

780th MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE (CYBER)

BYTE

Vol. 9, Issue 3

Diversity and Service:

What is our Motivation, Inspiration and
Happiness



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On the Cover
Diversity and Service

As the Brigade Commander and Command Sergeant Major have traveled throughout the organization's footprint and beyond, they have been impressed by the diversity, selfless service, talents, and resilience of the Praetorian Soldiers, Civilians and their Family members.



This BYTE magazine will focus on what motivates and interests our Soldiers, Civilians and their Family members – those events happening after duty hours and outside of the workplace. Their interests and hobbies range from 3D printing to homelabbing; Dungeons & Dragons to fishing and softball; culinary arts, cultural food delicacies to wood carving; as well as, mentoring students in STEM, coaching youth sports, volunteering at food banks, and building houses for Habitat for Humanity

We have a talented extended Praetorian Family – some are exceptional volunteers, others are diving instructors, some excel at CTFs, eSports and gaming, while others have a huge YouTube following, or write books in their off-duty time.

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I have.



The Enduring Art of Carving

By 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

AMONG OUR MANY FINE SOLDIERS in HHC, there are a several individuals who pursue hobbies outside the typical Cyber realm. We are going to highlight three Soldiers. They are Maj. Scott Beal, 1st Sgt. Jacob Rose, and Spc. William Peppers. Each of them, while sharing a hobby, have deep roots within their woodworking hobby that manifest in unique ways and for unique reasons.

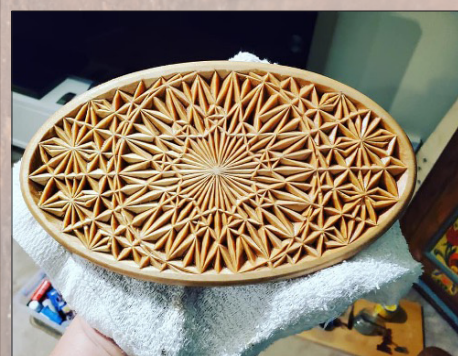
MAJ Beal took up woodworking whilst deployed. He comes from a long, distinguished line of woodworkers which include his grandfathers and an uncle. On his deployment he took two carving knives and sharpening stones and began to create chip carvings. Beal found the carvings would clear his head between missions. However, he faced an unfortunate setback. On his return journey to the US, his carvings were thrown away by customs agents because they were afraid the wood could be an invasive species. Reeling from this loss Beal set carving to the side for many years. Only after receiving an unexpected gift from his uncle, a

wooden Santa Clause much like one his grandmother had owned, he decided to pick up his craft once again.

Beal says, "There is something nostalgic about the art form in its simplicity and the tools used (knife, chisels, and gouges). It is simple yet complex in a lot of ways especially when it comes to precision cuts needed for one thing or another. Given the complex nature of my work day-to-day, to work with your hands and very basic tools is fulfilling." Beal gives away or donates most of his work with family, friends, disadvantaged children, and the elderly in rest homes.

1SG Rose took an interest in woodworking within the last year and a half after inheriting his grandfather's tools. For him, there is a raw beauty in the various species of wood and how they react to stains, paints, and even fire. He honed his skill through books and online videos. Each project was a new learning experience as he found new techniques to improve his craft.

Rose finds woodworking to be a relaxing way to spend time. He says, "nothing



is time sensitive or rushed. Shaping, removing material, or adding material to build something is really relaxing. The process allows me to decompress and focus on something other than work.... The thought of taking raw material and turning it into something functional or art is what I was always curious about. Knowing that I'm not an artistic person, I wanted to challenge myself to learn something new."

In the future, Rose would like to learn build furniture, particularly live edge tables



Flag and mountains created by 1SG Rose (Photo Credit: 1SG Rose)



SPC Peppers is the newest woodworker in HHC. Starting March of 2021, he took his inspiration from MAJ Beal and finds that woodworking has an honest simplicity and has an old school feel. Woodworking has provided Peppers with a solid hobby outside of cyber and his goal is to be able to carve more intricate figures. ■



What Drives an Avenger?

By Capt. Al Luna, commander, A Company, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE is one of the best examples of the American motto: “E pluribus unum”, out of many one. Our Service Members and Civilians come from all backgrounds and corners of the country. But much like Marvel’s Avengers, the Soldiers that make up Avenger Company are stronger for their differences, rather than weaker.

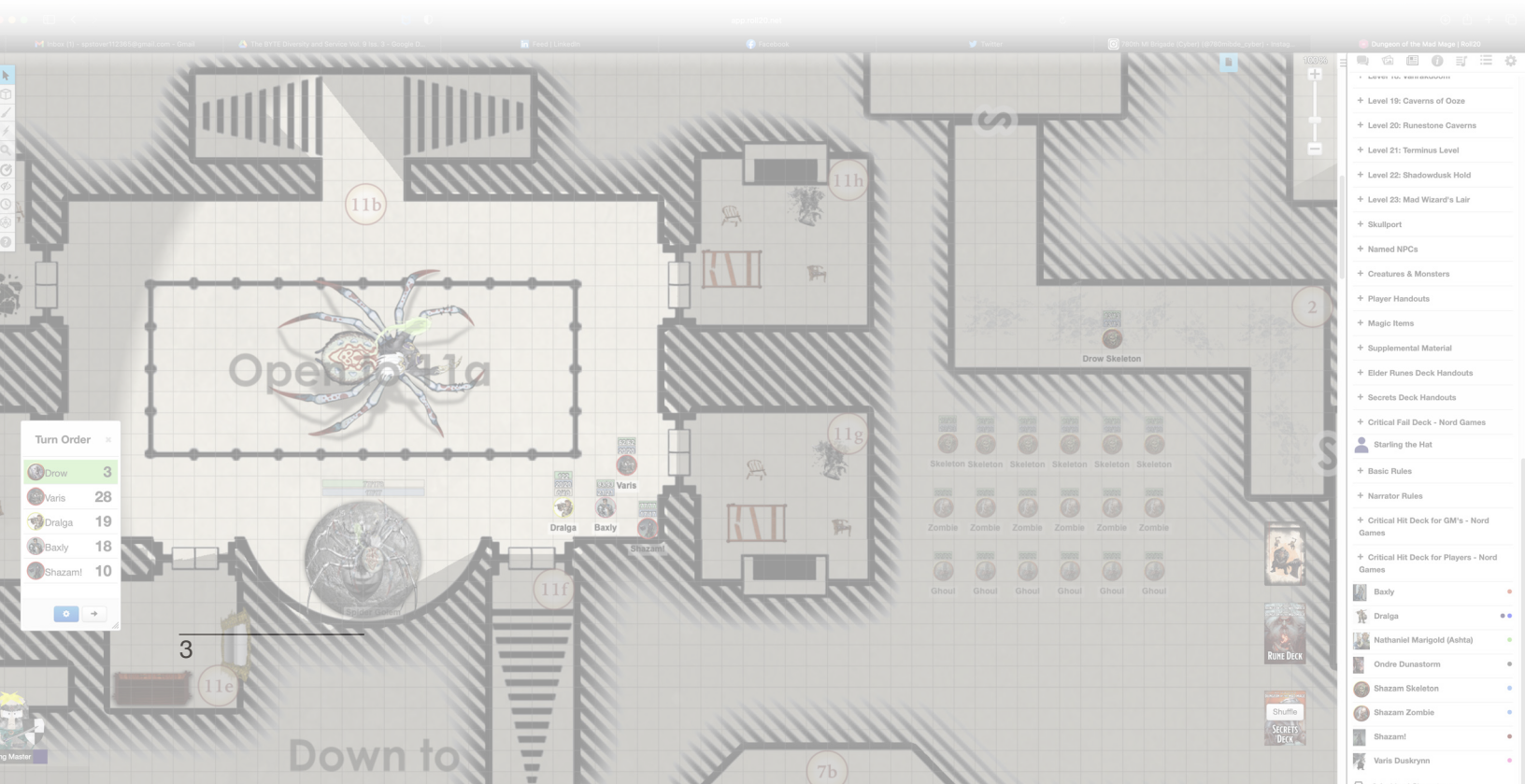
A walk through the Avenger AO (area of operations) will tell you much about the people that fill it. You can see the passions of the troops from Overwatch Funk Pops and autographed photos of movie stars to a collection of challenge coins from a lifetime of service next to the beloved sketches from a young child. You hear thoughtful conversations and debates about which version of Dungeons & Dragons is the best or which order to show a child Star Wars for the first time. And you can smell the cultural exchange as team members from different parts of

the country share their lunches made of recipes from home.

