend, 7-year-old Clara Castaneda, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Castaneda, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, in making a three-dimensional snowflake out of construction paper Dec. 20 at USO Fort Riley.



Photos by Season Osterfeld | POST

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The wolf spider is one of many arachnids on display at the Kansas State University Insect Zoo. Most of these arthropods live in glass displays in dim light to mimic natural habitat. For more information, visit www.k-state.edu/butterfly.

Kansas State University Insect Zoo

Story and photos by Suet Lee-Growney
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Learn all about critters and the roles they play in the animal kingdom at the Kansas State University Insect Zoo.

Situated within K-State's botanical garden in an old dairy barn at 1500 Denison Ave., Manhattan, the zoo offers about 100 species of tropical insects, giant roaches, beetles, giant walking and prickly sticks, praying mantises, centipedes, tarantulas, scorpions and other

arthropods on rotation for display.

The zoo was established in 1999 and features the insects and their arthropod relatives in settings that mimic their natural habitat. These displays include a tropical tree, a flooded Amazonian rainforest, a tropical night cave, an observational beehive, a mock kitchen and an aquarium.

Visitors can learn about the importance of microfauna in the ecosystem there, and interact with some of the bugs. According to Kiffnie Holt, insect zoo coordinator, when their resident curly hair tarantula isn't "on vacation," visitors are invited to pet the arachnid. If not, the giant roaches are always open for petting.

The zoo is open from 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

It can also be open if an appointment is scheduled. Entrance is \$3 a person and \$2 for military ID holders.

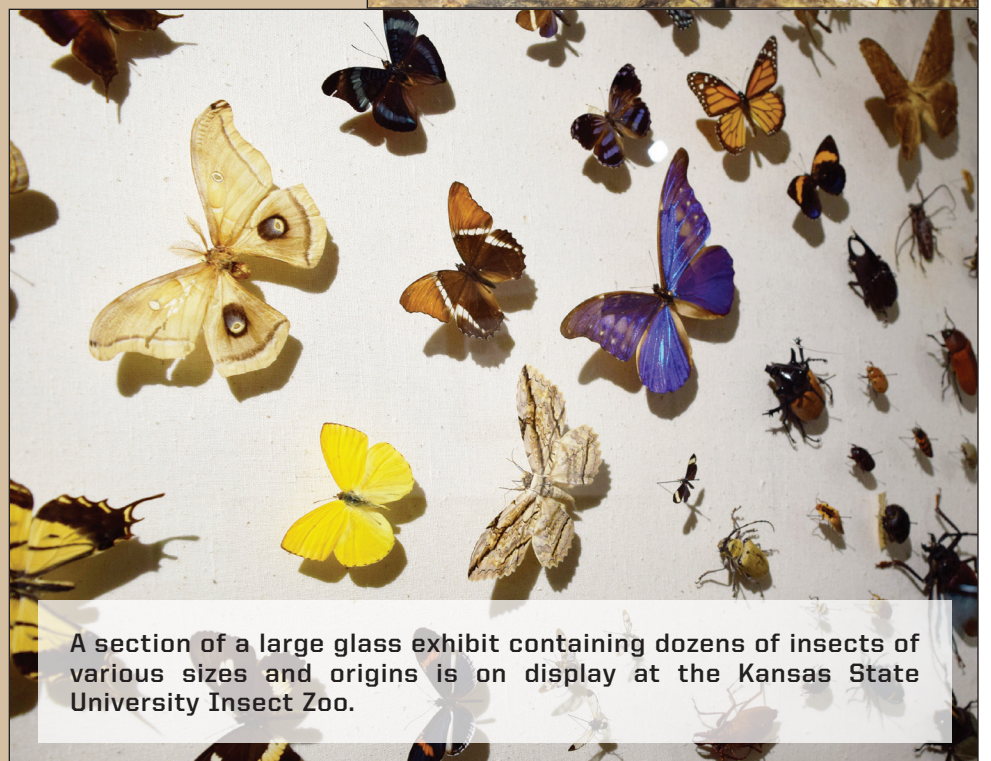
Guided tours are available at \$4 a person with a minimum of six people in the group and must be scheduled at least a week in advance. These 45-minute to an hour tours are led by a member of the entomology department and include a lesson with live animal interaction.

Due to limited space in the building, groups of 15 people or more must call prior to visits. For more information call the insect zoo at 785-532-5891 or 785-532-6110 or visit www.k-state.edu/butterfly.

A female Atlas beetle feasts on a blob of sugared jelly at the Kansas State University Insect Zoo.



