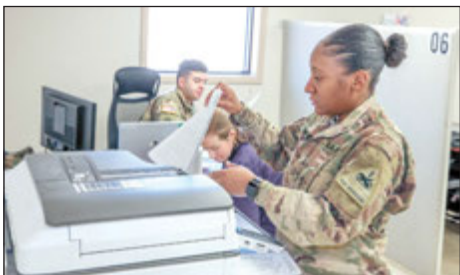




Iron Support Bn. hosts
ROK MG Sung II ■ 5A



'Home of America's Tank Division'



Against odds,
tax center serves customers ■ 1B

Thursday, February 28, 2019

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>> RAPPELLING AT CAMP BUEHRING

Sgt. Christopher Lindborg / U.S. Army Central

Air Assault students practice rappelling out of a Black Hawk on day nine of Air Assault School Class 301-19, Feb. 14 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Conducting hands-on training in U.S. Army Central's area of operations in a Black Hawk helicopter gave Soldiers the opportunity to develop additional skills, including moving equipment and rappelling, to benefit their unit while forward deployed. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th ADA Brigade, participated in the class at Camp Buehring. For more on this story, see 3A.

Welcome to Roving Sands

32nd AAMDC Joint Theatre Army Missile Defense exercise set to begin Friday

By Sgt. LaShawna Custom / 32nd AAMDC Public Affairs

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th ADA Brigade, took a holistic approach to prepare for the upcoming Roving Sands Exercise scheduled for Friday through March 11.

"We expect to hit the ground running real hard," said 1st Lt. Luke Huston, a fire control platoon leader from Alpha Battery. "We are going to certify our crews and make sure we are good to go."

Developed by the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade "Imperial" in 1989, the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, along with its subordinate brigades, have trailblazed the path toward the joint Air Defense annual exercise integrating Army, Air Force and Marine assets, simulating enemy air threats.

Prior to Soldiers embodying the Army strong ethos, they prepare equipment and train platoons and crews in the field. Simultaneously, these warriors conduct table eight qualifications along with honing core-competency skills.

"We have to make sure everything is clean



Sgt. LaShawna Custom / 32nd AAMDC PA

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, download their equipment at the Fort Bliss rail yard Feb. 11 for the upcoming Roving Sands exercise.

and functioning correctly before we move any equipment down to the rail yard," said Spc. Nicholas Myhre, a Patriot operator/maintainer from Bravo Battery, who normally execute a majority of the groundwork. "At the rail yard, we load it up, chain it down and maintain accountability of the equipment as it is loaded. Once the equipment arrives, we unstrap, re-fuel and stage everything in the snake pit."

Roving Sands was restored in the spring of 2018 after being dormant since 2005. Brig.

Gen. Christopher Spillman, former commanding general for 32nd AAMDC, brought the exercise back to the planning table in order to provide training in a realistic environment. Humble beginnings at the brigade level led to the exercise becoming the capstone Joint Theatre Army Missile Defense training in the world.

"This is a great opportunity for us to familiarize ourselves with our roots and where

See SANDS Page 2A

Army leadership meets with privatized housing partner CEOs

By U.S. Army

FORT MEADE, Md. – In light of recent reports highlighting deficient living conditions in some privatized military housing, the U.S. Army's top three senior leaders traveled to Fort Meade Feb. 14 to speak with Soldiers, their families, leaders at Fort Meade and the private company that manages housing on the installation.

Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark Esper, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark Milley, and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey met with the commanding general of Installation Management Command Lt. Gen. Bradley Becker, Fort Meade's garrison commander and Army families to visit single-family homes and discuss their concerns over living conditions.

"We are deeply troubled by reports of inferior housing conditions, and what we saw at Fort Meade. We want to hear first-hand from our Soldiers and their families about the extent of the problem and what needs to be done to correct it," Esper said.

After speaking with Soldiers and their families, the Army senior leaders met with John Picerne, CEO of Corvias, the private company that manages housing at Fort Meade and some other military installations across the United States. More than 87,000 Army houses that were privatized under the Residential Communities Initiative program are currently managed by Corvias and other private companies.

"We owe our Soldiers and their families safe, high-quality housing," Milley said. "That did not happen in a troubling number of cases and that is unacceptable. We have to do better, and we will."

Secretary Esper and Gen. Milley recently called for an Inspector General inspection of privatized Army housing. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently conducted inspections of 1,376 homes on 53 installations to assess potential hazards, such as lead-based paint and asbestos containing materials.

Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville also met with Soldiers, families and Army leaders at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Feb. 14.

"If residents have housing issues - not just at Fort Meade, but at all Army installations - that are not met in a reasonable time frame, we want them to push them to their chains of command immediately," Dailey said.

In the coming weeks, Army senior leaders will continue to engage with families, conduct analyses and determine future actions to ensure that Soldiers and their families are getting the service and responsiveness that they deserve.



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FORT BLISS

Friday



Sunny, warm
Hi 79, Lo 50

Saturday



Mostly sunny
Hi 80, Lo 53

Sunday



Sunny, nice
Hi 77, Lo 41

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3D printing technology enhancing logistics for Army

By Devon L. Suits | Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – As 3D printing increases both in the field and at depots, the Army’s Center of Excellence for Additive and Advanced Manufacturing is slated to reach initial operating capability this year at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois.

Lt. Gen. Aundre Piggee, the Army’s deputy chief of staff, G-4, outlined the Army’s current 3D printing capabilities at the 2019 Military Additive Manufacturing Summit and Technology Showcase Feb. 6, in Tampa, Florida.

At the summit, defense, academia, and industry officials were privy to the latest additive manufacturing technologies, event officials said. The Army will leverage these improved 3D printing capabilities to bolster equipment readiness and reduce logistics burdens, Piggee said.

The forum served as an opportunity to hear from military leaders and subject-matter experts on the future of additive manufacturing to support warfighter readiness and achieve operational effectiveness.

Saving operational days

Back in December 2017, Army G-4 released an executive order allowing commanders in the field to invest up to \$10,000 of their operating budgets in 3D printers, software, and training, Piggee said.

3D printing technology “enables our Soldiers to explore and implement creative solutions to problems we can only imagine, but they live with on a daily basis,” he said. “We wanted to give them flexibility and the power to innovate.”

In South Korea, for example, Soldiers identified a fire-suppression cap degradation issue, impacting their fleet of Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles known as MRAPs. These caps protect the fire extinguisher nozzles, housed in the MRAP’s wheel wells, and blow off when the fire extinguishing system activates.

“There are 20 caps per vehicle. Without them it makes the MRAPS non-mission capable,” Piggee said. “Soldiers put an order in October for replacements -- estimated delivery: five months later.”

“Without the caps, Soldier safety would be an issue. We do not need to add any extra risk to Soldiers,” he added.

In turn, Soldiers in South Korea turned to 3D

printing technology and requested engineering support from the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey.

The team went on to produce 284 fire-suppression caps, which are currently in use until replacements arrive, the general said.

“We fixed a readiness problem with our MRAPs. It was only a small cap that was the issue, and we 3D printed a fix for it. Just 1,472 non-mission-capable days saved – for about \$2.50 per part – and some creative thinking.”

Future challenges

While the Army has seen success through its additive manufacturing processes, there are several key challenges the military must face before moving forward, Piggee said.

For example, intellectual property rights could restrict the Army’s authority to reverse engineer a part, or produce a component locally, he said.

“Almost everything we use in the field is designed by contractors, using federal dollars,” Piggee said. “This is more legal, than technical. IP is an important issue as we modernize, and we will work with industry to find solutions.”

Cybersecurity is another concern moving forward, he added.

The additive manufacturing community employs a digital library of 3D printed parts, called the “Repository for Additive Parts for Tactical and Operational Readiness,” or RAPTOR. As Soldiers or engineers produce parts, they put the blueprint in the system.

“The repository now has more than 140 certified parts, and it is growing,” Piggee said.

“We don’t want adversaries to get into our files and download our spare parts. Or to make counterfeit parts that ... are engineered to fail,” he added. “And we do not want internal flaws in the printing that could degrade our weapon systems.”

Aside from their cybersecurity concerns, the Army needs to find a way to certify and standardize all 3D-printed parts and materials, to meet a product’s predetermined safety standards.

“This takes a lot of labor, and there is a price tag on that, but this is crucial for Soldier safety,” Piggee said.

In spite of all the challenges, combining innovative thinking with today’s technology will help the Army evolve and prepare the force for combat against a near-peer threat, he said.

“Logistics will be contested in every domain. We need every innovation to set a theater and sustain Soldiers in future missions – whether it is artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles dropping off supplies, or a 3D printer at the point of need,” Piggee said.



U.S. Army

This photo shows a 3D printer producing a six-inch cap used to protect the fire extinguishing system housed the wheel wells of Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. Soldiers in South Korea identified a fire-suppression cap degradation issue and turned to 3D printing technology for help. The team requested engineering support from the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.



Sam Curtis / U.S. Army

A Soldier holds a cap used to protect the fire extinguishing system housed in the wheel wells of Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. Without the cap, MRAPs are deemed non-mission-capable. Soldiers in South Korea saved 1,472 operational days for their MRAPs by 3D printing the caps for about \$2.50 each.



>> SMILES FOR MILES

Sgt. Christopher Hernandez / 210th RSG

An estimated 300 Soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, boarded aircraft bound to Jackson, Mississippi, from the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group at Fort Bliss Feb. 18. The 155th ABCT torch party have finalized their post-mobilization procedures and actions here, defining them as the first group to return back to their home state. Last summer, National Guard Soldiers from the 155th ABCT trained here to mobilize and relieve 2nd ABCT, 1st Armored Division Soldiers in their efforts during Operation Spartan Shield.

SANDS Continued from Page 1A

“Patriot” comes from,” Myhre added. “This is a good learning experience for a lot of us.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul Murray, an air and missile defense system technician from 3-4 ADA, whose primary role is making sure the Patriot system is mission ready and functional at all times, offered a similar sentiment.

“It is going to be good to run the equipment in a similar operating environment (as) deployed, because this does make a differ-

ence in how the system runs,” Murray stated.

