







# THE GOLDEN GUIDON

Official Command Publication of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett/ Parks Reserve Forces Training Area

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The Golden Guidon is an authorized quarterly publication for the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett community. Content in this publication is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Dept. of the Army, or FHL/PRFTA.

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Guidelines available on the FHL website in the Public Affairs Office section. Submit stories, photographs, and other information to the Public Affairs Office <u>usarmy</u>. <u>hunterliggett.imcom-central.list.fhl-pao</u> @ <u>mail.mil</u> or call 831-386-2690.

# FEEDBACK WELCOMED Email or submit ICE comment:

https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=-card&sp=113492&s=442&dep=\*DoD&sc=2

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COVER PHOTO: Controlled burn to keep the Dolan Fire from spreading to the cantonment area, Sept. 8, 2020. (Photo by Kelly Atwell, FHL Safety Officer)

COMMAND INFORMATION RESOURCES www.home.army.mil/liggett www.home.army.mil/parks www.dvidshub.net/unit/FHL-PAO www.facebook.com/FortHunterLiggett

# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Team Fort Hunter Liggett and Parks Reserve Forces Training Area!

Thank you for your perseverance through these difficult times. COVID-19 will be with us for some time still, especially with winter coming. Although we are at HPCON B at both installations, we are maintaining HPCON C protocols to continue our successful mitigations against the disease. I understand that anxiety might rise and I encourage you to reach out if you need help. Reaching out is a sign of strength, not weakness. Things like anxiety and depression are treatable, and suicides are preventable. Every life is important. YOU are important. We've had a good track record thus far so let's stay vigilant - wear face coverings and keep social distancing when holding meetings and at all public places.

A safe environment includes a work place free of discrimination. As part of the Army's Project Inclusion initiative and my commitment to the workforce, I hosted a series of Inclusion Sensing sessions in September to listen to your concerns and comments. If you were not able to participate, do not hesitate to reach out to me, any of the command team members or your supervisor to address your concerns.

Project Inclusion's intent is to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion across the force and build cohesive teams. There is no room for discrimination of any sort at FHL/PRFTA. Our strength as a nation and Army is our diversity. Just look at all the people that are highlighted in the Spotlights section and feature articles. I am truly honored and proud to serve amongst our diverse and talented community! And, I learn something new at every FMWR's hosted ethnic observance.

We're making history not only in

the diverse ranks at our garrison, but also in the training arena. We've led the way to enable continued training for our troops, and our success has paved the way for new training at Fort Hunter Liggett. Hearty thanks to our tenant partners and the garrison workforce in forging the way for new training capabilities, such as the JLTV and engineer courses. Also, the PRFTA Team is working hard to increase additional firing-ranges to support the many Army Reserve units around northern California.

Providing a first-class training platform includes energy resiliency and cyber security, which are some October themes being observed. I am very excited to announce that FHL is the top Army Reserve installation in producing renewable energy in Fiscal Year 2019, producing 21.97 percent of its electricity needs from renewable energy. FHL has won several awards since its selection to be a pilot Net Zero installation in 2011, for its multi-strategic program effectiveness and annual cost avoidance of millions of dollars. Reliable access to energy is critical to mission success for the garrison as well as our customers.

It is no secret that our infrastructure is aged, causing many unplanned power outages. We're working tirelessly with our energy providers to continue to improve the aging infrastructure. The planned power outages are inconvenient but necessary to improve our energy resilience. You can also play a part by reducing energy consumption – learn how at the Environmental section's October events.

Cyber security is also critical to mission success and will be included



Garrison Commander Col. Charles R. Bell

in upcoming garrison emergency preparedness exercises. Everyone – garrison, tenants and residents - should participate to exercise their readiness plans and processes, so we can work cohesively and efficiently as a team and keep our community safe and operational. Cyber security is another area that everyone has a part in. Practice good OPSEC behaviors, such as logging off your computer at the end of the work day and not sharing passwords. Do Your Part, and Be CyberSmart!

This November, local veterans' groups will not be hosting Veterans Day events due to COVID-19. However, we do not need public gatherings to celebrate our nation's selfless-service veterans. There are many veterans working alongside you so, take a moment to say 'thanks' and recognize their service. Veterans Day - November 11 - is a day to celebrate patriotism, service and sacrifice. These are all things U.S. Army Garrison FHL/PRFTA and all those working and living at our installations do every day.

THANK YOU and COYOTE STRONG!



# OCTOBER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS KEEP SAFE, STAY SAFE

By Chaplain (Maj.) Cesar Rodriguez, Family Life Chaplain/Resource Manager

Everyone values feeling safe. We install security systems in our home to feel safe; some of us purchase cars according to their safety standards; and many of us follow safety rules and regulations at work. The Army keeps us safe. We have the "battle buddy" system to keep a set of eyes on one another; in essence, to keep one another out of trouble and to keep us safe. If you stop to think about it, life is fragile and precious, and the bottom line is, we want to protect our lives to see another day and so we invest in safety.

Another safety issue we should all think about more is relationship safety. Relationships, like life, are also precious and can be fragile if not maintained. When teaching a class in Strong Bonds, I usually talk about the these safeties of a relationship:

# **EMOTIONAL SAFETY.**

Everyone wants to be loved and cared for. When you have emotional safety in your relationship, you are able to be yourself and share your mind by speaking what you want and sharing what you feel without having to worry that you are going to be put down or criticized. Emotional safety is about being accepted, cared for and loved for who you are. The best

way to cultivate this safety would be by good communication between you and your spouse or loved one.

# COMMITMENT SAFETY.

We all want to know that our husband or wife is committed and invested in the relationship. And no matter what happens, be it financial hardships, health issues, family difficulties, you're going to be there for each other. It's important to know that you will have a future together. If one or the other feels like the other isn't invested and committed, thoughts can then be of separation and divorce. And that is something no one should want.

# PHYSICAL SAFETY.

Feeling safe from physical aggression and intimidation in your relationship is physical safety. A physically abusive relationship is something no one should accept or put up with. Some of the signs of a physically abusive and intimidating relationship are you're scared or afraid of your spouse, physically injured or threatened, controlled by your spouse, forcing you to do something you're not comfortable doing.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE

Army One Source Hotline: 1-800-342-9647

If you feel you, or someone you know, is in a dangerous relationship, call one of the many hotlines (above and next page), the Family Advocacy at your installation, and never hesitate to call 911 if violence is ever about to happen. The Chaplains at Religious Support Office are always ready to help 24/7 with counseling and intervention.

# SPIRITUAL SAFETY.

A strong spirit is resilient in all types of life situations. It's not the boat that survives a storm but it is the captain and the crew that navigates the boat through storms and angry seas. Something to remember when we are going through life's difficulties, God instructs us to be strong and courageous because He is with us wherever we go. The Apostle Paul encouraged the church in Ephesus to put on the whole armor of God and King David rested in God's safety. Again, whether it be relationship safety or spiritual safety you're working on, the Religious Support Office at both installations are here to help you. We have resources available for you and offer counseling and referrals as well. Be safe in God and stay safe in your relationship.

Work Cited: Relationship Intelligence For Couples, PREP 8.0 v. 1.3, July 2017.



# 5 Ways to Help a Friend Who's Experiencing Domestic Abuse



Everyone's situation is different — domestic abuse can happen to anyone and it's not their fault. And it can be difficult to know how to help a friend, coworker or loved one who is in an abusive relationship. Here are five simple things you can do to safely help someone you care about in their time of need.

# 1. Ask to connect

### "How do you prefer we connect?"

Having a safe way to communicate is important.
Let your friend or loved one tell you what is safest for
them and honor that. Do not pressure the person to
leave. Instead, support them without judgment.
Offer to help them plan for their safety or seek
outside support when they are ready.

# 2. Stay in touch

### "Let's play a game online."

Finding creative reasons to call, text, video chat or use social media check-ins may provide a lifeline for those who feel unsafe at home. For example, some games have chat functions that may allow for communication in nontraditional spaces. Starting up a game that has chat may allow you to check in with your friend without making the abuser suspicious. There are privacy and safety tips for online gaming from the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

# 3. Support and believe

"I care about you and I'm here for you, no matter what."

Remind your friend that they are not alone and that you are there for them. If they choose to talk about the abuse, listen and show empathy. Let them know the abuse is not their fault and that you believe them. Ask what you can do to help.

# 4. Chat about options

### "Let's create a safety plan."

Options are empowering. Talk to your friend about their options for seeking help or reporting domestic abuse in the military. Let them know that FAP victim advocates are available 24/7 to help them think through dangerous situations and create a plan to get through them safely.

Create a secret code word, phrase or symbol that lets you know your friend is signaling for help, whether that means a call from you or for you to call the police. A call can sometimes disrupt abuse.

# 5. Share the hotline

# "Here is the information for that restaurant I told you about."

It may be safer for your friend if you research options for outside support, such as the National Domestic Violence Hotline, on their behalf (and on your device, provided you feel safe to do so). Use your agreed-upon code and a safe communication method when providing this information so it remains private between the two of you.

