

THE PARAGLIDE

Telling the Fort Bragg Story™

May 23, 2019

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INSIDE THE 'GLIDE'

FOCUS - B



Hurricane, language barrier didn't stop Soldier from becoming a champion: "I was nervous but tried to hide it," Figueroa said. "I don't think the nerves ever really go away when you're waiting for something like that."

LIFE - C



ASOM displays 12th Annual Field of Honor: "It is more than just a flag, it's a symbol of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

SPORTS - D



Fastball, Friday night lights at Ritz-Epps: Beginning May 1 through Aug. 3, Fort Bragg's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) hosts four leagues of unit-level softball.

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Photos by Lewis Perkins/Paraglide

Michael Haskin, left, holds 5-year-old ILA while Nadine Haskin speaks with reporters Tuesday. Later that evening, the Linden Oaks neighborhood, decorated with Christmas lights, held a Christmas parade to include local motorcycle and Jeep clubs, the Fort Bragg Fire Department and military police escorting Santa through the area.

Christmas for ILA

Linden Oaks community rallies around 5-year-old cancer patient

By JELIA HEPNER
 PARAGLIDE

"I cried a little today; to see the community come together is just an amazing feeling," said Linda Cornell, military wife. "This beautiful little girl has touched so many people and we thank her."

The Linden Oaks neighborhood community gathered Tuesday, to attend "Christmas for



Santa makes a special spring appearance for the ILA's Army Linden Oaks Christmas parade.

ILA." ILA Quinn Haskins, 5, is coming to the end of her fight with terminal brain cancer called Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

With the support of Corvias, Family and friends of ILA hosted a pre-Christmas event consisting of motorcycle riders, emergency fire trucks, military police, various vehicles decorated with holiday lights and singing carolers

parading throughout the neighborhood.

"I came out here with my Family to celebrate an early Christmas for her, I just wanted to show her that even though I don't know her, that there are people who care," said Tiffany Brown, 11.

See ILA — Page A3

#MeetYourInspector: New team joins DPW housing

By ELVIA KELLY
 FORT BRAGG PAO

Brisket, Italian sweet sausages and smoked-stuffed peppers sizzling on the grill while on a camping trip with his wife, Tonia, and three Dachshunds, one being a rescue, is a good day for Chris Barnes.

When he is not camping during his off time, Barnes, a retired first sergeant from the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, serves as an inspector for Fort Bragg's Directorate of Public Works housing division. "I've been with Housing for 11 years," Barnes said. "For 10 years, I was inspecting the barracks. Now, I'm inspecting homes on the installation."

Barnes is a licensed inspector through the state of North Carolina and uses his skills on Fort



Photo by Elvia Kelly/Fort Bragg Garrison Public Affairs

Fort Bragg DPW housing welcomes first wave of upcoming home inspectors, May 14.

Bragg to ensure the quality of the homes are up to standard before a new resident moves in.

"I always start on the outside then work my way in," Barnes said. "Doing an inspection is a process. Some of the areas I inspect include the mechanical room, the wiring system, tilt

prevention on stoves, smoke detectors, windows, foundation, and so on. I check to confirm whether wood is rotted and if mold is present. I annotate the results in a report, and provide a copy to our RCI partner Corvias."

Barnes stated that while many homes have

smoke detectors, homes issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act have strobe lights that flash for the hearing impaired.

"As an inspector, you learn the differences between houses, how they're built, and what to look for," he said. "It takes time to do an

inspection. An initial inspection takes an hour with a follow on 20 to 30 minutes for the home inspection report, for a total of about an hour and a half per inspection."

Barnes added that a re-inspection of a completed turned home can take about 30 minutes provided the identified items from the initial inspection were completed and the turn process done correctly.

See New — Page A3

Editor's Note: To place a work order to Corvias, contact your respective neighborhood center or go online to the new resident portal at https://fortbraggcorvias.residentportal.com/residentportal/?module=authentication&action=view_login.

PARAGLIDE

Fort Bragg Voices

This week, we asked:

What are you doing for Memorial Day weekend?



"We are here for All American Week to honor World War II Soldiers. I will be packing my things up and headed to Kings Mountain National Military Park, they are doing a timeline there."

Ralph McCall,
Veteran



"My brother and I have a ceremony that we do in Detroit at three different cemeteries. We play taps every Memorial Day and Veterans Day. That is our little tradition."

Eddie Clark,
Veteran



"I will be training at Fort Knox for ROTC Advanced Camp."

Cadet Christian Weaver,
University of North Georgia, Boars Head Bde.



"I am doing a reenactment on Memorial Day weekend. The C-Company, 505th here will be headed west to set up a modern day World War II."

Retired Sgt. Darrell Hicks,
Veteran



"I will be on leave. I am going back home to State College, Pennsylvania."

Sgt. Grey Rockey,
Co. A, 127th AEB, 1BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.



Message from XVIII Airborne Corps Command team

Memorial Day 2019

Memorial Day is a time to reflect and honor the brave men and women of our armed services who have given the last full measure of devotion. President Kennedy said that a nation reveals itself not only by the people it produces, but also by the people it honors.

Heavy is the price of war, but heavier still is the cost of peace. Winning the peace requires continuous vigilance, investment, and sacrifice from the free nations of the world. Today is a day to honor and remember our fallen and their legacy. The men and women of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg represent the best and brightest of our grateful nation, and stand ready to defend against evil and those that threaten our way of life.

While our resolve has been tested and our strength has been tried — it is through the support of our home communities like Fayetteville and Fort Bragg that we draw the will to remain resolute in our mission. Those who have served and those who are serving now, continue the tradition of standing together against evil. It is through our humility, compassion and determination that we will defeat those who use terror to subdue others. This is what makes our Army the strongest the world has ever known.

Our service men and women continue to answer the call to duty and are the lifeblood of our nation's fighting forces. Their willingness to put themselves in harm's way, while serving on the frontiers of freedom and for the benefit of all mankind, is not forgotten.

My sincerest gratitude to you and your Families for what you do each and every day in support of the mission and your country.

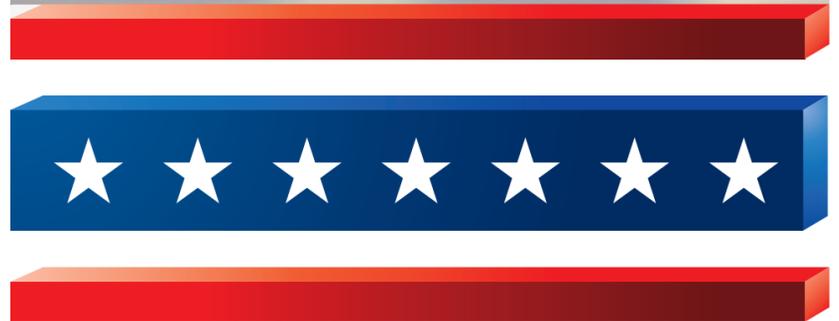
Today, and every day, we honor the fallen and their Families with our heartfelt thanks and support. We will continue along the path they walked in our shared mission.



Charles W. Albertson
Charles W. Albertson
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
Command Sergeant Major



Paul LaCamera
Paul LaCamera
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding General



THE PARAGLIDE

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ILA, who has been placed on hospice care, was able to enjoy some activities the past few weeks including a Halloween event, seeing a unicorn and participating in activities Family and friends have coordinated for her.

"This situation has turned some many strangers into friends; we could not have done any of this without them," said Debbie Stone Biesel, a Family friend who assisted with coordination. "We have made magic — this has been just amazing."

The month of May is Brain Tumor Awareness, so the community of Linden Oaks and ILA's Army organization have teamed up to make this month special for ILA and her family.

"It is amazing, it's unbelievable, sometimes the world feels very negative," said Nadine Haskin, ILA's mother. "Sometimes the news can be very disturbing but when you see stuff like this, it shows that they are some good people still out there."