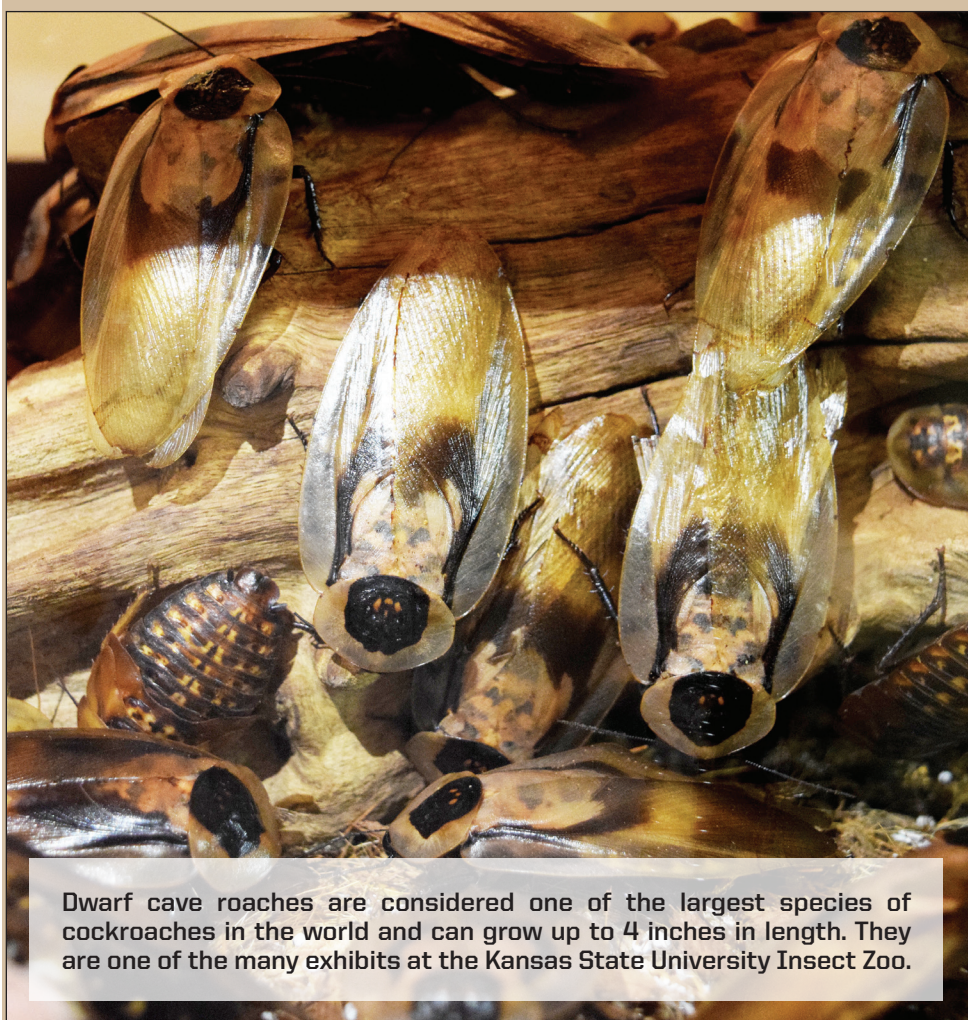
Lubber grasshoppers hang out in one of the displays at the Kansas State University Insect Zoo. These grasshoppers can grow up to three inches long.



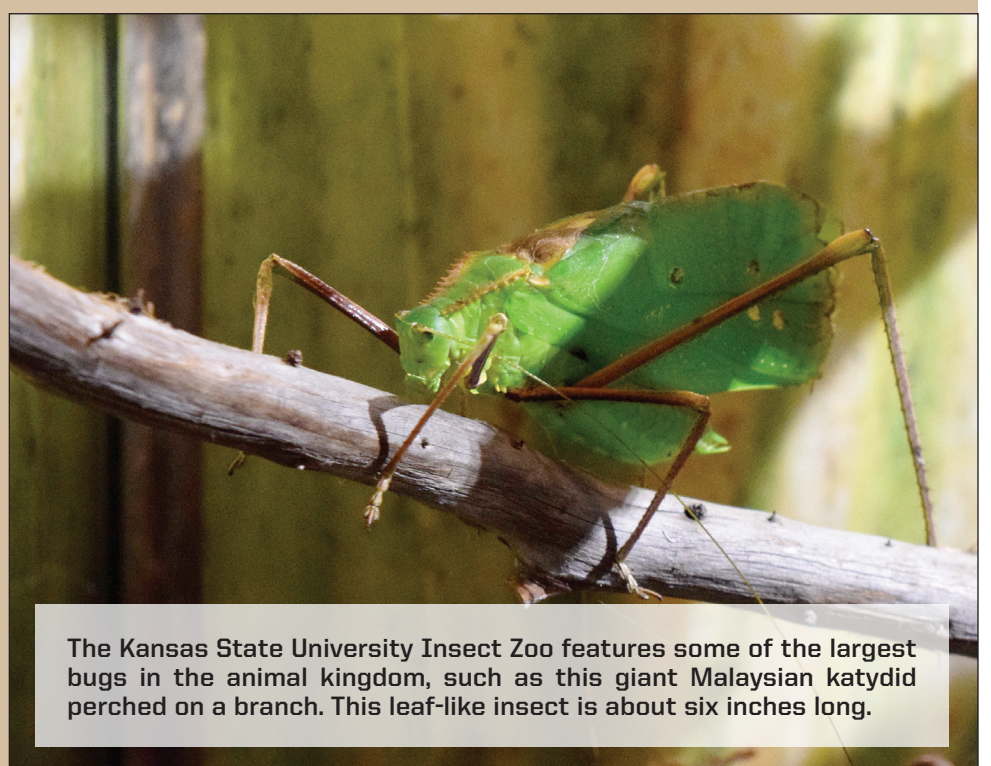
A section of a large glass exhibit containing dozens of insects of various sizes and origins is on display at the Kansas State University Insect Zoo.



These dried insect parts in specimen cases are to be put under a magnifying glass at one of the learning stations at the Kansas State University Insect Zoo.



Dwarf cave roaches are considered one of the largest species of cockroaches in the world and can grow up to 4 inches in length. They are one of the many exhibits at the Kansas State University Insect Zoo.



The Kansas State University Insect Zoo features some of the largest bugs in the animal kingdom, such as this giant Malaysian katydid perched on a branch. This leaf-like insect is about six inches long.