

Army finds Pebble Mine project cannot be permitted as proposed

U.S. Army Public Affairs

This administration supports the mining industry and acknowledges the benefits the industry has provided to the economy and productivity of this country, from job creation to the extraction of valuable resources, which are

especially important as we recover from this pandemic. The Pebble Mine project has the potential to fulfill all of those needs; however, as currently proposed, the project could have substantial environmental impacts within the unique Bristol Bay watershed and lacks adequate compensatory

mitigation.

Given these concerns, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finds under section 404 of the Clean Water Act that the project, as proposed, would likely result in significant degradation of the environment and would likely result in significant adverse effects on the

aquatic system or human environment. This finding is based on factual determinations, evaluations, and tests required by subparts (b) and (g), and after consideration of subparts (c) through (f) and (h) of the 404 (b)(1) guidelines. This record is laid out in the environmental impact statement pub-

lished on July 24, 2020.

Therefore, the Corps finds that the project, as currently proposed, cannot be permitted under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

For more information, please contact Lt. Col. Crystal Boring, Army Public Affairs, at crystal.x.boring.mil@mail.mil.



The Army recently published the latest version of its Army Command Policy since 2014, which now includes updates to corrective training, sexual harassment reporting and extremist activity on social media. The regulation has specified authority to correct minor acts of indiscipline with brief forms of exercise, such as 10 pushups for a Soldier who arrives late to formation. (Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughel)

Army releases revised command policy

Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

The Army recently published the latest version of its Army Command Policy since 2014, which now includes updates to corrective training, sexual harassment reporting and extremist activity on social media.

The 200-plus page policy, also known as Army Regulation 600-20, is the official guidance for commanders across the Army, and is typically revised every five years.

“As Soldiers, NCOs, officers, and [Department of the Army] Civilians, we all have an obligation to know, enforce and take appropriate action in accordance with Army Command Policy,” Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston wrote in a message to the force.

The revised regulation has nearly 70 different changes, which is quite significant, said Lt. Col. Melissa Comiskey, chief of command policy for the Army’s G-1 office.

“This is a massive regulation,” she said in

an interview Friday. “It is command policy. It is the commander’s guide, so there’s a lot that’s encompassed in here.”

Much of the updates come from previous directives that have since been superseded by the new regulation, which was published July 24.

“The Army continues to move and continues to build policy,” she said. “As we’re building policy, it doesn’t get immediately incorporated into a regulation. That’s why we have Army directives.”

The regulation now includes specified authority to correct minor acts of indiscipline with brief forms of exercise.

“The changes empower NCOs to lean on non-punitive measures as a form of corrective training to address minor deficiencies,”

said Sgt. Maj. Jasmine Johnson, the command policy sergeant major, adding an example could be a Soldier doing 10 pushups for arriving late to formation.

Another update is for commanders to notify

their Soldiers that they cannot possess a firearm or ammunition, if they have a qualifying conviction of domestic violence.

The change comes after a domestic violence working group years ago identified a gap in the previous AR 600-20, Comiskey said.

The regulation also expands the policy on extremist group activities by incorporating social media for the first time, as well as command options for violations under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

“Social media was not addressed in the previous regulation,” Comiskey said. “Also the requirement for commanders to notify either their [staff judge advocate] or [criminal investigation division] when there’s any type of reports of extremist activities in their organization.”

Policies from several Army and Defense Department directives have also been moved under the authority of the Army’s Sexual Harassment/Assault Response

and Prevention program.

The SHARP program is now responsible for sexual harassment complaints, for instance, instead of the Military Equal Opportunity Office.

Criteria for a sexual assault incident response oversight report as well as a commander’s critical information requirement have been added, too.

The SHARP policy also covers requirements for the DOD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program, Comiskey said.

The revised regulation has a lot of discussion about harassment and discrimination, Comiskey said. “Again, that’s obviously not tolerated in our Army and 600-20 reinforces that.”

“The Army hopes to foster a culture of dignity, respect and inclusion,” Johnson added about the regulation. “It’s a guide to ensure Soldiers are being treated fairly, and commanders are able to maintain good order and discipline in their ranks.”

Once again, Fort Wainwright BOSS Program takes home top prize

Spc. Austin Mooney
Better Opportunities for
Single Soldiers

The Fort Wainwright Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program maintained and re-earned its title of Best BOSS Program in the Pacific Region on Aug. 14, 2020, for the third year in a row.

The BOSS senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Major Robert M. Preusser, Jr., BOSS president, Spc. Austin Mooney, BOSS vice president, Staff Sgt. Joseph McClure, and BOSS advisor for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Angela Coltellaro, received the award.

Normally, this award is presented during the bi-annual regional BOSS training, but this year it was presented virtually via email. The bi-annual training teaches key installation BOSS leadership lessons aimed at helping garrison BOSS programs develop and sustain best practices that are beneficial to their local installations.

Fort Wainwright BOSS beat out 10 other BOSS programs from the Pacific region by successfully completing more than 60 programs and events during fiscal year 2020. Among those programs, Fort Wainwright BOSS offered 12 life skills activities that taught service members invaluable lessons in self-sustainment, physical health and mental resiliency.

“We cannot do what we do without the participation of our Soldiers and Airmen,” Mooney said. “Without their participation and the support of the command teams, BOSS would not be able to execute its mission.”