The interests and hobbies that feed these interactions reveal some of the individual reasons why we each choose to serve. The young Soldier that spends their free time climbing is here to be challenged; the Warrant Officer that spends their nights hacking away in their home lab is here to be a part of the World’s Premier Cyber Force; the NSA Civilian refereeing their daughter’s soccer games on the weekend is here to continue their service to the Country with family stability after a career spent in uniform.

The drive, energy, and purpose that comes from each of these activities makes all of us sharper as individuals. But more than that, the diverse perspectives formed through our individual backgrounds, upbringings, and hobbies help us to cover down on each other’s blind spots. Like the parable of the three blind men feeling an elephant’s trunk, flank, and leg and

believing it to be like a snake, a giant, and tree respectively – we all are limited by our subjective perspective. But together, because of our differences, we are more able to see the whole picture. ■



Giving Back When You Can't

By Capt. Michael Bourgeois, commander, A Company, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)



WE KNOW THE IMPACT OF COVID-19. We have seen the sappy commercials. We haven't been able to visit our families. We've stayed six feet from our co-workers. There is almost nothing more to be said on this. But one impact that has not been on the forefront of our minds is volunteerism.

When many Americans needed it the most, Soldiers, Civilians, and Families were not as readily able to give back to their community. Covid requirements prevented physical contact or close interaction with individuals at homeless shelters or in hospice. Donation drives were halted to prevent the coronavirus from spreading via toys or goods. The fail-safes that many in our community look to use as a final option were no longer there.

Now that General Orders are being rescinded, more individuals have received the Covid-19 vaccination, and other restrictions are lifting, it is time to take care of ourselves and our community. First, do the things with our families that many of us missed out on over the past year. We can't give back to the community or each other if we do take first take the time to take care of ourselves. Next, find ways to help regain our sense of community. Through volunteering, Soldiers, Families, and Civilians can inspire others to take even small actions or give back in other ways. This ripple effect has tremendous impact and will help everyone recover together.

One great example of volunteerism that the 782d is very familiar with is the Adopt-A-School program Fort Gordon established with the local community. This program allowed members of our unit to mentor young students and allow their interests in STEM to flourish. Specifically for our battalion, we partnered with Grovetown High School. Being coached by someone in uniform can have a lasting impact on a child. The natural sense of authority given by our volunteers inspires the young members of our community to achieve great things. This awesome opportunity was something that we missed this past year. Our goal must be to get back into classrooms this fall and reestablish this outstanding touchpoint.

In the meantime, there are other opportunities available. Although Covid-19 seems to be dwindling, it is certainly still present. Volunteer events that specifically target the elderly may not currently be available. However, outdoor options such as Habitat for Humanity provide a safe way to give back. There are again opportunities to assist in creating "a world where everyone has a decent place to live." It is a national organization where those of us in Georgia, Maryland, Texas, and Hawaii can participate. If manual labor is not your thing, then they accept used

furniture through their ReStore program. HFH is only one of the many ways to give back. A great approach to identifying where to volunteer is to recognize what you are good at or enjoy, and funnel that into an engaging hobby that also benefits the community.

This article serves as a call to arms. Once we take care of ourselves we must take care of the community. The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade has historically done a great job when it comes to volunteering. It can be ways to become complacent since it fell out of normalcy. Seek ways to give back and as always, inspire others to do the same. ■





Homelabbing for Fun and Knowledge

By Spc. Gabriel Ziebol, C Company, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

Pre-Homelab

I STARTED MY HOMELAB JOURNEY virtualizing Windows 10 on my Linux desktop with Virtual Manager to be able to play games, but still have a native Linux desktop for programming and web browsing. It was pretty fun to set up and worked amazingly well, other than the need for a KVM. Since I was running a hypervisor, I could run arbitrary VMs. I started messing around running short-lived VMs to test things. That led to running a couple of extra VMs of my own to reduce my dependence on Google for simple stuff. I started running a web-based fileserver called Nextcloud, mostly to store my documents and family photos. I would also host the occasional Minecraft or Terraria server for my friends.

First server

After a while, I got sick of running Windows 10 virtualized. After a couple of months, I had ended up just running Windows full-time with degraded performance and not touching Linux. I decided I should get a small server to run the couple VMs I had, and as a remote development server. I ended up buying a Dell R720; a standard, cheapish, used enterprise server. 128GB of ram and 24 2.4GHz cores. I didn't want to pay for VMWare ESXi, so I ended up running Proxmox Virtual Environment (PVE). PVE was nice since it was a thin web wrapper for QEMU/KVM on Debian, so most of my Linux knowledge was transferrable. I rebuilt my Nextcloud VM and DNS VM, using PVE to host them.

Buying that first server was like a gateway drug to Homelabbing. It quickly led to other purchases – UPS for power stability, 48 port switch since I was running out of ports on my router, another server for bulk media storage, a small 1u server to run PfSense for routing/firewall, and so on. Eventually, I ended up buying a cheap 24u rack off Craigslist because the stack of hardware was getting hard to manage. Imagine trying to change hardware in a

server, but 3 other servers are sitting on top of it! The ability to organize with server rails and cable management was immensely relieving; however, it quickly led to another problem. I suddenly had 14u of unused space available to fill with yet more hardware.

High Availability

At this point, I started to get into infrastructure management. I got redundant UPSs, switches, as well as building out a PVE cluster to handle single server failures. This gave me the ability to have intermittent outages without impacting service availability. Being able to power off a server to upgrade the CPUs without having to lose internet access was a life changer. I ended up with two UPSs, 3 nodes for the PVE cluster, two FreeNAS storage nodes, and 10GB fiber connections. I also moved my VMs to remote storage to allow for fast seamless migrations on the cluster – previously it had taken quite some time even for small 30 GB VMs, much less my multi-TB Nextcloud instance.

At this point, I had a significant amount of VMs, passwords, IPs, and more to remember. I hadn't previously recorded it anywhere, so it was next on my list. I used FreeIPA, an identity manager, to control all my user accounts. This allowed me to have one account to log in to all of my servers, a huge timesaver. For tracking VM IPs I used a text document and a small network map which worked well initially but relied on me to manually update it.

Virtualized networking and Infrastructure as Code

My Homelab was growing increasingly complex, and I need help managing it. I am currently pivoting to use Infrastructure as Code and virtualized networking to manage all VMs and networking. With Terraform + Cloudinit and Ansible, I can manage everything from text files. Each text file can define a VM; run on a particular hardware, networking, Startup scripts, state management, and more.

This combined with Git to manage the afore-mentioned text files allows me to test changes without having to worry too much about messing something up since I can just roll back to the last known good state.

I also switched from a single PfSense server to multiple virtualized VyOS instances to segment my network into various levels of trust. From a trusted management network getting access to everything to my Internet of Things network not even getting internet. PVE allows you to tag traffic coming from VMs invisibly, so I trunk 64 VLANs to each node to account for VM migrations. By simply setting VLAN tags in Terraform I can switch which subnet the VM is attached to. I can also use them as pseudo-P2P links for VyOS routers and layer 2 domains for things like modems that don't play nice.

Future Plans

I've got a bunch of smaller projects going on as well. I am in the process of setting up failover WAN using an LTE router. That way if the ISP internet goes down – or more likely I mess something up – I can still access my Homelab remotely and the internet locally. In the future, I'd like to start with large-scale internetworking with BGP. I plan to register with DN42, a virtual network that mimics the internet, to learn how it works without having to spend anything. Eventually, I plan on buying an ASN, a /48 of IPv6 addresses, and potentially some IPv4 addresses from RIPE to advertise from a BGP-enabled VPS provider or colocation.

Overall, Homelabbing has allowed me to increase my knowledge of both infrastructure management and various software projects like Linux, NGINX, VyOS, etc. Whether learning new technologies like VXLAN or brushing up on foundations my Homelab is fun to mess with. Now if only I could afford the really nice gear. ;) ■

Spice Up Your Family

By Spencer Canup, Senior DNEA, C Company, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)



COOKING IS ONE OF MY NEWEST, AND NOW MOST CHERISHED, HOBBIES that I picked up within the last year. I have been a long-time consumer of food, but never truly understood the art and science that goes into the process of making a meal. Due to the extremely strange situation that we all experienced last year during the COVID pandemic, I suddenly had a significant increase in the amount of time I got to spend at home with my family. During this time, my family and I started watching cooking shows. This led to a full-on family experience where we went on our very own culinary adventure. Once we got going, we discovered that we wanted to make and try as many chili recipes as possible.

