

Tickets available for Lee luncheon honoring missing, captured military personnel

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FORT LEE TRAVELLER

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August 16, 2018 | Vol. 78, No. 26

Accommodating Annie

Big guns take display position at future OTHC facility

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BOSS LEADER FINDS HIMSELF IN FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS

Steadfast in his duty to keep the center for single troops open, Cpl. Michael Edwards will apply the same sense of dedication as the club's new president

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TOP LEADERS TACKLE TEST

TRADOC staffers try combat-focused fitness exam that's set to be standard across Army

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TROOPS ELIGIBLE FOR SAVINGS PLAN

Tax deferral, investment matching among features that make TSP signup worth exploring

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TURNING FUN TOYS INTO SKY SPIES

Experts encourage UAS enthusiasts to be mindful of restrictions, potential safety/security concerns

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Party leaves spouse pondering, ‘Can’t we all just get along?’

Lisa Smith Molinari

Contributing Writer

Last year, after my husband Francis transitioned out of the military and we moved off base, I had to find new friends – *again*. This isn’t easy at age 52 when most of my peers have well-established social circles with little room for newbies.

Luckily, though, we had moved to a small community where neighborhood “porch parties” are customary. These informal outdoor affairs have simple rules – the host supplies the meat and some drinks, and everyone brings a dish and adult beverage to share. After years of attending military pot lucks, we were relieved to be on familiar ground and waited patiently for an invitation.

A month ago, Francis and I were invited to a porch party on Green Lane, which intersects Friendship Street. The couples in that area had been hanging out for more than 20 years, and had raised children, suffered illnesses, welcomed grandchildren, and experienced life’s ups and downs together.

We were curious about our new neighbors’ lives, and asked lots of naive questions. Little did we know, our innocent chit-chat would dredge up old animosities that had banished some neighbors from the porch party scene.

“Aren’t the people who live at number 32 nice?” I asked in blissful ignorance, pointing to the big house two doors down.

“Well,” the hostess frowned after a pregnant pause, “they’re a bit stuffy.” The other women in the Green Lane gaggle gave each other knowing glances.

“Oh, well what about Fin next door? He’s a real character, isn’t he? Is he coming tonight?” I inquired, pointing to the house on the other side of the porch.

“Uh,” another neighbor put a cupped hand to her mouth and whispered, “definitely not. He tends to pop off.”



As we ate barbecued chicken and sipped cold beer, I learned about one neighbor’s drinking problem, another neighbor’s PTSD-induced hostilities, and the rivalry between laid-back Green Lane and snooty Friendship Street.

Walking home that night, I was thankful that frequent military moves had spared us the burden of knowing neighbors long enough to find something to hate about them. At every duty station, the military communities were relatively open and inclusive. We made friends fast because we didn’t have much time together. Everyone was invited to gatherings, be it beers in our driveway, a cookout on our stairwell patio or a fire pit in our back yard – everyone came with a dish or bottle to share.

A couple of weeks after the Green Lane party, the neighbor at the end of Friendship Street invited us to another porch party. Friendship Street ends at the waterfront where the

houses and people are undoubtedly fancier, yet the informal party rules and social dynamics are essentially the same.

Just like the Green Lane party, Francis and I asked innocent questions that inadvertently exposed bitter feuds and acrimonious conflicts between neighbors. Over burgers and wine, we were told about the noise complaints filed over an automatic generator and the grievance reported about the height of new construction.

We wanted to stick our fingers in our ears and yell, “LALALALALA I can’t hear you!” but we listened patiently to our neighbors’ resentments, and tried to change the subject.

A couple of weeks ago, Francis and I decided it was our turn to throw a porch party. We picked Aug. 18, Francis’ birthday, and printed out invitations. We kept the customary pot luck rules, but decided that military-style camaraderie would dictate the invite list. Instead of recognizing the old grudges between our neighbors, we would do what we did for 23 years in the military. We would invite everyone.

The Green Lane folks, the Friendship Street neighbors, the stuffy family, Fin, the fancy people in the big houses, the problem drinker, the angry veteran, the litigious ones who filed complaints and grievances, and even the guy who complained last month that our cars were taking up too much room in the street.

I’ll make my Kalua pulled pork; Francis will ice down drinks; we’ll put our corn hole boards in the yard; and I’ll bake a huge birthday cake. Part of me wants to believe our military-honed sense of acceptance and inclusion will rub off on the guests, but my practical mind places that in the “unlikely” category ... in which case, our party might also feature some lively fireworks.

More columns from this writer are available at www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com.



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ON THE COVER



Patrick Buffett

Civilian contractors move Anzio Annie, a German-manufactured K5 series rail gun that was captured by U.S. forces during World War II, into its display position at the future site of the Ordnance Training and Heritage Center. See page 3.

Annie movement marks milestone in Ord. Training, Heritage Center build

Patrick Buffett

Managing Editor

After many months of travel and temporary hangout spots, the Annie sisters plunked down on a couple of raised platform beds here Aug. 8 at a location that will not only become their permanent home, but also bring them the extra attention they deserve.