In the past couple of weeks, ILA's health has declined, which has led to her not being able to attend school anymore.

Though doctors do not have a timeline for the ILA's lifespan, her mother said, "We can never predict when it's her time. I don't think she will make it past this summer — I think this is her last season."

ILA was diagnosed with DIPG cancer in October 2017. There is nearly a zero percent survival rate and an average life expectancy of 9 to 13 months post-diagnosis.

Her Family and friends have been preparing for numerous festivities in the future for her to participate in, such as her preschool graduation this week.

"Out of the sorrow comes the joy of a community of friends, Families and strangers who have reached out to this



Photos by Lewis Perkins/Paraglide

Michael Haskin holds ILA during interviews at Linden Oaks, a community on Fort Bragg. ILA was diagnosed with DIPG cancer in October 2017. There is nearly a zero percent survival rate and an average life expectancy of 9 to 13 months post-diagnosis.

Family for help and support to make ILA's last days a memorable one," Biesel said.

If individuals would like to send cards to the Haskins Family, they can be mailed to: ILA's Christmas, 56 Ram Drive, Cameron, North Carolina 28326.

"ILA has brought us all together in a world of craziness she is a light and she is showing a community how to be there for each other during the hard times," Cornell said.



ILA's Army cheers as the military police lead the parade through the decorated streets.

A challenge Barnes experienced was being short staffed. After a resident moves out, each home undergoes an inspection and follow-up re-inspection. With 6,150 homes on the installation, inspecting each home that became vacant after a move out delayed move in for incoming residents.

Greg Jackson, chief of DPW housing, added that delaying occupancy for some residents to ensure the quality of their home is up to standard and in good condition is worth the wait.

"We are not going to waver in the face of timing of occupancy," Jackson said. "There's a lot of pressure to occupy the homes on both DPW Housing and Corvias because it is permanent change of station (PCS) season, but we are holding firm to the standard we adopted to ensure each home is inspected before move in."

As DPW housing's initiative to expand by adding new hires came to fruition, Barnes welcomes the first wave of upcoming inspectors to the team.

"The new inspectors will contribute to the mission by ensuring the homes Corvias is offering our Soldiers and Families meet with our standards," Barnes said. "They are on board to receive the training they need and will assist greatly with executing home inspections on Fort Bragg."

When asked if there are any final words for the community, Barnes encouraged residents to contact Corvias for issues needing to be addressed.

"The community should know that all homes, both those on and off Fort Bragg, can develop conditions and issues that require evaluation and repairs by a service professional," Barnes said. "If you are on Fort Bragg and your home develops a problem that needs evaluation by a professional,

please ensure you notify Corvias as soon as possible, so they can address the problem before it becomes a major problem."

While Barnes is not on Fort Bragg performing home inspections for service members and their Families, one may find him travelling with Tonia and their three Dachshunds to the mountains or the beach in their camper.



Photo by Elvia Kelly/Fort Bragg Garrison PAO

Chris Barnes, chief of RCI home inspection section with DPW Housing Division, locks the door of a home on Fort Bragg after completing a home inspection.

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When Jake Messier dropped out of college in his junior year to join the U.S. Marine Corps, he promised his dad that he would see the world and that he'd finish college.

Messier served as combat correspondent, traveling to 43 countries and covering stories about fellow servicemembers. During his last assignment in Tokyo, he made good on the second part of his promise too, completing a bachelor's degree from UMUC.

At age 45, he founded Olderpreneur Coach, a consulting service for older entrepreneurs, and HEARD Strategy & Storytelling, a marketing firm that created jobs for furloughed employees during the recent government shutdown.

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Notices of Estate

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This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Lt. Col. Christian Blevins, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Maj. Terence Staples, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 689-8799 or email terence.k.staples.mil@mail.mil.

Sgt. Jafet Rodriguez

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Sgt. Jafet Rodriguez, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st Lt. Jes Fontanilla, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (813) 536-9919 or email jes.c.fontanilla.mil@socom.mil.

Sgt. 1st Class Justin L. Goff

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Sgt. 1st Class Justin L. Goff, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Capt. Richard Mades, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (540) 903-0951 or email richard.mades@socom.mil.

Spc. Joselyn J. Britton

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Spc. Joselyn J. Britton, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st Lt. Olivia Staff, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (434) 806-5926 or email olivia.j.staff.mil@mail.mil.

Spc. Tyona S. Williams

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Spc. Tyona S. Williams, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st Lt. Myles Hoponick, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (203) 814-0967 or email myles.w.hoponick.mil@mail.mil.

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Hurricane, language barrier didn't stop Soldier from becoming a champion

By PVT. CARLOS CUEBAS FANTAUZZI
22ND MPAD

Soldiers began to line up outside of a conference room on the first floor of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, XVIII Airborne Corps, on Fort Bragg. The tension radiating off of them was palpable. Some paced, others mumbled the Soldier's Creed under their breath over and over.

The cause of the tension: The Soldier of the Month Board.

As they began to file in, Spc. Jonathan M. Figueroa, a human resources specialist with the battalion's Headquarters Support Company (HSC), readied himself to take on the board for his fourth time.

Success was not in Figueroa's reach in his first three boards.

On his fourth and final attempt, he recalled the anxiousness and nervousness he felt his first time attending the board.

"I was nervous but tried to hide

it," Figueroa said. "I don't think the nerves ever really go away when you're waiting for something like that."

Figueroa, a San Juan, Puerto Rico native, came into the Army at the age of 34.

"I decided to join because I reached a cap on what I could do on the island," he said. "All the higher positions required speaking English, which I did not know how to do."

Figueroa's difficulties with his first three boards did not come from his lack of knowledge, but from his difficulty in speaking English.

He said Puerto Rican education does a good job of teaching how to read and write, but tends to leave out the speaking portion.

"I knew the material and my NCOs knew that I knew it," Figueroa said. "I just could not express what I was trying to say."

Figueroa's drive to excel and win the board did not go unnoticed.

He was hand-picked to attend the board by 1st Sgt. Simpson A. Barber, first sergeant for HSC, who had seen Figueroa's potential and had watched him grow since he first came into the Army.

"I've had the pleasure to work with Figueroa since he was a private," Barber said. "When he first arrived, I noticed he had a language barrier, but I saw the potential in him to grow."

Barber pushed Figueroa to go to the board on numerous occasions, because he saw his potential and noticed what he was missing was not knowledge, but confidence in his English-speaking abilities.

"The first time I saw him come into the board, all I saw was sweat trickling down," Barber said.

Barber did not want to see that potential go to waste, so he worked with Figueroa and his leadership to develop a plan of action.

"I went up to him and his non-commissioned officer, told them what they needed to do, and they executed," he said.

Figueroa began to study non-stop. He took all the time he could to overcome his language barrier and master the material.

Yet in the midst of battling to improve his English, Figueroa was hit with more stress as the deadliest hurricane to hit the Caribbean since 2004 threatened his home and his family.

"When (Hurricane Maria) happened, I was already here with my wife and youngest son," Figueroa said. "But I was really worried because it left the island



Photos by Pvt. Carlos Cuebas Fantauzzi/22nd MPAD

Spcs. Dylan T. Rhodes, left, and Jonathan M. Figueroa, human resource specialists with HHBn., XVIII Abn. Corps, share a candid moment between posing for photos of Figueroa's award at Fort Bragg, May 7. Figueroa is the battalion's Soldier of the Month for April. The two Soldiers have worked together for over a year and have become close friends in the process.

(Puerto Rico) destroyed, and I feared for the rest of my Family who were still on the island."

"A group of us within my unit actually tried to volunteer to go down there in support, but the mission was filled," he said.

When Figueroa found out the support mission to Puerto Rico was already full, he knew he had to focus harder to keep his goals in focus.

"One is always going to be worried," he said. "But I knew I had to keep going with what I was pursuing — nothing good was going to come from stopping. As Figueroa walked into the board for his fourth time, the board members noticed the difference.

