

This is the last issue of the *Traveller* for 2018; the first paper of the new year will be distributed Jan. 3



FORT LEE TRAVELLER

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF FORT LEE, VIRGINIA, SINCE 1941

December 13, 2018 | Vol. 78, No. 43



Grand Performance

*Annual Holiday Festival
Features CDC Singers,
Games, Santa Visit*

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NORTHAM AMONG HOLIDAY HELPER OPEN HOUSE GUESTS

Virginia governor, other dignitaries team up with Fort Lee military parents as they choose free gifts to give to their children on Christmas morning

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FORUM HAS FUTURE FOCUS

Trends in classroom technology, virtual learning discussed at educator symposium

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FIRST LOG-BOLC PINNING EVENT

Combined regimental induction, dining in honors 130 graduates of pilot ALU course

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PLACES TO FIND HOLIDAY FUN

Local area December activities range from elaborate light displays to ice skating venues

SEE PAGE 13

New monthly column expands SHARP knowledge, discussion

Representatives of the Fort Lee Garrison Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program are introducing a new monthly newspaper column that's meant to build awareness, expand knowledge and encourage discussion of key issues.

This inaugural installment explores a frequently considered question – Why do victims not report sexual harassment and sexual assault?

Reluctance to talk about these incidents is not uncommon. Victims can be overwhelmed by shame, embarrassment and worry over how the incident will impact their lives and careers.

From our earliest days, we are taught that strength is a virtue. Most equate victimization with weakness. Rather

than confront their offenders and publicize the abuse, most victims choose to remain anonymous.

Many cannot bear the thought of sharing details of abuse with family and friends, let alone a complete stranger such as a victim advocate, police officer or healthcare provider. Private isolation is preferred over public shame. For some, the privacy remains until a later disclosure is made. For others, the suppressed emotional pain lasts their entire lives.

Victims often blame themselves and are embarrassed to report. They unfairly hold themselves accountable for another's criminal act and minimize their offender's actions. When individuals leave the car window rolled down or the front door unlocked, they might blame themselves if something is stolen. Somehow, victims find ways to blame

themselves when someone else affirmatively chooses to sexually harass or assault them.

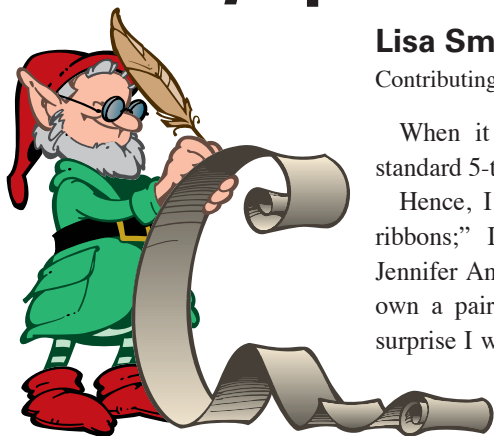
Fear of possibly losing their job, or being blamed and retaliated against not only by the offender but also by coworkers, command, family and friends are other reasons victims choose not to report.

Most significantly, when a victim fails to report, an offender is not held accountable. Without disclosure, the despicable individual's crime and true nature never come to light, and he or she is free to continue to offend.

What do you think? All are welcome to share their thoughts with the garrison SHARP team – Lauren Barboza, sexual assault response coordinator, at lauren.p.barboza.civ@mail.mil; or Kajsa Johnson, SHARP victim advocate, at mary.k.johnson167.civ@mail.mil.

If you need to Report Sexual Harassment or Sexual Assault, please contact the Installation 24/7 Helpline at 804-894-0029 or the DOD SAFEHELPLINE at 877-995-5247. For local assistance, contact Barboza at 804-479-5193 or Johnson at 765-3717.

Military spouse struggles with 'shame on the shelf' tradition



Lisa Smith Molinari

Contributing Writer

When it comes to trends, I operate on a standard 5-to-10-year delay.

Hence, I refer to ink cartridges as “printer ribbons;” I’ve always wanted that hairstyle Jennifer Aniston had on “Friends;” and I still own a pair of dark-washed jeans. So, it’s no surprise I was late picking up on the Elf on the Shelf craze.

I didn’t even hear about that

particular holiday phenom until 2009 when our family was stationed in Germany. That’s the sort of place where a shelf-dwelling doll is a real snoozer compared to the wonder and Old World charm of festive Christmas markets, sparkling glass-blown ornaments, elaborately carved wooden nutcrackers and real reindeer-drawn sleigh rides. The arguably superior German Christmas traditions left no need to supplement the celebrations with a silly book and its accompanying red-felt garbed character.

Fast forward to a few assignments later, and another encounter that sent me on a guilt trip.

I learned another Navy wife in our base apartment building was keeping the magic of Santa alive for her three children by secretly hiding her Elf on the Shelf around the house every day between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Apparently, the doll was Santa’s spy, flying to the North Pole every night to report back on who’s been naughty or nice and returning to a

SEE **ON THE SHELF**, page 7



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ON THE COVER



Amy Perry

Children from the Strong Beginnings class at Battle Child Development Center sing “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” during Fort Lee’s Grand Illumination event Dec. 6 on the Lee Club lawn. Highlights of the celebration included the lighting of the installation holiday tree, caroling, various games and pictures with Santa. See more photos, Page 8.