Following in his predecessor’s footsteps, Brig. Gen. Clement S. Coward Jr., assumed command of 32d AAMDC in December of 2018. He prioritized the capstone event and made it an annual training requirement.

Roving Sands will test the units’ abilities to conduct air defense, as well as test their maneuvering capabilities.

“We have our team here and we know that this is dedicated training time,” said 1st Lt. Eric Perkins, a unit movement officer from Bravo Battery.

The leaders of the 108th are excited to bring their Soldiers and equipment to the high desert to execute world-class training.

“The biggest thing that we are going to get out of this exercise is experience,” Murray noted.

“I love this exercise and I love being in the field,” Perkins concluded. “Being out in the field gives us the opportunity to learn as much as we want about the system. The amount of work that you put into it is what you get out of it. If you use this time the way that you want to, you will get a lot out of it.”

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UNIT NEWS

Training is the oil that keeps the engine of our Army running



DOD unveils its Artificial Intelligence strategy 9A

Unit Briefs

McGregor/FBIX ammo point closings: The McGregor Range/FBIX Ammunition Supply Point will be closed March 18-22; June 17-21; and Sept. 16-20. Issue documents can be submitted through TAMIS during the closures. 569- 9528

Attention new command spouses: The Spouse Leadership Development Course is a new 40-hour course run by the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence and United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. It will offer an introduction to a number of extremely important topics for those spouses who are entering into a command team at the battalion level. The first class will start in April. Contact Michelle Mebane at 744-1201.

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Air Defense goes Air Assault

1-43 ADA troops get wings in Kuwait

By Sgt. Christopher Lindborg | U.S. Army Central

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – “Air assault!” shouted Air Assault students during the first half of a cool February morning recently at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. “Air assault!”

Almost 200 service members serving in U.S. Army Central Command’s area of responsibility earned the right to wear the Air Assault Badge Feb. 15.

Air Assault Class 301-19 began with 240 students on Day Zero of the ten-day school. Service members pre-qualified to attend the first air assault course offered in Kuwait since 2017.

“You’re setting a Soldier up to be successful in a combat environment,” said Staff Sgt. William Ramos, an air assault instructor with the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Service Members were offered an opportunity to attend the rigorous school to develop additional skills, including moving equipment and rappelling, while deployed in a combat environment.

“Sling loading has been the hardest part,” said Pfc. Clarence Allen, a Patriot launching station enhanced operator, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th ADA Brigade. “I can now confront issues with my unit while I’m deployed, especially with sling loading in a forward operating environment.”

Students also developed skills in cooperation and leadership through the school.

“You encounter so many people,” said Cpl. Adam Johnson, a Patriot fire control enhanced operator assigned to 1-43 ADA. “You have to work together in cohesion.”

Several students were assigned to leadership positions at the school.

Sgt. Eric Irizarry, a machinist welder assigned to the 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, Connecticut Army National Guard, was assigned as the student First Sergeant at the school. He was responsible for ensuring students were on time and prepared for the day’s training.

“It’s been a while since I’ve done anything like basic training,” said Irizarry. “So the yell-



Staff Sgt. Thomas Presutti, an air assault instructor with the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center, Fort Benning, Georgia, trains service members on rappelling at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb. 14. Instructors traveled to Kuwait from the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center and ensured more than 190 service members were able to successfully complete the Air Assault course.

ing, the screaming, physical training, waking up very early; it’s all been challenging.”

Irizarry said the most difficult part of the school was doing the right thing -- all the time.

“I don’t want to get cut, let go or sent home,” said Irizarry.

Leadership skills gained at the school are advantageous down the road according to Ramos.

“In the future, if they go into leadership positions, they’ll know how to react better,” said Ramos.

In addition to leadership skills, the school is also beneficial for career development.

“This course will help me become a better leader,” said Allen, the youngest student in the class. “Someday I want to be sergeant major. I look up to Soldiers who’ve done Air Assault.”

Service members learned about the rare opportunity of attending the school down range. Requesting a spot at the school was more competitive than many thought.

Allen said when he was a “fuzz ball,” also known as an E-1, he asked leadership if he could attend the school. They told him they’d reserve a spot if he could do 72 push-ups within two minutes. Allen achieved that goal and was given a spot at the school. When the school began, he said he found it mentally challenging.

“I would say I came here physically prepared, but mentally it was a lot harder than I thought,” said Allen. “Mentally you have to tell yourself not to quit.”

Even though the school was challenging, many students found enjoyment in it.

“The training has been very rigorous, but super fun and a great time,” said Spc. Nathan Maxey, an infantry Soldier assigned to the Alabama Army National Guard. “We learned about sling loads, rappelling, jumping from an aircraft and cargo loads. I really loved it.”

Instructors travelled to Kuwait from the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center out of Fort Benning, Georgia, and were key to developing service members.

“The instructors communicate very well,”



Spc. Christopher Michael, assigned to the 150th Brigade Engineer Battalion, Mississippi Army National Guard, prepares to rappel at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb. 14.

said Irizarry. “They understand this is our first time and they answer every question.”

“They could definitely see things how we saw them,” said Maxey. “They were hands on with you.”

“They really motivated us,” said Allen. “On the ruck march, they kept telling us ‘don’t fall out, don’t fall out.’”

Ramos said if a service member is interested in Air Assault school they should take advantage of it. Soldiers have the opportunity to learn useful skills including rigging equipment, overcoming fear of heights, jumping out of a helicopter, rappelling from a tower and developing camaraderie.

“Some of the best things you’re going to learn probably come from Air Assault,” said Ramos. “It tests you physically, mentally and you’re going to push yourself.”

Muleskinner DFAC to adopt ‘Iron Fuel’ pilot for National Nutrition Month

By Capt. Asia Nakakura | 4th Bn., 27th FA Regt.

Fort Bliss Dining Facilities are making big changes to support the Army’s top priority – Soldier readiness. Individual readiness starts with our food choices and Fort Bliss DFACs are providing meals to refuel and sustain Soldiers where they live, work, and train to meet mission requirements.

This March, during National Nutrition Month, the Muleskinner DFAC (building 20226) will implement the Iron Fuel pilot, a pilot that includes Iron Fueling stations, Iron Fuel “On the Go,” and an “Iron Recovery” menu. The program is designed to offer nutritious, performance-oriented meal choices that are convenient for Soldiers on-the-go.

The “Iron Recovery” menu is designed to support recovery from the demands of soldiering and will be available Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Iron Fuel “On the Go” and “Iron Recovery” menus offer the optimal balance of carbohydrates and protein to replenish the body’s energy systems and repair and rebuild muscle. This is a convenient option for Soldiers and a smart choice to meet individual readiness goals.

Additionally, with new Flex Feeding hours, the Muleskinner DFAC Iron Fuel “On the Go” location will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., giving Soldiers more flexibility at meal-times.

Spearheading this pilot is Chief Warrant Officer 3 Zachary Brubaker, the 1st Armored Division Food Adviser, who said the initiative is important.

“The Army Food Program is designed to provide Soldiers quality and nutritious meals all around the world. These meals support recovery from exercise and effectively fuel Soldiers to successfully execute every mission assigned to them. The evolution of the Army Field Feeding System over the past 20 years is remarkable; however, garrison dining facility operations has seen slow development in marketing and meeting our Soldiers preferences in the everchanging food service market.

“Dining facility managers compete with numerous commercial food service establishments and a variety of new-age food delivery options. With the implementation of Iron Fuel ‘On The Go’ and Flex Feeding, dining facility managers will be able to combat their competitors while simultaneously supporting Soldier readiness.”

With the successful implementation of the Iron Fuel pilot, you can look forward to these changes coming to a DFAC near you. Fueling the Force, one DFAC at a time.



Army Air Assault students practice rappelling out of a Black hawk on Day Nine of Air Assault School Class 301-19, Feb. 14, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Photos by Marcy Sanchez / WBAMC PA
Col. Mark Pallis, (right) formerly the chairperson of the Department of Orthopaedics, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, receives Army Medicine's Wolf Pack Award for Fiscal Year 2018 at WBAMC, Feb. 11. The Wolf Pack Award recognizes exceptional teamwork by an integrated group of military and civilian team members focused on excellence in support of Army Medicine and was created by the Army Surgeon General and the Chief of the U.S. Army Medical Department Civilian Corps.

(Right) Pfc. Christopher Allen, orthopedic technician, Department of Orthopaedics, practices encasing an upper extremity with a cast on a Soldier at William Beaumont Army Medical Center's Cast Room, part of the Department of Orthopaedics, June 8, 2018.



WBAMC 'Iron Orthopedics' named one of Army's best mil-civ teams

By Marcy Sanchez | WBAMC Public Affairs

William Beaumont Army Medical Center's Department of Orthopaedics was recently named as the recipients of Army Medicine's Wolf Pack Award for Fiscal Year 2018.

The Wolf Pack Award recognizes exceptional teamwork by an integrated group of military and civilian team members focused on excellence in support of Army Medicine and was created by the Army Surgeon General and the Chief of the U.S. Army Medical Department Civilian Corps.

Over a yearlong period, the Department of Orthopaedics, also known as Iron Orthopedics in homage to the Old Ironsides of the 1st Armored Division, based locally at Fort Bliss, gained many accolades as the region's musculoskeletal health care team contributing to overall readiness at Fort Bliss and the care of service member's families, El Paso retirees, and veterans.

In total, the team treated more than 33,600 patients and performed more than 4,600 surgeries during the year. In a partnership with 1st AD health care providers, the team managed to impact readiness, communication

and teamwork at Fort Bliss resulting in a significant decrease in non-deployable Soldiers.

The team's performance is captured in metrics from decreases in wait times for specialty appointments from 17 days on average to nine days, to increases in surgical procedures by about 50 percent, resulting in overall productivity of over 130 percent of the department's initial target.

While orthopedic operations at WBAMC saw a steady increase from 2016 to 2017, staffing remained the same, and at times was lower than average due to continued deployments, personnel reassignments and routine training assignments.