The Fort Wainwright BOSS program serves to enhance the quality of life for single service members in the interior Alaska area, to include single service members with dependents and geographical bachelors, with no rank restrictions, by offering recreation and community service activities, as well as facilitating any quality of life issues that service members may encounter.

Additionally, the Fort Wainwright BOSS program operates the Soldier’s Against Drunk Driving program in order to help provide service members safe rides on the weekends.

If you are interested in utilizing the BOSS program, volunteering or want more information on the SADD program, please call the BOSS Office at 907-353-7648.

Nutrition Corner: Did you know

There are several safety and nutritional considerations when feeding your infant? Only milk specifically designed for infants is recommended during the first 12 months of age; only breastmilk or formula designed for infants should be offered. In fact, exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for the first six months with continued breastfeeding for at least 12 months.

If breastfeeding is not feasible, a formula designed specifically for infants should be used instead. Do not offer cow’s milk, rice milk, soy milk, almond milk, or goat’s milk during the first 12 months of life. These products are not designed to provide the nutrition required for proper growth and development. Cow’s milk, for example, does not provide enough iron and vitamin E and has too much sodium,

potassium and protein. Furthermore, the casein, calcium and phosphorus in cow’s milk can inhibit iron absorption as well.

After 12 months of age, whole cow’s milk can be provided and then once a child is 24 months of age, skim or 1 percent milk should be offered (unless contraindicated due to growth delays).

Complementary foods, such as iron fortified infant cereals, should not be offered until after four months of age but preferably around six months and when the infant shows developmental signs of readiness.

Signs of readiness include but are not limited to ability to sit with support, ability to indicate desire for food by opening his/her mouth or leaning in for food and closing his/her mouth when he/she

is satisfied. Never offer complementary foods in a bottle.

Do not offer the following foods, that present as choking hazards, to infants (or toddlers who are not developmentally ready)-popcorn, peanuts, raisins and grapes, stringy meats, hot dog pieces, hard/raw fruits and vegetables, sticky foods such as peanut butter, and any pieces of food that the infant cannot completely chew or can block the airway. Be patient, there is no need to rush a child into eating solid foods.

Once a child is eating baby foods, keep the following in mind. Offer a new food only every three to five days to assess for tolerance and food allergies. Choose single-ingredient foods; many the combination meals contain fewer nutrients and make

it difficult to identify intolerances. Avoid the dessert products because of the added sugar. Introducing sugar too early increases the chance a child will prefer these types of foods over nutritious foods. Wait until after 12 months of age to offer egg whites. Never offer honey to any infant under 12 months of age, not even a little bit. Honey is a potential source of a life threatening food borne illness called botulism. When introducing solid foods, do not feed an infant directly from the jar. Put a portion on a plate or in a bowl. Saliva can promote food spoilage in the event you have to save the rest of the food in the jar for later. Discard the leftover foods after 2 days. If making baby food, ensure to always wash your hands and equipment. Juice should be reserved

for infants older than six months of age and should be 100 percent juice only.

Butternut Squash baby food:
Ingredients: (1) Small butternut squash
Preheat oven to 375. Half the squash lengthwise and scoop out the seeds. Place the squash cut side down on a baking dish. Add 1/3 cup water to the pan. Bake until the squash is tender (about 45-60 minutes). Scoop out the flesh and discard the skins. Use a blender or food processor to blend into a very smooth puree depending on the baby’s age and chewing ability. Add breastmilk or formula to thin the puree. There is no need to add extra salt, pepper, cinnamon, sugar or other seasonings. Infants learning how to eat prefer simple flavors.

Update to law helps Soldiers with auto, home lease payments

Devon Suits
Army News Service

Lawmakers recently passed an amendment to the Service Members Civil Relief Act, or SCRA, allowing Soldiers to terminate an auto or housing lease agreement without a 30-day notice due to a Defense Department stop-move order.

Changes to the SCRA are retroactive, giving families an opportunity to request reimbursement for rental payments accrued during the previous stop-move order, said Melissa Halsey, legal assistance policy division chief for the Army’s Office of the Judge Advocate General.

The recent impact of COVID-19 abruptly halted DOD movements from March until June, forcing permanent change-of-station orders to be placed on hold or canceled. Having secured new housing before a PCS, some Soldiers may have been inadvertently locked into multiple lease agreements, she added.

During normal

conditions, personnel need to provide the 30-day notice – or an additional month’s rent – to end their lease with deployment orders that exceed 90 days or for a PCS move, Halsey said.

With no immediate provisions under the SCRA during the recent stop movement, Army legal officials encouraged Soldiers and families to reach out to their property managers to resolve a leasing dispute. If Soldiers failed to fix the issue, they could then work with a legal assistance attorney, all while maintaining both rental agreements until resolved, Halsey said.

"Congress recognized that some service members had difficulty using the SCRA during the COVID-19 outbreak," she said. "The amendment to the SCRA will help address that problem."

Improved SCRA
Soldiers who chose to pay additional rent during the previous



A newly assigned drill sergeant with the 199th Infantry Brigade approves a move-in inspection form at his new home on Fort Benning, Georgia, June 25, 2020. Lawmakers recently passed an amendment to the Service Members Civil Relief Act, or SCRA, allowing Soldiers to terminate an auto or housing lease agreement without a 30-day notice due to a Defense Department stop-move order. (Photo by Markeith Horace)

stop-move order can try to recoup those costs.

