

# Happy Holidays



# Pentagram

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## Joint Chiefs chairman welcomes military’s new top enlisted member

By David Vergun  
DOD News

Responsibility as the U.S. military’s top enlisted service member changed hands at a ceremony hosted by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Mark A. Milley at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Friday.

Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell retired at the ceremony, turning the position over to Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Ramon “CZ” Colon-Lopez.

In swearing in the new SEAC, Milley emphasized that the oath of office is sacred, noting the United States is the only nation that takes an oath to an idea.

“It’s an idea embedded in a piece of paper called the Constitution,” he said.

Members of the military swear an oath to, if necessary, “die or suffer grievous wounds for this idea, to separate from our Families and sacrifice for this idea,” he said. “It’s a very powerful idea.”

Milley said several nations have emulated the idea over the last two centuries and that it’s an idea America’s enemies fear.

This idea, he said, is that gender, race, ethnicity, religion, income level and sexual preference do not matter.

“The idea says that under these colors of red, white and blue, every single one of us is an American,” the chairman said. “And every one of us is born free and equal. People will rise based on their knowledge, skills, attributes and talents, and they will be judged by the content of their character.”

Colon-Lopez is now the fourth SEAC.

Following the oath of office ceremony that completed the transition of responsibility from



PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS DOMINIQUE A. PINEIRO  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Mark A. Milley administers the oath of office to Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Ramon “CZ” Colon-Lopez at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Friday. With Colon-Lopez is his wife, Janet.

Troxell to Colon-Lopez, retired Army Gen. Curtis M. Scapparotti presented the Defense Superior Service Medal to Troxell for, among other things, “providing trusted and insightful guidance to the chairman on a vast array of complex military initiatives and long-term personnel issues.” Troxell was Scapparotti’s senior enlisted leader at U.S. Forces Korea when he was selected for the SEAC

position.

Scapparotti also presented Troxell with the Presidential Certificate of Achievement and the Certificate of Retirement. He presented Troxell’s wife, Sandra, with the DOD Distinguished Public Service Award for her volunteer work with service members and their Families and as an advocate for quality-of-life issues.

## Geese ‘parade’ on Summerall Field



On Tuesday, under foggy conditions, Canada geese gather on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall’s Summerall Field. PHOTO BY CATRINA FRANCIS

## Army extends housing surveys until Friday

By U.S. Army  
Public Affairs

In order to maximize resident participation and feedback, the Army is extending the closing date for its online housing-satisfaction surveys until Friday.

The surveys — one on

Army-owned and -leased housing, and one on privatized housing — were originally scheduled to close Dec. 13.

“Army Soldiers, civilians, retirees and their Families deserve the highest-quality housing and services possible, and resident feedback

will drive future resources to this end state,” said Gen. Gus Perna, commanding general of U.S. Army Materiel Command. “This extension allows more residents to provide Army leaders their perspectives on what we are doing well and where we need to improve.”

Both surveys, which take about 10 minutes to complete, are being administered by an independent, third-party organization called CEL & Associates. All surveys are confidential, and the reporting structure ensures that the Army will not see responses unless

CEL is satisfied that participants’ anonymity is retained.

Approximately 100,000 survey invitations were emailed to residents in November. Residents who have not yet received an emailed invitation should contact their local housing offices.

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For more weather forecasts and information, visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).



# Chaplain's Corner

## Experiencing moments of greatness

**By Retired Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Ray Bailey  
Former Deputy Chief of Chaplains**

I've had moments when I achieved greatness. You know those times because you've had them too. They came out of nowhere and just happened. Greatness descended on me recently when I opened my kitchen cabinet to put something away and a glass fell out heading to the floor. Without thinking, my hand shot down and I caught it mid-air. I felt such a great rush of euphoria! I was duly impressed with my agility. I couldn't have done that if I tried. I had achieved a random moment of greatness. It was wonderful. I've had other moments in different circumstances. Just the other day I had a bag of M & M's and tossed one

candy high in the air and without moving my head, it directly hit my mouth. Greatness achieved! Move aside Superman. I wish someone else saw my glass catching phenomenon, but it only impressed me. Now when someone else sees me do such greatness, there are gasps of awe and admiration. But, it's tough when no one is there to see such greatness. I can't call a friend and say "Guess what I did? I caught a glass midair!" He would just think me weird and desperate for attention. "Oh, good for you. You really need help." I cherish these random moments of greatness. It gives me a temporary sense of achievement on a nonachievement day. It gives me a quick fix on my self-image. It shows me

that I can do great things even if no one is watching. It distinguishes me from the pack for just a moment. I did a wow thing. What is interesting is many of these great moments are not planned or rehearsed. They just happened. It was a moment when reaction, timing, concentration and a bit of luck came together. Greatness achieved! Another great moment came a while ago when I randomly called a friend to check on her and to my surprise, she said that the phone call was so important because she felt lonely and lost the joy. My voice was the greatness. Another time at work I just casually walked into a co-worker's office and told a funny story. Later the friend said that it was the most terrible day until I came in with my

smile and laughter. A moment of greatness. These and other times have happened unscheduled and rehearsed but at random following my heart. I wonder if there could be even more moments of greatness if I open myself up to allowing moments to occur by preparing myself for them to happen. A positive attitude, a deep faith, a forgiving spirit, empathy and sympathy and other ways to put myself into moments of greatness for others sake. I'll have another great moment of catching an M& M in my mouth but an even better one of helping put a smile on a sad face, a spark of joy in a hopeless moment, a caring heart when no one cares and sharing a deep abiding faith in a Creator who loves us all.



### Chapel services

Religious services will be held at Memorial Chapel at the below times.

<b>Catholic</b>
Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.,
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.
<b>Protestant</b>
7:45 and 10:30 a.m. (Sunday)
<b>Gospel service</b>
noon (Sunday)
<b>Samoa service</b>
2:30 p.m. (Sunday)

## String quartet, Army Voices perform during Advent concerts



Army Voices perform during an Advent Concert Tuesday at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's Memorial Chapel.

PHOTOS BY CATRINA FRANCIS



On Dec. 12, The U.S. Army Band's String Quartet perform during an Advent concert in JBM-HH's Memorial Chapel.