During the award's timeframe, procedures and processes concerning interdepartmental operations with veterans referred to WBAMC from the El Paso Veterans Affairs Healthcare System were also streamlined and refined. Due to the clinic's capabilities and proficiency in complex sports surgery, cartilage restoration surgery and limb deformity surgery, it also services Soldiers and families referred from other military medical facilities in the region.

In addition to patient care, the department's involvement with developing future orthopedic surgeons also played a factor in being recognized for Army Medicine's Wolf Pack Award. With 25 residents, the Graduate Medical Education program is one of the top-ranked programs not only in Army Medicine, but across the nation.

Residents' talent and knowledge was continuously tried and tested resulting in scores within the 96th percentile of all orthopedic residency programs nationwide in an annual orthopedic training exam and winning the Texas Orthopaedic Association Quiz Bowl for the second year in a row during the nominating period (the residents have also won their third quiz bowl since).

A shared practice of the staff is continuous contributions to the field of orthopedics through peer-reviewed publications and participation in Continuing Medical Education conferences and meetings throughout the United States.

Because the Wolf Pack Award is aimed at an integrated military-civilian team effort, about 30 civilian health care professionals also contributed to earning a top spot in

In total, the team treated more than 33,600 patients and performed more than 4,600 surgeries during the year.

Army Medicine from patient admission to point of care.

Leaders continue to harvest camaraderie through weekly training, quarterly recognitions and occasional outings for all members of the Iron Orthopedics team. The department credits a "Soldier-first" mindset, leading to the department's multiple awards and accolades across all ranks.

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2018 GMC TERRAIN SLE

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Iron Support Bn. hosts ROK Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Sustainment

By Maj. Anthony Clas | 3rd ABCT, 1st AD Public Affairs

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea – Katchi Kapshida! (We Go Together!); a call to action symbolizing the alliance fortified in the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division.

Maj. Gen. Sung Il, deputy chief of staff of sustainment for the Republic of Korea Army, visited 123rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team “Bulldog,” 1st Armored Division (Rotational Unit), Feb. 8, to understand the unit’s sustainment operations and determine the level of support needed to maintain operations on the Korean Peninsula collectively.

Lt. Col. Charles Montgomery, commander, 123rd BSB, and his team provided Sung an overview of the Bulldog Brigade’s sustainment program as well as a guided tour of the motor pool and company operations facilities, supply support activity, and brigade medical supply office areas showcasing the brigade’s combined sustainment operations.

“Strengthening the battalion’s partnership with our ROK Army counterparts will always be a priority,” said Montgomery, a Woodland, Mississippi native. “Our Soldiers continue to train daily in an effort to achieve the highest state of readiness to ‘fight tonight.’ Currently, 123rd Brigade Support Battalion partners with the 86th ROK Army Maintenance Battalion. Bravo Company [and] executed a joint field training exercise with 86th ROK Army Maintenance Battalion focusing on recovery and field maintenance operations. Holistically, the partnership improves interoperability between ROK and U.S. forces, which will pay enormous dividends during the conduct of tactical operations.”

The armored brigade’s combined sustainment operations are completely interdependent with their ROK allies. Capt. Rebecca Hyatt, a native of Ogdensburg, New York, support operations-transportation officer, 123rd BSB, 3rd ABCT, 1st AD, said U.S. and ROK Army integration ensures that the Bulldog brigade’s combined sustainment program can support maneuver elements at any time.

“Our KATUSAs (Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army) are critical to our Army Pre-positioned Stock operations and with coordination with higher headquarters elements to ensure we can push sustainment support across the Korean Peninsula as required,” said Hyatt. “Not only do they manage transportation for our unit, but they also work with ROK Transportation Command for every brigade across the peninsula.”

The Bulldog brigade has been deployed to South Korea since September 2018 as the sixth rotational brigade to support the 2nd ID/RUCD. The 123rd BSB, Iron Support battalion, has continuously driven reception, staging, onward movement, and integration and sustainment operations across the Korean Peninsula with their ROK allies during their rotation.

“The most valuable lesson our formation has learned is to pay attention to the details. Conducting deliberate pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections before combat logistics patrols is paramount to mission success,” said Montgomery. “Also, understanding what sustainment resources are available is essential to providing the best support to the Bulldog brigade and surrounding 2ID teammates. Sustainment provides the commander operational reach, operational endurance, and freedom of movement to defeat the enemy. The 2ID/RUCD Sustainment community is exceptionally strong, and their efforts will ensure tactical commanders can fight and win if called upon.”

(Top right) Maj. Daniel Romero, center, executive officer for 123rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, facilitates a tour for ROK Army Maj. Gen. Sung, Il, (left) deputy chief of staff, G4, for the ROK Army at the supply support activity area to set benchmarks for US and ROK Army initiatives at Camp Humphreys, South Korea Feb. 8.

(Right) Lt. Col. Charles Montgomery, commander of 123rd BSB “Iron Support,” 3rd ABCT, 1st AD provides ROK Army Maj. Gen. Sung, Il with an overview of Bulldog Brigade’s sustainment program and combined sustainment operations.



Photos by Sgt. Alon Humphrey / 3rd ABCT, 1st AD PA





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2018 civilian PCS allowances are taxable

By Defense Finance and Accounting Service

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, or TCJA, of 2017 took effect on Jan. 1, 2018. It makes certain PCS allowances, that were previously not subject to taxation, taxable.

The TCJA affects civilians who make a PCS move after Jan. 1 but does not affect military moves. Due to incomplete guidance on how to apply the TCJA, DFAS was not able to withhold taxes from PCS reimbursements in accordance with the TCJA until Oct. 30, 2018.

Beginning in February 2018, DFAS advised all employees who received reimbursement of PCS expenses in 2018 that taxes under the TCJA had not been withheld from their reimbursements, and an adjustment to their tax withholding may be required due to the change in the tax law.

In May, the General Services Administration issued a Federal Travel Regulation Bulletin which described how the TCJA applies to PCS reimbursements. The bulletin states that civilians who moved after Jan. 1, 2018, and incurred all of their expenses and received all of their reimbursements in 2018, are subject to the new tax.

Unfortunately, the bulletin did not provide guidance on how to apply the tax law to individuals who moved in 2017 but had reimbursements paid to them in 2018. The bulletin advised that guidance concerning application of the TCJA to those employees would be issued later.

In September 2018, the IRS issued a notice to supplement the GSA guidance, and it explained how to apply the tax law to employees who received reimbursements in 2018 for expenses incurred in connection with a move occurring prior to Jan. 1, 2018.

On Oct. 30, 2018, DFAS began withholding taxes on PCS reimbursements under the TCJA. PCS reimbursement claims processed by DFAS on or after Oct. 30, 2018, had taxes withheld in accordance with the TCJA.

On that same date, DFAS also began to compute tax withholding owed under the TCJA on PCS reimbursements paid in 2018 prior to Oct. 30. DFAS issued SmartDoc statements via email to notify employees who received reimbursements prior to Oct. 30 whether TCJA application would result in a tax withholding debt.

For travelers who received a travel expense reimbursement in 2018 for a claim processed before Oct. 30, 2018, DFAS calculated the tax withholdings owed under the TCJA and is remitting the withholding to the IRS on the travelers' behalf. Such travelers will owe debts to DFAS for the tax withholdings submitted on their behalf.

Of the 5,564 travelers who received pay-

ments in 2018, 3,575 will have tax withholding debts.

Those employees with tax withholding debts received an advice of payment in their myPay account in November 2018. This AOP is not a formal debt letter. Employees are not required to pay the debt until the formal debt letter is issued. These letters will have instructions on options to pay debts.

For all travelers with PCS orders issued in 2018, the traveler's W-2 will show that the PCS reimbursements taxable under the TCJA are gross income and will list the associated tax withholdings that have been remitted to the IRS.

Any employee who had a PCS claim paid in 2018 may file a claim for Relocation Income Tax Allowance after filing their 2018 taxes. The RITA is designed to reimburse most of the Federal and State income taxes paid as a result of a PCS transfer.

Please note, you are not eligible for RITA if you are:

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DOD unveils its Artificial Intelligence strategy

By Terri Moon Cronk | Defense.gov

The Defense Department launched its Artificial Intelligence strategy Feb. 12 in concert with the Feb. 11 White House executive order that created the American Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

“The [executive order] is paramount for our country to remain a leader in AI, and it will not only increase the prosperity of our nation, but also enhance our national security,” Dana Deasy, DOD’s chief information officer, said in a media roundtable recently.

The CIO and Air Force Lt. Gen. Jack Shanahan, first director of DOD’s Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, discussed the strategy’s launch with reporters.

The National Defense Strategy recognizes that the U.S. global landscape has evolved rapidly, with Russia and China making significant investments to modernize their forces, Deasy said. “That includes substantial funding for AI capabilities,” he added. “The DOD AI strategy directly supports every aspect of the NDS.”

As stated in the AI strategy, he said, the United States — together with its allied partners — must adopt AI to maintain its strategic position to prevail on future battlefields and safeguard a free and open international order.

Speed and agility are key

Increasing speed and agility is a central focus on the AI strategy, the CIO said, adding that those factors will be delivered to all DOD AI capabilities across every DOD mission.

“The success of our AI initiatives will rely upon robust relationships with internal and external partners. Interagency, industry, our allies and the academic community will all play a vital role in executing our AI strategy,” Deasy said.

“I cannot stress enough the importance that the academic community will have for the JAIC,” he noted. “Young, bright minds continue to bring fresh ideas to the table, looking at the problem set through different lenses. Our future success not only as a department, but as a country, depends on tapping into these young minds and capturing their imagination and interest in pursuing the job within the department.”

Reforming DOD business

The last part of the NDS focuses on reform, the CIO said, and the JAIC will spark many new opportunities to reform the department’s business processes. “Smart automation is just one such area that promises to improve both effectiveness and efficiency,” he added.

AI will use an enterprise cloud foundation, which will also increase efficiencies across DOD, Deasy said. He noted that DOD will emphasize responsibility and use of AI through its guidance and vision principles for using AI in a safe, lawful and ethical way.

JAIC: A focal point of AI

“It’s hard to overstate the importance of operationalizing AI across the department, and to do so with the appropriate sense of urgency and alacrity,” JAIC director Shanahan told reporters. The DOD AI strategy applies to the entire department, he said, adding the JAIC is a focal point of the strategy.

