



# Pentagram

## Joint Chiefs chairman: Defensive measures prevented casualties in Iranian attack

By C. Todd Lopez  
Defense.gov

Although Iranian missiles damaged equipment and infrastructure at U.S. and ally-occupied military installations in Iraq Jan. 7, training and defensive readiness paid off in no lives being lost, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

“There’s sirens that go off on these bases ... There’s bunkers and jersey barriers, and there’s places to go hide and all that,” said Army Gen. Mark A. Milley told reporters at the Pentagon Jan. 8.

Milley and Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper briefed reporters after spending most of the day on Capitol Hill talking with lawmakers.

“We have various levels of protective gear, and we have various scatter plans that do certain things,” the chairman said. “They are all tactics, techniques and procedures — normal defensive procedures that any military unit would do that would come under rocket attack, indirect fire, mortars, large-scale missiles, etc. So in this particular case, Al Asad is a big base — they put 11 large rockets (with) 1,000-, 2,000-pound warheads in them — but we took sufficient defensive measures that

there were no casualties to U.S. personnel, coalition personnel, contractors or Iraqis.”

Esper said good discussions took place on Capitol Hill.

“We covered a number of issues in both the House and Senate, everything ranging from authorities and imminence, all the way though force posture, next steps, etc.,” he said. “So a very good discussion, a very robust discussion, and you know I thought it was a good chance for all of us to kind of share our views and to consult on next steps.”

The secretary said Iran launched 16 ballistic missiles into Iraq. He said he believes the missiles were short-range ballistic missiles and that the missiles landed in at least two spots. Both landing spots were Iraqi military bases that played host to American and coalition forces, including service members from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Canada.

At least 11 of the 16 missiles struck at Al Asad Air Base, about 175 miles from Iraq’s border with Iran, and about 115 miles from Baghdad. At least one missile also hit at a military installation near Irbil, Iraq, some 200 miles north of Baghdad and about 60 miles from the border with Iran.



**Soldiers drive military vehicles to an explosives range at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Nov. 29, 2019. Explosive ordnance disposal Soldiers use these ranges to provide controlled disposal of explosive ordnance.**

PHOTO BY SPC. DEREK MUSTARD

The secretary said the current battle damage assessment includes loss of such things as tents, taxiways, parking lots and damage to a helicopter, but “nothing I would describe as major, at least as I know it at this point in time.”

While no lives were lost, Milley said, he believes the Iranians intended to cause deaths.

“The points of impact were close enough to personnel and equipment ... that I believe,

based on what I saw and what I know, is that they were intended to cause structural damage, destroy vehicles and equipment and aircraft, and to kill personnel,” Milley said. “That’s my own personal assessment.”

Esper and Milley said professional intelligence analysts are working on a final assessment.

The secretary said he remains cautious about drawing any conclusion that if the Iranians intended to kill Americans and

did not accomplish that during the attack, they may consider the attempt a failure and try again.

“I think we have just got to assess the situation,” he said. “Let’s see what they are saying publicly, see what they are saying privately, look at our intelligence, all those things. We are not going to do anything imprudent ... These are serious times, and we take things one step at a time.”

## Connecting fitness with combat readiness



**LEFT: A Soldier with the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) does leg tucks during an Army Combat Fitness Test training on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Jan. 7. The fitness test is designed to improve unit readiness and a Soldier’s combat effectiveness. The training focused on how to grade, proper form and standards for testing lanes.**

PHOTOS BY SGT. NICHOLAS T. HOLMES



**RIGHT: A Soldier with the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) does deadlifts during an Army Combat Fitness Test training on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Jan. 7. The fitness test is designed to improve unit readiness and a Soldier’s combat effectiveness. The training focused on how to grade, proper form and standards for testing lanes.**

## Army Recruiting discredits military draft texts

By USAREC Public Affairs

A number of fraudulent text messages informing individuals they have been selected for a military draft have circulated throughout the country last week.

U.S. Army Recruiting Command received multiple calls and emails about these fake text messages and wanted to ensure Americans understand these texts are false and were not initiated by this command or the U.S. Army.

The decision to enact a draft is not made at or by U.S. Army Recruiting

Command. The Selective Service System, a separate agency outside of the Department of Defense, is the organization that manages registration for the Selective Service.

“The Selective Service System is conducting business as usual,” according to the Selective Service System’s official Facebook page. “In the event that a national emergency necessitates a draft, Congress and the president would need to pass official legislation to authorize a draft.”

The draft has not been in effect since 1973. The military has been an all-volunteer force since that time.

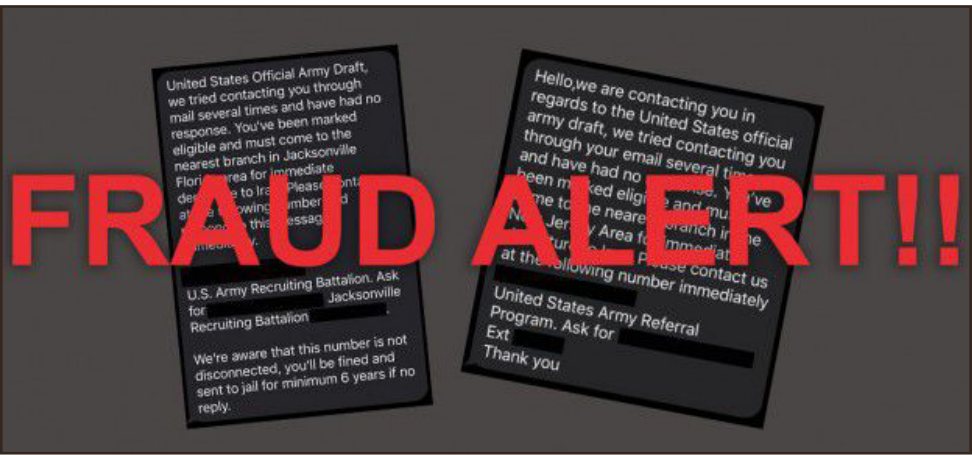


PHOTO BY USAREC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**U.S. Army Recruiting Command identifies fraudulent text messages concerning military draft and want to ensure Americans understand they are false.**

Registering for the Selective Service does not enlist a person into the military.

Army recruiting operations are pro-

ceeding as normal.

For information about volunteering to serve in the U.S. Army, please contact a local Army recruiting office.



# Chaplain’s Corner

## Restful mind can lead to aha moment

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

“When you are stuck on a problem, sometimes it is best to stop thinking about it — consciously anyway. Research has shown that taking a break or a nap can help the brain create pathway to a solution.” This is a quote from an article I recently read from Scientific American Magazine entitled “From Zzz to Aha!”

My life has been full of times when the solutions were just out of reach. I pondered, strained and searched for a solution, but nothing worked. I knew there had to be an answer, but it was just beyond my fingertips. Where can I find the money I desperately need? What should I do in dealing with my aggravating boss? What is the answer to my children’s behavior? How can I be a better husband? Where do I find the courage to say “I’m sorry” when I am still angry? How can I finish fixing that lamp or car? These, and many other moments of answer-hunting have been part of my life. I’m always up against times when



a solution evades me. My frustration grows and I just want to give up or hit it with a hammer.

The article only validates what I already know but still I haven’t learned the lesson very well. To just take step back, relax and let the answer come to me, or approach the problem the next day after getting my “zzz’s” and my mind is fresh.

I remember answers coming to me during a warm shower, driving to work the next day, in prayer or talking it out with someone. It’s dipping down into my resources where the answer has been all along. I was just too tired or frustrated to see it.

The lesson I’ve learned that this article reminded me of is that the great Creator has given some unbelievable resources and strength to get answers to my life’s challenges. There in a rested mind and spirit are options, choices and solutions. I must have faith in myself that I can do many things that seem impossible if I but be patient, believing and using what I am and can do. The Master will point the way to bring light on the answer if I just look and believe then I will see.

Aha, I think I get it.



### Chapel services

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

**Catholic**  
Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.,  
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.

