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Project manager reflects on austere conditions at Cape Lisburne, mission success for seawall construction

Maj. Kathryn Hermon
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District

Far away, on the north-west tip of Alaska, sits a remote, strategic military site nestled between a small mountain range and the unforgiving Chukchi Sea. Against this desolate backdrop, a few hours after midnight on Aug. 12, 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District oversaw the placement of the final rock in a mile-long seawall to cap off a monumental arctic engineering and construction effort at the Cape Lisburne Long Range Radar Site.

With the precise positioning of this last rock, the project delivery team rejoiced on a job well done. Here at the edge of the Last Frontier, the completed barrier will protect critical military infrastructure from storm damage for the next half century.

“What an exciting project, and just a cool part of Alaska,” said Colleen Jordan, project engineer at the Alaska District. “I didn’t expect this type of civil works project to be so complex and so interesting. I’ve done work in other remote parts of the state, but the Cape Lisburne project was just so uniquely Alaskan.”

Beyond the challenges of blasting, crushing and placing rock on a narrow strip of beach between a steep mountain and the ocean, the team successfully navigated past logistical and environmental hurdles to keep the project moving forward. These obstacles included contending with icecaps, battling with monstrous waves, coordinating fuel barge landings and relying on charter flights despite unpredictable weather conditions. In addition, encounters with polar bears, grizzlies and walrus slowed or delayed work at the job site.

Located approximately 570 miles northwest of Fairbanks and about 40 miles northeast of Point Hope, the radar site operated by the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center provides aerospace surveillance to detect and allow for an early response to potential threats to North America.

At Cape Lisburne, the impacts of climate change



Workers excavate rocks from a quarry on property managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service near Cape Lisburne on Sep. 24, 2019. Repairs to the seawall required four different sized rocks, ranging from large boulders to small stones. Using the nearby quarry prevented the need to ship rocks from other sources and meant finishing the project at a quicker pace.

were apparent. With erosion and significant storms in 2011 and 2012, the existing rock seawall began to fail in its protection of the runway.

As the primary avenue for moving personnel and supplies, reconstruction of this important structure quickly became a priority.

The Alaska District began construction of the new seawall in the summer of 2016 and with tireless focus, the endeavor took five full work seasons to complete. Because of the cold and harsh climate of Alaskan winters the construction season is limited to just six months a year.

The project work included quarrying the needed rock and placing it in accordance with the seawall design that was developed by the district’s Hydraulics and Hydrology Section.

“The seawall was designed for a 50-year return period wave condition,” said Merlin Peterson, the Alaska District’s designer of record for the project. These measures will ensure that the structure with-



Walrus haul out on a beach near the seawall repair project at Cape Lisburne on Oct. 19, 2019. Anytime marine mammal observers saw walrus or other wildlife in the area, work activities were paused to prevent disruption of the animals’ natural behavior patterns.

stands wave action from the fiercest storms.

Despite the project’s remoteness, a rock quarry was conveniently located nearby on property managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Four different rock sizes were required for the seawall, ranging from the largest armor rock that weighed 15,000 pounds to the smallest filter rocks that measured two-to-six inches

Waves batter the shoreline as crews work to repair the seawall at Cape Lisburne on Aug. 4, 2019. Major storms in 2011 and 2012 caused erosion to the previous structure, which impacted the use of the runway. Over five construction seasons, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District worked with 611th Civil Engineer Squadron to make repairs to the seawall and ensure protection of the runway from the elements.

in size.

Once the rock was excavated and prepared, it was carefully placed on the seawall with a long-stick hydraulic excavator. Most of this activity occurred underwater. Excavator operators used a tiny computer screen and GPS to ensure correct placement. Much like a puzzle, the large armor rock had to be placed in a way that fit together and by design, layered in a way that dissipates the destructive force of waves.

For the last four years of construction, the contracted personnel worked in two 12-hour shifts. During the day, one crew blasted the quarry rock. At night, a second team placed rocks on the seawall. This schedule meant the crew did not have to stop for inbound aircraft that arrived during the day.

Furthermore, a dedicated

maintenance team continuously worked on repairs. The rock that was mined on site was extremely abrasive and caused unprecedented wear to the equipment. Welders worked around the clock repairing teeth and edges on the excavator buckets.

Weather and waves not only affected the placement of rocks, but also logistics.

The transportation of personnel, food and supplies were at the mercy of harsh and turbulent weather. Fog and winds often hindered planes from landing. Bigger and heavier items, such as equipment and fuel, were commonly supplied by barge. However, this too depended on ocean conditions. Many of the barges remained offshore for days, waiting for the seas to calm before beaching.

See SEAWALL on page 4



Nutrition Corner: Special Edition – Popular Diets Explained

Gluten Free Diet: The gluten-free diet is an eating pattern that excludes a protein called ‘gluten,’ and it is primarily used to treat celiac disease or other non-celiac gluten sensitivities. This diet can be confusing at first, but with the right information, tools and techniques, a gluten-free diet can be balanced, enjoyable and sustainable.