"The transformation from his first board to the last was night

and day," Barber said. "He came in confident and killed it."

Figueroa won the Soldier of the Month Board April 23.

"I felt a great honor when I won," he said. "I couldn't wait to call my father to let him know the news, and hearing him say 'I'm proud of you son, keep going and don't stop,' was the best feeling I could get."

By winning the board, Figueroa proved that barriers such as age and language are not enough to dissuade someone who wants to achieve a goal.

"I joined the Army late and not speaking English," Figueroa said. "I want to be the example for those who think they can't achieve a goal to show them that it is possible if you just believe and never give up."



Spc. Jonathan M. Figueroa was the HHBn., XVIII Abn. Corps Soldier of the Month for April, and his position requires meticulous attention to detail, as it pertains to Soldier records.

PEO Soldier fields U.S. Army's first personal Unmanned Aerial System

By PATRICK FERRARIS
PEO SOLDIER

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Imagine a battlefield where Soldiers have access to near-real time video transmitted back to them on a handheld device. Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier fielded the first personal Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) in the U.S. Army to Soldiers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, April 29 through May 3 at Fort Bragg.

Soldiers did more than just inventory and take possession of the system during the week-long fielding. The Soldiers were also trained via classroom instruction about the system's capabilities, its controls and how to operate it.



Sgt. Richard Molina, Co. B, 1st Bn., 505th PIR, 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div., shows off the Soldier Borne Sensors (SBS) system during its initial fielding May 2. The system contains a base station, hand controller, display and two air vehicles, all man-portable.

They received hands-on training of the system and flew the drone through various scenarios, which culminated in an exercise that tested everything they learned throughout the week. It was all done in preparation for the 3rd BCT to take the system with them on their upcoming deployment, making this the first personal UAS to deploy at the squad-level within a unit in the Army.

New Army technology like the Soldier Borne Sensors (SBS) mitigates future losses of life and injuries by having a drone complete dangerous work combat Soldiers would usually perform on their own such as sending a fire team to gain reconnaissance information, or sending out dismounted Soldiers for route clearance operations. PEO Soldier delivers systems and equipment like this to Soldiers to ensure they remain decisive and dominant throughout the full spectrum of military operations.

The UAS is part of PEO Soldier's SBS program and it consists of multiple components: the ground control system, which is composed of a base station with hand controller and display unit, and two air vehicles (one day and one night). The display acts as the main hub for Soldiers to interact with the system, while the air vehicles are small, highly maneuverable airborne sensors with low visual and audio signatures that support pre-planned and on-the-fly reconnaissance missions.

"This system is something new that not a lot of Soldiers have touched or even seen before, so it's cool to test it out and push it to its limits before we take it with us on our deployment," said Sgt. Dalton Kruse, one of the operators being trained on the system. "Most of us have never flown a drone before, but this training gave us the confidence and knowledge to use the system, making us more comfortable to use it while deployed.

Kruse said it was easy to pick up and fly, very user friendly and would benefit his unit down range. The potential of having a personal UAS equipped to every squad gives them the ability to assess a situation from a cover and concealed position, mitigating the risk to the Soldier.

John Paul Kruszewski, lead engineer for the unmanned systems at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center (CCDC SC), likens



Photos by Patrick Ferraris/Army

Pvt. Kelsey Darnell, Co. B, 1st Bn., 508th PIR, 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div., lets go of the air vehicle as it takes off during the systems fielding, May 2. Soldiers spent the week preparing for the flight exercise with classroom and hands on training.

the system to a flying pair of binoculars.

"Using this system, Soldiers can understand their operational environment better so they can make better decisions and make these decisions quicker than ever. It makes Soldiers more effective while reducing their tactical risk," he said. "The CCDC SC is dedicated to using science and technology to ensure America's warfighters are optimized, protected and lethal."

This means the SBS provides a type of protection to Soldiers they've never experienced before, and this protection is what Soldiers like, said Sgt. Ryan Subers, another operator of the system.

"I was really impressed with the system, its capabilities and what it offers Soldiers in terms of risk reduction," he said. "This kind of technology will be a life saver for us because it takes us out of harm's way while enhancing our ability to execute whatever combat mission we're on. I'm very grateful for technology like this and to be a part of the first unit to use it."

The initial fielding of the SBS paves the way for a system that will eventually equip every squad with an organic

UAS in the future.

"It is the start of an era where every squad will have vision beyond their line of sight," said Nathan Heslink, assistant program manager, SBS, PEO Soldier. "The squad will not have any dead space within its area of operations and this allows Soldiers to detect threats earlier than ever, meaning it is more likely Soldiers won't be harmed during their missions."



The SBS air vehicle flies in the sky during its fielding. The air vehicles are small, highly maneuverable airborne sensors that will serve to reduce the risk to Soldiers.

Spotlight: Master Sgt. Robert Selmon, USARC

Army Reserve Soldier reflects on Family's service to the nation

By CAPT. DANIEL JOHNSON
U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

In 1988, as 17-year-old Robert Lee Selmon sat on his couch watching images flicker on the screen of his television, he began to wonder about how he could further challenge himself.

The Seventy First High School product out of Fayetteville had already received word of his acceptance into North Carolina State University's electrical engineering program in the fall. Though he knew the field of study would lead to a lucrative career upon graduation, he was after more than just wealth. The TV commercial that came on next offered him exactly what he was looking for.

"People don't believe me when I tell them this story," said Master Sgt. Robert Lee Selmon, now working in the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) at Fort Bragg. "The 'Be All You Could Be' recruiting commercial came on, showing Soldiers and what the Army had to offer. The message was that you could get an edge on life being in the Army Reserve. Growing up around Fayetteville, I had seen Soldiers and what they were doing. I went to my local recruiter's office the next day."

Selmon has now been in the Army Reserve for 31 years. He's served in a variety of units across the world as a 42A, human resource management specialist. These units have ranged from the one he started with while at NC State to the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC).

"I wanted to serve my country while taking the opportunity to finish school,"

Selmon said. "My reserve recruiter worked with me and got me slotted into a unit near NC State until I graduated in 1993. At \$80 a drill, it wasn't about the pay to most of us. It was about finding a way to give back to the nation while also having a chance to continue our civilian lives."

Selmon said he is grateful for the many opportunities he's had while serving. Being stationed in Hawaii gave him the opportunity to visit foreign countries, such as Indonesia, Japan and the U.S. territory of Guam. Selmon also said he was proud to contribute to the Global War on Terror supporting USASOC in Afghanistan, working with what he felt were some of the best Soldiers the Army had to offer.

Now at USARC headquarters, Selmon is happy to get the opportunity to learn more about the strategic picture of the Army Reserve and how it supports the overall mission of the United States military.

"I took my career one year at a time," Selmon said. "I've had so many great experiences."

Selmon met his wife Kenya when they both worked at United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC). His wife retired earlier this year as a sergeant first class after many years of serving the nation.

"Being dual-military allowed us to help each other out in our careers, share a common understanding and language and even offer invaluable advice to our Family members," Selmon said. "We both learned how to overcome the hurdles we faced and that we could learn from every person we met."

Recently, Selmon made the list for promotion to sergeant major, a goal of his since he enlisted, and within the next year, will be promoted to the rank.

"I remember the old post command sergeant major on Fort Bragg ... my aunt knew him," Selmon said. "I would see how well respected he was by both officers and enlisted Soldiers. I wanted to be as professional as he was. I wanted to be the example for others to follow."

The couple's eldest son recently graduated basic and advanced individual training (AIT) as an 89B, Army ammunition specialist.

His father partly inspired his path to military service.

"For years my son said he didn't want to join the military," Selmon said. "Then one day, as we were talking about my

time in the Army, he mentioned a commercial he recently saw. He showed a genuine interest ... so I gave my recruiter friend a call."

Selmon said his son is now serving on active duty. He has been out of AIT for about a month; currently loving his career choice and the fact the Army has allowed him to see more of the world. Robert and Kenya Selmon are happy to have taken part in helping Ajani choose to serve.