**Protestant**  
7:45 and 10:30 a.m. (Sunday)

**Gospel service**  
noon (Sunday)

**Samoan service**  
2:30 p.m. (Sunday)

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11: 30 a.m. –1:30 p.m.

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Desserts

Beverages

No RSVP Required

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SERVE ON MLK DAY AND BEYOND.

#MLKDay

JBM-HH MLK Day Schedule

The following services are **open Monday**:

- Bowling Center: Noon to 6 p.m.
- Cleaners/Alteration: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Commissary: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- GNC: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Henderson Hall Barber Shop: 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Henderson Hall Smith Gym: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Marine Corps Exchange: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Myer Barbershop: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Myer Exchange: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Myer Express: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Myer Fitness: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- McNair Fitness: 24 hours, CAC required
- Optical Shop: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Panda Express: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Petals2Go: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Precision Tune Auto: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Starbucks: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Subway: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Vineyard Henderson Hall: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The JBM-HH Dining Facility will run Saturday through Monday on brunch and supper hours.

Weekend

Brunch: 9 a.m. to noon

Supper: 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Services not listed are **closed Monday**.

Please before visiting services not listed.

Updates will be posted at [facebook.com/jbmhh](https://facebook.com/jbmhh).

# 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.

**Conflict resolution**  
On Jan. 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., individuals will learn how to identify conflict and ways to manage it in the future during the conflict resolution course.

**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.

**Anger management toolkit**  
This in-depth five session curriculum Tuesdays

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ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

**ACS**

Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

Building 201, Custer Road

(703) 696-3510

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.

**Parenting with love, logic**  
On Thursday learn simple yet effective strategies for parenting children up to young adulthood.

**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.

Stay connected!

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Volunteers participate in Wreaths Across America's clean-up day, commonly known as Wreaths Out, at U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., Saturday. Wreaths were originally placed Dec. 15, 2019.

## NCR volunteers assist with removing wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery

Compiled by Catrina Francis  
Pentagram Editor

On Saturday, more than 4,000 volunteers from the National Capital Region assisted with removing wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery during the annual Wreaths Out. The annual removal of wreaths, known as "Wreaths Out," is a day where the 253,000 wreaths placed at these hallowed grounds during the holiday season in remembrance and honor of the nation's fallen service members and their Families are removed by volunteers. Even though the volunteers removed the wreaths that were placed prior to the holiday season, privately placed wreaths and other items at grave sites weren't removed. Prior to removing the wreaths, vol-

unteers were told to be mindful that the cemetery is hallowed grounds, be respectful of all graves, turf, monuments and headstones as well as other volunteers. In addition to Wreaths Out at Arlington National Cemetery, volunteers removed wreaths at U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. "Another successful year of the tradition of Wreaths Across America has been completed," said Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director, Army National Military Cemeteries. "Thank you to the Wreaths Across America organizers for arranging this event, to the volunteers who gave their time, and to my staff for smooth operations, focusing on safety as we honored those laid to rest here."



Volunteers participate in Wreaths Across America's clean-up day, commonly known as Wreaths Out, at U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., Saturday. Wreaths were originally placed Dec. 15, 2019.



Volunteers carry wreaths to the truck Saturday during Wreaths Out at Arlington National Cemetery.

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FRASER



Volunteers participate in Wreaths Across America's clean-up day, commonly known as Wreaths Out, at U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., Saturday.

### JBM-HH commander hosts health, wellness town hall for workforce



PHOTO BY JULIA SIMPKINS

On Jan. 9, just days after most federal employees returned from their holiday vacations, the Joint Base Commander Col. Kimberly Peebles held a town hall meeting in Spates Community Center that was specifically designed for them. Designed to gauge the health and wellness of the force at JBM-HH and to inform them of wellness maintenance options, the meeting featured department heads and representatives showcasing the best of their respective sections' missions. Ken Washington, the director of JBM-HH Human Resources, organized the event. "I was very impressed with the content, receptiveness of participants, approximately 130 persons, including a larger than anticipated number of military personnel, and the quality of our message," he said. From JBM-HH Religious Support to Equal Employment Opportunity and Equal Opportunity, Soldiers' and civilians' resources were explained — all with the intent of promoting mental and physical wellness. Audience members asked questions at the end. "The next step is implementation of monthly wellness events, two health fairs and considering the possibility of conducting Soldier readiness processing for Soldiers the joint base support," Washington said.



# Army Housing Summit set to forge path forward in housing reinvestment

By Kari Hawkins  
AMC

Nearly a year after assuming responsibility for all Army housing, Army Materiel Command will host a comprehensive review of the sweeping reforms and improvements made across the enterprise to ensure Soldiers and Families have access to high quality on-post housing. During a housing summit this week at AMC Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, representatives of the Army’s seven privatized housing companies and Army leaders from 34 installations will review strategies and programs to provide the best options for Soldiers, civilians and their Families.

“We are absolutely committed to provide safe and secure housing on every installation, and making every installation an installation of choice for our Soldiers and Families” said Gen. Gus Perna, commander of AMC. “The summit is another step in our commitment to hold ourselves and privatized housing companies accountable to provide a high-quality standard of living and to earn back the trust of our housing residents.”

Since March 2019, the Army and AMC have set conditions for improvements, beginning with visits to 100% of housing units, the establishment of 24/7 housing hotlines at every installation and quarterly town halls hosted by installation leadership. In July 2019, more than 25,000 residents provided input through the Resident Satisfaction Survey that gave the Army insight into housing experiences and further pinpointed issues that needed to be addressed. In addition, an Army Inspector General report yielded feedback to improve housing.

“The steps we took in the spring and summer of 2019 improved our visibility of



PHOTO BY PATRICK ALBRIGHT

Construction workers install new windows in a Fort Benning, Georgia, historic home as part of a broader effort to improve overall housing at the installation. Major improvements have been ongoing at Army installations worldwide as senior Army leaders work with privatized housing companies to re-invest in housing properties. Reinvestments will be discussed during a housing summit at Army Materiel Command this week.

the housing landscape and allowed us to lay out a way ahead for course correction,” Perna said.

Other significant initiatives in 2019 included:

- Hiring more than 100 additional staff at installation housing offices to provide quality assurance and control checks on work being done in homes, with the goal to have 100% of homes between occupancies, 100% of life, health and safety work orders and 5% of all work orders checked;
- Revising the incentive fee structure with the housing companies to better account for resident and installation leadership feedback;
- Providing full access for garrison commanders to housing work orders so they can execute the quality control measures needed to ensure issues are properly

fixed the first time;

- Creating mobile apps as an additional method for residents to submit and track work orders;
- Establishing a Housing Environmental Health Response Registry through the U.S. Army Medical Command to address housing health or safety concerns;
- Senior Army leaders meeting regularly with RCI company executives to review housing properties and provide oversight.

The Army also joined the Air Force and Navy to develop a Resident Bill of Rights, expected to be signed later this month that will empower service members and their Families to hold housing providers accountable.

While these initiatives have yielded progress and improvements, Perna said it will take time to rebuild

relationships with housing residents and develop a strategy to ensure quality reinvestment.

The housing summit will provide a forum for Army leaders and RCI companies to work together on determining the best way to re-invest more than \$500 million in funds from the companies and for the Army to develop a holistic investment strategy for Army-owned housing and barracks that will prioritize resources across installations.

During the summit, Army leaders will review the current status of housing with representatives of RCI companies BBC, Hunt, Michaels, LendLease, Corvias, Lincoln and Clark. The seven companies have all signed 50-year agreements to maintain, manage and lease more than 87,000 houses at

44 U.S. and overseas installations and re-invest in those properties to maintain safety and quality.

“We still have much work to do, and rest assured this is a continuing priority with Army senior leaders,” Perna said. “We are in this for the long haul. We remain steadfast in holding ourselves and privatized housing companies accountable to provide safe and secure housing on our installations.

“We are investing in long-term planning for future oversight, and enacting a set of policies and programs that will improve residents’ quality of life. At the end of the 50-year contracts, our expectation is that our housing units are in significantly better condition than they were at the beginning of the contracts, and better than they are today.”