For example, an Army family could have been scheduled to PCS to their next assignment by April 1, Halsey said. In preparation for their big move, the family secured a rental property in February near their new installation. But when the stop-move order went into effect in March,

their PCS move was canceled.

After receiving legal guidance, the family may have tried to work with the new landlord to cancel or delay the lease, but their request was denied, she said.

Worried about the effect a contested debt may have on his career, the Soldier may have decided to pay for both properties until

they ultimately were able to move later in the year, Halsey added. Under the new amendment, the Soldier could request that the landlord repay the rent for the home that went unoccupied due to the stop-move order.

Alternatively, if the Soldier chose not to pay for the home he was unable to occupy during the stop-move order, a land-

lord may be seeking restitution for the unpaid amounts. The SCRA change makes it clear that a property managers can’t recoup those unpaid amounts.

Practically speaking, she added, Soldiers should be aware that it may be difficult for some property owners to comply with the new SCRA change and pay back an Army family, given the financial stress many are facing due to COVID-19.

Individuals should contact an Army legal representative to find out more information, Halsey said. Personnel currently facing a lawsuit or collections resulting from unpaid housing amounts during the stop movement should also contact their legal office for support.

"The SCRA is designed to help Soldiers proactively," Halsey said. "It is there to ensure service members aren't at a disadvantage when subject to the strict requirements of military life."

MEDDAC Minute

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency: 911
24 Hour Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-874-2273 Opt. 1
Appointment Line: 361-4000
Behavioral Health: 361-6059
Benefits Advisor: 361-5656
Immunizations: 361-5456
Information Desk: 361-5172
Patient Advocate: 361-5291
Pharmacy Refills: 361-5803
Tricare On-Line: www.tricare-online.com
Health Net: www.tricare-west.com, 1-844-8676-9378

Stay Vigilant
As COVID-19 numbers continue to climb, it is important to know many new cases cannot be traced to another COVID-19 positive person. This means community spread is here and it is important to be diligent whenever outside the home. Wash hands. Wear a mask. Avoid crowded areas.

Body Composition Testing
Take a quick body composition test to determine body fat percentage and work with our Army Wellness Center to track progress. Call 907-361-2234 to schedule an

appointment.

Over The Counter Medications
Bassett Army Community Hospital Pharmacy offers beneficiaries the ability to receive free over the counter medications. Items such as fever/pain reducers, antibiotic cream, cold and allergy remedies, lice treatment and vitamin D are available. Medicines are subject to availability and families are restricted to a maximum of four items per week. A full list of medications is available at the pharmacy.

Appointments From Home
In partnership with TRICARE, PM Pediatrics is offering virtual appointments for TRICARE beneficiaries from birth through 26 years old. Visit with a pediatrician using your smart phone, tablet or computer from anywhere. Common illness that can be treated are sprains and strains, respiratory infections, coughs, skin rashes, sinus infections and pink eye. Get started by downloading the PMP Anywhere app or by visiting pmppediatricsanywhere.com.

Notice to creditors

In the Matter of the Estate of Jason Brackins
You are notified that the court appointed Michael Valenti as personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Contact Michael Valenti, 3462 Central Ave., Eielson AFB, Alaska 99702. Phone: (626) 620-8480 Email: Michael.valenti.4@us.af.mil.

ALASKA POST

The Interior Military News Connection

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The Chaplain's Corner

A time to feast and a time to fast

Chaplain (Capt.) Kenneth D. Gillespie
Medical Command
Alaska

The change of seasons is upon us here in the interior of Alaska. The yellowing of the birch leaves, the increasing number of cool wet days, and the transformation of the fireweed are clear indicators that summer is drawing to a close. Having now lived in Alaska for three years, I have come to appreciate the extremes of the seasons here. Enjoying summer and winter equally, I find myself longing for summer in the midst of winter and likewise longing for winter in the midst of summer. It is the extreme nature of the seasons that produce this longing, as one seems to be the antithesis of the other. The

old adage “absence makes the heart grow fonder” seems apropos. So why is a Chaplain musing about the seasons? There is a great deal to be learned from our natural experience of a typical Alaskan winter and summer.

In the tradition of the Christian Church, there are times appointed for feasting and others for fasting. Some only last for a few days while some continue for weeks. One finds that often the fast precedes the feast, with the underlying intent of this discipline of self-denial being to encourage preparation, self-examination and longing. The feast is only that much sweeter when following a good period of fasting. The extremeness of the Alaskan seasons has always mirrored this

in my experience. The winter months provide an opportunity to develop a greater appreciation for sun and the warmth of summer, while the heat and inescapable light of summer help us to appreciate the quiet and coziness of a good winter.

It is apparent that the time for holidays and festivals, for gathering and fun, is drawing near as decorations for several of these occasions can already be found throughout our local stores and shops. Whether it be Halloween, Thanksgiving or Christmas, most people's favorite festive day is coming in the months ahead. Usually representing a great opportunity for gathering together, celebration, parties, elaborate meals and

gift giving. Indeed, for most of us this is a much anticipated time of feasting. American culture has become quite acclimated to the idea of a good feast, a time for indulgence and celebration with special food and decorations, which now contribute to a multi-billion dollar industry. Fasting on the other hand is no longer culturally vogue, if it ever was at all. This is an unfortunate reality as too much feasting without enough fasting can result in a loss of meaning and significance in the very things we are trying to celebrate.