# ACS Corner

All courses below are in the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Army Community Service classroom, 202 Custer Rd. (Bldg.201), Fort Myer, VA 22211.

For more information on any course or to register, please call (703) 696-3512.

Registration is required. Army Community Service is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Anger management toolkit**

This in-depth five session curriculum Tuesdays, Jan. 7 through Feb. 4 was designed to help individuals learn coping skills when they feel overwhelmed and frustrated. The 9:30 to 11 a.m. course explores the physiology of anger and how to express concerns in respectful ways. Topics include triggers, coping, assertive communication and self-care.

**Baby bundles**

On Jan. 8 from 9 a.m. to noon prepare for the changes that are needed when a baby arrives. A brief overview of the labor and delivery process, newborn care, and baby proofing the home will



be discussed. Individuals will receive a gift bag of free baby care and safety items.

**Parenting with love, logic**

On Jan. 9 and 16 learn simple yet effective strategies for parenting children up to young adulthood.

**Conflict resolution**

On Jan. 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. learn how to identify conflict and ways to manage it in the future.

**Helping children manage anger**

On Jan. 30 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. participants will receive tips on how to recognize triggers that impact a child's ability to manage anger. Registration is required.

**Anger Management 101**

On Jan. 31, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., individuals will receive guidance on emotions management and the impact of unmanaged anger, as well as the basics of identifying stressors in their life and how to create their own anger management plan. Registration is required.

**Happening at Henderson Hall**

**New Parents Support play morning**

Join the JBM-HH New Parent Support Programs for play morning every Thursday during the school year from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Henderson Hall Chapel (adjacent to Navy Mutual Aid Association).

Play morning is open to parents with children ages newborn to 5 years old and includes a period of free play, followed by songs and stories. For more information, call (703) 614-7204 or (703) 696-3512.





PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FRASER

Volunteers participate in the 28th Wreaths Across America Day at Arlington National Cemetery. On Saturday more than 38,000 volunteers joined Soldiers for Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery. They helped honor those laid to rest at these hallowed grounds by placing 254,000 wreaths across the cemetery's 624 acres.

## Volunteers pay homage by laying wreaths at ANC



Volunteers participate in the 28th Wreaths Across America Day at Arlington National Cemetery Saturday.



Carmine Pecorelli (right), a veteran of World War II, Vietnam and Korea, attends the 28th Wreaths Across America Day at Arlington National Cemetery Saturday.



ELIZABETH FRASER

Volunteers participate in the 28th Wreaths Across America Day at Arlington National Cemetery Saturday.



A trucking convoy enters Arlington National Cemetery before the 28th Wreaths Across America Day.



Volunteers enter Arlington National Cemetery during the 28th Wreaths Across America Day Saturday.



# Soldiers need to complete periodic health assessment

By Andrew Radar  
Health Clinic

The periodic health assessment is an annual preventive medical tool designed to prevent and identify mental and physical conditions that may affect individual health, therefore, affecting the over-all medical readiness of the entire formation. To improve the readiness posture on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall and Fort McNair, Radar Health Clinic must improve its PHA compliance.

Per U.S. Army chief of staff memorandum dated Oct. 12, 2006, and AR 40-501, standards of medical fitness, an annual periodic health assessment, is required for all general officers, officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel, regardless of component. The PHA is a preventive screening tool designed to improve reporting and visibility of individual medical readiness for all Soldiers. The PHA serves to improve the health status of all military personnel.

The PHA includes:

- A current self-reported health status
- Review of medical records



Sgt. 1st Class Gary Thomas, Detachment 1, Company D, 1-114 Aviation Service & Support Battalion, has his blood drawn during the VING's annual Periodic Health Assessment held on St. Croix, VI, May 19, 2018. The assessment is designed to measure a Soldier's current state of health and their ability to deploy.

- Identification
- Referral for current health concerns
- Mental health
- Identification and management of occupational health risks
- preventive health needs
- Identification and development of a plan to manage

health risks

The PHA is a simple two-step process:

Step 1: Military personnel should go online to complete part one of their PHA. For PHA/ PDHA/ PDHRA, complete phase one online at <https://medpros.mosd.army.mil/portal/#/>.

Step 2: Military personnel should then contact the primary care clinic at Andrew Rader Health Clinic at the contact number below to schedule phase two of their PHA. For an appointment, call Andrew Radar Health Clinic at (855) 227-6331 or McNair Army Health Clinic

at (202) 685-3100. For any questions or concerns, contact Master Sgt. Latrevis Stokes, the senior enlisted advisor at Andrew Rader Health Clinic, by email at [latrevis.l.stokes.mil@mail.mil](mailto:latrevis.l.stokes.mil@mail.mil) or by phone at (703) 696-7929.

# Workforce development training in 2020

By JBM-HH  
Workforce Development

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's Workforce Development will have the following training opportunities in 2020.

Jan. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Federal resume writing, Bldg. 417, room 108, Kathryn Troutman, The

Resume Place  
Feb. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Excuses, blame and unmet expectations, Bldg. 417, room 218, James Bird Guess, International Success Academy  
March 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., SharePoint Sandbox, Bldg. 417, room 108, Victor Spong, IMCOM G-9

April 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., JBM-HH Workforce Development Symposium, Spates Community Club  
May 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., FERS retirement planning seminar, Memorial Chapel Fellowship Hall Planning Inc.  
June 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Communicating with Credibil-

ity, Bldg. 417, room 218, James Bird Guess, International Success Academy  
July 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., FERS retirement planning seminar, Memorial Chapel Fellowship Hall Planning Inc.  
Aug. 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Generational leadership, Bldg. 417, room 218, James Bird Guess, International Success Academy

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# BabyBUNDLES

Photo Credit: Pixabay

Photo Credit: Pixabay

**JAN 8**

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**ACS Classroom 202 Custer Rd (Bldg. 201) Fort Myer, VA 22211**

Prepare your home and relationship for the changes that are needed when your baby arrives. A brief overview of the labor and delivery process, newborn care, and baby proofing your home will be discussed. Individuals will receive a gift bag of free baby care and safety items. Registration required.