Gluten is a protein that is found in certain grains and their by-products; these grains include wheat, barley and rye. Most gluten-free diets also omit oat and oat products because it is often processed with wheat and could be contaminated with gluten.

For individuals with celiac disease or other sensitivities to gluten, the protein can cause an immune response that results in inflammation of the cells in the small intestines. This can lead to malabsorption, discomfort, pain, diarrhea, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and/or general malnutrition. Luckily, many foods are naturally gluten-free, including all meats, fish,

eggs, poultry (un-breaded and without marinade), fruits and vegetables, most dairy products, beans, seeds and nuts.

There are also many grains and starches that can be part of a successful gluten-free diet; some examples of these are amaranth, buckwheat, corn and cornmeal, arrowroot, tapioca and a variety of flours made from gluten free starches (rice, soy, potato, bean, quinoa).

When following a gluten-free diet, it is best to adhere to whole foods as much as possible, but when eating mixed or processed foods, take caution and read ingredients closely. Many of the by-products of gluten-containing grains go by other names and could easily be overlooked. For example “malt,” “durum,” “graham,” “semolina,” “farina” are all trade names of products that come from gluten containing grains.

When in doubt, look for foods that are labeled ‘Gluten-Free’ (warning: these are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration are still permitted

to contain up to 20 parts per million of gluten, so may not be completely gluten-free). Otherwise, seek additional guidance from your dietitian.

For more information about the gluten-free diet, check out this great PDF from Massachusetts General Hospital: http://www.massgeneral.org/digestive/assets/pdf/gluten_free_diet.pdf

Featured Food:

Rice Noodles – As the name suggests, rice noodles are a form of pasta made from the starch of rice that is ground up into a flour and mixed with water. Tapioca and cornstarch are sometimes used in production of these noodles to improve texture and elasticity. Rice noodles are many different shapes and sizes, and can be a great addition to a gluten-free meal.

Recipe Spotlight:

PAD THAI – This is a traditional Thai dish that blends sweet and savory with sour and spicy to create an irresistible flavor profile that can please ev-

ery palate. The dish can be used as a side or an entrée and can be meatless or adapted to incorporate a variety of different meats, poultry or seafood.

Ingredients:

- 5 ounces thin Thai rice noodles
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 4 tablespoons 1x1/2x1/8 inch slices pressed tofu (bean curd)
- 1 tablespoon sweet preserved shredded radish, rinsed, chopped into one inch pieces
- 1 cup bean sprouts
- 2 1/4 teaspoons tamarind paste mixed with 5 tablespoons water
- 1 1/2 tablespoons (or more) Thai fish sauce (nam pla)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons simple syrup, (made with palm sugar)
- 4 garlic chives, two cut into one inch pieces
- 1/2 teaspoons ground dried Thai chiles, divided
- 2 tablespoons crushed roasted, unsalted peanuts, divided
- 2 lime wedges

Preparation:

Place noodles in a large bowl; pour hot water over to cover. Let soak until tender but not mushy, five to 10 minutes. Drain; set aside.

Heat vegetable oil in a wok or large skillet over medium-high heat. Add egg; stir until barely set, about 30 seconds. Add meat, poultry or seafood product, if using. Cook, stirring, until shrimp and egg are almost cooked through, two to three minutes. Add tofu and radish; cook for 30 seconds. Add noodles and cook for one minute. Stir in sprouts. Add tamarind mixture, fish sauce, and simple syrup and stir-fry until sauce is absorbed by noodles and noodles are well coated, about one minute. Stir in chopped garlic chives. Add 1/4 teaspoons ground chiles and 1 tablespoon peanuts and toss well. Transfer to serving plates.

Garnish with remaining 1/4 teaspoon ground chiles, 1 tablespoon peanuts and lime wedges.

Nutrition Facts: Serves two, provides about 585 calories per serving.



History Snapshot: Meet a Typical Soldier, Mike Young from New Hampshire

Mike Young was drafted into service for his country in 1969 and completed that service at Fort Wainwright in 1971. Mike lived in Haynes Hall and worked as a supply specialist at the clothing supply store near the PX/Commissary and recounted some of his adventures in interviews with the Cultural Resources Program.

Mike recounted the hunting and fishing trips that he and his friends would go on in the Interior. When work was over, they would drive out to hunt rabbits. He said they could bag 25-30 rabbits among the group, set up camp and barbecue them. Barbequed rabbit and a couple cases of beer made a great weekend. If traveling out wasn't an option, they would fish in the river. Mike even recounted a time when he and his friends tried to hunt bears at the post landfill on an early weekend morning. Being in nature was a highlight of his time at Fort Wainwright.

Mike talked about loving the

summers and hating the winters, but how getting to see the northern lights was amazing. Mike recounted the story of wanting to meet up with girls at UAF so much that he and his buddy walked there from Fort Wainwright when it was -58° degrees outside. It didn't go so well for his friend – there may have been a little hypothermia involved, but what an adventure?! He said that there were even times when the chow was great and they were living on king crab and steak.

