

# THE PARAGLIDE

Telling the Fort Bragg Story™

February 14, 2019

VOLUME LV, NUMBER 6

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**INSIDE THE 'GLIDE'**

**FOCUS - B**



**Exhaustive Repetition: 319th Military Intelligence Battalion tests readiness:**  
"We empowered each section to prepare themselves based off of my intent for the exercise."

**LIFE - C**



**Equal in all ways: Fighting the Firefly:**  
"There was a terrible explosion. Twigs flew through the air, pine needles began to fall, dead branches and dust, and dead logs went up."

**SPORTS - D**



**Thousands apply to join new Army Esports team:** Over 6,500 Soldiers are hoping to be part of a new Army Esports team that will compete in video game tournaments nationwide.

**WHERE TO GO**

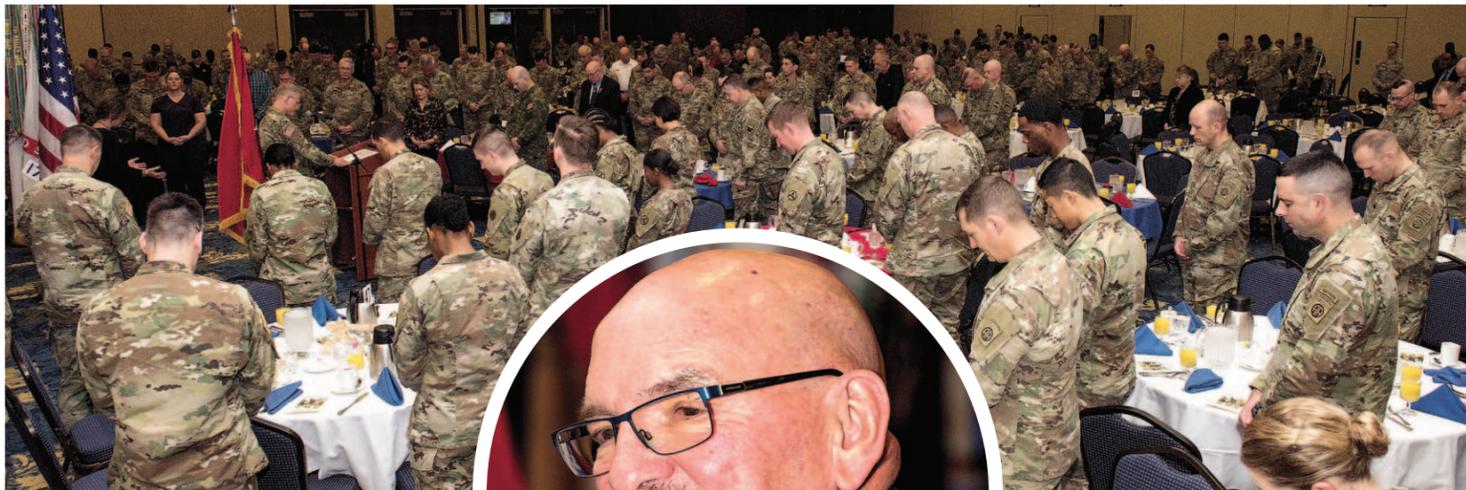
- FORT BRAGG VOICES.....2A
- GI JENN.....2A
- IN BRIEF.....3A
- FROM THE ARCHIVES.....2B
- LOCAL HAPPENINGS.....2C
- WORSHIP.....4C
- GET FIT.....2D
- RUNNERS' CORNER.....2D
- CLASSIFIEDS.....4D

THE PARAGLIDE



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## MOH recipient speaks at prayer breakfast



By **SPC. SHATYRA REED**  
22TH MPAD

Music, prayer, and the aroma of bacon filled the Iron Mike Conference Center as the Fort Bragg community attended the installation's annual National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 5.

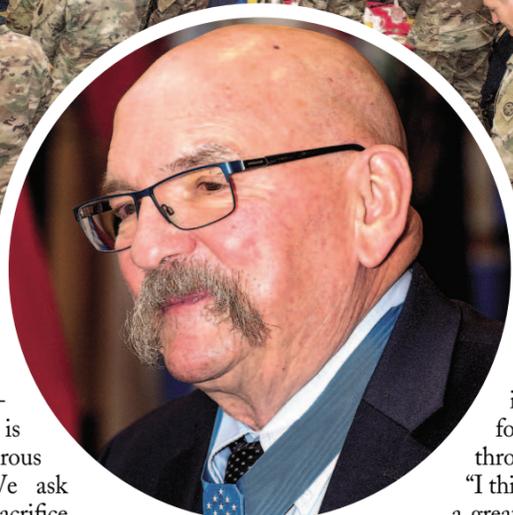
Nearly 500 Soldiers, Family and members of all religions from the Fort Bragg community came together to break bread and join together in fellowship.

The National Prayer Breakfast, which was known as the Presidential Prayer Breakfast until 1970, is a tradition dating back to

1953 and the Eisenhower Administration.

"Serving our nation in uniform is inherently dangerous and difficult. We ask our Soldiers to sacrifice an awful lot, potentially lay down their lives for mission or for their fellow Soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Brian McKiernan, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg deputy commanding general and host of this year's prayer breakfast.

"The purpose of the National Prayer Breakfast is to give our service members the opportunity to pause, reflect



Photos by Lewis Perkins/Paraglide

Speaker Sgt. Gary Beikirch earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions, April 1, 1970, at Camp Dak Seang, Central Highlands, Vietnam.

and recommit themselves to their core values, the things that are important to them and tend to their spiritual needs with others to realize they're not alone."

The theme for this year's breakfast was Investing in Hope: Transforming our Nation through Prayer!

"I think our speaker did a great job with delivering that message," said McKiernan. "He's somebody who didn't have a strong sense of faith or spirituality, and he found himself drifting away from life on this earth. Recommitted now, he has a vision and something to guide him through life."

Following prayers for the nation and the military, Chaplain (Col.) Randy Griffin, the garrison

chaplain, introduced the guest speaker, retired Sgt. Gary Beikirch, Medal of Honor recipient.

"Sgt. Beikirch is a man of faith and vision. His dependence on God has driven him to become the nation's spokesman that he is today," said Griffin.

Beikirch received the Medal of Honor on Oct. 15, 1973 for his courageous actions as a Special Forces combat medic assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, during the Vietnam War.

*Editor's note: Part two of this story will continue in next week's issue.*

## Resilient Red Falcon gets back up, runs again

By **SGT. ANTHONY JOHNSON**  
2ND BCT, ABN. DIV.

"Actually, I don't remember anything, but what I was told is on that day, we were released for lunch, leaving from the motorpool and that's when a car hit me," said Spc. Luke Sanders, a paratrooper assigned to 1st Battalion 325th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Sanders was hit by car on Aug. 1, 2018 at 10:58 a.m. while crossing through a designated crosswalk on Fort Bragg.

Today, just six months and seven days after his accident, a resilient attitude toward recovery Sanders is leading his unit in a battalion run down Ardennes Street.

"I remember a few of my guys from golf company coming to visit

me, a couple of my best friends from Arizona came to see me. I remember bits and pieces of that. One of my earliest memories after coming out of a narcotic induced coma was, am I paralyzed? The way my legs felt, I thought I was paralyzed," said Sanders.

On the day of the accident, Sanders was evacuated to Womack Army Medical Center, where he received a Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy or CTE scan, which indicated he had severe intracranial hemorrhaging. Sanders was listed in critical condition and not stable enough to be transported to level-one trauma center at UNC Health Care, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Eventually, Sanders' condition improved enough for his transport to UNC Health Care where he was under constant observation and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Johnson/2nd BCT, Abn. Div.

Spc. Luke Sanders, a paratrooper assigned to 1st Bn., 325th IR, 2nd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div., stands in front of the battalion colors with Lt. Col. Anthony Keller, commander, 1st Bn., 325th IR, 2nd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. before leading a formation run.

went through a series of medical procedures and examinations.

Lt. Col. Anthony Keller, commander, 1st Bn., 325th Infantry Regiment, was expecting the worst case scenario because "he may not make it" was the initial report that

they received. Keller also said, "medical professionals were even determining or considering if they should even do any additional medical care."

**See Red** ————— Page A3

## Fort Bragg celebrates Black History



Courtesy of Library of Congress

In February 1943, men of the 16th Battalion training unit at the Field Artillery Replacement Center on Fort Bragg are shown in their daily rifle calisthenics. After nine weeks training, the men developed a rhythm and precision in these body building exercises that is seldom equalled by more experienced troops.

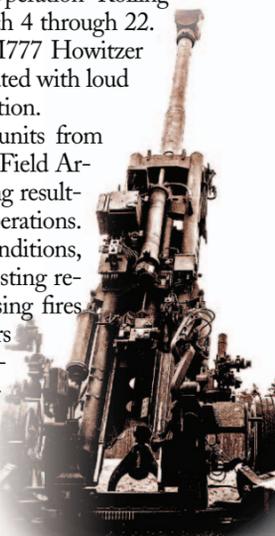
## 10th Marines Field Artillery Regiment arrives, starts training

The 10th Marines Field Artillery Regiment will conduct their annual Field Artillery live-fire training (Operation Rolling Thunder 2019) on Fort Bragg from March 4 through 22. These units fire significant amounts of M777 Howitzer 155mm ammunition, which can be associated with loud explosions and reverberations upon detonation.