For many, the uncertainty surrounding this season of holidays and festivities represents a significant challenge. We do not yet know



the full implications of the restrictions in travel and gathering as our favorite holidays approach, or the impact these changes will have on our families and community. Needless to say, this year will most likely not look the same as years past. Much like a time of fasting, this particular season of life offers us difficulty and challenge but also opportunity. Opportu-

nity for preparation, self-examination and to experience longing. A chance to remember what truly matters and to perhaps regain some of the lost meaning and appreciation. So that when we are again able to gather in celebration, to travel to distant loved ones and to rediscover some degree of normalcy, the feast will be that much sweeter.

MILITARY STAR
increases zero-interest
Military Clothing Plan's
credit limit to \$1,000,
extends payment period
to 12 months

Carina DeCino
Army and Air Force Exchange Service
Public Affairs

Eligible Soldiers at Fort Wainwright can purchase up to \$1,000 in qualifying merchandise on their MILITARY STAR® Military Clothing Plan interest free, doubling the plan's original credit limit of \$500, starting Sept. 1.

The Military Clothing Plan is a special line of zero-interest credit for uniform purchases available to all active duty Soldiers, Airmen and Marines, as well as Guard and Reserve members. The limit increase, the first of its kind since 1979, will also extend the plan's payment duration from eight to 12 months.

“Raising the Military Clothing Plan's credit limit strengthens the MILITARY STAR card's ability to help service members responsibly build credit while giving them greater flexibility to pay for their required uniforms,” said Fort Wainwright Exchange general manager Gloria Sylvia. “The MILITARY STAR card offers this benefit as a service to the services, reflecting the Exchange Credit Program's commitment to ensuring the readiness and resiliency of warfighters across the globe.”

The increase comes as the Exchange rolls out the new Army Green Service Uniform, expected to be available in most CONUS Army Military Clothing stores by December and at overseas locations by March 2021.

Approximately 474,000 Soldiers, Airmen and Marines worldwide have a MILITARY STAR clothing line of credit. Purchases that qualify for the Military Clothing Plan include:

- Defense Logistics and Troop Support -procured issue military clothing items and footwear.
- DLAT organizational clothing and individual equipment items.
- The Army Green Service Uniform, which is procured directly by the Exchange
- Exchange commercial uniform clothing, undergarments, insignia and footwear to be worn with the uniform.

Soldiers, Airmen and Marines qualify for the Military Clothing Plan. Sailors and Coast Guard members are offered a promotional zero percent plan for uniform purchases under the MILITARY STAR card's standard retail credit line.

The MILITARY STAR card is accepted at all military exchanges and commissaries. For more information, visit MyECP.com.

New ID cards being issued for military family members, retirees

David Vergun
Defense.gov

The Defense Department began issuing Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Cards on July 31, 2020, the first time since 1993 that changes to the card have been made.

Michael Sorrento, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center, discussed the new ID cards that are for military family members, retirees and other eligible card holders.

The new ID card transitions the current laminated paper card to much more durable plastic material, similar to that used for the common access cards used by military members and DOD civilians, he said.

Also, the new ID cards feature enhanced security measures that will



Sample of the Next Generation Uniformed Services ID card. (DOD)

reduce the likelihood of them being compromised, Sorrento said.

Although the new ID cards are available now, Sorrento said, only about 20 Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System sites currently offer the card because new equipment is required to produce them, and

that takes some time. All RAPIDS sites worldwide likely will have the new equipment by the end of the year, he said.

However, to reduce foot traffic — particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic — Sorrento said that unless a card is about to expire, it would be better to wait until summer

to get a new one. Even then, he added, it would be good to call ahead first to schedule an appointment.

The complete transition to the new ID card, is targeted for January 2026, Sorrento said. In the meantime, the current cards will continue to work.

DOD is looking at future capabilities that can be provided with the new ID cards, Sorrento said. For example, users of the card may eventually be able to go online and order a card through a proper vetting process and have it directly distributed to them by mail, rather than sit in a RAPIDS office and wait for a card to be made.

The underlying technology could support greater and greater capabilities for a long time to come, he added.

Army's Organic Industrial Base ramps up to fight COVID-19

William King
Defense.gov

Without losing focus on readiness and support to the warfighter, several of the Army's Organic Industrial Base facilities are producing, repairing and repurposing equipment to augment the supply of personal protective equipment and other potentially lifesaving medical equipment to support the whole-of-government response to COVID-19.

Managed by Army Materiel Command, the OIB consists of 26 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants that manufacture and reset Army equipment, generating readiness and operational capability throughout Army formations.

By nature of the production lines and facilities within the OIB, much of the artisan workforce is already working within the recommended social distancing guidelines, allowing them to continue their critical operations while taking the necessary steps to maintain a healthy working environment. Some facilities have implemented additional steps to maintain a healthy working environment, such as using telework to the maximum extent possible, working added or staggered shifts, installing transparent barriers to work stations and issuing protective equipment to the workforce.