# More deployments, stronger presence set for Pacific, says SecArmy

By Thomas Brading  
Army News Service

Later this year, Soldiers will initiate five-month extended rotations to countries like Thailand, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy said at the Brookings Institution Friday.

The Indo-Pacific region is home to half the world’s population — including several of the world’s largest militaries — so a key to realizing the vision set in the National Defense Strategy is to bolster alliances there, he said.

Soldiers will do more than provide a steady security presence with foreign allies though, he said. At this moment, U.S. troops are assisting the Royal Thai Army stand up new Stryker units after that foreign military secured 15 Infantry Carrier Vehicles.

The Philippines recently requested help training 72 infantry battalions after they upgraded their equipment, McCarthy said.

Additional deployments and exercises in the region are being planned through 2022, he said.

## ROLE IN THE PACIFIC BEYOND SOUTH KOREA

When many think of the Army’s presence in the Indo-Pacific, they think of troops in South Korea, said Michael O’Hanlon, Brookings Institution director of research, foreign policy. However, there’s an increased emphasis in other parts of the combatant command that goes all the way to the India-Pakistan border, he added.

“Having our forces in the region reinforces the American alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative,” McCarthy said, regarding the Chinese government’s 2013 global development strategy. “In order to be competitive



PHOTO BY SGT. JAMES HARVEY

Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy speaks with Michael O’Hanlon, senior fellow in the foreign policy program at the Brookings Institution, during a speaking engagement in Washington, D.C., Friday.

and gain an advantage, we must have a continuous presence.”

Allies understand how partnering with the United States means having modern and interoperable equipment, training on a continuous basis, and a commitment that should deterrence fail — the U.S. is a present partner and the world’s best fighting force, McCarthy said.

“There is an ongoing fight for influence in the region, making our presence critical,” McCarthy said. “Partners matter, but the type of partner is paramount.”

China has a history of coercive economics, and many nations partner with them out of necessity, McCarthy said, adding, “And in this, lies a great deal of vulnerability.”

Having the U.S. Army in the region — with its modernized weaponry — nested alongside allies “changes the calculus and creates dilemmas for

potential adversaries,” McCarthy said.

Having the U.S. Army in the region also strengthens America’s position to conduct commerce and compete economically, he added

“China may be a partner of necessity,” he said, “but the U.S. Army is the partner of choice.”

## MULTI-DOMAIN OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC

“While we continue to do traditional security cooperation, we are also employing new capabilities and using the Indo-Pacific as grounds to test our new concept — known as Multi-Domain Operations,” McCarthy said.

MDO is how the Army — as part of the joint force — can counter and defeat a near-peer adversary capable of contesting the U.S. in all domains such as air, land, maritime, space and cyberspace.

“Our closest allies and partners have

invested more in building similar capabilities as us,” McCarthy said. “For example, Japan, Thailand, Singapore all are developing MDO-like concepts in concert with us.”

MDO task forces are set to train in the Indo-Pacific during the upcoming deployments.

The new concept was first tested in the region in 2018, months after the National Defense Strategy was published and changed the Army’s focus toward great power competition. The force conducted its first tests then with the Multi-Domain Task Force and Intelligence, Information, Cyber, Electronic Warfare and Space Units.

Then in 2019, the Army tested MDO concepts again with exercises like Orient Shield, where American forces partnered with Japanese forces in the East China Sea. With its headquarters in Japan, the task force elements were distributed across the Senkaku Islands.

Since then, the task force has conducted multiple large-scale exercises with more scheduled.

Seeking to regain overmatch and a solution for converging all domains, MDO gives an asymmetrical advantage, he said. It sets the conditions in theater, while opening a window for the joint force.

“The U.S. must maintain overmatch against our adversaries,” McCarthy said. “The Army is foundational to the joint force’s success in the INDO-PACOM area of responsibility. Our modernization focus — how we fight, what we fight with, and who we are — is in part, driven by our new challenges and potential adversaries.

“If we wait until there is a conflict, we are already too late. We don’t need any more gunfights. We don’t want anymore ... but if they come, we’ll be ready.”



# Early investment in American youth pays dividends for future generations, IG says

By Joe Lacdan  
Army News Service

*Editor’s note: This story was originally published Feb. 26, 2019.*

Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith faced the pivotal moment of his life as a 5-year-old child growing up in Atlanta.

His father had fallen ill with liver disease. At the time, Calvin Smith had worked as a teacher and his illness took a heavy toll on the Smith family. He eventually passed away, leaving behind Smith’s pregnant mother, Lillie, and their two children. In the years that followed, Leslie would learn the importance of community and having a nucleus of support for him and his siblings.

To shield themselves from racial prejudice during the civil rights era, African Americans often would need to depend on one another, Smith said. Community programs including the Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts and local churches would provide much-needed safe havens for black children in the American South.

Smith came of age during tumultuous times in the 1960s and 1970s as race relations remained tense in parts of Atlanta. Much of the South still rocked with political turmoil and violence. Smith learned the value of hard work then, knowledge that would eventually follow him into a long Army career.

His military career spanned three decades, eventually landing him the position of inspector general of the Army in February 2018.

**DELTA JEWEL**

The roots of Smith’s ascension in the Army can be traced 400 miles west of Atlanta, to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, a small farming community entrenched deep in the Mississippi delta.

Founded in 1887 by free slaves on swampland just east of the Mississippi River, the town is the nation’s oldest predominantly black settlement.

Nicknamed the “Jewel of the Delta,” the working class city fostered ample socio-economic opportunities for the Smiths and other hardworking African Americans. The town had defied the odds, forming a prosperous black community at the height of racial segregation in the Deep South.

Mose and Rosetta Smith didn’t have much money or education. The Smiths made a modest living growing corn, sweet potatoes and soybeans on their 40-acre farm in Mound Bayou. They raised their 10 children: Smith’s father and his uncles and aunts — on the belief that hard work made career aspirations limitless.

Their grandparents’ worldviews left a lasting impression on Smith and his brothers and sister.

“They didn’t have a lot of money,” said Smith’s older sister, Lola Burse. “But what they had was a burning desire for their children to do well.”

Eventually, one of the Smith’s sons, Calvin, moved his family out of Mound Bayou, to pursue opportunities in the metropolitan sprawl of Atlanta. There Calvin and Lillie planned to raise their children.

**LASTING LEGACY**

While Smith remembers little of his father, his sister can vividly recall the day their father passed. She cried incessantly in her bedroom when she learned the tragic news.

“It was a very hard time,” Burse said.

“I had to grow up quickly.”

Their mother had to raise three children seemingly alone.

But family members rallied to help raise the Smith children.

As young black men, Leslie and his younger brother Lawrence turned to their uncles for advice. Smith’s teachers at Frederick Douglass High — black and white — encouraged Leslie to dream big. They told him he could pursue any career — regardless of skin color.

But most importantly, the family achievements showed Leslie a black person could succeed even during adverse times.

“I don’t know what I missed,” Smith said of growing up without a father. “But I always knew who I was and what I am. The circumstance that you came from does not determine where you’re going to go.”

Curtis Smith provided a steady example. He started working as a barber in Mound Bayou, then opened a grocery store and later, a diner.

“I didn’t understand what it meant not to be around strong, black people,” Smith said. “Because that’s what I saw.”

Lillie never complained and worked three jobs at times to put her children through private Catholic elementary schools, giving them a head start on high school academics. She worked as a bank teller and also went door-to-door selling encyclopedias to put her children through private Catholic school.

“I think our family work ethic certainly is something that (Leslie) learned through her example,” Burse said.

As part of his development as a young man, Smith worked for a janitorial service traveling to different city blocks in Atlanta in the evenings.

“My mom not being afraid to put us in different (challenging) situations caused us to grow,” Smith said.