Anzio Annie, one of the largest land-based artillery pieces ever built, and Atomic Annie, the nickname for the Army's M65-series self-propelled artillery piece that could fire a 550-pound projectile up to 20 miles, were meticulously crane-lifted into their positions at the soon-to-be Ordnance Training and Heritage Center facility off Shop Road, behind the Quartermaster and Army Women's museums.

Due to the size and weight of the guns, it would not have been possible to move them into the structure after it was built, noted the team of experts providing oversight of the project. The sensible solution was to put them in display position and build around them.

"Getting to this day is a big milestone for us," said Hunter Hatch, the contracting office representative from the Army Corps of Engineers – Norfolk District. "Aside from the metal framework of the building that has gone up over the past several weeks, this (equipment placement) is one of those things that makes the vision real. It helps you see the picture of the end result ... the important purpose this structure will have."

The cost of the build is in the neighborhood of \$33 million, according to Kyle Alford, a general engineer in the Master Planning Division of Fort Lee's Directorate of Public Works. When finished, the training facility will provide 120,214 square-feet of display, office and auditorium space. The projected completion date is April 2019.

"We're about a quarter of the way



Patrick Buffett

Anzio Annie hovers about the cement pad that will serve as her display platform at the new Ordnance Training and Heritage Center here. The Aug. 8 equipment placement also included the movement of Atomic Annie, an equally massive and heavy artillery piece, estimated to tip the scales toward 250 tons. Due to the size and weight of the guns, it would not have been possible to move them into the structure after it was built, so the sensible solution was to put them in display position and build around them.

finished," said Hatch, while elaborating on the extensive site prep work that required a few thousand dump truck loads of fill dirt as well as the construction of 24-inch-thick, steel-rebar-supported cement slabs that would be strong enough to hold the heavy guns weighing upwards of 250 tons.

"We see the move as a milestone," he continued, "because it was a key part of the project from day one. Today is the end result of a lot of coordination to ensure we did

this in the safest manner possible, which is always the No. 1 concern, and we protected personnel and Army assets largely due to the experience and expertise of our civilian contract partners."

Appropriately displayed in their new digs, the two Annie's dominating presence will, no doubt, continue to garner a lot of attention. The K5-series rail gun, named for the World War II Anzio beachhead in Italy, is a German armament built in the 1930s.

When captured by U.S. forces during the war, it was shipped to the United States for research.

The K5 is more than 100 feet long and weighs 218 tons when fully assembled with its 70-foot gun barrel. Twenty-five K5-series guns were produced by the Germans, and they used them throughout the European theater. "They were slow to fire, but the round was devastating," said one expert about the artillery piece. "The K5 shells had a distinct sound, and it would create a crater large enough to swallow a Sherman Tank. It was a feared weapon."

Anzio Annie arrived here in November 2010, having been shipped from its previous home at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., the former location of the Army Ordnance School before Base Realignment and Closure ordered its relocation to Fort Lee

"This piece is a very important part of Ordnance Corps history," an artifact expert said of the weapon, also noting that only one other K5 exists. "Ordnance is responsible for maintaining and repairing armaments, but it's also responsible for technical intelligence. This is one example of how technical intelligence and capturing enemy equipment was important in developing U.S. equipment. A direct byproduct of this gun and its study was the atomic cannon. We definitely improved upon the technology."

Atomic Annie – an 85-ton, 280mm nuclear-capable cannon – came to Fort Lee in November 2017. It is comprised of a T131 gun, T72 carriage and two T10 gun-lifting trucks used to transport the weapon. Most of the guns produced were deployed to Germany and the Far East as a deterrent during the Cold War. Missile and rocket technology was responsible for shelving the M65 series in 1963, roughly 10 years after it was fielded. Several of the weapons have survived and are on display at various locations around the country, including the Virginia War Museum in Newport News.

Those who would like to follow the progress of the OTHC build or learn more about the artifacts in its vast collection can "like" the organization's social media page at www.facebook.com/OrdnanceTrainingandHeritageCenter.



File Photo

A joint service honor guard performs the missing man ceremony during a previous POW/MIA observance at the Lee Club. This year's event is set for Sept. 13, 11:30 a.m., at the same location.

POW/MIA observance set for Sept. 13, Lee Club

Fort Lee's annual POW/MIA Recognition Day observance and luncheon is set for Sept. 13, 11:30 a.m., in the Lee Club main ballroom.

The special recognition event will feature music by the 392nd Army Band, an honor guard and a missing man ceremony in which troops place commemorative items on a table dedicated to POWs and MIAs.

Sgt. Maj. Darrick Brown, the senior enlisted leader for the Quartermaster School's Joint Mortuary Affairs Center here, will be the featured speaker. He will share stories from his past deployments and discuss the sacrifice POW/MIA warriors have made. He said it's important to continue recognizing them every year until the number of those missing or held captive is at zero.