Although we have different foods that we enjoy, there is one thing we can all agree on as a family, and that is our love for spicy foods and our love of chili. And so began our climb up the Scoville chart to find the best and spiciest chili that we could handle together as a family. This seemed like a simple goal from the beginning, a family of chili pepper enthusiasts trying to outlast one another in our climb up the charts. However, as very amateur cooks, my children and I had to learn the process of slicing and dicing peppers. We learned that there are dangers associated with this adventure, such as accidentally rubbing your skin with pepper juices. Mistakes were also made, like the one time without much instruction, we just started cutting bell peppers and throwing the whole thing in there with no regard to the seeds and crunchy stems. After much trial and error, and of course with a little YouTube instruction, we quickly corrected our early mistakes and were on our journey once more.

We soon figured out our favorite chili base for our spicy creations, which included ground beef, kidney beans, garlic, cumin, and tomato paste. Then each week we would make a new chili by adding

different Scoville rated peppers, starting with the mildest, the bell pepper. Over the last year we have tested our resilience and worked our way through several peppers, all the way up to the Habanero pepper. The original goal was to experience the entire spectrum of the Scoville chart, which we have almost achieve. But the best part of our of adventure and what we were not expecting, was the family tradition we created along the way while enjoying our time together as a family, making memories, and having fun. ■





Time is Not in A Bottle

By Capt. Alexis Harper, former commander, B Company, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

Bravo Company Collaboration

IN THE LAST YEAR AS THE BRAVO COMPANY COMMANDER, that's 8,760 hours in case you were wondering what a year breaks down to, I have had the honor to be around some of the greatest Civilians, Soldiers, and leaders since being in the Army. That being said, as my time has come to an end I begin to reflect, there is one thing that really stood out as a driving force for many things in the Birds of Prey family. That simple thing is time. So what is time? For some it is minutes we are late for dinner, or the moments missed, or the countless reasons we were not present.

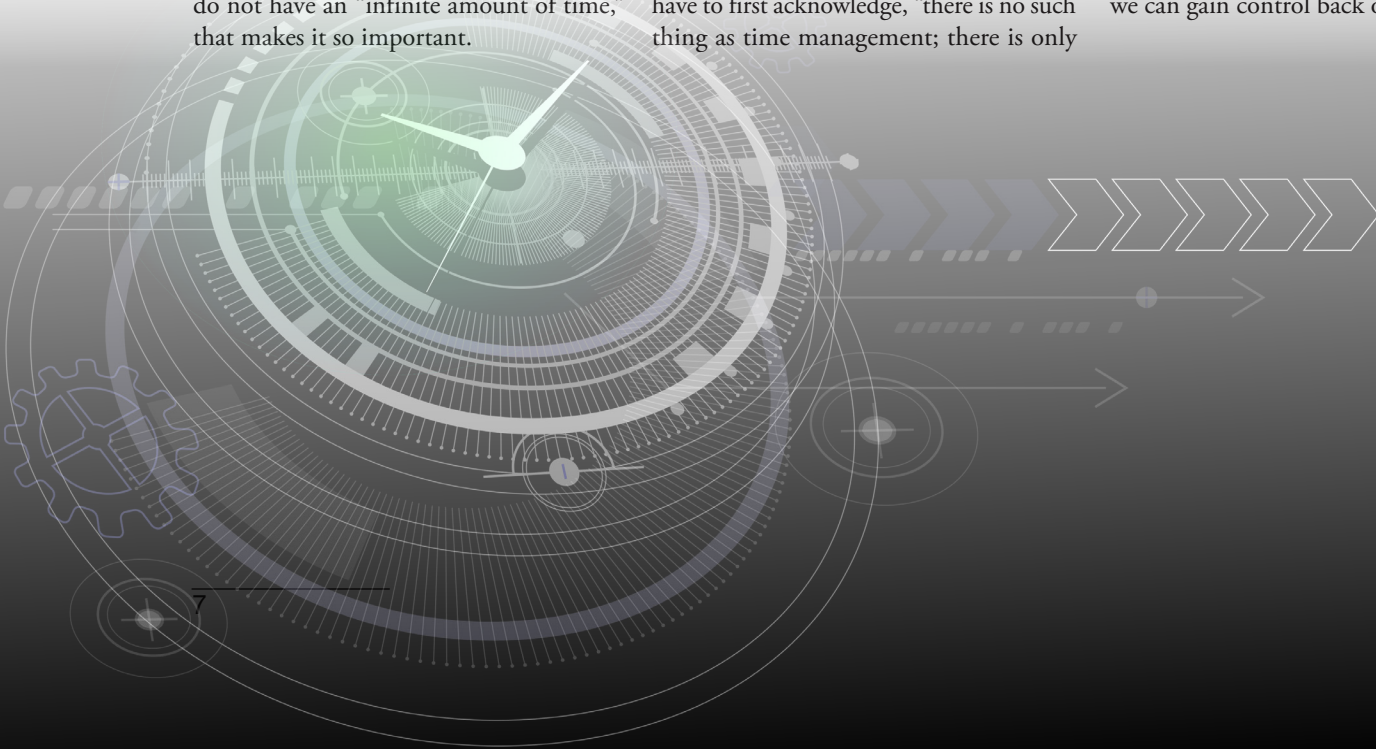
As I went around asking Family members, Soldiers, and Civilian's questions about what time has meant to them I began to discover a theme that really hit home. Our people and their families really value time above all things. Everyone seemed to have a different reason why time was important to them. Some said time gave you a chance to build memories while others mentioned the effort to sustain or build relationships. While others expounded it's just about the simple things like to enjoy life or the pure fact that we do not have an "infinite amount of time," that makes it so important.

One of the other questions asked to the interviewees was about a difficult event that their loved one missed. Of course we all have missed graduations, births, deaths, first days of schools, first dances, and many other milestones, but why does our time loss stick out? It could very well be that the people in our lives are honestly one of the most important aspects of life or could it be that time with them is something we cannot buy back in a bottle from any store when we need more? Our friends and Family want to enjoy that two to six hours a day they have with us as much as we do with them. They want us home for dinner, at that sport game, or just anytime they can just have those few moments of uninterrupted time with us.

It is possible that time may not be something that all of us can see or hold or even control. However, if you ask Rory Vaden, a leadership speaker, warned a crowd on a TEDTalk about a big mistake many people make by putting a cost on ones time. He really urges us all to not put a value on an hour of your time because once you put a price tag on your time, now we all can be bought. Time as far as he is concerned is priceless, it cannot be bought. So, if we want to manage that time we have to first acknowledge, "there is no such thing as time management; there is only

self-management." You may not agree with Mr. Vaden on this statement, but he brings up a good point. We all have to be better disciplined to ensure we are giving those that love and appreciate us the most the time they deserve.

I am easily reminded of a time I was searching the internet to find a video and came across one of the most touching stories. The video shows a little boy saving up every day for something. You do not know what he is saving up for until the end when he approaches his dad with all his money and offers the money in exchange for his Dad's time. If I had a dime for every moment I want to steal back, believe me I would be the richest person on the planet. The truth is we are only given 24 hours a day so what we do with that time and how we break it up really is up to us. So if there is anything that you take away from this small study it is simply to remember to stop and smell the roses in your life. If that means getting home to your family for dinner, meeting up with friends for DND, or simply answering a call then make that your priority as best you can. We will not become expert time managers overnight, but we can work every day just a little to manage our time better. With a little effort we can gain control back of our future. ■



There's No Place Like Home

By Capt. Christopher Roberts, D Company commander, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)



WHEN I ASK SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS what they would like to receive as recognition for the hours of hard work they put in, an overwhelming majority respond with one thing, time off. While they could choose to use that time to do a multitude of things, from e-sports to hiking, working out to reading a book, what seems to be a common choice is wanting to spend time with family. For me, family means spending my hard earned time off chasing my two year old around the house all while my wife and I prep furiously for the impending arrival of our daughter. It also means creating memories for us to share and to create together.

For others in my Company such as Spc. (SPC) Parsons, family looks a little bit different. He is a single Soldier living in the barracks, but he is still driven by family. His family is not only found in those that have raised and nurtured him in his life, but in the other Soldiers in our Company. He is driven by those Soldiers, some that he has shared his entire Army career with. "I am driven by seeing my friends grow from our time in Pensacola, through our time in the Cyber Training Battalion, all the way through time in Delta Company. Watching them grow as Soldiers, and as people, drives me more than almost anything". To SPC Parsons, the members of this company have become members of his family and drive him to assist and motivate them to be the best Soldiers and people that they can be. The sentiment the SPC Parsons expressed, is one that I hope will continue to grow inside of Delta Company, the 782d and the 780th.