# 6. Resources and Support to Share

# Immediate crisis support National Domestic Violence Hotline

800-799-7233, 800-787-3224 en Español https://www.thehotline.org/

> Local support, 24/7 Family Advocacy Program Victim Advocate Locator

https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service -providers/child-abuse-and-domestic-abuse/ victim-advocate-locator

# Support for Teens

Love is Respect | Text "LOVEIS" to 866-331-9474 https://www.loveisrespect.org/

### Additional support

Military OneSource | 800-342-9647 https://www.militaryonesource.mil/ United-to-End-Domestic-Abuse

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



# FHL EMPLOYEE-SOLDIER RECOGNITION/AWARDS CEREMONY

More than 25 garrison employees were recognized during the 3rd Quarter Workforce Awards Ceremony which was streamed live on Facebook so family members could share in the special moment.

Army Commendation Medal SFC Ashton, Marico HHC <u>SSG Wi</u>lliams, Julius HHC

<u>Civilian Service Commendation Medal</u> Smith, Annelle DFMWR

Civilian Service Achievement Medal Ann King, HQ Augusta Vargas, HQ Brian Baker, RMO Cindy McIntyre, PAO Kristopher Motschenbacher, ILO Talia Wesley, DHR Bryan Lee-Ruiz, DFMWR Shylon Green, DPTMS Gene Messina, DPW Leonard Lovett, DES Mark Richards, DES Command Sgt. Maj. Fluckiger expressing his appreciation of the workforce's dedication to the mission. All photos by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs.

Certificate of Achievement Anpebeth Dragon, RMO Stephanie Sonnier, RMO Douglas King, ISO Marc Cutler, PAIO Joel Pean, PAIO Sharon Usrey, PAIO Wendy Espino, DFMWR Ashley Shields, DFMWR Juan Vasquez, DFMWR

<u>Special Act or Service Award</u> Phurikmony (Sam) Sothy, RMO Commander's Coin Joel Pean, PAIO Sharon Usrey, PAIO Moira Trevisan, DFMWR

Length of Service Awards

5 Years of Service: Robert Ellebracht, DPW

10 Years of Service: Jake Dayton, DPW James Harris, DPTMS Denise Hays, DPTMS

20 Years of Service: Shane Duke, DPW Eduardo Rios, DPW Lourdes Kelley, DES

30 Years of Service: Ronald Rosas, DPW

35 Years of Service: Jesus Rubero, DPTMS



# EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Deputy Fire Chief Clinton Tolle earned the great distinction of the Garrison Employee of the Quarter and received a Civilian Service Achievement Medal, Commander's coin, and a \$250 On-the-Spot award.

# USAG Fort Hunter Liggett/Parks Reserve Forces Training Area EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER



# <u>3rd Quarter</u> Clinton Tolle, FHL Fire Dept.

Clinton Tolle, the Deputy Fire Chief for US Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett/Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, is the garrison Employee of the 3rd Quarter. He provides technical advice to the Director of Emergency Services and installation commander concerning the implementation of Army, command and installation directives regarding fire protection and prevention. He plans, develops and manages all aspects of fire prevention, fire protection and training.

"I like working with everyone that shares the same dedication to the mission," said Tolle. He takes great pride in his work, and continously pursues self-development to strenghten his skills and support the command.

Tolle retired from the United States Air Force Reserve in 2016 with 27 cumulative years of service. Prior to joining the FHL Team in 2011, he was the Assistant Fire Chief for Prevention, Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

His education includes degrees from University of Maryland, Community College of the Air Force and Glendale Community College. In addition, Mr. Tolle completed the Army Management Staff College (Civilian Education System) Basic and Intermediate Courses.

Tolle enjoys golfing and stamp collecting.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



STEEL DE FLEURY MEDAL



Gene Messina (L) and Ronnie Rosas (R) were awarded the Steel de Fleury Medal by Garrison Commander Col. Charles Bell, July 30. The Steel de Fleury recognizes their superior service to the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment and the profession of engineering by providing critical base support that enables our Commanders to build mission readiness and provide an enhanced quality of life for our Service Members, Families and Civilians at the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett. Messina, Supervisory Engineering Technician, is recognized for his 10 years of service



to the Army and expertly controlling and managing the Directorate of Public Works budget of \$35 million dollars of taxpayer money. Rosas, Supervisory Equipment Operator is recognized for more than 29 years of service to the Army that includes over 17 years as the Supervisor for the Roads and Grounds Department. Ronnie is credited for maintaining more than 1,300 roads, trails and fire breaks annually to include inspection of 34 bridges. (Photos by FHL Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Fluckiger)



Maria Chapa

(L) PRFTA Commander Lt. Col. Serena Johnson presented Army Community Services Division Chief Maria Chapa with the Civilian Service Commendation Medal for her dedication to the installation community. Chapa was at PRFTA from 2018 to 2020, and provided invaluable information and support to the troops and their families. We wish her well and safe journey to her new assignment. (Photo by Jaimie Edwards, PRFTA PAIO)

(R) Maria Pena is recognized for more than 20 years of service as a government contractor with Blackstone Consulting Inc. which operates the FHL Dining Facility. As one of DFAC's senior food service employees, she is often called upon to operate the facility functions. Pena plays an important leadership role to ensure troops receive outstanding service, and takes pride in her work. (Courtesy photo)



Maria Pena



Three 80th Training Command Fort Hunter Liggett TASS Training Center (TTC) instructors graduated with distinction from the Master Leader Course, August 4. The instructors juggled a full course load while enrolled in the online MLC DL 106-20 held June 24 - August 4. Sgt. 1st Class David Capelli, PSYOP Instructor, graduated with Superior Academic Achievement. TTC fully supports staff members pursuing civilian education and military education to posture them for promotion and positions of increased responsibility. (Courtesy photo)

# RESILIENCY TIPS TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR GAME

Learn more: https://readyandresilient. army.mil/resources.html

# Avoid Thinking Traps

Identify and correct overly rigid patterns in thinking through the use of Mental Cues and Critical Questions. Mental Cues and Critical Questions help to identify the information you missed because of a Thinking Trap.

# Problem Solving

Identify your thoughts about why the problem happened, identify other factors with Critical Questions, test them for accuracy, and then identify solution strategies.

# Mental Games

Change the focus away from counterproductive thinking to enable greater concentration and focus on the task at hand. Mental Games are games that require your full attention, are hard and fun, and can be done within a few minutes.



The COVID-19 Pandemic is a time of increased stress for everyone. Whether you suddenly find yourself at home with your whole family or spending more time alone, it is important to stay connected and know how and where to reach out if you or someone you know is struggling. Resources: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xGeZ9">https://go.usa.gov/xGeZ9</a>

# SENIOR LEADER ENGAGEMENTS

# CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS KEEPS PEOPLE INFORMED, HELPS THEM ADVOCATE FOR MILITARY

Story and photos by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs

Fort Hunter Liggett Commander Col. Charles Bell hosted an in-person and virtual community relations meeting with Congressmen Jimmy Panetta and Salud Carbajal, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Army Reserve Ambassadors, and military leaders in Monterey County, August 19, 2020.

Military leaders from Moffett Field, FHL, Presidio of Monterey and Camp Roberts participated, representing the Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Navy, and the Coast Guard. Key issues military leaders discussed included how they are addressing COVID-19, aging infrastructure and facilities, housing, and need for more funding and equipment.

The congressmen highlighted the importance of educating the civilian population on how each organization is supporting the community at the local and national level. They were pleased to have the face-to-face discussions with military leaders to enhance collaboration and stay informed. "The more you engage with us, the better we can advocate for the military when we're in D.C.," said Panetta. He briefly talked about how the National Defense Authorization Act will help with some of the issues brought up during the meeting.

Civilian leaders representing the

Army in northern and central California - Joseph Sweeney, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; and Army Reserve Ambassadors Phil Stage and Dan Furtado - provided the congressmen with their roles in supporting the Army and the major issues that affect troops and their families: housing, PCS moves, daycare, spouse employment, and childcare. "People are the bedrock of the Army, and with the help of Congress, we can provide better support," said Sweeney. Many of these issues were echoed by the military leaders presented during the meeting.

The 63rd Readiness Division
Commander Major General Alberto
Rosende stressed the importance
of a strategic rapport between all
parties for the common good. FHL
Commander Col. Charles Bell highlighted major garrison initiatives such
as modernization efforts, increased
and new training capabilities, and
positive community relations.

FHL provided Congressman Carbajal with an installation tour, and opportunities to ride in a Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) and engage Soldiers following the meeting.