The JAIC was established in response to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, and stood up in June 2018 “to provide a common vision, mission and focus to drive



Sgt. Amber Smith

Defense Department Chief Information Officer Dana Deasy and Air Force Lt. Gen. John N.T. Shanahan, the director of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, hold a roundtable meeting on DOD’s artificial intelligence strategy at the Pentagon, Feb. 12.

department-wide AI capability delivery.”

Mission themes

The JAIC has several critical mission themes, Shanahan said.

- First is the effort to accelerate delivery and adoption of AI capabilities across DOD, he noted. “This underscores the importance of transitioning from research and development to operational-fielded capabilities,” he said. “The JAIC will operate across the full AI application lifecycle, with emphasis on near-term execution and AI adoption.”

- Second is to establish a common foundation for scaling AI’s impact, Shanahan said. “One of the JAIC’s most-important contributions over the long term will be establishing a common foundation enabled by enterprise cloud with particular focus on shared data repositories for useable tools, frameworks and standards and cloud ... services,” he explained.

- Third, to synchronize DOD AI activities, related AI and machine-learning projects are ongoing across the department, and it’s important to ensure alignment with the National Defense Strategy, the director said.

- Last is the effort to attract and cultivate a world-class AI team, Shanahan said. Two pilot programs that are national mission initiatives — a broad, joint cross-cutting AI challenge — comprise preventive maintenance and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, the director said, adding that “initial capabilities [will be] delivered over the next six months.”

And while in its early stages, the JAIC is beginning to work with the U.S. Cyber Command on a space-related national mission initiative, he said.

“Everything we do in the JAIC will center on enhancing relationships with industry, academia, and with our allies and international partners,” Shanahan said. “Within DOD, we will work closely with the services, Joint Staff, combatant commands, agencies and components.”

The JAIC’s mission, the director said, “nests nicely under the executive order that the president signed yesterday afternoon. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but there’s no time to waste.”



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Photos by Staff Sgt. Felicia Jagdatt / 2nd ABCT, 1st AD PA



(From top down)
First Lt. Shelby Grant, assigned to 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion, marks a location on the map .

A Bradley fighting vehicle team assigned to 40th BEB maneuvers.

Pvt. Mason Haley, a combat engineer at the Fort Bliss Training Area in southern New Mexico Feb. 8.

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A silver Jeep Renegade SUV is shown from a front-three-quarter view. The vehicle is parked on a light-colored surface. The Jeep logo is visible on the front grille. The text "OFF" and "ISRP" is overlaid in the top left corner of the image.

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Army needs entrepreneurs
says under secretary ■ 3B



Importance of
Black History Month ■ 4B



Army beats Marines for AF Greco-Roman title ■ 5B

Things to Do:

Dokken: The heavy metal legends Dokken perform Saturday at Speaking Rock Entertainment Center, 122 S. Pueblo Rd. Free, indoor show, 18+. Gates open at 5 p.m. 860-7777 or speakingrock.com

Hal Marcus Gallery: See “Latina Arte,” with works by Latina artists Teresa Fernandez, Carmen Navar, Romy Hawkins, Martha Arzabala, Leticia Luevanos, Lillian Sandoval, Erica Zamora and Isabel Olivares, on display through Feb. 28. Gallery is open 12-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. 1308 N. Oregon. 533-9090 or halmarcus.com

Las Cruces Arts Fair: Doña Ana Arts Council’s 9th annual regional juried fine arts event is this weekend at the Las Cruces (N.M.) Convention Center, 680 E University. This year’s featured artist is Hal Marcus. 5-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$10 at the door; \$15 for a two-adult pass when purchased in advance; free for age 12 and under. 575-523-6403.

Pot of Gold Bingo: Everyone who plays this Saturday and Tuesday, as well as March 9 and 13, can enter for a chance to win the gold! The winning name will be drawn during St. Paddy’s night Bingo March 16 at the Centennial Club. The winner must be present to claim the prize. Bingo Bliss is every Wednesday and Saturday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Open to DOD ID cardholders and their guests, age 18+. 744-8427

\$10 Tuesdays: Join the Art & Hobby Shop this Tuesday and every Tuesday in March from 6-7 p.m. for a cutting system class and learn how to use your Cricut or Silhouette Cutting Machine to their full advantage. Bring your own machine to practice with, or see what ours has to offer. Cost: \$10, includes instruction. Open to DOD ID card holders and family members 15+. 568-5563

Rockhound Roundup: The 54th annual roundup for rock and gem lovers is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 7-10, at the Southwest New Mexico Fairgrounds in Deming. Free. 575-544-9019, thegms@gmail.com, or thedgm-sclub.com

Home and Garden Expo: The 19th annual Home and Garden Expo is March 8-10 at the El Paso Convention Center. Hours are 2-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Cost: \$7 (\$6 for age 65 and older; free for 16 and under and active and retired military and first responders with ID). 361-882-2071 or elpasohomeandgarden.com

Mesilla Valley Stamp Show: The Mesilla Valley Stamp Show is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 9-10, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, N.M. Free. 575-202-1937 or meetinlascrucos.com

Camp Furlong Day and Cabalgata Binacional: The 103rd anniversary of Pancho Villa’s raid in 1916 will be celebrated 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 9, at Pancho Villa State Park, Columbus, N.M., with guest speakers providing historical presentations and slide shows in the park’s exhibit hall. 575-531-2711 or PanchoVillaStateParkFriendsGroup.org

Live music: Live music at Lowbrow Palace March 7, 12. See the Houston R&B and soul group The Suffers perform at 9 p.m. March 7. See the Reptaliens, a low-fi duo, perform at 9 p.m. March 12. 1101 Texas. Lowbrowpalace.com.

Poppies Festival: The 13th annual Poppies Festival is 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 23, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain in Northeast El Paso (west of U.S. 54). Free. 755-4332 or archaeology.el-pasotexas.gov

Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo: More than 150 tattoo artists from across the nation will be on hand during the Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo, noon-10 p.m. March 22-24, at El Paso Convention Center. Cost: \$20 single day; \$45 weekend pass; free for age 12 and younger. 231-1100 or starcityexpo.com

El Paso Psychic Fair: The Psychic Fair is 11 a.m.-7 p.m. March 23-24, at Hawthorn Inn, 1700 Airway, at Boeing. Cost: \$. 345-6245 or elpasopsychicfair.com.

Donate your old military boots to SOS: Survivor Outreach Services is in need of 200 military boots. The organization will use the boots for a commemorative display at the Run for the Fallen in April. Take donations to SOS at 241 Sheridan Rd., West Fort Bliss. 568-5970

Trinity Site Tour: The White Sands Missile Range Trinity Site semiannual tour to the site of the first atom bomb explosion is April 7. Free. No reservations required. 575-678-1134 or wsmr.army.mil

Sun City Craft Beer Festival: The Downtown El Paso celebration of craft beer is April 21-22, at the El Paso Convention Center Plaza. The two-day event features more than 150 national, regional, local and newly released craft beers, ciders, wine and mixed drinks, as well as a game zone, food trucks, vendor booths, a liquor lounge, live bands and DJs. Age 21 and older only. Cost: \$20; \$35 for both days. suncitycraftbeerfest.com.

Against odds, Fort Bliss Tax Center serving customers

By David Poe | Fort Bliss Garrison PA

Last fall, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Weber, a 47th Brigade Support Battalion maintenance operations NCO, was most likely under an oiled machine somewhere on East Fort Bliss, with tools in hand, when his sergeant major asked him what he thought of his new position.

“I had just started a new position over at (2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division),” he said, “so, I was like ‘Yes, sergeant major, things are going great.’”

Then the sergeant major told him of his “new-new” responsibility – Fort Bliss Tax Center noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

“He told me about my ‘new-new’ position,” Weber said with a good-humored laugh from his temporary cubicle on West Fort Bliss. “I’m like ‘what?’”

Now approximately five months later, Weber, alongside Capt. Vy Nguyen, the center’s officer-in-charge for 2019, helps lead the crew of Soldiers and civilian volunteers.

Although the Tax Center is a Fort Bliss Office of the Staff Judge Advocate effort, it’s supported by units base-wide. Located at 2910 Cassidy Road on West Fort Bliss, the center, which opened Jan. 21, had been in operation behind-the-scenes since October 2018.

“We did self-development just to familiarize ourselves with Tax Law lingo,” Weber said, “so that when January came and we were supposed to get official (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) IRS training, we knew the type of questions we wanted to articulate – but that didn’t happen.”

Due to the January federal budget, which affected more than 20,000 IRS employees over a 35-day period, Weber said the group didn’t have a viable connection with their VITA contact in the IRS field office in nearby El Paso.

“It sent us into a bit of a panic, because we were depending on that continuity with our IRS contact who was in charge of all of the VITA sites in El Paso,” he said, adding that while they were able to study a lot of the materials, when questions delved into areas beyond the basics, they had no subject-matter expert to turn to.

It was a timely intervention from Dallas tax attorney Charolette Noel, who specializes in estate taxes, who flew to Fort Bliss to assist troops in certifying as preparers.

Soon after the attorney arrived, all members of the group were ready to certify in all tax preparation areas – because in the uncertainty of the January budget, the only thing Weber and Nguyen felt like they could be sure of was to be the value of the preparers being experts when the IRS eventually was fully funded.

“She spent four days with us and walked us through general topics like categorizing expenses and income; that gave everyone a pretty in-depth perspective,” Weber said. As the budget resolution passed and connections were re-made, the workflow has been steady ever since as the center has filed more than 1,400 returns as of last week.

Weber, a self-described “ordnance, support type” said although he wasn’t gung-ho about the idea of managing Soldiers and tax preparations when he first got the call last fall, it’s been a good experience so far because he’s been able to see a bigger picture of the Army team, beyond his spaces on East Fort Bliss.

