



# FORGING THE

# WARRIOR SPIRIT

## THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

Vol. 45, No. 46

Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

Nov. 16, 2018

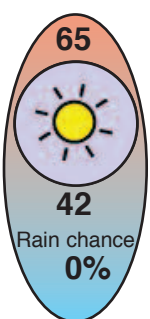


DUSTIN GAUTNEY / ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

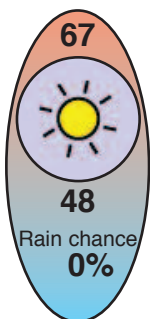
### Hurricane aid

Members of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk's 46th "Steel Spike" Engineer Battalion recently deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base as part of Task Force Hammer, a combined task force consisting of both active duty engineers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, to aid in the recovery of Tyndall following Hurricane Michael. The Soldiers are scheduled to return to Fort Polk before Thanksgiving. For more photos of the 46th Engineers at work in Florida see page 9 of today's Guardian.

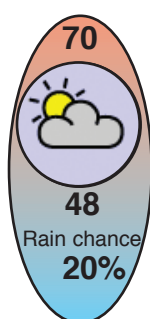
### Weekend weather



Today



Saturday



Sunday

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# Viewpoint

## Vietnam veterans provided lessons for writer

By Retired Lt. Col. MARK LESLIE  
DPTMS chief, Plans and Operations

**Editor's note:** This is second part of a two-part column by Mark Leslie honoring veterans. Part one ran in the Nov. 9 edition of the Guardian.

FORT POLK, La. — Probably the Vietnam veteran that had the biggest impact on me was one I never even served with in uniform but who mentored me for many years: Retired Lt. Col. Winston Dahl, known as "Win." I met Win in Columbus, Georgia, when doing some work for him. We had much in common and quickly became friends.

Win had a distinguished military career and even more success as a civilian businessman. He was an airborne Ranger, Presidents 100, distinguished marksman (he once humbled me with a shot to remove some mistletoe from a tree for Christmas; I missed with two shots and Win hit it with the first shot – with my rifle) and a scholar.

Win had two tours in Vietnam and none of them, like Win, was typ-

ical. He had been an advisor to the South Vietnamese Army on one tour and in his last tour, had been on the Army staff and assisted in drafting the Peace Treaty of Versailles for Vietnam with Henry Kissinger.

He truly was an intellectual warrior. On one deployment when I was an advisor to the Iraqi Army, I spent a lot of time corresponding with Win via snail mail and even managed to call him a few times. He always had time for me. Not surprisingly, many of the same tough spots I was experiencing, Win had experienced in Vietnam as an advisor. Seems that corrupt counterparts, illiteracy, and indigenous personnel that wanted nothing but to live, were common ground in the advisor world — Vietnam or Iraq, it made no difference.

Win gave me a few pointers on how to deal with problems that are not in any field manual, text book or class, pointers that I credit with keeping me and those in my charge alive. Win was not only a smart man, he was a wise man — there is a difference. When I was wounded later in that tour, Win did more than his share of worrying and checking on my family. Sadly, Win passed a few years ago. Win made me a better man, leader, father, husband and Soldier. He taught me that not only are you never too old to learn, but you're also never too old to lead,

teach or mentor. Once a leader, always a leader.

Last, but definitely not least, is another Vietnam veteran that I met in some strange circumstances. In 2004-2005 I was in the 1st Cavalry Division, on the above-mentioned advisor tour. We lived "outside the wire" at an Iraqi patrol base and the daily routine was much different than for many of our fellow infantrymen in normal units.

This is when "advising" was in its infancy. We saw our share of combat and often had "staffers" assigned to us by all levels of command to show them what happened outside the wire. So, when I got a radio message to meet my battalion commander and pick up another "VIP" battlefield tourist, I was less than enthused.

My battalion commander shows up and introduces me to a civilian dressed in a desert camouflage uniform with a Combat Infantryman Badge sewn on his uniform and a 1st Cavalry combat patch on his right sleeve. I immediately sized the man up and knew this wasn't the normal staffer. First, he was wearing no rank, he was fit, a little older than the average staffer and had the look of someone who knew what he was doing — and I could tell, he was siz-

Please see **Veterans** page 4

### Commentary



Leslie



## Guardian

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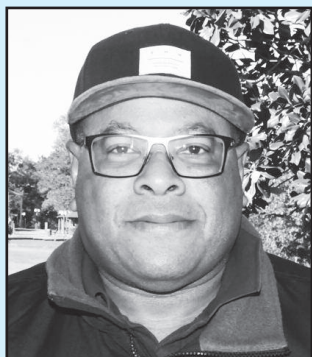
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## In our view

Guardian staff asked Fort Polk residents, "What is your favorite cold weather activity?" Here are their responses:



**Adrian Marshall:** "I make gumbo. I love to eat it when the weather turns cold."



**Sgt. 1st Class Brad Johnson:** "I love to go camping when the temperature drops. It's too hot here normally."



**Spc. Chris Molitoris:** "I like to hike now that it's cooler."



**Staff Sgt. Nyakeni Chan:** "I'll either lock myself in my house where I can stay warm or go out for a run, which warms me."

## Briefs

### Thanksgiving meal

Fort Polk's Guardian Inn Dining Facility, bldg 2382, hosts a Thanksgiving Day meal Thursday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Spouses and dependents of enlisted personnel in pay grades E-1 through E4 pay \$6.80 Spouses and dependents of enlisted grades E-5 through E-9, and officers and their spouses and dependents pay \$9.10

Menu includes: Steamship round of beef, ham, king crab legs, Cornish hens, turkey, shrimp, hamhocks, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, broccoli, cheese and rice, sweet potatoes, corn bread dressing, bread dressing, corn on the cob, green beans, rolls, croissants, cranberry sauce, shrimp cocktail, cheesecake, peach cobbler, chocolate chip cookies, German chocolate cake, sweet potato pie, pumpkin pie, apple pie, fruit gelatin, banana cream pudding, strawberry shortcake, parfaits, lemon cake, fruit salad, chicken salad, macaroni salad, potato salad and spinach salad.

### BJACH hours

Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital announces the following closures for the Thanksgiving holiday: BJACH clinics, labs, radiology and pharmacy are closed Thursday.

The Patient Centered Medical Home and pharmacy are open 7:30 a.m. to noon, Nov. 23. The emergency room and wards remain open.

### Native American

Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group hosts an observance of Native American Heritage month Nov. 28 from noon-1 p.m. at Bayou Theater.

The theme is Sovereignty, Trust and Resilience. Call (337) 353-7640 for more information.

### Abandoned vehicles

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Section will release the following vehicles, boats and trailers to a towing company for disposal on Dec. 18 if they remain unclaimed. Items are listed with the last four numbers of their VIN. If one of these vehicles belongs to you please contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Section at 531-1806/2677.

2006 Chevy Impala	4120
1999 Olds Delta 88	5892
1999 VW Jetta	2885
2001 Jeep Cherokee	7542
1977 Chevy 1500	0524
2010 Chevy Cavalier	8440
1999 Honda Civic	0284
2005 Pontiac Grand Am	2953
2001 Saturn	8648
UNKAstroglass 176Sk	boat

## Brooks overcomes obstacles to earn Ranger tab

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Guardian editor

FORT POLK, La. — When Spc. Jaired Brooks graduated from high school in Floyd County, Virginia, the then 17-year-old knew what he wanted to do. In fact, he had known what he wanted to do since the age of 12.

"I lied to my mother and told her I wanted to be an architect when I was in the 10th grade, but I knew college wasn't for me," Brooks said. "I wanted to be a Soldier."

Brooks, who played football and was in the band and 4-H Club, said what influenced his decision the most was the time he spent as a Boy Scout.

"I liked their commitment to serving others," Brooks said. "It seemed the Army was a good place to do that."

While most youngsters might gravitate to a combat arms specialty when choosing a career field, Brooks would not be able to do so.

"Since I was only 17, my parents had to sign so I could join," he said. "They wouldn't sign for a combat arms MOS."

Brooks turned to another relative for advice.

"I had a step-uncle who was an infantryman in the Army and he said I should sign up for MOS 12N," Brooks said. "When I asked what that was, he said it was basically a bulldozer operator; he said they got to do all the fun stuff and he was jealous because they got to ride around in air conditioning while the infantry had to walk everywhere."

Brooks said he did a little "investigating" about MOS 12N and learned there was a \$25,000 bonus for signing up.

"That was good enough for me," he said.

Jump ahead a little more than a year and Brooks, now stationed at Fort Polk with the 687th Heavy Construction Company, 46th Engineer Battalion, said he started looking at the possibility of attending sapper school. Sappers are basically combat engineers.

"When I looked into the selection process, I was too young," Brooks said. "My first sergeant suggested I try the 10th Mountain Division Pre-Ranger Course that was going to be held on Fort Polk. He said if I did well it would show battalion leadership I was serious about sapper school."

To Brooks' surprise, he did so well in the Pre-Ranger Course that 10th Mtn Div gave him a slot for Ranger School.

"Not only did I find my way around the com-

bat arms issue my folks had put me under, but I also found a way to attend one of the most prestigious Army schools out there," he said.