Mike was not happy about being sent to Alaska immediately following his intake and basic training. He had wanted to be sent to Vietnam. But he arrived at Fort Wainwright in February or March and fell in love with Alaska.

In 1971 Mike received an early release, returned to New Hampshire, and married his sweetheart. He lives there today and reads the Alaska Post every week. Hello from Alaska, Mike!

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
MEDDAC-AK Website: www.bassett-wainwright.tricare.mil
MHS Patient Portal: <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/>
Health Net: www.tricare-west.com, 1-844-8676-9378

COVID Vaccination

All TRICARE beneficiaries over 18 who would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccine will soon have the opportunity. Bassett Army Community Hospital is expecting 1,000 doses of the vaccine in early March. Upon delivery, we will begin scheduling appointments online.

Patient Advocate

The Medical Department Activity – Alaska Patient Advocate acts on behalf of all patients and the commander to resolve problems and implement necessary corrections. Beneficiaries needing assistance, or who have questions about

the care received at MEDDAC-AK, can contact our Patient Advocate at 361-5291.

Town Hall

MEDDAC-AK will conduct a Facebook Live event Monday, March 1 at 6 p.m. to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine and answer questions from our beneficiaries.

Talk With A Registered Nurse

Think you should go the emergency room but aren't sure? Wondering if you need an appointment? A registered nurse is standing by 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help. Call the Nurse Advice Line for your immediate health care needs. The nurse can even book you an appointment if necessary. Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273).

Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet

The new year is a great time to check your medicine cabinets for expired prescription and over the counter medications. A MedSafe box, located inside the main entrance of Bassett ACH across from the information desk, is in place to securely receive your expired or no longer needed medications.

ALASKA POST

The Interior Military News Connection

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The Chaplain's Corner

Life's not fair! And that is not okay!

Chaplain (Capt.) Joshua J Barney
2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment
Chaplain

In today's society we often hear that life isn't fair and that's just life; that we just have to deal with it the best we can and make the changes we can so that it's better for our children. Or something along those lines. I'm here to say that yes life is not fair and it's not okay! We are justified to be upset at the state of our world's wrongs.

Anyone who has lived long enough to make it to adulthood knows life is not fair.

People are treated unjustly based on anything that can be used to turn someone into "the other." Some use labels such as race, religion, sex and politics in order to objectify and dehumanize those that differ from us.

There is injustice in the world. There are people deserving of punishment walking around free; and others that are deserving of grace but are met with cold hard indifference. We live in a world filled with various evils where fairness and justice appear to be seldom seen. Yet we are often told to just accept it as it is, flaws and all;

to live with its messiness and imperfections because that's part of what makes this world beautiful. But what if we're not okay with the evils and injustices of our world? What if our souls cry out for justice?

My faith tradition teaches me that God is not okay with the injustices and evils of this world either. God is, in fact, even less okay with it than you and I are. It also teaches that God suffers with us. God hears and sees every person's cry for justice and mercy. This is why God desires to partner with us to replace the evil with good, and to

bring justice to the places where injustice has prevailed.

You see, it is that very feeling of wrongness with the world that helps us to see the world from another's perspective. It helps us to empathize with another's pain because we too have experienced pain. Similarly, the first step in fixing any problem is of course recognizing there is in fact a problem.

So use this unease with how things are to partner with God to make changes in your life. Even though you may not change the world that doesn't mean you have to



accept it as it is. And let's partner with God to be that beacon of hope, justice and mercy in someone else's life. Affect the change that you can, in your own life and the lives of those around you. No one

sets out to change the world. They set out to change self and influence change in those around them, and in doing so change the world. No, this life isn't always fair. And it's not okay, so let's do something about it.

Army STEM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Headquarters
Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G-1

What is it?

U.S. Army's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics recruiting efforts play a critical role in supporting Defense Department national security efforts and enables the United States to remain an economic and technological leader.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed outreach and recruiting practices in support of Army Priorities to ensure timely-hiring and retention of world class talent. USACE is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers.

What are the current and

past efforts of the Army?

USACE is one of the largest recruiters of STEM disciplines in the federal government and attracts the best civilian STEM talent through strategic national recruitment events and university outreach programs.

USACE has been providing engineering solutions for the nation's greatest challenges since 1775. As the world's largest public engineering firm, USACE is teaming with others to strengthen STEM-related programs by:

- Building STEM communities. Army engineer outreach to high schools and colleges encourages interest in STEM opportunities and topics. In partnership with Department of Defense Education Activity, and many local school

See STEM on page 7

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

New reserve parachute testing seeks to eliminate potential premature activations

William Slaven
Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate, U.S. Army Operational Test Command

Certified parachute test jumpers here finished 23 risk reduction jumps with the T-11R Single Pin Troop reserve parachute, making sure it works as it should during equipment test jumps.

The Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate tested the chute from both rotary winged and fixed winged high performance aircraft to eliminate the potential for premature reserve activations.

Any necessary changes were made to address the previous version's premature activation thought to be caused by wind blast, according to Lt. Col. Derek Johnson Chief, Test Division at ABNSOTD.

"Testing promotes and delivers a safe, and more durable piece of equipment to the Warfighter," said Johnson. "Soldiers relish in participating in day-to-day testing. It ignites their enthusiasm to rig and load a piece of equipment, which will ultimately serve our future Soldiers during combat missions."

After the risk reduction jumps, ABNSOTD conducted 53 operational static line jumps during daylight hours to be fully certified by the Natick Soldier

Research, Development, and Engineering Command located at Natick, Massachusetts.

While employing a host of risk reduction measures to ensure potential test items are safe and effective from the intended user's standpoint, test events with the T-11R kicked off with new equip-

Certified parachute test jumpers here finished 23 risk reduction jumps with the T-11R Single Pin Troop reserve parachute, making sure it works as it should during equipment test jumps. (Photo by Jim Finney, Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate, U.S. Army Operational Test Command)

ment training.

Parachute Riggers participated in New Equipment Training to learn the assembly of the chutes new components and closing of the pack tray.

"There is a huge increase in the amount of information that is provided to Soldiers who are given the

opportunity to practice what they are learning in the form of hands-on training," said Shonda Strother, editor with ABNSOTD.

Testing new airborne equipment enables Soldiers the opportunity to provide feedback to the Army concerning current Soldiers needs in the

field, according to Staff Sgt. Robert Whan, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment's Battalion Air NCO.

All airdrop test iterations were airdropped with Soldiers in full combat equipment as if they were jumping into a combat operation.

"The T-11R Single Pin reserve parachutes were then inspected

for any damage in order to make sure they can hold up to the high demands of the airborne mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Katherine Greene, ABNSOTD's T-11R test noncommissioned in charge.

The new T-11R Single Pin pack tray is manufactured from the same materiel as the current issue item.



Get ready - IPPS-A is coming

Army Team,
I need you to update your personnel records.

In December the entire force will transition to a new human resources (HR) and pay system, the Integrated Personnel Pay System - Army (IPPS-A). IPPS-A will become the focal point for all HR activities across the force. For the first time ever, personnel, pay, and talent management capabilities will be integrated into a single online system for 1.1 million users across all three Components.

IPPS-A will also introduce a talent management feature known as the 25 Point Soldier Talent Profile. Each Soldier's profile will provide information about their knowledge, skills, behaviors and experience which will help the Army make better-informed talent decisions.

These innovative capabilities will bring Army HR into the 21st century, but we need your help to ensure the system's success in December. Everyone should review their personnel records in our legacy HR systems to make sure they are accurate and up to date.

Avoid inconveniences and hardships later by taking the following steps now:

- Review personnel records on DMDC milConnect (<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>).

- Check Soldier Record Brief / Officer Record Brief (<https://www.hrc.army.mil/>).

- Review ATRRS Training Transcript for accuracy and resolve any missing training records (<https://www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/login/loginSDC.aspx?ntul=ST>).

Follow this link (https://ipps-a.army.mil/wp-content/uploads/SoldierSelfServiceDataGuide_May20_v1.pdf) for a guide that details exactly what information you need to check in each legacy system. Seek help from your local Records Manager or HR Professional if your information is incorrect or incomplete. Let's ensure the transition to IPPS-A in December is successful.

-SMA

SEAWALL Continued from page 1

Site operations continuously adapted to new challenges, even those with flippers.

Each year, construction crews adjusted operations to account for the presence of walrus in near-shore environments, primarily in the fall period. The district integrated marine mammal observers into the contract, who coordinated with on-site staff to implement temporary work stoppages when walrus either swam by or hauled out on nearby beaches located in the adjacent Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

"The 611th Civil Engineer Squadron chose USACE to manage the project due to their unique expertise involving remote Alaska projects, and the unparalleled experience of the Hydraulics and Hydrology Section," said Julie Mages, deputy base civil engineer for the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. "USACE and the Air Force worked hand-in-hand over five years to adapt and overcome many obstacles thrown our way throughout this challenging project."

Mages' words mirror the Alas-

ka District's mission to provide "a full range of quality engineering, science, technical and construction support services in support of peacetime and contingency operations in Alaska as well as across the Pacific Region and around the world."

The successful accomplishment of this project strengthens the Alaska District's reputation as the nation's experts in arctic engineering and construction. Through perseverance and professionalism, the team can take pride in delivering an engineering solution that is built to last.



Julie Mages, deputy base civil engineer at the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Lauren Oliver, hydraulic engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District, assess the seawall at Cape Lisburne on Sep. 30, 2019. The protective barrier prevents harsh waves and ice from flooding and damaging the adjacent runway, which serves as the primary avenue for people and supplies to reach the remote military base. The site is operated by the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center and provides aerospace surveillance to detect and allow for an early response to potential threats to North America.