“Working with a bunch of (Soldiers and civilians from other job fields) has been great,” he said. “It helps my perspective. In this position, I’m getting the opportunity to pick their



Photos by David Poe / Fort Bliss Garrison PA

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Weber, the Fort Bliss Tax Center NCOIC for 2019, at work at the center on West Fort Bliss Feb. 21. “Working with a bunch of (Soldiers and civilians from other job fields) has been great,” Weber said. “It helps my perspective. In this position I’m getting the opportunity to pick their brains and see what their military careers have been like.”



Pfc. Destiny Dasque, a 1st Armored Division Soldier, works on some copies for a client at the Fort Bliss Tax Center on West Fort Bliss Feb. 21. In addition to tax filing training, Soldier-preparers receive refresher training on management of PII, or personally-identifiable information.

brains and see what their military careers have been like.”

He also said he’s benefitted from the tax law lessons. Although the Tax Center NCOIC is a one-time, annual position, and he said he will now do the work needed for his own family’s tax returns, beyond a simple return, in the future, rather than paying a specialist.

But as NCOIC, he said his crew of 22 Soldiers, down from 30 last year, have been fully vetted and continue to serve the base Monday through Saturday with certified expertise. Weber and Nguyen have split the team into morning and afternoon shifts, with a healthy overlap in the mid-day to serve customers and ensure a good turnover with the morning crew.

Despite the smaller team overall, their extensive certifications and their continued management of a heavy workload have proven that, despite real-world challenges, the team of “ordnance, support types,” infantry Soldiers, lawyers, lab technicians and more continue to work together to complete the mission – bringing beneficiaries high-dollar tax service at no charge.

“The (preparers) that are doing the best are the ones who normally don’t do (desk) work in their daily lives,” he said. “They’re getting on it and getting focused on it – they’re doing really well.”



Sgt. Andrew Hendrix, an NCO from Charlie Co., 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st AD, chats with a client at the Fort Bliss Tax Center Feb. 21. “The (preparers) that are doing the best are the ones who normally don’t do (desk work) in their daily lives,” said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Weber, the Fort Bliss Tax Center NCOIC for 2019. “They’re getting on it and getting focused on it – they’re doing really well.”

The Fort Bliss Tax Center is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturdays and training holidays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 568-1040 for more information.

Becoming a leader worth following: Part II of VI

By Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Mucher | USAG Fort Bliss
The following is part two of a six-part series. Last week, I started a series on leadership in general, and leading well in particular.

We began with the discouraging realization that I have participated in every bad decision I have ever made. I was there for all of



Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Mucher

them and you were present for every bad decision you have ever made.

This is one reason why self-leadership is so important. To avoid making bad decisions and become a leader worth following, we must learn to lead ourselves well. Here is the second reason why leading

ourselves well is so important. Exceptional self-leadership leadership is the key to sustained influence.

The operative word here is influence – not authority. We can have authority because of rank, title, or position, but in terms of influence, it goes back to last week’s discussion – we have to be leaders worth following, which requires us to lead ourselves well.

Think about it, we rarely open ourselves willingly to the influence of people we don’t respect. And whom do we respect? We respect people who lead themselves well.

Not only is exceptional self-leadership the key to sustained influence, it is the key to sustained performance.

Most of us know that when a senior leader gets taken out or burns out, it is generally due to poor self-leadership. In most cases, it’s not a talent issue or a skill deficiency, but rather a personal issue... a bad choice or series of bad choices.

There is performance and there is sustained performance to go the distance. Great leaders last because they lead themselves first, and the greatest leaders do so exceptionally well.

“Knowing what to do is not enough – it is only half the battle.”

>>> Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Mucher

In his book, *How to Lead When You’re Not in Charge*, Clay Scroggins writes, “You don’t have to be in charge to take charge.” Great leaders lead with or without the authority and learn to unleash their influence wherever they serve. You don’t have to be in charge to take charge of leading yourself.

Self-leadership is your primary responsibility. I begin every morning in the mirror; if we are honest with ourselves, the challenge is not in the “knowing” but in the “doing” – the execution of what we know we ought to do. The Apostle James puts it this way, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in the mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do” (James 1:22-25, NIV).

Notice James says our rewards and blessings are a direct result of our actions. Knowing what to do is not enough – it is only half the battle. If we want to become a leader worth following, we must lead ourselves well, and exceptional self-leaders not only know what to do, but actually do what they know they ought to do.

Next week, we will discuss three decisions every leader needs to make when it comes to self-leadership. For now, commit to be doers and not just hearers.

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Liturgical Service 10 a.m.

Hope Chapel
(2498 Ricker Road)
Crossroad Service 9 a.m.
Samoan Service 11:15 a.m.

1st Armored Division
(11272 Biggs St.)
Gospel Service 8:45 a.m.
Chapel Next 11:30 a.m.
Latter Day Saints Service 1 p.m.

USASMA Memorial Chapel
(11275 Biggs St.)
Traditional Service 10 a.m.

WBAMC Protestant Community
(5005 N Piedras Dr.)
Protestant Service 10 a.m.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES Catholic Women of the Chapel

(Bldg. 2498 Hope Chapel) Friday 8:45-11 a.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

(Bldg. 11272 1st AD Chapel)
Thursday 9-11:30 a.m.

Protestant Youth Group

(11275 Biggs St. 568-4334)

Sundays Free Dinner (6:30-7 p.m.)
5:30-6:30 p.m. Middle School
7-8 p.m. High School

Post-wide Bible Study (Bldg. 449)
Wednesdays 6-8 p.m.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICES

St. Michael’s Catholic Community

(1542 Sheridan Road)
Weekday Mass 11:35 a.m.
Wednesday Confession 10:35 a.m.
Saturday Confession 4 p.m.
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8 a.m.
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
1st Friday of the Month - Adoration 1 p.m.

WBAMC Hospital Chapel

(5005 N. Piedras Dr.)
Weekday Mass 12:05 p.m.
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8 and 11:30 a.m.

German Chapel

(5312 Buffalo Soldier)
Sunday Mass 10 a.m. odd days

OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Jewish Chapel (Bldg. 1441)
Friday Shabbat Service 7 p.m.

Islamic Service (Bldg. 442)
Friday Jummuh 1:30 p.m.
Sunday Ta’Aleem 12:30-2 p.m.

Buddhist Service
(Bldg. 449 Pershing Road) has returned with new times: Thursday 6 p.m.
Intro to Nichiren Buddhism every other Tuesday 5 p.m.

Introduction to Nichiren Buddhism

(Bldg. 449, Religious Activities Center)
Friday, 6 p.m.

A GECU Rewards Mastercard is shown in the foreground. The card is black with a white GECU logo and a silver chip. The card number is 5412 7512 3451 2345. The name CHARLIE SMITH is printed at the bottom. The background is a blurred office scene with a desk, a laptop, and some plants.

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Army needs entrepreneurs, says under secretary

By Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The military needs innovative ideas from small businesses and entrepreneurs now more than ever, said Under Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy.

McCarthy spoke Feb. 19 at Muster DC, an event in the nation’s capital for military veterans aspiring to be entrepreneurs.

“If you look at the history of the Department of Defense, we were at our best when entrepreneurs were doing business with us,” he said.

As an example, he cited that the first jeeps for World War II were actually designed and built by a small motor company called American Bantam in Butler, Pennsylvania. Later, the design was shared with Willys-Overland and Ford to produce the jeeps on a larger scale.

DOD was at its best when small businesses brought their ideas and “partnered with big corporations to scale out those ideas,” McCarthy said.

“We got away from that for the last several decades,” he said, adding the Army’s practice has been to put out 1,000-page requests for proposals, or RFPs, specifying the exact size and weight of each component of a system.

Businesses maybe had a better solution, he said, but they would never share it, because that’s not what they were incentivized to do.

That culture needs to change, McCarthy said, and that’s one reason the Army Futures Command was organized. It’s why Soldiers have been placed alongside tech innovators at an “accelerator hub” in Austin.

The purpose of Futures Command is to

drive innovation, he said, “so that we can do business faster. So small businesses don’t get their cash flow crushed waiting years for us to make a decision.”

Out of more than 800 programs that the Army oversees, eight have been granted a special “transactional authority” to do business differently, he said.

Futures Command has eight cross-functional teams: long-range precision fires, next-generation combat vehicle, future vertical lift, Army network, air and missile defense, Soldier lethality, synthetic training environment; and assured positioning, navigation and timing.

The Army needs a “quick win” in these eight programs, McCarthy said, in order to change the acquisition culture and to keep

ahead of near-peer adversaries. The U.S. military has enjoyed a vast technological advantage for years, he said, but competitors are quickly catching up.

McCarthy said he’d like to see Soldiers in accelerator hubs across the country so entrepreneurs will have easy access to pitch their ideas.

Entrepreneurs who are military veterans have an advantage, he said, because they are resilient and can deal with stress. They know how to organize and

plan. When getting ready to leave the Army, where he served as a Ranger, McCarthy said at his first interview in Manhattan, he was asked what he knew about finance.

“I said, ‘Nothing. But I know how to plan and I know how to organize and there would be nothing you can put me through that I



Under Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy tells military veterans and entrepreneurs at the DC Muster Feb. 19, that the service needs their ideas.

hadn’t been through already in the form of stress and pressure,” he said.

After the interviewer stopped laughing, McCarthy said he took a chance and hired him. The company even held the job open for a year, because soon afterward, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks occurred and McCarthy agreed to stay in the Army for a deployment before going to work in New York.

Veterans are not afraid to engage, he said, and have commitment. “Nobody wants to follow a leader that hedges,” he said. “They want somebody that’s playing ‘double-in’ every day.”

Veterans have some of the key attributes business leaders need to have, he said, “especially if they’re going to start their own business.”

Other talents the Army needs most right now include systems engineering and software coding, McCarthy said.

Weapons systems are sophisticated and have millions of lines of coding, he said.

Most failures of weapons systems in the past came from not having the right systems architecture, he said, which resulted in weapons not being able to communicate with other platforms.

“If you look at the history of the Department of Defense, we were at our best when entrepreneurs were doing business with us.”

>> Ryan D. McCarthy

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COMMENTARY

The importance of Black History Month and recognizing its great leaders

By Stephanie Santos | 1st Armored Division PA

“A Celebration of Greatness” is my penned definition of Black History Month every year.