Ranger School would not be an easy task for Brooks. He began his crucible Feb. 5 with his arrival at Fort Benning, Georgia. Although he started well enough, tackling the Ranger PT test and combat water survival assessment, he hit his first stumbling block with Ranger Training Tasks.

"I didn't understand what Ranger tasks were all about because it was things I had not done before," Brooks said. "I failed RTTs the first time, but came back in April and aced them."

The next hurdle for Brooks was a demanding obstacle course, which he passed. He then was faced with a 12-mile run that had to be completed in less than 3 minutes, which he accomplished despite his ruck sack falling apart the first mile. With that task complete, Brooks had passed Ranger Assessment Phase.

That left three more phases to become a Ranger. They included combat operations in

North Georgia, mountain training in Virginia, and a trip through Florida's swamps. At each step, Brooks faced a recycle, yet never gave up. Finally, 187 days after starting Ranger School, Brooks had earned the coveted Ranger Tab.

"There were times I never thought I'd graduate Ranger School," Brooks said. "When I did, it was the biggest load lifted off of my shoulders. It was a relief. I wasn't coming back a loser — I had my tab."

While Brooks was quick to thank his military leaders for their support in preparing him for the challenge of Ranger School, he said his No. 1 supporters are his parents.

"It was awesome to be able to tell them they could come down to Fort Benning because I was graduating," Brooks said.

"My dad said my graduation from Ranger School was proof that he and mom had done a good job raising me."

Next up for Brooks, is Basic Leadership Class, then — hopefully — Sapper School. He also takes seriously his role as the second Ranger engineer in his unit, offering advice to younger Soldiers who want to undertake Ranger School.

"The one thing I tell everybody who asks me how to get through Ranger School is you cannot quit," he said.

"If you want that tab, you have to go after it. Be prepared to take a lot of blows — it's a fight to earn that Ranger tab. You have to be malleable. You have to be able to mold yourself."



Brooks

# Army news

## U.S. Army to roll out new Army Greens uniform

### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

WASHINGTON — The United States Army announced today that it is adopting an iconic uniform — the “Army Greens” — as its new service uniform. This is the uniform worn by America’s “Greatest Generation” in World War II.

The current Army Blues Uniform will return to being a formal dress uniform, while the Army Greens will become the everyday business-wear uniform for all Soldiers. The Army Combat Uniform — also known as the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) — will remain the Army’s

duty/field uniform.

The uniform will be cost-neutral for enlisted Soldiers, who will be able to purchase them with their annual clothing allowance. Female Soldiers will have the option to wear versions with a skirt or pants, and will also have additional shoe options.

The Army Greens will be fielded to Soldiers reporting to their first units as early as the summer of 2020. The mandatory wear date for all Soldiers will be 2028.

The new uniform will come at no additional cost to the American taxpayer. It will be made in the United States of America.



The United States Army is adopting an iconic uniform — the “Army Greens” — as its new service uniform. The uniforms in this photo are prototype models.

## Briefs

### Logistics update

Army’s G-4, Lt. Gen. Aundre Piggee, the Army’s deputy chief of staff for logistics, spoke at the Association of the United States Army’s Institute of Land Warfare breakfast in Arlington, Virginia Nov. 6. As the Army looks to increasingly modernize its force and become more mobile, Piggee said a handful of initiatives will have the most impact in upgrading logistics for future combat operations such as increasing the brigade combat teams’ ability to sustain themselves, implementing artificial intelligence and more.

### Army generals engage

In partnership with U.S. Army Cadet Command, a conference took place in Washington Nov. 7 to provide Army senior leaders, active and retired, an opportunity to interact and coach the future generation of leaders from 20 universities and seven Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs.

During the conference, 10 general officers, representing various Army organizations and commands, entertained questions from the cadet audience.

The Army will require more from its leaders as the force conducts multi-domain operations with dispersed units in contested environments, according to Maj. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., commanding general of the Cadet Command. As the next generation of leaders step in and take the reins, it will be up to them to innovate and shape the future force, said Maj. Gen. Glenn A. Bramhall, special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard.

## Veteran

Continued from page 2

ing me up.

The man was R.B. Alexander. He had been a Blues platoon leader in the First Cavalry Division, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry in Vietnam and had a distinguished military career and even more success as a civilian. He was now back in combat in Iraq at the request of the Army, to validate new ammunition and address serious weapons issues.

The only real guidance that I got was to try not to get him killed and accommodate his mission the best I could while doing mine — without getting in a firefight. Easy, right? Not so much in Iraq in 2004-2005.

Alexander ended up spending about three days with us and it was a rolling gunfight for almost the entire three days. We gave him what he came to see and then some. In one ambush

we were attacked with an improvised explosive device and heavy machine gun, wiping out one of our Iraqi vehicles and about dozen of our Iraqi Soldiers. Alexander proved that day and every day that he “still had it” and was a wise man to consult. He had been there and done that and I quickly learned that lessons learned the way he had learned them were the ones that stuck and the ones that mattered.

Alexander and I have stayed in contact and he has become a lifelong friend that is always there for consult or counsel. He taught me that the most important thing a leader can do is care, always have a good attitude and cut no corners in combat. Simple in concept, hard in reality, but easy for a man like R.B. Alexander — even 50 years later. That’s who he is and what he does — inspire to excellence.

I am sure I forgot someone or got some details wrong, so any mistakes or omissions are honest lapses in memory due to time. But, for this friendship, experience and wisdom of all the above-mentioned Vietnam veterans and all other Vietnam Veterans — a sincere and genuine thank you. Without you and what you have done for our Army, it would not be the force it is today — the best Army in the world. What you experienced, learned and shared have not been lost, wasted or in vain — what you did mattered, still matters and is alive in the formations of today’s Army. That is your contribution, your legacy.

As the late Gen. Creighton Abrams said, “Soldiers aren’t in the Army, they are the Army” and your contributions are alive in the Soldiers of today.”

# Korean War Soldier repatriated after 67 years

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Guardian editor

LAKE CHARLES, La. — On a bitterly cold February morning in 1951 near Hoengsong, Korea, Pfc. Edward M. Jones, 38th Infantry Division, went missing following a battle with Chinese forces during the Korean War.

Following a prisoner exchange after hostilities, it was learned that Jones, a native of Iowa, Louisiana, had been captured and later died from wounds in a Korean prisoner of war camp in March of 1951.

On Nov. 9, after more than 67 years, Jones' remains were finally returned to Lake Charles, Louisiana, and interred next to his parents.

"This is a very important day to us," said Steve Fleming, Jones' nephew and son of his sister Lynn. "We're glad to finally have him home."

Although he never met his uncle, Fleming said he feels a close kinship.

"I've been told that we share a lot of common traits," Fleming said. "It's hard for me to talk about him without choking up."

Funeral services for Jones were held at Hixson Funeral Home in Lake Charles, followed by graveside services at Sallier Cemetery.

Prior to the service, Jones was awarded the following medals: Purple Heart; Prisoner of War Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars; Combat Infantryman Badge; United National Service Medal; Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal; and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

At the graveside services, which

were moved into the cemetery mausoleum due to inclement weather, Col. Christopher Moretti, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk chief of staff, presented flags to Jones' Family members and thanked them for his selfless service and sacrifice. The burial detail from JRTC and Fort Polk's 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, then fired a 21-gun salute, which was followed by the rendering of "Taps."

Lynn Fleming, Jones' sister who is nearest to him in age, said her brother's return was a blessing come true.

"We never gave up hope that he would eventually come home," she said. Fleming said that as the years passed, that "hope" became questioning that Jones would be repatriated in their lifetimes.

"Sixty-seven years is a lifetime for a lot of people," she said. "My oldest sister is 93, I'm 86 and my youngest sister is 77, so we're past that (67 years)."