Army to target sexual harassment, sexual assault in new command climate survey

Devon Suits
Army News Service

An updated version of the Defense Organizational Climate Survey, or DEOCS 5.0, will provide commanders with an evidence-based feedback tool to help them identify and intervene against a variety of areas critical to command climate, including destructive behaviors, such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, and associated retaliation.

The Army will incorporate 10 additional questions about sexual harassment and sexual assault reporting climate into all DEOCS surveys, said Michelle Zbylut, director of the U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences.

The additional line of questions supports a People First Task Force initiative linked to the Fort Hood Independent Review, Zbylut said.

Army senior leaders stood up the task force in December to aggressively address the results of an independent report and restore an Army-wide culture of dignity and respect, according to task force officials.

Like a vehicle's check engine light, the DEOCS is intended to identify risk factors that drive an installation's or unit's command climate, said Jenna Newman, social science advisor with the Army Resilience Directorate.

The survey is managed and administered by the Defense Department's Office of People Analytics, Zbylut explained. The core survey is a collection of approximately 100 questions, with the option to include no more than 10 service-specific questions.

Installation leaders can also include no more than 10 multiple-choice



Lt. Col. James Raines, commander of 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment, 75th Field Artillery Brigade, renders and receives a salute after completing a weeklong external evaluation March 29, 2019, on Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Commanders can now use an updated version of the Defense Organizational Climate Survey, or DEOCS 5.0, that provides an evidence-based feedback tool to help them identify and intervene against a variety of areas critical to command climate, including destructive behaviors, such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, and associated retaliation. (Photo by Sgt. Dustin Biven)

and up to five open-ended questions to target local interests, she added. These questions are selected from a bank of options to ensure the survey's reliability and compliance with DOD policies.

"The optional DEOCS content includes a wide variety of topics, ranging from workplace experiences, professional development, discrimination, to COVID-19," Zbylut said. "The additional questions allow commanders to dig deeper into a given topic area."

Installation commanders are required to conduct a DEOCS upon the first 120 days of taking command, Zbylut said.

Participation in the survey is considered voluntary for all personnel and provides them a safe, secure, and confidential means to submit feedback. The recent update to the DEOCS will allow participants to

complete it through their smartphone or tablet, creating more flexibility for anyone who wants to participate, Zbylut added.

"Many individuals in the Army will have taken a DEOCS at some point in their career, but these questions are going to look different from previous iterations," Zbylut said.

A focused survey

To refine the survey, OPA received input from all military branches. The organization also included data and research from policymakers and subject-matter experts connected to force resilience; diversity, equity and inclusion; equal employment opportunity; suicide prevention; and sexual assault and prevention response initiatives.

The process determined a list of crosscutting risk and protective factors that are actionable and relevant to include in the survey.

Several protective factors associated with positive behaviors include cohesion, connectedness, inclusion, leadership support, morale, transformational leadership, and work-life balance, Zbylut said.

Alternatively, risk factors identified in the DEOCS focus on binge drinking, passive leadership, racial or ethnic harassing behaviors, sexism, stress, toxic leadership, or workplace hostility, she added.

The opportunity to participate in a DEOCS is typically limited to a four-week window, she said. Once the survey is closed, the results are generated within 72 hours and sent to the local administrators, the commander, and the commander's supervisor.

Using the survey's findings, commanders should develop an action plan to address areas of most concern, she added.

"A commander may try to dive deeper into some areas based on what they see in their report. For instance, they might go out and conduct additional focus groups or interviews," Zbylut said. "If the survey revealed a more serious issue, such as findings of sexually harassing behaviors, the commander will need to work with subject-matter experts."

10 questions

The 10 additional Army-only questions – five about sexual harassment and five about sexual assault – will allow the Army to assess a command's reporting climate and see how leaders are actively discouraging or, by not actively discouraging, contributing to a permissive command climate surrounding those behaviors, Newman said.

"The survey can only help [commanders] if [they] are willing to listen to the answers and do something with the information," Zbylut said. "The DEOCS is just one tool ... and it doesn't replace speaking with Soldiers one on one. However, it can help steer the conversation, or show things that are brewing before they become a larger issue."

These questions have appeared on previous versions of DEOCS, which will provide the Army with historical comparisons and the ability to examine trends over time, Zbylut said.

"To make this survey work, it's important that people participate," said Newman, adding that the past issues at Fort Hood potentially speak to a larger issue throughout the Army. "To truly understand the scope and contours of these issues, we need to hear from as many people as we can – voluntarily, of course."

Army Medicine Advanced Individual Training marks a significant milestone in the fight against COVID-19

Tish Williamson
MEDCoE Director of Communications

The U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command marked a significant milestone in their fight against COVID-19.