**CALL TO REGISTER: 703-696-3512**



# JBM-HH holiday hours 2019

JBM-HH services **open** Christmas Eve:

Bowling Center: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Capitol Deli: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Fort Myer Exchange: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
GNC: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Marine Corps Exchange: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Myer Alterations 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Myer Barber Shop: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Myer Cellular Kiosk: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Myer Dry Cleaners: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Myer Express 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Myer Fitness Center: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Myer Optical : 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
NEX Uniform Center: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Panda Express: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m  
Patton Hall Christmas Eve Dinner: 6 to 9 p.m.  
Petals to go: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Precision Auto: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m  
Starbucks 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Subway: 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Vineyard Wine : 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Watch Repair 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Services **open** Christmas Day:**

Bowling Center: Noon to 6 p.m.

Services not listed are **closed on the above dates**. Please call before visiting any service not listed. Updates will be posted at [facebook.com/jbmhh](https://facebook.com/jbmhh).

The JBM-HH Dining Facility will run Saturday, Dec. 21 through Wednesday, Jan. 1 on Brunch and Supper hours.

Weekend  
Brunch: 9 a.m. to noon  
Supper: 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The directorate of human resources services will be closed Dec 24 through Dec. 26 and Jan. 1 through Jan. 2. Closed services include the DHR staff office, administrative services, Forts Myer and McNair Official Mail Distribution Centers, the military personnel division, in and out processing, the Fort Myer ID Card Facility, the Soldier for life center, the Army substance abuse office, and the Army continuing education center. On these dates the casualty operations services will remain available 24/7 at the on call number (703) 489-2714.

# JBM-HH New Year's hours 2020

JBM-HH services **open** New Year's Eve:

Bowling Center: 7 a.m. to midnight \*Glow bowling begins 8 p.m.  
Capitol Deli: 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Fort Myer Exchange: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Fort Myer Express: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Fort Myer MCSS 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
GNC: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Marine Corps Exchange: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Myer Alterations 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Myer Barber Shop: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Myer Cellular Kiosk: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Myer Dry Cleaners 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Myer Express 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Myer Optical : 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
NEX Uniform Center: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Panda Express: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m  
Patton Hall New Years Eve Dinner: 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Petals to go: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Precision Auto: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m  
Starbucks 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Subway: 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Vineyard Wine : 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Watch Repair 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Services **open** New Year's Day:**

Bowling Center: Noon to 6 p.m.  
Marine Corps Exchange: 10 a.m. to 6p.m.  
Myer Express: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Vineyard Wine: 10 a.m. to 6p.m.

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# Top stories of 2019: ESB, bonuses to talent management

By Sean Kimmons  
Army News Service

This past year, the Army approved standards for the Army Combat Fitness Test, introduced a new proficiency badge and altered how it promotes Soldiers. The Army also began the groundwork to better manage its talent, while a leadership shuffle brought in new top brass.

Below is a list of some of the biggest stories that impacted the force in 2019:

## EXPERT SOLDIER BADGE

On the Army’s birthday in June, senior leaders introduced a new proficiency badge.

The Expert Soldier Badge is the equivalent of the Expert Infantry Badge and Expert Field Medical Badge, but for all other military occupational specialties in the Army.

To qualify for the ESB test, Soldiers must pass the Army Combat Fitness Test, qualify as an “expert” on the M4/M16 rifle and be recommended by their chain of command.

The test consists of another ACFT, day and night land navigation, individual testing stations and culminates with a 12-mile foot march.

The first 11 Soldiers to earn the badge were honored by senior leaders in October during the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition.

The badge looks exactly like the Combat Action Badge, minus the wreath. It displays the same M9 bayonet knife and M67 frag grenade inlaid against a solid, gray rectangular bar.

## MERIT-BASED PROMOTIONS

The Army officially started its first major overhaul to its enlisted centralized promotion board in 50 years, as it looks to deliver “the right person, at the right job, at the right time,” according to G-1 officials.

The effort centers on a transition from time-based to merit-based policies and practices. Intended for active duty Soldiers and those serving in an active Guard and Reserve capacity, the change ensures the best-qualified Soldier will be the first one eligible for promotion.

It will take three to four years to implement an improved merit-based promotion system, officials said.

The Army also released results from its first officer merit promotion board in October.

U.S. Army Human Resources Command conducted the board for prospective majors by incorporating a new initiative from the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. It allowed promotion selection boards to recommend officers of particular merit to be placed higher on the promotion list.

In the future, merit-based promotions will apply to officers being considered for promotion to major, lieutenant colonel and colonel in select categories to be determined by the secretary of the Army, officials said.



This past year, the Army approved standards for the Army Combat Fitness Test, introduced a new proficiency badge and altered how it promotes Soldiers. The Army also began the groundwork to better manage its talent, while a leadership shuffle brought in new top brass.

## ARMY COMBAT FITNESS TEST

In the fall, officials announced changes to the ACFT before all Soldiers will be required to take it next October.

Official testing standards, each one tailored to a Soldier’s military occupational specialty, were revealed in September. The new test also became a graduation requirement for all new Soldiers and officers.

The arm-extension pushup replaced the hand-release pushup as one of the six events in the test, which is set to replace the current Army Physical Fitness Test that has been around since 1980.

The changes came after roughly 17,000 Soldiers from over 60 battalions took the test during its initial implementation phase.

In May, Army senior leaders approved the development of alternate assessments for selected Soldiers with permanent profiles. Instead of the 2-mile run, a Soldier can do a 5,000-meter row, 15,000-meter stationary bike ride or a 1,000-meter swim. Each event will be completed in a set time, targeted at 25 minutes or less.

## PARENTAL LEAVE

Parents of newborn infants received more good news earlier this year when the Army doubled the amount of parental leave given to fathers and other secondary caregivers, as well as provided more flexibility to mothers.

The directive increased parental leave from 10 to 21 days for Soldiers who are designated secondary caregivers of infants. The new policy made the Army’s parental leave comparable to that of other services and in compliance with the 2017 National Defense

Authorization Act.

Mothers can also now be granted six weeks of convalescent leave directly after giving birth and can be granted another six weeks of leave as primary caregiver to bond with their infant anytime up to a year after birth.