As he played sports and participated in Boy Scouts activities, he stared in awe at the photo of his late father in his Army uniform. His aunts told him stories of his father’s service during the Korean War, and his uncle Terry McCoy’s four years as an Army military policeman. Smith’s uncle, Nathaniel Smith, also served in the Navy. Another one of Smith’s uncles, Joseph Smith, earned a PhD from Rutgers and eventually led the Alcorn State University Math and Science Department. Smith learned his father and uncles needed to work twice as hard to earn the respect of their peers. Integration of black troops in the U.S. military didn’t begin until 1948.

“Growing up, my uncles encouraged me to consider military service as a positive way to prove my worth as an adult, and to serve as a role model for others within the community,” Smith said.

Smith didn’t know the true calling of the military until he met Sgt. 1st Class William Saunders while attending Georgia Southern University. Saunders was a Vietnam-era veteran and ROTC instructor who “identified potential in his cadets from the very beginning, pouring his heart and soul into each of them,” while preparing them to serve as officers, Smith said. From Saunders, Smith learned about the career opportunities available through the ROTC program. It would eventually land him positions in field artillery and as a chemical officer.

The support of their family and

see YOUTH, page 7



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, inspector general of the Army, meets with Soldiers. Smith overcame the loss of his father to rise to the rank of three-star general. Smith stressed that Soldiers and young African Americans should be afforded educational and career opportunities to achieve professional success.



PHOTOS BY ALICE SWAN

The U.S. Army Band members vocalist Sgt. 1st Class Andre McRea and pianist Master Sgt. Dan Roberts performed the Civil Rights-era anthems “A Change Is Gonna Come” and “We Shall Overcome” to conclude the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration Wednesday at JBM-HH’s Spates Community Center.

## JBM-HH encouraged to remember, celebrate, act on Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy

**By Alice Swan  
Pentagram  
Reporter**

Using highlights from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s life, guest speaker Lt. Gen. Leslie C. Smith, the U.S. Army inspector general, Office of the Secretary of the Army, encouraged the audience to think about remembering and celebrating at Wednesday’s Dr. King, Jr. commemoration for the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall community at Spates Community Center.

“But it’s the act aspect of his legacy that’s really important,” said Smith.

His comments echoed the theme of

the event, hosted by Col. Kimberly Peeples, the JBM-HH commander, and coordinated by the JBM-HH Equal Opportunity Office. Master Sgt. Princella Mills, the senior equal opportunity advisor, explained that the observance’s ‘Remember, Celebrate, Act’ focus harkens back to the World War II military’s “We want you” recruiting posters.

“In a similar way our theme reflects that patriotic spirit and recognizes the achievements and sacrifices that have been made by so many,” she added.

Welcoming community members to the commemoration,

Peeples noted the observance is an opportunity to honor King’s legacy of leadership and the inspiration of his call for equality and nonviolent social change.

“Come this Monday as we celebrate his national holiday, take a moment to think about how we can work to make a difference in the lives of others, no matter how big or small,” she said.

In his remarks, Smith made a point to show the relationship between events in King’s life and how they can affect personal actions today.

“King became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in 1955, and it was there that he began to develop his philosophy of nonviolent resistance to racial injustice. It was at Dexter Avenue that he was shot and killed on April 4, 1968. His death led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. His legacy lives on in the lives of all of us who strive for equality and justice for all.”

see MLK, page 7



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# New 3D mammogram option next step in diagnosis, treatment

By Military Health System Communications Office

After nearly a year’s effort, a policy change that was effective Jan. 1, allowed digital breast tomosynthesis, or 3D mammography, to be used to screen for breast cancer. While the procedure may not be offered at all military treatment facilities, the expanded benefit will be available as a screening and diagnostic tool for beneficiaries with Tricare coverage.

The procedure — known technically as digital breast tomosynthesis — is offered to primarily women age 40 and older, and women age 30 and older who are considered high risk for breast cancer. Practitioners can offer DBT to other patients should a diagnosis determine the presence of a risk factor

The procedure’s three-dimensional images provide a more thorough means of detecting the disease — particularly in patients with dense breast tissue. The digital breast tomosynthesis technique is similar to that of a CT (computed tomography) scan. The source of the CT X-ray repeatedly sweeps over the breast at spaced intervals. The final imagery offers a cross section of “slices,” or adjacent segments of tissue.

“Mammography is the gold standard in detecting breast cancer, and the DHA is pleased to bring this advanced

form of imaging to our patients,” said Dr. Paul Cordts, chief medical officer for the Defense Health Agency. “We know how important it is to our patients to have access to the latest technology to improve their health outcomes. Digital breast tomosynthesis allows for earlier detection and diagnosis of smaller cancers and, if discovered early, it opens up more options to treat it quickly while in a nascent stage, with improved outcomes and potentially less side effects.”

According to Amber Butterfield of Tricare’s Medical Benefits Reimbursement office in Aurora, Colorado, the expanded benefit for breast cancer screenings is allowed through provisional coverage authorized by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Thomas McCaffrey. Provisional coverage is a special authority that allows extension of coverage for items that are undergoing evaluation or have beneficial effects not yet proven.

Between 2016 and 2018, roughly 80,000 Tricare beneficiaries were diagnosed with either malignant abnormal growths of the breast, called carcinomas, or precancerous cells, called neoplasms. To address this, leaders at the DHA were determined to find a way to expand breast cancer screenings using the DBT technology, while adhering to congressional requirements as they pertain to provisional authority.



PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS BRANNON  
Chief Hospital Corpsman Naomi Perez, a certified mammogram technician, conducts a mammogram for a patient at Naval Hospital Pensacola Sept. 27, 2019. A mammogram is a low-dose X-ray procedure used to detect the early stages of breast cancer.

“By regulation, Tricare follows guidelines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for preventive services,” Dr. James Black, medical director of the Clinical Support Division at DHA, said. “This includes the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, which gives recommendations on provisional preventive services.”

Although the task force has yet to recommend DBT for cancer screening, the decision by DHA leadership to expand DBT to annual cancer screenings was made a year ago. Since the USPSTF does not currently recommend DBT as a more effective screening tool than 2D mammography, the DHA had to find a way to offer coverage under current statutes that govern what health services Tricare can provide beneficiaries.

Black cited the efforts of retired Navy Vice Adm. Raquel C. Bono, the former DHA director, along with subject-matter experts from the services, who provided guidance that led to the provi-

sional adaptation of DBT coverage.

Their focus included which commercial insurance carriers cover DBT and other coverage criteria. From there, DHA’s medical benefits and reimbursement section put together a provisional coverage determination and submitted it to the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs — who, by law, is the approval authority for any such changes. The coverage determination was approved in September and coverage began Jan. 1.

Although the task force has yet to recommend 3D breast DBT for cancer screening, DHA leadership is confident that within the five years DBT has been approved on provisional authority, the USPTF will obtain enough research to reach a firm recommendation.

Beneficiaries who have questions about DBT services offered in locations convenient to them should contact their Tricare provider or regional customer service call center.

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PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ANDREW PORCH  
Lt. Gen. Leslie C. Smith, center, stands as his wife, Vanedra, (left) and his mother, Lily, affix new rank epaulets to his jacket during a promotion ceremony Feb. 9, 2018, at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. Smith was promoted two days after being sworn in as the Army's 66th inspector general.

**YOUTH**  
from page 5

community strengthened and empowered the Smith children to develop high self-esteem, and to value people of diverse backgrounds, despite the segregation and racial tension that plagued much of American society.

“The opportunities were there,” Smith said. “All we had to do was take advantage of them.”

That didn’t mean they escaped the turmoil completely.

Lillie kept her daughter from using public bathrooms during road trips through Mississippi. Burse learned later her parents didn’t want her to see the bathrooms designated for white and black people. She filled her room with stuffed animals, as toy companies did not make brown-colored dolls at the time. Unlike Leslie and Lawrence, Burse was born in Mississippi.

“In the South, especially places like Mississippi, you were required to do things that white Americans were not required to do,” Burse said.

For example, Smith’s parents had to take a literacy exam and pay a poll tax in order to vote, Burse said.