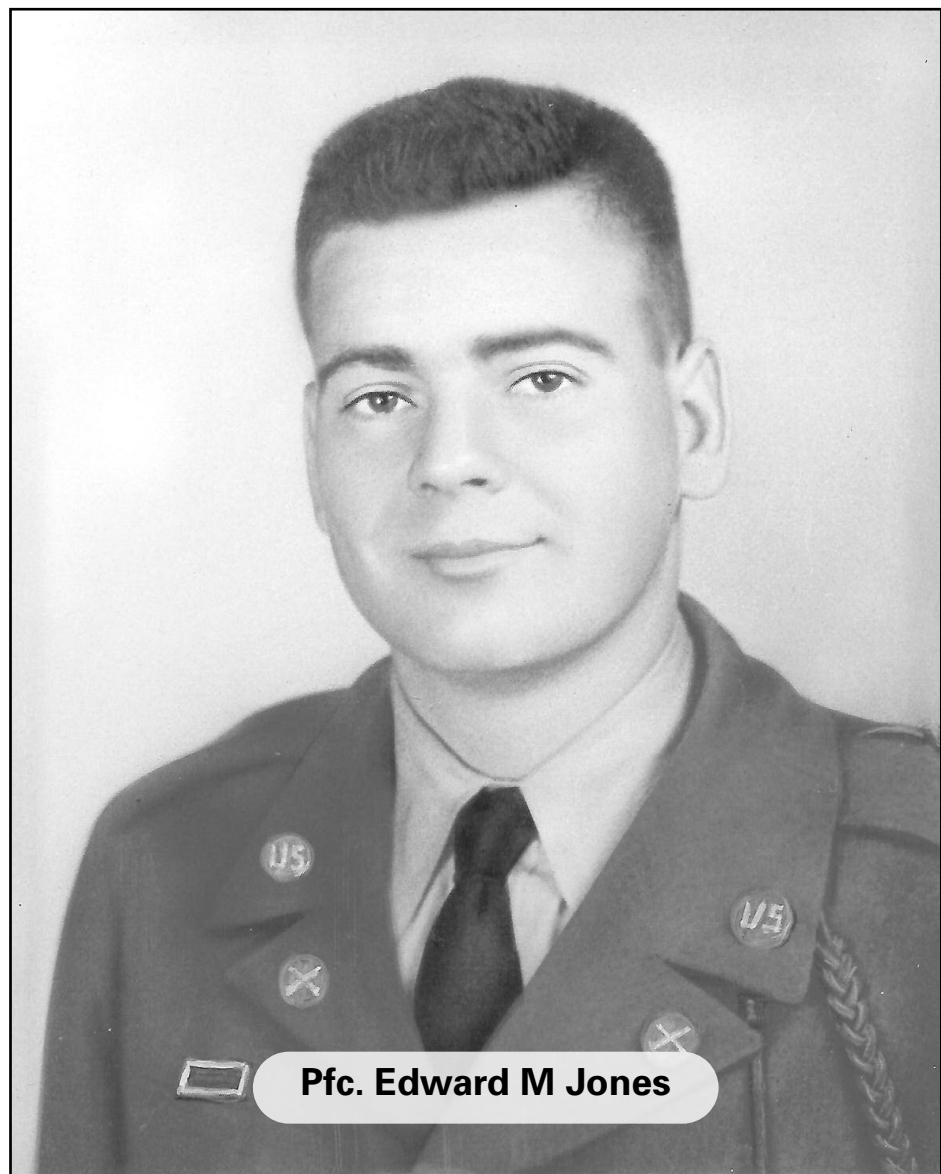
"We're glad we were able to see him returned home."

As the closest to Jones in age, Fleming said she and her brother were "playmate buddies."

"We were very close as was our whole family," she said. "We played, fought and did everything brothers and sisters would do. I still miss him so much."

When the Fort Polk bugler sounded "Taps," Fleming became visibly distraught, her eyes welling with tears.

"I knew they were going to play it (Taps) but I shake and shiver anytime I hear it," she said. "It hit me even harder because they were playing it for my brother."

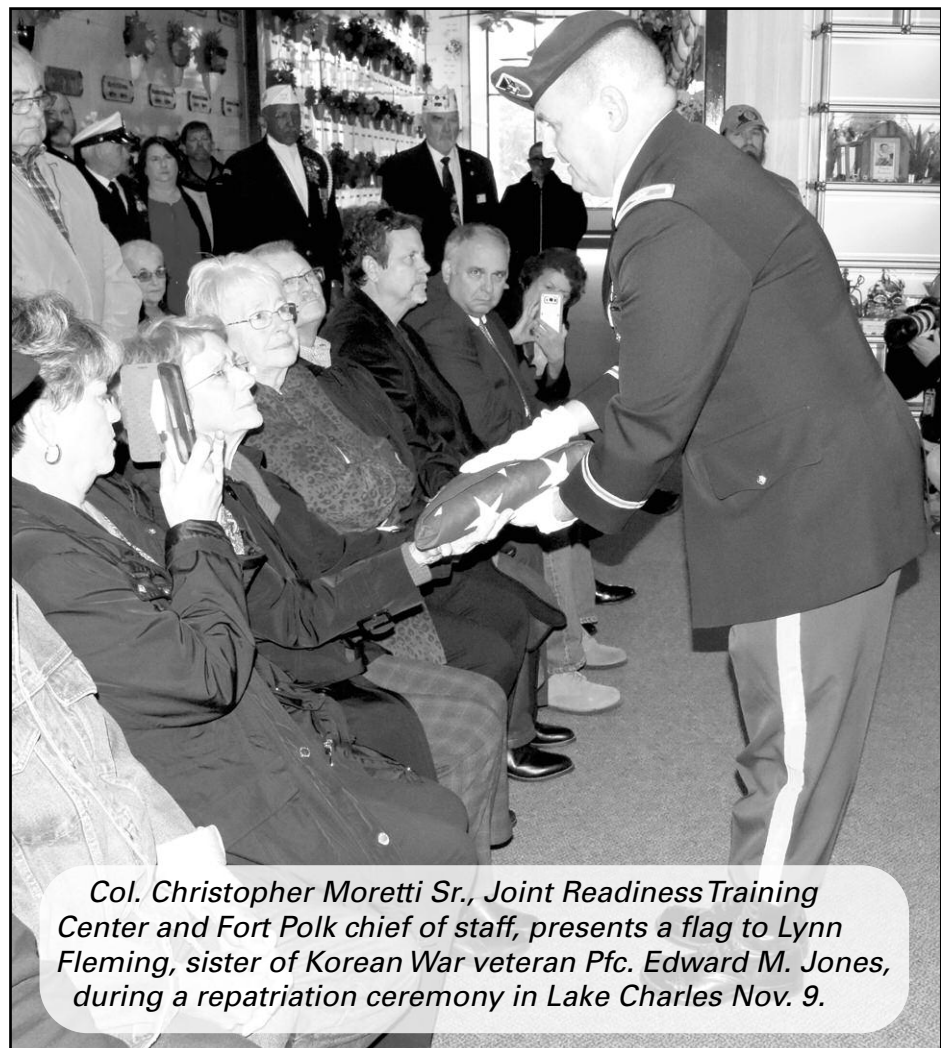


COURTESY PHOTO



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

A burial detail from the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk's 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division removes Pfc. Edward M. Jones' casket from a hearse during a repatriation ceremony Nov. 9 in Lake Charles.



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

Col. Christopher Moretti Sr., Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk chief of staff, presents a flag to Lynn Fleming, sister of Korean War veteran Pfc. Edward M. Jones, during a repatriation ceremony in Lake Charles Nov. 9.

# 3rd BCT hosts Veterans Day meal at Guardian Inn

By SGT. ASHLEY MORRIS

3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div PAO NCO

FORT POLK, La. — 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division hosted a Veterans Day celebration meal at the Guardian Inn dining facility Nov. 8. The event followed the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home ceremony hosted by Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk at Fort Polk airfield.

The menu featured steak, seafood, barbecue chicken and various side dishes and special desserts. This event was open to all active duty service members, veterans, retirees and the local Fort Polk community.

"I just want to thank everyone for joining us on this observation of Veterans Day," said Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Barrett, dining facility manager, Echo Company, 3rd Battalion, 17th Engineer Regiment. "We understand that they paved the way for us to be here today."

Johnny Davis, 93, was one of the oldest veterans in attendance. Davis served in the Army Air Corps with 3-85th Bombardment Group during World War II, from 1943-1945.

Bennett Rodgers and his spouse, Linda, traveled from Halifax, Louisiana, to attend both events after hearing about them on KALB TV. Rodgers served as a U.S. Army infantryman from 1968-1971, during the Vietnam War.

"I was watching the news and I saw that the base was having a ceremony," Linda said. "I went online to get more information and we decided to drive here."

Attendees of the event expressed their gratitude for the meal to the dining facility staff, as well as other patrons.

Mario J. Sorce works at the installation G4 office. Sorce is a disabled veteran who served 12 years in the Army as a military police and logistics specialist. He invited Brenda Willis, the Leesville Rotary Club President, who called the day awe-inspiring.

"My hat is off to the crew," Sorce said. "Everything is very inspirational and emotional."

At the end of the day, the 3rd BCT dining facility staff wanted to make sure that every service member and veteran that attended the event felt appreciated. Their sacrifice and commitment is necessary in ensuring the nation's safety.

"Thank you to all of the veterans from the past, now and the future for everything that you have been continuously providing this country," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frank Peterson, the brigade food manager. "We really appreciate it."



**Above:** Retired Sgt. 1st Class Howard L. Moore (left), retired Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Williams (center), and retired Sgt. 1st Class James Deans, exchange stories at "A Salute to Veterans: Veterans Day Celebration Meal" hosted by the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk and 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, at the Guardian Inn dining facility on Fort Polk Nov. 8. Deans fought in both World War II and the Korean War.

**Below:** JRTC and Fort Polk and 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, hosted "A Salute to Veterans: Veterans Day Celebration Meal" at Guardian Inn dining facility on Fort Polk Nov. 8. U.S. military service members, government civilians and local citizens attended the event that celebrated veterans.



**Johnny Davis**  
World War II veteran



SGT. ASHLEY MORRIS / 3RD BCT PAO NCO

# 3rd BCT Infantry Soldiers strive to earn prestigious badge

By T.C. BRADFORD

Public Affairs Office

FORT POLK, La. — The Expert Infantry Badge, or EIB, is a decoration that symbolizes competence in the core military skills that all infantrymen need to master to do their job — engage and destroy the enemies of America on the field of battle.

It also tells young Soldiers and senior leadership that the wearer is someone they can count on when infantry tasks are assigned. The young Soldier can look to someone who wears the EIB as an example to emulate and the senior leader can trust the Soldier has the skill and knowledge to accomplish any assigned task without being constantly checked up on.