## UCMJ CHANGES

A host of changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice became effective Jan. 1, modernizing definitions for many offenses, adjusting maximum penalties, standardizing court-martial panels, creating new computer-crime laws and much more.

The changes strike a balance between protecting the rights of the accused and empowering commanders to affect good order and discipline, a military justice official said.

Among them were stiffer penalties for recruiters, drill sergeants and others in “positions of special trust” convicted of abusing their authority over recruits or trainees.

Many of the changes came about after a review by the Military Justice Review Group, consisting of military and criminal justice experts whose report made recommendations to Congress.

## ESPORTS

A new Army esports team hit the ground running this year, with thousands of Soldiers applying for a chance to be a part of it.

One of U.S. Army Recruiting Command’s outreach efforts — which also includes a functional fitness team — the esports team represents the Army in competitions and events across the country.

Team members are not recruiters but they do link up with recruiters during events. They also receive a crash course on Army enlistment programs to answer questions from those interested in learning about the service.

While on the team, Soldiers still conduct physical training, weapons qualification and other responsibilities that come with being a Soldier. They will also need to maintain certifications in their military occupational specialty.

## RE-UP BONUSES

The Army announced this year lump-sum bonuses up to \$81,000 — the highest amount in more than five years — in an effort to entice Soldiers to reenlist in some of the most in-demand careers.

In addition to critical fields, the fall announcement offered a wide range of cash options for Soldiers re-upping for longer commitments, or reclassifying into needed fields.

The payouts were based on critical skills and selective retention. The Selective Retention Bonus program is designed to incentivize Soldiers to maintain their current military occupational specialty or reclassify into another MOS based on demands for the individual jobs.

## TACKLING HOUSING ISSUES

Earlier this year, Army senior leaders placed housing as the No. 1

priority for quality of life, following complaints of health concerns inside homes and mismanagement of housing contractors.

In the past 10 months, the Army identified governance flaws, initiated commander-driven town halls and created 24-hour helplines to hear feedback directly from Families, leaders said.

Backing these efforts, housing operations have now been assigned to the commander of Army Materiel Command, Gen. Gus Perna, who has delegated authority to slash incentive fees for housing contractors.

The Army has more than 86,000 privatized homes. Of those, one-third need to be rebuilt and another one-third need minor repairs.

About \$1.1 billion in budget requests to improve housing is currently awaiting approval by Congress. An overall analysis of the Army’s privatized housing requirements is also underway, leaders said, and is slated to be completed by the spring.

## NEW LEADERSHIP

A leadership carousel of sorts occurred this year following promotions and a retirement among the Army’s top leaders.

After former Army Secretary Mark Esper became the current secretary of defense, Ryan McCarthy, who served as his undersecretary, was confirmed by the Senate to take over the Army’s top civilian post.

Gen. Mark Milley was also promoted to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, leaving the door open for Gen. James McConville to succeed him as the Army’s chief of staff.

Gen. Joseph Martin, who served as the director of the Army Staff, took over McConville’s previous position as the Army’s vice chief of staff.

Former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey then retired as Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston, the former senior enlisted leader for U.S. Army Forces Command, replaced him as the Army’s top enlisted Soldier.

## TALENT MANAGEMENT

The Army moved forward this year on the most comprehensive reform of its three officer personnel systems across the force since 1947.

The Army is developing a new talent management system to acquire, develop, employ and retain the best officers for the future. Congress granted new authorities that provide more flexibility for the Army to determine characteristics of the system.

A big part of it is the Army Talent Alignment Process, which is enabled by Assignment Interactive Module 2.0. ATAP is a decentralized, regulated, market-style hiring system that aligns officers with jobs based on preferences.

The majority of active duty officers and units began to participate in ATAP in October for their summer 2020 assignments.

ATAP is slated to fall under the Integrated Personnel and Pay System — Army, an online human resources system designed to maximize Soldier talent through integrated personnel and pay data in a single system for all Army components.



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# Esper, Milley commemorate Battle of the Bulge 75th anniversary

By Jim Garamone  
Defense.gov

Military and civilian dignitaries from Europe and the United States were in Belgium Monday to mark the anniversary of one of the most important battles of World War II — the Battle of the Bulge.

“There are times we must say, ‘No,’” King Philippe of Belgium said in Bastogne, Belgium. “‘No’ to the extreme evil perpetrated by a hateful ideology. This is what we did together 75 years ago.”

The Belgian people remember their American liberators, the king said, pointing to six veterans of the battle who were attending the ceremony.

Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper and Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, attended the ceremony at Belgium’s Mardasson Memorial. They met six veterans of the famed battle at the ceremony.

The battle marked the second time in World War II that Nazi forces stormed through the Belgian Ardennes Forest. In May 1940, the first attack broke through and resulted in the British being chased from Europe and France being defeated.

In 1944, the Nazis’ tanks ran into the U.S. Army.

The battle was the largest Army operation of the war. By its end in January, 10,733 Allied soldiers were dead, 42,316 had been wounded and 22,636 were missing in action.

The German attack began the night of Dec. 16, 1944, with a German artillery barrage followed by multiple Panzer divisions. It was a complete surprise to the divisions holding the line in the Ardennes. Hitler’s vision was to split the Allied force and drive to Antwerp, Belgium.

Adding to the Germans’ advantage was the weather: Because it was cloudy and foggy, Allied planes could not fly.

The U.S. formations were splintered, and many units lost cohesion. Yet, many more stood their ground and fought until they were overwhelmed. Each battle delayed the German timetable and gave time for reinforcements to come in.

One of those units was the 101st Airborne Division, which was rushed to Bastogne to stop the Wehrmacht — Germany’s collective armed forces — from taking that crucial road junction.

Esper and Milley stopped at the Bois Jacques woods outside the town of Foy, Belgium, to visit with current Soldiers of the division from Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

“This is our Gettysburg,” Army Maj. Gen. Brian Winski, the commander of the 101st Airborne Division, said as he spoke to Esper and



Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper and Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visit Bois Jacques — a wooded battlefield — in Bastogne, Belgium, Monday. The visit was part of a U.S. delegation’s tour of the region to observe of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Milley. The fight for Bastogne was that crucial to the division and the Allied forces in Europe.”

