



Left: An Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter arrives in Haines, Alaska, December 3, 2020, to assist with search and rescue after a landslide caused by heavy rainfall and flooding during a record-breaking Southeast Alaska winter storm. Alaska State Troopers, three search dog teams, members of Juneau Mountain Rescue, Capital Fire and Rescue, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and other partner agencies were transported from Juneau, as well as 1200 lbs. of medical supplies, water and rescue gear. Right: An Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter conducts search and rescue in Haines. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class William Hayes, U.S. Army National Guard)

Alaska Army National Guard assist in search and rescue in Haines after major landslide

Joint Force Headquarters
Public Affairs

The Alaska National Guard is assisting local, state and federal authorities with search and rescue efforts after a landslide Dec. 2 in Haines, Alaska, due to extreme weather, heavy rainfall and flooding during a record-breaking

Southeast Alaska winter storm. An Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter provided transportation yesterday and today from Juneau to Haines, for the Alaska State Troopers, three search dog teams, members of Juneau Mountain Rescue, Capital Fire and Rescue, the Alaska Department of Natu-

ral Resources, and other partner agencies. Passengers dropped off in Haines continue to conduct a ground search, while aircrew conduct aerial observation from the aircraft with the assistance of additional personnel. The aircrew from Alaska’s 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment transported 1,200 pounds of

cargo, including medical supplies, rescue gear and water. All personnel were rapid COVID tested prior to flying into Haines. The National Guard is the first military responder for domestic emergencies and disasters, providing assistance to local, state and federal authorities as requested.

Army-Navy Game uniform conjures up memories for one cadet

Jorge Garcia
PV Staff Writer

This year’s Army-Navy Game reveal of the “Tropic Lightning” uniform triggered feelings of dignity, joy and excitement as Class of 2022 Cadet Randy McKenzie marveled at the simplistic yet effective design choice unveiled by the Army West Point football team in honor of America’s Pacific Division, on Sunday. “The main thing I noticed is what we (at the 25th Infantry Division) call the lightning strawberry,” McKenzie said of the 2020 Army-Navy game uniform. McKenzie explained how the symbol reminded him of his past experiences when he served nearly two years as a cannon crew member (13 Bravo) at the 25th ID at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii prior to becoming a cadet at West Point. McKenzie remembered, when he was private at the 25th ID, his platoon leader at the time, Capt. Sarah Epperson, was a graduate from West Point. She saw a lot of potential in McKenzie and believed he would do great

things if he turned his path toward officership at West Point rather than pursuing the NCO route. McKenzie took Epperson’s advice and journeyed thousands of miles away from the 25th ID. Nonetheless, he never would’ve imagined that this year’s uniform would take him through memory lane. “I think about all the days I spent working relentlessly in the field, all the hard training we conducted — those are the memories the lightning strawberry symbol brings up,” McKenzie said. “I can only imagine what memories the symbol will bring up for others who served in the 25th Infantry Division when they see the new uniform.” McKenzie added the dark green colors (medium olive for the top and sequoia for the pants) are a very fitting choice representing the hardship and drudgery the 25th ID faced during the World War II and Korean War eras, which is the specific time period for the color scheme. The iconic lightning bolt with the taro leaf overlay was the perfect touch to

exemplify the prestige and iconic stature of the 25th ID. “I know that almost every uniform I ever wore when I was stationed at Hawaii had the lightning strawberry symbol,” McKenzie said. “From our OCP (Operational Camouflage Pattern) uniforms, dress uniforms — sometimes I would even see the symbol on our PT (physical training) uniforms.” Pictures and videos were posted on social media showcasing the rich juniper colored jersey with the “Tropic Lightning” name patch sitting on the right side and the Nike symbol sitting on the left. The wording, “In courtesy of the 27th Infantry,” is stitched on top of the right shoulder pad. Also, a white sigil of a wolf was sewn on the left shoulder pad paying homage to the 27th Infantry Regiment (Wolfhounds) who were a part of the 25th Infantry Division during the Korean War. The trousers along with the helmet and gloves are overlaid with dark-Sacramento green with the words “Wolf Hounds,” highlighted in white, running down the



Former 25th Infantry Division Soldier and current cadet, Class of 2022 Cadet Randy McKenzie, was transported back to serving with 25th ID as an enlisted Soldier when the Army West Point football team’s Army-Navy Game uniform reveal honors his former division for the game. (Photo by Dustin Satloff, Army Athletic Communications)

length of the trousers. “Seeing the uniform definitely makes me excited because, with my time as a cadet, I don’t think about much else other than completing assignments and staying on the path to

becoming an officer,” McKenzie said. “But when I saw the new uniform come out and the 25th Infantry Division being represented, it just brought back memories.

See GAME on page 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday

Mostly sunny. High: -8F.

Saturday

Sunny. High: -6F.

Sunday

Chance of snow. High: 0F.