It also gives Soldiers a great sense of pride in the accomplishment. This leads to better, more effective units and a more lethal fighting force in combat. To paraphrase former Vice President Joe Biden, “It’s kind of a big deal.”

Over the past three weeks, Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division were on a mission to earn that prestigious award. They were joined in the quest by other Soldiers from varied organizations. From the 3rd BCT, members of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment; and the 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment were joined by Soldiers from 1st Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion (Airborne), 504th Infantry Regiment; and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment — more than 700 Soldiers total — on a pursuit for excellence. In the end, more than 100 would achieve their goal.

The EIB was created in 1944 on the orders of the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George C. Marshall. The badge represented the tough role the infantry played in combat and symbolized proficiency in the infantry arts.

The competition begins with the Expert Physical Fitness Examination. Requirements include pushups, sit-ups and a 4-mile run that must be completed in less than 32 minutes.

The second event is day and night land navigation. Candidates, in combat gear and using only a map and compass, must navigate to four points during the day and three points at night. Both tests need to be completed in three hours to receive a “go” on the task.

The next phase includes stations that test a Soldier’s proficiency in 30 infantry skills. Skills include tearing down and reassembling weapons, and dealing with weapons malfunctions; providing first aid to a buddy wounded on the battlefield, in and out of mission oriented protective posture or MOPP gear; attacking and clearing a bunker with a hand grenade; setting up a claymore mine and more.

Soldiers are allowed to receive one “no-go” per station and can re-test a second time, but may not have any more than three “no-gos” or fails for the entire competition.

The final day consists of a 12-mile ruck march with a 35-pound pack. Candidates must cross the finish line within three hours. Once the ruck is complete, the final task is disassembly, reassembly and a function check on an M-4 or M-16 rifle.

Spc. Alden Mayotte, 2-2 Inf, was a first time candidate who earned the award. He said the toughest thing for him was the amount of information he had to retain. “The hardest part was the 30 individual events. You had to know the



T.C. BRADFORD / GUARDIAN

*As a station grader looks on, a Soldier prepares to perform battlefield first aid on a “wounded” comrade. This was one of 30 infantry tasks Soldiers had to pass to be awarded the Expert Infantry Badge.*

steps to perform each task and then brain-dump it once you were finished then try to remember what the requirements for the next task were,” he said.

He believes that earning the EIB will be good for him moving forward. “As a junior enlisted Soldier I believe it will help me get to the next level in my career. I’m looking forward to taking the next step,” he said.

Sgt. Russell Dix, also a member of 2-2 Inf was one of 35 Soldiers who earned “True Blue” status. True Blues are Soldiers that passed the test the first time, every time with zero “no-gos.” These Soldiers received the Army Commendation Medal from Col. Kendall Clarke, the 3rd BCT commander, and a challenge coin from Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commanding general of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

Dix said he was proud of how he finished. “Each task is hard enough by itself and you can only get one “no-go” per station. We have 30 of those tasks, so being able to complete them without a “no-go is challenging,” he said. “I honestly didn’t know if I would be able to do it, so it’s a pretty big accomplishment. It means a lot.”

Dix talked about the conditions Soldiers experience during the ordeal. “Not only do you have these 30 tasks that you must do perfectly during the test, but prior to that, you’re getting up and training for the test from 4 or 5 a.m. until 6 or 7 p.m. That goes on every day for two weeks and then you have test week,” he said. “When the test starts, you get up at about 2:30 a.m. to do your physical fitness test and then a week of trying to perform all these tasks flawlessly. It can get pretty stressful.”

1st Lt. Tyler Wesley, 2-2 Inf, also earned the EIB as a “True Blue.” He said the badge is given to individuals, but it takes a company of Soldiers

working together to be successful. “Even if, at the end of the three weeks, people don’t come out the other side with their EIB, there are many good things that come from it. First, it’s good training,” he said. “It bonds Soldiers. They don’t separate officers and enlisted so I went through with my platoon. Yes, it’s an individual event, but at the end of the day you need other people around you, supporting you, helping you through it.”

To illustrate this point, Wesley, who has been in the Army for two years said he doesn’t have the depth of knowledge that other, more experienced Soldiers have, but that’s where his battle buddies come in. “I’d be working a task (during the train-up) and they would say ‘No sir. That’s wrong. You need to try again.’ So I would re-do it and they would grade me,” he said. “At the end of the day, you need other people surrounding you — helping you through it.”

Wesley talked about the bond between infantry Soldiers who share experiences like the EIB test. “The reason we have such strong bonds is that we have shared difficult experiences,” he said. “We started the ruck march at about 3:30 a.m. and the first six miles were pretty good. It was chilly. But not too bad. We got to the halfway point and turned around and the lightning and thunder started up.”

Things would only get worse from that point. It began to rain. It was already cold out and the combination of events took its toll on Wesley. “I was marching with one of my junior Soldiers and he was really pushing the pace,” he said. “I wanted to slow down, but he said ‘Sir, we need to keep going.’ Because of his encouragement, we came in under time. The test is a really humbling experience.”

Please see **Badge**, page 8



## So, what's with the log?

The quest for the Expert Infantry Badge is a competition. You compete against yourself, pushing to do better, accomplish tasks faster and come out the other side a better Soldier. You also compete against battle buddies for bragging rights and even respect.

But inside the competition, there is another friendly rivalry — a race between companies to have the most EIB recipients awarded at the end of the testing. The winner takes possession of a trophy, in the form of this log, until the next time the EIB test comes around.

This time the trophy was earned by the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Posing above with the trophy are (from left) Spec. Alden Mayotte, Staff Sgt. Daniel Fricke, Sgt. Russell Dix and 1st Lt. Tyler Wesley.

"It's pretty cool winning the log because it validates the company," said Wesley. "The EIB is an individual Competition, but when your collective team earns more badges than any other company, that's good for the Soldiers who earned them and the leadership."

Wesley said that leadership, most of whom have their EIBs, are not able to test again but when they set up training and allow their troops to study and prepare, winning the log is their reward for creating a path to success. And that isn't the only benefit. "Now we have bragging rights for the next year and that's pretty cool," he said.



**Above:** In a holding area prior to testing, Soldiers practice disassembly and reassembly of their service pistols.

**Below:** A Soldier moves to his next testing station while attempting to earn the Expert Infantry Badge. More than 100 Soldiers were awarded the badge on Nov. 9.



Before being tested by a grader, Soldiers in a holding area practice tasks required to pass the anti-tank weapon station. Tasks include (when applicable) disassembly, assembly, clearing malfunctions and firing the weapon. Soldiers must show mastery of these tasks to earn the Expert Infantry Badge.

**Top:** Staff Sgt. Russell Dix, 2-2 Inf, runs toward an "enemy" bunker. **Center:** Dix peers into the bunker in preparation of taking it out. **Bottom:** Dix releases a hand grenade into the bunker, destroying the position. The grenade is one of the weapons an infantryman needs to know how to deploy safely and effectively on the battlefield.

# 46th Engineers bring hurricane clean-up skills to Tyndall AFB

## GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — The photos on this page show Soldiers from Fort Polk's 46th Engineer Battalion as they assist in the cleanup of Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, following Hurricane Michael. The "Steel Spike" Soldiers worked with members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, in the recovery efforts. The Soldiers are slated to return to Fort Polk before Thanksgiving.



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

# Rotation 19-02 offers challenges for 2nd IBCT, 25th ID Soldiers

## JRTC OPERATIONS GROUP

FORT POLK, La. — The 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, have teamed with their partners and allies, the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, as they experienced the premier crucible training at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk during rotation 19-02. The photos on this page show the Soldiers in action. Visit the Joint Readiness Training Center, Operations Group Facebook page for more photos.



JRTC OPERATIONS GROUP



## Briefs

### Exchange closure

The Fort Polk Main Post Exchange is closed Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving Day, but will reopen at 6 a.m. Nov. 23. Service members on the installation on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, will still have access to convenience items as the Express I is open from 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

### DeCA holiday hours

The Fort Polk Commissary announces the following hours for the week of Thanksgiving:

- Monday through Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Thursday, closed
- Nov. 23, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Nov. 24, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

### Hunter safety

A Louisiana Hunter Safety Certification Course is held Dec. 6-8 on Fort Polk in bldg 2538, 23rd Street. Class is from 5-8 p.m. the first two nights and 4-8 p.m. on the third night. Participants can preregister on line at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/hunter-education](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/hunter-education) or by visiting the above location. Instructors will provide necessary materials. Call the Conservation Law Enforcement Office at 531-5222 or (337) 353-2996 for more information.

### Power lunch

Fort Polk's Protestant Women of the Chapel host a Bible study for active duty and civilian employed women with a light lunch provided Wednesdays through Dec. 12. The video-based study by Christine Caine titled, "Undaunted," offers insights on how to overcome challenges and painful circumstances faced by many. There is no watchcare for this study. Email [pwocfortpolk@gmail.com](mailto:pwocfortpolk@gmail.com) or visit PWOC Fort Polk on Facebook.

### Recycle challenge

The Fort Polk Net Zero Waste Team hosts a 30-day recycling challenge through Nov. 30. Military Families are encouraged to bring plastic bottles, aluminum cans, cardboard, white paper and mixed paper to be weighed at the Recycling Center located at Georgia and Maine avenues. First place receives a \$75 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift card and a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card. Second place receives a \$50 AAFES gift card and a \$25 Huddle House gift card. Third place receives a \$25 AAFES gift card and a Strike Zone Bowling Center certificate for Wednesday game night. For rules and more information visit the Net Zero Waste Facebook page @NetZeroWastePolk or call 531-1105.