Simultaneously, multiple field artillery units from the 82nd Airborne Division and the 18th Field Artillery Brigade will conduct live-fire training resulting in additional loud explosions and reverberations.

While engaged in simulated combat conditions, all field artillery units will comply with existing requirements that prohibit them from massing fires larger than battalion size between the hours of 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily or from firing during the hours of 10 a.m. to noon on Sundays. Fort Bragg Range Operations is attempting to disseminate this information as widely as possible in order to cause the least inconvenience to the surrounding public.

In the event of questions, please call Wolf W. Amacker at (910) 432-5318.



**JENNIFER MORALES**  
PARAGLIDE

# Valentine's Day's deeper meaning

While most are happy celebrating Valentine's Day with their heart-shaped candies and romantic movies, there is a deeper history to the holiday. Over 1700 years ago, Valentine was a priest in Rome. Emperor Claudius II recognized that an army of single soldiers is more efficient than one full of fathers and husbands. In an attempt to create an undefeatable military force, he outlawed marriage for young men.

When Valentine heard this, he dedicated his life to righting this injustice. Valentine would sneak and perform secret weddings for young couples. For his actions, Valentine was sentenced to imprisonment, torture and death. During his time in jail, Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter. She would visit him whenever she could to keep him company during his sentence. When the two couldn't be together, they would send each other letters. On each of his letters, he would sign, "From your Valentine."

It's much easier to view the holiday as a means to eat more chocolate, and don a pink attire, but the holiday is much more than that. I think Valentine's Day is something many Soldiers and their spouses can relate to. During deployments, it became almost a ritual to walk to the mailbox. There was a slight adrenaline rush as I

opened the small door to see what awaited me. Some days, it was only a flyer of a sale or a bill that needed to be paid. On the good days, I would have a small envelope with my husband's unmistakable handwriting. There is something profound about holding a piece of paper that your spouse held or reading letters that your spouse wrote. Even when we were separated by thousands of miles, a small piece of paper would bridge the gap seamlessly.

While I have never been a fan of Valentine's Day, I have always appreciated the reminder. It's a reminder to love our spouses as if it were outlawed, as if it were going to be the last time. It's a reminder to appreciate the small things and to take advantage of the moments you have together. Silence your busy day, and remember that life can wait. Leonardo Da Vinci said it best when he said that a "life without love, is no life at all."



## PARAGLIDE Fort Bragg Voices

### This week, we asked:

What are your plans for Valentine's Day?



"Every day is Valentine's Day. My man taught me that I woo him all year long, and he does the same for me. We celebrate Valentine's all year."

**Simona Lorenzo,**  
Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
Claims Assistant



"This year, I am taking my grandchildren to the movies and after treating them to Dairy Queen. Those are my plans for Valentine's Day."

**Faye Shimizu,**  
Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
Intake Specialist



"My wife and I have no plans in particular. We celebrate Valentine's Day year around."

**Victor J. Washington Jr.,**  
Public Affairs Specialist



"My plans for Valentine's Day is to eat good food."

**Elwin Smith,**  
Contractor



"On Valentine's Day, I plan to take my fiancé out."

**Damita Davis,**  
Custodian

## THE PARAGLIDE

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# Fort Bragg units compete in Connelly culinary contest

## SPECIAL TO THE PARAGLIDE



Two units from Fort Bragg are competing in the Department of Army's 51st annual Philip A. Connelly Awards Competition for Excellence in Army Food Service, taking place Feb. 21.

Participating in these field categories will be the 25th Quartermaster Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the Garrison category is the 82nd Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade.

The Connelly competition program, co-sponsored by DA and the National Restaurant Association, is the

Army's preeminent food service competition and is regulated within Army Regulation 30-22 —The Army Food Program.

After competing and winning in multiple levels of competition, starting at the Fort Bragg installation and ending with FORSCOM and 406th Army Field Support Brigade-Bragg, both units are now competing in their respective categories for the top spot in the Department of the Army.

"These are exciting times with the ongoing modernization of Army Food Service Programs," said MSG Dominic T. DiFatta, XVIII ABN Corps Chief Culinary Management noncommissioned officer (NCO).

"These units have been tried and tested while preparing for the competition for more than a year, and confident in their skills for a win" said DiFatta.

During Connelly competition events, culinarians are exposed to the highest level of expertise in military and civilian industries alike. For many, these experiences awaken a new sense of personal responsibility for professional development.

The Philip A. Connelly evaluators for the field category are Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dominique Yuquimpo, Sgt. Maj. Gregory Welch, and representing the NRA is Mr. Samuel Galloway. The Garrison evaluators are Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wade Froehlich, Sgt. Maj. Sylvia Thomas and representing the NRA is Mr. Jack Kleckner. Sgt. Maj. Thomas is the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence Sergeant Major.

The Connelly evaluation is based on ten major categories, with specific subsections.

The categories include supervision and training, food storage, appearance and attitude of staff, serving procedures, safety, food preparation and command support to name a few.

"This was a great achievement and you have an opportunity to permanently etch your names in Army Food Service history," said Mr. James Ramey, Food Program Manager Supply and Services Division AFSSBn-Bragg. "They need to stay focused, work hard, have a positive attitude and good things will happen".

Red

From Page A1

On a cool and cloudy morning before reveille, Keller gathered his battalion in a horse-shoe-shaped formation around an enlarged photo of Sanders during his recovery.

The photo of Sanders is harrowingly bleak. One could hardly believe that anyone could survive after seeing the photo.

"Months later from this picture, Luke remained resilient. For every two steps forward Luke took, he was taken a step back, but that did not stop him. Luke's father, Mr. Sanders, wants to tell you, thank you for the unconditional support that you have given to Luke and his Family. Whether

through visits, going to Chapel Hill, whether its praying for him or just giving him a call, thank you," said Keller. A brief moment of silence was interrupted when Keller called on Sanders to come to the front of the formation. "Spec. Sanders post!" called Keller.

Sanders emerged from the battalion building to a roar of applause from the crowd as the paratroopers assembled back into formation to salute the flag.

Sanders, along with the battalion colors, led the unit down Ardennes Street past the Hall of Heroes and the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum. With sweat

dripping from his brow, Sanders guided the sea of paratroopers back to the battalion and broke away from the formation to greet his fellow service members with handshakes as they returned.

After the run, Keller turned the formation over to Sanders, "It's an honor to be running with you guys this morning. It's a memory I will never forget. The amount of support that I have received from this battalion all the way up to the brigade commander is nothing short of inspirational and that's what's given me that drive to get back here with you Soldiers this morning," said Sanders.

## IN BRIEF

### Notices of Estate

#### Death Notices:

**Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Morrison**

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Morrison, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased.

Please contact Capt. James Berry, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 243-3361 or email: james.n.berry16@mail.mil.

**Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Z. Beale**

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Z. Beale, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased.

Please contact 1st Lt. Alexander Ganz, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 908-6765 or email: alexander.ganz@socom.mil.

**2nd Lt. Kaitlyn M. Velsvaag**

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of 2nd Lt. Kaitlyn M. Velsvaag, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased.

Please contact 1st Lt. Zachary Stilwell, the summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (540) 717-6429 or e-mail: zachary.w.stilwell@mail.mil.

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Photos by Sgt. Jeremiah Meaney/525th MI BDE PAO

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Gillispie instructs Soldiers on the tow bar during HHD, 319th MI Bn., 525th MI Bde., Tent Exercise Jan. 23 on post. Preparation and readiness is key to success.

## Exhaustive repetition:

# 319th Military Intelligence Battalion tests readiness

BY MAJ. GARY LOTEN-BECKFORD  
525TH MI BDE

Unit readiness is top priority at every level of the military. Commanders at every level work to enhance their formation for preparedness to answer the nation's call for contingent and worldwide deployment operations.

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 319th Military Intelligence Battalion, 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, is one such unit conducting "stress tests" in its capabilities to ensure unit success on its warfighting functions.

The 319th Military Intelligence Battalion has a storied past. The battalion itself dates back to intelligence operations during World War II through Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada to Operation Just Cause in Panama. For the past 18 years, the 319th Military Intelligence Battalion has multiple deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Resolute Support.

Preparation and readiness is essential for mission success. Mission success is secured with maintaining the basic fundamentals of training. The command team plans, prepares, executes and assess their unit in all phases of training. Through a shared vision, understanding of a desired future and effectively bridging the gap guarantees success.

The detachment commanded by Capt. Linda Benites, planned and resourced the execution of events leading up to her unit's field training. The unit first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class James A. Drake III, enforced the commander's guidelines through the noncommissioned officers and subordinate leaders within the organization.

"We empowered each section to prepare themselves based off of my intent for the exercise," said Benites. "All priorities of training were based on our mission essential task list and any training deficiencies the command team identified during our last tent exercise."

Readiness, modernization and training on the fundamentals are paramount for all units. Throughout the entire military, there is a refocus. The Soldiers and leaders of HHD, 319th MI Bn., 525 MI Bde., practiced and refined troop leading procedures in all aspects of training. The unit pounded upon the fundamentals of training through exhaustive repetition. As a result, leaders saw improvement of the skills, knowledge and attributes required to deploy, fight and win our nation's wars.