The division, known as the “Screaming Eagles,” were completely besieged by German forces and carried out one of the most heroic defenses ever recorded in history, Esper said at the Bastogne memorial.

The Germans called on the 101st to surrender, but the commander — then Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe — just replied, “Nuts.”

“The American troops beat back repeated infantry attacks from all directions,” Esper said. “News of their fierce defense quickly spread, boosting morale of Allied forces all along the Western Front.”

The history of the battle is full of superlatives. Tanks broke through to Bastogne Dec. 26, 1944. The weather cleared, and allied aircraft ripped the German armor and supply lines.

But the real reason for victory wasn’t the technology or the plan; it was the heroism and fortitude of American Soldiers.

“The Americans who fought here were led by some of our most revered military leaders of the time, but it was ultimately the intrepid and indomitable spirit of the American Soldier that fueled us to victory,” Esper said.

“In World War II, America was willing to commit everything we had to preserve freedom. And on this ground, where the outcome of

the Battle of the Bulge hung in the balance, American troops forged an incredible victory that assured the Nazi regime’s defeat.”



PHOTO BY BRUNO FAHY, OFFICE OF THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER

Military and civilian dignitaries attend a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge at the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium, Monday. The battle took place during World War II from Dec. 16, 1944, until Jan. 25, 1945.



PHOTO BY LISA FERDINANDO

Veterans of World War II attend a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge at the Mardasson Memorial near Bastogne, Belgium, Monday.

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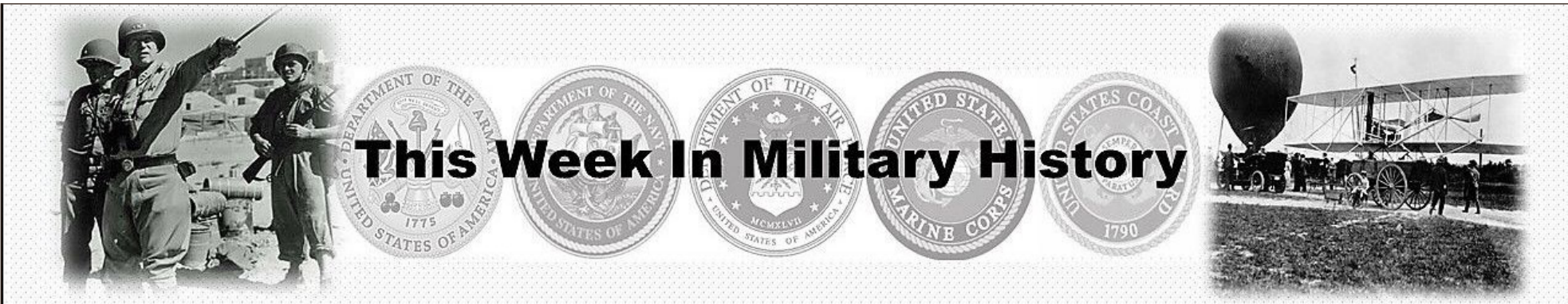
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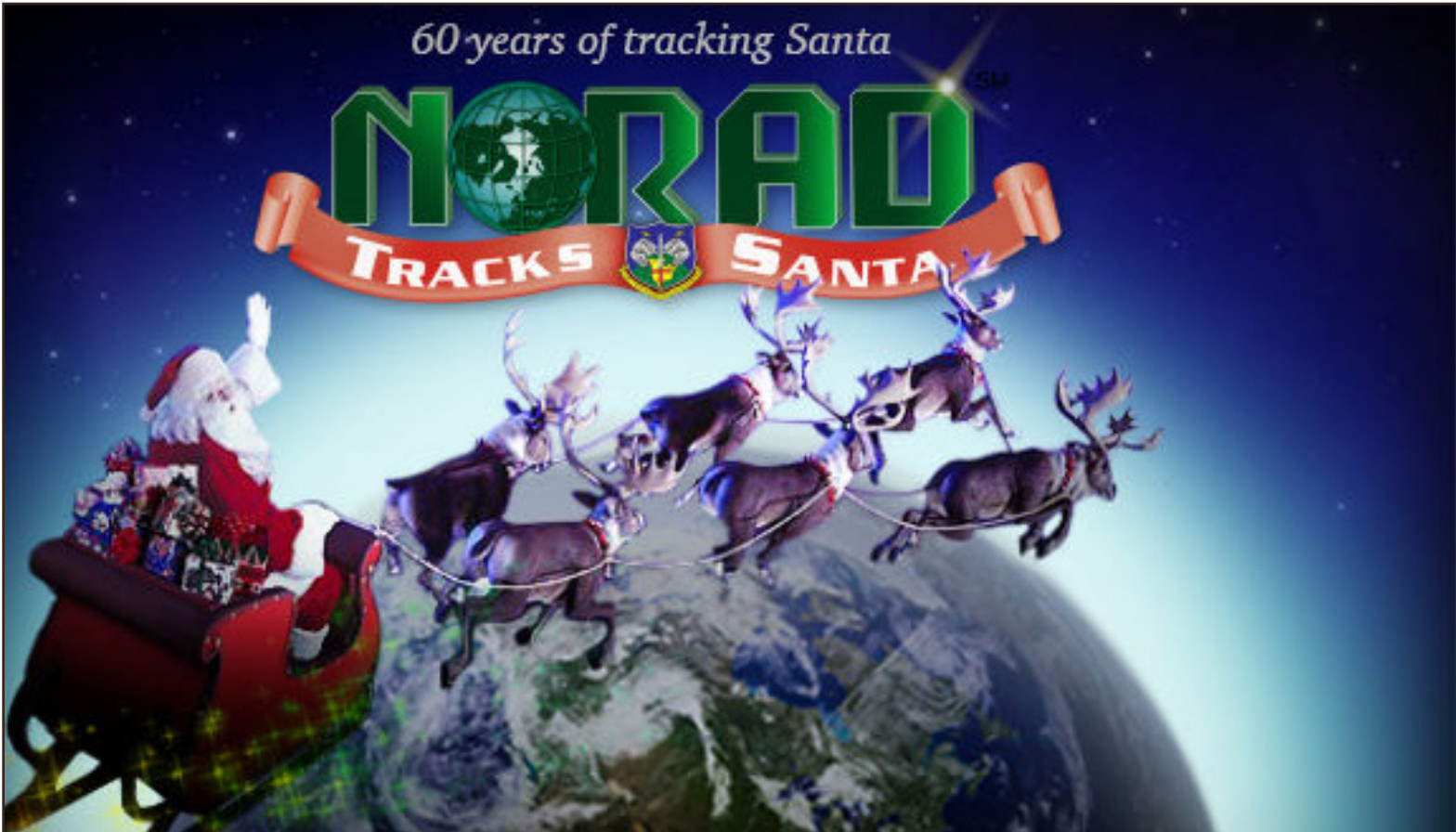
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**Dec. 19**  
In 1777, with the onset of the bitter winter cold, the Continental Army under Gen. George Washington, still in the field, entered its winter camp at Valley Forge, 22 miles from British-occupied Philadelphia. Washington chose a site on the west bank of the Schuylkill River that was effectively defended in the event of a British attack. During 1777, Patriot forces under Washington suffered major defeats against the British at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, Philadelphia, the capital of the United States, fell into British hands. The particularly severe winter of 1777-1778 proved to be a great trial for the American Army, and of the 11,000 Soldiers stationed at Valley Forge, hundreds died from disease. However, the suffering troops were held together by loyalty to the Patriot cause and to Washington, who stayed with his men. As the winter stretched on, Prussian military adviser Frederick von Steuben kept the Soldiers busy with drills and training in modern military strategy. When Washington’s army marched out of Valley Forge June 19, 1778, the men were better disciplined and stronger in spirit than when they entered. Nine days later, they won a victory against the British under Lord Charles Cornwallis at the Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey.