Read full story: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xGF3A">https://go.usa.gov/xGF3A</a>







instructor Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Knecht







# PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY VISITS

Bryan Gossage, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment (PDASA) visited both installations in Sept. to assess installation management governance and effectiveness, learn about their resiliency program, assess housing and other critical quality of life services, and how the PDASA might support FHL's mission requirements. At FHL, he visited several garrison facilities and engaged with some tenants. Gossage also took the time to recognize three employees for their exceptional performance.

At PRFTA, Gossage toured garrison facilities and stopped by barracks and the RCI Housing area. The Fort Irwin command team also visited PRFTA in Sept. as they have oversight of the housing contract. Since January, privatized housing contracts for the military have been heavily scrutinized due to Congressional-level complaints of poor service.



FHL Child Development Center



# U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND TEAM VISITS

The Army Reserve Deputy Commanding General Maj. Gen. A.C. Roper and Command Sergeant Major Andrew Lombardo visited Fort Hunter Liggett in September to learn about its unique capabilities, as well as tenant unit missions. Ben Quick is depicted top right briefing Roper as FHL Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Rosende and FHL staff stand by. Bottom right is Sgt. 1st Class Draeger, a TASS Training Center-FHL instructor, providing equipment familiarization brief to Lombardo at Training Area 10. Ground and aerial tours to highlight training areas and areas burned by the Dolan Fire were provided to the visitors. They also observed Army Reserve training and presented command coins to some top-notch Army Reserve Soldiers.



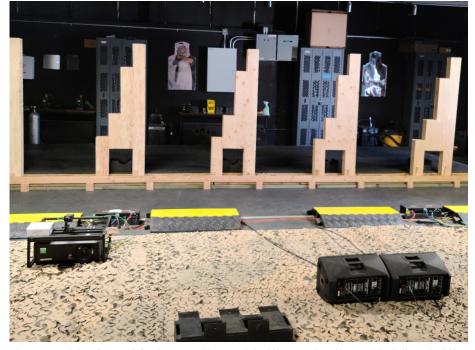
The Network Enterprise Center Director Ben Quick briefing. (Photo by Garrison Dep. Cdr. Lt. Col. Stephen Stanley)



(Photo by Maj. Jose Yrigollen, TTC-FHL Officer in Charge)

# **GARRISON HIGHLIGHTS**





The FHL Training Support Center recently completed the construction and installment of the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) II. The EST II is a virtual training aid that supports M4/M16 Table II, Preliminary Live-Fire Simulations (PLFS). The virtual training prepares troops prior to shooting at the FHL firing range to qualify for the Army's new Rifle Carbine qualification standard. The new qualification course is designed primarily for the U.S. Army and the Reserve and National Guard but can be used by all military branches. (Photo by FHL DPTMS)

# GARRISON MODERNIZATION SUPPORTING WARFIGHTERS

Story and photo by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs

"It's very important to me that we provide as much training support we can so troops can train safely, and use what they learn here on the battlefield," said Garrison Commander Col. Charles Bell.

Some modernization projects include the on-going upgrades to the Multi-Purpose Range Complex (MPRC) facility to construct new target emplacements and to upgrade existing target lifters to wireless operations; expansion of several training sites to accommodate increased engineer training; and the "301 Complex" renovation which will be the future home of the High Tech Regional Training Center currently located in Sacramento.

"Another major project is the consolidation of all the battle simulators on post to increase delivery efficiency for customers," said Bill Riley, Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security. Every minute on ground is crucial to units who have a short time-frame to execute many essential tasks.

"We're also working with the Army Corps of Engineers to plan potential troop projects such as the expansion of Training Area 10 for increased engineer training," said Riley. Troop projects provide engineer Soldiers with hands-on training in real-world missions, and help the garrison save money.

Read full story: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xG6SF">https://go.usa.gov/xG6SF</a>

# WELCOME TO THE TEAM COMMAND SGT. MAJ. MACKENZIE



Parks Reserve Forces Training Area held an Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony August 4. Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel B. MacKenzie assumed responsibility for PRFTA from Master Sergeant Michael Rivera who served as PRFTA's interim Command Sergeant Major in July. MacKenzie is a native of Brownsburg, Indiana. His previous assignment was Operations Sergeant Major of 7th Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Group, Moffett Field, Mountain View, California. His full biography is available at: <a href="https://home.army.mil/parks/index.php/about/leadership/csm">https://home.army.mil/parks/index.php/about/leadership/csm</a>. The event was broadcast via Facebook Live in support of social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo by Jim O'Donnell, PRFTA Public Affairs)

# THE USAG FHL/PRFTA FELLOWS PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN TO TENANTS, TOO!





The FHL Dining Facility and Subway are protecting their staff and customers by installing protective shields and wearing face coverings, and enforcing social distancing.

# DO NOT BE COMPLACENT - COVID-19 IS STILL OUT THERE

It is everyone's responsibility to do the right thing and help keep the garrison population safe. If you see someone not doing the right thing, the garrison commander empowers you to say something to the person.



The Fellows Program conducted a virtual meeting with IMCOM-Readiness Director Brenda Lee McCullough and learned valuable insights on leadership, balancing work and family, her journey from a NF1 in the FMWR arena, and answered questions, Aug. 26. The Fellows had the opportunity to tell Ms. McCullough why they joined the program, and how it has helped them in many ways grow as an individual and a team member. She remarked how proud she is of the garrison program, and would like the other Reserve installations to model their mentorship program like ours. The Fellows Program provides emerging leaders a chance to develop leadership skills and learn about garrison operations. Program information is available on the FHL SharePoint or by contacting Talia Wesley, Workforce Development Program Specialist: talia.s.wesley.civ@mail. mil. (Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs)

# FORT HUNTER LIGGETT EMERGENCY SERVICE KEEPS THE DOLAN FIRE AT BAY

By Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs

The Fort Hunter Liggett Army Reserve post was under an evacuation warning until September 30, due to the Dolan Fire, which started on August 18, 2020. The FHL Emergency Services, with the help of Public Works, worked around the clock to successfully keep the Dolan Fire from spreading further. The Dolan fire in the Big Sur of Central California, breached FHL northwest training areas, September 7.

"We were safe because of the incredible teamwork between the installation and tenants, with assets to help prevent the fire from endangering the cantonment area," said Garrison Commander Col. Charles Bell. "The adage – it takes a village – is very relevant here at Fort Hunter Liggett because we're so isolated and remote. We have to work together for the best interest of everyone here."

The garrison immediately transitioned its Installation Operation Center to an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to track the progress of the fire on a 24 hour basis. The EOC conducted update briefs twice a day, which included all tenants to keep everyone

informed and coordinate efforts to keep the post safe and prepared.

"We continually monitored the fire and adjusted our fortification plan and build reinforcements around the post perimeter," said Shawn Sullivan, director of Emergency Services. The fire is almost contained but hot weather and wind may create spot fires. People should have an emergency plan and make sure all family members understand it; have an emergency kit and a go bag, in case an evacuation is needed.

The FHL Fire Department conducted a 1,500-acre backburn along Del Venturi Road on September 8 to prevent Dolan Fire from spreading to the cantonment. A spot fire flared between the active fire and the FHL backburn area that evening, close enough for residents to see the flames. The garrison issued a warning order for post residents to be prepared in the event an evacuation is required. The Dolan Fire Unified Command and FHL Emergency services immediately responded with multiple airplanes dropping retardant, helicopters conducting water drops, and a large hand crew to create a break around the backburn area.

"Watching the flames can give you chills and put some fear in you, but I trust in the system in place to make sure we are safe. It is scary and cool to watch the fires glow at nights as long as they stay over at the ridges," said resident Amy Widner. "As a military spouse, we are taught to be strong and resilient and with the support of the command, we will overcome this brief hurdle from the fire. We are going to be ok and safe." Widner's husband is an Army Reserve Soldier stationed at FHL, and an Army Civilian at the 102nd Training Division TASS Training Center-FHL (TTC-FHL).

The FHL Fire Department provided advanced life support to 14 California firefighters and bulldozer operators who were injured when the Dolan Fire jumped the containment line off Nacimiento-Ferguson Road, trapping and forcing them to deploy a fire shelter as a last resort, September 8. FHL coordinated the medivac helicopters to transport the injured to a Fresno hospital.

The installation regularly conducts emergency response exercises so staff are familiar with processes. These exercises include external resources such as the Southern Mon-

When the Dolan Fire spread from Big Sur to Fort Hunter Liggett on Sept. 8, backfiring operations were initiated along Del Venturi Road to keep the fire from the cantonment. Picture of fire as seen from post by Jacob Daly, FHL DPW.

# **CES AND PUBLIC WORKS**

terey Emergency Response Team and local emergency services partners.

"We have good relations with the external community which helps in time of need," said Matt Smith, Emergency Management (EM) Officer. The EM and Public Affairs offices continually engage with the external community to maintain good relations.

In addition, Army engineers, who are instructors of the TTC-FHL, assisted by providing bulldozers and drivers to build fire breaks near the perimeter of the cantonment. "We have motivated and highly trained engineer instructors and a maintenance team that always ensures our heavy machinery is fully operational," said Maj. Jose A. Yrigollen, TTC-FHL Officer-in-Charge. "It has been a rewarding opportunity to see our team put their skills to work in a real world crisis."