While some high-profile military officers remain guarded about their past, Smith openly speaks about his. Smith will tell students at elementary schools, high schools and universities about his humble beginnings and how he began working at age 13, hired by the pastor to rake leaves at his local church on Atlanta’s west side.

Smith said racial identity never became more apparent than after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King in April 1968. Smith attended the same school as two of Dr. King’s children, Frederick Douglass High School in western Atlanta.

After joining the National Guard while attending Georgia Southern’s ROTC program, a special program helped grant Smith the distinction of a commission into the Army after only two years in school. He eventually completed a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1985 and went on to earn two master’s degrees.

Smith’s 32-year military career includes becoming the first chemical officer to command the U.S. Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and the 20th Chemical Biological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives command in Aberdeen, Maryland. He also had stints

as commander of the 83rd Chemical Battalion, and the 3rd Chemical Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood. Meanwhile, his sister Burse had enlisted in the Marines, serving the Corps as a communications troop and later spending two decades working in education. Smith’s younger brother later commissioned into the Army as a logistics officer and serves today as a successful businessman in Orlando, Florida.

**GIVING BACK**

The lessons Smith learned as a youth haven’t left him. Now in a senior leadership role under Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark Esper, Smith notes the importance of providing young students of all backgrounds the opportunities afforded to him.

Despite a very busy calendar, he still makes time for speaking engagements with students and cadets. He recently mentored African-American high school students at the annual Black Engineer conference in Washington earlier this month. He uses his own career to show students an example of what they can achieve by embracing the pursuit of excellence and commitment to selfless service.

At his promotion ceremony to lieutenant general a year ago, Smith’s mother Lillie and his wife, Vanedra, pinned on his new rank at Fort McNair, in Washington, D.C. Smith considers it an honor to have his family’s support during promotions and other special events. He also preaches the value of community and the important role that leaders play in communicating with youth about opportunities for military service.

“He’s never forgotten about our family’s beginnings in a very small town in Mississippi,” Burse said. “And that nucleus of family support and strong belief in God.”

Being surrounded by strong leaders within his family and his local community helped the general to survive the loss of his father due to illness at an early age. He emerged from the tragedy with lifelong lessons on endurance and resilience that he has had the privilege of sharing with young people, including his own daughters, Taylor, an advertising major working in Austin, Texas, and Torrie, a GS alum pursuing a doctorate degree.

“People have to be invested in the next generation,” Smith said. “The military teaches us the importance of shaping our environment.”

**MLK**  
from page 5

tist church in Montgomery, Alabama, at age 25,” said Smith. “Age doesn’t matter for making a difference. The reason that’s important is because our nation needs you all to make a difference.”

He pointed out that King’s assignment as pastor coincided with the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He said that people often get put in place to do a job before knowing they have to do the job.

“King happened to

be in the place to help effect change at the time it was needed,” he said. “Are there things that you know you need to change in your child’s school, your unit or in your squad that you don’t need the chief of staff of the Army or secretary to do? That’s what Dr. King’s legacy is about — it just takes you to act. We have to make a difference in the communities where we live, work and serve.”

In closing, Smith said he hoped that those in attendance would carry with them four

key points: “We can all have an impact; age is only a number; sometimes we have to do uncomfortable things and you are in the right place to learn so learn something new every day,” he said, adding, “we are called to remember, we are called to celebrate and we are all called to make a difference. Be ready to act!”

In addition to a buffet provided by the club, The U.S. Army Band members Sgt. 1st Class Andre McRea, a vocalist, and pianist Master Sgt. Dan Roberts performed the Civil Rights-era anthems “A Change is Gonna Come” and “We Shall Overcome.”

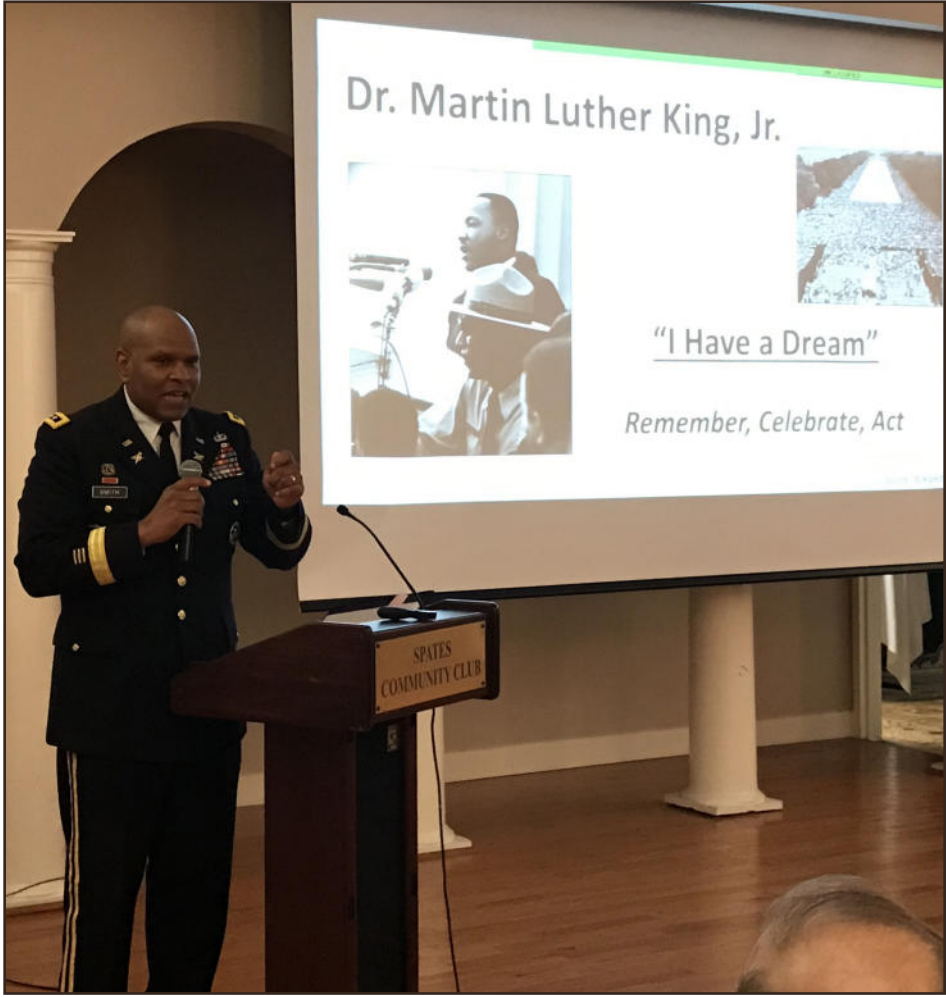
Mills noted that the event succeeded in her EO program’s goal to continue to build bridges within the military community.

“These events and activities are designed to enhance cross-cultural and cross-gender awareness and promote harmony, pride, teamwork and esprit de corps among military members, their Families and the civilian work force,” she said.

Upcoming EO events include the African American/Black History Month observance Feb. 13, a Women’s History Month commemoration March 12 and Holocaust Remembrance Day April 16.



Lt. Gen. Smith involves the audience during his remarks at the JBM-HH Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration Wednesday at JBM-HH's Spates Community Center.



Lt. Gen. Leslie C. Smith, the inspector general, Office of the Secretary of the Army, speaks at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration Wednesday afternoon at Spates Community Center.



**The VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association is happy to announce that our 29th reunion weekend will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA, 21-23 February 2020.**

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- A Memorial Service during which we honor our 111 fallen soldiers by reading their names aloud.

- A Reunion Dinner where our 2020 Scholarship winners will be announced. Since 1996 we’ve awarded nearly \$500K in scholarships to deserving VII Corps Soldiers and their families.
- The inaugural VII Corps DSVa Gulf War Veterans Forum. We are partnering with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to offer this opportunity to our members. Senior VA officials will be on hand to provide Veterans with information and real-time responses to their questions and concerns.