Event planners noted the observance will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, which is continuing until 2025 in accordance with a proclamation by former president Barack Obama. The

previous commander-in-chief called for services to honor Vietnam Veterans and their families with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities throughout the commemoration period.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It was established by Congressional passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act. It is one of six days of the year that the POW/MIA flag is officially flown on government buildings and monuments. The POW/MIA flag was first recognized by Public Law 101-355 in 1990.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15 for a buffet-style menu that includes beef tips, fried chicken, vegetarian lasagna, garlic mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, fresh garden salad, hot dinner rolls and peach cobbler.

Tickets can be purchased through any agency sergeant major or by calling 804-765-2668.

— Staff Reports

NEWS BRIEFS

Kenner Lab and Radiology Renovation

Kenner Army Health Clinic's laboratory and radiology departments are being renovated and will close at noon Aug. 23 to move to a temporary location. They are scheduled to reopen Aug. 27 across the street from KAHC, in building 8202, on the corner of 25th Street and B Avenue. Staff members in both departments expect to operate in the temporary location for 6-9 months with no loss of services.

For additional information, call 804-734-9000.

TARP Briefings Set for Aug. 23

Threat Awareness and Reporting Program briefings are set for Aug. 23, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., at the Lee Theater. This is a new date than was announced at the beginning of 2018.

Personnel are reminded to bring their CAC for verification of attendance. The training is a mandatory annual requirement for military members, DOD employees and contractors with a security clearance. The final 2018 quarterly briefings are scheduled for Nov. 7.

For details, call 804-734-1569 or email charles.s.white8.civ@mail.mil.

Exchange Warns Customers About Scams

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service warns military shoppers about scammers offering to broker the sale of used cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats and boat engines through the DOD retailer using the name "Exchange Inc." The Exchange operates solely on military installations and via ShopMyExchange.com. It never acts as a broker in private transactions and does not advertise in classified sections or resale websites.

Shoppers who believe they may have been taken advantage of can file a complaint through the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Free Dental Assistant Training

The American Red Cross offers free dental assistant training at the Fort Lee Dental Clinic for military members and dependents, 18 years of age and older.

Applications for the next course are due in early September followed by interviews. The classes begin in October for those selected. For details, call Christy Carneal at 804-731-5682 or email christy.carneal@redcross.org.

Pre-retirement Seminar Set for Aug. 31

A pre-retirement seminar for military members who are within 12-24 months of separation from service will be held Aug. 31, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., in the Soldier Support Center auditorium, building 3400, 1401 B Ave. The free program will cover a variety of post-military-career topics including veteran benefits, entitlements, health care and more. Spouses of separating military members are welcome.

For details, call 804-734-6555 or 734-6973.

Hershey-Mars Back-to-School Sweepstakes

Ten authorized shoppers will each win a \$500 Army and Air Force Exchange Service Gift Card during the Hersey-Mars Back-to-School Sweepstakes through Aug. 22.

To enter, visit shopmyexchange.com/sweepstakes. No purchase is necessary to participate. Drawings will take place on or about Sept. 5. Exchange officials encourage authorized patrons to visit the website often for additional contests and sweepstakes conducted throughout the year.



U.S. Army photos by Tristan Bles

(ABOVE, LEFT) Command Sergeant Major Vickie Culp, Transportation Corps Regimental CSM, participates in the Standing Power Throw during an exhibition of the new Army Combat Fitness Test Aug 2 at Joint Base Langley-Eustis. (ABOVE, RIGHT) A TRADOC senior leader participates in the Strength Deadlift, during the ACFT exhibition. The soon-to-be introduced physical exam is the result of a six-year research and development period involving numerous health and fitness experts.

TRADOC senior leaders among first to take new Army Combat Fitness Test

Mag Reed

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

FORT EUSTIS – The Sony Walkman, the Rubik’s Cube and the IBM Personal Computer have one thing in common with the current Army Physical Fitness Test – they were all invented in 1980. Education and innovation have given way to newer and better ideas, and the new Army Combat Fitness Test is the first of its kind to directly connect the science of fitness, with combat readiness for Soldiers.

As the sun rose over Fort Eustis on Aug. 2, 240 senior leaders from across the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command gathered to witness innovation in action, and experience the new test first hand. From the Standing

Power Throw to the Hand Release Push-Up, each of the six events were demonstrated to show Army leaders not only proper grading and technique, but how each event translates to movements on the battlefield.

Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, commanding general of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, hosted the event, and explained the direct correlation between the test and a Soldier’s success on the battlefield.

“Six years of science and research have gone into the making of the ACFT,” Townsend said. “We’ve studied all the combat tasks that a Soldier has to perform on a battlefield, and we regressed those into common tasks, and we regressed those into exercises that best prepare Soldiers for those tasks.”

Research conducted by the Center for Initial Military Training yielded a test that is not only about challenging Soldiers mentally and physically, but inherently changing the entire fitness culture of the Army.

The integration of this test also instills that all Soldiers, no matter age or gender, will be faced with the same basic physical tasks in their military career. The deadlift, for example, engages lower body muscular strength, the same way a Soldier would carry a litter to evacuate a fellow Soldier from combat.

“War doesn’t distinguish between gender and age. You can be 20 years old on the battlefield, or you can be 50, and you’re going to have to accomplish the same mission. This test helps you execute your warrior tasks

and battle drills, no matter who you are,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Mitchell, command sergeant major of the Center for Initial Military Training.