FHL Fire & Emergency Services joined the Dolan Fire Unified Command September 11-21, which meant we had a representive embedded with the Incident Management Team to ensure the proper sharing of information and resources to support fire suppression activities and ultimately extinguish the fire. FHL had equipment and staff

supporting the Dolan Fire, while also actively monitoring the garrison. The FHL Public Works continues to improve existing fire breaks and create new ones to build a good perimeter defense.

FHL is also supporting the Dolan Fire by providing space for fire operations and rest areas. The Incident Management team has been using the post's Tusi heliport as a helitack base to stage up to 10 helicopters that provide bucket drops to all areas of the fire. They are also using parts of our base as a spike camp, a secondary camp site for forestry crews to bed down and provide logistical support to the fire.

"The post was very proactive at keeping the community apprised of what is going on," said Widner. "The Public Affairs Office stayed on top of the post Facebook page and answering concerns as they came across, and that has helped greatly. The recaps after the briefings has helped, too."

Conintued on page 15

# Media coverage

Garrison Commander Col.
Charles Bell and Emergency
Services Director Shawn Sullivan
conducted media interviews to
keep the community informed







# **GARRISON HIGHLIGHTS**



Ronnie Rosas took this photo as he watched a fire whirl form right before him. Heat and turbulent wind conditions combine to form tornado-like vortex that sucks in debris and combustive gases.

Dolan Fire - Continued from page 13

"It's important to provide the information our community needs to feel safe, be prepared and take the necessary actions when called upon," said Command Sgt. Major Mark Fluckiger. He was part of a team that kept the military tenants and training population informed and prepared in case of an evacuation order.

The installation used multiple platforms to keep the FHL community informed and prepared, such as daily emails and Facebook posts, DoD Alert! messages, and Facebook Live updates. A wildfire webpage was also created to provide a one-stop reference platform: <a href="https://home.army.mil/liggett/index.php/wildfire-info.">https://home.army.mil/liggett/index.php/wildfire-info.</a>

FHL continues to remain vigilant, continually assess the situation and adjust our strategy and tactics as needed to protect the FHL Community.



JR Stoughton and Waylon King, pictured next to their dozers, opened up an old fire break which hasn't been opened since 1977, during the week of Sept. 6. (Courtesy photo)



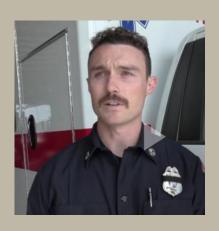
View on controlled burn from post, which was done to create a buffer between the fire and the cantonment, Sept. 16. (Photo by Shawn Sullivan, DES)

# Videos and story of our firefighters

By Cindy McIntyre, FHL Public Affairs

September 8 Multi-casualty response video: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xGf4R">https://go.usa.gov/xGf4R</a>, and story: https://go.usa.gov/xGf4A

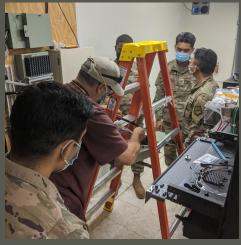
Sept. 12 "Slop over" video: https://go.usa.gov/xGfD6











The Fort Hunter Liggett Network Enterprise Center (NEC) and the garrison Public Works are busy prepping the "301 Complex" for the inbound High Tech Center currently located in Sacramento. The NEC trained and worked with Soldiers of the 812th Signal Company based in Vallejo, California, to install new copper and fiber connectivity at 8J Forward Operating Base. Roy Hinton with the NEC demonstrating modular copper splicing. Trenches are being dug by the garrison Public Works to accommodate the cables to allow connectivity. (Courtesy photos)

# "301 COMPLEX" RENOVATIONS



Wildlife Biologist Jacob Daly responded to an "injured owl" report at PRFTA, July. Fortunately, the owl found near the Post Exchange was only a fledgling bird and was not injured. "The uninjured owl did appear helpless," said Daly, "Flapping its wings from the ground is part of the fledging process that young birds undergo when they leave their nests." The fledgling Great Horned Owl had recently left its nest and was learning to fly. Great Horned Owls and many other birds of prey regularly nest at PRFTA. The Environmental Office records migratory bird breeding activity on the installation and works to monitor and protect migratory birds in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. (Photo by Jacob Daly, DPW)



The FHL Fire Department provided fire extinguisher training to the Child & Youth Services staff, August 14, 2020. The training enables staff to be prepared on how to protect the children and the facility. A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the #1 priority for residents is to get out safely. To learn more: https://www.nfpa.org/ Public-Education/Staying-safe/ Safety-equipment/Fire-extinguishers (Photo by CYS)



Sierra Energy had a busy summer operating and improving its FastOx gasification plant located at FHL. This unit is designed to turn trash into energy, helping ease reliance on the civilian grid while cleanly treating waste on the installation. They successfully completed their first operations in August, using household waste (MSW) material and will continue operating on this type of waste throughout the fall and into 2021. "It's a great step to establishing this new technology for use in both military and civilian applications, and our goal to helping FHL be even more sustainable and resilient," said Meredith E. Roberts, Sierra Energy Director of External Relations. To learn more about the FastOx system: https://sierraenergy.com/technology/ fastox-gasification/. (Courtesy photo)

# STRATEGIC PLAN FOR USAG FHL/PRFTA TO BE THE PINNACLE PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND TRAIN

By Melissa Foslien, Plans, Analysis and Intergration Office Chief (PAIO)

The Integrated Strategic and Sustainability Planning (ISSP) method is an integrated, long term holistic strategic planning process developed and in use by the Army.

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett was chosen to participate as the first U.S. Army Reserve Integrated Strategic and Substantiality Planning (ISSP) pilot program in December of 2017.

FHL and its subinstallation, Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, developed their vision-based Installation Strategic Plan ensuring AMC, IMCOM, and IMCOM Readiness priorities along with our Senior Commanders priorities cohesively aligned with our current and future mission requirements, while safeguarding human health, improving quality of life and enhancing our natural environment.

During the development of our stra-

tegic plan, both installations' training capabilities remained in the forefront of planning.

Through this planning process, four Lines of Effort (LOEs) were developed:

- 1. Community
- 2. Training Land Management
- 3. Infrastructure
- 4. Workforce

These identified LOEs are the focus of our strategic plan. Each LOE has supporting Major Objectives (MO), Sub-Objectives (SO) and Strategic Initiatives (SI) which represent our 25 year Installation Strategic and Sustainability Plan.

Strategic objectives included MOs and SOs, which support each LOE and are necessary to achieve our vision of the Installation Strategic Plan, which is to be regarded as the pinnacle training platform in the United States Army Reserve and emerge as a designated Mobilization Force Generation Installation.

Through implementation of our strategic plan, by sharing our Vision, and enabling our workforce to be highly adaptive, innovative and to continually improve our capabilities, we continue to be – The Pinnacle Place to Live, Work and Train.

Each LOE has a team lead and members from various directorates to ensure a broad knowledge-based membership to develop the MOs and SOs. Anyone can join and help make a difference! Contact me if you'd like to sit in on a meeting to learn what goes on.

The graphic on the next page illustrates how our plans are nested with our chain of command's priorities. EVERYTHING we do must support the garrison strategic plan, and EVERYONE plays an important role to support the garrison mission.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or want to learn more: melissa.i.foslien.civ@mail.mil



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# **USAG Fort Hunter Liggett**



Vision

Outcomes





# Installation Strategic & Sustainability Plan Design



**Lines of Effort** 

Mission

SC Priorities

Enable Readiness and Total Force by

for the Total Army

**AMC Priorities** 

sustainingand

expanding capacity for

installation

Modernization

Reform

Readiness

LOE 1 - COMMUNITY

MO 1.1: Provide Adaptable Superior Services

MO 1.2: StrengthenedInternal RelationshipBetweenFHL & PRFTA To Maximize Support And Readiness

Hunter Liggett and

orces Training

Provide exceptional

collective training

\*\*\*

individual and

customer-focused

**ACOM Priorities** 

 SoldierFamily Infrastructure

facilities and

supportedunits

services to

and mission

partners.

Support of Training

Protection

nited States Army

Garrison Fort

MO 1.3: Integrated & Collaborative Strategic Planning With External Community Stakeholders

**Superior Quality** Community of Life and Readiness Enabling

A Unified

USAG Fort

Infrastructure and Lands to Adaptable Training

MO 2.1: Training lands and assets exceed all emergent

LOE 2 - TRAINING LAND MANAGEMEN

Values

raining capabilities

complementary

narrison located on

two installations

mission requirements to support readiness and

modernization of end users now and into the future

**Army** 

Reserve and other

effectiveness of our

Maximizethe greatestasset Human Capital,

DOD partners.