"The Army Reserve is a great choice because it provides Americans with the opportunity to gain valuable experience from serving while still maintaining a work-life balance," Selmon said. "I've dedicated 31 years of my life to serving our nation and I wouldn't have had it any other way."



Courtesy Photos

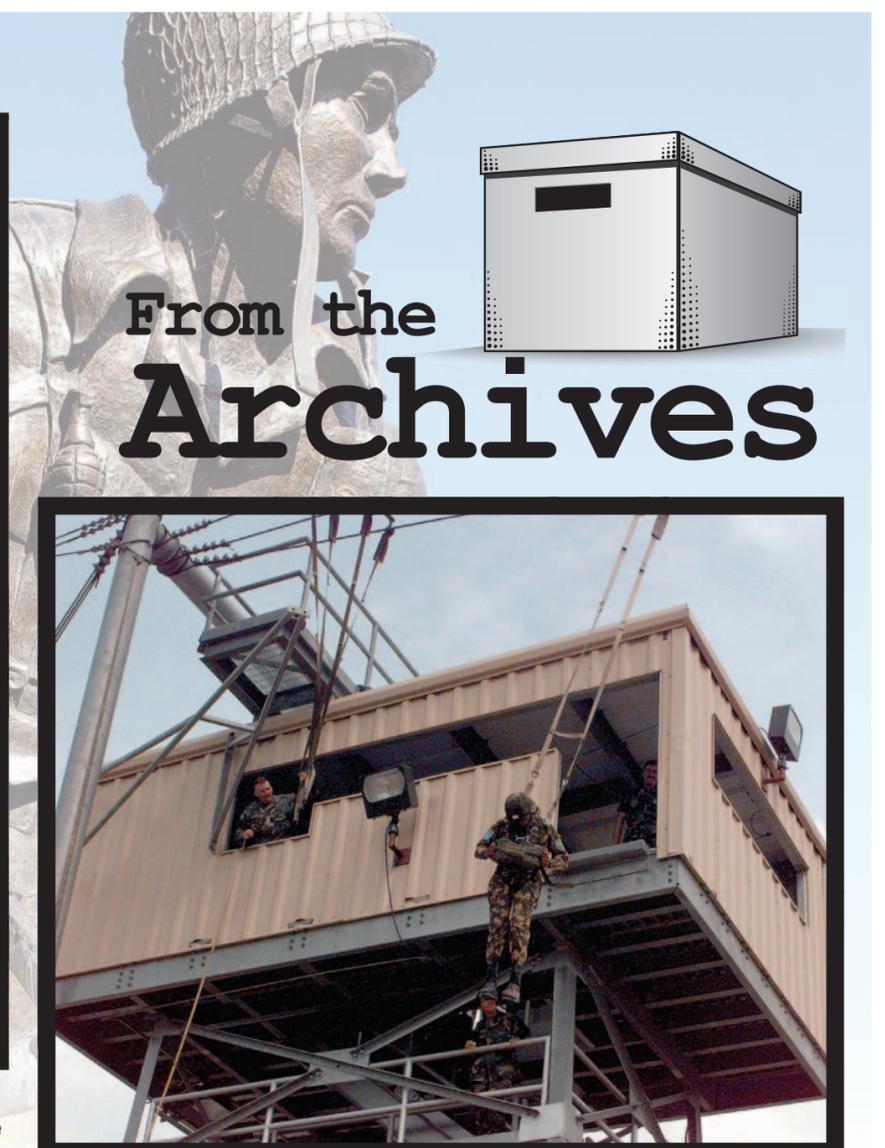
Army Reserve Master Sgt. Robert Selmon, USARC, prepares to begin his work day while assigned to USASOC in 2012 at a coalition operating base in Afghanistan. Selmon has been in the Army Reserve for 31 years, serving in positions across the world as a human resource management specialist.



Pvt. Ajani Desousa, left, stands with his mother, retired Sgt. 1st Class Kenya Selmon, right, during his graduation at Fort Lee, Virginia, in February. Kenya and Master Sgt. Selmon met at Fort Bragg, where they were both stationed with USACAPOC. Desousa recently enlisted in the active duty component of the Army and is stationed overseas.



A Soldier from Uzbekistan descends to the ground as he completes his practice parachute jump from a 34-foot high tower, Sept. 8, 1997. This preparation is for the joint exercise between the 82nd Abn. Div. and troops from Central Asia and other countries, including Russia and Turkey. It combined airborne operations, weapons training and cultural exchanges in order to strengthen the partnership between all the participants while improving conditions for a successful partnership for peace exercise.



A Soldier from Uzbekistan begins a practice parachute jump from a 34 foot high practice tower. This preparation is for the joint exercise between the 82nd Abn. Div. and troops from Central Asia and other countries, including Russia and Turkey.

Photos contributed by catalog archives.gov

XVIII Airborne Corps memorializes fallen leader

By **STAFF SGT. COURTNEY SMITH**
22ND MPAD

Next to the framed photo was a pair of polished jump boots, a maroon beret and identification tags, sitting in front of an audience of Soldiers, friends and family members.

A memorial ceremony to honor the life and service of Lt. Col. Christian Blevins, previously with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, XVIII Airborne Corps, took place at the 82nd Airborne Division Chapel on Fort Bragg, May 15. Blevins was posthumously promoted from major to lieutenant colonel.

The Virgin Islands native was 39 years old when he died. He held two masters degrees and a plethora of awards and decorations.

“He was a dependable leader who knew how to make everyone laugh, and he was passionate about his Family and military service,” said Capt. Mauro Bazan, speaker at the event and commander of Signal Intelligence and Sustainment Company, HHBn., XVIII Abn. Corps.

Blevins lost his fight with cancer April 23. The paratrooper passed away in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The ceremony concluded with Soldiers

standing at attention during the last roll call by 1st Sgt. Simpson Barber, Headquarters Support Company, HHBn., XVIII Abn. Corps.

“Sgt. 1st Class Mesa,” Barber shouted.

“Here first sergeant,” was the reply.

“1st Lt. Yezman,” Barber called.

“Here first sergeant,” Yezman replied.

“Capt. Mills,” Barber queried.

“Here first sergeant,” Mills responded.

“Lt. Col. Blevins.”

No response.

“Lt. Col. Christian Blevins.”

No response.

“Lt. Col. Christian David Blevins.”

No response.

A three-volley gun salute echoed from beyond the stained-glass windows that wrapped the sides of the chapel. A moment of silence followed.

As the speakers filed out, Family members had a final moment with Blevins’ monument.

“It was an honor and immeasurable privilege to serve with Lt. Col. Blevins the last seven months,” said Capt. Ashley Wilkins, commander of Company A, Fort Bragg Warrior Transition Battalion. “We choose who we will be in this life and he chose a life of service.”

When the ceremony was over, several Soldiers approached Blevins’ framed photo and saluted him one last time.



Photos by Pvt. Matthew Deckelman/22nd MPAD

Two paratroopers with the XVIII Abn. Corps’ HHBn. pay their respects during the memorial ceremony for Lt. Col. Christian D. Blevins, May 15. Blevins was a veteran of 19 years and he deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.



Left: 1st Sgt. Simpson Barber, HSC, HHBn., XVIII Abn. Corps, renders a salute as part of the memorial ceremony for Lt. Col. Christian D. Blevins. **Right:** Sgt. 1st Class Matthew R. Mesa, center, HSC, XVIII Abn. Corps, gets ready to speak in front of a collection of Soldiers and civilians during the memorial ceremony.



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Such sacrifice
through valor made,
A debt too deep
to be repaid,
From their courage
freedom born,
To remember them
the poppy worn.



Visit the USAA Poppy Wall of Honor - Memorial Day Weekend on the National Mall in D.C.