**Dec. 20**  
In 1803, without a shot fired, the French handed over New Orleans and lower Louisiana to the United States. In April 1803, the United States



In 1955, NORAD tracks Santa for the first time in what will become an annual Christmas Eve tradition. The program began in 1955, when a Sears department store placed an advertisement in a Colorado Springs newspaper, which told children that they could telephone Santa Claus and included a number for them to call.

purchased from France the 828,000 square miles that was formerly French Louisiana. The area was divided into two territories — the northern half was Louisiana Territory, the largely unsettled (though home to many Indians) frontier section that was later explored by Lewis and Clark; and the southern Orleans Territory, which was populated by Europeans. Unlike the sprawling and largely unexplored northern territory (which eventually encompassed a dozen large states), Orleans Territory was a small, densely populated region that was like a little slice

of France in the New World. With borders that roughly corresponded to the modern state of Louisiana, Orleans Territory was home to about 50,000 people, primarily a French population that was living under the direction of a Spanish administration. These former citizens of France knew almost nothing about American laws and institutions, and the challenging task of bringing them into the American fold fell to the newly appointed governor of the region, 28-year-old William Claiborne. Historians found no real evidence that the French of Orleans Terri-

tory resented their transfer to American control, though one witness claimed that when the French tricolor was replaced by the stars and stripes in New Orleans, the citizens wept. The French did resent that their new governor was appointed rather than elected, and they bridled when the American government tried to make English the official language and discouraged the use of French. It didn’t help matters that young Claiborne knew neither French nor Spanish. Claiborne soon found himself immersed in a complex sea of ethnic tensions and political unrest

that he understood, and in January, he wrote to Thomas Jefferson that the population was “uninformed, indolent, luxurious—in a word, ill-fitted to be useful citizens for a Republic.” To his dismay, Claiborne found that most of his time was spent not governing but dealing with an unrelenting procession of crises like riots, robberies and runaway slaves. Despite his concerns, Claiborne knew that somehow these people had to be made into American citizens, and over time, he gradually made progress in bringing the

see HISTORY page 9



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## HISTORY

from page 8

citizenry into the Union. In December 1804, he reported to Jefferson that “they begin to view their connection with the United States as permanent and to experience the benefits thereof.” Proof of this came eight years later when the people of Orleans Territory drafted a Constitution and successfully petitioned to become the 18th state in the Union. Despite Claiborne’s doubts about whether the French would ever truly fit into their new nation, the approval of that petition meant that the people of Louisiana were officially Americans.

**Dec. 21**  
In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton, commander of the U.S. 3rd Army, died from injuries suffered not in battle but in a freak car accident. He was 60 years old. Descended from a long line of military men, Patton graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1909. He represented the United States in the 1912 Olympics as the first American participant in the pentathlon. He did not win a medal. He went on to serve in the Tank Corps during World War I, an experience that made Patton a dedicated proponent of tank warfare. During World War II, as commander of the U.S. 7th Army, he captured Palermo, Sicily, in 1943 by just such means. Patton’s audacity became evident in 1944, when during the Battle of the Bulge, he employed an unorthodox strategy that involved a 90-degree pivoting move of his 3rd Army forces, which enabled him to speedily relieve the besieged Allied defenders of Bastogne, Belgium. Along the way, Patton’s mouth proved as dangerous to his career as the Germans. When he berated and slapped a hospitalized Soldier diagnosed with “shell shock,” but whom Patton accused of “malingering,” the press turned on him, and pressure

was applied to cut him down to size. He might have found himself enjoying early retirement had Gens. Dwight Eisenhower and George Marshall not intervened on his behalf. After several months of inactivity, he was put back to work. And work he did at the Battle of the Bulge, during which Patton once again succeeded in employing a complex and quick-witted strategy, which turned the German thrust into Bastogne into an Allied counterthrust that drove the Germans east across the Rhine. In March 1945, Patton’s army swept through southern Germany into Czechoslovakia, which he was stopped from capturing by the Allies, out of respect for the Soviets’ postwar political plans for Eastern Europe. Patton had many gifts, but diplomacy was not one of them. After the war, while stationed in Germany, he criticized the process of denazification, the removal of former Nazi Party members from positions of political, administrative and governmental power. His impolitic press statements questioned the policy caused Eisenhower to remove him as U.S. commander in Bavaria. He was transferred to the 15th Army Group, but in December 1945, he suffered a broken neck in a car accident and died less than two weeks later.