America's Army

in support of

pinnacle

egarded as

Liggettis

Hunter

MeetCurrent and **Emerging Force** 

platform in he United

training

orce Readiness that Continually Innovative and Supports Total Infrastructure Sustainable

emerges as

Reserve

States Army

> An engaged, effective,

Mobilization

designated

Generation

Force

Installation

competent and exceptionally Empowered Workforce

Requirements

the

ive, work and train

pinnacle place to

on-boarding, leader

MCOM Readines

Priorities SoldienFamily Infrastructure

community

through effective development and engagement that

**USAG FHL** is the

base support that

MO 3.1: Establish Sustainable Utilities And Facilities OE 3 - INFRASTRUCTURE

MO 3.2: Modernize Communications Infrastructure To Fully Support Present And Future Evolving Communication Requirements

ploddu

Commanders' to

build mission readiness and

Develop community

Support of Training

Protection

tells the Army

and interagency

MO 3.3: Sustainable Transportation Network

OE 4 - WORKFORCE

enhanced quality of ife that our Service

optimize readiness

and resources.

partnerships to

provides an

members, Families

employees deserve

and Families living,

working and

enabling readiness

Support Area,

responsive Army.

for a globally

Soldiers, Civilians

Take care of the

quality base support

IMCOM delivers

Mission

from the Strategic

community of

and Civilians

MO 4.1: Unified Workforce Culture

MO 4.2: Garrison of Choice for Employees

The Golden Guidon | Fall 2020 | Page 19

# CELEBRATING WOMEN'S EQUALITY MEET OUR MODERN DAY WARRIORS

By Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs

Women throughout history have fought for gender equality and made positive impacts for the greater good. This legacy continues with military and civilian female warriors at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL)/Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (PRFTA) who contribute to the garrison and Army mission.

Common themes among the women warriors include gratefulness for the women that have paved the way, the need for more leadership roles for women, having mentors and support groups, and staying strong.

Lt. Col. Serena Johnson made history by becoming the first African American Garrison Commander of PRFTA on June 19. She says her greatest accomplishment is being able to balance a career and her duties as a mother.

Capt. Wanda Carr, the 91st Training Division Readiness Officer, was the first woman in her family to earn an associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees and says she is very proud her four sons followed in her footsteps and all graduated high school with honors.

Anthropologist and Army Civilian Lisa Cipolla began her career as FHL's Cultural Resource Manager in 2009. She plays a vital role in FHL's stewardship of cultural resources, maintaining positive relations with Native American tribes, and ensuring adherence to federal and state regulations.

"Women are quite capable and aren't deterred," said Cipolla. She says women's equality in her field has come a long way but there is still disparity in leadership roles for women.

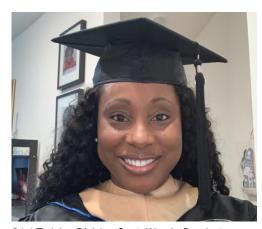
Akuaha Moreno is an FMWR marketing assistant and a proud Army spouse. Her husband is with Satellite Command (SATCOM) stationed at Camp Roberts. Moreno's story includes being a young child of divorce and escaping from an abusive relationship which led to her being homeless with her three children. But Moreno is a fighter - life might bring her to her knees sometimes but she always gets up. She says the FHL command team and people on post have been very supportive.

To those that are struggling, whether it be fighting for equal rights or COVID-19, Moreno says, "You need to know you are not alone. Not everyone wears their emotion the same. Don't give up, reach out to someone. No one should struggle alone."

Read this full story at: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xGyUE">https://go.usa.gov/xGyUE</a>



Lt. Col. Serena Johnson with former USAG FHL Commander Brig. Gen. Donna Williams.



91st Training Division Capt. Wanda Carr just completed her master's degree.



Akuaha Moreno is grateful for her family and friends, and her mentor, Brent Gregory, who helped Moreno get into the culinary field.



Lisa Cipolla in Honduras excavating Mayan site, 1994

# WOMEN MAKE UP 17.6% OF OUR ARMY, THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN SERVING SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE

Learn more about women in the Army and history-making women in society:

https://www.army.mil/women/?bn

https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/womens-history

https://www.womenshistory.org/





# FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN GARRISON COMMANDER FOR PRFTA

Story by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Serena Johnson made history by becoming the first African American Garrison Commander of Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (PRFTA) on June 19, 2020.

She says her greatest accomplishment is being able to balance a demanding career and her duties as a mother. "I am very proud of my children, and how far I've come because I came from humble beginnings," said Johnson. "I teach them to treat people the way they want to be treated and that hard work gets results." She credits her parents for making her who she is today, and she takes pride passing along their teachings to her children.

In addition to a successful civilian career as a Senior Cost Analyst with Lockheed Martin, she served in the U.S. Army Reserve as an enlisted Soldier and was commissioned as an officer in 1998. She joined the Army Guard Reserve (AGR) program in 2007. When she told her parents about her considerations for joining the Army, they said it was a good backup plan 'in case college didn't work out.' "I joined and I never looked back because I realized how much I appreciated the structure and discipline," said Johnson.

You can imagine how proud Johnson's parents (both deceased) would be today, because not only did she earn a bachelor's and a master's degree, she

now commands a military installation. Being selected to command is a pinnacle part of an officer's military career because she says "the competition is very stiff." She considers it an honor to have been selected among her peers.

As for women's equality, she says it's not about asking for special treatment, it's about being afforded an opportunity to participate on a level playing field with male counterparts. In 2012, the Army made history for being the first branch of the military to open all military occupations and positions to women. Since then, some women have proven their mettle by earning their distinction as Army Rangers, Green Berets, combat engineers, and most recently, the first female Commander of the Army Reserve. "But we still need to work on more leadership, preferably Command, positions for women. I think 2020 has been a good year for female leaders and that lets me know that it is doable," said Johnson.

"Behind every successful person is a support tribe," said Johnson. She says her parents and two older sisters, Helen Calloway and Cassandra Johnson, have been her biggest cheerleaders and advocates. "My sisters remind me often that I can accomplish anything by remaining focused on God, and by putting the necessary work in," said Johnson.

In the Army, retired Brigadier General Barbara L. Owens, Major General Tammy Smith, retired Brigadier General Tia Young, retired Brigadier General Donna Williams (former Fort Hunter Liggett commander) and Col. Peggy Mc-Manus are just a few of the many women Johnson looks up to. "They forged a clear path for the lieutenant colonels and other aspiring females to come behind them," said Johnson. "We have strength in our collective abilities as women, and I am a believer that some of the best leaders I have worked with have been female," said Johnson. "I want to continue paving a distinct path for other women to follow behind me."

Johnson believes that women are competitive with their male counterparts physically, mentally and emotionally. When it comes to the mental and emotional aspects of leadership, "gender should be irrelevant," said Johnson. "We all are different but our diversity makes us stronger as a whole." The Army wins when we, as an organization, acknowledge our diversity and when we are intentional about inclusion.

Johnson thinks drive and discipline is what sets a person apart from others. She hopes to spread her leadership, by motivating, and mentoring across the ranks at PRFTA.

Another female warrior story on page 29

# FIRST JLTV COURSE AT FHL

Year-long partnership with the 102nd Training Command and the 63rd Readiness Division comes to fruition, providing additional training opportunities to Army Reserve



By Cindy McIntyre, FHL Public Affairs

The inaugural Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Operator New Equipment Training (JLTV OPNET) course at Fort Hunter Liggett began August 10 with the arrival of 18 Army Reserve Soldiers from six different commands. For the Soldiers who drove the new vehicle, it was thumbs up for the features that make it stand out against the Humvee.

"The obstacle course has gone extremely well," said Col. Charles Kidd, executive officer to the commanding general, 84th Training Command out of Fort Knox, Kentucky. "The Soldiers I've spoken with are very enthusiastic about the handling of the vehicle compared to what they're familiar with in a Humvee."

Spc. Nicole Hathcock, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Portage,

Michigan, echoed that sentiment.
"It's a beast compared to the
Humvee," she said. "It has a lot
more room, a lot more technology,
better features and functions. You
feel more safe and secure in it."

The new installation facility also garnered kudos. "Everybody here on Fort Hunter Liggett has been very helpful, especially range control and range maintenance in building us the course and helping us set everything up," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Severson, course NCOIC and instructor out of Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, home of the first JLTV training program. "The billeting has been really great. Mrs. (Debbie) King has been very helpful with requests I've made for buildings, and places to stay for my instructors and students. It's been a great program out here."

"The course is principally designed for the Army Reserve, but

we can fill in with active Army if there's space for them," said Kidd, who extols the modernization of the tactical vehicle destined to mostly replace the venerable High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV, or simply Humvee).

"The most important thing is survivability against IEDs and small arms fire," said Severson. "The armor on it is much better. It's something I wish I'd had in Iraq in '03 and '04. If you take a blast with an IED, this vehicle won't blow apart. It will keep the crew safe. The Humvee would pretty much blow apart and you'd get projectiles flying through the cab."