"We can always improve and continue to train on all our tasks," said Benites. "We have a lot of younger Soldiers within our formation, who have never done a TENTEX. This was a good start for the company. We grew stronger as a team and pushed each other. Our Soldiers performed well in all the tasks that were given to them, and we were able to go over most of our METL Tasks. I am very proud of the team."

One of the key factors of training is building upon previous training exercises. After action reports, training guidelines and productive goals exceeded unit's expectations.

"This is the second phase in our training, I would measure success of this exercise by comparing the execution against the after action review comments provided by both the Soldiers and the leadership from our last TENTEX," said Sgt. 1st. Drake.

"They adapted, improvised and executed the training based off the commander's intent," added Drake.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Gillispie instructs Soldier on the tow bar.



Spec. Mitchell Kanaris reviews the procedures for starting a generator.

"We have a great group of Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers, and they are very good at thinking on their feet."

The 525th MI Bde. and Expeditionary Force conducts multidiscipline intelligence operations in support of echelons corps and below, providing downward reinforcing capabilities to the division, brigade combat teams and other formations. The brigade and battalion headquarters are designed to receive, integrate, employ and sustain intelligence enterprise capabilities in support of corps, division and joint.

## CISCO helps veterans find jobs with technology program



Photo by Jelia Hepner/Paraglide

Instructors from CISCO discuss their information technology (IT) program called Veteran Talent Incubation that helps veterans get an IT career with their company at the Soldiers Support Center Feb. 11.

JELIA HEPNER  
PARAGLIDE

Instructors from Computer Information System Company discuss their various Information Technology career opportunities with participants at the Soldiers Support Center on Feb. 11. A classroom full of active-duty men and women currently transitioning out of the military and veterans had the chance to get information about the program Veteran Talent Incubation Program.

This 20-week program focuses on an engineering career at Cisco, during which

individuals can learn technical and consultative skills.

Participants who successfully meet all of the program milestones are eligible to receive a full-time offer as a customer support engineer or consulting engineer primarily in the Raleigh, N.C. or Richardson, Texas offices.

For more information about the program or to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/2QvuuBl> or <https://jobs.cisco.com/jobs/ProjectDetail/Customer-Support-Netw-Engineer-VTIP-Veteran-Talent-Incubation-Program/1251743>.

# Bragg Soldiers train with Rakkasans

STORY BY MAJ. JOHN MOORE  
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AA) POA

## IF IT FLIES, IT DIES.

That's a motto occasionally used throughout the air defense community. Air defenders, sometimes called "duck hunters" in a tongue-in-cheek manner, have an increasingly important role within the Army as it shifts focus from counterinsurgency (COIN) operations to preparing for a more complex decisive action fight against a near-peer opponent.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, stationed at Fort Bragg, conducted Stinger missile familiarization with Soldiers assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Feb. 4 through 7.

The Stinger missile system is a man-portable surface-to-air missile system (MANPADS) which entered military service in 1981, and provides a lightweight short-range air defense capability against low-altitude airborne targets. It is intended to be employed in an expeditionary manner, particularly useful in restricted terrain and heavy vegetation.

The system and its associated capabilities are important to a maneuver unit as they provide the capability to track and destroy airborne threats such as fixed or rotary-wing aircraft, and some unmanned aircraft systems.

"It's definitely interesting, knowing that

the (Air Defense Artillery) branch is really reinventing itself and revaluing itself as a member of the Army as a whole, especially here in a maneuver environment," said 1st Lt. Benjamin Feithen, 3rd BCT Air Defense officer. "People are seeing our true value again now that we're leaving a COIN environment and going back to a decisive action environment.

The air defenders teamed up with Rakkasan Soldiers in an effort to create a shared understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the air defense platforms, inform them of the proper employment of the systems, and build the team prior to the brigade combat team's rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, in March of this year.

Not only was the training beneficial for Rakkasan Soldiers as they conducted virtual training in the Kinnard Mission Training Complex, but it also helped to build Air and Missile Defense capacity for multi-domain operations, ensuring that air defense forces are trained and ready.

The training consisted of a visual aircraft identification portion, where Soldiers were trained and tested on their ability to identify various types of fixed and rotary-wing aircraft without the use of radar or advanced optics, followed by hands-on training on a virtual Stinger system. During the virtual training, the Soldiers were required to detect and engage target aircraft.

"The infantrymen and scouts had an



Photos by Sgt. Aaron Daugherty/3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AA) POA

The Stinger Tactical Proficiency Trainer provides Soldiers with the capability to identify and engage aircraft while in a garrison environment. The MANPADS provides expeditionary and highly mobile air defense coverage in contested and restrictive environments at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Feb. 7.

opportunity to get some trigger time in the KMTTC," said Feithen. "After familiarization on the systems, the Soldiers were able to find and destroy targets. Having Soldiers that aren't air defenders but who are trained on the MANPADS helps to augment the limited air defense Soldiers attached to the BCT."

As the BCT prepares to deploy to the fictional country of Atropia during JRTC, it's not uncommon for enablers from all

Army components to conduct training with the unit they'll support prior to the rotation. Conventional forces, various combat service support units, and special operations forces frequently augment a BCT. These types of training opportunities mirror the supported and supporting relationships that may occur during combat or operational deployments, and ensure that the Army is ready to fight to-night.



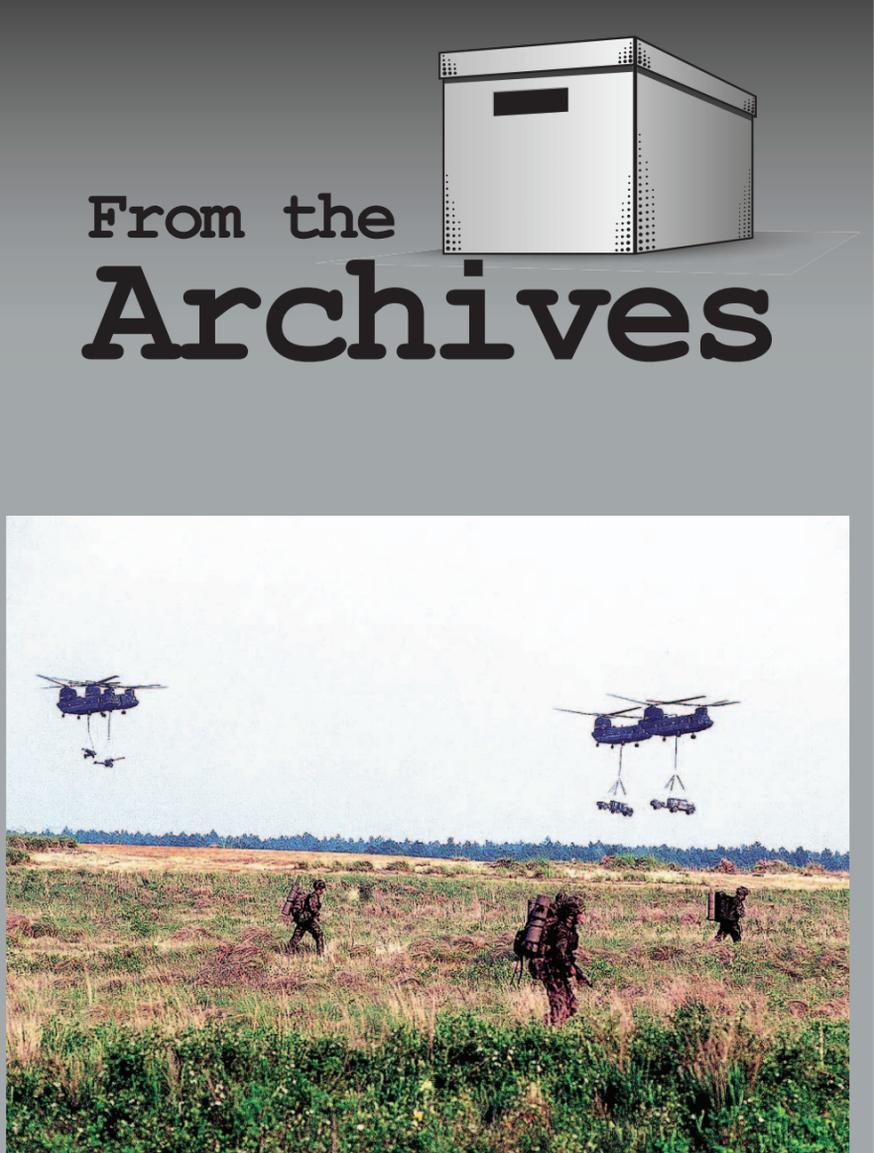
The Rakkasans were assisted by a team of Stinger missile subject matter experts. The Soldiers teamed up to create a shared understanding of capabilities.



These types of training opportunities mirror the supporting relationships that may occur during combat or operational deployments.



A C-130 Hercules aircraft climbs away after airdropping a load of supplies needed to set up an aerial port, part of a training session for members of the 3rd Mobile Aerial Port Squadron Dec. 20, 1991.



Photos by catalog archives.gov

British Royal Marines move to secure Luzon Drop Zone, as U.S. Army Chinook CH-47's ferry in British Land Rovers during the helo insertion which kicked off the conclusion of Combined Joint Task Force Exercise in 1996.