In addition to maintaining mission requirements, several OIB facilities have modified production



Spc. Nguyenquanghu Phan repairs a ventilator at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency's Medical Maintenance Operations Division at Tobyhanna Army Depot in Pennsylvania during a recent deployment. Phan and eight other Soldiers from the 6th Medical Logistics Management Center at Fort Detrick, Maryland, deployed to USAMMA's three MMOD's to supplement the workforce during the COVID-19 response as each depot saw spikes in work order requests. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Derek Presto)

capabilities and processes to meet Army needs for PPE and other essential items in response to the pandemic.

Army Aviation and Missile Command's Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania has taken steps to protect its workforce while maintaining its current workload providing repair and modernization of essential air, missile and space systems. Additionally, LEAD produced medical isolation gowns for a Pennsylva-

nia-based health care system as part of a public-private partnership.

"As part of the Army's Organic Industrial Base, Letterkenny is prepared to respond when the nation calls," Army Col. Gregory Gibbons, LEAD commander said. "Part of that response is flexibility, and we're honored to provide a solution for our local community."

Former Army nurse, 100, recalls World War II experiences

Terri Moon Cronk
Defense.gov

World War II was raging in 1944. American troops were instrumental in the effort to take back France, including the beach landings in Normandy that caught the Germans off guard. American forces took possession of Rome, and a Soviet counterattack pushed Germany back into Poland.

In the Pacific, Japan had gained more Chinese territory, but the communists' presence limited Japan's success. The Allies fought back by taking Saipan and invading the Philippines.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, 24-year-old nurse Regina Benson and three of her nursing school classmates joined the Army Nurse Corps right after graduation to serve their country. They were assigned overseas and remained lifelong friends.

Benson's three brothers were also serving, so for her, joining the Army as a patriotic duty was not unusual.

"She was kind of fearless," her daughter, Phyllis Benson, said in a recent interview.

Benson, of McLean, Virginia, is now 100 years old. She visited the Pentagon recently and was interviewed about her Army Nurse Corps service in Japan, Hawaii and Okinawa, from September 1944 until April 1946.

While in Hawaii, 2nd Lt. Benson met her future husband, Army 1st Lt. William Benson, who was a supply officer and a company commander. He stayed in the Army Reserve, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. When



Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presents World War II veteran Lt. Regina Benson with the Joint Service Achievement Medal, July 10, 2020. Benson, an Army nurse stationed in Japan and Hawaii during the war, served in dangerous conditions, endured similar horrors as her battlefield brethren, and ultimately paved the way for women like her to join the military. (Photo by Chad J. McNeeley, DOD)

Regina left the Army in 1946, she became a civilian surgical nurse, her daughter said.

Benson had some harrowing experiences during her wartime service in the Pacific.

"We were on a ship going across the Pacific, and we hit a bad storm," Benson said. "So, the captain decided we would go down with the ship, and of course, everybody got on their knees and prayed and promised God many things. Then all of a sudden, the ship calmed down, and we went through the eye of the storm and ev-

erybody went back to what they were doing."

After the Japanese announced their surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, and formally signed an agreement Sept. 2, American service members were welcomed into the homes of Japanese, Benson said. "We ate dinner with them, talked to them and stayed in some of the Japanese homes," she said, adding that the Americans shared their rations with the Japanese.

She remembers well, the day the Japanese surrendered. "I was delighted, but the Japanese [troops] in

the hills didn't know that World War II was over, and they came down [from the hills] shooting at us," she said. She said she jumped for joy when the war was over so she could return home, get married and work as a civilian nurse.

Benson believes "the United States is the greatest country in the world because of its freedoms and because people can carry out their dreams." If she could speak to younger generations today, she said she would tell them "to love their country, and remember the price [service members] paid for

your freedom. Remain true to your country. We can pursue our dreams and hopes."

Regina Benson worked 12-hour shifts in Army hospitals in the Pacific; on wards and in operating rooms. She said the most important thing she did during the war was "to give comfort to those troops who were dying."

According to Benson, the most rewarding part of her Army nursing career was to be able to tell the mother of a young service member that their son did not die alone, because she was there with them.

August 28, 2020

New landmine detection method to reduce false alarm rates

**U.S. Army CCDC
Army Research Laboratory Public Affairs**

Landmines pose a serious threat in conflict areas, yet modern detection systems struggle to discriminate between explosives and clutter. A project funded by the Army developed a new method for landmine identification that will greatly reduce false alarm rates.

Fewer false alarms will significantly reduce the cost of humanitarian landmine clearance operations and provide greater road mobility by avoiding unnecessary route detours. With this new technology, landmines can be detected without digging.

Vadum, Inc., North Carolina State University, the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Army Research Office, an element of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Army Research Laboratory, collaborated to develop what's known as the Vibration-ENhanced Underground Sensing system, or VENUS.

"New concepts are rare in the area of landmine detection," said Dr. James Harvey, program manager, ARO. "This advance has the potential to be a game changer."

The Night Vision



The technology can be easily transported to conflict areas via Army unmanned ground vehicles such as the TALON from QinetiQ North America. (Courtesy photo)

and Electronic Sensors Directorate of the U.S. Army CCDC C5ISR Center supported the research as a part of an Army Small Business Technology Transfer award managed by ARO.

Most conventional landmine detectors are based on detecting the electromagnetic signature of the mine itself, which can easily be confused with other buried metal objects or wet or magnetic soil patches.