Educating leaders is the first step in introducing this test to the Army. CIMT will lead the field testing effort, starting this October, with more than 60 battalions across the active duty Army, Reserve, and National Guard. The field tests will provide the data necessary to determine the specific grading approach and standards.

Staff Sgt. Bryan Ivery, the TRADOC 2017 Platoon Sergeant of the Year, encourages all leaders across the Army to get their Soldiers out of their comfort zones and into a new holistic approach to fitness.

“A leader, at any level, needs to go through and feel what the rigors of this test will put their body through,” he said and encouraged leaders to establish a training plan that you can execute together. “Be the example, do the right thing.”

Holly Allman

Length of federal service: 1 year
Job title: Administrative Support Assistant

Job duties: “I perform a variety of administrative functions for the Director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. From processing Commercial Solicitation applications and Memorialization requests to the input and tracking of Request for Personnel Actions.”

What do you love the most about your job? “I feel like a respected and beneficial part of the FMWR team and the people I work with are very genuine and caring.”

What do you consider your greatest achievement? “I recently renovated a house with my husband. The major construction and design of the renovation never seemed to end. HGTV makes it look so easy!”

Do you volunteer? “I volunteer for the Fort Lee Civilian Welfare Fund as the



Amy Perry

Assistant Fund Manager.”

What do you expect from your leaders? “I consider trust and patience an important part of the work environment.”

Where would you most like to live? “Anywhere with a warm beach with clear

waters.”

When and where were you happiest? “I feel joyful wherever I go and trying to live in the moment.”

What is your marked characteristic? “My tan or my eyes.”

What is your greatest fear? “Going through life with too many regrets.”

What is your greatest extravagance? “I indulge in all-you-can-eat sushi on a regular basis and listen to Disney songs on Spotify.”

Which talent would you most like to have? “To be able to sing.”

What’s your motto? “Hakuna Matata.”

What is it that you most dislike? “I most dislike cold weather, unless it’s snowing.”

What is something people would be surprised to know about you? “I play competitive professional Beach Volleyball.”

What are your future aspirations? “I want to be successful in my career and personal life, retire young with my husband and travel to the most beautiful beaches in the world.”

– Compiled by Amy Perry



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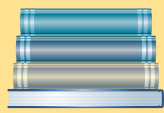
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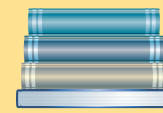
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Summer reading success



Amy Perry

Summer Reading Program participants pose with Fort Lee Community Library staff members, BOSS Soldiers, garrison leaders and Col. Jamal Wigglesworth, Army Logistics University commandant, at an end-of-program awards presentation Aug. 8 in the Lee Theater. The Reading Takes You Everywhere-themed program included 39 activities over its two-month run, and a combined total of 585 youths participated. Over 151,800 minutes were logged, and prizes were awarded to those with the highest reading totals.



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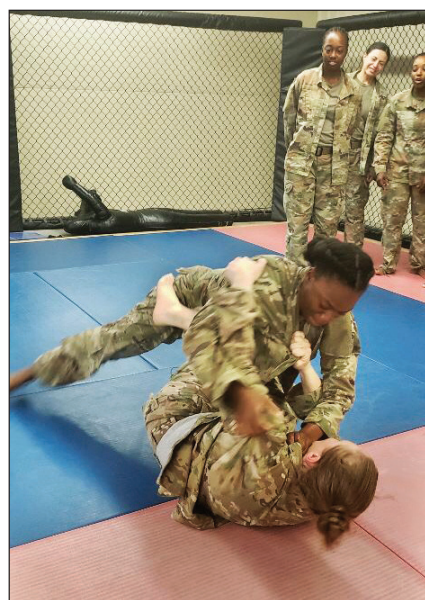
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Lifeliners get primer in protection

262nd Quartermaster Battalion's female mentorship event encourages self-defense



Photos by Staff Sgt. Shalanda Banks



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) Virginia State Police Trooper Jessica Shehan demonstrates a block against fellow Trooper Kendall Bailey during a quarterly 262nd Quartermaster Battalion Female Mentorship Program event July 28 at the Army Logistics University combatives facility. The FMP is designed to empower female Soldiers to help them realize their full potential from a personal and professional perspective. • Staff Sgt. Jerica Ogle executes a head lock on 1st Sgt. Sydney Babineaux as advanced individual training troops observe. • Pvt. Aolyion Spruell and Staff Sgt. Jerica Ogle practice grappling techniques during the training.

Soldier's unwavering support leads to BOSS president pick

T. Anthony Bell

Senior Writer/Special Projects

"I'm not only the Hair Club president, I'm also a client."

That memorable quote was part of a 1980s ad directed at dudes deprived of hair strands, and from a customer service standpoint, can be applied to the current Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president and his ascension thereto.

Cpl. Michael K. Edwards has held BOSS' top position for five months, but his association with the volunteer organization goes back to the days when he was fresh out of advanced individual training.