It’s my self-programmed alarm, not set by a smartphone or smart watch, but my own conscious to learn something new about my history and recognize the numerous accomplishments from those who came before me.

Let’s start at the movies. The film black Panther was a commercial success, and it was the first superhero movie directed and written by African Americans.

Black Panther shook up the box office and became a must-see movie for everyone. Now, I admit to never being a big Marvel Comics fan. However, the excitement and endless tweets sparked my interest and made me want to see this film.

The film industry continues to highlight the accomplishments of African Americans. The movie Hidden Figures depicts the story of three African-American women working at NASA in the 1960s - the midst of segregation. These remarkable women were instrumental using their engineering and mathematical skills serving as the real-life masterminds behind launching astronaut John Glenn into orbit.

This film was a shock to most Americans that such an integral part of Black history had been overlooked and quietly dismissed for so long.

It also raised awareness on the large gender gap in science and mathematics. In fact, it inspired the formation of Hidden No More: an educational program geared to encourage women to take active roles in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers.

Contributions by African-Americans across NASA and beyond have seen trailblazers like Vanessa Wyche serving as the first black woman to hold the title of deputy director at NASA’s Johnson Space Center.

Other notable trailblazers include Dr. Patrice Harris, the first African-American woman elected president of the American Medical Association, and Tyler Mitchell making history as the first black photographer to shoot the cover for Vogue magazine.

When reflecting on history, I admire the

bravery of the Tuskegee Airmen who were relentless and fearless in their mission to protect U.S. bombers. These African-American fighter pilots performed countless combat missions during World War II and stayed strong at a time of racial divide and negative predictions that African Americans could not serve as pilots. Today’s modern-day pilots and aircrew mechanics should look to these brave men as a lasting legacy. After proving themselves and their unprecedented flying abilities, it was finally decided to provide training to African Americans as pilots and mechanics.

West Point cadet Emily Perez broke barriers as the first black female cadet command sergeant major at the academy. Perez went on to earn her commission and was later killed in Iraq in 2005. Soldiers in her former unit honored her with a street called “Emily’s Way” and a foundation named in her honor.

Even on my daily commute into work, I’m reminded of Garrett Morgan who created the first three position traffic signal, and is most noted for his gas mask invention.

When speaking into my home and cell phone, I give credit to Dr. James West for patenting the foil electret microphone which is used in most telephones today.

As I continue onto the highway, I am surrounded with large food delivery trucks. I think of Frederick McKinley Jones who was an African-American inventor who designed the portable air-cooling unit for trucks carrying perishable food. His design was vital during World War II for the preservation of blood, medicine and food to field hospitals and on the front lines.

There’s so much more to learn about Black history that goes beyond what we have learned in school. I’m hopeful that February brought forth an awareness and inspire all Americans, regardless of race, to learn more about achievements and sacrifices made by black Americans. I will continue to challenge myself, and my children to share knowledge and make our own personal strides.

Maybe 100 years from now, even more Americans will also look upon these pages in history and be inspired to appreciate and share this “Celebration of Greatness.” My hope is that our nation will view Black History Month as not only African-American history but American history.



Stephanie Santos



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SPORTS

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Sports Briefs

Underwood Golf tourney: Underwood Golf Complex is having their Spring Trifecta Golf Tournament Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This is a two-person team, 27-hole tournament. It will be nine holes of scramble, nine holes of best ball and nine holes of alternate shot. \$50 includes green fee, cart fee and lunch. There will be prizes to win during the tournament. Registration deadline is Friday. Open to the public, 18+. 568-9979

El Paso Rhinos: El Paso's Junior League ice hockey team hosts the Wichita Jr. Thunder at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 4:30 p.m. Sunday at El Paso County Coliseum Events Center, next to the Coliseum, 4100 E. Paisano. \$5-\$30. Free with military ID. 479-PUCK (7825) or elpasorhinos.com

El Paso Senior Games: The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department's 36th annual games for those age 50+ run Saturday through May 22 at various locations around El Paso. All participants have a chance to qualify for the Texas State Senior Games. Cost/registration: \$15 for 2 events and t-shirt, plus \$5 for each additional event; \$45 for all events. Includes t-shirt. 503-6544 or elpasotexas.gov/parks

Army Warrior Trials: Wounded Warrior athletes will compete in adaptive sports March 7-15 at different Fort Bliss FMWR physical fitness centers. Come out and support the competitors throughout the week. 744-1532

Public ice skating: Public skating is available at the El Paso County Coliseum Events Center, 4100 Paisano, weekend hours are 7 -10 p.m. Fridays, noon-3 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and noon -3 p.m. holidays. All ages welcome. Times may vary on days of hockey games. Cost: \$10; \$8 military (skate rental included). Spectator admission is free. 479-PUCK (7825), elpasohockey.org/holidaysonice or on Facebook at El Paso Hockey Association

St. Paddy's Day 1/2K: Register now, then head over to the Monti Warrior Zone March 16 from 3-9 p.m. for a one of a kind 0.5k race. 741-3000 or 744-5785

El Paso Locomotive FC: El Paso's professional soccer team the El Paso Locomotives inaugural season opens 7:30 p.m. March 9 against the OKC Energy FC at Southwest University Park. On March 23 they play Rio Grande Valley FC and March 30 against Orange County SC. Cost: \$5-\$49. 235-GOAL or eplocomotivefc.com

El Paso Coyotes: El Paso's major arena soccer league team the El Paso Coyotes plays the Monterrey Flash at 7:15 p.m. March 8 at El Paso County Coliseum. They play March 15 against the Dallas Sidekicks and March 29 against the Monterrey Flash. Cost: \$12-\$20. 229-1416, elpasocoyotes.com

JackRabbit Classic: The 18th annual JackRabbit Classic trail race is 8 a.m. April 8, at Franklin Mountains State Park's Tom Mays Unit. Four and 8-mile trail options available. raceadventuresunlimited.com

'Mighty Mujer' Triathlon: The 'Mighty Mujer' Triathlon, the all-female sprint and supersprint events begin 6:30 a.m. April 13, at Memorial Park Pool, 3251 Copper. Both distances start with a 300-yard swim in an indoor pool. The course then takes athletes on a challenging and rewarding bike route. Cost: \$90-\$130. Teams of 2, 3 or 4 women can compete against others in three separate categories: mother/daughter; family; or girlfriends. Participants must be 12 or older. USAT rules apply. mightymujertriathlon.com. raceelpaso.com/mighty-mujer

El Paso Chihuahuas: The El Paso Chihuahuas AAA baseball opens their season April 10 against the Salt Lake Bees 11:05 a.m. at Southwest University Park on Santa Fe Street in Downtown El Paso and April 13-16 against the Las Vegas 51s. 533-BASE or EPChihuahuas.com

El Paso run clubs: Run El Paso has training runs every day of the week from Kern Place to the Upper Valley. runelpaso.com. Coffee Posse Run Club is based on the eastside. coffeeposse.org. Race El Paso offers coaching programs and training groups. Information: raceelpaso.com. The El Paso Hash House Harriers have one or more runs a week. 252-5646. Meet-up spots listed at elpasohash.com. The Border Jumper Hash House Harriers meet at various locations. bjhash.com. Hash clubs combine trail running with social activities. Runs are marked with chalk, and are open to runners of all levels. Clubs have modest dues, and first run is free to newcomers.

Indoor Cycling: Get back on the bike and push your endurance at Indoor Cycling. Classes are held at Soto and Stout PFC Cost: \$3, \$35 unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

Army beats Marines 32-10 to claim 18th straight Armed Forces Greco-Roman title at Soto PFC

By Gary Abbott | USA Wrestling

As expected, the Army and the Marine Corps earned the right to battle for the Greco-Roman team title at the Armed Forces Championships at Soto Physical Fitness Center at Fort Bliss Saturday and Sunday. Both teams had won every single match of their first two dual meets, setting up a showdown for the title.

Although Army had a 17-year winning streak at this event, the Marines have developed a number of talented Greco-Roman athletes and were aiming to bring the team title back with them this time around.

Fueled by a strong start in the light-weights, who won the first four matches all with bonus point victories, the Army claimed seven of the 10 matches to win 32-10, and stretched that streak of excellence to 18 years.

Max Nowry, a double champion at the 2018 Armed Forces, came out with a strong 8-0 technical fall at 55 kg over Jamone Carter. He was followed by 2017 World Team member Ildar Hafizov, who got the Army team fired up with a pin over German Diaz in 1:24.

The next bout proved to be huge. The Marine Corps sent out 2018 Armed Forces champion Xavier Johnson, a National Team member who is coming off a big second-place finish at the Grand Prix Zagreb Open, a UWW Ranking event a few weeks ago. The Army sent out Hayden Tuma, a talented athlete with extensive age-group World Championships experience.

Tuma shut the door on the Marines desire

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class J.E. Veal
Army's Hayden Tuma of Fort Carson, Colo., launches Marine Xavier Johnson of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. at the 2019 Armed Forces Wrestling Championship at the Soto Physical Fitness Center at Fort Bliss, Saturday and Sunday.

to change the momentum, tossing Johnson on the way to an 8-0 technical fall. One of the matches the Marines needed to win, if they hoped to win this year, went to the Army in a big way.

The Army run continued at 67 kg, as 2008 Olympian and two-time World Team member Ellis Coleman kept up the pressure with a 9-0 technical fall over Jamel Johnson. The team score after four matches was 17-0, with only six more bouts for the Marines to change the narrative.

Marine Raymond Bunker, who had been a silver medalist in this event a number of times, scored the first Marine Corps win, stopping Michael Hooker in a 3-3 criteria decision. Bunker has a feisty style of wrestling, and gritted out a big win over Hooker, who boasted four-straight gold medals in the event coming in.

At 77kg/169.7 lbs., Vladyslav Dombrovskiy got the Army back on track in an intense battle with Payton Walsh, who has been a national team member. Dombrovskiy won some key positions and emerged with a 17-7

technical fall.

At 82kg, in another aggressive match between two warriors, John Stefanowicz of the Marines beat. Jon Anderson of the Army, 4-1, Both are past Armed Forces Greco-Roman champions.