PoppyInMemory.com

ASOM displays 12th Annual Field of Honor

By **JELIA HEPNER**
PARAGLIDE

Hundreds of American flags covered the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM) parade field in downtown Fayetteville, May 18, in honor of the 12th Annual Field of Honor. The ceremony held in conjunction with The Cool Spring Downtown District and the ASOM Foundation pays tribute to the memory of veterans and those currently serving in the military.

"It is more than just a flag, it's a symbol of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country," said Col. Kyle Reed, Fort Bragg garrison commander.

Each flag represents a story and a display of both the person who sponsored the flag and the flag honoree.

Other speakers for the event included Don Chase from Beasley

Media Group and Fayetteville Mayor Mitch Colvin.

"We will always celebrate their memory and show appreciation for those who still serve," Colvin said.

During the ceremony, 10 flags representing the lives of fallen Soldiers were placed at the top of the ASOM field by friends, Family and sponsors.

After the event, participants were able to walk the field and observe names tags of each Soldier and their sponsor for every flag.

"My dad served for 30 years in the military, for the ASOM to host something like this means the world to me," said Crystal Syke. "I almost cried because I know he is looking down on me and I hope that he can see the world did not forget about him."

The Field of Honor can be visited from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. any day of the week until June 27.



Photos by Jelia Hepner/Paraglide

Participants of the 12th Annual Field Of Honor place a flag in a place holder in honor of a Soldier who passed away. Each flag represents the story behind the life of the veteran and the name of the sponsor.



Liz Mileschko, left, executive director, ASOMF, Col. Kyle Reed, middle, Fort Bragg garrison commander, and a representative of the Rolling Thunder Chapter 1, salute the flag.



The Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry color guard marches on the parade field for the national anthem at ASOM's Field of Honor ceremony honoring the fallen.



Photo by Sgt. Jeremiah Meaney/525th MIB

Run, Honor, Remember: Boots at Hedrick Stadium



Photo by Sgt. Jeremiah Meaney/525th MIB

Above: Observers view boots on display as participants finish the final length of the course for the Run, Honor, Remember 5K, May 18, at Hedrick Stadium.

Below: Mikayla Kidd, a missionary from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, clips photos onto boots, May 17. Kidd was one of many volunteers from throughout the community who showed up to help organize the boots on the field.



Photo by Alyson Hansen/Paraglide

Above: Soldiers from units across Fort Bragg polish and clean boots, May 17. The boots are held in storage throughout the year and require cleaning before being placed on Hedrick Stadium's field.

Left: Personalized boots from friends and Family wait to be lined up at Hedrick Stadium.



Photo by Alyson Hansen/Paraglide

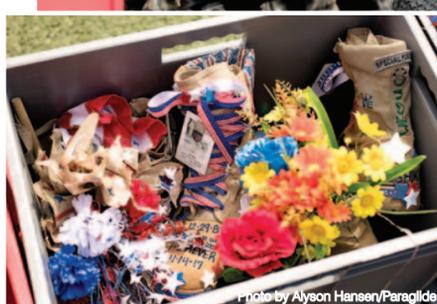


Photo by Alyson Hansen/Paraglide

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

EVENTS AROUND POST & THE STATE

THIS WEEKEND

FAYETTEVILLE'S VEGAN FESTIVAL

When: Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Prima Elements Holistic Wellness Center

Cost: Free

Join Green Roots Society and Prima Elements Wellness Center for a celebration of compassionate living in the vegan-friendly city of Fayetteville. At the second Annual Vegan Festival, enjoy an outdoor festival with food trucks, food samples, entertainment, speakers, nutrition and health, exercise vendors, giveaways and fun activities.

This year's festival will, once again, focus on compassion and promoting plant-based living through education, experience and visualization

For information about speakers and a list of vendors, visit <https://www.veganfestivalafaync.com/>.

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: "WINNER TAKE ALL" CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

When: Saturday, noon

Where: Segra Stadium

Cost: \$10 and \$25 for championship game, \$45 and \$55 for a full-week pass

The 2019 Big South Conference Baseball Championship, presented by Hardee's, will be hosted by Segra Stadium. The tournament is scheduled for May 21 through 25 and will feature the top nine teams in the final standings. The event will conclude with Saturday's "Winner Take All" Championship game, to be broadcast nationally on ESPNU. The winner of the tournament will receive the Big South Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Regionals. For more information, visit http://bigsouthsports.com/sports/2019/2/19/BB_0219193104.aspx.

FAYETTEVILLE'S MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

When: Monday, 10 a.m.

Where: Freedom Memorial Park

Cost: Free

Join the greater Fayetteville community in honoring those Cumberland County veterans who died in wartime at this annual ceremony. Limited bleacher seating for 300 people is available at the event, so bringing a lawn chair is recommended. Park at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum or at the Medical Arts Building.

Visit www.freedommemorialpark.org/memorial-day-ceremony/ for updates.

MEMORIAL DAY EXHIBITION

When: Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Averasboro Battlefield and Museum, Dunn, North Carolina

Cost: Free

David Stanley and Associates will be at the Averasboro Battlefield, representing those members of the military who served in the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. Displays and activities will include a 1941 M3A1 Scout Car, Civil War Parrot rifle, Caisson with Limber, Coehorn mortar, firing of Parrot rifle and Coehorn mortar, a 1942 Willys Jeep with a .30 caliber machine gun, a weapons display — U.S., German and Japanese — and different period uniforms. There will be over 30 craft vendors, providing lots of options for take-home gifts. There will also be food and snacks available onsite. This is "Military Living History at Its Finest."

For more information, visit www.visitfayettevillenc.com/event/memorial-day-exhibition/14945/.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

When: Monday, 10 a.m.

Where: Veteran's Park, Spring Lake

Cost: Free

Honor and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We will be paying special tribute to a Spring Lake native, retired Sgt. 1st Class Charles Lindsey "Jay" Johnson Jr., with a memorial brick in Veteran's Park. In addition to the ceremonial laying of the wreath, the keynote address will be delivered by Col. Gregory B. Beaudoin, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division commander. Elected officials and members of the community will gather to pay tribute to those who have given so much. For more information, visit www.spring-lake.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-memorial-day-promo-6.jpg.

RECURRING EVENTS

FAYETTEVILLE BASEBALL FEVER

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

Where: Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum

Cost: Free

Don't miss out on spring training in local history. "Baseball in Fayetteville" is the museum's newest exhibit. This exhibit highlights the community's love of the game. As Fayetteville embarks on the newest chapter of baseball here, learn about the nearly 150 years of homerun hitting heritage.

"Baseball in Fayetteville" will be open through 2019 and part of 2020.

12TH ANNUAL FIELD OF HONOR

When: Recurring daily, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. until June 22

Where: Airborne and Special Operations Museum

Cost: Free to attend

Hundreds of American flags fly on the parade grounds of the ASOM in Downtown Fayetteville every year. The public is invited to visit the field and pay their respects. It celebrates the veteran, regardless of time served, branch of military, or wartime service.

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

NC TRAIL DAYS FESTIVAL

When: May 31 and June 1, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; June 2, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Elkin, North Carolina

Cost: Free

Elkin sits at the confluence of three major trails: N.C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and Yadkin River Paddle Trail. The inaugural N.C. Trail Days Festival ties all that outdoor recreation together with three days of celebrating trails and the people who enjoy them.

Festivities begin Friday with several activities during the day, followed by an evening gathering at Elkin Municipal Park with live music and a low country boil.

Saturday starts with a 5K hill-climb trail race to the top of Stone Mountain and concludes with a bonfire and live music at the Foothills Arts Council and many more activities. Sunday includes a family paddle flotilla on the Yadkin River and exploring the Surry County Wine Trail.

For more information, visit <https://www.nctraildays.com/>.

PET FEST OF THE SANDHILLS AND PET WALK

When: June 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Hope Mills Municipal Park

Cost: \$10 to \$20

Lace up your sneakers and grab the leash, because you're going for a walk.