Read the full story: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xG6Hu">https://go.usa.gov/xG6Hu</a>



(Above) Students of the 12W course learn the basics of carpentry and masonry and get hands-on experience building things such as window frames and doors. (Right) Sgt. Zachary Squires with the 486th Engineer Co. based in Monclova, Ohio; and Spc. Edgar Torres with the 333rd Engineer Detachment based in Sante Fe, New Mexico putting newly acquired wiring skills to work during the inaugural 12R10 Interior Electrician military occupational skills course at FHL TASS Training Center, August . "I'm learning how to do things the right way, instead of in the field at my job so it's cool," said Squires.

# BEGINNINGS OF AN ENGINEER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Inaugural 12W & 12R Engineer Courses at FHL



# Story and photos by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs

The stars have lined up to make Fort Hunter Liggett an Engineer Center of Excellence. It helps that the 80th Training Command (TASS) and the 102nd Training Division's commanding generals, as well as the post commander, are all engineer officers. FHL and the U.S. Army Reserve engineer program will make history by hosting several new engineer skills courses to expedite training for Soldiers.

"My vision is to host all the engineer skills training here, and do it with good, modern facilities," said FHL commander Col. Charles Bell.

Three new vertical engineer military occupational skills (MOS) courses moving to FHL are: 12W Carpentry and Masonry, 12K Plumbers and 12R Electricians, as well as the 12H Senior Leader (SLC) and Advanced Leader (ALC) courses for the 12N Horizontal Construction MOS. The 80th TC TASS Training Center at FHL (TTC FHL) currently hosts 12N reclassification courses. The new 12H and 12N courses are designed as advanced courses for existing engineers.

The 12B Combat Engineer and 12C Bridge Crewmember courses are also coming to FHL but will require more time to prepare. FHL is working with McClure to develop a mine clearing/detection lane which is part of the 12B course, something even Fort Leonard Wood doesn't have. McClure says there is no 12C training on the West Coast, so the new training course at FHL will be a great bonus for the Army and engineer school.

FHL has been working with the 102nd Training Division and FHL TTC for more than a year to prepare for the 12B and 12C. "What we're doing is building the platform for the Engineer Center of Excellence concept. For the 12B course, which will start in October. we're building breaching and obstacles lanes," said Bell. "For the 12C course, we need to prepare the training sites to allow access to Coleman Reservoir." This requires FHL to conduct environmental studies, build abutments, grade and improve surface areas, to name a few projects. There might be troop projects where Army engineers' real-world mission is to support the garrison.

McClure is excited about the training coming to FHL for many

reasons. Army Reserve engineer training is currently conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Dix, New Jersey; and FHL.

"COVID-19 added many new restrictions at the other installations, and it's very difficult to meet the quarantine rules that active duty military installations have," said McClure. "FHL is isolated so there's less [COVID-19] exposure whereas the other installations have thousands of troops coming and going at any given day."

McClure says Reserve units are always competing for resources at the other installations. At FHL, he is getting the five-star treatment since FHL is an Army Reserve installation. Also, the other installations are not conducive to engineer operations during the wet and winter months, and FHL can support year-round training. The additional courses at FHL will help alleviate the heavy training load at other installations, and provide more opportunities for Soldiers.

Read the full story: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xGM6h">https://go.usa.gov/xGM6h</a>

# TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS













By Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs

The 91st Training Division hosts annual large-scale exercises providing Army Reserve Soldiers from across the nation a chance to test their individual skills, and unit and brigade-level cohesiveness.

Operation Ready Warrior (ORW) replaced the traditional Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX), and was a scaled down exercise due to the Army's focus to support the Presidential declaration of a national emergency due to COVID-19. Many Army Reserve units and medical professionals serve in the Urban Augmentation Task Forces around the nation to support the civilian community.

ORW was a 15-day field training exercise designed for Ready Force-X units to achieve, improve and/or sustain pre-mobilization readiness.

Eleven military police units and six quartermaster units from seven states participated in ORW. The 4th Cavalry Brigade and First Army Division East were the training platform partners.

The smoke and bad air quality from the Dolan Fire forced a lot of training to move indoors, when possible, but the mission was carried on successfully. The Garrison provided indoor facilities and other additional support to troops during the fire.

# OPERATION READY WARRIOR

Above photos, first column: All Soldiers were tested for COVID-19 upon their arrival, and sanitization of equipment was part of daily operations. When the smoke from the Dolan fire was bad, Soldiers continued their weapons training indoors using the Warrior Skills Trainer. Second column: Army Reserve Soldier fires the 240 Bravo Machine Gun. Pfc. Ferrari Jean from the 603rd Military Police Company based in Belton, Missouri, captures his fingerprint on a Biometrics Automated Toolset Army Kit. Biometrics is the measurement of life that uses iris scans, finger and palm prints, facial recognition, voice patterns, DNA, and other physical and psychological patterns to verify the identity or claimed identity of an individual. Spc. Dylan Hodgkins and Pfc. Corey Hoover, assigned to 603rd Military Police Company out of Eudora Kansas locate a point during land navigation training. Right photo: Spc. Stanley Lutrick of the 422nd Military Police Company inserts a nasal pharyngeal tube on a dummy during Combat Casualty Care training. (Photos by the 84th Training Command and 91st Training Division)



# 91st Training Division CHANGE OF COMMAND

By Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs

The 91st Training Division conducted its Change of Command Ceremony to honor outgoing commanding general, Brig. Gen. Shane Buzza, and welcome incoming commander, Brig. Gen. Patricia Wallace, September 16, 2020. The ceremony conducted at the field behind the historic Hacienda, was attended by the generals' family and members of the Fort Hunter Liggett community.

Wallace is the first woman and African-American to serve as the 91st Training Division Commander. A Howitzers Salute Battery was fired as the official party entered the ceremony. Brig. Gen Edward Merrigan Jr., the 84th Training Command deputy to the commanding general, was the reviewing officer and guest speaker. The garrison provided public affairs support, coordinated with the 91st TD for the ceremony site, and alerted residents of the cannon firing. (Photos by 91st Training Division Public Affairs)

Wallace is the first Black female commander for the division with lineage that traces back to 1917. Her previous assignment was the Deputy Commanding General of the 88th Readiness Division.

She was commissioned in 1990, through the ROTC program in the Adjutant General Corp at Indiana University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Administration. Wallace also served two years as an enlisted Soldier prior to her commission.

Read her full biography at <a href="https://www.usar.army.mil/84thTC/91stTD/">https://www.usar.army.mil/84thTC/91stTD/</a>.

Wallace took command as the Army Reserve's Operation Ready Warrior was in full swing, so she had excellent opportunity to see her staff in action.

The Garrison provided her a capabilities brief, and ground and aerial tours to highlight all the training facilities and support available to her, as well as morale and welfare services and programs. The tour included a hands-on experience on the Weapons Skills Trainer that allows Soldiers to practice engaging targets prior to going to the real firing ranges. The Garrison also coordinated with the 91st TD for the event space and notification of residents of the cannon salute.







# FHL 80TH TASS TRAINING CENTER & PRFTA NCO ACADEMY **ENFORCES COVID-19 SAFETY PROCEDURES**



The FHL 80th TASS Training Center (TTC) and the PRFTA NCO Academy ensures all students adhere to CDC, Army and garrison guidelines to keep safe and reduce the risks of spreading germs. The TTC has "COVID Cops" to reinforce the guidelines, ensure everyone is wearing protective gear, and assist facility managers to help sanitize areas. Per Army guidelines, all school-house training is structured to put Soldiers in "bubbles" to isolate them and prevent large-group congregations. (Courtesy photos)



Temperature checks at PRFTA NCOA



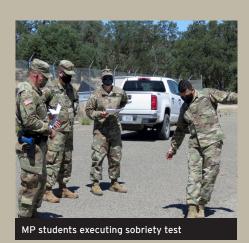
FHL Public Affairs Specialist Cindy McIntyre posing as a reporter

(L) FHL Public Affairs Specialist Cindy McIntyre played dual roles capturing a video story on the 79th Theater Sustainment Command's Best Warrior Competition, and served as a media role player in the unit's mock press conference.

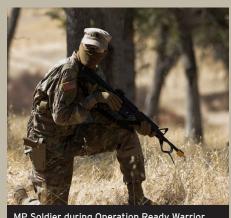
(R) The 63rd Readiness Division Commander and USAG FHL/PRFTA Senior Commander, Maj. Gen Alberto Rosende served on the review board during the 79TSC Best Warrior Competition. (Courtesy photos)



63rd Readiness Division Commander Maj. Gen Alberto Rosende at center



(L) Students of the Military Police Reclassification Course at the FHL 80th Training Command TASS Training Center learn basic operations in garrison and combat environments, such as conducting sobriety tests and traffic stops, and going into a village for high-value targets, August. (Photo by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs) (R) ) Sgt. Brian Ramos, a human resource specialist with the 63rd Military Police Company, during Operation Ready Warrior. (Photo by Master Sgt. Andy Yoshimura, 200th MP Command)



MP Soldier during Operation Ready Warrior

Boise, Idaho native, Capt. Jonathan Darnall, 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Top junior officer, top fitness and top weapons score.