(LEFT) Children from the Battle Child Development Center sing carols as Santa arrives to greet them at the Holiday Helper Open House here Dec. 7. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and Maj. Gen. Rodney Fogg, CASCOM and Fort Lee commanding general, (in the background) attended the event that offered installation and community leaders the opportunity to see the program in action. (ABOVE) Virginia Governor Ralph Northam helps Pfc. Adrienne Cunningham, 54th Quartermaster Company, choose presents for her future child during the Holiday Helper Open House Dec. 7. Cunningham is expecting in January and was able to pick out several presents for her son.

Photos by Amy Perry

Virginia governor shares cheer at Holiday Helper Open House

Amy Perry

Production/News Assistant Editor

In his first trip to Fort Lee's Holiday Helper facility, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam said he could feel the excitement in the air.

He joined installation leaders and other senior representatives from the surrounding community to act as a "shopping buddy" during the annual Holiday Helper Open House Dec. 7 at the gift-giving organization's toy store on Battle Drive.

Northam walked into a building packed with installation command team representatives, family members and the junior enlisted personnel who would be

among the first to select toys and winter clothing items for their children.

"It is my honor to introduce you to (Northam)," said Maj. Gen. Rodney Fogg, CASCOM and Fort Lee commanding general. "With eight years of active duty service in the Army as a doctor who served at Walter Reed, you know he's here for our military and he has a passion for service."

The enthusiasm in the room could be felt, said Northam.

"It's so commendable to have the community come together and make sure all children have a gift or gifts to open on Christmas morning," he said. "Today has

been very special, and it has been exciting to be out here today.

"We feel very strongly in Virginia about our active duty men and women as well as our veterans," he continued. "We're doing everything we can to make sure Virginia is the most veteran-friendly state in the country. We have a lot of great programs here like V3 – the Virginia Values Veterans program. We've employed over 39,000 veterans through it. Veterans are highly skilled and trained. We are doing everything we can to make sure they want to stay, work and raise families here in Virginia."

After carols were sung by a group of

children from Battle Child Development Center, installation and community leaders shopped with service members to help pick out toys for their children.

Pfc. Adrienne Cunningham, 54th Quartermaster Company, is expecting her first child in January and was selected by her company to participate in Holiday Helper. She said she was surprised to be chosen to "shop" with the governor.

"It was wonderful. He actually helped pick out a few of the gifts," she said of Northam. "The entire thing was very exciting."

Holiday Helper has served the Fort Lee community since 2003. It started as an angel tree-style program operated by the Army Community Service facility. It has morphed into a non-profit organization that helps 1,000-1,200 military children in the community each year. Local reservists and Fisher House families at the Veterans Administration hospital in Richmond also benefit from the program.



T. Anthony Bell

Jose Hernandez, director of the Quartermaster School's Petroleum and Water Department, speaks at the 2018 Education and Technology Readiness Symposium Dec. 4 at the Army Logistics University.

Symposium provides platform for instructional virtual learning ideas

T. Anthony Bell

Senior Writer/Special Projects

Virtual learning environments are the future of sustainment training here – a fact most recently exemplified by the launch of a technologically advanced pilot program of instruction at the Quartermaster School's Petroleum and Water Department.

"These systems of learning (increase retention of) information through ease-of-use and increased repetition," explained PWD Director Jose Hernandez in a recent Traveller article about his department's initiative.

The student-centric learning platform, multiple levels of interactivity and cloud storage capabilities will allow today's tech-savvy Soldiers to refresh their training as needed or learn new lessons long after graduation, he further noted.

To further facilitate the migration to virtual learning environments at the Sustainment Center of Excellence, an Education and Technology Readiness Symposium was held at the Army Logistics University Dec. 4.

Hosted by the Training Technology Division, CASCOM G-3/5/7, the occasion brought together instructors, training developers, members of academia and others to exchange ideas, network and listen to current trends.

"Our intent was to share how we can integrate technology into classrooms to help enhance our instructional capabilities," said Ronald L. Sutton, event coordinator and TTD chief. "The end goal is to bolster efforts to produce the most mission-ready Soldier possible."

To that end, the symposium featured several guest speakers including Dr. Peggy Kenyon, chief of Content Acquisition and Management, Army University, Joint Base Langley-Eustis; Dr. Benedict Uzochukwu, chair and associated professor and program coordinator, Information Logistics Technology, Virginia State University; and Dr. James Haug, associate professor, College of Business and Economics, Longwood University.

Also featured were Dr. Van Brewer, external research and development principal, Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative, Alexandria; David Garrison, chief of the Technology Integration Branch, TTD; and Richard Nuffer, chief of Workforce Development, Defense Commissary Agency.

While several subjects were discussed during the symposium, CASCOM's Army Virtual Learning Environment contract generated much interest and enthusiasm, said Sutton.

AVLE, part of TTD's three-pronged

SEE **VIRTUAL LEARNING**, page 7

NEWS BRIEFS

Kenner Holiday Closings

Kenner Army Health Clinic will close Dec. 14, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., for staff holiday luncheons. Additional closures are planned for Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Troop Medical Clinic 1 and Mosier Troop Medical Clinic 2 will be closed for the duration of the holiday block leave period, Dec. 20 - Jan. 2. The active duty clinic will support advanced individual training troops on those dates on a walk-in basis, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. For details, call 804-734-9057.

Beneficiaries needing after-hours care or authorization to visit an urgent care center should call the nurse advice line at 1-800-TRICARE and choose option 1. This also is the number for assistance during vacation travel. For emergency medical help, dial 9-1-1 or go to the nearest health facility that offers that service.