Once again, Pet Fest is kicking off with a 5K Pet Walk. Join Fayetteville Animal Protection Society (FAPS) in beautiful Hope Mills Municipal Park and have fun along the walking trail. \$20 tickets will include a FAPS T-shirt.

For more information about Pet Fest and the Pet Walk, visit www.facebook.com/events/1250497641741391.

ROCKABILLY PICNIC

When: June 2, 1 to 5 p.m.

Where: Dirtbag Ales Brewery and Taproom

Cost: Free

Kick off the summer with a picnic. Bertie's Retro Boutique and Dirtbag Ales are hosting a Rockabilly Picnic, with food trucks, classic cars, motorcycles and fun for the whole family.

Note: This event will be taking place at Dirtbag Ales' new brewery, located at 5435 Corporation Drive, in Hope Mills.

For more information and updates, visit www.facebook.com/events/2287819234809046.

CAROLINA BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL

When: June 1, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., gates open at 10 a.m.

Where: Carolina Beach

Cost: Advance tickets, \$25; day of festival, \$30; age 12 and under are free

Dance barefoot in the sand and sway to the sounds of beach music at the annual Carolina Beach Music Festival. Billed as "the biggest and only beach music festival held on the beach of the North Carolina coast." Music lovers of all ages can enjoy a full day of entertainment with the first band hitting the stage at 11 a.m. This year's lineup includes Band of Oz, Black Water Rhythm and Blues Band and Jim Quick and Coastline.

Pack a cooler, bring your beach chairs and get ready to dance the day away. Coolers, beverages and food allowed. Sorry, no glass, pets or refunds.

For more information, visit <https://www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/event/carolina-beach-music-festival/4084/?location=carolina-beach>.

SOUTHERN FRIED POETRY SLAM

When: Opening ceremony June 5, 3 to 4 p.m. at Volta Space, other event times vary by day, June 5 through 8

Where: Various locations around Downtown Fayetteville

Cost: Free

Southern Fried Poetry Slam is an annual performing arts festival celebrating poetry, spoken word, and community outreach.

Born in 1993 from a sense of family, home cooked meals and good ol' Southern food, Southern Fried Poetry shares the absolute best southern offerings — hospitality, comfort and tradition. During the first week of June every year, a city in the Southeastern region of the U.S. plays host to one of the largest Spoken Word and Performance Poetry tournaments in the world.

Showcased are some of the world's most extraordinary writers, orators and artists whose talents will be on full display as they compete against more than 200 poets for cash and prizes, and of course bragging rights to the South.

For a full list of events and times, visit <https://www.southernfriedpoetryslam.com/>.

FATHER AND DAUGHTER BALL

When: June 7, 5 to 9 p.m.

Where: Iron Mike Conference Center

Cost: Couples, \$35; each additional child, \$15

The Iron Mike Conference Center invites all fathers to accompany their young ladies to an evening of dancing, hors d'oeuvres and more. Pro Image will be providing professional photos throughout the evening.

Jackets are required. There is no age limit and the ball is open to everyone. At 5 p.m., hors d'oeuvres will be served. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

Purchase your tickets in-person at Leisure Travel Services or online via WebTrac. For more information, visit bragg.armymwr.com/calendar/event/father-daughter-ball/2961096/36446.

WOMEN OF WAR AT BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD

When: June 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Bentonville Battlefield, Four Oaks, North Carolina

Cost: Free

Women of War gives a different perspective on how North Carolina's military history. Hear how women took part during times of conflict from the American Revolution through today's military.

The Battle of Bentonville, fought March 19 to 21, 1865, was the last full-scale action of the Civil War in which a Confederate army was able to mount a tactical offensive. This major battle, the largest ever fought in North Carolina, was the only significant attempt to defeat the large Union Army of Gen. William T. Sherman during its march through the Carolinas in the spring of 1865.

For more information, visit historicsites.nc.gov/events/women-war-bentonville-battlefield.

Fort Bragg voices presents: Asian American and Pacific Islander Month

“What does it mean to you to serve in the Army as an Asian-American?”



“It means pride. It means accomplishment. Self-satisfaction.”

1st Lt. Inna Green



“Being a part of the best team in the world.”

Maj. Chang Kim



“Coming from an immigrant family, just to serve in the military and pay this country back means a lot to me.”

Spc. Gerome Cagaoan



“It means my whole life. I appreciate the Army giving me the opportunity to serve the country.”

Sgt. Haiming Qiu

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. through Fri. Noon
Main Post Chapel
Sun. 11:30 a.m.
Rosary
Mon. through 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 Guide

Worship Service**

Outdoor Life, Smith Lake MWR Park (outside)
Sun. 10 a.m. Outdoor Church
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
Holy Trinity Anglican Chapel
Sun. 8:30 a.m. JFK Memorial Chapel
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

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Choreographed By ELLENORE SCOTT (Broadway's 'King Kong', 'CATS', 'Head Over Heels')



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FAYETTEVILLE'S DESTINATION FOR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

unique shops | galleries | restaurants | concerts
coffeehouses | tea shops | wine bars | brew pubs

UP NEXT....
4TH FRIDAY - ART ATTACK
 I MAY 24TH 6PM-10PM
KINDER KOALAS
 I May 24th 6PM-9PM
PAPER SAND DOLLAR AT FASCINATE-U CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
 I MAY 24TH 7PM-9PM
12TH ANNUAL FIELD OF HONOR
 I MAY 18TH - JUNE 27TH

For our full calendar of Downtown events, visit our Facebook page: [downtownfayetteville](https://www.facebook.com/downtownfayetteville)

CSDD is supported through funding provided by the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County

FAYETTEVILLE ART ATTACK

Fayetteville Fourth Friday Event will be an evening filled with music and local artist!

We will have everything from photographers, musicians, painters, dancers, tattoo artists and more!

Friday, May 24th 6PM-9PM

Don't let it burn: Protect skin during outdoor activities

By **PATRICIA BEAL**
WAMC

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention.

Most cases are preventable.

As schools close and pools open for the summer months, one can have fun and prevent skin cancer too.

"Skin cancer is the one cancer we can actually protect you from," said Maj. Melissa Scorza, officer in charge of the Womack Army Medical Center dermatology clinic. "Use your sunblock."

A shot glass amount of sunblock should be used, suggest Scorza.

"That's a lot; that's not just a little bit that you're spreading on," Scorza said.

"That's honestly why I like sun protective clothing because I'm inevitably going to miss an area. And even on my children — they're in a hurry — they want to get to the water, and you're trying to spray them down and get them covered. You're going to miss a spot."

When using sunblock, it's not enough to just apply the right amount. It should be reapplied approximately every two hours and after swimming or sweating.

Dermatologists recommend using a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30, which provides 97 percent protection against the sun's rays as long as it's reapplied according to the instructions.

In addition to using SPF protective clothing and sunblock, people should seek shade, especially when the sun rays are the strongest.

This includes 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., March through October, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., November through February. Umbrellas, trees or other shelters can provide relief from the sun, according to the CDC.

While some people have a higher risk of developing skin cancer than others because of age and other factors, anyone can get skin cancer, regardless of skin color.

"I'm seeing an increase in skin cancers, especially on the scalp and the ears of men," Scorza said.

People should wear wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses when possible. A baseball cap can help at least protect the scalp.

"I think that the biggest thing that I have seen over the years is young people getting skin cancer," Scorza said. "I have seen patients as young as 16 and 17

getting basal cell carcinomas for the first time, and then you really realize how much damage we are doing to our skin."

Sun damage adds up overtime, so even if a lot of mistakes have been made, begin making better decisions now.

This summer, avoid overexposure to the sun and reduce the risk of developing skin cancers, including melanoma, the deadliest form.

"I've seen melanoma here with these young people," Scorza said. "It's heartbreaking — especially if it's caught late, like they just ignored it (and) didn't realize it was a problem."