**Dec. 22**  
In 1972, Washington announced that the bombing of North Vietnam would continue until Hanoi agreed to negotiate “in a spirit of good will and in a constructive attitude.” North Vietnamese negotiators walked out of secret talks in Paris Dec. 13. President Richard Nixon issued an ultimatum to North Vietnam to send its representatives back to the conference table within 72 hours “or else.” They rejected Nixon’s demand, and in response the president ordered Operation Linebacker II, a full-scale air campaign against the Hanoi area. During the 11

days of the operation, 700 B-52 sorties and more than 1,000 fighter-bomber sorties dropped an estimated 20,000 tons of bombs, mostly over the densely populated area between Hanoi and Haiphong. In the course of the bombing, the Cuban, Egyptian and Indian embassies were hit in Hanoi, as were Russian and Chinese freighters in Haiphong. Bach Mai, Hanoi’s largest hospital, was also damaged by the attacks. In the United States, 41 American religious leaders issued a letter, which condemned the bombing.

**Dec. 23**  
In 1999, President Bill Clinton pardoned Freddie Meeks, an African-American Sailor court-martialed for mutiny during World War II when he and other Sailors refused to load live ammunition following a deadly explosion at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine near San Francisco that claimed more than 300 lives.

**Dec. 24**  
In 1955, NORAD tracked Santa for the first time in what became an annual Christmas Eve tradition. The program began in 1955, when a Sears department store placed an advertisement in a Colorado Springs, Colorado, newspaper which told children that they could telephone Santa Claus and included a number for them to call. However, the telephone number printed was misprinted and calls instead came through to Colorado Springs’ Continental Air Defense Command Center. Col. Harry Shoup, who was on duty that night, told his staff to give all children who called in a “current location” for Santa Claus. A tradition began which continued when the North American Aerospace Defense Command replaced CONAD in 1958. Today, NORAD relies on volunteers to make the program possible. Each volunteer handles about 40 telephone calls per hour, and the team

typically handles more than 12,000 emails and more than 70,000 telephone calls from more than 200 countries and territories. Most of these contacts happen during the 25 hours from 2 a.m. Dec. 24 until 3 a.m. Mountain time Dec. 25. Volunteers include NORAD military and civilian personnel.

**Dec. 25**  
In 1864, the 24th Naval forces under the command of Rear Adm. David Dixon Porter and Army units under Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler launched an unsuccessful attack against Fort Fisher. Transports, which carried Butler’s troops retired to Beaufort in order to avoid the anticipated effects of the explosion of the powder boat Louisiana. Fleet units assembled in a rendezvous area 12 miles from the fort. At daylight Dec. 24, the huge fleet got underway, formed in line of battle before the formidable Confederate works, and commenced a furious bombardment. The staunch southern defenders, under the command of Col. William Lamb, were driven from their guns and into the bombproofs of Fort Fisher but managed to return the Federal fire from a few of their heavy cannon. Transports, which carried Union Soldiers did not arrive from Beaufort until evening; too late for an assault that day. Accordingly, Porter withdrew his ships, and intended to renew the attack the next day. Most of the casualties resulted from the bursting of five 100-pounder Parrott guns on board five different ships. By taking shelter the defenders, too, suffered few casualties, despite the heavy bombardment. At 10:30 a.m. the ships again opened fire on the fort and maintained the bombardment while troops landed north of the works, near Flag Pond Battery. Naval gunfire kept the garrison largely pinned down and away from their guns as Butler landed about 2,000 men who advanced toward the land

face of the fort. Meanwhile, the admiral attempted to find a channel through New Inlet to attack the forts from Cape Fear River. When Commander John Guest, USS Iosco and a detachment of double-ender gunboats encountered a shallow bar which they could not pass. Porter called on the indomitable Lt. William Barker Cushing, hero of the Albatross destruction, to sound the channel in small boats, buoyed it for the ships to pass through. Under withering fire from the forts, even the daring Cushing was forced to turn back, one of his boats being cut in half by a Confederate shell. Late in the afternoon, Army skirmishers advanced to within yards of the fort, supported by heavy fire from Union vessels. Lt. Aeneas Armstrong, CSN, inside Fort Fisher, later described the bombardment: “The whole of the interior of the fort, which consists of sand, merlons, etc., was as one 11-inch shell bursting. You can now inspect the works and walk on nothing but iron.” Union Army commanders, however, considered the works too strongly defended to be carried by assault with the troops available, and the Soldiers began to reembark. Some 700 troops were left on the beaches as the weather worsened. They were protected by gun boats under Capt. Oliver Glisson, USS Santiago de Cuba, who lent continuous close support to the landing. By Dec. 27 the last troops were embarked; the first major attack on Fort Fisher had failed. Confederate reinforcements under Gen. R. F. Hoke were in Wilmington and arrived at Confederate Point just after Union forces departed. The Army transports returned to Hampton Roads and prepared for a second move on the Confederate bastion, while Porter’s fleet remained in the Wilmington-Beaufort area and continued sporadic bombardment to prevent repair of the fort.



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# Academic excellence pays off for military kids

By AAFES

Military students who study and succeed can pick up extra spending money from the Army & Air Force Exchange Service.

Through the Exchange’s You Made the Grade program, first-through 12th-graders, including home-schooled students, with a B average or higher are eligible to receive a \$5 Exchange gift card each grading period during the 2019-20 school year.

“Since 2000, the Exchange’s You Made the Grade program has honored the resiliency of military kids,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Luis Reyes, Exchange senior enlisted advisor. “It’s a privilege

to reward them for thriving in the classroom.”

According to Department of Defense Education Activity, the average child in a military Family moves six to nine times during a school career — three times more often than nonmilitary families.

“Military children face unique challenges,” Reyes said. “These young scholars have a lot on their plates. They cope with multiple moves, parental deployments, making new friends and more. You Made the Grade helps prove that hard work really does pay off.”