FLASC Scholarships Available

The Fort Lee Area Spouses' Club is accepting merit and community service scholarship applications for the upcoming academic year. Completed application packets should be submitted or postmarked by March 5.

Parents or applicants must be a full-year member of FLASC to qualify. Scholarship eligibility is open to graduating high school seniors who plan to continue their education as well as enrolled fulltime college students and military spouses attending college (full- or part-time). Candidates must have a minimum of 30 community service hours. For an application, visit www.fortleearespousesclub.com.

For questions, contact Lydia Harding at flascscholarships@gmail.com.

Family Housing Decorating Contest

Fort Lee Family Housing residents are invited to participate in a first-time holiday decorating contest. All displays must be ready for judging by 5 p.m., Dec. 20. One winner will be selected from each neighborhood. That announcement will be made on Dec. 21. Participants must follow the guidelines in their resident handbook for holiday decorations.

For additional details, call 804-733-1558.

Registration Open for Mighty Pen Project

Registration is open for the 2019 winter semester of "The Mighty Pen Project," a free Virginia War Memorial seminar for veterans and active duty personnel who wish to learn how to chronicle their military experiences.

The 10-week program is set for each Wednesday, Jan. 9 - March 27, 6:30-9 p.m., at the VWM in Richmond.

Veterans and their supporters will attend collegiate-level writing classes with a goal of providing the academic tools, rigor and continuing support they need to effectively tell the stories of their choosing. Two other 10-week sessions are scheduled for 2019.

For registration and details, visit <http://vawarmemorial.org/programs-services/mighty-pen-project>.

Library Operates 3 Drop-Box Locations

The Fort Lee Community Library staff reminds Team Lee members of its three convenient drop-box locations.

One is located at the main entrance of the Army Logistics University, across from the IHG lodging facility on 34th Street. Another one is on the 2nd floor of ALU – to the right of the entrance to the library. The third is a drive-up location at the back entrance to Bunker Hall, building 12500, Quarters Road.

For details about the library, visit <https://lee.armymwr.com/programs/fort-lee-community-library>.

Lieutenants list LOG-BOLC merits during first-time regimental induction ceremony

Patrick Buffett

Managing Editor

At a first-of-its-kind ceremony Nov. 29 in the Lee Club, 130 of the newest officers in the Army Sustainment community jointly pinned their branch insignia's, marking completion of the pilot Logistics Basic Officer Leader Course.

LOG-BOLC was introduced at the Army Logistics University over the summer. It is a combined version of separate, branch-specific qualification courses for Ordnance, Quartermaster and Transportation second lieutenants.

The intent of the merged curriculum is to better prepare the fledgling officers for potential early career assignments outside of their functional areas. To meet priority mission needs, it is not uncommon for a junior QM-affiliated lieutenant, for instance, to be assigned a transportation-related position. LOG-BOLC will boost familiarity with the full spectrum of Army Sustainment operations, according to course developers.

A more-detailed article about LOG-BOLC is available at www.fortleetraveller.com. Type "Logistics Basic Officer Leader Course" in the search area.

Attendees of the combined Regimental Induction Ceremony and Dining In describe the event as "historic" not only because it was the first one, but also what it represents in the way of unified training for sustainer-leaders.

"Eliminating barriers between different branches seems like a good idea to me," remarked 2nd Lt. Tom Burcham IV, who graduated as an Ordnance branch officer. He cited a statistic he heard in class – around 70 percent of past lieutenants going into jobs they weren't fully trained for during Army BOLC.

"I believe this experience is going to help me in my future career because I'm not going to view Quartermaster or Transportation as outside my lane," he said. "From that



Photos by Patrick Buffett

(ABOVE) After the pinning of their regimental crests, new Ordnance officers recite the creed of their corps, which includes the statement "I will utilize every available talent and means to ensure superior mobility, firepower and communications are advantages enjoyed by the United States Army over its enemies." In total, 130 Quartermaster, Ordnance and Transportation lieutenants jointly pinned their branch insignias at the first-of-its-kind Regimental Induction Ceremony and Dining In, held Nov. 29 at the Lee Club. The event also marked the first graduation of a pilot Logistics Basic Officer Leader Course. (RIGHT) Second Lt. Anna Motes pins a Quartermaster Corps regimental crest on 2nd Lt. Nicole McCombs' uniform during the ceremony.

standpoint, it really makes sense for the Army to do more of this sort of training."

Burcham will report to Camp Humphrey's, South Korea, in January. He has been told his assignment with a combat aviation brigade will include setting up forward aviation refueling and resupply points. "It's a little bit of quartermaster mixed in with ordnance duties," according to his description.

"I do believe we've been given a golden opportunity here," the Farmington, Mo.,



native further observed. "A lot of camaraderie was built by the cross-branch immersion among lieutenants from different areas and backgrounds. The field training (at Fort Pickett) was very good. It toughened us up. Now I'm really excited to get out there and do what they need me to do in the operational Army."

Second Lt. Alexandra Raich, a National Guard officer hailing from Philadelphia, graduated as a Quartermaster branch officer.

She said LOG-BOLC helped her grow as an individual and taught her a lot about teamwork.

"I remember my last drill weekend before I came here," she reflected. "The entire time, I felt like I was so lost. I struggled with terminology, types of equipment and expectations as a leader. It destroyed my confidence, and I was questioning whether I was doing the right thing.