The Army component for medical training and education has safely transported over 10,000

Advanced Individual Training trainees into and out of the soldier training pipeline since COVID-19 mitigation measures began, early April 2020. They reached the milestone during one of five scheduled air and ground movements in support of over 250 Soldiers February 11, 2021 on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Kelly Field.

Maj. Gen. Dennis

LeMaster, MEDCoE Commanding General said, "So today represents the 10,000th Soldier that we have shipped from AIT to the first unit of assignment, anywhere in the world. We have not shipped a single sick soldier and this is a remarkable achievement by the entire TRADOC team."

The unit, which is based out of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston,

has conducted over 260 such moves in the last nine months since COVID began.

During the early days of the pandemic, LeMaster admits that the Army wasn't sure if they were going to continue to allow travel to and from training installations in order to keep the training pipeline open.

He explained, "So the outlook was uncertain. We simply didn't know how we could continue to train and maintain the health of the force."

The first thing the organization had to do, he continued, was establish a so-called safety bubble around the training environment to ensure disease wasn't coming in. They did this initially through screening for

the signs and symptoms of illness. Now trainees are tested for COVID and complete two weeks of quarantine before they are allowed into the safety bubble. Asymptomatic soldiers receive the Antigen test and symptomatic soldiers receive a PCR test.

"The next challenge was to ship our soldiers, worldwide, safely too," said LeMaster.

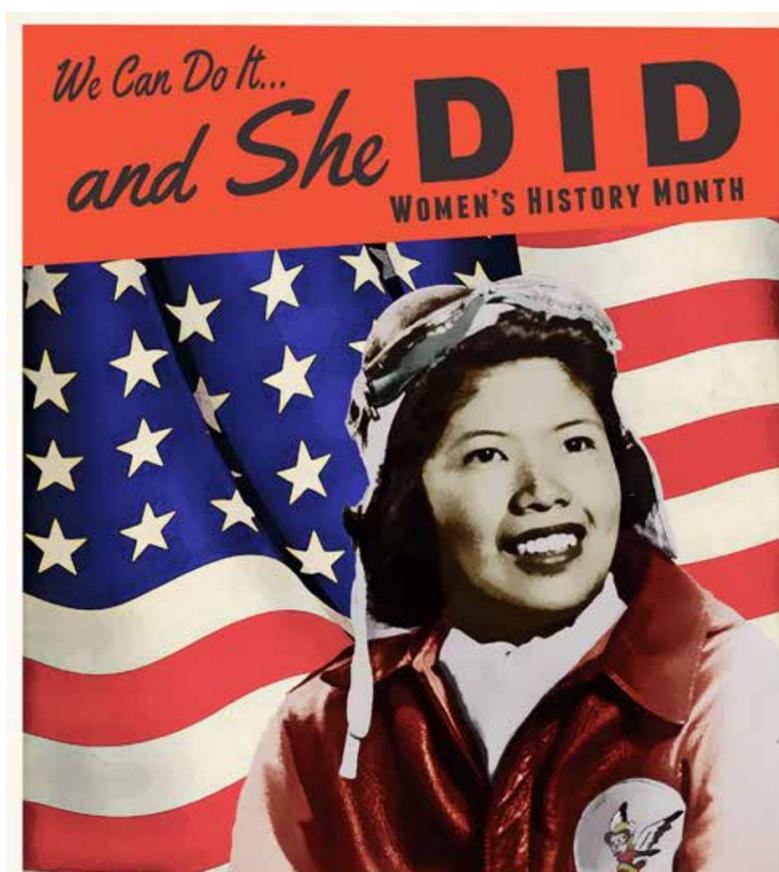
Army Capt. Cotrena Brown-Johnson is the Medical Logistics Officer responsible for coordinating the movements in the MEDCoE.

Brown-Johnson said moving Soldiers in this manner takes a lot of planning and resources but it is the safest way for trainees to travel during COVID. The moves are accomplished

using the most controlled and isolated methods possible. Even aircrews and bus drivers are screened for COVID and the aircraft and buses are sanitized before and after travel.

Brown-Johnson explained the evolution of the current process, "From the beginning we used to use San Antonio International Airport but now we are more consolidated here at Kelly Field. So we give thanks to the San Antonio military community, JBSA for all of the resources and support they have given us. It has allowed us to streamline our processes, improving upon moving the soldiers out especially in a more expedient, timely manner."

See FIGHT on page 7



**HONORING THE PAST,
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ARMY'S WORLD WAR II SERIES

Weekly Events

March 6 - 13

6 **UFC - 259**
March 6
Doors open at 3 p.m.

Watch the UFC Main Event at the Warrior Zone! COVID parameters in place. Must be 18+ to enter. Must be 21+ to purchase & consume alcohol.

Warrior Zone, Bldg 3205
Call 353-1087, reservations strongly encouraged

6 **Snowmachine Safety Course**
Registration deadline: March 6
Event Date: March 13, 9 a.m. - Noon & 1 - 4 p.m.