IN BRIEF

Even with budgeting for the holidays, the cost of gifts can add up. However, with a little thought you can create great gifts that fit within your budget. See page 4 for some sites for affordable gift ideas to work within your budget.

Nutrition Corner: Nutrition 101

Did you know that vitamin C helps protect the body against damage caused by free radicals? That’s right! Vitamin C is one of the several antioxidants that, among other functions, protect the body from free radicals produced from UV rays and air pollution. It can also help with wound healing and absorb iron from plant based sources! In general, men need about 90 mg of vitamin C per day and women need about 75 mg. Be aware that cigarette smoke causes the body to require more vitamin C to repair the damage it causes. Smoking cessation is always advised but if you are a smoker, know that smokers generally require an additional 35 mg of vitamin C per day.

As always, try to get your nutrients in with real food. Good sources of vitamin C are citrus fruits, broccoli, strawberries, cantaloupe, potatoes and tomatoes. Be sure

to steam or microwave your vegetables when cooking instead of boiling in water. Prolonged cooking times can lessen the amount of vitamin C in your foods. If you are not able to get enough vitamin C in your diet, talk to your primary care provider or registered dietitian to see if supplementation is appropriate for you. Just like any supplement, you want to check with your health care provider first. In many cases, your needs can be met through real food and supplementing in excess would not provide any additional benefit. In fact, megadoses can cause diarrhea, nausea, headache and kidney stones. Also note that getting in your vitamin C through supplements does not seem to have the same cancer protective effects as eating plenty of fruits and vegetables. Unfortunately, contrary to popular believe, vitamin C supplements have not

been shown to reduce the risk of catching a cold. So the next time you are piling up the fruits and vegetables (remember they should take up half of your plate!), be sure to include some that provide you with some free radical fighting vitamin C!

Featured Food:
Broccoli. Not only is it packed with vitamin C, this cruciferous creation also has vitamin A, calcium, iron and fiber.

Recipe Spotlight:
Parmesan Roasted Broccoli.

Ingredients:
4 pounds broccoli
3 garlic cloves, peeled and thinly sliced
Olive oil
1 teaspoon sea salt
¾ teaspoon ground black pepper

2 teaspoons of grated lemon zest
2 tablespoons of freshly squeezed lemon juice
3 tablespoons of toasted pine nuts
1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
2 tablespoons of julienned fresh basil leaves

Direction:
•Preheat oven to 425 degrees F
•Cut the broccoli florets from the thick stalks
•Place the broccoli on a sheet pan in a single layer.
•Toss the garlic on the broccoli and drizzle with 4 tablespoons of olive oil
•Sprinkle with salt and pepper
•Roast for 20 to 25 minutes, until crisp and tender
•Remove the broccoli from the oven and toss with 1 tablespoon olive oil, the lemon zest, lemon juice, pine nuts, parmesan and basil

History Snapshot: Ladd Oral History Project - Kenneth E. Bailey on working in 1941



“After December ’41, my father (Virgil Bailey) could no longer get material for his and my grandfather's (Phillip DeWree) plumbing, electrical and sheet metal shop on First Street, so he went to work for Ladd Field. I don't remember his title or duties. When I was in high school in 1943 and 1944, my dad got me a summer job at Ladd Field. I still have my metal badge.

The first year I started out moving full 55-gallon drums from the railroad dock onto a flatbed truck then to a storage area. Since I didn't have the strength to move them, they let me drive the truck. The second year I worked as an electrician's helper. One experience I remember when I was on a low ladder in a hangar getting tangled up with 220 volts and winding up on the deck.” – Kenneth Bailey, Sept. 11, 2002 (Photo of badge courtesy of Kenneth Bailey)

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
United Health Care: uhcmilitarywest.com, 877-988-9378

<https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil/>

Immunizations
Effective immediately, due to connectivity issues with MHS GENESIS, no patients will be admitted to the COVID-19 testing trailer line after 2:30 pm Monday through Friday. Any patient in line at the COVID-19 testing trailer by 2:30 p.m. will be seen before the trailer closes.

Save a trip to the ER
Not sure if you need to come into the emergency room or make an appointment? Beneficiaries can all our Nurse Advice Line to talk to a registered nurse 24 hours a day, seven days a week for advice about immediate health care needs. Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273.)

Please be patient
Do you have a referral to a specialty provider? We are asking your patience as we work through the challenges of MHS GENESIS, the military’s new electronic health record. Due to a limited number of appointments in the facility, more referrals are being sent for off-post providers. This means less appointments available to our already limited access to providers off-post.

Many of our specialty care services are currently booking into December. We recognize the stress this places on patients and are doing everything we can to provide care within the access to care standards.

TRICARE Open Season
Mark your calendars and know your options.

Changes made during open enrollment take effect Jan. 1, 2021.