With this new technology, published in the proceedings of the 2020 SPIE Defense & Commercial Sensing Conference, the small metal parts inside the landmine are stimulated to vibrate using a pulsed magnetic field. Most other buried objects don't respond to the magnetic pulse and those that do have very different vibrational characteristics. The vibrations are detected by a unique

high dynamic range vibrometer that can distinguish closely-spaced low-frequency vibrations.

"This new capability resulted from combining exciting results from several previous ambitious research projects and is an outstanding example of the transition from university basic research to new military and commercial technology capabilities," said Professor Michael Steer, a NC State research partner. "The mathematical algorithms behind the detection depend on understanding the details of the interaction of magnetic fields, radar pulses, and vibrating components within the landmine as well as with the properties of various soil and clutter objects. Advancing university physical models and analysis continue to support the improvement of the detection

algorithms."

The Army awarded the research team an additional two-year Phase II STTR contract to mature its unique technology.

As part of that award, the research team will work to miniaturize and ruggedize the detection device for reliable outdoor testing at an Army range. The researchers also will collect data from real landmines in a variety of soil conditions and demonstrate the performance of the technology in demanding and stressing field conditions.

"Because conventional metal detectors and ground penetrating radar rely on similar same fields, it should eventually be possible to upgrade conventional systems with VENUS technology to maximize detection capability," said Dr. Josh Wetherington, principal Vadum researcher.



Vehicles assigned to the 878th Engineer Vertical Construction Company, 105th Engineer Battalion, drive through flooded roads and debris on the way to assist stranded civilians on Oak Island, North Carolina, Aug. 5, 2020. The North Carolina National Guard deployed teams across the Eastern portion of the state to assist civilians and North Carolina Emergency Management with damage inflicted by Hurricane Isaias. (Photo by Sgt. Lisa Vines)

DOD partners with agencies to use AI for disaster, humanitarian relief

**David Vergun
Defense.gov**

The Defense Department is partnering with other agencies to develop deep-learning artificial intelligence algorithms to provide near-real-time data to improve the decision-making of first responders engaged in natural disasters and humanitarian assistance efforts.

Representatives from DOD and its partners — the Energy Department and Microsoft — along with a White House official, spoke Aug. 20 during a virtual meeting.

Michael J. Kratsios, DOD's chief technology officer, said five consortiums have been launched to accomplish this goal, using the best AI technology talent from industry to respond to humanitarian assistance and to mitigate natural disasters by protecting property and lives, including those of first responders.

Cheryl Ingstad, director of the Energy Department's AI and technology office, said one of the most important aspects of this work is understanding first responders' needs and developing AI in such a way that they can easily understand and use it. She said she's confident the work will save lives and that additional partners may be added to the effort.

Nand Mulchandani, acting director of the Defense Department's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, said DOD is working on

this collaborative project because the department devotes significant time and manpower to responding to disasters and humanitarian assistance relief operations, and this work can contribute to that effort in a big way.

Research and development, he said, has been progressing for about a year, and it has progressed from being a concept to become something that can be used. "Software has unique and powerful properties," he said. "If you build it well with the right customer focus and architecture, the more you build, the cheaper it gets."

Susie Adams, Microsoft's chief federal technology officer, said the work not only will help first responders in the United States, but also will be shared with global partners.

"AI and machine learning enable solutions never thought possible," she said. "AI is a tool to augment human intelligence, not replace it. It's about getting data to the right people at the right time as quickly as possible so they can make better-informed decisions."

Adams noted that Microsoft has been working on AI for about 25 years and now has 1,000 researchers engaged in AI work.

Chris Liddell, White House deputy chief of staff, said the administration is excited about government and private partners using AI to save lives and fully supports the effort.

IBCS shoots down ballistic missile threat in third live-fire demo

**Devon Suits
Army News Service**

The Army conducted a third successful missile intercept demonstration Thursday, as the force continues to evaluate the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System, or IBCS, before a significant milestone decision in November.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment further demonstrated the system's capability by stopping two targets — an MQM-178 cruise missile surrogate and Black Dagger/Boosted Zombie ballistic missile surrogate, said Brig. Gen. Brian Gibson, the Air and Missile Defense Cross-Functional Team director.

The live-fire event at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, is part of a broader IBCS limited-user test that started in July. Last week, the Army successfully shot down two MQM-178 surrogates, flying at low altitudes in close proximity, said Col. Philip Rottenborn, a project manager with the Program Executive Office of Missiles and Space.

This week, the Army focused solely on the system's performance against the two different targets, Gibson said. Both the ballistic and cruise missile surrogates are considerably different in terms of "speed, altitude, characteristics, and complexity," he added.

Cruise missiles are known as "air-breathing targets," said Col. Anthony Behrens, the Army capability manager and director of Army Air and Missile Defense Command. They are capable of flying masked behind terrain to avoid detection by radar.

"This [IBCS] system will allow us to put radars forward and use that data to inform a Patriot firing unit — something we cannot do today with the current Patriot system," Behrens said.

Ballistic missiles, on the other hand, are fired in an upward-angled trajectory until the propulsion system cuts off, sending the system downward toward an objective, he added.

Anecdotal, a ballistic missile is similar to a fly ball in baseball, sailing at a high-arching angle toward the outfield,

Behrens explained. Once the "ball" is in the air, the Patriot interceptor cuts across the battlespace like an outfielder catching a target before it hits the ground.