For more information or to register online: **29.desertstormvets.org**







PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
In 1865, Gen. William T. Sherman's army was rained in at Savannah, Georgia, as they waited to march into the Carolinas. In the fall of 1864, Sherman and his army marched across Georgia and destroyed nearly everything in their path.

**Jan. 16**  
In 1991, at midnight in Iraq, the United Nations deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait expired, and the Pentagon prepared to commence offensive operations to forcibly eject Iraq from its five-month occupation of its oil-rich neighbor. At 4:30 p.m. EST, the first fighter aircraft was launched from Saudi Arabia and off U.S. and British aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf on bombing missions over Iraq. All evening, aircraft from the U.S.-led military coalition pounded targets in and around Baghdad as the world watched the events transpire in television footage transmitted live via satellite from Baghdad and elsewhere. At 7 p.m., Operation Desert Storm, the code-name for the massive U.S.-led offensive against Iraq, was formally announced at the White House. The operation was conducted by an international coalition under the command of U.S. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and featured forces from 32 nations, which included Britain, Egypt, France, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. During the next six weeks, the allied force

engaged in a massive air war against Iraq's military and civil infrastructure and encountered little effective resistance from the Iraqi air force or air defenses. Iraqi ground forces were helpless during this stage of the war, and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's only significant retaliatory measure was the launching of SCUD missile attacks against Israel and Saudi Arabia. Saddam hoped that the missile attacks provoked Israel to enter the conflict, thus dissolving Arab support of the war. At the request of the United States, however, Israel remained out of the war. On Feb. 24, a massive coalition ground offensive began, and Iraq's outdated and poorly supplied armed forces were rapidly overwhelmed. Kuwait was liberated in less than four days, and a majority of Iraq's armed forces surrendered, retreated into Iraq or were destroyed. On Feb. 28, President George Bush declared a cease-fire, and Iraq pledged to honor future coalition and U.N. peace terms. One hundred and twenty-five American Soldiers were killed in the Persian Gulf War, with another 21 regarded as missing in action.

**Jan. 17**  
In 1865, Gen. William T. Sherman's army began its march into the Carolinas. In the fall of 1864, Sherman and his army marched across Georgia and destroyed nearly everything in their path. Sherman reasoned that the war would end sooner if the conflict was taken to the civilian South, a view shared by President Abraham Lincoln and Gen.-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant. Sherman's men tore up railroads, burned grain stores, carried away livestock and left plantations in ruins. The Yankees captured the port city of Savannah just before Christmas, and Sherman paused for three weeks to rest his troops and resupply his force. After his rest, he planned to move into the Carolinas and subject those states to the same brutal treatment that Georgia received. His 60,000 troops were divided into two wings. Gen. Oliver O. Howard took two corps and moved northeast to Charleston, South Carolina, while Gen. Henry Slocum moved northwest toward Augusta, Georgia. These were diversions to the main target — Columbia, South Carolina. As Sherman prepared to

move, the rains began. On Jan. 17, the Yankees waited while heavy rains pelted the region. The downpour lasted for 10 days — the heaviest rainfall in 20 years. Some of Sherman's aides thought a winter campaign in the Carolinas would be difficult with such wet weather, but Sherman had spent four years in Charleston as a young lieutenant in the Army, and he believed that the march was possible. He also possessed an army that was ready to continue its assault on the Confederacy. Sherman wrote to his wife that he "... never saw a more confident Army ... The Soldiers think I know everything and that they can do anything." Sherman's army didn't move until the end of the month. When the Army finally moved, it conducted a campaign against South Carolina that was worse than that against Georgia. Sherman wanted to exact revenge on the state that led secession and started the war by firing on Fort Sumter.  
**Jan. 18**  
In 1902, the famous "March Across Samar" ended during the Philippine Insurrection. In the morning of Sept. 28, 1901, hundreds of native fighters

armed with bolos staged a successful surprise attack on U.S. Marines who were eating breakfast in the town of Balangiga, on the southern coast of Samar Island in eastern Philippines. That event, described as the "worst single defeat" of the U.S. military in the Philippines, became known to history as the "Balangiga Massacre." The massacred troops were members of Company C, Ninth U.S. Infantry Regiment, who were stationed in Balangiga to keep its small port closed and prevent any trading. Their mission was intended to deprive the Filipino revolutionary forces of supplies during the Philippine-American War, which had spread to the Visayas. The U.S. military authorities retaliated with a "kill and burn" policy to take back Samar, which deliberately equated a victorious town with an entire island, from Oct. 1901 to March 1902. Implemented by Brig. Gen. Jacob H. Smith of the U.S. Army, the campaign resulted in the disappearance of some 50,000 people, the minimum increment of Samar's population between 1896 and 1903.

see HISTORY page 9

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HISTORY  
from page 8

Among this human loss were the numerous civilian men, women and children 10 years old and older, who were reported killed during combat operations to reduce Samar into a “howling wilderness.” “Of the 74 men of Company C, only five were uninjured — 12 were slightly wounded, 19 severely wounded, and 38 dead, including the three officers.” Nine more died during the boat escape toward Basesey, Samar. “A grand total of 26 (Americans) would survive the attack” and 250 natives were killed during the fight in the Balangiga plaza, excluding the many others who were killed while they pursued the escaping survivors. The church and convent were burned by some of the survivors before they escaped on bancas. The rest of the town was burned by the “insurgents” when reinforcement troops from Basesey arrived the day after the attack. They later claimed the American dead were mutilated and treated with indescribable indignities. Weeks later, Soldiers from the 11th Infantry entered the unoccupied town and took with them the two “Bells of Balangiga,” now displayed near the flagpole at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming. After the relief of the 9th Infantry following the Balangiga Massacre, Basesey became the headquarters of a battalion of U.S. Marines (attached to the Sixth Separate Brigade) under the command

of Maj. Littleton W.T. Waller. At the end of 1901, the U.S. Marines undertook a disastrous forced march across the jungle of southern Samar, from Lanang in the east coast to Basesey in the west, in their effort to break the back of the Filipino resistance. After their arrival in Basesey, the tired, sick and frustrated Marines, who lost 10 of their comrades, executed by firing squad their nine remaining conscripted native carriers and two native guides. According to then U.S. Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, “the shooting of the native bearers by the orders of Maj. Waller was an act which sullied the American name.” Smith and Waller were court-martialed. Smith was retired from the U.S. Army. But Waller rose to eventually become major general of the U.S. Marines.

**Jan. 19**  
In 1946, Gen. Douglas MacArthur established the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo to try Japanese war criminals. Also known as the Tokyo Trials, the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal, or simply the Tribunal, was convened April 29, 1946, to try the leaders of the Empire of Japan for three types of war crimes. “Class A” crimes were reserved for those who participated in a joint conspiracy to start and wage war, and were brought against those in the highest decision-making bodies; “Class B” crimes were reserved for those who committed “conventional” atrocities or crimes against humanity; “Class C” crimes

were reserved for those in “the planning, ordering, authorization or failure to prevent such transgressions at higher levels in the command structure.” Twenty-eight Japanese military and political leaders were charged with Class A crimes, and more than 5,700 Japanese nationals were charged with Class B and C crimes, mostly those which entailed prisoner abuse. China held 13 tribunals of its own, which resulted in 504 convictions and 149 executions.

**Jan. 20**  
In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt issued Executive Order 199-A, which placed Midway Islands under jurisdiction of the Navy Department. The Midway Islands consisted of a circular atoll, 6 miles in diameter, which enclosed two islands. Lying about 1,150 miles west-northwest of Hawaii, the islands were first explored by Capt. N. C. Brooks July 5, 1859, in the name of the United States. The atoll was formally declared a U.S. possession in 1867, and in 1903, Roosevelt made it a naval reservation. The island was renamed “Midway” by the U.S. Navy in recognition of its geographic location on the route between California and Japan. Air traffic across the Pacific increased the island’s importance in the mid-1930s; the San Francisco-Manila mail route included a regular stop on Midway. Its military importance was soon recognized, and the Navy began building an air and submarine base there in 1940.