"I was sent to a unit with eager BOSS representatives," recalled the 30-year-old assigned to the 54th Quartermaster Company. "They put out information, and I started volunteering for events in addition to taking on the responsibility for opening up the BOSS Center each day."

Located in building 8401 on 27th Street, the facility offers big screen TVs, games and other recreational activities for participants. It became Edwards' domain; a place in which he is linked as much as peanut butter is to jelly.

"For a while, I was the only person in the center and had it open pretty much all of the time," said the mortuary affairs specialist who has three years of service. "A lot of people started seeing my face and noticed I was participating a lot."

Edwards' profuse involvement led to a spot on BOSS' executive committee – starting as its secretary and later stepping into the shoes of vice president. He was selected president over several other candidates.

"A lot of people interviewed, but ultimately, I proved I was the most qualified," he said. "I put in the most time and effort."

Edwards noted that supporting the community and giving back to others is a habit that started well before his military days. He has been involved



T. Anthony Bell

Cpl. Michael K. Edwards, the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president, has held the position five months, but the mortuary affairs specialist has been an active participant in the program for the past three years. The 54th Quartermaster Company Soldier began his association with BOSS as a regular participant, then was entrusted with opening and closing the BOSS Center and later served in the capacities of secretary and vice president.

in humanitarian causes since his youth outreach pretty much all of my life, growing up in Queens, New York. whether it was with my church (his grandfather was a pastor) or while I was

"I've been participating in community

in college," said Edwards, who holds a degree in mortuary science. "It's just something I've always done."

Helping others, added Edwards, provides him with a self-fulfilling sensation that is incomparable to anything else.

"It's gratifying," he declared. "It feels good knowing you can do something to help someone; to put a smile on their face. I know that's one of the reasons I got into mortuary affairs. When I can do something to make people smile or make them feel better, it does something for me. It's really inspiring and humbling. Doing something for someone and not expecting anything in return is the best thing in the world."

Edwards' community support pedigree has a transference value that closely aligns with BOSS' mission to improve Soldier's quality of life; allow them to pursue community service opportunities; and provide them access to recreational and leisure activities. He cited a recent food charity event as an example of his ability to support the organization's goals.

"I asked for 30 volunteers, but we had a total of 54 who came out," he said of the Feed-the-Hungry project that provided food for 250 families in Dinwiddie County. "It was effortless. Everybody really enjoyed giving back, and it was great participation. Every one of those Soldiers and NCOs wanted to come back."

Matthew Haug, a former BOSS advisor who has known Edwards over the years, said his demonstrated passion, compassion and leadership makes him an ideal figure to lead BOSS.

"He is a very charismatic person and a good leader," said Haug. "I run the Strength Performance Center, and he would bring in the remedial PT personnel. You could really tell he cared about what he was doing, trying to help them lose weight and get fit. I really appreciated that in him ... He'll do almost anything for you. He's an all-around good guy."

In supporting the BOSS' mission,

Students support back-to-school event



Contributed photo

Students from the ALU Logistics Noncommissioned Officer Academy capture a selfie photo while participating in a volunteer community service project at First Baptist Church, Hopewell. Throughout the morning, the Soldiers helped distribute free back-to-school items to families in the community, and they lent a hand during a lunch service afterward. In the afternoon, they played games with participating children. The Soldiers are students of the 92A Advanced Leaders Course, Quartermaster Branch. Their small group leader is Sgt. 1st Class D'Angelo Nicholson. LNCOA encourages all of its students to participate in community service projects as a show of thanks for the support of the American public every day.

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BOSS, continued from page 9

Edwards said he is both a teacher and a practitioner – he has to constantly work to educate Soldiers on what BOSS is about while serving as an example to show them how rewarding it can be.

“Overall, it’s just ensuring Soldiers understand what the purpose of the BOSS program is and allowing them to use it to pursue their personal goals – volunteering, getting out to have fun and just having that fellowship,” he said.

On a personal level, Edwards said there’s a well of satisfaction in knowing how much Soldiers’ appreciate opportunities to grow, expand and let their hair down.

“After the events, Soldiers will come up and say, ‘Thank you! Glad you were able to coordinate this event.’ That really is gratifying to me, knowing they appreciate what was done.”

Edwards also said he thinks unit leaders are appreciative of the program because they are often willing to allow Soldiers to participate in events, even when they are

held during the middle of a duty day.

“I think understanding like that really helps to build morale in units,” he said.

Edwards’ cited goals from this point on are to continue to satisfy Soldiers appetites for community outreach efforts and leisure events.

“Right now, we’re planning another Feed-the-Hungry event and a whitewater rafting trip on the James River set for Aug. 29,” he said.

The rafting trip – like all BOSS outings – is of no cost to Soldiers.

Single troops are welcome to check out the program at any time, the corporal also noted. The BOSS Center is open from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily, and it’s a safe bet that Edwards, holding true to his roots, will be somewhere around preserving his reputation as the facility’s gatekeeper.

Edwards is even willing to keep the facility open longer when BOSS members want to take in events such as the Super Bowl. Of course, he not required to, but that’s what presidents do for their clients.