During the previous demonstration, the interceptor successfully identified and eliminated the trailing missile surrogate, which was intentionally shrouded by some form of debris. The evaluation also included a ground-based electronic jamming element to evaluate the IBCS' ability to seamlessly transition data between networked nodes, Rottenborn said.

Testing officials did not duplicate the previous conditions during Thursday's live-fire demonstration, he added.

The Army has a range of weapon systems and sensors strategically positioned around the globe, said Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Joseph M. Martin. The future fight will require the force to link current and future systems to generate a layer of redundancy throughout the Army's air and missile capabilities.

COVID

Continued from page 3

Joint Munitions Command facilities have produced more than 70,000 cloth face coverings and 2,300 gallons of hand sanitizer for Army personnel to continue their mission-essential work. The face coverings were developed and produced at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas, while the hand sanitizer was produced at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, Oklahoma, and Crane Army Ammunition Activity, Indiana.

Army Communications-Electronics Command personnel at Tobyhanna Army Depot in Pennsylvania

collaborated with Army Medical Logistics Command medical maintenance technicians to establish the design requirements for producing the initial prototypes, and then sourced the electronic components to build 52 power supplies for ventilators.

Jack Rosarius, director of medical maintenance management for the Army Medical Materiel Agency, said in a May interview that he was impressed with the quality and turnaround time of the power supply units.

"Depot engineers visited

the facility to examine a couple samples, and in very short order, produced what we needed," Rosarius said.

The new ventilator power supply design is slightly smaller than the original, and it's made with commercial off-the-shelf components. Tobyhanna was able to procure the components, fabricate and test the units in fewer than 11 days.

In addition to using existing OIB facilities and equipment, AMC is using additive manufacturing processes to design and 3D print essential parts and equipment. The Rock

Island Arsenal-Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center's Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence will produce more than 1 million testing swabs on two printers by year's end for use by Defense Department personnel, reducing the demand on commercially available swabs that can now be used for the general public.

Army Col. Jimi Hendrix, RIA-JMTC commander, said he is impressed by what his team has accomplished and the external support they have received. "Organizations across

the AMC enterprise, the U.S. government and private industry have partnered with us to provide designs and seek [Food and Drug Administration] approval for the production of nasal swabs to support COVID-19 testing," Hendrix said. "Processes that usually take years are falling into place within weeks."

RIA-JMTC also has produced 55 power supply assembly covers for ventilators and 300 ear savers designed to extend the life of a mask and provide more comfort for the wearer.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fort Wainwright Family & MWR

Weekly Events

August 29 - September 5

- 29

Summer Reading Program
August 29 - September 1
Varies

Take on the Summer Reading Program all the way through September 1. Pick up books from the Post Library, log your reading sessions in the app, and earn prizes. Register today!

Post Library, Bldg 3700
Call 353-2642, registration required
- 29

B.O.S.S. Rock Climbing
Registration deadline: August 29
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Join B.O.S.S. and ODR on September 5 for Rock Climbing! This climbing adventure offers many great climbs for all skill levels. Cost: \$20 per person.

B.O.S.S., Bldg 1045
Call 353-7648, registration required
- 30

2-Person Fling Scramble Tournament
August 30
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Grab a friend and schedule your tee time! This is a 2-person FlingGolf Scramble Tournament. Cost: \$30 per person.

Chena Bend Golf Course, Bldg 2090
Call 353-6223, registration required
- 4

B.O.S.S. Cooking in the Barracks
Registration deadline: September 4
4 - 7 p.m.

B.O.S.S. bring your the B.O.S.S. Cooking in the Barracks Life Skill Series! This class is Summer Cooking 101. Learn to make simple, healthy BBQ chicken k-bobs on a grill in a fire safe manner. Cost: FREE!

B.O.S.S., Bldg 1045
Call 353-7648, registration required
- 5

Tanana River Float
Registration deadline: September 5
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Paddle the mighty Tanana River with ODR on September 12! This is an all-day float and is a fantastic opportunity to experience floating a glacier fed river! This program will cover all that you need to know about boating on Glacier Rivers all while offering very scenic views of Interior Alaska.

Outdoor Recreation Center., Bldg 4050
Call 361-6349/361-6350, registration required



For Labor Day Weekend Hours, go to wainwright.armymwr.com.
@WainwrightMWR #WainwrightMWR

CAN

Express your opinions and participate in peaceful non-partisan public demonstrations when OFF-DUTY and NOT in uniform.

CAN'T

Engage in partisan political activity or act in a manner that could imply Army approval or disapproval of any political party, campaign or candidate in a partisan election.

Actively participate in a public demonstration that is organized by a political party, campaign or candidate.

Actively participate in a public demonstration that is likely to become violent or a breach of the peace.

MUST

Follow all orders and directives about specific activities that may be issued by appropriate civil and military authorities or found in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

SHOULD

Review Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, Department of Defense Instruction 1325.06 and Army Regulation 600-20 for basic guidance concerning participation in protests and other political activities.

CAN

Remember you represent the Army when you are on- or off-duty; be wise with the use of your social media accounts to express your personal views.

Donate money, sign petitions and express your personal opinions when you are off-duty and not in an official capacity.

Follow, friend or like a political party or candidate running for partisan office on a personal social media account, when off-duty.

CAN'T

Post, share or link to material from a partisan political party, group or candidate, even when off duty. This restriction also applies to "Further Restricted" civilian employees, such as members of the Senior Executive Service.