James Souza, who won an Armed Forces title in 2015 when he competed with the U.S. Navy, claimed his first Armed Forces gold as a member of the Army with a powerful 10-0 technical fall over Sgt Vaughn Monreal Berner. With only two bouts to go, there was no doubt about which team would be victorious this year.

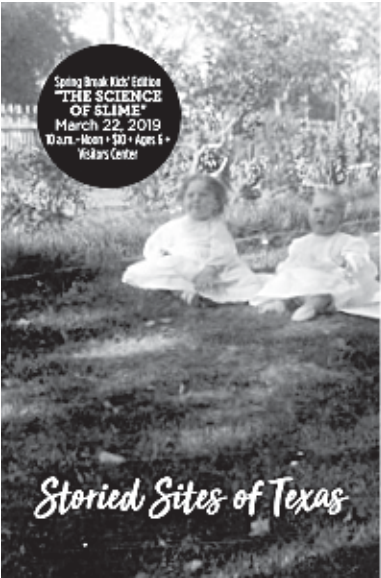
In a battle of national team members, Daniel Miller of the Marines edged Lucas Sheridan, 2-1. Miller is ranked No. 2 in the nation and Sheridan is No. 3.

Army big man Toby Erickson was dominant on top, turning Trent Osnes multiple times in an 8-0 technical fall to close out the win.

For a complete run down on this event, visit <https://bit.ly/2XntVVF>.

>> IRON PT

Staff Sgt. Killo Gibson / 1st AD PA
Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel T. Hendrex, left, the III Corps and Fort Hood senior enlisted adviser, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert H. Cobb, senior enlisted adviser of the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, flip tires during physical fitness training Feb. 20 at Fort Bliss. Hendrex spent the day speaking with Soldiers and conducting senior leader professional development.



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- MARCH 13 | FREE Brain Trust Bag Lunch Noon
- MARCH 16 | FREE Victorian Sci-Fi Book Club Refreshments Provided • 2 p.m.
- MARCH 21 | Make-A-Thing: Fan Making 10 a.m. • \$10

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OFF DUTY

Off Duty is a compilation of military-affiliated information and events focused on the Soldier, their family members and veterans. Information should be 100 words or fewer and contain no editorializing. An informational brief that is not time-specific will not run for more than four weeks. Submissions are due no later than Friday for publication in the following week’s paper. To learn more, call 568-4088.

Bliss Briefs

Minue ACP/traffic advisory: Minue ACP and Liberty Ave. will be closed 5-10 a.m. March 8. Use Old Ironsides or SGM Barreras ACPs and use Torch St. as alternate routes to some East Fort Bliss areas. Minue ACP is due to return to its normal schedule when it reopens to outbound traffic at 4 p.m that afternoon.

Tax Center open: The Fort Bliss Tax Center is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturdays and training holidays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 2910 Cassidy Road. 568-1040

WSMR Bataan March: Register for the 2019 Bataan Memorial Death March. Registration ends Sunday. \$110, \$500. http://bataanmarch.com

Center Chapel 1 closed: Due to necessary construction/repair, the Traditional worship service at Center Chapel 1 (no change in time) is now being held at neighboring Sage Hall until May 1. 568-1519

McGregor/FBTX ammo point closings: The McGregor Range/FBTX Ammunition Supply Point will be closed March 18-22; June 17-21; and Sept. 16-20. Issue documents can be submitted through TAMIS during the closures. 569- 9528

Attention new command spouses: The Spouse Leadership Development Course is a new 40-hour course run by the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence and United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. It will offer an introduction to a number of extremely important topics for those spouses who are entering into a command team at the battalion level. The first class will start in April. Contact Michelle Mebane at 744-1201.

Bible study: Fort Bliss post-wide Bible study takes place every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. at Bldg. 449-451, Pershing Road. Free dinner from 5:30 p.m. Childcare provided. 568-4334

ANNOUNCEMENT

Debt collection notices:

This is a debt collection notice for **Pfc. Tyree Ward**. All services under Ward’s name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Ward or for information regarding collections, call 1st Lt. Ryan Dau at 551-427-2152

This is a debt collection notice for **Sgt. Farhad C. Meskoob**. All services under Farhad’s name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Farhad or for information regarding collections, call 2nd Lt. Adam W. Turek at 951-212-9533

ICE comments: Make your voice heard. Tell us exactly how we are doing. Good or bad: Bring it on. You may remain anonymous, if you choose to do so. Listing your contact information allows us to provide direct feedback. Fort Bliss has an outlet available, the Interactive Customer Evaluation program, fully functional again to all customers. https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=435.

FMWR

Unit Book Kits: Unit Book Kits: Are you part of a unit who is going into the field or deploying soon? If so, stop by the Mickelsen Community Library and pick up book kits for free. Book kits contain a selection of popular fiction and non-fiction paperback items. 568-1902

Auto Crafts Safety Orientation: Auto Craft Centers offers safety orientation classes Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. This is a mandatory safety orientation for use of the facility for automotive do-it-yourself projects. Open to DoD ID cardholders only. 568-7280

Kick it at the Monti Warrior Zone: The Monti Warrior Zone is open Mondays-Sundays. There’s lots to do with a fully stocked bar and snack bar, six pool tables, two mini-bowling lanes, Alienware, Playstation/Xbox gaming center, outdoor basketball, sand volleyball and more! Open to the public, ages 18+. 741-3000

Acrylic Painting Master Class: Join the Art and Hobby Shop on a journey through the art and artistry of acrylic painting. You will learn, many tips and techniques of acrylic painting from some of El Paso’s finest artists. The next class is March 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost: \$25 per lesson, includes instruction and materials. Open to DOD ID cardholders and their family members, ages 15 and older. 915-568-5563

Go Youth

In-home Saturday childcare: Family Child Care offers in-home providers for CYS-registered kids. Cost: \$5/hr. with \$10 deposit. Reservations required. 568-4198 or 744-7879

CYS Date night Saturday: CYS will provide child care Saturday at Milam from 1-11 p.m. 744-7879

Folklorico Dance Saturdays: Join SKIESUnlimited for their Folklorico Dance Class Saturdays 12:15-2 p.m. Open for ages 6-18 years old. Students participating in this course will learn a variety of traditional Latin American dances, as well as dances and culture of various regions of Mexico. Cost: \$40 per month. 568-5544

School Age Book Club: The School Age Book Club is designated for children ages 7-12. A staff member will read for part of the time and the children will read aloud as well from 4-5 p.m. Wednesdays at Mickelsen Library. 568-6156

Child Range Orientation class: This is a one-hour child firearm safety course required for children ages 6-17 to accompany parents or guardians at Rod and Gun Club live fire ranges. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Open to the public. 568-5426

Teen Basic Automotive Maintenance Class: SKIESUnlimited will be hosting this event every second Saturday of the month. Students with their driver’s licenses or permits will learn basics such as changing the oil to replacing a tire and more. Cost: \$25 per student, registration. 568-5544

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Community

OCS Alumni Assoc. Reunion: Calling all branches, all classes 1941-present. There will be an OCS Alumni Association Reunion April 28. This is going to be a great time with the opening of Phase I of the OCS Heritage Center; the dedication of more bricks, pavers, and class memorials; the induction of the 2019 The U.S. Army OCS Alumni Association Hall of Fame class; and the presentations of the Nett Award and the Patterson Award. www.ocsalumni.org/ or ocsalumni reunion@gmail.com

Monster Jam: Get ready for monster truck madness 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, at Sun Bowl Stadium. Gates open one hour before event. Tickets start at \$15; ages 2 and older must have tickets (Ticketmaster). Monsterjam.com.

Hampton University Round Up: The El Paso Alumni Chapter of Hampton University has monthly meetings held at noon in various locations close to Fort Bliss. Contact Warren E. Brown at 241- 4672.

Purple Heart recipients sought: The Military Order of the Purple Heart El Paso Chapter 393 meets the first Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. at the 82nd Airborne Memorabilia Museum, 2608 Fort Blvd. Facebook @MOPHChapter393

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Charter party: The newest members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority at Fort Bliss/El Paso, invites you to their chartering ceremony and reception March 2, 3 p.m. The ceremony will take place at the Paso Del Norte Community Center, 45380 Ellerthorpe Ave. (310) 913-6394 or www.sigmawregion.com

Cowboy Days: The 20th annual celebration of Southwest pioneer heritage is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 2 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 3, at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces, N.M., with two days of cowboy demonstrations, chuckwagon cooking, children’s activities, mounted shooting, the 3rd annual CASI Chili Cook-Off, cowboy music, pony rides, gunfight reenactments, and food and craft vendors. Cost: \$5; 4-younger free. 575-522-4100 or nmfarman-

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Baby items

Boys toddler hooded jackets, new and used. Size 5T, excellent condition. New is blue two-tone blue with inner liner, used is forest green plaid. \$20 for both. (253) 209-2481

Furniture

Chenille cotton sofa pillows, slightly used. Square black, set of 4. \$15 for all. (253) 209-2481

Glass top dining room table with 2 pedestals and 6 chairs. \$350 obo. 757-7912

Two ton Hydraulic Jack. \$25. 757-7912

Homes for Sale or Rent

House for rent: Northeast, very clean, living rm, family rm, breakfast area, carpeted, drapes w/Venetians blinds in all windows, 2 car garage w/remotes, landscape, rock wall fence w/wrought iron. Large backyard patio, dishwasher, refrig, & stove. Ceiling fans, new double pane windows with window guards, new a/c master cool, \$970 plus deposit. 4716 Sun Valley. 821-2655.

Mobile home for sale: 2 bdrm/2 ba., 2010 Schult, 16x56. All appliances, full size w/d, refrig. air, gas stove and furnace. Excellent cond. Eastwind park, 79938. \$30k, 637-1150.

House for rent: 3 bdrm/2 ba., garage, move in ready, fenced backyard. Close to Ft. Bliss, \$850/mo. 822-2387.

Duplex for rent: 3 bdrm/2 ba., stove, refrig., dishwasher, garbage disposal, ceiling fans, fireplace, w/d hook-up. One car garage, private front/back yard. No pets. Ready to move-in. Excellent condition. 4702 Frankfort Ave. 525-5233

dranchmuseum.org

Upper Valley Artists/Farmers Market: The artist and farmers market is 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, at the Substation on Doniphan at Sunset. Free. Face-book at Upper Valley Artist and Farmers Market.