Family driving you can take many forms. When talking with 1st Lt. (1LT) Pontious on the subject, he expressed to me that he finds

his family drives him in many ways. He is driven to work harder on a day to day basis, knowing that when he can get his tasks completed, he is able to spend more time with his family. The most profound point that 1LT Pontious made while we sat down to talk, was his motivation to excel and perform to the best of his ability in order to make his family proud. While the work that Delta Company can't always be shared with our families, he expressed that his family wants to know that "The time I spend away from them, is time that is well spent." As I hear this expressed to me, I am inspired to ensure that family members become more involved in the recognition of our Soldiers and Civilians.

Last, I sat down with my First Sergeant to talk about his view on family and time off. He expressed to me that he is driven and motivated by the thought of spending his much needed quality time with his entire family. At the end of the day, he looks forward to being able to take the time to decompress and experience the love and affection that only his family can bring to him. He is driven not only to perform well

when in his uniform, but to demonstrate the values that he holds dear; responsibility, hard work, and care. The responsibility to mentor every Soldier under his charge and to develop them professionally, hard work to show anyone can meet their goals and become a successful member of a team and lastly, the value of care. In the Dracones family, we are driven by the Soldiers and Civilians in the Company as well as by our family at home. BURN IT DOWN! ■





A Day in the Empire

By 1st Lt. James Arvey, executive officer, E Company (Empire), 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

EMPIRE COMPANY HAS SOME OF THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS in the U.S.

Army, ranging from hardened cyber operators to experienced capability developers. One might assume that these technical experts go home and spend their time working on these same skills that they use at work; however, that is far from the truth! While there are certainly some Soldiers who live and breathe cyber both at home and at work, most Soldiers have a range of other hobbies that keeps their interest outside of the office. So, what does a day in the Empire look like after work hours?

Sgt. (SGT) Anderson Bowen grew up in the southeastern part of the United States and always loved sports. As a kid, he always had a dream of playing ice hockey, but never had the opportunity. However, when he arrived at Fort Meade there was a junior hockey team starting nearby. He attended their first game and started volunteering as a penalty box attendant and a goal judge. This allowed SGT Bowen to check off a lifelong dream to play ice hockey. SGT Bowen also volunteers as a coach for his son's youth soccer team on Fort Meade. SGT Bowen said that his initial desire to volunteer stemmed from his love for sports, but his wife likes to joke that he will watch anything that keeps score. When I asked SGT Bowen what his favorite memory was, he responded "It would be hard to put down just one great memory. I mainly just enjoy watching the kids improve week to week, and their excitement when they finally score a goal. Just getting to know so many different kids is a blast."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Miller spends his evenings and weekends racing cars. He has been racing the quarter mile and half-mile events for over 15 years and has competed in races in 18 states and three countries. With a quarter-mile time of 7.90 at 185mph, and a half-mile

speed of 202mph, Chief Miller unofficially claims the title as the fastest member in the Brigade. He said that it is a great hobby for being in the Army because wherever he moves, he will always have a racing community and local network of people with the same common interests. When I asked Chief Miller what his favorite moment was racing, he said, "I just enjoy a variety of cars because they all have a different experience. Whether it is pulling the front wheels off the ground in a Cadillac or going for a speed run in my kit car, each car is a unique experience. Part of why I love racing and the community is that it's a common language spoken across multiple ways of life and different cultures and regions."

Spc. (SPC) Alexander Jindra uses his expertise from work to make his life a little easier at home with his home automation setup. To lock up for the night he plugs his phone in, and he has his home setup to automatically turn off the lights, close the garage and lock the front door. He also has it set up to detect whether or not he is home, and to automatically adjust the thermostat to a comfortable level for when he is coming home, or turn off when he is at work. When asked why he chose to

start automating tasks in his home, SPC Jindra said "Who wouldn't want to make life a little bit easier after a long day at work?"

Whether it's volunteering in the community, or doing what they love, Empire Soldiers and Civilians have a wide range of interests that keep them refreshed and ready to get back in the fight the next day. ■



Sgt. Bowen volunteers as a coach for his son's youth soccer team on Fort Meade.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Miller spends his evenings and weekends racing cars

Slow Pitch Softball

By Maj. Justin Corbett, Commander, Detachment Hawaii, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)



For Detachment Hawaii, the relaxing of restrictions and the re-opening of MWR intramural sports have been a game changer.

Restrictions for the State of Hawaii and additional caveats on DoD personnel working on Oahu were some of the most stringent within the nation. There is no substitute for team comradery like engaging with each other as a group in a face-to-face setting. The virtual mediums sustaining our workforce such as Skype and Teams cannot compete with our personal interactions we have with each other in the physical world. After US Army Garrison – Hawaii posting the MWR spring sports calendar, I could sense the elation from a significant number of Soldiers across the detachment. The email from Sgt. Boyd stating: “Sports are finally back!!!!” properly conveys the excitement felt within the detachment. Led by 1st Sgt. (1SG) Jose Cruz (Retired), the Kopiana Soldiers have been diligently practicing since the beginning of April to compete against other softball teams from 25th Infantry Division and 8th Theater Sustainment Command. The most significant aspect this sport is that it provides a venue for all members across the headquarters and cyber teams to come together outside of our cubicles enjoy what makes living in Hawaii great.

Although the team only came together in April, they have made great strides coming on their team cohesion. Most of this comradery centers around the de facto coach, 1SG Cruz (Retired). To improve morale and skill, the team adopted the practice of awarding the “purple tutu” to whomever fouls out or strikeout during each at bat during a game. If each player does not meet this requirement, the current owner retains the tutu. If a team member does have the misfortune to meet the previously mentioned statistics, there is a ceremonious passing of the purple tutu at the conclusion of the game. The additional penance is wearing the garb during the weekly practice and game. The first recipient was Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Knowlton who embraced his errors during the first game, but he also provided a comical disparity with his imposing size coupled with a cacophony of purple lace around his waist. The significance of the color is that the Detachment’s senior enlisted leader, 1SG Mancilla-Cruz, refused to wear a pink tutu, hence her husband selected a purple tutu as a compromise. Their coach’s tactic is a previous morale-builder he utilized during his time playing Semi-Pro Slow-Pitch Softball. The tactic has proven extremely effective given the team’s 3 – 1 record.

The performance of the detachment’s Slow-Pitch Softball Team has been a significant source of pride amongst the Team and the Detachment. The team has also been outstanding at integrating new members, even with Soldiers from local sister INSCOM units. Since not all units on Schofield Barracks have fielded a team, the Detachment has granted Soldiers from 715th Military Intelligence Battalion to participate on our team. Due to operational tempo, there is a revolving rotation of Soldiers participating in each game; but the overall performance of the team has not diminished. The games and practices have also provided a safe outdoor venue with limited restrictions for Families to come together and finally meet in-person. Also, the children that attend have enjoyed the opportunity to play and interact in-person. This intramural activity has had a profound impact on the cohesion of the Kopiana Family by providing an opportunity for our team engage outside the workplace with our Families. The pandemic has only amplified the need for personal interaction, and the Kopiana Softball Team has fulfilled this desire. ■





Putting the Y We Care in CYBER

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Alvarez, Detachment Texas, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

SOLDIERS, ARMY CIVILIANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES each share a common interest, working toward their goals; whether internally or externally. The best results can be achieved when the individuals are working towards unit goals that also achieve their own needs in the process. Soldiers are continuously expanding their horizons to reach new heights that range from outside the cyber realm. Soldiers' interests vary from community outreach to building internal labs, however, each individual has their own story to share.

Avoiding mental burnout is one of the key aspects the Soldiers of the 782d focus on. Methods used to avoid this dilemma are by finding outlets to find peace within one's personal life by conducting activities outside of work. Each individual can find an outlet ranging from all levels to hiking with one's family pets, camping with your best friend, to reading a thriller that has you on the edge of your seat, to even cooking gourmet meals as some of our Interactive On-Net Operators (IONs) like to do. Additionally, some favorite past times include taking every opportunity to go fishing as Mr. Brand, a team TDNA (Target Digital Network Analyst), likes to do. Another example of an outlet to prevent mental burnout is how Staff Sgt. Robinson, a team EA (Exploitation Analyst), regularly coaches Brazilian Jiu-jitsu classes for kids ages four to 14 outside the office five days a week. All of these activities stem from finding an opportunity to not only enhance one's life but promote better health overall.