Petersburg Park receives volunteer help



Contributed Photo

Students from the ALU Logistics Noncommissioned Officer Academy help with trail cleanup and general maintenance in the Fort Fisher area of Petersburg National Battlefield Park. The work was performed as part of an Aug. 3 community service project. The Soldiers are students of the 92A Advanced Leaders Course, Quartermaster Branch. The class 18-006 small group leaders are Sgt. 1st Class Juana Torres and Sgt. 1st Class Jose Alamilla. LNCOA encourages all of its students to participate in community service projects as a show of thanks for the support of the American public every day.

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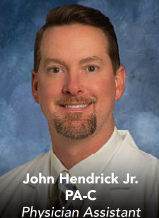
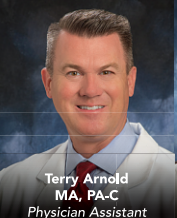
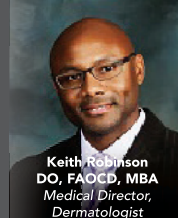
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Drones can represent threat to military personnel, installations

The Army takes the threat of unmanned aircraft systems to personnel and military interests seriously.

From criminal organizations to lone offenders and terrorist groups, the threat is rapidly expanding. In the future, the general populace will no longer have the luxury of assuming that the skies above them are free of pilotless machines that might be used to do harm.

Recently, a housing officer discovered a three-by-five-foot commercial unmanned aircraft system on the roof of a building. The navigation lights were covered by electrical tape to conceal the vehicle's flight. It was delivering contraband including tobacco, testosterone, milk thistle and 12 cellular phones.

According to assessments by the National Counterterrorism Center, FBI and Department of Homeland Security, foreign terrorist organization-inspired violent extremists are likely to explore opportunities to use small UAS for potential direct attacks or preoperational surveillance within the U.S. This method allows potential attackers to "enter" Army installations and look at anything they want without the dangers or potential pitfalls from conventional physical security and access control.

The potential threat of a lethal UAS strike inside of the U.S. is growing, based on extremist group's use of weaponized platforms in conflict zones, their continued advocacy of attacks against Western targets, and recent criminal incidents in North America.

Forty-six UAS-related events near DOD assets have been reported in 2018. With over 1,000,000 registered aerial systems in

the U.S. alone, military communities should anticipate increasing threats, including UAS weaponization, in the future.

Fortunately, to date, no gunshots or explosives have been employed along their pathway. It is likely, however, that criminals or terrorists will soon equip UAS with still photo or video cameras for criminal intelligence, pre-attack surveillance, tests of security, or confirmation of security and troop



Metro Creative

formations.

Threats posed by extremist use of UAS include: lone wolves and terrorist groups – surveillance, target selection or to fly an IED into a crowd; corporations / contractors – use drones to obtain sensitive information as a means of gaining a competitive edge; organized criminals – use drones to smuggle illegal drugs and evade drug agents.

Defending Fort Lee against these threats may require regulatory countermeasures (policies and penalties) passive countermeasures (tracking or jamming signals) or active countermeasures (lasers or kinetic weapons).

DOD is testing several kinetic and non-kinetic weapons to stop unwanted UAS.

The following lists some various malicious uses of UAS:

- Add infrared and night vision, which could easily be employed to watch and document security operations and procedures around military installations
- Wired with microphones to either eavesdrop on sensitive conversations, execute

exists today to limit access to sensitive locations has little effect against drones. UAVs can fly over fences and walls and can escape detection by traditional radar systems designed to track larger, passenger-bearing aircraft. Because they can be transported in the trunk of a car or in a backpack, they can be launched from any publicly accessible park, parking lot, city street, river or highway.

Once airborne, a drone can arrive within minutes at any location within a few miles of the launch site. In short, there is no city, neighborhood or building on the planet that is beyond their reach.

The core information technologies used in small drones – extremely small video cameras, chips to process video and high-speed wireless communications systems – are routinely found in inexpensive consumer electronics product stores or online catalogs.

In addition, because drones are manufactured in many different countries and are increasingly available on the global market, efforts within any one country to limit their spread would have little global effect. Also, given their many legitimate nonmilitary uses in applications such as law enforcement, and surveying and monitoring of infrastructure such as oil pipelines, banning their sale is impractical.

This does not mean, however, there is nothing that can be done. It may be possible to equip sensitive government buildings and areas with new systems to detect and, if appropriate, electromagnetically or kinetically engage low-flying incoming drones.

– Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobility and Security

electronic harassment or commit espionage;

- Drones can be shut down midflight, injuring bystanders and causing property damage, or flown into situations like traffic jams, buildings or people.
- Carry explosives into public gatherings or inhabited facilities.
- Add explosive or incendiary payloads, radioactive materials, chemical agents or biological agents.

- Any individual with a basic level of technical know-how could use drones to stalk, harass or eavesdrop on another individual.

Most of the security infrastructure that

So, you want to fly a drone ...

Fueled by rapid advancements in gadgetry – as well as a lot of skillful marketing – the commercial market for unmanned aerial systems, or drones, has exploded in recent years. A big hitch of the trend, however, is consumers not knowing what federal and local laws dictate about operation of the devices and where they're prohibited.