Harlem Globetrotters: The legendary Harlem Globetrotters will bring their new World Tour experience to the Don Haskins Center at 2 p.m. March 10. Cost: \$28 and up at Ticketmaster.com, the Don Haskins Center box office or by phone at 800-745-3000. harlemglobetrotters.com.

Ron ‘Tater Salad’ White: Ron “Tater Salad” White, the comedian, best known as the cigar smoking, scotch drinking funny man from the “Blue Collar Comedy” phenomenon, will return to El Paso with a new stand-up show at 8 p.m. April 4 at the Plaza Theatre. Cost: \$43 and \$53 excluding fees. Plaza Theatre Box Office, Ticketmaster.com, or 800-745-3000

El Paso Comic Con: The annual El Paso Comic Con will be April 12-14 at the El Paso convention center. Actor Jason David Frank, of the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers franchise, and Lynn Lowry, best known for her roles in “I Drink Your Blood,” will be among the celebrity guests. Cost: \$15, full weekend ticket \$55 for ages 11-up. Ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000

Sun Country Doll Folks sales event: Sun Sun Country Doll Folks is hosting the 45th annual Doll Sales Event March 9 frm 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Best Western Plus Hotel, 6655 Gateway Blvd. at Airway. Antique, vintage, modern and miniature dolls will be available. Clothes, books, toys and houses can also be found. Bring your Sick Dolly to the Dolly Doctor. She will be on duty. Cost: \$3, \$1 children.

Water Lantern Festival: The Water Lantern Festival will be March 30 at Ascarsate Park, 6900 Delta Drive. It is an incredible experience where thousands of family, friends, and strangers celebrate life together and witness the beauty of more than 1000 lanterns reflecting upon the water. Enjoy food trucks, music, fun and designing your own lantern. Cost: \$25-\$40. Price includes your lantern. support@waterlanternfestival.com

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1972 Cadillac Fleetwood Limo. 4 dr, 55k miles, new tires, white w/ blue int., tinted windows, runs well. \$10,000 obo. 855-1508.

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1992 Mazda MX-6, 2-door coupe. 5-speed manual trans., sun roof, a/c, power windows. Good mileage and condition. \$2,000. 541-5883

2004 Mercedes Benz C240, silver, grey interior. Low mileage, showroom condition. \$5,000 Firm. (575) 589-1319

2006 Lexus LX-470. Excellent condition, interior and exterior. 95k miles. \$21,000 obo. (575) 583-1319

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2012 FORD F-150 STK# C8334A \$21,995 PRICED TO SELL	2018 AUDI Q3 \$25,995 STK# P1772, TWO TO CHOOSE FROM		2014 FORD F-150 STK# C8244A \$27,995 PRICED TO SELL
2016 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 STK# T28650A \$29,995 A BEAUTY			2018 FORD F-150 STK# P1508 \$31,995 NICE RIDE
2019 RAM 1500 STK# P1738 \$33,995 LIKE NEW	2018 CHEVY SILVERADO STK# P1488 \$34,995 NICE TRUCK	2015 GMC SIERRA 1500 STK# T29319A \$34,995 QUALITY AND PRICE	2018 FORD F-150 STK# P1509 \$39,995 WHY BUY NEW

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P1719 2017 NISSAN VERSA\$11,995	P1721 2018 TOYOTA CAMRY\$19,995
T29353A 2014 CHEVY CAPTIVA\$12,995	P1581A 2017 VW JETTA\$19,995
P1768 2018 NISSAN VERSA\$12,995	P1731 2017 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE\$20,995
P1673 2016 FIAT 500X\$13,995	T29177B 2017 HONDA ACCORD\$20,995
P1704 2017 HYUNDAI VELOSTER\$13,995	T29364A 2017 HONDA ACCORD\$20,995
P1763 2014 JEEP PATRIOT\$13,995	P1709 2018 CHRYSLER 300 LIMITED\$21,995
P1781 2015 NISSAN NV200\$14,995	P1778 2018 JEEP CHEROKEE\$21,995
P1606 2018 TOYOTA YARIS\$15,995	P1774 2018 CHEVY IMPALA\$22,995
C9033A 2015 FORD FOCUS\$15,995	P1780 2018 NISSAN MAXIMA\$23,995
P1750 2017 CHEVY CRUZE\$15,995	P1779 2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN\$25,995
P1776 2017 FORD FOCUS\$15,995	T29270A 2017 NISSAN TITAN\$26,995
T29193A 2015 CHRYSLER T&C\$16,995	T29374A 2016 JEEP WRANGLER\$26,995
P1473A 2017 JEEP RENEGADE\$16,995	P1775 2018 DODGE CHALLENGER R/T\$29,995
T29357A 2014 RAM 1500\$17,995	P1748 2018 DODGE DURANGO\$30,995
P1777 2018 CHEVY CRUZE\$17,995	P1746 2017 RAM 2500\$35,995
P1770 2017 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN\$17,995	P1723 2018 FORD F-250\$39,995
C8327A 2015 DODGE CHALLENGER\$17,995	P1685 2018 TOYOTA TUNDRA\$39,995
T28640A 2017 CHEVY EQUINOX\$18,995	C9076A 2018 CHEVY TAHOE\$48,995
T29003B 2015 HONDA CROSSTOUR\$18,995	T28548B 2015 CHEVY CORVETTE\$65,995
P1759 2018 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER\$18,995	T29366A 2018 FORD F150 RAPTOR\$72,995

2011 DODGE DURANGO STK# T28632A \$12,995	2017 JEEP WRANGLER STK# P1714 \$25,995 4X4	2018 RAM 2500 STK# P1656 \$48,995 DIESEL
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2008 VICTORY VEGAS LOW MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15857 \$5,995 ONLY 2K MILES	2007 VICTORY VEGAS JACKPOT MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15856 \$5,995 ONLY 4K MILES	2001 HARLEY-DAVIDSON FXD MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15855 \$6,995 SUPER CLEAN	2008 HARLEY-DAVIDSON VRSCAW MOTORCYCLE, STK# A15854 \$8,995 ONLY 5K MILES
2017 CHEVY EXPRESS G3500 15 PASSENGER VAN, STK# A15482 \$21,995 WHAT A STEAL	2018 RAM 2500 CREW CAB, DIESEL, 4X4 7 TO CHOOSE FROM! CHECK IT OUT!		2018 FORD TRANSIT-250 CARGO VAN \$25,995 TWO TO CHOOSE FROM
2017 TOYOTA TACOMA STK# A15554 \$33,995 A REAL BARGAIN			2018 TOYOTA TACOMA STK# A15583 \$33,995 HARD TO FIND
2017 CHEVY SUBURBAN C1500 LT, STK# A15674 \$34,995 NOT A MISTAKE	2018 RAM 1500 BIG HORN STK# A15588 \$32,995 TRUCK OF YEAR	2018 TOYOTA TUNDRA LTD. 4X4, STK# A15557 \$41,995 ONLY 7K MILES	2017 FORD F-250 STK# A15550 \$43,995 BIG FORD TRUCK

26026A, LOW PAYMENTS	A15475	2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT\$16,995
2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA\$7,995	A15654	2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT\$16,995
A15763N, LOW PAYMENTS	A15528	2017 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE\$16,995
2013 CHEVY SONIC LT\$7,995	A15601	2017 FORD FUSION SE HYBRID\$17,995
26075A, TAX TIME	A15565	2017 DODGE JOURNEY SE\$17,995
2016 NISSAN VERSA\$8,995	A15519	2018 CHEVY CRUZE LT HATCHBACK\$17,995
A15408A, LOW PAYMENTS	A15408	2017 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN\$17,995
2010 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN\$8,995	A15641	2018 FORD FUSION SE\$18,995
A15743, WHY BUY NEW	A15637	2017 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS\$18,995
2017 KIA RIO EX\$10,995	A15346	2017 CHEVY IMPALA LT\$18,995
26057A, A LITTLE BEAUTY	A15545	2017 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE\$18,995
2016 DODGE DART SE\$10,995	A15537A	2012 FORD F-150 4X4\$18,995
A15599A, HOT RED & READY	26038A	2014 CHEVY CAMARO LT\$18,995
2014 DODGE DART RALLYE\$10,995	A15552	2017 CHEVY COLORADO LT\$20,995
26006C, HARD TO FIND	A15482, 15 PASSENGER	2017 CHEVY EXPRESS G3500 VAN\$21,995
2004 JEEP WRANGLER SE\$10,995	A15746, PURE LUXURY	2015 LEXUS ES350\$22,995
A15839, STUDENT CAR	A15537A	2011 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW CAB 4X4\$23,995
2017 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE ES\$10,995	25932A	2016 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4X4\$26,995
A15805, STEAL THIS ONE	25897A	2015 TOYOTA TACOMA PRERUNNER TRD\$27,995
2015 NISSAN SENTRA SV\$10,995	A15429	2017 RAM 1500 LONESTAR\$27,995
25932B	A15640	2018 CHEVY SILVERADO C1500\$28,995
2016 CHEVY CRUZE LT\$12,995	A15538, ONLY 500 MADE	2016 CHEVY CORVETTE Z06 C7.R\$87,995
25821A		
2014 FORD EDGE SE\$12,995		
A15696		
2011 DODGE DAKOTA EXT CAB\$12,995		
25957A		
2015 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT\$14,995		
A15615		
2015 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT\$15,995		
A15581A		
2016 JEEP COMPASS SPORT\$15,995		
A15570		
2017 CHEVY CRUZE LT\$15,995		
A15568		
2015 NISSAN ALTIMA SV\$15,995		
4827A		
2017 TOYOTA COROLLA LE\$15,995		
25754A		
2017 HYUNDAI VELOSTER\$16,995		
A15624		
2017 NISSAN ALTIMA SV\$16,995		
A15608		
2017 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT\$16,995		

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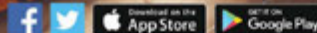
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