From the  
**Archives**

# 82nd Airborne Division conducts artillery heavy drop



Photos by Spc. Justin Stafford /49th PAD

**Above:** Paratroopers assigned to 2nd Bn., 319th AFAR, 2nd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div., employ a M777 Howitzer on Salerno Drop Zone during a heavy-drop operation.  
**Top right:** An M777 Howitzer from 2nd Bn., 319th AFAR, 2nd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div., parachutes from a C-130 Hercules aircraft onto Salerno Drop Zone.  
**Bottom right:** The operation tested the brigade's heavy-drop employment for certification and validation procedures during their Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise.

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The Fayetteville  
**Observer**  
fayobserver.com

## CELEBRATING

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Equal in all ways: Fighting the Firefly



Photo courtesy of 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

Triple Nickle member Jesse Mayes prepares to jump from a C-47.

By MAJ. THOMAS CIESLAK  
3RD BCT, 82ND ABN. DIV.

“There was a terrible explosion. Twigs flew through the air, pine needles began to fall, dead branches and dust, and dead logs went up,” said Richard Barnhouse to Oregon’s Mail Tribune, describing the detonation of a Japanese bomb.

However, Barnhouse not talking about combat in the Pacific Theater; World War II Japan was attacking the U.S.

The Japanese fire balloon campaign, known as Fu-Go, involved hydrogen-filled balloons carried across the ocean by the Jet Stream to the U.S.’ West Coast, where they would drop their payload of explosives.

The men of the 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment answered the nation’s call to fight back. Never reaching the necessary manning to fight in the European Theater, the 555th PIR received orders on May 5th, 1945 to report to Oregon and be assigned to the 9th Services Command.

Their primary mission: recovery and destruction of Japanese balloon-bombs. Firefighting was their secondary mission according to a report published by the U.S. Army War College.

Arriving at Pendleton Field, Oregon a week later, the men of the 555th PIR conducted more training in land navigation, medical aid and physical endurance while waiting for their equipment to arrive.

Even there, the all African-American unit faced discrimination much like that of the deep South when training at Fort Benning.

The paratroopers found it difficult to buy a drink or a meal in the town of Pendleton and the commander of the base did not want them mixing with the base’s population. Undaunted, the paratroopers continued taking pride in their skills and staged demonstration jumps for local civilians.

By that time, however, the Fu-Go campaign was tapering off, the Japanese reportedly having used it as an effort to improve morale among factory workers, telling them the balloons were causing havoc in Los Angeles or Seattle.

They soon received training by the U.S. Forest Service to parachute into heavily wooded areas and fight fires caused by the Fu-Go balloons, careless campers and lightning. Specially equipped and trained, the “Triple Nickle” paratroopers became the forefathers

of modern-day Smokejumpers.

Based at Pendleton Field, Oregon with a detachment at Chico, the 555th PIR responded to 36 fire calls, making more than 1,200 individual jumps.

More than thirty paratroopers sustained injuries ranging from cuts and bruises to broken legs and even crushed chests. Tragically, Malvin L. Brown, a medic assigned to Headquarters Company, died August 6, 1945 after falling while trying to descend from a tree.

While at Camp Pendleton, the 555th PIR would establish another historic landmark. On July 25, 1945, fifty-four men conducted a full combat-equipment jump with live ammunition. After their initial assault on their objective, they marked it and called in Naval aircraft piloted by trainees to bomb and strafe it. This marked the first time African-American paratroopers conducted a joint operation with the Navy.

Even with the accomplishment of these tremendous feats, their most important footsteps were yet to come.

*Author’s Note: This article is the third in a multi-part series honoring the brave paratroopers of the 555th PIR.*

# Wedding bells are ringing

## Iron Mike Conference Center hosts wedding expo

By ALYSON HANSEN  
PARAGLIDE

The Fort Bragg Wedding Expo brought photographers, caterers, bakeries, DJs and wedding planners to the Iron Mike Conference Center, Saturday.

The expo, a first for the conference center, helped civilians and military members find vendors for their weddings and special events.

Cynthia Kauth, catering manager, Iron Mike Conference Center, was excited to hold the event at the venue.

“I’ve been trying for years (to have a wedding expo) at the conference center,” she said.

Kauth said the conference center is open to the public, and military members and civilians can host events at the venue. She showed couples attending the event table decorations, place settings and

water fountain rentals available for their big day.

Food tastings were also part of the expo. Iron Mike Conference Center laid out tables of dishes for guests to sample, and several vendors had tastings available at their booths.

“My sister is a veteran, I come from a Family of veterans, and it’s great to serve our military brothers and sisters,” said Leslie Keenan, co-owner of Sweet Boutique Bakery at Belk, as she handed out cake samples to couples coming to her table.

Kauth said the Iron Mike Conference Center was the only venue to host a wedding expo this year in the Fayetteville area.

“Our plan is to do one expo a year ... eventually, we’d like to host two a year, one in the early part of the year, and one towards the fall,” she said.



Photos by Alyson Hansen/Paraglide

**Above:** Julie Pacheco, left, Brianna Griffin, Edward Trask, and Janette Waterman speak to a vendor at the Fort Bragg Wedding Expo, Saturday. Griffin and Trask attended the event to look for a florist for their upcoming wedding.

**Left:** Leslie Keenan, co-owner of Sweet Boutique Bakery, left, and Kayla McCants, provide samples of cake for guests at the Fort Bragg Wedding Expo. The bakery was one of many vendors who attended the event.

**Below:** The Iron Mike Conference Center displays a few of the decorations couples can rent for weddings.



Guests talk to vendors at the Fort Bragg Wedding Expo, Saturday, at the Iron Mike Conference Center. The expo was a first for the venue.



# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## EVENTS AROUND POST & THE STATE

### THIS WEEKEND

#### SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION:

**When:** Now through March 15

**Where:** Youth Sports and Fitness - Fort Bragg Soldier Support Center

**Cost:** Teeball, coach pitch, baseball, softball, soccer, track and field for \$45, lacrosse for \$65

**Open to:** CYS card holders with current sports physical

#### Spring Youth Sports:

- Soccer, ages 5 to 17, Main Post and Linden Oaks
- Tee-ball, ages 5 to 6. Coach pitch, ages 7 to 8. Baseball, ages 9 to 17. Main Post and Linden Oaks
- Girls softball, ages 9 to 17, Main Post and Linden Oaks
- Track and field, ages 7 to 18, Main Post only
- Lacrosse, ages 8 to 16 (grades 3 through 10), Main Post only

Youth must be registered with CYS located at Parent Central Services, building 1-4157 Knox St. and have a current sports physical on file. Appointments are required, walk-ins only on Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. Call (910) 396-8110 for more info or visit <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil>.

Volunteer coaches are needed. For more info call (910) 396-9123.

Discounts and waivers are available for coaches and multiple children playing the same sport. Youth will be put on a waiting list until cleared coaches are in place.

#### ANNIE:

**When:** Now through Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Cape Fear Regional Theatre

**Cost:** \$17 to \$32

Leapin' Lizards! In adventure after fun-filled adventure, little orphan Annie finds a new home and family with Daddy Warbucks and a lovable mutt named Sandy. "Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you tomorrow!" A musical treat for the entire family.

See <http://www.cfrt.org/project/annie/> for show times.

#### ART WALKABOUT:

**When:** Friday, 5 to 8 p.m.

**Where:** Downtown Fayetteville

**Cost:** Free

Come enjoy a pleasant evening, walking our beautiful downtown while visiting local art galleries and shops that display local artists work.

Explore these different locations by picking up a passport and map at any of the participating venues. Each gallery and shop will host a different experience as they offer food, drinks and art from different local artists. Be sure to get your passport stamped at each location for a chance to win our Art Walkabout gift basket which will include many items and gifts from participating artists, venues and more! For more information, contact Cape Fear Studios at (910) 433-2986.

#### FAYETTEVILLE WINE AND CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL:

**When:** Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m., 5 to 8 p.m.

**Where:** Crown Coliseum

**Cost:** \$35 for wine enthusiasts, \$10 for designated drivers

Celebrate great wine and sweets from down the street and around North Carolina.

Wineries and wine enthusiasts from across the region will gather for an unlimited sampling of dozens of fabulous North Carolina wines of all styles and tastes. Buy glasses and bottles of your favorite wines, all for great prices.

Enjoy a fabulous selection of tasty nibbles and treats, chocolates, cheeses and sweets. Food available for purchase.

Take a stroll through the candy bar. Browse through fantastic mini boutiques featuring purses, jewelry, clothing and more.

Tickets to this event are on sale now! To purchase tickets, visit <http://wineandchocolatefestivals.com/events/fayetteville-nc-wine-and-chocolate-festival/> and click on the "buy tickets" button. Military discount available at the box office.

### RECURRING EVENTS

#### FAYETTEVILLE "OVER THERE" CENTENNIAL OF WWI:

**When:** Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Where:** Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum

**Cost:** Free

The Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum opened its newest exhibit, "Fayetteville 'Over There'-Centennial of World War I."

#### BRAINS AND BREWS WEEKLY TRIVIA:

**When:** Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Mash House Brewing Company

**Cost:** Free

Brains and Brews trivia. Trivia topics are general, but once a month there will be a special theme night.