# 79TH THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND **BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION**

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Alexandra Hays 79th Theater Sustainment Command

More than 40 enlisted Soldiers and junior officers competed for a chance to be called "Best Warrior" at the 79th Theater Sustainment Command's Best Warrior/Top Squad/ Top Junior Officer Competition July 14-18, at Fort Hunter Liggett.

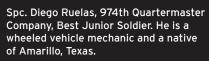
Competitors were evaluated as a squad and on an individual basis on accomplishing days of grueling tasks, while itors and support staff this year was working together as a team. Some of the challenges competitors faced included ruck marches, two and a half Army Physical Fitness Tests in a row, the Army Combat Fitness Test, an appearance before a board, land navigation, weapons proficiency, and overnight patrol base operations—all on limited sleep.

elas was named Best Warrior (junior Soldier), and Sqt. Joshua Burke earned the title of best noncommissioned officer, both under the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Capt. Jonathan Darnall, representing the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), took the title of top junior officer, along with both top physical fitness and top marksmanship scores. The 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s team was named top squad.

A new dynamic for both competconducting a competition during a global pandemic. Another element that made this year's competition unique is the addition of warrant officers to the event. Warrant Officer Misty Kim is the first warrant officer to ever participate in a 79th TSC Best Warrior.



Sgt. Joshua Burke, 974th Quartermaster Company, Best NCO



# **FEATURES**

"Oooh, yes I know," says Jackie Hancock, wildlife biologist, as she approaches a tangled gray bundle of feathers in a barely visible mist net. She deftly and patiently unravels the small but vocal oak titmouse from the thin mesh. The bird's harsh squawks fade into a sweet, thin "dee dee dee" more typical of its normal calls. Hancock laughs at the contrast as she extricates it and places it into a white cotton bag for its trip to the banding station.

Catching songbirds is a familiar routine to Hancock and the Fort Hunter Liggett wildlife biologists, whose field work of this type is part of the Environmental Division's broad mission.

"One of the Army's goals is to conserve biodiversity," said Hancock. "One of the benefits for mission readiness is to have a natural landscape. We maintain our natural resources for the Army training requirements, and we work with federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act."

Data collected through bird banding provides vital information on the health of avian populations and their habitats. These data are used to track trends in population numbers and help inform natural resources management decisions.

This station has been run for nearly 20 years in the same location. Both Hancock and biologist Darlene Woodbury had banding experience prior to coming to the installation, and count Kim Guilliam and Andy Lawrence among the expert banding team. Approximately every 10 days from May through August the banding station is busy, beginning at 6 a.m. when the birds are most active. Due to COVID-19 the crew now wears face coverings while at the banding table.

Known as MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), the station is typical of hundreds of bird-banding stations across the country, with strict protocols as to net placements and bird handling, from the "bander's grip" that keeps the bird in a loose but firm handhold, to the meticulous record-keeping, and to the aluminum bracelet each bird will ideally wear for the rest of its life.



# FEATHERED ALLIES IN CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT Story and photos by

Cindy McIntyre, FHL Public Affairs



FHL Environmental team bands songbirds as part of their commitment to conserving America's natural heritage and preserving the ability for the Army to conduct training. (Top) Wildlife biologist Jackie Hancock with Nuttall's woodpecker. (Above) Wildlife biologist Andy Lawrence examines a newly-banded white-breasted nuthatch before it is released.

To begin the process, birds are weighed, then a proper-sized numbered U.S. Geoligical Survey band is slipped out of a film canister and readied. Hancock jokes that young folks in the digital age may not recognize those black canisters with gray lids. The silver bands are arrayed in sequential order on a wire and fed through a hole poked in the lid. The Pyle Identification Guide to North American Birds, the bird bander's "bible," tells what size band to use, and aids in detailed identification.

"First thing we do is attach a band," said Hancock. "That way if the bird gets away at least we have the band and we know what number it is."

That number is recorded with the USGS, which maintains a website for reporting band numbers. (<a href="https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/">https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/</a>)

If the bird is ever found (dead or alive), the band number will tell where and when the bird was banded and can provide information as to its age, migration patterns, and overall health. Sometimes the same birds are recaptured by the FHL team, adding to their database of information on the species. Indeed, the intent is to recapture previously banded birds, which account for about a quarter of birds netted. Recaptures are critical for evaluating survivorship of individuals.

Finish reading the story at: https://go.usa.gov/xGfjw



# The Army celebrates diversity and inclusion

# CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Crossing the border to serving the country

By Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs



When Mictania Villasenor with the 91st Training Division crossed the border from Mexico at the tender age of two, she began a tumultuous journey with a happy ending.

The only female civilian executive officer (CXO) for a one-star Army Reserve command, Villasenor is also an Army Reserve Soldier with 20 years of active and Reserve service.

"I'm a Mexican-American and I am grateful for the opportunities this country has given to me and my family," said Villasenor. "My journey has had a significant impact not only for me and my family, but for women in general who can relate to the experience. People say the sky's the limit but it really isn't. The world has infinite possibilities, and if you're not given the opportunity, you have to demand it."

The border crossing was a traumatic experience for both Villasenor and her mother. "My mom went to jail three times crossing the border and during her second try, she lost me in the process and we were separated for a whole month," said Villasenor. Through a lot of tears and pleading with her captives, mother and daughter were reunited.

Villasenor says her mother kept trying to seek amnesty in the U.S. because she wanted a better life. "It was always hard. I remember always moving. Not always having a place to live and not always having food to eat," said Villasenor. "I'm so proud of my Mom. She's a tough woman." Her mother worked hard and saved enough money to apply for the 'green card.' They became naturalized citizens in 2005.

Villasenor's Army career almost didn't happen due to limitations for females at the time. But she's tough like her mother and is not one to take 'no' for an answer. In 2000, she went to a recruiter and told him that she wanted to 'blow up things!' "They looked at me and said, you realize you're a female and you can't have these jobs," Villasenor said. The Army has since, opened up all military occupations to women.

So after more discussions, Villasenor decided to enter the logistics field and has been a "loggie" ever since. "The opportunities are huge in this field and the pay is very good," said Villasenor.

Villasenor served a five year active duty tour and today, is an Army Reserve Soldier with the 63rd Readiness Division based at Moffett Field, California. In her military career, she is most proud of being a certified Master Fitness Trainer (MFT). She enjoys teaching others to live a healthy lifestyle and enabling them to stay in the Army. "One thing I always advocate is that it all starts with your mind. Your mind needs to be healthy and at peace so your body can start reacting to your mind. Mind over matter," said Villasenor.

In her civilian capacity as the only female CXO in the Army Reserve, Villasenor has oversight of all the civilian and military staff with the 91TD. She also has oversight for their budget, integrating Army and Army Reserve guidance into their command policies and being the commanding general's key advisor. Since assuming the CXO position in 2016, she has served three general officers.

Some other highlights of her civilian career include being part of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency Foreign Military Sales team, 2013; and a 2018 deployment to Afghanistan and being an advisor with the Ministry of Defense Advisor Program (pictured above). "We helped Afghanistan build a stronger Afghan National Security Forces so they can stand alone with less American involvement," said Villasenor.

Read this full story at: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xGMz2">https://go.usa.gov/xGMz2</a>

# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS**









Patriot Day was observed at both installations to honor the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives 19 years ago during the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. The lives of those who were lost will never be forgotten and because of them, the Army continues to remain vigilant and ready to meet any future challenges.

FHL event photos above: Col. Charles Bell and King City Mayor Mike LeBarre (not shown) were speakers. The San Francisco area Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Mark Benton was a special guest, seen with FHL Soldiers. Not shown, volunteer Chris Andrew played the bagpipes and the 91st Training Command Capt. Wanda Carr sang the national anthem. The Command Team and fire and police chiefs laid a wreath to honor the fallen.

PRFTA event photos below: Firefighter paramedic Adam Adcock executed the Ringing of the Bells. Lt. Col. Serena Johnson and Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel MacKenzie (not shown); and the 84th Pacific Training Command Commander Col. Jon Ellis (not shown) were speakers. The 191st Army Band provided the music. (Photos by FHL and PRFTA Public Affairs)







# STAYING CONNECTED

Deployments and Permanent Change of Station (PCS) transitions are an important part of military life, filled with new opportunities and experiences. However, the challenges of moving and separating from family may contribute to loneliness and social isolation. Learn what steps you can take to feel more connected.