Another key aspect that drives our Soldiers and civilians is spending quality time with the family. Examples include how Staff Sgt. (SSG) Fuller, a team VLA (Voice Language Analyst) supports his kids by spending his weekends encouraging their development and interests to include the occasional hike at parks in the greater San Antonio area or how Mr.

Ries, a team Fires Planner, shares beautiful memories with his grandkids at Stillman park. Others enjoy the ability to climb towards their goals and determination of major accomplishments to include taking academic classes in pursuit of a degree with the example of Spc. (SPC) Milton, a team TDNA, acceptance to Law School while others choose to expand on their skills in the cyber field by creating a lab environment to become a stronger analyst as SPC Correa, a team DNEA (Digital Network Exploitation Analyst) has demonstrated. While others may not pursue degrees, some take the time to pursue certifications to enhance their knowledge and refine their skills to help improve their lives but career development. Soldiers have also found a connection within the very community they live in, to the point where community outreach events have helped others within and outside the organization through projects to include 3D printing masks and door openers during the pandemic era by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Parizek, a team EA, and SSG Peterson, a team platoon sergeant, conducting a food drive and clothing drive held by both NCOs and Soldiers within the unit.

Motivation is a driving force that can accelerate direction, effort, and ambition towards anything one sets one mind to. Everyone has their own passions and interests that can range from a large set of topics to include the very Soldiers and civilians within our unit. Our Soldiers are different compared to the rest of the world because they choose to respond to world events in the moment of crisis and given the ability, the chance to make a difference in any shape, way, or form . ■



Cyber lab 1.



Cyber lab 2.



Mason Brand fishing.



Lee Ries and family.



Staff Sgt. Robinson.



Staff Sgt. Fuller and family.

Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce Announces 2021 Spirit of Community Award Winners

Press Release

ODENTON, Md. – The Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce (CMC) announced their 2021 Spirit of Community Award Winners at the event held virtually on May 24th.

CMC's Spirit of Community Awards celebrates the individuals and businesses who make the region special. This annual event honors educators, businesses, public safety officers, and military personnel for their community contributions!

The CMC is thrilled to announce 2021 Spirit of Community Winners:

Public Safety Winners

- Firefighter of the Year: Deputy Chief Lisa Mayers, Anne Arundel County Fire Department
- Volunteer Firefighter of the Year: Lt. Erika Nesvold, Odenton Volunteer Fire Company
- Military Service Member of the Year: SFC Prince Yohannes, U.S Army-780th Military Intelligence Brigade
- Police Officer of the Year: Corporal Jami Tiller, Anne Arundel County Police Department
- Public Safety Officer of the Year: Sergeant Steven Kish, Office of the Sheriff, Anne Arundel County

“We are so excited to have celebrated and honored some of the incredible individuals and businesses who serve our community. Our region's high quality of life is due in large part to the people we recognized,” Kristi Simon, CMC President & CEO. ■



SFC Prince Yohannes, Military Service Member of the Year, U.S. Army, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

The Fruits of Humility

*We work hard because it is the right thing to do.
We struggle in the shadows, because it is not about you.
Though we struggle not always getting the praise.
We continue to wait, for the smiles we put on other's face.
It will take time to learn not to preach what we do.
When this is learned you will bear the fruit.
The Fruits of Humility is a taste of something new.
And you will find yourself praising those who acknowledged you.
Stopping your celebration to tell them all thank you.*

-- By SFC Prince SaàD A-H Yohannes

Fort George G. Meade's Tribute to the Fallen

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Service members and Civilians from throughout the installation honored fallen Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines on McGlachin parade field in a “2021 Tribute to the Fallen” event held in memory of Sergeant Audie Murphy’s birthday, June 25.

The remembrance event, hosted by the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award (SAMA) recipients and Fort Meade Chief’s Mess, also featured Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston as its guest speaker.

“It’s really important to honor the sacrifice and commitment of all those who have come before us to include Sergeant Audie Murphy,” said Grinston. “Finding time to be a part of these events really builds teamwork and that’s what Audie Murphy did. When he jumped on that tank and started shooting that 50-cal (50 caliber machine gun) he did that for his teammates. He did it to save the lives of his crew, and that’s what it means to be part of a team.”

According to Sgt. 1st Class Prince Yohannes, a SAMA recipient assigned to

the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), with duties at U.S. Cyber Command, Audie Leon Murphy’s birthday was June 20 and the “2021 Tribute to the Fallen” was a fitting way to honor Murphy’s legacy.

“Audie never took pride in his awards for himself. Instead he always said give the awards to all of his fallen brothers who fought beside him,” said Yohannes. “During our tribute we plan to do the same with a special boot memorial and video tribute of fallen service members. We want to show our respect and understanding of the weight all service members have carried for us to pave the way.”

The practice of boot memorials began prior to the American Civil War and symbolize the passing of a service member and are widely seen at events memorializing the fallen. Today, boot memorials are usually symbolized by the Soldier’s inverted rifle either stuck in the ground or next to the Soldier’s boots, with a helmet on top, and dog tags placed on the rifle.

To express the weight all service members carry, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen,

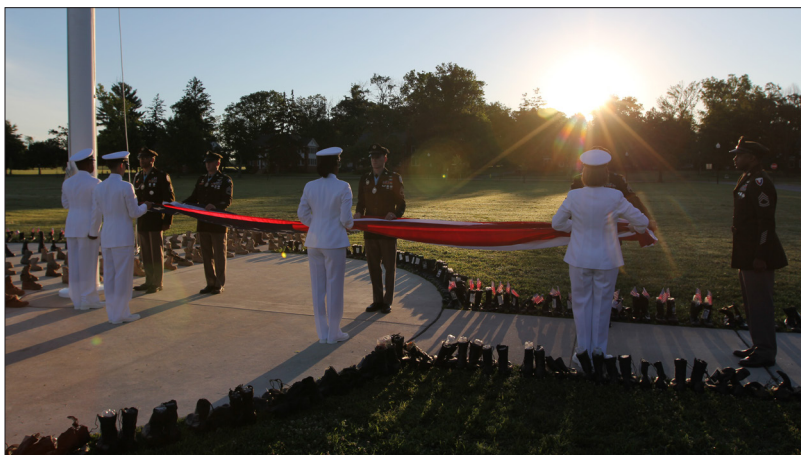
Marines, and government Civilians carried 20-pound sandbags around the parade field from 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in an event the organizers called “Weight of the Fallen”.

“Boot memorials and “Weight of the Fallen” are not specific to a federal recognized holiday. There doesn’t need to be a special holiday for us to pay tribute to the fallen, their Families, friends, comrades, shipmates, and battles,” said Yohannes. “This day is about showing we understand what they have done and that we still must carry their torch today. This is a day to show we understand our responsibility to the oath we gave as service members, and Civilians who work for the Department of Defense. This is an event that should make one self-reflect on their commitment to service and embrace their own servitude to their country.”

On military installations throughout the world, the duty day begin with reveille, when the American flag is raised, and ends with retreat, when the flag is lowered, marking the end of the duty day and a signal to pay respects. It was fitting the “2021 Tribute to the Fallen” started with reveille and ended with the playing of “Taps” followed by retreat.

Everyone who participated believed it was a fitting tribute to Audie Murphy’s wish to recognize those fallen brothers and sisters in arms, and to the weight carried by their Families and fellow service members.

“There’s nothing greater than the sacrifice that these Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have given,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer Jonnise Huff, Fort Meade Chief’s Mess, and a member of the flag detail. “I’m blessed to still be here today, but clearly they’re not. The least we can do is to show them our gratitude by being present in a ceremony like this. We still owe it to them to carry on their legacy.” ■



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Service members and Civilians from throughout the installation honored fallen service members on McGlachin parade field in a “2021 Tribute to the Fallen” event held in memory of Sergeant Audie Murphy’s birthday, June 25.



CISA Announces Winners of the Second Annual President's Cup Cybersecurity Competition

WASHINGTON – THE SECOND ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S CUP Cybersecurity

Competition concluded yesterday, with the final rounds taking place over a three-day period. The President's Cup is a national competition designed to identify, challenge, and reward the best cybersecurity talent in the federal workforce. This year's competition featured two individual tracks – one focused on incident response and forensic analysis and the other focused on vulnerability exploitation analysis – and a team track. The first rounds of the competition started in August.