#### BREWERY TOUR:

**When:** Sundays, 4 to 5 p.m.

**Where:** Dirtbag Ales Brewery and Taproom, Hope Mills

**Cost:** Free to attend

Join the head brewer for an informative tour of the brewery at Dirtbag Ales Brewery and Taproom in Hope Mills. No reservation is required.

#### CITY MARKET AT THE MUSEUM:

**When:** Mondays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Where:** City Market at the Museum

**Cost:** Free to attend

The City Market at the Museum is a farmers' and crafters' market in the heart of downtown Fayetteville.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### OUTHOUSE RACES AT SAPPHIRE:

**When:** Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** Sapphire Valley Resort, Sapphire, North Carolina

**Cost:** Free

Join spectators for the exciting Outhouse Races.

Crazy? Maybe. Dangerous? Perhaps. Fun? Without a doubt! You won't find Outhouse Races on snow anywhere else in North Carolina. Dozens of outhouses race to compete for the throne. Spectators come from throughout the southeast to line the course and cheer on those brave enough to see if the outhouse crashes and burns or sails across the finish line.

This event is as exciting as drag racing if you use your imagination. Outhouses can be very simple, or as elaborate as anyone wants them to be. For more information about this exciting, one-of-a-kind race, visit <https://test.skisapphirevalley.com/great-outhouse-races-ski-sapphire.html>.

#### SHINEDOWN: ATTENTION ATTENTION TOUR:

**When:** Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Crown Coliseum

**Cost:** \$33 to \$78.50

Multi-platinum rock band Shinedown will play the Crown Coliseum with feature support from Papa Roach and Asking Alexandria as part of its 2019 ATTENTION ATTENTION World Tour. For tickets and more information, visit <http://www.crowncomplexnc.com/events/detail/shinedownpapa-roach>.

#### DEATH OF A GANGSTER DINNER THEATER:

**When:** Feb. 22, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

**Where:** Iron Mike Conference Center

**Cost:** \$40 per person

Dinner theater is coming to the Iron Mike Conference Center. Hors d' oeuvres and bar service begins at 6 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m.

This event is open to the public ages 18 and over. Pre-paid reservations are required.

Purchase tickets in-person at the Iron Mike Conference Center, via phone at (910) 907-1945, or online at <https://bragg.armymwr.com/calendar/event/death-gangster-dinner-theater/2674725/32456>. Deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 20.

#### BREW HORIZONS BEER FESTIVAL:

**When:** Feb. 23, 2 to 6 p.m.

**Where:** U.S. Cellular Center's Exhibit Hall, Asheville, North Carolina

**Cost:** \$40 to \$55

Ticket price includes a souvenir tasting stein for sampling from 20 to 25 regional craft breweries and cideries. There will be food tastings and local catering, two live music performances, local artisan vendors and educational information about empowering every community member to do their part in creating our region's clean-energy future. For more information, visit <http://brewhorizonsbeerfest.com/>.

#### CINCH WORLD'S TOUGHEST RODEO:

**When:** Feb. 23, 6 p.m.

**Where:** PNC Arena, Raleigh, North Carolina

**Cost:** ticket prices vary

In 2019, Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo celebrates 40 years of bringing the Ol' West to cities across the country.

Fans can expect the absolute best of the best among cowboy and livestock competitors to be the "Toughest in the World." These tough individuals clash for the ultimate opportunity to compete at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada for the World Champion title.

Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo features three fan-favorite events: bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, and the most extreme sport, bull riding.

Twelve contestants will compete for the chance to return for a second ride in the thrilling "Winner Take All Showdown Round," as well as women's barrel racing.

For tickets and more information, visit <https://www.thepncarena.com/events/detail/cinch-worlds-toughest-rodeo-2>.

#### TRUMBO:

**When:** Feb. 28 to March 17, times vary

**Where:** Cape Fear Regional Theatre

**Cost:** \$20 to \$25

Legendary screenwriter Dalton Trumbo stood up to the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1947, was thrown in prison and blacklisted as one of the "Hollywood Ten." This two character play uses his own razor-sharp letters to reveal how one man took on Congress, Hollywood and the Red Scare — and won.

See <http://www.cfrt.org/project/trumbo/> for showtimes.

#### SEUSS-A-PALOOZA STORY TIME:

**When:** March 1, 10 to 10:45 a.m.

**Where:** Throckmorton Library

**Cost:** Free

Celebrate Dr. Seuss's 109th birthday with a 'Seuss-tastic' story time of books, music and dance.

This event is open to the public. No registration required. Call (910) 396-2665 for more information.

#### MARDI GRAS SOIREE:

**When:** March 2, 8 p.m. to Midnight

**Where:** Cape Fear Botanical Garden

**Cost:** \$50 single ticket, \$85 for couples

Join Cape Fear Botanical Garden for their first Mardi Gras Soirée, an evening of fun, frolic, food and libations. From beads to doubloons, coconuts to king cakes, the evening will be full of music, dancing and the spirit of Carnival. Enjoy live entertainment, heavy appetizers and a beer and wine cash bar!

This event is for people 21 and over. Masks are encouraged, and cocktail dress is required.

Appetizers, admission to the garden, one complimentary drink ticket and live entertainment are all included with the price of admission.

This event will take place rain or shine.

For more information, visit [https://www.capefearbg.org/event/mardi-gras-soiree/?instance\\_id=3132](https://www.capefearbg.org/event/mardi-gras-soiree/?instance_id=3132).

# ACS offers partner abuse protective order filing

By ALYSON HANSEN  
PARAGLIDE



The Family Advocacy Program at Army Community Service now offers filing for Civil Domestic Violence Protective Orders directly at the Soldier Support Center.

Previously, if an individual wished to file a protective order for domestic abuse, they would have to go to the Cumberland County Courthouse in downtown Fayetteville. But now, thanks to efforts from military and civilian advocates, protective orders can be electronically filed at FAP.

"As long as you have an ID that can be used at a (military) medical facility, you can be seen here," Angielina Wilson, a Fort Bragg victim advocate at FAP, said.

If an individual needs help, they can go to the ACS office on the third floor of the SSC and ask to speak with a victim advocate.

The advocates talk to the individual on a one-on-one basis and try to determine what services the person needs. Victim advocates cannot provide legal advice because they aren't attorneys, but they can help figure out a safety plan, discover what resources are

available and plan the next step.

If that next step is filing for a protective order, the victim advocate will help them fill out the necessary forms. Finally, the individual needs to speak with a judge, which they can do right at FAP.

It can be intimidating to go to the courthouse, Wilson said.

"Sometimes it feels like you're all alone, you're nervous. You go into the courtroom and it could be jam packed. You get called up to the front and here are all these people who are essentially hearing everything. It's out in the open for everyone," she said.

FAP video teleconferences with Cumberland County judges twice a day, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Individuals are seen one at a time, and the session can last as little as five minutes.

Sonja Bey, another victim

advocate with ACS, stated a pro of being able to file a protective order at ACS is the relative anonymity.

Since the SSC is the hub for various activities, no one knows why an individual is going into the building. It is a frequent stop for the Fort Bragg shuttle service, so if transportation is an issue, people can still get to the SSC by bus.

FAP also welcomes children into their offices, something the courthouse can't do. Children under the age of 16 aren't allowed.

But at FAP, kids can come and play with toys, color in coloring books and watch DVDs while their parent fills out paperwork.

The protective orders filed by FAP are good for seven to 10 days. After that initial time period, individuals will have to go to the courthouse for a more permanent order, Wilson said.

violence issue.

Of these, at least 283 partners were determined to have engaged in physical, emotional or sexual partner abuse. "People put up the front that everything is OK and good to go, but that's not always the case. We've had people come in and say, 'you know, my Instagram life is perfect, my social media life is perfect, but when I go home, it's a totally different scenario,'" Wilson said.

Being able to electronically file protective orders directly from the FAP office is a newer way for the victim advocates to provide even more services for Soldiers and their Families.

The short time frame initially granted by these protective orders helps individuals craft a safety plan and decide what to do next.

Domestic violence isn't a small issue at Fort Bragg. According to Tom Hill, manager, FAP, in Fiscal Year 2018, 573 married and unmarried couples reported having a domestic

"People put up the front that everything is OK and good to go, but that's not always the case. We've had people come in and say, 'you know, my Instagram life is perfect ... but when I go home, it's a totally different scenario.'"

— Angielina Wilson  
Fort Bragg Victim Advocate,  
Family Advocacy Program

# WAMC celebrates U.S. Army Nurse Corps' birthday

By ROBERT E. KERNS  
WAMC PAO



Photo by Brenda Gutierrez /WAMC PAO

Womack Army Medical Center celebrates the 118th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps birthday with a traditional cake cutting by the oldest and youngest nurse in the Medical Center. The 118th birthday ceremony honored all nurses past, present, and future.

People from across Fort Bragg and the local community gathered in Womack Army Medical Center's Weaver Auditorium to celebrate the U.S. Army Nurse Corps' 118 birthday, Feb. 1.

Civilians and medical professionals, both active duty and retired, braved the cold weather to honor the back bone of Army medicine.

Retired and new members of the nurse corps were honored at the beginning of the ceremony by master of ceremonies WAMC Chief Nursing Officer Col. Collette McKinney. She expressed the honor of having nurses at both ends of the spectrum gathered together in one place.