"Today, it's a different story," Raich continued. "I feel like I understand the broader scope of logistics and the components that go into it. I'm ready to go back and stand in front of my platoon with the confidence they deserve from me. I understand the teamwork component – that they have the experience needed to get the job done, and my job is to orchestrate the movement and ensure needs are met."

The combined BOLC is a "great concept" that will inevitably produce more well-rounded logistics officers, she further confirmed. "I'm proud to be part of this pilot class, and I know it has given me the knowledge I need to accomplish the mission, even if there are elements of it that are outside my role as a quartermaster officer."

A third and final vote of confidence was issued by 2nd Lt. Rebecca Abbott, who graduated as a Transportation Corps officer. She has been assigned to the 426th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, at Fort Campbell, Ky. She is unfazed by the possibility of a near-future deployment with the war-fighting unit.

"I hope so," was her response. "I know I'm ready. It would be great if I get a transportation platoon, but I'm not worried if that doesn't happen because I feel this course has prepared me for whatever job they need me to do."

LOG-BOLC is the "way of the future," said Abbott, who hails from Carthage, N.Y. "It's definitely going to help the Army increase the readiness of all logistics branches because it's building the ability of the up-and-coming officer corps to work together. It's easy to see the types of barriers that might exist between different Army professions. I see this as trying to pull down some of those barriers so we can all work together."

RECOGNIZING CIVILIANS | SPOTLIGHT

Steven A. Vaughan

Hometown: Petersburg

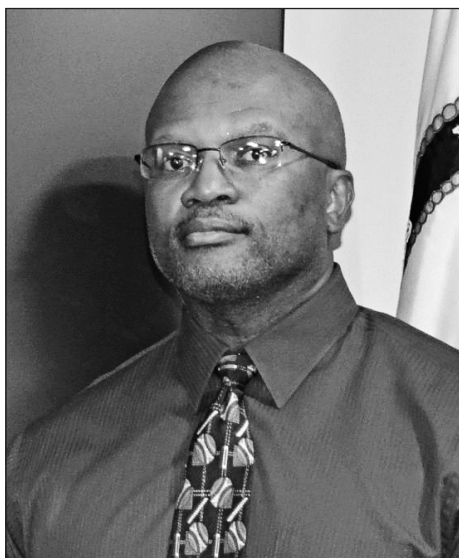
Family: Youngest of six (three brothers, two sisters); married (Camille Vaughan); two sons (Malik, 22, and Jaden, 13); and two daughters (Kailey, 10, and Lauren, 9)

Job title: Division chief, Training Management Office, Training Operations Division, Ordnance School

Time at Fort Lee: Since September 2009

Job duties: “My section supports the day-to-day functions of the school. We develop and review Acquisition Management Oversight packages and act as the contracting office representative. We coordinate taskings with the training departments, 59th Ordnance Brigade and other internal/external agencies. We also work on the academic accreditation requirements with the Council on Occupational Education and Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards, Training and Doctrine Command.”

How did you get started with the federal government? “I retired from the military in



Amy Perry

2008 and began instructing with Joint Logistic Managers, Inc. It was a very good job, but it was contracted so I wanted to get something more stable.”

How did you start working at your organization? “I took a temporary job as a Base Realignment and Closure Specialist with the Ordnance School and then was hired

permanently as the school stood up.”

Thoughts on your working environment: “I work in a great area surrounded by numerous military, civilian and contract professionals who are the best at what they do.”

What are some of the challenges of your job? “The biggest one is resources. There are constant cuts, and we are forced to do more with less.”

Motivation for job: “Seeing that what I do makes a difference. I support the war-fighter who in turn supports the American people at home and abroad.”

One thing you can’t live without: “My family, of course, but my Direct TV is a strong second.”

Your favorite vacation: “I went to Cancun in the summer of 2018, and it was by far my best vacation. I was able to spend time with my brother, sisters in law, nephew, niece, my wife and kids. There was something spectacular to do every day.”

Pet peeves: “I don’t like people getting in my space, disorganization and indecisiveness.”

Favorite book: “‘Becoming’ by Michelle Obama. I like stories that speak the truth and

relate to struggles I’ve experienced in my life.”

Favorite food: “Teriyaki Chicken.”

Worst fear: “Outliving my children.”

Talents: “Patience.”

Hobbies: “Coaching, basketball, football, baseball, soccer and wrestling.”

Life lesson to share: “Treat everyone with respect.”

Someone you admire: “I admire my wife, Camille. It’s hard to be a working mother and wife, and she does it each and every day without complaining ... much (laugh).”

Qualities you admire in others: “Perseverance, honor and integrity.”

What do you expect from your leaders? “I expect my leaders to do the right thing for those they have been charged to lead and to be truthful and to set a good example.”

What is something people would be surprised to know about you? “I’m known as a very easy-going person, but I can actually get upset, especially when the Steelers lose.”

Future aspirations: “Once I retire, I may consider teaching in an elementary school or being a high school coach.”

– Compiled by Amy Perry

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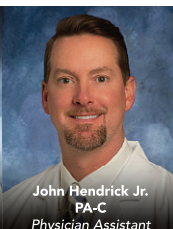
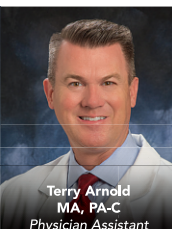
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ON THE SHELF,

continued from page 2

new location each morning in increasingly funny scenarios – like making snow angels in rainbow sprinkles on the countertop and splashing in a mini-marshmallow bubble bath with Buzz Lightyear – that delighted her children.