Call TRICARE to enroll or change enrollment at 1-844-866-9378. For questions, please visit <https://www.TRICARE.mil/openseason20> or call the Medical Department Activity – Alaska enrollment manager at 907-361-5610

New Patient Portal
TRICARE Secure Messaging is GONE! Have you registered yet for the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal so you can continue to manage appointments, check lab results, order prescriptions and talk to your provider?

Remember if you have a DS login you must upgrade to a 'Premium' account in order to use the system.

GAME Continued from page 1

Memories of going through the application process for West Point. It brought up the images of how hard I worked to get here because it’s kind of a different path than most of the cadets here.”

McKenzie added this year would show how far the Army West Point football team has come since their loss 73 years ago against the Navy at Michie Stadium.

“I think the easy answer is that Army’s going to win, obviously. Even though the atmosphere is different this year with the stress of COVID, I feel once everyone gets into the game — into that rivalry, all of that stress will go away,” McKenzie said. “The game is going to be intense with both sides trying their hardest to win, but I believe the Army will pull through!”

ALASKA POST

The Interior Military News Connection

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The Chaplain's Corner

He didn't stay a baby

Chaplain (Maj.) Tony Cech
U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright Community Pastor

When we think of the holiday season and Christmas, few think Advent and even fewer think about babies. With this year being the exception, most people think gatherings and parties, shopping malls, Christmas break, time off work and presents. Others think about traveling, or are sad because they won't get to see much family with all the COVID fears and restrictions.

Some hardcore Christmas fans, will think decorations as radio stations begin non-stop Christmas music. Snowmen and

icicle lights will get pulled out of attic and put out on lawns along with inflatable reindeer and candy canes. Christmas trees will spring up in living rooms worldwide and some will put out manger scenes complete with animals, angels, wise-men and baby Jesus.

So much to do and so little time, who has time for much else? With all the festivities and fears who has time to think of babies and Advent. But the baby in the manger is actually the reason for Christmas and like the old song says "away in a manger no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head..."

We live in a world that loves to skip the baby, skip Advent,

and skip Jesus. That's because much of the world around us doesn't know what to do with the baby in the manger or doesn't want anything to do with him. Babies are cute, cuddly, and not intimidating (unless you're a new parent) but to be real, unless it's our baby, who has time for a baby? Especially somebody else's baby.

Today, Jesus may seem irrelevant to our life. According to my faith tradition, the Bible reveals the importance of this one child. See in Jesus, God came down to what he made: "he became flesh and blood and made his dwelling among us." Two thousand years ago a baby interrupted human history. Much of the world kept going

business as usual, but in reality he was a COVID plus life interruption event.

The Bible says that the one who made everything and for whom everything has been made, "came to that which was his own, to what he had made, and was unrecognized." It also says he came in the form of a human being, fully God, and fully man to tell us that we are not abandoned, our greatest problem would be overcome and that one day life as all know it will really be interrupted as His Kingdom will be ushered in.

As we go into Christmas, it's easy to ignore the baby, skip Advent, and to move our attentions to the festivities. But think about the interruption



COVID has made in the world. I believe there will be a day when a greater interruption will occur because the baby grew up! He came to demonstrate God's love for us, to reconcile us to God despite our sins and to offer us a future.

Babies and birth announcements are good news most of the time. The birth we celebrate at Christmas is the best news

because it tells us God reconciles us to himself in the Son whom he loves and sent and who will one day come back. See, Jesus didn't stay a baby. He grew up, showed us the way back to the Father and promised that he will come again. "For God so loved the world he sent his one and only son so that whoever believes in him might not perish but have everlasting life."

Worship Services on Fort Wainwright

Good Shepherd Catholic Community

Mass: Sundays, 9 a.m., SLC

Holy Hour Adoration: Thursdays, 6 p.m., SLC

Catholic Women of the Chapel: Wednesdays, 9 a.m., SLC

St. George Anglican Parish

Holy Communion: Sundays, 11 a.m., SLC

Mid-Week Holy Communion: Wednesdays, noon, BACH

Cornerstone Protestant Community

Worship Service: Sundays, 11 a.m., NLC

Protestant Women of the Chapel, Wednesdays, 6 p.m., NLC

Cornerstone Youth, Sundays, 1 p.m., NLC

Congregación Protestante Piedra Angular

Servicio de adoración: Domingos, 1 p.m., SLC

Northern Lights Chapel Nov. 22, 2020

Fort Wainwright Religious Support Office, 353-6112

1051 Gaffney, Unit 10

Southern Lights Chapel (SLC), 8th St & Neely Rd.

Northern Lights Chapel (NLC), Luzon & Rhineland Avenues



The challenges at Fort Hood, Texas, have initiated a detailed investigation into the sexual harassment, sexual assault, violent crimes, and other corrosives that exist in our ranks. The findings of this investigation have been reviewed, and on 8 December, the Secretary of the Army directed the relief or suspension of several leaders at every echelon from squad through brigade, division, corps, and installation.