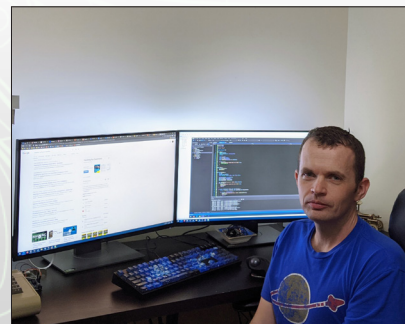
The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) hosted the 10 individuals and five teams competing in the finals virtually this week. This year's winning team was composed of Cyberspace Capability Engineers from the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade. Their team scored the highest cumulative point total across both days of the teams competition, and nearly fully solved all five challenge scenarios presented on Day 2.

"I want to congratulate not just this year's winners, but all of our finalists and everyone who competed in the President's Cup," said CISA Acting Director Brandon Wales. "This year's competition highlighted not only the operational skills across the federal government, but the collective strength of what we can do when we leverage those skills to work together ensure cyberspace is safe and secure."

The President's Cup was open to the federal civilian workforce and members of the military and included more than 1,400 individuals and nearly 250 teams with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Watch video of yesterday's final round of the team competition at [CISA.gov/PresidentsCup](https://www.cisa.gov/PresidentsCup). ■

2nd Annual CISA President's Cup Cybersecurity Competition –

1st Place Team: Hack You Back In Time



"The President's Cup has been an incredible opportunity to test technical skills with a team of some of the most talented hackers in the U.S. Government. Over the past two years of competing in the President's Cup finals, it has been humbling to realize that I've personally known and learned from members of eight out of the ten teams that have made it to the finals, which speaks to the strength of the Army Cyber community within the U.S. Government. My first experiences in learning computer security skills came from Capture the Flag competitions, and over the years I've found them to be the most practical and enjoyable tools for building real technical skills that directly apply to my job. CTFs are great because they don't require training budgets or deliberate planning – just motivated individuals given time to tackle hard problems (good mentors can go a long way, too). I'd highly, highly recommend that anyone who wants to develop themselves as a security professional spends some time learning from free opportunities like the President's Cup and CTF competitions, and for leaders to continue to engage with and recognize the top performers in their formations. It was an honor to do battle with my teammates on team HackYouBackInTime, and I am thankful for my leadership for empowering us to compete at our best." Capt. Andreas Kellas, Cyberspace Operations Officer, Cyber Solutions Development Detachment, D Company, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

"CISA did an awesome job with this year's President's Cup; they greatly improved the challenges and the environment. It was a truly an honor to work alongside some of 780th's most talented officers on team HackYouBackInTime." Chief Warrant Officer 4 Phillip A. Smith, Cyberspace Operations Technician, Cyber Solutions Development Detachment, D Company, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)



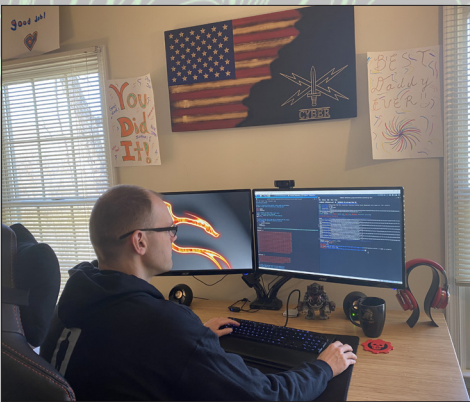
2nd Annual CISA President's Cup Cybersecurity Competition – 4th Place Team: STAMP_0001



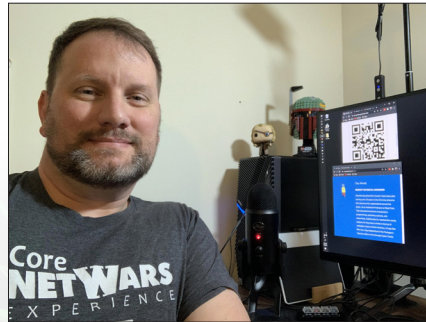
Col. Joshua Bundt, Army Cyber Institute at West Point



Maj. Chuck Suslowicz, Army Cyber Institute at West Point



"I want to echo LTC Moody's sentiment - It was very exciting to have many army teammates in the finals (3 of the final 5 teams!), particularly so many young officers that I had the privilege to know since they were cadets. I am also very proud of my team of all field-grade officers. I think it is important to show that being technical and being a leader is not an "either / or" situation – you can be both a senior leader and a technical expert, and I am honored that my team was able to demonstrate this to our junior leaders." Maj. Michael Kranch, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)



"My favorite part of competing in the Presidents Cup this year was the chance for one last hack with some really great friends. Through the years, we have coached teams in CTF, participated in countless CTF, and even built some CTFs. It is fitting that my last official act on active duty was the championship for the entire executive branch. It was great to see so many Army teammates in the finals. Many of the competitors I have known since they were cadets and I am proud to see them do such amazing things. I fully expected one of them to quote Darth Vader and tell me 'When I left you, I was but the learner; now I am the master.' I am proud to have reached the final event and though I would have liked to have finished higher, I will cherish the memories." Lt. Col. (Ret.) Clay Moody, Army Cyber Institute at West Point

Dr. W. Clay "Madeye" Moody, currently employed at Counter Hack as a Senior Technology Engineer and at the Georgia Cyber Center as the Hacker-in-Residence. Recently retired out of the Army Cyber Institute at West Point and was the Director of the Advanced Education Center at Tatooine, the Defense Digital Service Outpost



Capt. (P) John Rollinson, Army Cyber Institute at West Point

From Limit of Advance to Line of Departure

By 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Cory MacNeil, former first sergeant of D Company, 781st MI BN



1ST SGT. (Ret.) CORY MACNEIL, FORMER FIRST SERGEANT OF D Company, 781ST MI BN, is now a first-year doctoral student at the University of Missouri studying media sociology. Reflecting on his smooth and successful retirement and transition to civilian life, he sends back a message on preparation.

While on temporary duty in Manhattan, New York, I learned to ride the subway, read the maps, know the signage, decipher the timetables. The subway takes people places, moves people toward their task for the day, and for the thoughtful, carries them toward their goals; but the ride can be its own escapade.

There were days when I chose to get on subway cars I did not know, get off at unfamiliar stops, then enter another strange car moving in a new direction. On those days, the ride was its own purpose, its own adventure, its own end state.

On other days, I needed to arrive at a destination at a time. That meant getting on a train moving in my desired direction, and getting off at the correct stop.

The hard lesson of the subway is that it is big enough to move tens of thousands of people, but too big to care about any one of them. People on the subway, other passengers, they care about other people on the subway. I got directions from a woman in a fox fur coat and pearl necklace on where to get off nearest Central Park. I got directions from a woman in a black leather jacket and neck tattoo on where to get off nearest the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But the subway system is too big to care about any one person. The train will not wait for you if you are running a little late. The train will not go backwards if you were not paying attention to the stops. If you are paying attention, if you have destination, if you know your stop is

next, when the doors open, you can step out confidently, securely, boldly.

During my third year in the Army, I took a college class on leadership taught by a retired command sergeant major. On a break between lessons, he took a few minutes to pass onto us a piece of wisdom in the form of a story. On a certain day

It is surprising how many competent NCOs and officers prepare for every contingency of a deployment or field exercise, but put minimal planning into their own transition.

in the past, he arrived at his command sergeant major office early in the morning, and in the quiet had an epiphany—he was no longer having fun. Physical training was no longer fun. Field exercise was no longer fun. Quarterly training brief was no longer fun. His golden nugget of wisdom was that if one day you too in the quiet have that epiphany, that the reoccurring events of the Army are no longer fun, then know that is the right time to retire.

I thought that was wise, until I later learned there was an unspoken part of his story. Retirement typically takes one year to accomplish, from putting the packet together to signing out on terminal leave. That means this retired command sergeant major endured at least one year of physical training, field exercise, and quarterly training briefs when he was no longer having fun.

Instead of waiting for an epiphany in the quiet to catch me off guard, I decided to take the matter firmly into my hands by making decisions about when I would leave the Army. My decision was twenty-years and no days.

This decision did not allow me the freedom to goof off, perform lackadaisically toward responsibility, feebly acting as a leader, skating my way through a pathetic career. Rather, this decision was a constant reinforcement that time and opportunity are scarce commodities. Reaching

retirement was not my only career goal. I did not have the luxury of doing minimal work as staff sergeant; I had to buckle down and figure out how to take responsibility for a platoon. I did not have the luxury of doing minimal work as a sergeant first class; I had to buckle down and learn how to take responsibility for a company.