By the way, this was the same mom who baked a different cookie for her kids every day for “The Twelve Cookies of Christmas” and who surprised her young-uns with a green glitter and chocolate coin leprechaun ransack of their house every St. Patrick’s Day. Common sense told me it was over the top, but I still felt like a scrooge in comparison.

“How did I miss this Elf on the Shelf thing?” I pondered. “Am I just too lazy to be a good mother? Do my kids feel deprived of their rightful share of holiday fun? Will they grow up so full of resentment they wind up in lifelong counseling or turn to crime and end up in prison making license plates?”

Finally, I broke down and bought a knock-off elf. By that time, however, our kids were old enough to know Santa didn’t come down the chimney, much less have spies. Regardless, as an act of Christmas contrition, I wrapped the doll’s felt and wire arms around the ceiling fan blade, fully intending to finally teach my children the timeless tradition of the Elf on the Shelf.

And that is where he stayed for the entire month.

Rather than alleviate my guilt, bringing that damned imp into our home only brought me more parenting disgrace. I found it impossible to remember to move the doll at night, much less pose him in witty scenarios to entertain the kids. When I checked the internet for ideas, I only ended up feeling worse about myself for getting sucked into perusing Pinterest boards with titles like “The 100 Most Inappropriate Elf on a Shelf Ideas for Adults Only.”

Childish giggling only amplified my shame.

After Christmas, I plucked our elf from his fan blade confinement, brushed off a month’s worth of dust before storing him away, and wallowed in self-loathing.

This year, while sorting through our boxes of Christmas decorations, I found the elf crumpled against a snow globe, one leg bent at an unnatural angle. I took him out and hooked his felt and wire arms over the bannister garland, and that is where he will probably stay until the New Year.

I have come to accept the irony that, although I lack the discipline it takes to move a tiny elf from shelf to shelf, I always manage to drag a load of parental guilt around with me everywhere I go ... and that, my friends, is part of the magic of Christmas.



RSO sets schedule for holiday worship

The Fort Lee Religious Support Office has slated a number of special worship services for the upcoming holiday season. Additionally, RSO has announced the closure of several services during Holiday Block Leave.

For details, call 804-734-6494.

CATHOLIC SERVICES

The Christmas and New Year Catholic worship services at Memorial Chapel are as follows:

- Dec. 23, 9 a.m., Catholic Mass
- Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
- Dec. 25, 10 a.m., Christmas Day Mass
- Dec. 30, 9 a.m., Catholic Mass
- Jan. 1, 10 a.m., Mary, Mother of God

PROTESTANT SERVICES

Christmas Protestant and New Year worship services are planned on the following dates and times at Memorial Chapel and Liberty Chapel:

- Dec. 23, 11 a.m. General Protestant Service, Memorial Chapel
- Dec. 23, 9:09 a.m., 909 General Protestant Service, Liberty Chapel
- Dec. 23, 11 a.m., Gospel Service, Liberty Chapel
- Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Protestant Christmas Eve Service, Memorial Chapel
- Dec. 30, 9:09 a.m., 909 General Protestant Service, Liberty Chapel
- Dec. 30, 11 a.m., Gospel Service, Liberty Chapel
- Dec. 30, 11 a.m., General Protestant Service, Memorial Chapel
- Dec. 31, 10 p.m., Collective Gospel Watch Service, Liberty Chapel

OTHER SERVICES

There will be no Ordnance RELOAD Services Dec. 23 or Dec. 30.

The next Dinner and Discipleship gathering at Memorial Chapel is set for Jan. 9.

The last Hispanic Service of the year will be held Dec. 16. The program will resume Jan. 6.

Visit the RSO’s social media page – www.facebook.com/FortLeeReligiousActivities – for updates and additional activities.

-- Staff Reports



CHRISTMAS Celebration SERVICES



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

AT THE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
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pray >> worship

TUESDAY
◀ 6:30AM
bible study

UPCOMING EVENTS

Year End Service
Dec 30 >> 4PM

Douglas Wilson
Primate

Maxine Wilson
Senior Pastor



Kamylah Lindsey from Girl Scout Troop 5391 places an ornament on Fort Lee's holiday tree during the 2018 Grand Illumination celebration Dec. 6 on the Lee Club lawn.

Janie Fogg, spouse of Maj. Gen. Rodney Fogg, CASCOM and Fort Lee commanding general; John Hall, deputy to the CASCOM commanding general; and Command Sgt. Maj. Vittorio DeSouza, Fort Lee garrison CSM, flip the switch to light the holiday tree during the 2018 Grand Illumination celebration Dec. 6 on the Lee Club lawn.



Jessica Suarez and Addison Woodlief pose for a photo with Santa during the Grand Illumination celebration Dec. 6 on the Lee Club lawn. Santa's visit was facilitated by Fort Lee Fire and Emergency Services that brought him to the site aboard a fire truck.



Fort Lee continues its annual tradition of heralding the holiday season with a Grand Illumination celebration where the post workforce, families and guests enjoyed music, games and plenty of good cheer.

Marine Capt. Bob Dzonick, a student at the Army Logistics University, helps his children – Bob and Anna – decorate gingerbread cookies during Fort Lee's Grand Illumination celebration Dec. 6 on the Lee Club lawn.