When skin cancer is



Photo by Patricia Beal /WAMC

Maj. Melissa Scorza, the officer in charge of the WAMC Dermatology Clinic, examines Katy Merriman April 30.

detected early, it's highly treatable.

The most common signs are changes in size, shape or color of a mole or other lesion, or the appearance of

a new growth on the skin.

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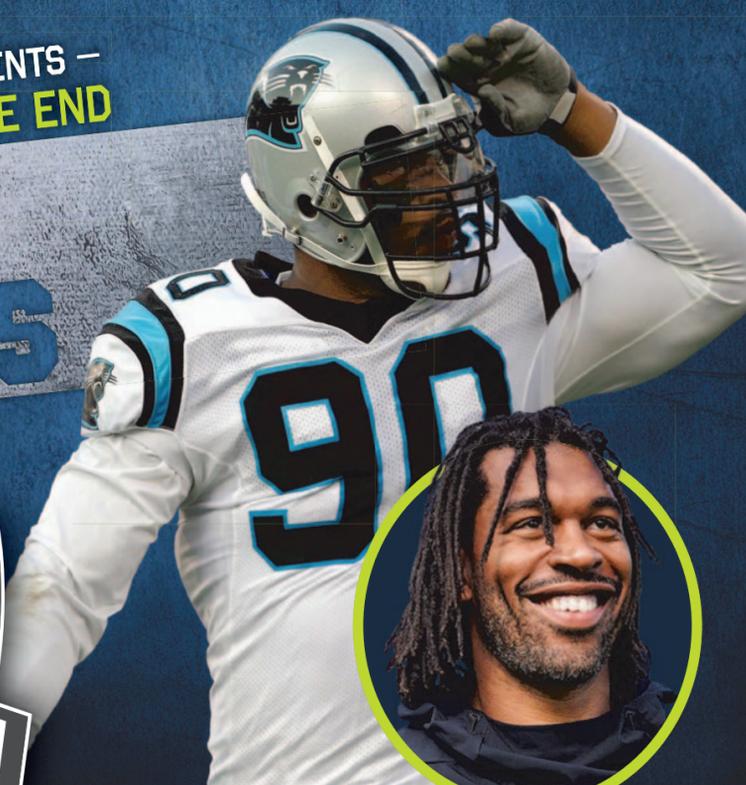
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Fastpitch, Friday night lights at Ritz-Epps



Photos by Genevieve Story/Paraglide

Left: Up to bat, a member of the 407th BSB unit-level softball team hits a fly ball towards center field.

Above: A member of the 50th ESB throws a pitch in an effort to strike out the competition. The unit-level softball league is open to active-duty military personnel between May and August at Pope and Ritz-Epps fields.

By GENEVIEVE STORY
PARAGLIDE

Beginning May 1 through Aug. 3, Fort Bragg's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) hosts four leagues of unit-level softball. Active-duty military personnel assigned and attached to post are welcomed to participate and the cost is free for unit teams who sign up.

"These softball games occur on various weekday nights between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m.," said Lauren Foti, FMWR sports specialist. "There are four unit-level leagues, and each night we have scheduled games. This is my second year running the league."

This camaraderie and competition between units occurs weekday nights at 6:15, 7:15 and 8:15 p.m., on various fields of physical fitness centers (PFC) such as Pope and Ritz-Epps.

Family and friends of participating Soldiers stacked the bleachers in the scorching heat on May 17 as Ritz-Epps fields hosted the evening games for softball teams from league one. The games began at 6:15 p.m., with the 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 82nd Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, versus the 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), 82nd Aviation Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Abn. Div.

Representing their unit in American flag jerseys, the 189th CSSB went head to head with the 3-82nd GSAB, with the 189th CSSB beating the 3-82nd GSAB in a close game, with a final score of 11-10.

A game at 7:15 p.m. followed, with the 407th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Abn. Div. challenging the 50th Expeditionary

Signal Battalion (ESB) (Enhanced), 35th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade. Despite their focus and bright orange jerseys displaying "fiftieth" across the front in black script, the 50th ESB lost to the 407th BSB, capturing the win in a score of 18-3.

Encompassing approximately 10 to 15 unit-level teams per league of varying skill and ability utility players, softball games experience anywhere between three to seven innings, lasting approximately one hour, with three batters at bat for each team. Teams can play anywhere up to 20 games per season, depending on rainouts and schedule changes.

The Fort Bragg Intramural Sports Program coordinates intramural athletics, sporting events and tournaments on post. According to the program's mission statement, their goal is to create and maintain programs and services for America's military Families. The garrison intramural sports program's softball league is just an

example of this commitment. The Intramural Sports Program offers unit level sports such as coed softball, women's softball, flag football and basketball.

"Dates are often subject to change," said Art Rimbart, FMWR recreation division sports. "Tonight we experienced a cancellation at Pope PFC, one team pulled out of the league. It is a hot night, but a good one for softball. We expect a good showing for the season."

Capping off the regular season is the garrison league tournament, which serves as a playoff leading up to the post tournament. The top five teams from the regular season advance to post tournament championship. These teams include automatic advance of the regular season champion and the regular season runner up, also including the top three teams from the league tournament playoffs. The post championship is a double elimination tournament, scheduled for August.

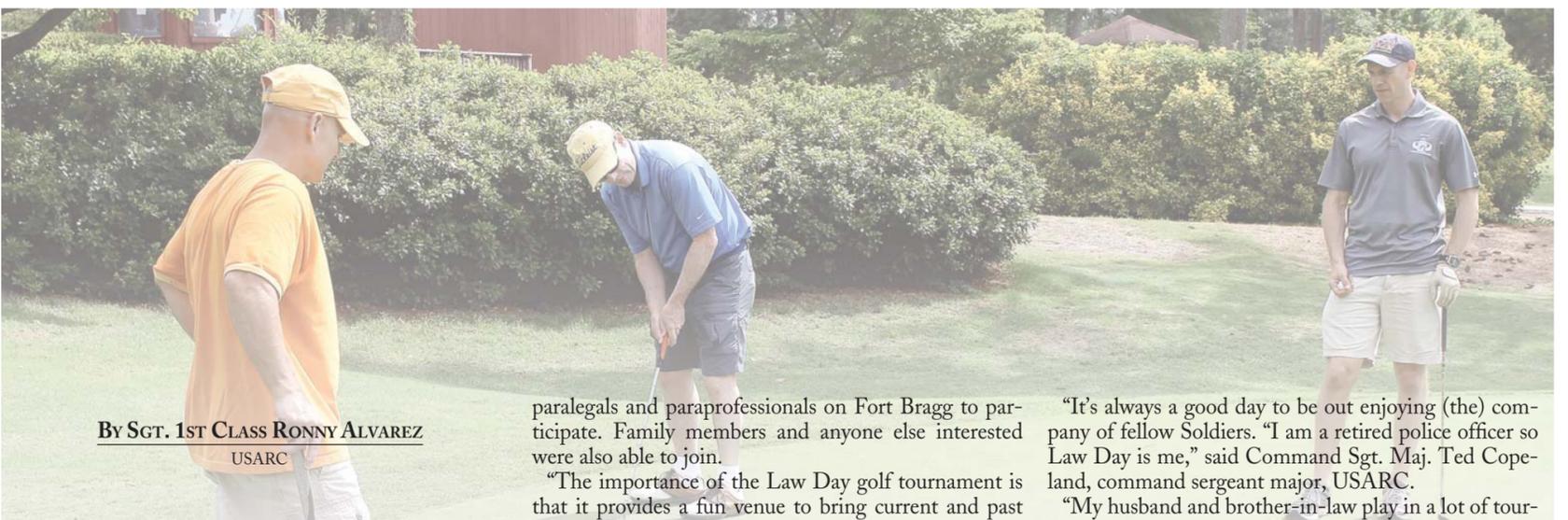


The 3-82nd GSAB congratulate their competition, the 189th CSSB after the opposing team wins game one of the May 17 garrison unit-level league softball series.