# Loneliness and social isolation may negatively impact your health, with higher risks for:

Anxiety

Depression

- Heart Disease
  - Impaired Cognitive Function
- Obesity
- · Weakened Immune System

# **6 Tips to Combat Loneliness**



### SHIFT FOCUS TO OTHERS

Find a way to serve others, which may boost your mood and provide a sense of purpose. Your installation Military and Family Support Center can help you find local volunteer opportunities on and off base.



# **PURSUE A HOBBY OR INTEREST**

Get out of the house and get involved in a new hobby or take a class to learn a new skill. Check out your Morale, Welfare and Recreation program to find fun activities and meet new people.



# **BOND WITH YOUR UNIT**

Work on <u>building stronger cohesion</u> in your unit. Start by incorporating more effective speaking and listening skills into your interactions, like asking open-ended questions and making eye contact.



# **NURTURE YOUR CONNECTIONS**

Focus on improving and strengthening your current relationships. Stay in touch with friends and family regularly, connecting through social media, video chat or by phone.



# **BRANCH OUT SOCIALLY**

Avoid relying on only your unit for socializing and friendships. Try building relationships with a variety of groups, including neighbors, coworkers, friends and family.



# **EMBRACE ALONE TIME**

Spend time enjoying your own company and doing activities you love. Try out an activity that promotes self-reflection like hiking, biking, journal writing, meditation or yoga.

# **WANT MORE RESOURCES?**

# Psychological Health Resource Center

Call/Chat with a health resource consultant 24/7 for assistance accessing care at 866-966-1020 or realwarriors.net/livechat

# Military Crisis Line

In the U.S., call 800-273-8255 and press 1 or text 838255. In Europe, call 00800 1273 8255. For additional OCONUS calling options and online chat accessible from anywhere in the world, visit militarycrisisline.net

# Military OneSource

Call 800-342-9647 or 703-253-7599 for nonmedical counseling and specialty consultations (including peer support)

# Connect with Us on Social Media

f facebook.com/realwarriors

twitter.com/realwarriors

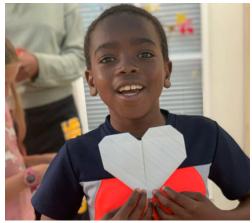
# REAL WARRIORS \* REAL BATTLES REAL STRENGTH













(Counterclockwise) The FHL, Deputy to the Garrison Commander Dave Myhres and Management Support Assistant Augusta Vargas were guest speakers during the Hispanic American Heritage Month observance, Sept. 11.

The FHL Religious Support
Office (RSO) took ministry to the
field by providing spiritual support
to the Soldiers training on post,
August. Both installation RSOs
conducted a virtual VBS to service
youth in the garrison community,
August 3-6. Forty children at
different locations logged in from
their homes to play games and
sing. Leading this year's first virtual
VBS event was FHL Chaplain Cesar
Rodriguez and PRFTA Chaplain
Ross. (Photos by FHL RSO)

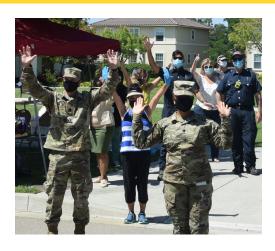
FHL celebrated the 245th Anniversary of the Army Chaplain's Corp with Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Cookman with the 368th Military Intelligence Battalion based in PRFTA, was the keynote speaker, July 29. (Photo by Amy Phillips, FHL Public Affairs).

Caribbean Heritage Month event at both installations featured guest speakers, music and ethnic food samplings. At FHL, Management Analyst Joel Pean was the speaker of Haitian descent. He was featured in the Summer edition of this magazine.

FHL's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program conducted a 2-mile hike June 19, to the White Cross on the hill above the cantonment, and a BBQ at Range Operations afterward. The event gave all single Soldiers an opportunity to get out the barracks and get to know each other. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Julius Williams, BOSS President)











(Clockwise) More than 60 backpacks were delivered to families at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area during **Operation Backpack**, an annual event hosted by Army Community Services in partnership with Sandia Labs in Livermore and the United Services Organization of Northern California, Aug. 6 (Photo by Jim O'Donnell, PRFTA Public Affairs).

Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security staff Rolando Gonzalez was the guest speaker during the Hispanic Heritage Observance event, Sept. 11.

Vouch4Vet.org donated and distributed more than 100 meals to Soldiers, Aug. 14 (Photo by Jim O'Donnell, PRFTA Public Affairs).

The **PRFTA Fire Dept.** supported several wildfires in the Bay Area during the fire season. Engine 44 provided crash and rescue support to the CAL Fire Helibase

at Meadowlark Airfield in Livermore, Aug. 18 (Courtesy photos).

PRFTA held a Father's Day BBQ at the garrison chapel parking lot, with families driving up to collect their meals. The food was cooked by Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Ross and his wife Jody, the NCO Academy Parks Deputy Commandant Sgt. Major Aaron M. Stubenvoll and his wife Lora, and Religious Affairs Specialist Sqt. Yahaira Ocasio. Members from the NCO Academy Parks who assisted in preparing and serving were Commandant Command Sgt. Maj. James C. Stoots and his wife Christy, Allison Stubenvoll, 1st Sgt. Melissa M. Solomon, Chief of Operations Master Sgt. Leon P. Nelson and his wife Davina. The PRFTA Commander, Lt. Col. Serena Johnson, also attended and supported the event by serving and preparing plates. (Courtesy photos)











# **POLITICAL ACTIVITIES**

# SHARE YOUR VOICE/KNOW YOUR LIMITS

# **PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS**

FOR SOLDIERS ON ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY ORDERS (AGR, ADT, AT)

### CAN

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

- 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.

If you are interested in running for office and are not on active duty or a call to order for more than 270 days, contact your unit's legal advisor for additional details.

### 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**

\*The rules regarding political activities for a limited class of employees, such as

members of the Senior Executive Service, may be more restrictive

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.

# ALL ARMY TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD:

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.

TPU Soldiers should know and comply with the provisions of DoDI 1334.1, Wearing of the Uniform, to avoid the appearance of impropriety or endorsement by the Army of a particular candidate.

# **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

# SOCIAL SECURITY PAYROLL TAX WITHHOLDING DEFERRAL



# TEAM ARMY RESERVE:

Attention! You will see additional money in your paycheck beginning in September and continuing through December, but

### YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY IT BACK!

This is not free money for you to spend. Please do not think you have extra money for the holidays because of the extra money showing on your LES! And don't be caught by surprise in January when your paycheck is less than what you expected!



### LEARN MORE

For more information, please visit the IRS website at:

» https://www.irs.gov/ newsroom/guidanceissued-to-implementpresidentialmemorandum-deferringcertain-employee-socialsecurity-tax-withholding

As more information becomes available, it will be nosted on:

» https://www.dfas.mil/ taxes/Social-Security-Deferral

# What's going on?



In order to provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Presidential Memorandum was issued on Aug. 8, 2020, to temporarily **defer employees' 6.2% Social Security tax withholdings** if the monthly rate of basic pay is less than \$8,666.66 for Soldiers and less than \$4,000 per pay period for Civilians. If your rate of pay is at or above this threshold, your social security tax withholding will not be affected.

# What does this REALLY mean for our U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians?



SOLDIERS: Beginning with your September mid-month pay, DFAS will temporarily withhold the 6.2% Social Security tax.

For Soldiers making less than \$8,666.66 per month, "FICA-SOC SECURITY" on your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) will not be withheld from your take-home pay September-December 2020. This amount (which is 6.2% of your pay) may range from \$100 to upwards of \$500 per month.



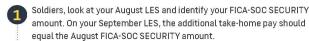
CIVILIANS: Beginning with your pay period ending Sept. 12, paying on Sept. 24, DFAS will temporarily withhold the 6.2% Social Security tax. For Civilians

making less than \$4,000 per pay period, OASDI (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) on your LES will not be withheld from your paycheck through December 2020. The withholding will be determined each pay period. If premium pay increases wages to \$4,000 or above, the OASDI tax will not be withheld.

YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY BACK this money January-April 2021 along with the applicable taxes for those months — meaning, from January-April, your FICA-SOC SECURITY/OASDI deductions will be doubled (\$200-\$1000+).

# How do our Soldiers and Civilians prepare for this?

Have a financial plan in place now!





- Civilians, look at your LES for pay period ending Aug. 29, 2020, and find your OASDI amount. Use your current taxable wages as a reference. If they are less than \$4,000 then starting with your LES for pay period ending Sept. 12, 2020, your take-home pay should increase the amount of the OASDI.
- Put the additional money in a savings account, and don't touch it!
- Do this for September, October, November and December 2020.
  - In January, the FICA-SOC SECURITY/OASDI amount taken out of your paycheck will be doubled. Soldiers, move one month's worth of FICA-SOC SECURITY from your savings account to your checking account to meet financial obligations. Civilians, move one paycheck worth of OASDI from your savings to your checking to meet financial obligations each pay period.
- 6 Do this for January, February, March and April 2021. FEDERAL TAXES and FICA-MEDICARE/OASDI will still be withheld each month.