Maj. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb, Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, spoke about the history of Army nurses and their impact on Army Medicine in a prerecorded message.

"Nurses have engaged in every major conflict since the Army Nurse Corps officially became a permanent corps in ... 1901," said Holcomb. "Nurses operate in all realms of Army Medicine exemplifying this year's corps birthday theme: Anywhere, Anytime, Always ready."

Keynote speaker retired U.S. Army Col. Vinette Gordon began her remarks by challenging all nurses in attendance to continue to contribute to the Army Nurse Corps in 2019, "so we can once again come together to honor and celebrate this nursing journey."

Gordon asked recent clinical nurse transition program attendees to share what has been their proudest moment of being an Army Nurse thus far.

"I'm most proud to be working in a combined team of civilian and military,"

answered 2nd Lt. Payton Ambrose.

Gordon took time to recognize those in the audience who are preparing to deploy and thanked them for their sacrifice.

She passionately spoke about the Army Nurse Corps' Emergency Nurse Practitioner Program saying they, "have the skills, the passion, and the commitment to get our warfighters to the next level of care which may very well be that civilian trauma center or foreign medical center."

She continued saying the new Enroute Critical Care Nurses, "capability will give us more opportunity to support the warfighter anywhere."

Gordon encouraged young nurses to read journals to stay abreast of the ever changing standards of their trade, join nursing associations and to get mentors to bounce ideas off of and to use as a guidepost.

"The nurses who shaped our history rose from the bottom. They were geniuses and left us with the tool kit to keep climbing," she concluded.

She then challenged everyone in the audience to be bold, audacious and inquisitive.

Acting Hospital Commander Col. David Hamilton spoke to the importance of the nurse population at WAMC.

"Approximately, 1,500 people who work here are nurses," said Hamilton. "We are thankful for a professional corps of people who care for others through their entire hospital stay. You are the reason corpsmen and medics aspire to be more."

The birthday celebration was followed by a traditional cake cutting and refreshments. The celebration was short lived as many of the nurses in attendance were anxious to return to work.

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 Friday, February 15th, 2019 5pm-8pm  
 Call 910-678-8899 for tickets & info

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 facebook.com/downtownfayetteville

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# Worship Guide

**CATHOLIC**

**Mass**  
**All American Chapel**  
 Sat. 5 p.m.  
 Sun. 9 a.m., 5 p.m.  
**WAMC Chapel**  
 Sun. 10:30 a.m.  
 Wed. 11:30 a.m.  
**Pope Chapel**  
 Sun. 1:30 p.m. (Spanish/English)  
 Mon.- Fri. Noon  
**Main Post Chapel**  
 Sun. 11:30 a.m.  
**Rosary**  
 Mon.- Fri. 12:30 p.m. Pope Chapel  
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
 Wed. 11:30 a.m. Pope Chapel  
**Reconciliation**  
*40 minutes prior to every Mass and by appointment with susan.l.kroll.ctr@mail.mil*  
**Catholic Education**  
 Sun. 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation Bowley School\* Faith Formation (Adults)  
 Sun. 3 p.m. Youth of the Chapel (All American)  
 Tues. 6:30 p.m. Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults (Pope Chapel)  
 Thurs. 6:45 p.m. Bible Study  
 Fri. 6:30 p.m. Theology on Tap (3rd Fri. each month)  
**Catholic Women of the Chapel**  
 Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to Noon. at All American Chapel\*\*

**PROTESTANT**

**Worship Services**  
**All American Chapel**  
 Sun. 10 a.m. Sunday School  
 Sun. 11 a.m. Worship Service\*\*  
**Airborne Artillery Chapel**  
 Sun. 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
 Sun. 11 a.m. Worship Service\*\*  
 Wed. 6 p.m. Adult Bible Study  
**Chapel Next, Division Memorial Chapel**  
 Sun. 11 a.m. Worship Service\*\*  
**Outdoor Life, Smith Lake MWR Park (outside)**  
 Sun. 10 a.m. Outdoor Church  
 Winter hours Dec. 1 - April 30 11 a.m.  
**JFK Chapel**  
 Sun. 10 a.m. Worship Service\*\*

Sun. 11:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 Wed. 11:45 a.m. Chapel Ancient (Liturgical)  
**Main Post Chapel**  
 Sun. 10 a.m. Worship Service\*\*  
 Sun. 11:30 a.m. Sunday School  
**Pope Chapel**  
 Sun. 9 a.m. Christ the King Fellowship\*\*  
 Wed. 6 p.m. Mid-week Bible Study  
**Wood Memorial Chapel Gospel Congregation**  
 Sun. 10 a.m. Gospel Service\*\*  
 Tues. 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study  
 Tues. 7:30 p.m. Youth Group  
**WAMC**  
 Sun. 9 a.m. Chapel located on 3rd floor  
 Tues. 11:30 a.m. Bible Study  
 Thurs. 11:30 a.m. Bible Study  
**Protestant Women of the Chapel**  
 Tues. 9:30 a.m. All American Chapel\*  
 Tues. Noon 9th floor of SSC\*  
 Tues. 7 p.m. All American Chapel\*  
 Wed. 9 a.m. Linden Oaks Clubhouse\*  
 Wed. Noon WAMC Chapel\* (3rd floor)  
 Thurs. Noon Main Post Chapel Annex\*  
 Thurs. Noon Wood Memorial Chapel  
**Youth of the Chapel**  
 Sun. 3 p.m. Middle/High School at All American Chapel (Catholic)  
 Sun. 6:15 p.m. Middle/High School at Division Memorial Chapel (Protestant)

**Additional Protestant Religious Education Program**

Sun. 6:15 p.m. Postwide Family Program, Airborne Artillery Chapel\*  
 Tues. 2:45 p.m. Good News Club at Bowley Elementary\*  
 Tues. 6:30 p.m. Navigator Bible Study, JFK Chapel  
 Tues. 6:30 p.m. Navigator Bible Study, Airborne Artillery Chapel  
 Thurs. 3 p.m. Good News Club at Shughart Elementary\*

**JEWISH SERVICES**

Fri. 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Shabbat, Watters Family Life Center

**BUDDHIST**

Sat. 1 p.m. Pope Chapel (3rd Sat. each month)

**ISLAMIC**

**Pope Chapel Annex**  
 Fri. 12:15 p.m. Islamic Service  
 Fri. 1:15 p.m. Islamic Service

**WICCAN**

Thurs. 7 p.m. Open Circle, Watters Family Life Center

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

www.bragg.army.mil/index.php/about/garrison/chaplain

**LEGEND**

\* Indicated study groups are scheduled to complement school year.  
 \*\* Children's Church/Watch-care provided

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fo The Fayetteville Observer

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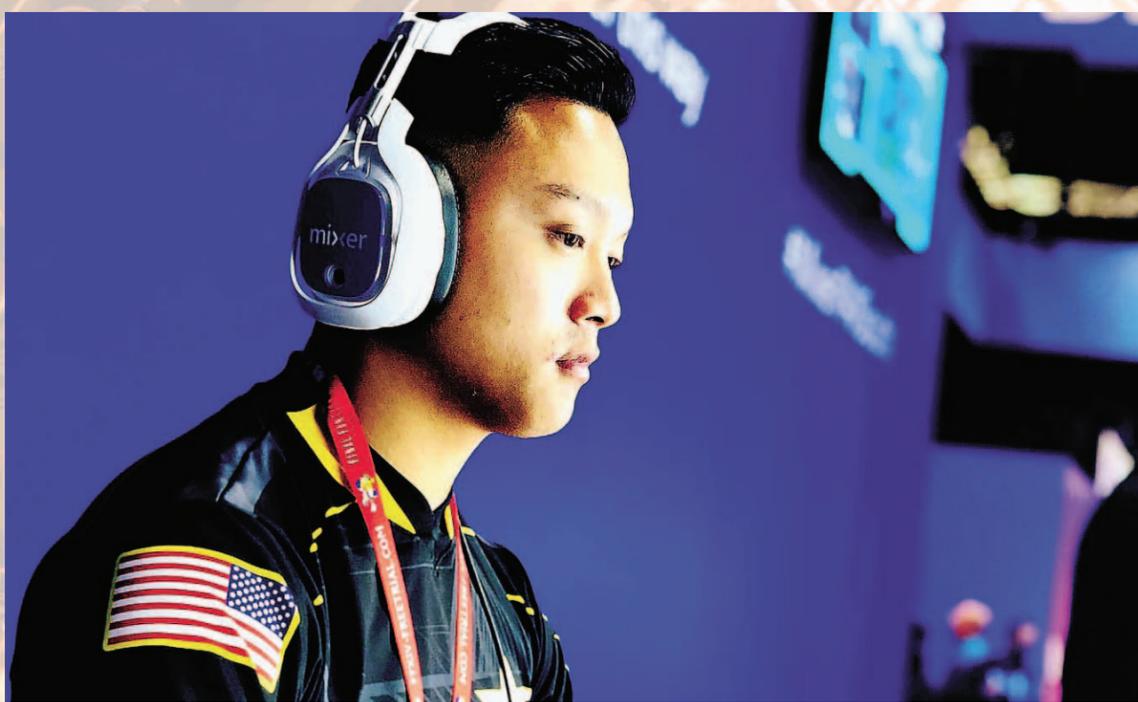


Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Meaux



Photo by U.S. Army

More than 6,500 Soldiers have already applied to join the Army esports team, which was created to boost recruiting efforts in the gaming community. This initiative will help make our Soldiers more visible and relatable to today's youth.