Leaders at every echelon play a role in driving culture. We are gravely disappointed when instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and discrimination occur. We are even more disturbed when these instances are not addressed swiftly with respect, trust, and discipline. We do not expect perfection, but we do expect leaders to take ownership with aggressive and consistent action to take care of their people. Whether we are in combat or at home station, we will never leave a fallen comrade, and we work hard to take care of each other.

Respect, trust, and discipline are the foundation of unit cohesion and readiness. Leaders have the responsibility to build and maintain that foundation. They must drive a culture of prevention before, intervention during, and compassion and human decency in the face of a catastrophic event.

Unfortunately, the issues at Fort Hood exist at other installations. You may have experienced or know someone who experienced sexual harassment or sexual assault. We will not tolerate these behaviors. We need your help to ensure we hold leaders accountable for their unit culture and their care for each Soldier. Our previous efforts are not working. We need creative solutions to get after these leadership issues.

Our responsibility is to ensure you have the right leadership, policies, and resources so you can thrive in trained, disciplined, and fit, cohesive teams. To do that, we formed the People First Task Force to identify initiatives to address our most significant challenges. We already elevated People to the Army's number one priority, reduced requirements to allow leaders to take care of Soldiers, committed more funding towards quality of life, changed the missing Soldier policy, and deployed more military law enforcement to Fort Hood, Texas. We will continue to make the right changes for our People.

We know we must strive to earn the trust of our Soldiers and the American people every day. We also know that many leaders are eager to do the right thing. Compliance is a job, but commitment is a profession. We ask each of you to recommit yourself to your teammates, your mission, and our Army. We reaffirm our commitment to you.





Michael A. Grinston
Sergeant Major of the Army

James C. McConville
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Ryan D. McCarthy
Secretary of the Army

SANTA CLAUS

IS COMING TO TOWN

COME OUT AND SEE SANTA ON THE FIRE TRUCK

December 12, 2020,
Tanana Trails, Bear Paw,
Southern Cross, and
Gertsch Heights

December 19, 2020
Denali Village, Siku Basin,
North Town, Chena Bend

FOR DETAILS,
ROUTE MAPS,
& UPDATES

FOLLOW US

@Ft. Wainwright Firefighters

Routes start at
5pm

Event is subject to change based on weather considerations




POC: FIRE CAPT. JUSTIN BODDY | (907) 322-2232

Weekly Tips: Creative Holiday Gifts

Even with budgeting for the holidays, the cost of gifts can add up. However, with a little thought you can create great gifts that fit within your budget. Check out some of the following sites for affordable gift ideas to work within your budget:

- Here are some specific holiday Do-It-Yourself ideas:
 - Christmas cookies in a jar – www.christmas-cookies.com/recipes/giftsinjar.html
 - Gifts in a jar – www.recipelink.com/holiday/merrygifts.html and <http://christmas.organizedhome.com/gifts-in-a-jar>. These sites have recipes for beverages, cookies, desserts, snacks, cereals, breads, soups, dips, spices and even bath salts.

- Homemade heating pads for those stressful days. Check out www.diy-natural.com/home-made-heating-pad/.
- Easy homemade gifts – www.countryliving.com/diy-crafts/tips/g645/crafty-christmas-presents-ideas/
- Looking for ideas from stocking stuffers, cookie swap recipes, to easy do-it-yourself gifts visit www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/holiday-ideas/holiday-guide
- www.getrichslowly.org/blog/2008/11/13/a-do-it-yourself-christmas-34-great-gifts-you-can-make-yourself/ offers you some great DIY gifts.
- Searching for unique ideas into wonderful gifts check out www.marthastewart.com/photogallery/

- gifts-for-her.
- Options for homemade gifts that make the holiday special.
 - www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/worklife/campus/g3864/cool-diy-christmas-gifts/
 - If you are looking for fun DIY holiday projects visit www.diy-network.com/topics/christmas/index.html.
 - Pinterest offers some great DIY gift ideas www.pinterest.com/explore/diy-christmas-gifts/.
-
- Free printable cards:
 - <https://printable-cards.gotfree-cards.com/>
 - www.thebalance.com/free-printable-cards-for-every-occasion-1357483
 - www.pinterest.com/explore/

- free-printable-cards/
- Looking for creative wrapping ideas? www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/40holiday-gift-wrap-ideas-pictures, www.countryliving.com/diy-crafts/how-to/g1053/gift-wrappingideas/, or www.womansday.com/home/crafts-projects/how-to/g394/christmas-gift-wrapping-ideas/
-
- Looking for holiday cards? Check out the following sites for free ecards:
 - www.123greetings.com
 - www.bluemountain.com
 - www.regards.com
 - www.greetingsnecards.com
 - www.crosscards.com/cards/

Arlington National Cemetery announces Wreaths Across America event update

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery and Wreaths Across America, along with their partners the U.S. Army Military District of Washington and the 3d U.S. Infantry ("The Old Guard"), will safely lay and recover approximately 267,000 wreaths to honor our nation's heroes and their family members this December.