To receive the \$5 Exchange gift card, students must present a valid military I.D. and proof of a B average or higher during any

grading period. Students who make the grade qualify to enter a world-wide sweepstakes to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 Exchange gift card. Drawings are held in December and June. The 2019 spring semester winners hailed from Hurlburt Field, Luke Air Force Base and Shaw Air

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News Notes

lation entry system is currently being installed at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. AIE is the Army's electronic physical access control system that increases security for Soldiers, Family members, Department of Defense civilian workforce, military retirees, contractor employees and visitors by electronically vetting and validating an individual at JBM-HH gates. The latest AIE brings capabilities to ease visitor access. The website for the new passes is <https://pass.aie.army.mil/jbmhh/>. The new capabilities will allow for visitors to obtain installation access via a web-registration or at a kiosk in the JBM-HH Visitor Center. It can also vet and register visitors at designated lanes at the gate. The installation of the AIE upgrade is ongoing and will go live early May. The fielding does not affect normal traffic flow, but drivers should be aware that personnel will be at the entrance gates.

Housing assistance, environmental health registry information

If individuals are residents at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, there are two numbers they can call for 24/7 housing assistance. One is a 24/7 work order call center and the other is a housing 24/7 hotline.

If individuals live in Army Family Housing on Forts McNair or Myer and have work orders for their housing, please call the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Army Family Housing contractor 24/7 call center at (703) 696-2923.

If individuals have any unresolved housing issues to bring to the attention of the JBM-HH command leadership and the Army Family Housing Office, please call the housing 24/7 hotline at (703) 965-6050.

Additionally, The U.S. Army Medical Command is establishing a Housing Environmental Health Response Registry to address health or safety concerns of current or former Army housing residents. The 24-hour registry will allow the Army Public Health Center to provide current or former residents information on environmental health hazards, assist them in seeking medical care for any housing related illnesses or concerns and serve as a two-way exchange of information. Call the registry at (800) 984-8523 to enroll.

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For more information, contact Carl Sabath at (703) 695-2804 or by email at [carl.e.sabath.civ@mail.mil](mailto:carl.e.sabath.civ@mail.mil).

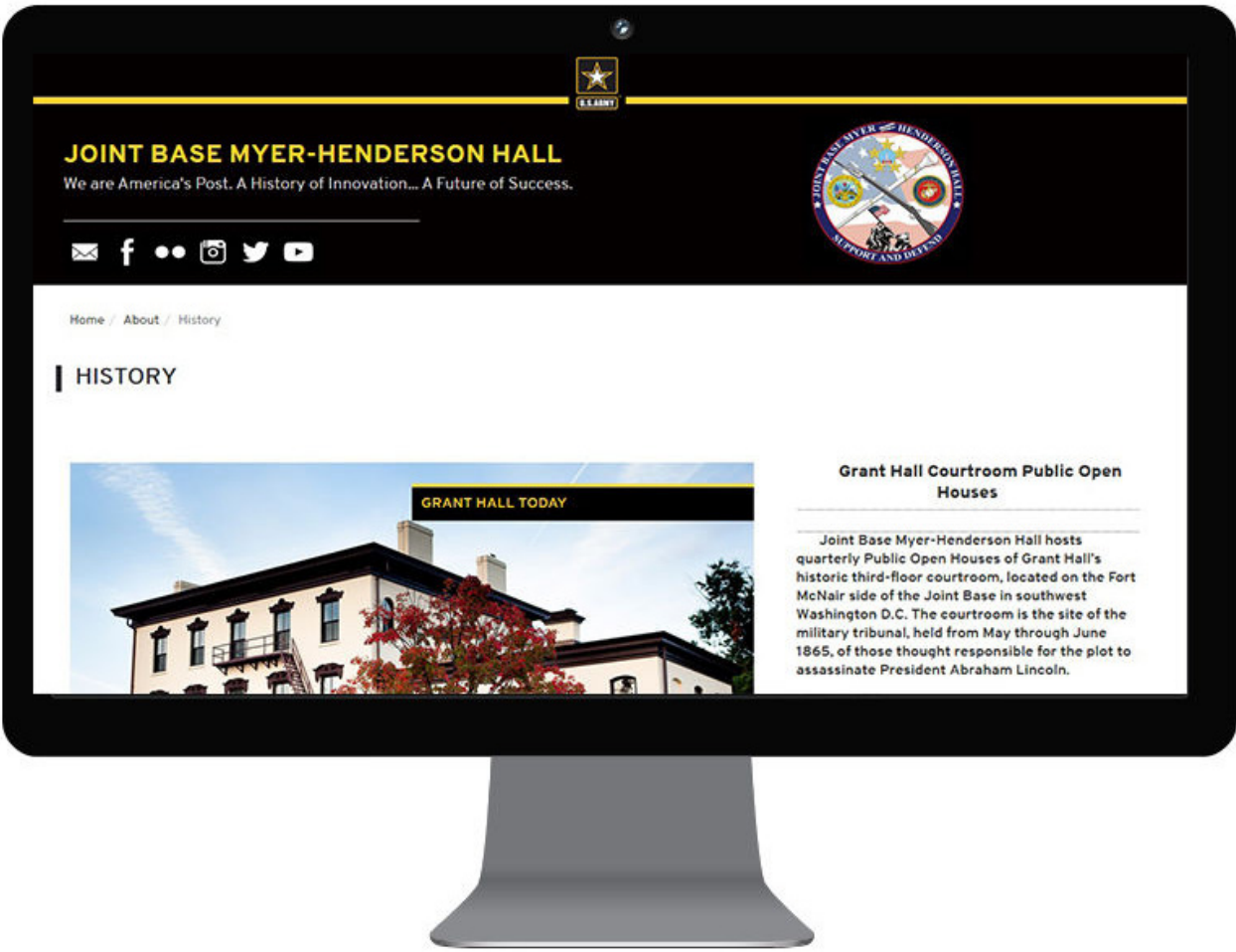
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**Employee Assistance Program at Fort Belvoir**

Employee Assistance Program services for JBM-HH are currently being provided by Fort Belvoir. For EAP services, please contact Dr. Jorge Grandela at (703) 805-5588 or Doryan Dixon (alternate) at (703) 805-1083 until further notice.



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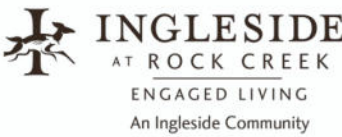
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