Soldiers have expressed a strong desire to represent the Army in competitive gaming, showing Army leaders how gaming can help connect to young people.

## Thousands apply to join new Army Esports team

By SEAN KIMMONS  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Over 6,500 Soldiers are already hoping to be part of a new Army Esports team that will compete in video game tournaments nationwide in an effort to attract potential recruits.

"It's essentially connecting America to its Army through the passion of the gaming community," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Jones, NCO-in-charge of the budding team.

About 30 Soldiers are expected to be picked for the team and some of the first positions could be filled this summer. Only active-duty and Reserve Soldiers are currently allowed to apply.

Those chosen will be

assigned to the Marketing and Engagement Brigade for three years at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where the Army Recruiting Command is headquartered.

While they will not become recruiters, team members will receive a crash course on Army enlistment programs to answer questions from those interested in learning about the service.

Once built up, the team will fall under an outreach company that will also include an Army rock band and a functional fitness team.

Not everyone on the team will compete. Those who will may train up to six hours per day on video games, Jones said, adding that gameplay sessions

would be live streamed or recorded for spectators to watch.

Esports has ballooned in popularity in recent years with millions of followers.

In August, the Washington Post reported that esports could generate about \$345 million in revenue this year in North America. In 2017, a major esports tournament in China also drew a peak of more than 106 million viewers — roughly the same number of those who watched last year's Super Bowl.

"It's something really new and it's been gaining a lot of steam," Jones said.

While on the team, Soldiers will still conduct physical training,

weapons qualifications and other responsibilities that come with being a Soldier. They will also have to maintain certifications in their military occupational specialty.

"Outside of that, there will be Esports training," Jones said. "So whatever game they're playing in, they'll not only be playing it, but be coached in it to get better."

The team, he said, shares a similar concept to that of other Army competitive teams that continually train, such as the Golden Knights parachute team, World Class Athlete Program and Army Marksmanship Unit.

"Esports is like traditional sports," he said. "Nobody can just walk

in and expect to play at a competitive level."

The Army, he said, already has talented gamers out there who can compete in events.

Last weekend, a few Soldiers competed at PAX South in San Antonio as a way to introduce Army esports to the greater gamer community.

In one of the events, a Street Fighter V tournament, two Soldiers placed first and second.

"This is the perfect opportunity to showcase not only to the Army, but to the civilian populace and the esports industry that we also have what it takes," Jones said of the events.

Recruiters from the San Antonio Recruiting

Battalion also joined them and were able to generate some leads with potential recruits, he added.

There are plans to do the same at the PAX East exposition in Boston in late March.

As a gamer and a recruiter himself, Jones said the team can help bridge the civilian-military gap by breaking down misconceptions some young people may have about the Army.

Being able to play their favorite video games with others who share the same passion is also a bonus.

"For a lot of Soldiers, to include myself, it's like a dream come true," Jones said. "This is just one of those ways we can start the conversation."

## Bor brothers lead Army to cross country championship

By GARY SHEFTICK  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Sgt. Emmanuel Bor led the Army men's team to gold in the Armed Forces Cross Country Championship Feb. 2 and said he was motivated by running with his younger brother and Olympian, Staff Sgt. Hillary Bor, who finished third.

"He was pushing most of the time," Emmanuel said of his brother. "We help each other out a lot."

Air Force 1st Lt. Hannah Everson took first place for military women, despite Army winning the women's team competition for the fifth consecutive year, and the men's team championship for the seventh straight year.

The armed forces championship was run concurrently with the 2019 USA Track and Field Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee and the top five times of the day were placed by Soldiers or Army veterans, despite many professional runners competing.

### Men's National Championship

Former Army Spc. Shadrack Kipchircher edged past Emmanuel Bor in the final stretch of the men's 10K race to win the national title with a time of 28:53. Bor, who had been jostling back and forth for the lead, finished just one second behind with a personal best of 28:54.

"Shadrack was sitting behind me most of the time," Bor said, "and when he made that last move, I followed him... he just had a slight edge at the finish line."

Army teammate Sgt. Leonard Korir, who had won the cross country championship last year,



Photo by EJ Herson

Sgt. Emmanuel Bor (138) runs alongside his brother Staff Sgt. Hillary Bor (139) at the front of the pack during the 2019 Armed Forces Cross Country Championship in Tallahassee, Florida, Feb. 2.

came in third this year with a time of 28:56. Hillary Bor finished fourth overall at 28:57. Former Army Reserve Soldier Stanley Kobenei finished fifth with a time of 29:05.

Korir and the Bor brothers are members of the Army World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson, Colorado, and they still train together often with former teammates Kipchircher and Kobenei. The five ran the entire race together Saturday and by the 8th kilometer, they had pulled away from the rest of the competition.

Army coach Col. Liam Collins said the race was relatively determined by the 8K marker, and the winner was just a matter of who among the leading five would have the strongest kick at the end.

The Bor brothers said they have learned a lot from outgoing coach

Collins, a Special Forces officer who now serves as director of the Modern Warfare Institute at West Point, New York. Collins plans to retire from the Army this summer.

"He inspires me a lot... He has done a lot for me," Emmanuel said about Collins.

Emmanuel said he and Hillary grew up in Kenya running several miles to school and back barefoot.

Hillary said while he enjoys running with Emmanuel and his other WCAP brother Sgt. Julius Bor, cross country is actually not his best sport. Steeplechase is his specialty and at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, he finished 7th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. He said he hopes to compete in steeplechase at the World Military Games this October in China and the Olympics next

year in Japan.

Emmanuel said he hopes to compete in the 1,500-meter and 5,000-meter races in both China and Japan.

Korir's best 10K time was 27:20.18 on Aug. 4, 2017 in London when he took 12th in the IATF 10,000-meter race. He finished 14th in the 10K at the 2016 Olympics in Rio with a time of 27:35.

### Women's Championship

Everson from the U.S. Air Force Academy was the first military woman across the finish line with a time of 34:20. She finished 15th overall in the women's USATF Cross Country Championship.

The next military finisher was two-time Army Ten-Miler champion Spc. Susan Tanui from Fort Carson with a time of 36:01.

Third for the armed forces was Army 1st Lt. Jennifer Hannigan from Fort Lee, Va., with a time of 38:05.

Marine Corps 1st Lt. Lindsay Carrick from Quantico, Virginia, took fourth place with a time of 38:19. The top Navy finisher was Lt. Katherin Irgens from the University of Washington's Navy ROTC program in Seattle. She finished in fifth place with a time of 38:50.

The team standings are determined by the placement of the first four women runners from each of the services. Army Maj. Kelly Calway from Fort Myer, Virginia, finished sixth with a time of 39:01 and Army Sgt. Ester Spradling from Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, finished seventh with a time of 39:30, and it helped put Army in first place with 18 points.

The Navy and Air Force both ended up with 44 points, and competition rules call for a tie to be broken by the fifth runners from each service. The Coast Guard's Stephanie Irizarry on the Navy Team beat out Air Force's Capt. Megan Binkley to give the Navy second place.

The Marines came in fourth with 51 points.

### Men's Teams

The men's team standings were determined by the top five finishers from each service. The Army men's team finished first with 15 points, followed by the Navy in second place with 73 points.

The Air Force team came in third place with a score of 75 and the Marine Corps finished fourth with a score of 77.

## The Story Report

## The seven pillars of teamwork is propelled by support

By GENEVIEVE STORY

PARAGLIDE

Our success as individuals is nourished and propelled by the support we receive from others. Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much.

During my recent attendance of a Fort Bragg MWR Unit Level Basketball league game on post, I had the opportunity to witness teamwork personified. Green versus red, constructively assisting one another as a force to battle against possession from the offense, like the inner mechanisms of a clock perfectly in sync, working in unison with separate commission and a common vision.

I surround myself in sport — no shame, what-so-ever. It's my bread and butter; my home away from home. Whether in the pursuit of my latest wit, intellect or strategy as the sports editor and reporter for the Paraglide newspaper, existing resolutely as a Philly 'Phanatic' or spending my early mornings circling the Hercules track at Pope Army Airfield

for 'Workout Wednesday', I crave allegiance and reaching for something greater than myself.

I appreciate witnessing hard-work and the universe conspiring together, and I enjoy seeing faith and tenacity evolve into joy and success for the squad. Nothing garners more respect from me than a selfless pursuit — modesty, diligence and tireless objectivity, improving independently, towards one goal in unison.

Teams with talented players have an understandable advantage, but they are not guaranteed success. Talent or independence is not enough to stand alone and win a championship, a war, a marriage, or a friendship — you name the purpose. Teamwork is the essential ingredient to this success, maximizing the end result by embracing the importance of the unit.

The pillars of teamwork correspondingly align with the Army core values. Regardless of differences, you strive, shoulder to shoulder, with a common commitment. You embrace individuality, elevate one another with respect and integrity and continuously challenge one another

to be better people. Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.

My sport is saturated in its independent nature but has an overarching importance to community. This is one big running tribe and we are all in this together.