A batter up from the 50th ESB softball team hits a line drive out to left field, and a successful home run, advancing his teams' score in game two at Ritz-Epps field.

Law Day Golf Tournament, celebrating achievement, equality



By SGT. 1ST CLASS RONNY ALVAREZ
USARC

On May 8, the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC), Office of the Staff Judge Advocate hosted the Annual Law Day Golf Tournament. Law Day is a rededication to the ideals of equality and justice under the law in relation to each other and with other countries. Ultimately, it is a time of cultivation and respect for law that is so vital to the democratic way of life. The tournament welcomed all judge advocate,

paralegals and paraprofessionals on Fort Bragg to participate. Family members and anyone else interested were also able to join.

"The importance of the Law Day golf tournament is that it provides a fun venue to bring current and past members (retirees) of our Fort Bragg and Fayetteville Judge Advocate General (JAG) community together to build camaraderie and esprit de corps," said Col. Luisa Santiago, staff judge advocate, U.S. Army Reserve. "With such a large JAG footprint at Bragg, the tournament offers the various command communities a venue to exchange feedback, celebrate achievements and successes and engage in some good spirited competition."

"It's always a good day to be out enjoying (the) company of fellow Soldiers. I am a retired police officer so Law Day is me," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Copeland, command sergeant major, USARC.

"My husband and brother-in-law play in a lot of tournaments, and they both said this was one of the best organized events they have played in a while," said Robin Spann, special victim prosecution witness liaison, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg.

Prizes were handed out by Miss Fayetteville, Abby Britt, who posed for pictures with participants after the event. She expressed how honored she was to enjoy the troops and friends in this special event.

Photo by Sgt. Luis Rivera/USARC



The Story Report

All-Americans in sports, service, spirit

By **GENEVIEVE STORY**
PARAGLIDE

The 32nd annual All American Week celebrates the heritage and history of the 82nd Airborne Division, paratroopers and Army strong, culminating in a massive display of military might. There is significant pride in unit history and the footsteps that Soldiers are walking in, as well as the traditions that keep on keeping on, in the way that they have for the last hundred years.

The All American culture is steeped in history and symbolism. Paratroopers

come together, from World War II to the present, every year for All American week. These Soldiers and veterans watch the division and listen to each other's stories, celebrating generations of men and women who have committed to being at the leading edge of the battlefield.

Being an All American is a point of pride, cohesion, esprit de corps and joy. In both celebration and solemnity, All American Week is a tradition that is no dearer to paratroopers, whose 100-year journey serves as a roadmap for the next 100 years. The inaugural reunion structure remains unchanged since 1986, commencing with a 4-mile run and

ending with a division review, immersed in sporting competitions and memorial.

Americans love their military, and Americans love their sports. Much like the All American culture is permeated in the days of the past and symbolism, sports is similarly a culture bound by rules and hierarchy, animated by youth and saturated in history.

At the intersection of sports and the military, the parallel between those attachments is compelling. Both work in teams, train relentlessly and thrive on audacity. Both apply strategy and, to varying degrees, force, in pursuit of a common goal: victory. Similar to the

82nd Airborne Division's paratrooper traditions, traditions in sport are at the heart of its identity, cherishing meaning and carved in the customs.

Sports and the military provide many with the opportunity to serve their country, become college graduates and make their Families proud. Expressions of resilience and patriotism mirror both the playing field and the front lines. American flags, combat vehicles, flyovers, camouflage and other various degrees of military appreciation, meld sport and service into an embodiment of stability and gratitude for America's warfighters and heroes.



Runners Corner

Race 13.1 Raleigh Spring Half Marathon:

Saturday, June 1, 7:15 a.m. half marathon start and 7:30 a.m. 5K and 10K start, at 4217 Six Forks Road, Suite 100, Raleigh, North Carolina. The eighth annual Race 13.1 Raleigh will feature a course along the Crabtree Creek Greenway. The half marathon, 10K and 5K event will start in midtown Raleigh's premier shopping and dining destination, North Hills, before entering the fast, shaded Crabtree Creek Greenway for an out-and-back portion that finishes back in North Hills. Returning runners will be given the chance to conquer Lassiter Hill. Each racer will receive a tech T-shirt. Half marathon finishers receive a finishers medal.

Check <https://race131.com/races/race-13-1-raleigh-nc-spring/details> for details.

Global Running Day 5K:

Wednesday, June 5, 6 p.m. at Robeson Street, downtown Fayetteville. This is a meeting with Fayetteville Run Club, Black Girls Run Fayetteville, Black Men Run Fayetteville and Wear Blue Fort Bragg to come together for a 5K through downtown Fayetteville. A group photo will be taken in front of Segra Stadium at 6:15 p.m. After the run, the group will hang out at Bright Light Brewing Company and enjoy each other's company. Walkers and strollers are welcome and encouraged. Event is free. No registration required. Check <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-running-day-5k-tickets-60848508527/amp> for details.

6th Annual Firecracker 4-Miler:

Thursday, July 4, 7 a.m. start for 4-miler and 7:50 a.m. start for 1-mile race, at the Airborne Special Operations Museum (ASOM), downtown Fayetteville. The 4-mile course winds through the beautiful and historic parks and museums of downtown Fayetteville, and highlights many historic sites which tell the story of our All American city. The course starts and finishes on the streets of Fayetteville at the intersection of Walter and Hillsboro streets which is located between the N.C. State Veterans Park and the ASOM. This race course is also stroller and wheelchair friendly. Dogs are not allowed on this course.

Join over 1,200 runners and spectators from all over the region for the All-American city's Kickoff to Independence Day. The start and finish line consists of a celebration with after run food, beverages, community supporters, music and more. It's a party you don't want to miss. Awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers, including top three in each age group.

Check <https://its-go-time.com/firecracker-4-miler/> for details.

Get Fit

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.

CrossFit Community Workout:

Every **Saturday** at 10 a.m. CrossFit Haymount hosts a free community workout. This is a fun way to meet new people and start the weekend with some fitness! The workout is always something that anyone can do and is usually done in partners or teams. Bring a smile, water, gym shoes and a friend or two. Please contact management@crossfithaymount.com with any questions.

Yoga in the Garden:

Cape Fear Botanical Garden (CFBG) 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 CFBG 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.

Aqua Cycle:

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 a.m. and noon and **Saturdays** at 10 a.m. Check the MWR website www.bragg.armymwr.com for the schedule.

Yoga for Veterans:

Join Yogi Oasis, located at 74 Son-Lan Parkway, Suite 103 Garner, North Carolina, for a gentle mat class for veterans with sufficient mobility and experience the benefits of yoga. Some props are available for support. No experience required. Classes are held at 11:30 a.m. on the **second Sunday** of the month.

Kickboxing:

An aerobic exercise combined with boxing and traditional martial arts movements. Strengthen and tone your muscles with a variety of punches, strikes and kicks to develop killer legs, toned arms and abs. This class is offered at Towle Courts and Hercules Physical Fitness Center. Check the MWR website 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.

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Class Programs: Are open to DOD cardholders and their guests, ages 16 and older.

For more information or to sign up for a program visit our specialized training webpage at bragg.armymwr.com/programs/specialized-training.

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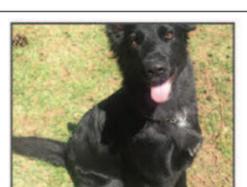
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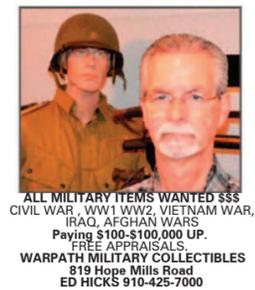


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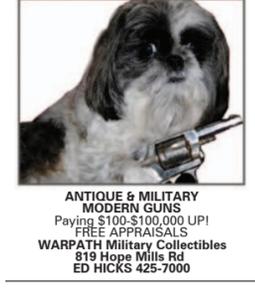
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