This plan will balance security, health and safety requirements with the desire to allow limited in-person participation. Therefore, family pass holders of those interred at ANC and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home Cemetery will be able to lay wreaths in person at designated times. Members of the general public can take part in this year's National Wreath Day in a virtual setting.

This plan enables ANC to preserve their capability to execute their primary

mission to bury our nation's service members and their eligible family members with the honor and dignity the American people have come to expect from Arlington National Cemetery.

- Event schedule:**
- Sunday, December 13: Family pass holders only will be welcomed to lay wreaths at their loved ones' graves from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cemetery will be closed to the general public.
 - Monday through Friday, December 14-18: The cemetery will be closed to the general public, enabling the MDW and TOG soldiers to safely place wreaths on graves while ANC simultaneously conducts over 100 funerals during the week. Family pass holders are welcome to visit the cemetery daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to place their private flowers or wreaths.
 - Saturday, December 19: A small group of Wreaths



Arlington National Cemetery and Wreaths Across America, along with their partners the U.S. Army Military District of Washington and the 3d U.S. Infantry ("The Old Guard"), will safely lay and recover approximately 267,000 wreaths to honor our nation's heroes and their family members this December. (Photo by Arlington National Cemetery)

Across America team members will place wreaths in a designated section of the cemetery, and the National Wreath Day event will be broadcast for the public to experience. The broadcast link and time will be available closer to the event. Family pass holders are welcome to visit the cemetery from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to

place their private flowers or wreaths.

During the week of December 13-19, the cemetery will be closed to the general public.

Sunday, December 20: The cemetery will re-open to the public. Visitors are welcome to place graveside tributes of privately purchased flowers or wreaths in accordance

with our floral policy, located on the cemetery website at: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/After-the-Funeral/Floral-Wreath-Tributes-at-Gravesite.

Arlington National Cemetery is complying with the Department of Defense directives and supplemental "Force Health Protection Guidance for the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak," and with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for this virus. The health protection of our workforce and our visitors is a top priority, and ANC maintains our commitment to honor the nation's veterans who rest on these iconic grounds.

Visit their website for the most updated visitor information, the virtual event broadcast link, and COVID-19 policies and procedures at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil or @ArlingtonNatl, or contact our call center at 877-907-8585.

Army releases annual safety assessment

Julie Shelley
Communication and Public Affairs U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has released its assessment of the Army Safety Program for fiscal 2020, highlighting the successes and challenges of operations in the ongoing COVID-19 environment.

Statistically speaking, fiscal 2020 was the Army’s safest year on record, with 96 Soldier and Department of the Army Civilian mishap fatalities reported between Oct. 1, 2019, and Sept. 30, 2020. The previous record low was achieved in fiscal 2016, with 109 mishap fatalities. However, USACRC subject matter experts said pandemic-related restrictions on personal travel and mission profiles during the last nine months most likely affected both on- and off-duty mishap totals.

“We can’t say why a hypothetical mishap didn’t happen,” said Brig. Gen. Andrew C. Hilmes, USACRC commanding general and director of Army Safety. “But we can look at trends from past years, especially with private motor vehicles, and be reasonably confident stop-movement orders and restricted travel had a positive net effect on mishaps in 2020.”

On-duty ground mishap fatalities fell 25 percent for



the year, down to 18 from the 24 recorded during fiscal 2019. Eleven of those deaths occurred in government motor vehicles, primarily tactical variants. Eight Soldiers were killed in rollovers, and most were not wearing seat belts or using vehicle restraint systems.

“It’s important to remember vehicles don’t just roll over,” said USACRC Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gardner II. “Speeding or driving too fast for conditions, distractions, or loss of situational awareness during cross-country movements are common in rollover mishaps. Standards enforcement and mandatory use of restraint systems are key to preventing rollovers and fatalities.”

The Army’s manned aviation force, which fulfilled 90 percent of 2020’s allotted flying hours despite COVID-19 restrictions, saw Class A mishaps drop by half from the previous year. More Soldiers died in these mishaps, though — seven compared to two during fiscal 2019.

“Aviation commanders at all levels proved their commitment to risk management during lockdown,” Hilmes said. “That fewer mishaps were actually deadlier is a tragic reminder of the inherent danger in flight operations. We can lose entire crews in a single crash.”

Off-duty mishap fatalities fell to 71 from 91 in fiscal 2019, a decline of 22 percent. Although PMV

mishaps were responsible for 53 of those deaths, both motorcycle and four-wheeled fatalities experienced significant reductions, 19 and 13 percent respectively.

“This area is where you can really see a pandemic effect,” Gardner said. “With travel cancelled or delayed across the force, we suspect there were fewer Soldiers on the road and far fewer miles driven off duty. Sustaining this trend will be the challenge as commanders loosen restrictions and we move into the holiday travel period.”