Listening to conversations led by NCOs and officers in the last days of their retirement process, I learned that having a decision of when to leave was not enough to assure success. It is surprising how many competent NCOs and officers prepare for every contingency of a deployment or field exercise, but put minimal planning into their own transition. Overhearing critiques of the Soldier for Life, and Transition Assistance Program the comments consisted of praise and lament: praise for the top notch, applicable, and eye-opening training; lament for waiting for the last moment stipulated by regulation to attend the classes.

At fourteen years in the Army, I started writing my plans for retirement and beyond on paper. Some reading this may feel that is too early, but it was only one more year than a five-year plan. If you take at face value common comments similar to the last years of my career flew by, then starting early is starting on time.

Using a Gantt chart allowed me to view on one page the broad strokes and fine grain details of the path to transition; preparation to attend school after transition (I am writing this from my research office assigned to me as a doctoral student at the University of Missouri); career goals, responsibilities, and positions; family goals and milestones (I knew what grade my kids would be in and when their school years

ended); and personal goals (I completed two Spartan beast in West Virginia, and attended four Shakespeare plays at the Folger Theatre in Washington, DC).

The Gantt chart clearly displayed my retirement date, making it easy to count backwards one year to a milestone where I would submit my retirement request and retirement award at the same time, making

it easy to count backwards one more year to a milestone where I would send my retirement packet and award through the battalion and brigade S-1 for a quality check. By having my packet prepared well in advance I made it easy on myself to submit it on time according to my timeline no matter what else may have been happening at work or home when the milestone arrived.

I once asked a Ranger School instructor what he thought was the hardest portion of the whole ordeal.

—The hardest part of Ranger School is submitting the packet. Everything is downhill from there.

Everyone with whom I have spoken about the retirement process who have themselves been through the process warned me that one day I would wake with a feeling of dread and anxiety—I am no longer in the Army. Who am I? What is my purpose? But don't worry, they all reassured me, you will get over it. My retirement date was November 1, 2020, and I have yet to wake up to the predicted dread and anxiety.

Overcoming the obstacles of retirement transforms the nature of the tasks from limit of advance to line of departure. ■



White House Military Social Aides: An Army Broadening Assignment

By 1st Lt. Andrew Schoka, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

It WAS SNOWING THE MORNING OF JANUARY 20TH when a friend dropped me off at the corner of 11th and Massachusetts; with all of the street closures in D.C. that day, I would have to walk the rest of the way from there. It was the day of the 59th Presidential Inauguration, and I was my way to report to the White House for work.

Since 2019, I have had the privilege to serve as one of the Army's White House Military Social Aides, working part-time duty to support the President and First Family during events and ceremonies at the White House. The program has been an incredible experience, and I am grateful to my command teams who have supported me participating in the program during my time here with the 780th.



The Social Aide program was originally established in 1902 under President Teddy Roosevelt. Since then, officers from each of the five military branches, all volunteers, have helped to support events at the White House involving the President and First Family. Whenever a Medal of Honor is awarded, a state dinner hosted, a professional sports team visiting, or a major piece of legislation signed in the Oval Office, the Social Aides will be there to support the event running smoothly. Today, there are approximately fifty Aides in total who serve in the program.

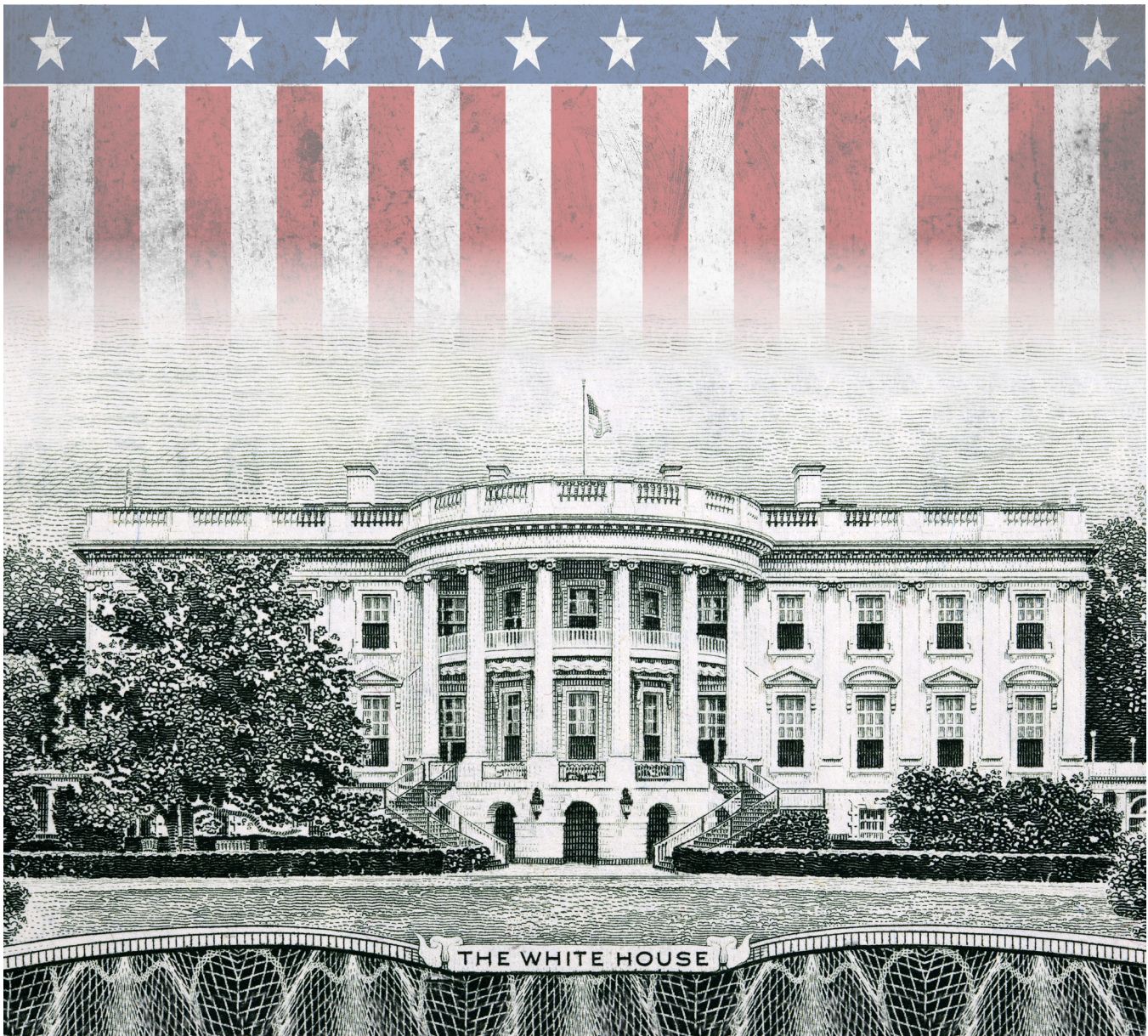
In addition to passing a security screening for personnel who work in close proximity to the President (known commonly as Yankee White), the criteria set by the White House Military Office for the program is very specific -- and a bit interesting.. Until very recently, Social Aides were required to be unmarried; with two reasons given for this stipulation. First, because of the time commitment required to support events during the evening and on weekends, it was thought that married Social Aides would be required to spend too much time away from their families. The second reason is that, by admitting only unmarried officers to the program, the White House would be avoiding the risk of any potential scandal or appearance of impropriety involving a married aide with a guest. Taking advantage of this, while serving as a Social Aide during President Lyndon Johnson's administration, Marine Capt. Charles Robb, married the President's daughter in a ceremony held in the East Wing.



One of the most common tasks for the Social Aides is to manage a "photo line" involving the President. At certain events, most commonly state dinners and holiday receptions, select guests will be given the opportunity to take a photo with the First Family. Faced with the task of organizing and arranging upwards of a hundred "clicks", Social Aides have developed an effective system over the years to handle these engagements. First up is the line monitor, who corrals the guests into their assigned groups and forms them into a line. Next is the gatekeeper, who receives a photo card bearing the names of the guests in the party; the gatekeeper Social Aide is also responsible for checking the correct pronunciation of the guests' names. Then comes the intro Aide, who brings the group forward into the photo, introducing them to the President and First Lady. Once the photo has been taken, the pull-off Aide is responsible for (politely) directing the guests away from the First Family in order for the next group to be introduced for their photo. With enough practice, Social Aides can run these photo lines for hours at a time, introducing hundreds of guests to the President and ensuring that they feel welcomed by the First Family.