Explore Alaska by snowmachine! Snowmachine Safety Certification is required to go on guided trips with ODR and to checkout snowmachines. Certification is valid for 3 years.

Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg 1045
Call 361-6349, registration required

8 **Marksman Madness Camp**
March 8 - 10
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Youth 7-18 years old can join Youth Sports for Axe Throwing, Archery Tag, & Speedball! Cost per child: \$50. Face masks required. Camp located at the Youth Center.

Youth Sports & Fitness, Bldg 1045 Basement
Call 353-7713, registration required

11 **Play with the Pros**
March 11 - 14
During Normal Business Hours

Buy a thing and take a swing! Show your Pro Shop receipt to the Chena Bend Clubhouse cashier for participation. Limit 4 attempts per customer.

Chena Bend Clubhouse, Bldg 2092
Call 353-6223

13 **Snowmachine Ride Along**
March 13
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

10 - 18 year olds can enjoy a Snowmachine Adventure with Youth Sports & Fitness! Snow jacket, snow pants, hat, gloves, snow boots, & face mask are required. Cost: \$70

Youth Sports & Fitness, Bldg 1045 Basement
Call 353-7713, registration required

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After 100 years the Harlem Hellfighters nickname is finally official

Eric Durr
New York National Guard

The Harlem Hellfighters are now officially the Harlem Hellfighters.

100 years after the New York National Guard's 369th Infantry Regiment earned the nickname in World War I, the Army has recognized the right of 369th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers to call themselves Hellfighters.

The Army Center of Military History, which approved the official designation on Sept. 21, 2020, also made it clear that Hellfighters is one word and not two.

The 369th joins 717 other Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve units—some of which are no longer around— which have official special designations.

These range from the 3rd Infantry Division's "Marne Division" nickname earned in World War I, to the 179th Aviation Company of the Vietnam War which called itself "Shrimp Boats."

The 369th's nickname was recognized as a traditional, historical designation for the unit; much like the 42nd Infantry Division's "Rainbow" name, or the Regular Army's 3rd Cavalry Regiment "Brave Rifles" nickname.

The special designation program is run by the Force Structure and Unit Histo-



The certificate prepared by the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort McNair makes official the nickname of Harlem Hellfighters, which the 369th Infantry Regiment and its descendants have used since World War I. (Photo by Eric Durr)

ry Branch of the US Army Center of Military History at Fort McNair as part of the Army's organizational history program. This is the same entity that provides the lineage and honors for Army units.

Units can also request special designations without any historical basis, by written request and if no other unit is using it, according to center officials.

The 369th's quest to make their long-time

nickname official began in 2019 when New York State Military Museum Director Courtney Burns was looking at the Army's list of unit special designations.

He had been working on a 369th history display at the newly renovated Harlem Armory and went looking for the certificate noting the official designation of the 369th as the Harlem Hellfighters.

He was shocked to find that a unit as famous as the 369th was not on the list.

"That was such a glaring error," he said.

Because the military history program is a unit commander's program, Burns contacted Seth Morgulas, the commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade to let him know that the long-treasured nickname was not officially recognized.

"I said, 'That is crazy, how does it not have it,' Morgulas recalled.

The New York State Department of Transportation had even ceremonially renamed Harlem River Drive, which runs by the Armory on Manhattan's west side, the Harlem Hellfighters Drive, he pointed out.

Morgulas tasked his personnel officer to work with Burns to put the right documents together and fix the issue. The entire process took about a year, he said.

The 369th Infantry began

as the 15th Infantry Regiment headquartered in Harlem. It was a New York National Guard unit for African-Americans in a segregated Army and National Guard.

When the United States went to war in 1917, Black Americans traveled to New York City to enlist in the 15th Infantry Regiment.

The regiment's commander, Col. William Hayward, lobbied hard for his Soldiers to be part of the American Expeditionary Force and they shipped out in 1917.

At first they worked unloading supply ships. But in March 1918 they were reorganized as the 369th Infantry and loaned to the French Army.

The men of the 369th fought in combat for 191 days. The unit took 1500 killed and wounded while receiving only 900 replacements. In one offensive, the 369th outpaced French units on either side by seven miles.

They were the first unit of the French, British or American Armies to reach the Rhine River at the end of the war. The unit earned 11 French citations and a unit Croix de Guerre and 170 Soldiers were awarded the French Croix de Guerre.

See **HARLEM** on page 7

HARLEM

Continued from page 6

The Soldiers of the 369th called themselves the “Black Rattlers” and the unit crest still features a rattlesnake coiled to strike.

The French called them “Hommes de Bronze” or Men of Bronze.

But it was their German adversaries who gave them the name that stuck.

The Germans called the Black Americans “Hollenkampfer”: German for Hellfighters.

“They are devils,” a Prussian officer captured during the Meuse-Argonne offensive told his American captors about the 369th. “They smile while they kill and they won’t be taken alive.”