The USACRC recently released a communications campaign targeted toward off-duty risk management during the holiday block leave period, the

second-deadliest time of year for mishap fatalities. It includes a counseling checklist, news articles on prevalent holiday hazards, and links to popular tools like the Travel Risk Planning System and Off Duty Safety Awareness Presentation.

“We want to make it as easy as possible for leaders to keep their Soldiers as safe as possible during this hectic season,” Hilmes said. “We can start 2021 on the right track with a successful holiday safety effort.”

The complete annual safety assessment is available for download at <https://safety.army.mil/Portals/0/Documents/MEDIA/Standard/Annual-Assessment-FY20.pdf>.

Winning on the go! Fort Wainwright community can download Digital Garrison app for chance to win Exchange gift cards

Carina DeCino
Army and Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

The Digital Garrison mobile app helps Soldiers, Army families and retirees stay in the know at Fort Wainwright — and now it can help them win too.

The app is a partnership between the U.S. Army and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and is customized to each Army post, with information on available services, facility hours, a post directory and more, including in-app shopping at ShopMyExchange.com. Users who download the app from Dec. 16 through Feb. 10 have a chance to win a \$100 Exchange e-gift card in a weekly drawing.

To enter the weekly drawing, shoppers stationed on or living near Fort Wainwright should:

- Download the free Digital Garrison mobile app from Apple or Google Play stores and create a profile.
- Link their ShopMyExchange.com account by signing in on the app.

- Enter the drawing online at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes.

“The Digital Garrison app makes life easier for those who live or work on Army posts,” said Exchange director/CEO Tom Shull. “With this sweepstakes, the app will also make life a little sweeter for the e-gift card winners.”

Other features of the app include a mobile wallet; personalized dashboard with local weather, on-post dining options and more; and the option for easy fingerprint or face recognition sign-in for ShopMyExchange.com.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for instant access to local information, especially as things like gate closures and facility hours have been subject to change on short notice,” Shull said. “Digital Garrison makes sure users have the most up-to-date information about what’s going on in their community.”

Authorized Exchange shoppers 18 and older are eligible to enter the sweepstakes. For complete rules and details, visit ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes.

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$100 Exchange e-giftcard

Download the **DIGITAL GARRISON** app, connect with your Army community, and be entered to win a \$100 Exchange e-giftcard!



Follow these 3 Easy Steps

1. Download the Digital Garrison App & create profile
2. Link your shopmyexchange.com account on the app
3. Enter online at shopmyexchange.com/sweepstakes

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 16, 2020 - FEBRUARY 10, 2021

2020 Fort Wainwright Angel Tree Program

The Fort Wainwright Religious Support Office would like to invite you to participate in our post-wide Angel Tree Program (02-17 December 2020).

- **Stop by the Christmas Tree @the Main PX to sponsor a military child.**
- **Shop for an appropriate toy (suggested value about \$20.00)**
- **Gifts can be dropped off at the Main Exchange Customer Service Desk (store hours), at the Religious Support Office or at any Post Chapel (M-F 0900-1600).**

*****Gifts must be returned by 17 December!**
-Gifts will be delivered 22 December

For more Info: Contact Chaplain (MAJ) Tony Cech
Office: 907-361-4261
Anthony.m.cech.mil@mail.mil

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fort Wainwright Family & MWR

Weekly Events

December 12 - 19

12 B.O.S.S. Snowmachine Trip
Registration Deadline: December 12
Event: December 19, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Come out with B.O.S.S. on a snowmachine trip to explore Fairbanks! Get your snowmachine safety certification and tackle the trails!
B.O.S.S., Bldg 1045
Call 353-7648, registration required

12 12 Days of Giveaways
December 12 - 18
All Day
Every day head over to our Facebook and Instagram @WainwrightMWR to enter to win prizes! We have over \$5,000 worth of prizes with TVs, a trampoline, scooters, iPads, and more!

@Wainwright MWR on Facebook and Instagram

12 Merry Making Holiday Workshop
December 12 - 13
All Day
December 12 - 13 showcase your Holiday crafts for your chance to win BIG! Win a whole season of fun to the local ice park. Go to @Wainwright MWR on Facebook and Instagram to enter.

Wainwright MWR on Facebook and Instagram

16 Virtual Hiring Fair
December 16
Noon - 4 p.m.
USAG Alaska Family and MWR is looking to add to our team! Find all federal government positions are listed through USAJobs and search "Fort Wainwright." Contact Employment Readiness at (907) 353-4337 for resume and interview assistance.

Human Resources NAF, Bldg 1045
Call 353-7203, application submission required

17 B.O.S.S. Installation Meeting
December 17
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Join us for an Installation B.O.S.S. Meeting! You have the chance to provide your input on upcoming B.O.S.S. events, voice concerns, express quality of life issues on Fort Wainwright, and most importantly stay informed.