Santa arrives at the 2017 Fort Polk Snowflake festival.

## JRTC, Fort Polk prepares for holiday season

GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, which means fun for Families and a chance to share with those less fortunate.

On Nov. 30, JRTC and Fort Polk celebrate the start of the holidays with a traditional lighting of the installation holiday tree and the annual Snowflake Festival.

The events take place at the Main Post Exchange, beginning at 4 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. the tree will be lit, followed by the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Activities include cookie decorating, ice skating, face-painting, balloon animals, free pictures with Santa, crafts, free hot dogs and cocoa and a holiday photo booth.

Trees for Troops will also give away 400 trees to active-duty Soldiers and their Families in the Main Exchange Garden Center. Trees are first come, first served. Soldiers will line up in the Main Exchange, and once in line, receive a ticket.

Remember to show up early as there are only 400 trees available.

For more information visit

[www.polk.armymwr.com](http://www.polk.armymwr.com) or [www.christmasspiritfoundation.org](http://www.christmasspiritfoundation.org).

To help Families who might need a hand this Christmas, the annual JRTC and Fort Polk Toy Drive continues through Nov. 30.

Boxes are located at bldg 350, the Post Exchange, Dental Activities, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, the Commissary, Main Post Chapel, and Replacement Company, bldg 220. Toys must be brand new and unwrapped.

All toys must be turned into bldg 2613, next to the Mission Training Center (see the Santa Workshop sign) by Nov. 30.

From Dec. 1-9 Santa and his helpers (volunteers welcome) will divide the toys among those in need. Toy pickup for each unit is as follows:

- Dec. 10 — 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, 10:30 a.m.-noon; 46th Engineer Battalion, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11 — JRTC Operations Group, 9-10:30 a.m.; 519th Military Police Battalion, 10:30 a.m.-noon; 115th Combat Support Hospital, 1-2:30 p.m.; Medical Activity, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

For more information about the toy drive call Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers at 531-1948.



# Make plans to usher in holidays with twinkling lights

## GUARDIAN STAFF

NATCHITOCHEs, La. — Watch Christmas come to life at the Natchitoches Festival of Lights, held Saturday through Jan. 6 in historic downtown Natchitoches.

Every holiday season, Natchitoches puts on a dazzling Christmas display as Cane River Lake is transformed into a glittering holiday hot spot.

The 92nd annual Festival of Lights celebration offers a barrage of colorful lights that sparkle along the Cane River. More than 300,000 lights and lit pieces line historic downtown and the river. The lights are turned on each night at dusk until Jan. 6.

Stroll along Main Street and do some shopping, relax on a carriage tour or peruse the craft and food vendors. Take advantage of live entertainment and enjoy the fireworks that take place each Saturday night.

In addition to the Festival of Lights, Natchitoches offers a wide variety of Christmas entertainment and fun.

- Check out and enjoy the excitement of Les Amies Christmas Treasures Arts and Crafts sale Saturday at the Natchitoches Events Center, 750 Second St., Natchitoches.

Take part in a silent auction, view local vendor's wares, Santa Claus and more. Enjoy holiday shopping before heading downtown for "Turning on the Holidays." Admission is free.

- Make a day of it Saturday and kick off the holiday season right by attending "Turn on the Holidays," the official start to the Natchitoches Christmas season. This event, located on Front Street and 100 Rue Beauport, features musical entertainment, children's activities and fireworks. The schedule is as follows:  
10 a.m.-10 p.m. — "Turn on the Holidays" activities, Free admission  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Visit Santa's Live Reindeer on the Riverbank  
4-7 p.m. — Holiday shopping open house at Historic District Business Association shops and attractions  
4:30-7 p.m. — Music: Cane River Soul

on the Riverbank Stage  
7 p.m. — Fireworks  
7:15-9:15 p.m. — Music: 92Twenty on the Riverbank Stage

- Natchitoches/Northwestern Christmas Gala, Nov. 28-30, which is inspired by New York's Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, the Christmas Gala showcases the talents of students and faculty in NSU's world-class music, theatre, dance and art programs. The show is a perennial favorite for audiences of all ages with Christmas songs, skits and dance numbers that celebrate the magic of Christmas, such as the wildly popular Nutcracker ballet, the NSU Jazz Orchestra, the percussion ensemble and other featured musical and vocal ensembles. The event takes place at the A. A. Fredericks Auditorium, 150 Central Ave., Natchitoches, at 7 p.m. Nov. 28-30 and an additional show Nov. 30 at 9 p.m.

- The Holiday Tour of Homes, Dec. 6 and 13 from 5-8 p.m., is a wonderful way to kick start your holiday and get some fantastic decorating ideas for your own home.

You are invited to a special night of Christmas magic at Northwestern State University as you are welcomed into the President's Home on this historic campus, founded in 1884 as Louisiana State Normal School. Walk past the three remaining columns of the Bullard Mansion, a symbol of the university. Built in 1832, the mansion was the site of the Louisiana State Normal School. Watch for pop-up performances by the Creative & Performing Arts students and be sure to ask about the Legend of Isabella. The Old President's Home, built in 1927, is now the home of the Alumni Center. After visiting the Alumni Center, step next door to lovely Varnado Hall.

- A second Tour of Homes takes place Dec. 7 and 14 from 5-8 p.m. at

the Laureate House and Bayou Amulet House, Poete Street. These homes showcase true Southern hospitality. Bayou Amulet House overlooks the edge of the bayou that was first called Bayou a la Mule. This is where mules were tied while their owners were conducting business. French and Spanish traders used this area as a meeting point. Laureate House and Bayou Amulet House are both located on Poete Street. Laureate

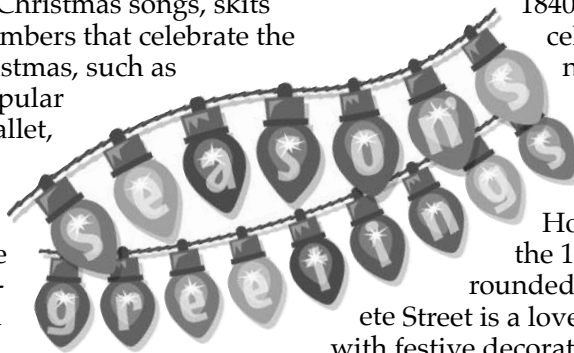
House was built in 1840 and contains a cellar that was connected to the bayou. The house was restored in the 1950s. Bayou Amulet

House was built in the 1850s and is surrounded by gardens. Poete Street is a lovely walking area with festive decorations.

- Your third choice for the Holiday Tour of Homes takes place Dec. 8 and 15 from 1-4 p.m. at the Cunningham Law Firm and Natchitoches Historic Foundation, 550 Second St. Step back in time to life in historic Natchitoches. The downtown area is home to some fabulous stories and you are invited to hear about the ebb and flow of small business life in the late 1800s. The building has twin chimneys in the center of the building that were used to heat both sides of the duplex offices. Trinity Episcopal Church boasts the story of the fighting bishop. Join us to hear this fascinating tale! Construction of the Old Courthouse began in 1896. It is an example of Romanesque Revival architecture.

- Christmas in the Park takes place Nov. 23-24, 28-30 and Dec. 1-2, 5-9, 12-25 from 6-9 p.m. Christmas In The Park, offers a family oriented, country Christmas walk-through that mimics a winter wonderland. The event takes place weather permitting at 4343 University Parkway.

Most ticket prices for these events range from free to \$15. For more information visit [www.holiday-trailoflights.com](http://www.holiday-trailoflights.com).



# Last chance to 'Give, Get Back'

## MAIN POST EXCHANGE

FORT POLK, La. — For the third time this year, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is giving Fort Polk shoppers an opportunity to help Soldiers, airmen and military Families in need.

From Nov. 30 to Dec. 5, Fort Polk Exchange shoppers can make at-the-register donations to Army Emergency Relief (AER) and Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) and receive a coupon for \$5 off a \$25 Exchange purchase for every \$5 donated.

The first two "Give and Get Back" donation periods of 2018 garnered more than \$212,000 for the support funds.

AER and AFAF provide emer-

gency assistance, sponsor educational programs and offer community programs that improve the quality of life for service members and their Families.



"The Fort Polk military community is always quick to help those in need — it's in their DNA," said Beth Pritchard, Fort Polk Exchange general manager. "The Exchange is honored to be a part of this wonderful program to support service members and their Families who are going through tough times."

The coupons are valid Dec. 6 to Dec. 12. There is no limit to the number of coupons shoppers can earn, and coupons can be redeemed in stores or online at [ShopMyExchange.com](http://ShopMyExchange.com).

# Exchange hosts Hasbro Game Night

## MAIN POST EXCHANGE

FORT POLK, La. — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is partnering with Hasbro to host a game night for military children and their families at Fort Polk Exchange on Nov. 24.

The event, which is ideal for children age 4 and older, will offer three games to enjoy: Don't Step in It; Pie Face Cannon; and Connect 4 Shot. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

the Fort Polk Exchange.