Fort Lee, for instance, is federal property and there are regulations that must be adhered to in order to be legal. Drones have to be registered with the Federal Aviation Agency – registermyuas.faa.gov – and command permission is required for flights in most locations. **Fort Lee Policy 01:16, "Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems on Fort Lee,"** is available on the installation website. Under the "About Us" menu option, click on "Policy Letters and Regulations."

FAA requirements for unofficial "hobbyist" use of drones include the following:

- Weigh less than 55 pounds
- Strictly for personal use
- Operate within safety guidelines; limited to age 13 and older
- Cannot interfere with manned aircraft
- Coordinate with local air traffic control if within five miles of an airport.

Both recreational and commercial use of UAS on an Army installation are prohibited without prior approval from the senior commander or his designee. Senior commanders may authorize use of UAS for recreational purposes on a case-by-case or recurring basis. However, commercial use can only be approved on a case-by-case basis. Commercial operators must comply with all requirements found in Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 107.

Army senior official encourages Soldiers to consider opting for Thrift Savings Plan

David Vergun

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – One of the wisest financial choices a Soldier opting-in to the Blended Retirement System can make is to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan, said Henry Manning, operations officer for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Military Personnel and Quality of Life.

TSP is akin to the highly popular 401K plans offered at many civilian jobs, Manning noted, but is actually better.

Like the 401K, the TSP is a way for income to grow tax-deferred. A big upside though, is that unlike some other plans, there are no management fees and TSP contributions reduce taxable income. It also has had a strong performance record over the years.

Perhaps the biggest advantage of TSP is that the government will match a Soldier's contribution, up to 5 percent, he said.

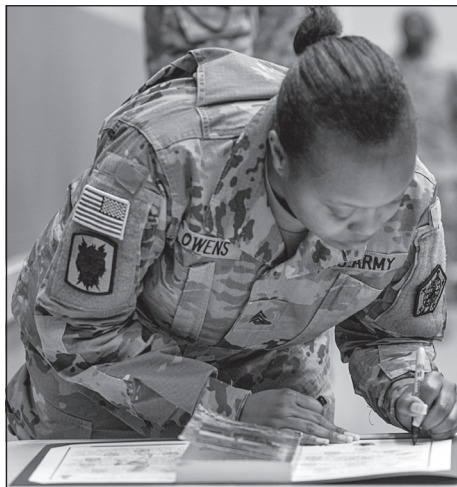
Also, TSP can be customized to meet the Soldier's individual needs, which could be a specified mix of stocks, bonds and/or the more conservative savings fund. Manning noted that the customization can be altered without penalty at any time.

TSP provides Soldiers separating from the Army prior to becoming retirement eligible with a savings account that is supplemented by DOD contributions and any earnings. Unlike the legacy retirement system, Soldiers leaving after just 2 years can take all associated TSP earnings with them.

Manning disclosed that he has had a TSP account for a number of years and other Army personnel he knows take advantage of it as well.

Help with signup and plan management is available, he said with a suggestion to tap into the expertise of a personal financial advisor at Army Community Service. Through that program, military families can customize where their funds are invested and get other helpful budgeting tips.

The DA representative emphasized that opting in to TSP isn't automatic. Each Soldier needs to individually enroll and specify the percentage of contribution.



U.S. Army photo

A Soldier fills out paperwork as part of the transfer process from active duty to the Individual Ready Reserve. While serving their country for a single enlistment or a prolonged career, military members can participate in the Thrift Savings Plan, which offers features like no administrative fees, reduced taxable income and interest free loans. When leaving the service, the savings plan payout can be a huge benefit to troops during the job-hunting and resettlement process.

For Soldiers who came in the Army Jan. 1, 2018, or after, the government will match 1 percent of contributions after 60 days of service.

After two years, the government will match up to 5 percent of contributions, he said, noting that Soldiers who entered the Army prior to this year can immediately get up to 5 percent matching once they opt-in to BRS and enroll in TSP.

Sgt. Laura Martin, who has a TSP account, showed how easy it is to enroll. She pulled up her MyPay account, which has a TSP option to select with instructions on enrolling either in a traditional TSP, which is tax-deferred, or a Roth TSP, which is not tax-deferred.

Martin's husband, also a Soldier, has an identical savings plan setup. She said the two of them recently took out a TSP loan, which is interest and penalty free, to pay cash for a house they intend to live in upon retirement.

Alluding to the Martins as an example, Manning said the vast majority of Soldiers do not stay in for 20 years to take advantage of a traditional retirement pension. That's why enrolling in TSP makes perfect sense, in his opinion.

PGCPS sets opening plans, schedules

Prince George County Public Schools will open for the 2018-19 school year Sept. 4. Parents and guardians of new students are encouraged to schedule an appointment as soon as possible at the school the child will be attending.

Registration takes approximately 1 to 1.5 hours depending upon completion and review of documents. Appointments are limited and fill quickly. PGCPS encourages a call soon to schedule an appointment. No student registrations can be scheduled for Aug. 29-31 or Sept. 4. Registrations will resume only by appointment beginning Sept. 5.