B.O.S.S., Bldg 1045
Call 353-7648

NUGGET LANES BOWLING PRESENTS

Candy Cane Lanes

WITH A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY

Santa

DECEMBER 13 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

\$10 UNLIMITED BOWLING, INCLUDES SHOES & CRAFT
+ BRUNCH \$8 KIDS \$10 ADULTS

+GIANT STOCKING GIVEAWAY

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Nugget Lanes Bowling Center
3702 Santiago Avenue (907) 353-2654
wainwright.armymwr.com
#WainwrightMWR #WainwrightBowl
*Face mask and social distancing required

December to Remember

Join us for all your December Festivities!
For more information, go to wainwright.armymwr.com.
@WainwrightMWR #WainwrightMWR

Secretary of the Army announces missing Soldier policy, forms People First Task Force to implement Fort Hood Independent Review Committee (FHIRC) recommendations

The Secretary of the Army today announced a new Army policy on missing Soldiers and formed the People First Task Force to address the recommendations of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee.

Along with the civilian members of the FHIRC, Secretary McCarthy also unveiled the results of a three-month examination of the command climate and culture at Fort Hood and the surrounding military community and its impact on the safety, welfare and readiness of Soldiers.

“The challenges at Fort Hood forced us to take a critical look at our systems, our policies, and ourselves. This is not just about metrics, but about possessing the ability to show compassion for our teammates and to look out for the best interest of our Soldiers. This report, without a doubt, will cause the Army to change our culture,” Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy said. “We thank the committee members for their outstanding efforts to provide us with an honest, factbased assessment of the conditions at Fort Hood and a slate of recommended actions intended to benefit that installation and the entire Army.”

Sec. McCarthy also announced significant measures to hold leaders accountable at Fort Hood. More information on is available

at: <https://www.army.mil/article/241491>.

New Army Policy

“In response to the findings of the independent review, I have signed a directive clarifying expectations and responsibilities of unit commanders and Army law enforcement authorities focused on the first 48 hours after a Soldier fails to report for duty,” Secretary McCarthy said. “When one of our teammates does not report for duty, we will change their duty status to ‘absent-unknown’ and take immediate action to find them.”

This directive’s creation of an additional duty status code – “absent-unknown” (AUN) – will provide commanders with time to make the appropriate determination of an absent Soldier’s status. Commanders will utilize AUN as a transitory duty status for up to 48 hours, prompting unit and law enforcement actions to assist in locating the Soldier. Previously, Soldiers who were absent for unknown reasons were listed as “absent without leave” (AWOL).

Under the new policy, which is intended to ensure the Army maximizes efforts to find missing Soldiers, commanders must determine by a preponderance of evidence that a Soldier’s absence is voluntary to classify their duty

status as AWOL. If this burden cannot be met, commanders will classify absent personnel as “missing,” and the Army will simultaneously initiate a “duty status whereabouts unknown” (DUSTWUN) casualty case. Opening a DUSTWUN casualty case provides the Soldier’s family with a liaison officer while it attempts to locate the missing Soldier.

The directive includes additional guidance for commanders and law enforcement on steps to classify Soldiers as deserters.

Fort Hood Independent Review Committee

The FHIRC, which began work in August, examined the command climate and culture at Fort Hood and the surrounding military community to determine whether they reflect the Army’s commitment to safety, respect, inclusiveness, diversity, and freedom from sexual harassment. In its report, the FHIRC found a deficient climate at Fort Hood, including ineffective implementation of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program that resulted in a pervasive lack of confidence, fear of retaliation, and significant underreporting of cases, particularly within the enlisted ranks. Fort Hood leadership knew or should have known of the high risk of harm to female Soldiers,

according to the report.

“Soldiers assaulting and harassing other Soldiers is contrary to Army values and requires a dramatic change in culture,” Chris Swecker, the committee chair, said. “The committee determined that, during the time period covered by our review, there was a permissive environment for sexual assault and sexual harassment at Fort Hood. We have recommended changes to the staffing, structure and implementation of the SHARP program at Fort Hood, and possibly beyond, to address deeply dysfunctional norms and regain Soldiers’ trust.”

The FHIRC also found that Fort Hood’s Criminal Investigation Command (CID) detachment was under-experienced and over-assigned, factors which adversely impacted investigations of sex crimes and Soldier deaths. In all, the FHIRC’s report sets forth nine findings and 70 recommendations relating to areas including SHARP; Fort Hood CID; missing Soldier protocols; and the installation’s crime prevention and public relations efforts. FHIRC members also concluded that Fort Hood and the Army as whole must do more to cultivate a culture of inclusivity and respect which values the contributions of all service members.

Army pursues new mid-range missile to fill gap in precision fires

Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

The Army is seeking a new mid-range missile system that can hit targets between 500 to 1,500 kilometers, or 310 to 930 miles, to help fill a gap in its fires portfolio by 2023. Brig. Gen. John Rafferty, director of the Long-Range Precision Fires Cross-Functional Team, said the surface-to-surface launch capability could prove beneficial if positioned in strategic areas such as the Pacific island chains.