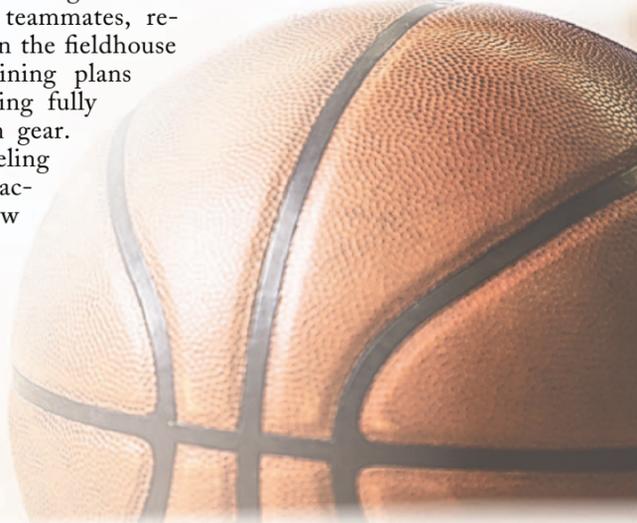
When I began to approach my post-collegiate running career, I was concerned I wouldn't find as much fulfillment if I was no longer going to be operating on a "team" in the traditional sense. I no longer would be living with my teammates, reporting to practice in the fieldhouse daily, receiving training plans from coach and being fully equipped with team gear. I wouldn't be traveling from state to state racing with my fellow harriers.

But as an athlete and a runner still, and a professional, I am actually surrounded and uplifted by thousands of other men and women with whom I

share a mindset and goals. To keep taking action, to continue challenging myself, and to be a person for others. The team mantra coresponds to life.

Like a baseman, to a linebacker, or a right wing, to a middle distance runner, reaping the reward of the win in competition as an individual isn't the primary goal. It is about giving back in the shared taste for competition, camaraderie and achievement.

That is the ultimate reward.

**Bull-Riding on the Farm:**

Each Sunday, Shady Acres Rodeo, a self-sustaining farm, hosts a bull-riding event. Bring your friends and family out to enjoy watching some bull riding (or take your own turn on a bull).

Event times fluctuate from week to week. Call ahead at (919) 669-6820 or visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/ShadyAcresRodeo](https://www.facebook.com/ShadyAcresRodeo) for times.

**Ambition Boxing Academy:**

Ambition Boxing Academy and Ambition Athletics offers a unique approach to training. Coach Khalil combines fundamental performance through boxing.

Classes offered are for youth and adults. Adult classes are **Mondays through Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m.** Youth classes are **6 to 7 p.m.** For more information contact (910) 987-0671.

**Yoga and Beer with Robin:**

Enjoy yoga and then drink beer. Pinky Pig will be coming through to serve up some great barbecue. Come to the bar and enjoy any number of delicious post-yoga beers **Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon at Hugger Mugger Brewing in Sanford.**

**Shag Dance Lessons:**

Learn to shag dance and have fun while exercising, no partner necessary. **Lessons are the first four Mondays of each month at the Elks Lodge** and are \$10 a night or \$30 a month.

Classes are 45 minutes. **Beginners class begins at 6:45 p.m.; intermediate class at 7:30 p.m.** Call (910) 323-2526 for more information.

**Tai Chi for Health:**

Practice this flowing Eastern exercise with instructor Rich Martin while overlooking the garden **every Tuesday at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**

Tai Chi is best practiced in loose, comfortable clothing. Dress for the weather. Bring a water bottle. All levels and walk-ins are available. Admission is \$17 for non-garden members, \$15 for garden members.

**Yoga in the Garden:**

Cape Fear Botanical Garden and the YMCA of the Sandhills have partnered together for Yoga in the Garden. Grab a yoga mat and rejuvenate at a yoga session in the Orangery at the **Cape Fear Botanical Garden from 6 to 7 p.m. every Wednesday.** Improve flexibility, build strength, ease tension and relax through posture and breathing techniques for

beginners and experts alike.

Bring a yoga mat, a water bottle and an open mind to enjoy this all-levels class.

Pre-registration is required. Call (910) 486-0221, ext. 36 or stop by the garden to register. Free for CFBG members and YMCA of the Sandhills members; \$5 for guests.

**Ice and Inline Skating:**

The Cleland Ice and Inline Skating Rinks facility offers year-round skating, not only as a form of exercise, but as an affordable and constructive family leisure activity. It is the only ice rink within a 60-mile radius that provides year-round ice skating.

This facility has a comprehensive ice skating program, to include open skating, group and private lessons, figure skating clubs, parties (schools, units and special interest groups) and private rink rental.

This facility is easily accessible for both military and civilian patrons. Six 30-minute classes are held once per week, on **Mondays** for six weeks. Visit <https://bragg.armymwr.com/programs/cleland-ice-and-inline-skating-rink> for more information or call (910) 396-5127.

**Aqua Spin:**

Tired of a normal spin class? If the answer is "yes," then join us for aqua spin. Classes take place at the **Tolson indoor pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.**

**Hatha Yoga:**

This focuses on the breath (pranayama) and yoga poses. This class will be a gentle yoga. Slow and great for beginners or students who prefer a more relaxed style. Poses are held longer. This class is held at **Hercules and Towle Courts physical fitness centers.** Classes vary, check MWR website [www.bragg.armymwr.com](http://www.bragg.armymwr.com) for the schedule.

**Sculpted:**

For that lean, toned look with fast results sculpted is a total body strength and conditioning workout combining the benefits of traditional weight training and great music. The original barbell workout. This class is offered at **Hercules Physical Fitness Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m.**

**Boot Camp:**

Interval training, alternating various body sculpting moves and aerobic exercises on the step, with barbells,

bands or weights. This class is offered **twice a month at Hercules Physical Fitness Center.** Check the MWR website [www.bragg.armymwr.com](http://www.bragg.armymwr.com) for the schedule.

**Prenatal Yoga:**

Join MWR for prenatal yoga on **Saturdays at 1 p.m. at Hercules Physical Fitness Center.** Open to DOD ID cardholders, ages 16 years and above. Max 20 participants. For details, please call (910) 394-4350.

**Personal Training:**

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**Programs:**

Individual: one-on-one training with a certified personal trainer to meet your maximum fitness goals

Buddy: two clients train together with one personal trainer to meet their goals.

Classes are open to DOD cardholders and their guests, ages 16 and older.

For more information on our personal trainers and and/or to sign up for this program or a personal assessment, visit our specialized training webpage at [bragg.armymwr.com/programs/specialized-training](http://bragg.armymwr.com/programs/specialized-training).

**Run Oak Island**

The 4th Annual Run Oak Island takes place Saturday, February 16, 2019. Race day events include a marathon, half marathon and 5K. All finishers receive a 3-D medal, T-shirt and post-race party and beer garden. <https://coastalraceproductions.com/race/run-oak-island>.

**Pinehurst Half Marathon**

The Pinehurst Half Marathon, 10K and 5K takes place Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019 at 7am. The Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K will run through the private grounds of the world-class Pinehurst Golf resort, featuring scenic views of the breathtaking resort property and the quaint Village of Pinehurst before finishing with a finishers medal and post-race vineyard vines Champagne Brunch at the resort. <https://resortraces.com/races/pinehurst-half-marathon/#experience>

**Fum Run 5K:**

The Fum Run will kick off **Feb. 23** and the race is a 3.01-mile route in Hope Mills. The route has a total ascent of 42.63 feet and has a maximum elevation of 172.57 feet. The run will begin at **8:30 a.m.** at Camping World of Fayetteville with an exhilarating straightaway along **Highway 95 on State Road 2275** followed by a quick right onto Marracco Drive.

This route leads racers into a bucolic little neighborhood where smooth straightaways and wide corners provide a comfortable, but competitive, course. Ultimately, participants will weave back around to Marracco Drive before coming to a crescendo with a mad dash, walk, waddle or run to the finish line at Camping World of Fayetteville where it all began.

**Shamrocks and Shenanigans Virtual 4-Mile Run/Walk:**

Leprechaun costumes, traditional Irish food and running; of course there's no better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day than completing the inaugural Shamrocks and Shenanigans Virtual four-miler event. Celebrate your race and the "Luck of the Irish" with runners from all 50 states and around the world.

Complete each distance one at a time or if you're feeling lucky complete all 4 miles. Either way, we encourage you to wear your finest St. Patrick's Day attire and have fun. Your virtual event can be completed any time from March 1 through 31. The race will take place **March 1**, starting at 12 a.m. For more information visit [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com).

**All American Marathon, Mike to Mike Half Marathon and All American 5K**

Fort Bragg Family and MWR, in conjunction with the City of Fayetteville presents the Sixth Annual All American Marathon, the Mike to Mike Half Marathon, and the All American 5K.

The All American Marathon and Mike to Mike Half Marathon start at **7a.m.** in Festival Park in historic downtown Fayetteville and finish on Fort Bragg at the Main Post Parade Field. The All American 5K starts at **7:30 a.m.** and finishes at the Main Post Parade Field on Fort Bragg sharing the finish line with the full and half marathons.

The events will take place **March 24.** Every registered participant receives a performance T-shirt and customized finisher medal. Packet pick-up and The Health and Fitness Expo will be held at The Metropolitan Room, downtown Fayetteville March 22 and 23.

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