Staff Sgt. Robert Lindsey, a Fort Lee Soldier, lifts his son Kameron to place an ornament on Fort Lee's holiday tree during the 2018 Grand Illumination celebration Dec. 6 on the Lee Club lawn. Hundreds of community members and off-post guests attended the annual event that serves as the official kickoff of the installation's holiday activities.



Six Lee Soldiers form 'Team Training' for 2018 BOSS Strong Championship

Photos by Brittany Nelson, IMCOM Public Affairs Office

Six Fort Lee Soldiers represented the Installation Management Command's training directorate while taking part in the 2018 installment of the BOSS Strong Championship that concluded in late November at Fort Bragg, N.C.

BOSS Strong is a 10-week, two-phased fitness and wellness competition. It starts with a selection process in which single Soldier teams earn points by improving their fitness and getting involved with MWR activities at their installations in order to learn new skills and gain experiences. Throughout the period, they submit videos of their workouts and adventures, and the highest scoring team in each Army IMCOM directorate moves on to the next phase.

Other advancing squads this year included Fort Bliss, Texas, rep-

resenting readiness; USAG Italy, representing Europe; Joint Base Richardson-Elmendorf, Alaska, representing Pacific; and Fort Detrick, Md., representing sustainment.

Those teams and Fort Lee took part in the BOSS Strong Championship that determines the overall Army winner. For nearly two weeks, the competing Soldiers train on-site with professional coaches, learn valuable life skills, and go head-to-head with their competitors. A series of challenges pushes the teams in unexpected ways, and tests their physical abilities, mental toughness and teamwork. In the end, one team is crowned BOSS Strong champions.

For the second year in a row, the IMCOM Europe Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program took home the first place trophy along with a \$25,000 check for their program.

"Returning home as a winner is a great feeling," said Spc. Jack Fitzgerald, a Team Europe member. "This experience has been eye-opening for me. I am proud of this program and will be taking a greater role in it back at my unit"

Each of the competing teams had a BOSS manager, respectful to their directorates, as well as an Alpha Warrior coach and a Morale, Wellness and Recreation leader. During the championship, teams completed a rigorous group workout every morning with Coach Brandi Binkley from Alpha Warrior. Binkley was Team Europe's coach last year and was asked to come back as the head coach for 2018.

"I loved Coach Brandi's workouts in the morning," said Spc. Mario McMinn, also a member of Team Europe. "They definitely woke me up and got the blood flowing. She also taught us a lot of good warm up rituals that I will be using at my unit."

Other championship activities were emblematic of various MWR offerings available at most garrisons. Teams competed in lacrosse, broom hockey, basketball, knocker ball and more.

"My favorite activity would have to be broom hockey," observed Cpl. Michael Edwards from Fort Lee. "We had to wear our boots while playing on the ice, and that resulted in some comical moments. I had a lot of fun with that,"

Many leaders joined the competitors throughout the event including Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey who played knocker ball with the Soldiers, IMCOM's top enlisted leader, Sgt. Maj. Melissa Judkins, and many garrison CSMs also found time to be with the Soldiers.

Teams learned cooking skills and put them to the test in one event. The ready and resilient program took part in the competition too. Ft. Bragg's R2 taught teams various classes from stress management to improving mentality.

"I learned some helpful things about work ethic – how to control your mind in stressful situations and pushing beyond limits – and I improved on leading and motivating others," said Spc. Jacob Harrison, a returning member of Team Readiness.



Spc. Michael Golisano from Team Training traverses a rope wall during the BOSS Strong competition.



(ABOVE) Spc. Markell McKee from Team Training navigates a peg wall during the BOSS Strong competition. (BELOW) Cpl. Michael Edwards from Team Training prepares to heave a ball in the standing power throw portion of the Army Combat Fitness Test at the BOSS Strong competition. In that event, Soldiers toss a 10-pound ball backward as far as possible to test muscular explosive power that may be needed to lift themselves or a fellow Soldier up over an obstacle or to move rapidly across uneven terrain.



At the beginning of the competition, teams visited the Army Wellness Center at Fort Bragg. They were measured in the bod pod and their body fat and muscle percentages were recorded. This was part of the assessment, with teams going head to head to see which collectively could lose the most body fat while gaining muscle.

"That was the toughest part of the competition for me," said Team Europe member, Spc. Reydel Castillo. "I didn't have much body fat to start with, and I had to (cut calories and push harder in workouts) to help the team come out on top. It's challenging to perform at high levels physically and mentally when you're basically fasting."

With an average of three workouts a day and two group activities, the teams were pushed and their bodies were put to the test. Spc. Jacob Harrison had the biggest improvement of any of the competitors losing 14 pounds and seven percent body fat, and gaining ten pounds of muscle.

"He gave 110 percent when it came to workouts no matter how tired he was," said Staff Sgt. Cody Mackall, IMCOM Readiness BOSS Representative and team readiness manager. "He would always push himself to his limits and then push more. He also took the advice from Alpha Warrior Coach Joe Decker. When we were at the dining facility, he would only eat what Joe told him and mainly drank water."

Team Readiness placed second in the competition, Sustainment finished third, Pacific finished fourth and Training finished fifth.

BOSS Strong was made possible by numerous community partners that provide equipment, meals, fitness products and more. Video clips from the championship are available at twitch.tv/armyentertainment.