"This time of year can be stressful for military Families, especially if they are stationed far from loved ones,"

said Beth Pritchard, Exchange general manager.

"The Fort Polk Exchange is excited to provide this opportunity for Warfighters and their Families to spend time to-

gether during the busy holiday season."



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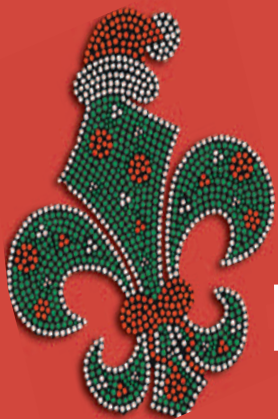
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# Fort Polk's BJACH special day honors namesake

By **KATHY L. PORTS**

BJACH Public Affairs Officer

FORT POLK, La. — Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital honored retired Brig. Gen. Stanhope Bayne-Jones, BJACH's namesake, with a special day for the hospital staff.

Bayne-Jones, a Louisiana native and Yale graduate, is recognized as a pioneer in bacteriology and preventive medicine.

He achieved worldwide acclaim as the individual responsible for the control of typhus in Europe at the end of World War II.

Born Nov. 6, 1888, he received his doctor of medicine from John Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland.

A teacher, and researcher in the fields of bacteriology and immunology, he was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps in 1915.

A veteran of WWI and WWII, he retired with 35 years military and civilian service. Upon his retirement, he was awarded the Exceptional Service Award. He died in 1970 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

BJACH's special day began with music, coffee and donuts for staff members and patients as they entered the hospital. Charles Gregg Stevens, chief of the Army Medical Department Civilian Corps, joined BJACH for the celebration.

During an awards ceremony honoring both military and civilian staff, Stevens told the audience that the civilian corps is a valuable part of the Army team, providing stability and continuity during war and peace.

He also announced that the Department of the Army has agreed to make a change to the Civilian Creed by adding "leadership" to its wording.

"I'm not sure when the change will be done, but it's coming," he said. Also attending the ceremony were Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commander, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort



Col. Marla J. Ferguson, commander, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, (left) and Charles Gregg Stevens, chief of the AMEDD Civilian Corps, pose in front of the refreshment table during Bayne-Jones Day Nov. 5.

Polk, and Col. Jarrett Thomas II, Fort Polk garrison commander.

Along with Col. Marla J. Ferguson, BJACH commander, Stevens presented an array of awards, ending the presentation by leading the group in a reaffirmation of the Civilian Oath of Office.

In honor of BJACH's namesake, the hospital

staff enjoyed an ice cream social and birthday cake after the ceremony.

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3. There should be no field trash placed in any dumpster not marked "Mixed Field Waste", if a unit has field training to conduct they can call 535-1155 and schedule containers to be placed at their training location.
4. Please do not park vehicles around dumpsters, this will prevent the dumpster from being serviced.

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 FIND US ON

# Resiliency important in overcoming self stigma

By **JOHN PILGRIM**

Suicide Prevention Program Manager

FORTPOLK, La. — After more than 17 years of war there is little argument that the number of Soldiers who use behavioral health services has increased. In addition, the number of Soldiers who join the Army and have experienced family violence while young, sexual assaults, relationship issues, parents who abused drugs or alcohol, lack coping skills, and exhibit other high risk behaviors have increased the number of Soldiers who regularly use the services of the Behavioral Health Department at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital.

However, a 2004 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine by C.W. Hoge, "Combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, Mental Health Problems, and Barriers to Care," found that only a fraction of Soldiers report receiving professional treatment, and few Soldiers are interested in receiving help because of perceived stigma.

Despite the Army's efforts to reduce the stigma associated with seeking behavioral health services, it seems there is a large population within the military community who choose not to seek help. This stigma is normally defined by public beliefs, prejudices and stereotypes that, when internalized, may damage self-esteem and

impede treatment-seeking behavior.

Many studies have been used by the military to reduce stigma and organizational barriers to increase treatment-seeking behaviors. However, a new study in October 2018, "The Impact of Stigma on Behavioral Health Care Utilization Among Active Duty Service Members," by Andrew J. Seidman, published in Military Psychology magazine, sheds new light on the potential reasons for not seeking services.

The results of the study indicate that whereas greater self-stigma (negative self-judgments for seeking psychological help) was associated with attending fewer behavioral health care sessions, public stigma (perceptions of public attitudes towards people who seek psychological help) was not associated with use of services. These findings support the need for addressing the self-stigma associated with seeking behavioral health care. In layman's terms, Soldiers are more hesitant to seek help because of their own internal feelings rather than what other's perceptions might be.

This study can help unit leadership understand it is a Soldier's own feelings that need to be addressed and not general societal pressures. Resiliency training, suicide prevention training and the use of risk reduction tools like the Unit Risk Inventory and Commander's Risk Reduction Dashboard can be tailored to meet individual



Soldier's needs that may encourage them to seek behavioral health services.

If internal embarrassment is acute among at-risk Soldiers, then the use of outside resources can be another alternative, such as the Veterans Center located at 1705 East Texas St. in Alexandria that provides outpatient services for a variety of issues, from PTSD to marital counseling. The center can be reached at (318) 473-0010.

Resiliency is an important trait for Soldiers and they must be encouraged to seek help. A healthy Army is one that has the strength to acknowledge its own issues and seeks help. Suicide should never be considered an option because where there is help there is hope for a brighter future.

## VPSD ranks among highest in Louisiana

### FORT POLK PROGRESS

LEESVILLE, La. — The Louisiana Department of Education released its district and school performance scores Nov. 8. Vernon Parish School District received an "A" school district rating, ranking fifth in the state under the former scoring guidelines, and a "B" school district rating under the new statewide scoring formula implemented this year, ranking seventh.

"We are very proud of our student achievement in Vernon Parish Schools," said James Williams, Vernon Parish School District superintendent.

The Every Student

Succeeds Act required the state to adjust how districts and schools are evaluated to include a student growth score. Because this is the first year under the new baseline, districts and schools received two scores under this new revamped system, one using the previous formula and one using the new baseline formula.

VPSD adapted to the new scoring system successfully, also being

Please see Rank, page 16

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# Lagniappe

## BOSS

Fort Polk's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers a variety of events for single Soldiers. For more information on BOSS events call 531-1948.

### • Table-top gaming

Join BOSS for some table-top gaming Saturday at 1 p.m. This is a free event held at the Home of Heroes Recreation Center. Games include Warhammer: 40K, Warhammer: Age of Sigmar and more. Register through the BOSS office.

### • Door decorating contest

BOSS hosts a door decorating contest until Dec. 25. Decorate your door, take a picture with your door and submit it to [Facebook@FortPolkBOSS](mailto:Facebook@FortPolkBOSS). Submit your picture with name, rank and unit. There are prizes for first-, second-, and third-place winners.

### • Town hall raffle

Single Soldiers (only) can buy raffle tickets for a chance to win electronics, gift cards and more through Dec. 6. The grand prize is a plane ticket! Tickets are three for \$5 or 10 for \$10. Buy tickets from the BOSS office at the rec center.

## Festivals

### • Christmas Festival

The NOLA ChristmasFest, held at New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center may be decked

out in red, white and green décor, but the largest indoor holiday event on the Gulf Coast is gifting half-off entries on Fridays to service members who defend the red, white and blue. Military service members and first responders who bring their official, valid ID will receive a discounted entry of \$10 for tickets purchased at the door. This special offer may not be combined with other discounts and may not be extended to Family members or guests.

Enjoy the New Orleans area's only ice skating rink and ice slides, holiday characters, amusement rides, themed inflatables, arts and crafts, gingerbread house exhibit, Kringle carousel, winter whirl, snowball fight area, snowy summit climbing wall and other favorites. The festival is open every day from Dec. 20-31 including special hours on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and until 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve. For more information visit [www.nolachristmasfest.com](http://www.nolachristmasfest.com).

### • Renaissance Festival

Visit Louisiana Renaissance festival, Hammond, featuring jousting, birds of prey and stage and street entertainers for tons of family fun. With about 100 merchants the festival has some unique shopping opportunities.

There are activities for all ages.

One day admission is \$20 per adult and \$12 per child. The festival is open each weekend through Dec. 8-9. For more information visit [www.larf.org](http://www.larf.org).

## Miscellaneous

### • Thanksgiving meal

All military, veterans and their Families are welcome at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3619 and auxiliary, DeRidder, for a Thanksgiving meal, Thursday from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Please make reservations by Monday at (337) 463-3977 between 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

### • Christmas ballet

The Joan Kathey Dance Center and West Louisiana Dance Theatre presents Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leesville High School Auditorium, 502 Berry St., Leesville.

The performance features Caroline Slayton as the Sugar Plum Fairy and guest dancer William Applewhite as Cavalier. In addition, a performance of the "Nightmare Before Christmas" will be performed Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. Admission for all performances is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. For more information or to purchase tickets call (337) 292-7016.

### • Holiday market

The Junior League of Lake Charles hosts the Mistletoe and

Moss Holiday Market today through Saturday at the Lake Charles Civic Center.

The event includes live entertainment, a preview party, shopping and breakfast with Santa, all with a glittering ambiance.

Shopping hours are 9 a.m.-8 p.m. today and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. General admission for the market is \$10 per person.