“What a dilemma that would create for our adversary,” he said Sept. 29, referring to China, which the National Defense Strategy states as a near-peer threat along with Russia. “How we would change the calculus in a second, if we could deliver this kind of capability out there.”

The endeavor is currently being researched by his team in a partnership with the Field Artillery School, Fires Capability Development Integration Directorate, and Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office.

Precision fires is currently the Army’s No. 1 modernization priority, since they can allow formations to penetrate through enemy anti-access/area denial capabilities, Rafferty said.

“It enables access at the strategic level and it enables combined arms maneuver at the tactical level,” he said during the 2020 Army Fires Conference.

Extended Range Cannon Artillery
The fires portfolio also includes the Ex-

tended Range Cannon Artillery, a self-propelled system built onto a Paladin Integrated Management howitzer chassis. But ERCA has more firepower with its 58-caliber, 30-foot cannon tube compared to the Paladin’s 39-caliber, 20-foot tube.

The longer tube and a different chamber, along with improved projectiles and propellant, allow it to shoot artillery shells out to 70 kilometers, or over 40 miles, he said.

After several successful tests, the Army recently sought Soldier feedback of the system during 1st Infantry Division’s rotation at the National Training Center in California.

The Army expects to deliver a set of prototypes to a division artillery battalion in 2023, which will then evaluate the operational concept of the system, he said.

Precision Strike Missile

The Precision Strike Missile now has three successful flight tests under its belt. The surface-to-surface missile looks to increase the range of the Army Tactical Missile System, which has been around for nearly four decades.

The PrSM is half the size of its predecessor that has a maximum firing range of only 300 km, or 180 miles – nearly half of the PrSM’s 500 km range. Both missiles pack the same explosive punch.

The next phase of testing will include four shots, one of them to be fired out into the Pacific Ocean from the Californian coastline.

“We’ll go to Vandenberg Air Force Base and we’ll test it out into the ocean and see how far it will go,” Rafferty said.

ARMY

Continued from page 6

The FHIRC delivered its report to Army leadership on Nov. 6. The independent review arose from the questions and concerns voiced by family members, Congress, and various Hispanic advocacy groups during the investigation into the disappearance and murder of Spc. Vanessa Guillén.

In late August, FHIRC members Swecker, Jonathan Harmon, Carrie Ricci, Queta Rodriguez and Jack White conducted a two-week fact-finding mission to the base, meeting with unit leaders, Soldiers, members of the Guillén family, local officials, law enforcement and community groups.

While at Fort Hood, the five civilian committee members and their support staff completed more than 2,500 interviews with Soldiers and Army civilians, including 503 female Soldiers from 3rd Cavalry Regiment and 1st Cavalry Division, as well as Equal Opportunity and SHARP program representatives. They established a hotline and collected more than 31,000 responses to a mandatory, anonymous survey on command climate as it relates to sexual assault or sexual harassment. Their community meetings included representatives from League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), NAACP, Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce, and Sociedad Cultural Hispanoamericana.

People First Task Force

“People are our greatest strength, our most valuable asset, and our most important weapon system,” Secretary McCarthy said. “While the independent review focused on the command climate and culture at Fort Hood, the findings contained in the committee’s report impact the entire Army and more than 1.2 million Soldiers. In response, we’ve created the People First Task Force to study the committee’s recommendations and map out a plan to tackle them.”

The People First Task Force will analyze the findings and recommendations in the FHIRC report, develop a plan of action to address issues identified by the committee, and reevaluate current policy and programs. The Task Force will be co-chaired by Lt. Gen. Gary M. Brito, the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1; Ms. Diane M. Randon, the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2; and Sgt. Maj. Julie A.M. Guerra, the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2 sergeant major. It will include representatives from across the Army, including the Provost Marshal General, The Inspector General, The Judge Advocate General, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The Task Force will present its recommendations to Army leadership as quickly as possible for Army senior leaders’ review and implementation.

Sergeant Salmon's
School of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
BASICS**

**Christmas
Trees**

NATURAL
RESOURCES

Brought to you by the USAG Alaska DPW Environmental Division
Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Christmas Tree Cutting

You can gather your own **Christmas** tree on USAG Alaska land this year. Permits are free and available now through December 25, 2020.

A **Christmas** tree is defined as a festive, wonderful, live standing tree less than 10 feet tall (3.05 meters) and still rooted to the ground.

Finding your own **Christmas** tree can be a fun and safe activity to do with your family this winter. **The Christmas tree cutting permit is limited to one tree per household. [No need to be a greedy Grinch!]**

View detailed maps, more information and get your permit online at the USAG Alaska iSportsman website: <https://usartrak.isportsman.net/>

Reminder: All trees over 10 feet tall require a wood cutting permit, which can also be acquired on the website.

Please have fun, be safe and happy holidays!