– IMCOM Public Affairs Office and Staff Reports



T. Anthony Bell

Dave Garrison, chief of the Technology Integration Branch, Training Technology Division, CASCOM G-3/5/7, speaks to Education and Technology Readiness Symposium attendees Dec. 4 at the Army Logistics University.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

continued from page 4

approach to creating more robust curriculums (in-house training enhancements and distributed learning are the others), allows training entities to access cutting-edge technologies from civilian companies to further engage students in the classroom.

Hernandez provided insights into his department's experience with AVLE during the gathering, detailing how his organization "plans to implement virtual training enhancements under the new contracts," said Sutton.

PWD, the only CASCOM training department awarded AVLE training enhancement funds for fiscal 2018, was allotted more than \$4 million to improve training software packages that allow students to practice military occupational specialty tasks in virtual environments. Those interested in reading more about the initiative can read the previous article at www.fortleetraveller.com. Type "PWD Virtual Learning" in the search bar.

While sharing information and ideas served as the primary focus of the symposium, bringing together all those indirectly and directly responsible for skills instruction has the effect

of strengthening the training community as a whole, said Sutton.

"You need collaborative efforts in our line of business," he said. "That's why this event is important. Everybody needs a seat at the table – ordnance, quartermaster and transporters – in addition to the training technology and policy folks to figure out not only how we can implement improvements but also how we should proceed."

Last week's event is not the first of its kind for TTD. Sutton said a symposium with a similar purpose was held roughly eight years ago. He added such an event is imperative in light of the ever-changing Army Learning Concept and soon-to-be released Army Field Manual 4-0 and its sustainment counterpart, FM 3-0.

"The question is, how do we bring all of it together to ensure we are supporting the schoolhouse and the Army mission?" he said. "Ultimately, we need to ensure that when we train Soldiers and leaders, when they walk away from the schoolhouse, they will know how they can reach back to any sustainment school and leverage the technology using their smartphone or mobile device. It's exactly what is needed to achieve the technically proficient goals of the Army."

BG Hurry speaks at ALU



Amy Perry

Lt. Col. George J. Plys, future commander of the 1-315th Brigade Support Battalion, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, introduces himself to Air Force Brig. Gen. Linda S. Hurry, Defense Logistics Agency-Aviation commander, during the opening portion of her professional development presentation to the students of the ALU Logistics Pre-Command Course Dec. 4. Hurry asked the class to do introductions to show the type of experience available within its ranks. Logisticians are so successful, she said, because of the wide-ranging experience across the formation and the ability to reach out to someone for additional guidance anytime it's needed.

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Provider talent shines at battalion 'FamJam'



Contributed Photo

A Bravo Company quartet comprised of First Sgt. Vincent G. Robinson III, Pvt. Chelsae Martin, Sgt. 1st Class Marqus D. Reed and 1st Lt. Kokouvi Ketika sings the Boyz II Men song "End of the Road" during the 266th Quartermaster Battalion Holiday Huddle and FamJam Nov. 28 in the battalion headquarters multipurpose room. In addition to karaoke, the event featured a white elephant gift exchange, a costume photo booth and a buffet of Thanksgiving-style food and desserts. The Provider Battalion conducts these family and military get-togethers throughout the year to promote interaction and resiliency among all of the organization's members.



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CALENDAR

LOCAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE FORT LEE COMMUNITY

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party | Dec. 15

All community members are invited to an Ugly Christmas Sweater and End of Year Party set for Dec. 15, starting at 8 p.m., in Family and MWR's HideAway club on 5th Street.

Admission is free. Doors open at 6 p.m. Special holiday drinks and snacks will be available.

For details, call 804-734-1755.

Christmas Past at Pamplin | Dec. 15

Visitors can meet and have photos taken with a "Thomas Nast Santa Claus" Dec. 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, 6125 Boydton Plank Road, Petersburg.

Nast is considered to be the "Father of the American Cartoon." Among his most notable works are drawings that became the modern version of Saint Nick. The event will include craft-making activities for children and more.

For details, visit www.pamplinpark.org.

'Holidays on the Homefront' | Dec. 18

The Virginia War Memorial will present its annual "Holidays on the Homefront" program Dec. 18, 5-7 p.m. at 621 South Belvidere St., Richmond. The family gathering is free and open to the public.

Visitors can see displays of wartime homefront memorabilia, learn about period crafts and tree decorations, enjoy light refreshments and sing along with seasonal carols. Stories and crafts will be offered for children as well.

For details, visit www.viriniawarmemorial.org/events/holidays-homefront.

Memorial Chapel Christmas Cantata | Dec. 19

The annual Fort Lee Christmas Cantata will be performed Dec. 19, 6 p.m., at Memorial Chapel, 1901 Sisisky Blvd. It was rescheduled from Dec. 9 due to inclement weather.

munity Choir. Admission is free and open to the public. Childcare is available for children, ages 1-5.

For details, call 804-734-6489.

Christmas Tea at Magnolia Grange | Dec. 19

Participants can enjoy holiday-themed tea and hear about old Christmas customs at a special Magnolia Grange event set for Dec. 19, 1-3 p.m. The historic building is located at 10020 Iron Bridge Road, Chesterfield.

The tea service will include finger sandwiches and sweets. This is an excellent opportunity for couples. The cost is \$30 per person.

For details, call 804-748-1498.