If a child will receive special services (IEP, 504, and/or a health plan, etc.), parents or guardians should bring a copy of the paperwork for the registration appointment. In addition, 6th graders must have the state mandated TDAP booster. State law prohibits 6th grade students from starting school without their TDAP booster. If this verification has not been submitted, the documentation should be dropped off at J.E.J. Moore Middle School.

The following are school orientation events.

ELEMENTARY STUDENT ORIENTATION SCHEDULE (K-5)

Aug. 30

• **L.L. Beazley Elementary School**, 6700 Courthouse Road - Kindergarten, 9 a.m.; grades 1-5, 10:30 a.m. For details, call 804-733-2745.

• **David A. Harrison Elementary School**, 12900 East Quaker Road, Disputanta - Kindergarten and 1st grade (new and returning students), 9 a.m.; grades 2-5 (new students), 10 a.m.; grades 2-5 (returning students), 11 p.m. For details, call 804-991-2242.

• **North Elementary School**, 11106 Old Stage Road - Kindergarten, 9 a.m.; grades 1-5, 11 a.m. For details, call 804-458-8922.

• **South Elementary School**, 13400 Prince George Drive, Disputanta - Kindergarten, 9 a.m.; grades 1-5 (new students), 11 a.m.; grades 1-5 (returning students), 11:30 a.m. For details, call 804-733-2755.

• **William A. Walton Elementary School**, 4101 Courthouse Road - Kindergarten, 9 a.m.; grades 1-2, 10 a.m.; grades 3-5, 11 a.m. For details, call 804-733-2750.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

Aug. 29

• **J.E.J. Moore Middle School**, 11455 Prince George Drive, Disputanta - Grade 6, 8:30 a.m.; grade 7, 1 p.m. For details, call 804-733-2740.

• **Prince George Education Center**, 11465 Prince George Drive, Disputanta - PG PALS I, 10 a.m.; PG PALS II, noon; Project Choice, noon. For details, call 804-733-2748.

Aug. 28

• **N.B. Clements Junior High School**, 7800 Laurel Spring Road - Grade 8, 8:30 a.m.; grade 9, 11 a.m. For details, call 804-733-2730.

• **Prince George High School**, 7801 Laurel Spring Road - New Students, 7 p.m. For details, call 804-733-2720.

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Workforce Opportunity Act Introduction | Aug. 17

Job seekers can learn about employment, education, training and support services to enter the labor market at a Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act orientation workshop Aug. 17, 10 a.m. - noon, in the Soldier Support Center, building 3400.

The national Army Careers Skills Program provides free job coaching, licensure and credentialing, job placement and more. The seminar is for those separating from the military in 6-9 months, spouses and veterans. Registration is suggested.

For details, call 804-734-5814.

Battlefield Biking Tour | Aug. 18

Petersburg National Battlefield will provide a ranger-led bicycle event as part of its "Bike the Battlefield" summer cycling series Aug. 18, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Eastern Front Unit Visitor Center, 5001 Siege Road, Petersburg. The free tour for intermediate riders will cover 6 miles in about two hours.

The trek will travel through parts of the battlefield where some of the heaviest fighting occurred during the Siege of Petersburg.

For details, contact Ranger Maggs Vibo at margaret_viboolsittiseri@nps.gov or call 804-732-3531 ext. 222.

Backpack Giveaway at Exchange | Aug. 18

The Fort Lee Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity will give away backpacks filled with school supplies Aug. 18, 9:30 a.m., at the Main Exchange. The event will continue until supplies are gone.

The annual program is for those attending kindergarten - 8th grades in the coming school year. The child must be present with the parent or guardian. For questions, email saburns70@yahoo.com.

'Going Places' Exhibit Through Aug. 19

From flying a plane and riding a hoverdisk to sailing a land yacht and loading a ship without it capsizing, the "Going Places" interactive exhibit is open through Aug. 19 at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St., Richmond.

The operating hours are Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission discounts are available for military members. For details, visit www.smv.org.

Education Fair at ALU | Aug. 22

The Army Logistics University, Logistics Noncommissioned Officer Academy, will host an Education Fair Aug. 22, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., at ALU, in the headquarter's building, room 2209, 562 Quarters Road.

The event is open to all DOD ID cardholders. For details, call Andrea Farmer at 804-765-8883 or email andrea.farmer.civ@mail.mil.

Boots-to-Business Workshop | Aug. 27-28

A free self-employment training workshop will be offered Feb. 12-13, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., in the Soldier Support Center, building 3400, room 124.

The training is sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Institute for Veterans. Registration is requested by visiting army.lee_sftap@mail.mil. For details, call (804) 734-6212.

FLASC Sign-Up Event | Sept. 6

Prize raffles, shopping booths, travel and family support information tables, free refreshments and more are among the offerings of the Fort Lee Area Spouses' Club Super Sign-Up event set for Sept. 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Memorial Chapel.

All spouses of service members (active, reserve, retired or deceased), as well as government civilians and contractors are welcome. The free family friendly event is open to children. For details, visit www.fortleeareaspousesclub.com or www.facebook.com/fortleeareaspousesclub.

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