When the men of the 369th paraded through New York City in 1919, the New York Times headline read: “New York’s Hell-Fighters March up the Avenue.”

The 369th Sustainment Brigade staff put together historical references to the unit name, filled in the paperwork, and sent it to the National Guard Bureau historian.

That office, in turn, sent it to Joseph Seymour, a historian with 20 years of experience, at the Army Center of Military History in Fort McNair.

Seymour is the historian at the Center who deals with Army National Guard history.

When a unit needs its lineage and honors updated, or they want to add information, Seymour is the person who checks the information and makes sure it is accurate.

“If a unit feels they are entitled to a distinctive designation, we research the merits of the claim,” Seymour said.

“The case of the Harlem Hellfighters is a particularly interesting claim,” Seymour said. “It was

not what they called themselves. It is what the enemy called them. That is a particular distinction.”

Documenting the 369th’s claim to their historic name was not hard to do, Seymour said. There were plenty of books and articles linking the name Hellfighters to the 369th.

“They are a very famous unit. It is one of those things that everybody knew about. But because everybody knew about it they never submitted a request for a distinctive designation,” Seymour said.

“It was a surprise,” he added. For a National Guard unit to request that their traditional nickname be noted as an official Army Distinctive Designation, a request in writing has to go to the National Guard Bureau, Seymour explained.

Battalions and brigades seeking to make a traditional designation official must show that the designation has been used for at least 30 years, Seymour explained.

But because National Guard units are often reorganized and realigned, it is possible for a company of a battalion to have a different historical lineage and have their own traditional nickname, he said.

In that case, a company has to prove the nickname has been around for 50 years, Seymour said.

These designations can be changed.

The 283rd Army Band, for example, used to be the “United States Army Infantry Center Band” but changed the name to the “United States Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Band” when the Infantry and Armor school merged.

There are 13 New York Army National Guard units with Army Special Designations.



Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE Commanding General, presents a coin to Spc. Angela Thresher, 68W Combat Medic from Washington State who was identified as the 10,000th Soldier to depart from MEDCoE in a controlled manner as part of the COVID-19 pandemic. She departs JBSA for her follow-on duty assignment at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. Also pictured are Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Charpentier, MEDCoE Command Sergeant Major, and airplane pilot Crystal Vaughn of Sun Country Charter Airlines. U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence on February 11, 2021 as they conducted a controlled outbound movement from Joint Base San Antonio - Kelly Field for over 250 Soldiers departing Advanced Individual Training in various medical military occupational specialties at JBSA on February 11, 2021. With this move, the medical education and training institution commemorated the 10,000th AIT Soldier moved in this controlled manner as part of their COVID-19 mitigation measures. All outbound Soldiers who depart the relative safety bubble of the training environment are confirmed COVID-negative. The first controlled movement was nine months ago April 7, 2020. (Photo by Jose E. Rodriguez)

FIGHT

Continued from page 5

The Soldiers graduated Basic Combat Training before they arrived on JBSA to complete advanced medical military occupational specialty courses of varying lengths. They will now either travel to their first unit of assignment, the next phase of their specialty training, or other military schools like Ranger or Airborne School. Soldiers who

departed Thursday are headed to various units including 23 on continental US military installations and three on military installations outside of the continental US. Locations include Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, Fort Carson, Fort Riley, Fort Campbell, Fort Benning, Fort Gordon, and Hawaii.

The 10,000th soldier was identified as Spc. Angela Thresher,

a 68W Combat Medic originally from Washington State, who attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill in July and arrived to Fort Sam Houston for AIT at the MEDCoE in October.

“I was just told that I am the 10,000th soldier moved,” said Thresher. “I think it’s a great accomplishment for the Army especially in this time of the pandemic.”

STEM

Continued from page 3

systems around the United States, USACE is leveraging their engineers and scientists to engage students with real-life, USACE-related STEM projects.

- Connecting with college students. Through formal partnerships with colleges and universities, USACE offers student internships at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, labs, divisions and districts across the country. USACE was named #3 employer of choice as a Top Supporter of HBCUs by U.S. Black Engineer in 2020. In 2021, USACE will hold the first Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions career fair.

- Engaging local communities. USACE STEM leaders are transferring knowledge to educators through teacher externships. The information is used to develop STEM curricula for students. To help address the nation’s STEM challenge, USACE employees participate in mentorship programs, science fairs, robotics competi-

tions, teacher-training workshops, recreational events, STEM camps and other educational opportunities.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned?

USACE will continue to work with Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers (CPACs) to reduce hiring time while promoting better onboarding practices, and improving retention using inclusive policies and developmental opportunities.

Army STEM professionals continue to play a crucial role in the growth and welfare of the nation by solving the toughest challenges.

Why is this important to the Army?

A talented workforce with robust STEM capabilities is critical to the success of U.S. military missions. Recruiting Army civilians into STEM specialties helps to keep the Army modernized and ready. This effort enables the United States to remain an economic and technological leader.

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