For more information call (337) 436-4025 or visit [www.jllc.net](http://www.jllc.net).

### • Choir performance

Enjoy the vocal harmonies of the Vernon Community Choir as they sing at the 49th annual performance of G. F. Handel's "Messiah" part one, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. in the Leesville High School Auditorium, 502 Berry St., Leesville.

For more information call (337) 424-7118/(337) 238-1036.

### • Bass tournament

Fish the first Saturday of each month from safelight to 3 p.m. as the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts a fishing tournament at Fort Polk's Toledo Bend Recreation Site.

The next tournament is held Dec. 2. Cost is \$40 per boat, two people per boat. Payout is 80 percent of the entry fees.

The tournament requires a minimum of five boats.

For more information call (888) 718-9088.

# Rank

Continued from page 15

ranked as the third highest public-school system in the state. The two public school districts ahead of Vernon Parish were Ascension and West Feliciana.

The district was also able to improve its district performance score under the old scoring formula by 1.8 points with 109.7, compared to last year's score of 107.9.

There are only 1.7 points between Vernon Parish and the second highest district overall in the state, and 5.5 points between Vernon Parish and the number one district. Vernon Parish is 16.7 points above the state average.

Under the new baseline scores, Vernon Parish also saw improvement. If the baseline formula had been used for last year's scores, Vernon Parish would have had an 87.7, and this year Vernon Parish had an 88.9. This is a growth of 1.2 points. The district is 12.8 points above the state average.

The public-school districts ahead of VPSD are Ascension, Lafourche, Vermillion, Plaquemines and West Feliciana. There are only 4.6 points between Vernon Parish and the top district, and 2.3 points behind the highest performing public-school district.

Vernon Parish has an "A" rating on 4 of the 5

indices under the new baseline scoring criteria. No other district ranking higher received those scores.

Additionally, VPSD received the second highest American College Testing index in Louisiana.

"We are also excited about our improvements and growth," Williams said. "This improvement is an ongoing process that our students, teachers and administrators work very hard to achieve each day. We will continue to strive to work hard and be the best that we can be, so our students will be afforded an excellent education." Fort Polk Progress President Michael Reese attributed these improved scores and successful adoption to the new accountability testing scoring system to VPSD's emphasis on quality education.

"The schools in Vernon Parish serve many military-connected students from Fort Polk, with parents focused on ensuring their kids receive a good education," Reese said. "These improved and high scores — under both the old and new scoring formats — show that this district is making academic achievement a priority for its students, both military and civilian."

Top Gains Schools — or those earning the equivalent to an "A" letter grade on the progress

index — included 11 of 16 Vernon Parish schools: Anacoco Elementary School, Anacoco High School, Evans High School, Hicks High School, Hornbeck High School, Leesville High School, Pickering Elementary School, Pitkin High School, Rosepine Elementary School, Rosepine High School and Simpson High School.

Equity Honorees — or schools with subgroup scores in English Language Learners, students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged are in the 90th percentile — include five schools: Anacoco High School, Hornbeck High School, Pickering Elementary School, Pitkin High School and Rosepine High School.

Williams detailed efforts to keep improving academic achievement at Vernon Parish schools.

"We have identified areas that need improvement at each school on each grade level and have already implemented improvement plans and action plans to address any and all deficiencies," Williams said. "We are committed to our children and to their needs to assure this opportunity for all students. We recognize and appreciate all of the help and support from our parents, teachers, administrators and board members that work together to make our continuously upward progress in education become a reality for all."

# Fort Polk Guardian

www.thefortpolkguardian.com

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### FOR RENT

**LOFT APARTMENT FOR RENT** in Beautiful Downtown Leesville, 2,946 Sq.Ft. Loft Apartment with 1 bedroom and 1 Bath, Stainless Steel Appliance's. Call 337-238-2743

### FOR SALE

**ELECTRIC WHEEL-CHAIR/SCOOTER LIFT.** Fits 2" receiver hitch, has swing out design for access to rear of SUV or truck bed, asking \$300.00. Call 337-238-4803

**20 JOINTS OF METAL PIPE,** up to 21 feet long and 2 1/2" diameter, all for \$200.00. Call 337-238-4803

**BLACK WIRE PET KENNELS** \$25.00 to \$35.00. Call 337-238-4803

**CVA OPTIMA 50-CAL-IBER** blackpowder rifle with scope \$150.00. Call 337-238-4803

**MATCHING BOLT-ACTION SHOTGUNS** with select-a-choke, 410 and 20 gauge, asking \$300.00. Call 337-238-4803

**FORD 150 BACK DECK TRUCK BED COVER.** \$600. For more information call 337-208-6983.

### HELP WANTED

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT NEEDED!** CMA or RMA with Phlebotomy required for medical office. Apply with resume by email cardioll@bellsouth.net or bring resume to Leesville Cardiovascular, 1101 Port Arthur, Leesville.

### REAL ESTATE

**NOTICE:** All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to

## System Administrator Intermediate – Ft. Polk

Posting Date: 10/10/2018  
 Position Name: System Administrator--Intermediate  
 Company: Fort Polk, LA  
 SCA Wage Category: Exempt  
 Shift: 1st  
 Employee Type: Regular Full Time  
 Security Clearance Status: Active and/or Able to Obtain  
 Security Clearance Type: Top Secret  
 US Citizenship Required: Yes  
 Job Level: Technician  
 Travel: Negligible

As the **System Administrator-Intermediate**, you will have an expert understanding of system Servers to include Storage Area Network Servers (SAN), Network Attached Servers (NAS) and replication software in physical and virtual environment for both classified and unclassified environments.

#### Highlights of Responsibilities:

- Manage File access control permissions
- Coordinate file access with customers
- Participates in technical research and development to enable continuing innovation
- Ensures that system hardware, operating systems, software systems, and related procedures adhere to government policies.
- Perform daily system monitoring, verifying the integrity and availability of all hardware, server resources, systems and key processes, reviewing system and application logs, and verifying completion of scheduled jobs such as backups.
- Manage servers and data
- Monitor and troubleshoot all servers for availability
- Plan and schedule the installation of Government-approved, new or modified hardware, operating systems, and software applications.

- Test government-provided software and continually review IT hardware and software to ensure it is responsive to end user needs
- Administer accounts, network rights, and access to systems and equipment.
- Maintain, update and correct systems configurations to resolve hardware/software interface and interoperability problems

#### Candidate Requirements:

- Active DoD Top Secret Security Clearance
- Computing environment certification
- Experience with MCSA
- Windows Server 2008 R2
- Windows Server 2003
- VMWare
- SharePoint
- SQL Database and Linux vBrick
- SCCM Trained
- MS Office Suite Proficient

It is the policy of GC&E to provide equal opportunity in recruiting, hiring, training, and promoting individuals in all job categories without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected class or category as may be defined by the federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

We affirm that all compensation, benefits, company-sponsored training, educational assistance, social, and recreational programs are administered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity. It is our firm intent to support equal employment opportunity and affirmative action in keeping with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

We maintain a drug-free work place and pre-employment drug testing is required.

The information above has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees with the classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees assigned to this position.

E-mail to [hr@gcesg.com](mailto:hr@gcesg.com)

## Guardian Tradin' Post Ad

\* Advertising is FREE for soldiers, family members and DA civilians.  
 \* Businesses will not receive free advertising. All business ads must be prepaid. We accept Visa and Mastercard.  
 (This includes child care, quarters-cleaning, or the sale and/or breeding of multiple pedigreed/registered animals)  
 \* Only single soldiers living in barracks may list numbers with 531 prefixes.

Turn in ads to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr. Or fax to 318-352-3667 or email to tradingpostads@yahoo.com

Deadline for FREE ads is NOON Tuesday.

Category:  Household Appliances  Furniture  Sporting goods  TV/Radio/Stereo  
 Motor Vehicles  Computers  Pets  Garage Sales  Real Estate  Misc.

Advertisement: In 25 words or less (one word per block) give description, price, telephone number and other pertinent information. For garage sales, list time, date and location.


I am a:  Soldier  Retiree  DA Civilian  Military family member

In signing this form, I certify that the items I am advertising will be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Information Security Specialist – Ft. Polk

Posting Date: 10/10/2018  
 Position Name: Information Security Specialist  
 Company: Fort Polk, LA  
 SCA Wage Category: Exempt  
 Shift: 1st  
 Employee Type: Regular Full Time  
 Security Clearance Status: Active and/or Able to Obtain  
 Security Clearance Type: Top Secret  
 US Citizenship Required: Yes  
 Job Level: Technician  
 Travel: Negligible

As the Information Security Specialist, you will be responsible for assisting the Fort Polk NEC in meeting architectural and Defense-in-depth requirements for IA solutions and participate in the Risk Management Framework (RMF). You will provide information assurance vulnerability management (IAVM), system patches, and anti-virus updates from applicable original equipment manufacturer (OEM), industry, and government sources when published; evaluate each update against system components for operational impact; and deliver and implement each update to system components throughout the operations and maintenance phase of the system lifecycle.