**Jan. 21**  
In 1943, the Casablanca Directive was issued to the U.S. and British strategic bombing forces in Europe by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. It set out priorities for the continuing Allied attacks. Most of the reasoning was in line with the precision bombing ideas of the US leadership. As the U.S. Air Force had too few resources to carry out the full scheme and RAF Bomber Command continued its area of bombing policy, in line with the vies of its Commander in Chief Sir Arthur Harris.

**Jan. 22**  
In 1813, during the War of 1812, British forces under Henry Proctor defeated a U.S. contingent planning an attack on Fort Detroit. The task of taking back Fort Detroit, which was lost to the British, fell to Gen. William Henry Harrison. His plan was to gather an Army near the rapids of the Maumee River, and from there, to move against Detroit. While building an armed encampment, his subordinate, Brig. Gen. James Winchester, learned that a small garrison of British and Indians guarded provisions for the Fort Malden near the village of Raison River. There were reports that the British planned to destroy the pro-American village. Winchester had orders from Harrison to stay at his camp until the full army was assembled and ready to move on Detroit, but he felt he had to act immediately. On Jan. 21, he sent 700 men toward the Raison River under Col. William Lewis,

who defeated the British and Indians there and then asked for reinforcements from Winchester to hold the place. Winchester sent 300 regulars under Col. Samuel Wells and proceeded by carriage himself. Upon arrival, Wells pointed out to Winchester that the troops were in a highly exposed position and recommended that scouts be sent out to learn what the British were doing. Winchester decided that the next day would be time enough to take care of these things and went off to stay in the comfortable home of one of the community leaders, more than a mile away from his Soldiers. That night, Proctor, who had succeeded Gen. Brock as the British commander at Detroit, led 600 soldiers and 600 Indians against the Americans, attacked before dawn. Well’s regulars formed behind a picket fence were able to kill or wound 185 of the attackers. The American militia, however, was taken by surprise in the open and quickly overcome. Winchester was captured by Chief Roundhead and taken before Proctor. The British commander persuaded Winchester to order his regulars to surrender, supposedly to avoid a massacre by the Indians. The fighting over, Proctor withdrew to Fort Malden, taking his prisoners with him, except for 64 wounded Americans he left at Raison River, which he intended to send sleds to get them the next day. That night, the Indians returned and massacred 30 of the wounded men.



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# CSA: Strength, innovation essential to National Defense Strategy

By David Vergun  
Defense.gov

The National Defense Strategy describes how the Defense Department will be postured to be successful in the great power competition with Russia and China, the Army chief of staff said.

In two words, the National Defense Strategy is to be strong and innovative in order to deter conflict or to win if diplomacy and deterrence fail, Army Gen. James C. McConville said.

McConville spoke about the great power competition Tuesday at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. Allies and partners, personnel and innovation were the general’s discussed themes.

### ALLIES AND PARTNERS

DOD relies heavily on allies and partners, McConville said, noting that he has personally met with 75 chiefs of staff from nations around the world over the course of the last year.

There aren’t enough U.S. Soldiers to be in all places in the world at one time where they’re needed, he said.

In order to have well-trained partners who can provide their own security, the Army has recently stood up security force assistance brigades, he said. They train and advise partner nations.

When they are all stood up there will be five active security force assistance brigades and one in the Army National Guard, he said.

In the area of communications, a future integrated command and control network will not only link sensor to shooters across the DOD, but will also be integrated with systems allies and partners use, he said.

The Soldier is the Army’s most important and potent weapon, McConville said. Having the right person in the right job is paramount. In order to do this, the Army is finalizing a new personnel system that looks at



Soldiers with the U.S. Army Aviation Battalion Japan soar the skies in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a joint training exercise with members of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force to rehearse tactical flight operations at Camp Zama, Japan, Jan. 9.

PHOTO BY ARMY SGT. RAQUEL VILLALONA

more than just two variables which the current system uses: rank and job.

This new system will consider 25 variables that include a range of knowledge, skills and even Soldier preference.

Perhaps the most important and influential persons in the Army are battalion commanders, he said. A good commander not only knows how to command well, but also influences whether or not Soldiers reenlist due to the command climate that a commander brings.

Therefore, the Army has developed a new command assessment program for these commanders to ensure only the best are selected. He said physical fitness, leadership, peer and subordinate reviews are some of the selection variables.

Also, noncommissioned officers are no longer selected based solely on time in grade. Now, only the most qualified get promoted, he said.

Innovation will require a lot of experimentation and testing of leap-ahead technology systems, McConville said.

Among two of the Army’s priorities are long-range precision fires, and air and missile defense, he said.

A near-peer competitor like Russia or China could make it difficult to enter an area through their advanced standoff weaponry, he said.

In order to overcome that obstacle, the Army is experimenting with advanced weapons that use directed energy and microwaves, he said, adding that in two to three years, he

expects the Army to begin fielding new precision strike missiles and extended-range cannons.

Another way to penetrate an enemy’s defenses he said, is with aircraft that have much greater range and speed than the current fleet. Some of those aircraft could even be unmanned, he said.

Unmanned ground vehicles are also being developed. It would make sense to have them take the lead in areas that are heavily mined or full of improvised explosive devices, he said.

Also, future tanks might just have one person in the vehicle instead of four. Artificial intelligence and robotics could take the place of some of the crew.

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## News Notes

### McNair turnstile reset

For security reasons, the timer at the turnstile at Fort McNair has been reset for entry. The gate is fully operational. Once an individual has entered his or her PIN number, move forward immediately. If it times out and the gate won't move forward, back out of the gate, press # to clear last entry and try to enter again. For more information, contact physical security at (703) 606-5213.

### Troops to Teachers brief

The Troops to Teachers brief is Jan. 23 from 1 to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 417, room 218. For more information, contact Gail Hardinge, executive director VA Center, Troops to Teachers by email at [gbhard@wm.edu](mailto:gbhard@wm.edu).

To reserve a seat, visit at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DLFVS2W>.

### Grant Hall Open House

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall announces its next quarterly public open house of Grant Hall's historic third-floor courtroom, located on the Fort McNair portion of the joint base in southwest Washington, D.C., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 1. The courtroom is the site of the military tribunal, held from May through June 1865, of those thought responsible for the plot to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

Members of the public are invited to the public open house, which is free to attend. Guests without a Department of Defense, federal or automated installation entry ID are asked to register in advance. Please go to the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall website at <https://home.army.mil/jbm-hh/index.php/teamJBMHH/about/Base/public-affairs/community-relations/grant-hall>. Once on the site, click on the link for the open house date a person chooses to attend. Open the envelope, read the information and click on the "RSVP" button at the bottom of the page to complete the reservation.

If an individual's computer server does not allow him or her to access the registration site, please email the reservation to [usarmy.jbmhh.asa.list.pao-all@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbmhh.asa.list.pao-all@mail.mil). Full names of all attendees are required, as well as a valid telephone or email contact.

The most up-to-date information on base access or closures due to inclement weather or when mission dictates will be updated on JBM-HH's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/jbm-hh>. Please note that the February open house will be cancelled if there is snow or sleet.

For additional information, call (703) 696-3283 during normal business hours.

### 2020 Mobile DMV

Throughout 2020, the JBM-HH Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program will sponsor days with the DMV mobile unit on location. The tentative dates for 2020 are Jan. 24, March 18, May 6, July 9, Sept. 16 and Nov. 6. The events run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Spates parking lot off McNair Road. This service at Fort Myer will be exclusively for ID card/CAC holders including Family members, retirees and civilians.

With the latest technology, the wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services for the state of Virginia. No lines, no appointments needed.

### JBM-HH Capital Classic Presidents Day weekend

JBM-HH MWR presents the annual Capital Classic basketball tournament Presidents Day weekend, Feb. 14 to 17. The tournament will feature adult and youth categories. Team registration costs \$550. The registration deadline is Jan. 29. For more information or to register a team, contact Richard Pulignani by email at [Richard.F.Puligani.naf@mail.mil](mailto:Richard.F.Puligani.naf@mail.mil).