All Army Team members should **Think, Type, Post:**

Think about the message being communicated and who could potentially view it.

Type a communication that is consistent with Army Values.

Post only those messages that demonstrate dignity and respect for self and others.

For Army Civilians

CAN
Express your opinions and participate in peaceful non-partisan public demonstrations, when OFF-DUTY and NOT wearing an official uniform or identifying badge."

CAN'T

Engage in a political activity in a manner that could imply Army approval or disapproval of any political party, campaign or candidate in a partisan election.

MUST

Follow all orders and directives that may be issued by appropriate civil authorities.

SHOULD

Review the provisions of the Hatch Act of 1939 (5 U.S. Code Sections 7321-7326) and Office of Special Counsel guidance concerning permitted and prohibited political activities.

*The rules regarding political activities for a limited class of employees, such as members of the Senior Executive Service, may be more restrictive.

Social Media

CAN

Post, share or link to material from a partisan political party, group or candidate, when off-duty and not in a government building, but not to subordinates.

Friend, follow and like a political candidate when off-duty and not in a government building.

Identify a political affiliation on a personal social media profile.

CAN'T

Post partisan political articles, websites or political cartoons, memes or gifs while on-duty, in a federal building, or using a government computer, including on a personal device, during your duty hours.

Refer to your official title or position while engaged in political activity on social media.

Suggest or ask anyone to make financial contributions whether on- or off-duty and whether or not using an alias.

Link to the political contribution page of any partisan group, or like, share or retweet a solicitation, including an invitation to a fundraising event.

Engage in political activity on an account that is used for official business.

Resources

Hatch Act: <https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct.asp=x>

Hatch Act Social Media Guide: <https://osc.gov/Documents/Hatch%20Act/Social%20Media%20Quick%20Guide.pdf>

DoD Directive 1344.10: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodd/134410p.pdf>

Army Social Media Guidance: <http://www.army.mil/socialmedia/soldiers>

Army system successfully completes second missile intercept test

Devon Suits
Army News Service

The Army is one step closer to improving its air and missile defense capabilities after a successful live-fire evaluation intercepted two low-altitude targets flying at close proximity Aug. 13.

The intercept test is part of the larger Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System, or IBCS, limited user test, said Gen. John M. Murray, commander of Army Futures Command.

"This is a major milestone, not only for the air defense community but for the Army as a whole," Murray said Thursday during a media event. "I'm fully confident that we're on the road to a successful [initial operational test and evaluation] in about a year's time."

More than 500 Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, have been involved with the user evaluation since July, said Col. Philip Rottenborn, a project manager with the Program Executive Office of Missiles and Space.

The IBCS is the Army's contribution to the Joint All-Domain Command and Control system, capable of blending current and future sensors and weapon systems under one unified network. The limited user test, or LUT, out of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, is slated to end in September.

All personnel within the 3-43 ADA, a Patriot missile unit, supported the live-fire intercept – a first for this LUT, said Brig. Gen. Brian Gibson, the Air and Missile Defense Cross-Functional Team director.

During the test, Soldiers relied on the IBCS to



The Army is one step closer to improving its air and missile defense capabilities after a successful live-fire evaluation intercepted two low-altitude targets flying at close proximity at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Aug. 13, 2020. (U.S. Army photo)

interconnect two Patriot radars, two AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel radars, three Patriot launchers, and several battalion and battery engagement centers to take down the pair of targets, Rottenborn said.

"The interceptors were [Patriot Advanced Capability-3] cost reduction initiative interceptors launched from separate launchers at the same battery site," he said. "They were against two MQM-178 cruise missile surrogate targets, flying challenging maneuvers."

The sensor-to-shooter system also provided a real-time communication capability across seven different network relays to multiple echelons, Rottenborn said.

Simulated opposing

forces also jammed one of the network relays to test the system's ability to seamlessly transition data to another node. Testing and evaluation officials will review information collected during the intercept to ensure the IBCS handled this process correctly.

The live-fire test is the second time the Army has used the IBCS to successfully intercept a set of targets. In December, the Army proved the capability after launching a pair of Patriot Advanced Capability-2 missiles to take out two cruise missile surrogates.

Moving forward, the Army will continue to make improvements to the IBCS capability. The 3-43 ADA will become the first

unit equipped with the initial operational capability, slated for fiscal year 2022, Gibson said.

The battalion first received the new system in August 2019, said Col. Anthony Behrens, the Army capability manager and director of Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

"They created their own tactics, techniques and procedures, [which are] vastly different than how we operate today at the crew, battery, and battalion levels," Behrens said.

Current units are typically limited to Patriot radar technology to discern a missile's flight path – a system that is restricted in both range and capability, when compared to an IBCS-enabled network, he added.

"Normally, [the Army] would probably fire two interceptors at each of these targets," Behrens said.

"We were able to integrate Sentinel radars far from the launchers. By adding those additional sensors to a network ... we add several minutes to the decision cycle."

In turn, prolonging an engagement creates more time for leaders to make an informed decision and allows for more effective and efficient use of Army assets and capabilities.

The Army is slated to conduct a third intercept test next week. Air and missile defense program leads will continue to learn from the 3-43 ADA and plan to use that knowledge to shape future air defense doctrine, Behrens said.



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