#### Highlights of Responsibilities:

- Assist the Government in leading post-wide security initiatives that enhance overall network defense in depth, including DoD-mandated requirements in addition to local initiatives.
- Provide DoD PKI Services including directory support, certification validation, registration, interface to related Army systems, hosting of PKI-enabled servers, key management services and PKI solutions for required applications and objectives.
- Provide Security Risk Assessment support, perform risk analysis of resources, controls, vulnerabilities, threats and the impact of losing system capabilities of mission objectives.
- Facilitate decisions to implement security countermeasures or mitigate risk and implement approved countermeasures.
- Participate in the change management process and provide formal written recommendations to the Government for approval and implementation.
- Provide support to the Risk Management Framework (RMF) process in IAW AR 25-1 and NETCOM/NEC guidance. Review, validate, and maintain Tenant Support Plans (TSP) and all other Certification and accreditation (C&A) requirements and documentation for each organization/activity/unit on the installation in order to identify and document each network point of presence.
- Support Information Assurance Vulnerability Alert (IAVA) compliance programs and compliance monitoring of all network connected assets, including touch labor support.
- Perform Network and Workstation scans weekly or more often as required and compile vulnerability reports to facilitate corrections.
- Assist the Government in development of the Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) and IAVM Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) IAW ARCYBER/NETCOM/NEC requirements and guidance.
- Ensure new contract personnel obtain the appropriate background investigation/security clearance prior to unsupervised privileged access or management responsibilities to any systems.
- Assist in the planning, implementation and management of a Defense In Depth for the total network and/or enclaves within the network to include such items as: scanning, remediation, host and network intrusion detection/prevention, firewalls, proxy servers, web cache, virus programs, vulnerability scanning, wireless intrusion detection sensors (WIDS), content filtering, remote dial-in protection, Host Base Security Services, Directory Services, DoD Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Program (DIACAP) and Risk Management Framework (RMF).
- Provide various aspects of communications security (COMSEC) services in direct support of the government COMSEC Account Manager (CAM). The Contractor shall perform administrative duties but shall not be the primary or alternate CAM.
- Maintain firewall configurations and alerts; monitor attacks; and review audit logs.
- Provide/push patches for each authorized network-connected device as required.
- Monitor automated systems to detect and report malicious or unauthorized activities on the network.
- Distribute local IA policy, including Network Security, Security Awareness, Remote Access, Acceptable Use, etc.;
- Comply with the management and documentation of hardware/software changes as identified by the local Change Control Board Charter
- Control network access by Access Control Lists (ACLs); review, validate and maintain ACLs to ensure IAW guidelines ports protocols and services (PPS); ensure all ACLs are current and up to date.

#### Candidate Requirements:

- Active DoD Top Secret Security Clearance
- Computing environment certification
- Experience with MCSA
- Windows Server 2008 R2
- Windows Server 2003
- VMWare
- SharePoint
- SQL Database and Linux vBrick
- SCCM Trained
- MS Office Suite Proficient

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We maintain a drug-free work place and pre-employment drug testing is required.

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advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination. The Guardian will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

### STATEWIDES

**ATTENTION: VIAGRA AND CIALIS USERS!** A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - \$99 + FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-855-403-6345 (LA-SCAN)

**HAVE A CPAP MACHINE FOR SLEEP APNEA?** Get replacement FDA approved CPAP machine parts and supplies at little or no cost! Free sleep guide included! 1-877-830-2909 (Mon-Fri) (LA-SCAN)

**MEDICAL - GRADE HEARING AIDS FOR LESS THAN \$200!** FDA-Registered. Crisp, clear sound, state-of-the-art features & no audiologist needed. Try it RISK FREE for 45 Days! CALL 1-866-790-0710 (LA-SCAN)

**OXYGEN - ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.** No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 1-855-382-4168 (LA-SCAN)

**SAVE ON MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE!** Get a FAST and FREE Rate Quote from Medicare.com. No Cost! No Obligation! Compare Quotes from Major Insurance Companies. Operators Standing By. CALL 1-844-231-1935 (LA-SCAN)

**SLEEP APNEA PATIENTS** - If you have Medicare coverage, call

Verus Healthcare to qualify for CPAP supplies for little or no cost in minutes. Home Delivery, Healthy Sleep Guide and More - FREE! Our customer care agents await your call. 1-855-235-8207 (LA-SCAN)

**STAY IN YOUR HOME LONGER** with an American Standard Walk-In Bathtub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call us at 1-855-776-5828 (LA-SCAN)

**AT&T INTERNET. GET MORE** For Your High-Speed Internet Thing. Starting at \$40/month with 12-month agreement. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & service restrictions apply. Call us today 1-866-297-0160 (LA-SCAN)

**DIRECTV NOW. NO SATELLITE** Needed. \$40/month. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. No Commitment. CALL 1-877-201-3648 (LA-SCAN)

**DISH TV \$59.99 FOR 190 CHANNELS** \$14.95 HIGH SPEED INTERNET. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-855-721-4040 (LA-SCAN)

**EARTHLINK HIGH SPEED INTERNET.** As Low As \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-866-794-6858 (LA-SCAN)

**SECURE YOUR HOME WITH VIVINT SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY.** Call 1-888-894-0402 to learn how you can get a professionally installed security system with \$0 activation. (LA-SCAN)

**AUTO INSURANCE STARTING AT \$49/MONTH!** Call for your fee rate comparison to see how much you can save! Call: 844-430-4651 (LA-SCAN)

**DENTAL INSURANCE. CALL PHYSICIANS**

Mutual Insurance Company for details. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. 1-855-268-0108 or http://www.dental50plus.com/morning Ad# 6118 (LA-SCAN)

**SAVE ON YOUR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT!** FREE QUOTES from top providers. Excellent coverage. Call for a no obligation quote to see how much you can save! 1-844-531-3003 (LA-SCAN)

**WE SHOP; YOU SAVE ON YOUR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE!** Call 1-844-318-1309 today to compare Medicare benefits and costs from up to 20 top-rated carriers. Receive the best option for you. (LA-SCAN)

**PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 1-855-636-1667 (LA-SCAN)

**DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND.** Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-844-605-9298 (LA-SCAN)

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**NOW LEASING RAILWAY OFFICE/RETAIL SUITES**

Suite	Sq. Ft.	Rent
#300	110	\$160
#301	345	\$230
#302	906	\$530
#306	132	\$190
#308	659	\$390
#309	257	\$200
#311	259	\$200
#313	305	\$230

CAN BE COMBINED FOR LARGER UNIT, UTILITIES INCLUDED IN ABOVE IN LEESVILLE, CLOSE TO FT. POLK

Also Available:

#1	1227	\$1030
#2	297	\$250
#3	264	\$220
#4	336	\$280

Units may be combined Six Month and Up Lease Terms 337-239-3885 Morris Team Realty, LLC

**EXTENDED STAY**  
Fully furnished, Jacuzzi, TV cable & internet, quiet location.

**UNFURNISHED HOUSES & APARTMENTS** for lease.

**OFFICE & RETAIL UNITS** for lease.

**MORRIS TEAM REALTY LLC**  
**337-239-3885**

## IT Customer Service Desk- Ft. Polk

Posting Date: 10/5/2018  
Position Name: Computer Network Support Specialist Information Systems Mgr.  
Company: Fort Polk, LA  
SCA Wage Category: Computer Operator II  
Shift: 1st  
Employee Type: Regular Full Time  
Security Clearance Status: Active and/or Able to Obtain  
Security Clearance Type: Secret  
US Citizenship Required: Yes  
Job Level: Technician  
Travel: Negligible

As the **Computer Network Support Specialist**, you will provide Help Desk Support, VIP/Priority user support and all Tier 2 support both remote and deskside. Provided support includes account creations, shared drive permissions, local and network printer installs, software uninstall/reinstalls, and basic software and network troubleshooting via remote tools. Provide more complex support (primarily via remote support and field support when necessary) involving software installation, configuration issues, detailed organizational specific software, and network printer support as well as hardware troubleshooting and hardware support.

#### Highlights of Responsibilities:

- Tier 3 hardware repair support
- Attend weekly meetings to stay current
- Perform lessons learned
- Brief upcoming requirements or tasks
- Complete workload within contractual timeframes
- Provide additional availability to support associated tasks

#### Candidate Requirements:

- Active DoD Secret Security Clearance
- COOP Training
- Safe Driver Training
- Understanding of the C4IM services list
- Understanding of I3A standards
- CompTIA Security+ trained
- MS Office Suite Proficient

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E-mail to [hr@gcesg.com](mailto:hr@gcesg.com)

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Dr. Charles Hudson • Dr. Warren Thomas  
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(1) Example Forte stk# 39073. MSRP \$20110. Payments based on \$15.15/\$1000 borrowed with approved credit through KMF. \$0 due at signing. Excludes TT&L, registration, insurance & \$150 dealer fee. Ends 11/30/18.  
(2) Example Sorento stk# 39034. MSRP \$29215. Payments based on \$14.71/\$1000 borrowed with approved credit through KMF. \$0 due at signing. Excludes TT&L, registration, insurance & \$150 dealer fee. Ends 11/30/18.  
(3) Example Optima stk#39058. MSRP \$26090. Payments based on \$14.71/\$1000 borrowed with approved credit through KMF. \$0 due at signing. Excludes TT&L, registration, insurance & \$150 dealer fee. Ends 11/30/18.  
(4) Warranty is a limited powertrain warranty. For details, see retailer or go to [kia.com](http://kia.com)