### Patton Hall member appreciation night

Patton Hall will host a member appreciation night Jan. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. The event will include live music, dancing and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Club members attend free with their membership card. Nonmembers pay \$10 at the door.

Reservations are not required for this event and attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited. The Fife and Drum Dining

Room and the Old Guard Lounge Happy Hour will be closed during this event.

For more information, contact Patton Hall at (703) 524- 0200.

### Annual tuba-euphonium workshop

The U.S. Army Band presents the annual tuba-euphonium workshop Feb. 5 to 8. The workshop features concerts, recitals, exhibits, master classes and lectures by leading low brass authorities from around the world. Any tuba or euphonium player is invited to bring his/her horn for reading sessions.

The workshop will take place at Brucker Hall. Details on the workshop can be found at <https://www.usarmyband.com/tuba/index.html>.

To register, visit Eventbrite online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-tuba-euphonium-workshop-february-5-8-tickets-77858939183>. Registrants must complete the automated installation entry form at <https://pass.aie.army.mil/jbm-hh/>.

### Preretirement briefings

The 2020 preretirement briefing dates at JBM-HH have been announced. The dates are Feb. 18, March 17, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.

The briefings are being held in the Fort Myer Community Center (Bldg. 405) from 8 a.m. to noon. Preregistration is not required. While most of the meetings take place on a Tuesday, please note that the February and March briefings are not being held on the first Tuesday of the month due to unavailability of facilities.

For more information, contact retirement services officer Linda Hocking by email at [linda.r.hocking.civ@mail.mil](mailto:linda.r.hocking.civ@mail.mil).

### Valentine's Day Dinner at Patton Hall

Patton Hall will host a Valentine's Day Dinner Feb. 14. The event includes a cash bar at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and music and dancing beginning at 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a gourmet meal, romantic music and dancing. The cost is \$28.95 for members and \$35.95 for nonmembers and guests. For more information, contact Patton Hall at (703) 524-0200.

### Capitol Deli new hours

Capitol Deli has new hours for the new year. The new hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Amazon lockers at MCX

Amazon lockers have arrived at Henderson Hall. The new Amazon hub lockers are located at Henderson Hall MCX, 1555 Southgate Rd., Arlington, VA 22214. Look for the "Devil Dog" hub when selecting a locker for delivery.

### Zembiec Pool open

Ready to get started on those New Year's resolutions? Why not start with getting in more swim time?

The Zembiec Pool facility is now open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. 6 p.m. The pool is closed weekends and holidays.

Water temp is set at 80 degrees.

### Mentors needed

Marines and civilians are needed to serve as education mentors to elementary school students. Volunteers help provide mentorship and academic support while building a relationship that will shape a child's life and strengthen our community relations. As a mentor, individuals will serve as a trusted advisor who serves to enhance a child's academic success and confidence. Join the 3 million mentors in the country who help make a difference in a child's life.

The mentorship program is a reading program where students read to the mentors and mentors provide positive feedback to assure their efforts. A child who receives more assurance (from a mentor) is more likely to believe and trust in themselves. As a result, their grades can increase as well as their likelihood of success.

Registration is required. For more information and to register, please contact Amy Fishman at (703) 693-8378 or by email at [Amy.Fishman@](mailto:Amy.Fishman@)

[usmc-mccs.org](mailto:usmc-mccs.org).

### Army Blues opportunity for student musicians

It is that time of year for high school and college students to apply and submit materials for The U.S. Army Blues solo competition. Winners will have the opportunity to perform at the world-famous jazz club Blues Alley and on the National Mall in D.C. Submissions are due Feb. 19. For details, visit the following link <https://www.us-armyband.com/education-community/blues-solo-competition.html>.

### Functional academic skills training for Soldiers

The Basic Skills Education Program provides Soldiers with on-duty instruction in reading, math and language skills. The goal of the course to improve job performance, prepare Soldiers for more advanced schooling, increase reenlistment options and enhance trainability. The FY20 schedule is now available. For more information, call the education center at (703) 696-3178.

### Fooda at Exchange

Fooda is now open at the Fort Myer food court. The new food service provider is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Food selection will vary daily. Check out the menu daily at [fooda.com/aafes-jbmyer](http://fooda.com/aafes-jbmyer).

### Car wash closed until further notice

The Henderson Hall car wash has announced that it will not be reopening in the foreseeable future. The infrastructure was found to need adjustments that must happen before the car wash can be opened. Updates will be posted as they become available.

### Made-to-order-pasta

Individuals can enjoy lunch made by the chef and featuring a person's favorite toppings. Served every Monday in the Old Guard Lounge from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Rock 'n' roll night

Rock 'n' roll night is every first Saturday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m., with music and dancing from 7 to 11 p.m. An a la carte menu and cash bar will be available.

### Seafood dinner buffet

The seafood dinner buffet is the last Friday of the month in the Fife and Drum Dining Room. Doors open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$30.95 for member and \$35.95 for nonmembers.

### Karaoke night

Karaoke night is every first Friday of the month in the Old Guard Lounge, located on the lower level of Patton Hall. Karaoke happens from 6 to 10 p.m.

### All-you-can-eat buffet lunch

An all-you-can-eat buffet is served Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fife and Drum Room. Cost for members is \$11 and \$15 for nonmembers.

### Sunday brunch

Sunday brunch is served every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fife and Drum Dining Room.

Cost for members is \$23, \$28 for nonmembers, \$10.95 for children (6-12) and children 6 years old and younger dine free.

### Join retiree council

Retirees are welcome to become JBM-HH's Retiree Council members. The executive committee of the retiree council meets quarterly the first Thursday in the months of February, May, August and November. General membership meetings occur quarterly on the second Thursday of the above months. The council is an opportunity for individuals to have their voice heard and to improve the retired military community. For more information, call or email Linda Hocking at (703) 696-5948, [Linda.r.hocking.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Linda.r.hocking.civ@mail.mil) or at [usarmy.jbmhh.asa.mbx.hrd-rso@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbmhh.asa.mbx.hrd-rso@mail.mil).

see NEWS NOTES page 12



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NEWS NOTES  
from page 11

Automated installation entry changes

The newest iteration of the automated installation 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/jbm-hh/>. 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.

Toastmasters improves listening, thinking

Toastmasters is available for individuals who want to improve their public speaking, thinking, listening and leading. Helmsmen Toastmasters holds weekly meetings every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Pentagon, PLC2, just outside north parking entrance.

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).

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 Granda at (703) 805-5588 or Doryan Dixon (alternate) at (703) 805-1083 until further notice.

Why vaping is not quitting smoking

By StatePoint

Ending a tobacco addiction can be tough. While many smokers may think that e-cigarettes are a quit-smoking product, the American Lung Association is reminding people that e-cigarettes are a tobacco product and that switching to vaping is not the same as quitting.

The Food and Drug Administration has not found any e-cigarette to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit. In one study, only 10.1 percent of the smokers who used e-cigarettes quit smoking after six months, while 26.6 percent of smokers who did not use e-cigarettes quit. Another study found 80 percent of the smokers given e-cigarettes did not quit, but switched, and

instead became addicted to e-cigarettes, which produce several dangerous chemicals including acetaldehyde, acrolein, and formaldehyde, causing irreversible lung damage, lung diseases — and even death.

Advocates said that it’s critically important that the FDA crack down on these false claims, but in the meantime, those seeking to quit smoking should talk to their health care providers about developing a quit plan. To learn more about the American Lung Association’s Freedom from Smoking Plus program, visit [lung.org/stop-smoking](http://lung.org/stop-smoking).

Deciding to quit smoking is the first step toward a healthier future. For the best possible chance of success in breaking your addiction for good, seek out methods with proven results.



PHOTO BY ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

While many smokers may think that e-cigarettes are a quit-smoking product, the American Lung Association is reminding people that e-cigarettes are a tobacco product and that switching to vaping is not the same as quitting.

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