Zoo 'Miracle of Christmas' Event | Dec. 21-23

The 16th annual "Miracle of Christmas - Live at the Metro Richmond Zoo" performances are scheduled for Dec. 21-23, 8300 Beaver Bridge Road, Moseley. Admission and parking are free.

The 20-minute pageant will be presented three times each day at 7, 7:45 and 8:30 p.m. It offers a reenactment of the Christmas story presented with live animals and set against a period-appropriate backdrop.

For details, call 804-739-5666 or visit www.metrorichmondzoo.com.

Historic Jamestown, Yorktown Fun | Dec. 20-31

The "Christmastide in Virginia" observance scheduled for Dec. 20-31 at Jamestown Settlement and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will feature a wide variety of historic and entertaining activities.

See early colonial encampments and reenactments, visit a recreated Powhatan village, tour sailing ships from the 1600s, listen to musical entertainment, and walk through the special exhibit areas focusing on artillery on the tenacious women of the 17th century. All this and more is available at the two famous sites that are less than an hour's drive away from Fort Lee.

For additional details, visit historyisfun.org.

Pet of the Week



Ray Kozakewicz

This 1-year-old gray and white cat is available for adoption at the Fort Lee Stray Animal Facility on 38th Street, near the Defense Commissary Agency headquarters building. He is affectionate, can live with other animals and has been fostered with great results. His shots are up-to-date. There also are other cats, kittens and a dog available. There are no adoption fees for any animals at the facility. For questions and details, contact Rob Moore, PMO animal control officer, at 804-721-9291.

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From light displays to home tours, area has ample holiday offerings

Fort Lee families who plan to stay in the local area over the holiday break should take some time to enjoy the many festive offerings of the surrounding communities.

Central Virginia, Williamsburg and other nearby locales offer an abundance of activities ranging from seasonal theatrical productions and historic re-enactments to outdoor light shows and Christmas festivals.

The following listing is a small sample of what's available. Much more can be found at <https://www.virginia.org>.

Tacky Lights Tour

Some homeowners aren't satisfied with a simple string of roof-line lights or an inflatable Santa in the yard. They excessively adorn their dwellings, lawns and driveways with every manner of Christmas-themed decoration and are proud to earn their spot among the recommended stops on the Tacky Lights Tour.

Checking out these awe-inspiring displays is as simple as loading the family in the car and navigating one of the routes recommended at www.richmond.com/holiday/tacky-lights. The

site includes photos and video clips. Many local transportation companies also offer special tours for a fee.

Christmas Town

Where can you capture a family photo with Rudolph and the Abominable Snowman while enjoying holiday treats, stage performances, ice skating shows, and so much more? The answer is Busch Gardens' Christmas Town of course.

This Williamsburg-area attraction is open through Jan. 5. New additions this year include the Christmas Town Express train ride. When purchasing tickets, be sure to check out the special offers for military personnel and veterans. For more information, visit seaworldparks.com/en/buschgardens-williamsburg/christmas-town.

Dominion GardenFest of Lights

"Bringing Art to Life" is the theme of this year's massive holiday display at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Ave., Richmond. More than a half-million lights, botanical decorations and trains await visitors daily from 5-10 p.m. through Jan. 7, except for Dec.

24-25 and during extreme inclement weather.

Cost varies by age and membership. Discounts are offered to military-affiliated personnel. For details, visit www.lewisginter.org.

'The Nutcracker' at Carpenter Theatre

The Richmond Ballet will perform "The Nutcracker" through Dec. 23 at the Carpenter Theatre, Dominion Energy Center, 600 East Grace St., Richmond. Each show features sugar plum and chocolate treats, a dancing bear and life-like dolls.

For details, visit www.richmondballet.com.

'A Christmas Memory'

The Illuminated Stage Theatre Company presents "A Christmas Memory," Dec. 14-16, at the Beacon Theatre, 401 N. Main St. Hopewell.

Based on the Truman Capote short story, the production is a musical tale of one man's memories of Christmas in rural Alabama in the 1930s, his eccentric family, fruitcakes, kites, ukuleles and unconditional love. The four shows are 8 p.m., Dec. 14; 2:30 and 8 p.m. Dec. 15 and 2:30 p.m., Dec. 16. For tickets and details, visit illuminatedstage.org.

Additional activities

- Holiday tours of Maymont Mansion are being conducted Tuesday-Sunday, noon - 5 p.m., at Maymont, 1700 Hampton St., Richmond. For details, visit www.maymont.org.

- Special after-dark tours of Monticello are scheduled during the holiday season on select dates through Dec. 30. The historic site is located at 931 Thomas Jefferson Parkway, Charlottesville. For details, visit www.monticello.org.

- Complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides are being offered Dec. 15 and 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Stony Point Fashion Park, 9200 Stony Point Parkway, Richmond. For details, visit www.shopstonypoint.com.

- Ice skating at an outdoor rink in Western Henrico continues daily until Jan. 28. The facility is located at 3939 Duckling Drive, West Broad Village, Henrico County. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$9 for children under 10 years old. Skate rental is \$5.

— Staff Reports

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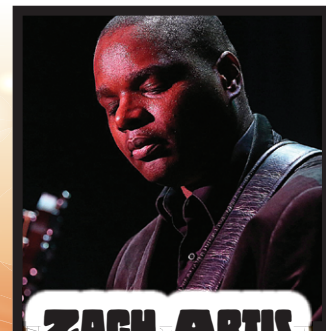
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