The stated duties for Social





Aides are intentionally broad: support the President and First Family during engagements held at the White House. This has come to mean anything from providing tours to personal guests of the First Family, escorting celebrity guests at certain events, or even providing a cordon for the newly-exonerated Thanksgiving turkey each year at the annual Turkey Pardon ceremony. Many Aides will cite Medal of Honor presentations as their most memorable White House experience; meeting some of the military's most honorable and decorated servicemembers, along with their families, is a truly

unforgettable experience. While these ceremonies will always hold a special place for me, one of my favorite memories at the White House came while giving a tour to two visiting British Army generals, visiting the White House for the first time. As I brought them through the Tradesman's Entrance, I pointed out the scorch marks on the interior brick -- left by the destruction of the White House by the British during the War of 1812 -- and reminded them what happened the last time that the British Army had visited here. They promised that they would be more courteous this

time around. Serving in the Social Aide program has been an incredibly unique and positive experience, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to participate while assigned to the 780th. Each time I return to the White House, I am reminded of the tremendous amount of history on display there, and am humbled by the chance to represent the Army to those visiting our nation's capital. I am grateful to all those who have supported my participation in the program for the past few years, and thankful for the opportunity to share my experiences as a White House Social Aide. ■

Fort Gordon Soldiers Complete 18.6 mile Norwegian Foot March

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

AUGUSTA, Ga. – Soldiers from Fort Gordon, Georgia and Georgia Tech Cadets participated in the 2021 Norwegian Foot March, an 18.6 mile or 30 km ruck march along the Savannah River, stepping off from the Savannah Rapids Park at 1 a.m. on May 7.

The Soldiers had to use a military-style ruck weighing at least 25 pounds and complete the foot march in the required time, based on gender and age, and complete a full workday to earn the right to wear the Norwegian Foot March Badge on their Army Service Uniform, per AR 600-8-22, Military Awards.

Charlie Company (Centurions),

Ruck Required Weight		
25 lbs		
Time Standards		
Age	Males	Female
18-34	4:30	4:50
35-42	4:35	5:00
43-49	4:40	5:15
50-54	4:50	5:30
55-59	5:00	5:45
60+	5:15	6:00

Norwegian Foot March Badge Requirements.

782nd Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion (Cyber), 780th MI Brigade, took the lead in organizing the event at Fort Gordon and Army Spc. Alex Guinan, the lead organizer, said more than 230 Soldiers signed up for the Norwegian Foot March.

“It is a good event that shows our interest in the traditions of our foreign Allies,” said Guinan. “Since the Norwegians opened the event up, over 200 units have made plans to conduct the foot march from throughout the Army’s sphere of influence – from Japan, California, Maryland, Georgia, and Germany – there are units setting up and

conducting the event. Norway is also a member of NATO, so it strengthens the bonds of the Alliance. “

The Norwegian Foot march was first held in 1915 during WWI to move troops great distances during the night to respond quickly to any threats to Norwegian Soil. The reason for a full workday is to simulate moving into a warzone and being committed into a fight.

Historically, the Norwegian Foot March must be overseen by a representative from the Royal Norwegian Army; however, due to the COVID pandemic, the Norwegian Army has relaxed this requirement. Recently, a soldier from the Office of the Defense Attaché, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Washington D.C., authorized Norwegian Foot March events at nine locations throughout the United States to include Fort Gordon.

An Army officer with the 704th MI Brigade, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, has worked with the Norwegian Army for the past few foot march events held at Meade and connected Guinan with his contact at the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

“I just wanted to set up the event to give Soldiers an opportunity to earn a foreign badge. I assumed the Soldiers at my unit didn’t get many opportunities to earn one and I thought it would be a cool deal,” said Guinan. “It was originally supposed to be a 782nd MI Battalion event only, but eventually more and more units jumped on and before I knew it, we had a good number of other units join in.”

Capt. Jordan Salyer, the C Company commander, 782d MI Battalion, expressed his appreciation to Dayton Sherrouse, executive director for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area for “providing the key to the door” to

the Augusta Canal which provided the venue for the Soldiers to complete the event.

Units participating in the Fort Gordon 2021 Norwegian Foot March event included: 15th Signal Brigade; 67th Expeditionary Signal Battalion; 442nd Signal Battalion; 513th MI Battalion; Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 781st MI BN; the Cyber Training Battalion; Cyber Protection Brigade; Georgia Tech Stinger Battalion ROTC; Fort Gordon Judge Advocate General; Fort Gordon Dental Command; several departments from Eisenhower Medical Center; TSA; and A Company, B Co., C Co., and D Co., 782nd MI Battalion. ■



Norwegian Foot March Badge



AUGUSTA, Ga. -- Soldiers from the Charlie Company (Centurions), 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), 780th MI Brigade, completed the 2021 Norwegian Foot March, an 18.6 mile or 30 km ruck march along the Savannah River, stepping off from the Savannah Rapids Park at 1 a.m. on May 7. (courtesy photo)



AUGUSTA, Ga. -- More than 60 Soldiers from the Cyber Protection Brigade, headquartered at Fort Gordon, Georgia, participated in the 2021 Norwegian Foot March, an 18.6 mile or 30 km ruck march along the Savannah River, stepping off from the Savannah Rapids Park at 1 a.m. on May 7. (courtesy photo)



Diversity and Service: A Courtney Family Affair

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Serving in the Civil Air Patrol's National Capitol Wing, which encompasses the Washington, D.C. area, is a Courtney Family affair.

Dean Courtney II is a sophomore at Chesapeake Math and IT (CMIT) Academy South, joined the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) when he was 12 years old, and is currently serving as the cadet deputy commander at the Tuskegee Composite Squadron in the National Capitol Wing; his father, Dean Courtney, is a resource manager for the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) and is the Squadron's character development instructor; and his mother, Victoria Courtney, serves as the Squadron's deputy commander of cadets.

Courtney II was recently honored as the CAP National Cadet NCO of the Year in 2020, started a rifle flow team called the DMV Drillers, and placed fourth at the National High School Drill Team Championships, Masters Level Demilitarized Solo Exhibition.

"I joined the Civil Air Patrol back in 2016. I was fortunate enough to be selected to an NCSA (National Cadet Special Activity) in 2019, which is the Honor Guard Academy, and a more local special activity which is the Honor Guard College (HGC), both of which started me on the track of rifle flow," said Courtney II. "I remember leaving HGC, and that day, on the car ride home, just looking up any type of videos I could find for it so I could start training and just practicing any time I could."

Courtney II remarked that his form of armed exhibition drill is beginning to be called rifle flow because 'drill' is such a widely used term and there are many various forms of drill. He explained the proper term for his discipline is rifle flow and it's both an individual and team event.

"I recently started a drill team during COVID called the DMV Drillers – DMV Drillers is open to and applies to anyone

who drills in the DMV (D.C., Maryland, and Virginia) area," said Courtney II. "I'm also part of another team called Capitol Drill, which is more local. We have a few different members that are both adult and cadet, such as JROTC, and we all try to help each other. Two of our members are part of the Old Guard's U.S. Army Drill Team."

Courtney II said both teams are on Instagram, and anyone interested in rifle flow can contact either the DMV Drillers or Capitol Drill.

"I'd like to continue with drill because it keeps me entertained, it gives me an activity, it's a good workout, and the community in drill, not just in the DMV, but throughout the U.S., it's very supportive. We all support each other, everybody is rooting for everybody," said Courtney II.

The reason Courtney II initially joined CAP was because, ever since he could remember, he wanted to join the military. His future goal was to be a Naval Aviator and he felt the CAP was a great option in preparing him to be a pilot and for a military career; however, after completing the Honor Guard Academy and College, Courtney II is thinking about pursuing a different military career track.

"Recently, I started thinking about enlisting in the Army after I finish high school, either going infantry or medic, and trying to reach the Old Guard and become part of their drill team," said Courtney II. "After a few years with the Old Guard, I hope to apply and become a warrant officer-select and fly helos (helicopters), Blackhawks."

Courtney II has done his research and says that the CAP will provide an opportunity for those that join and attain the rank of cadet second lieutenant.

"CAP is a really great program, especially if you're looking into a military career and your school doesn't have JROTC program, and even if it does, CAP is a really great program," said Courtney II. "If you want

to join the military and go enlisted, if you join Civil Air Patrol and you reach, what they call the initial reward, which is your cadet second lieutenant, you can enlist in the Air Force as an E3, with an advance in salary. On top of that, a lot of colleges look to see if you've gone into the Civil Air Patrol."

Victoria said she and her husband Dean joined the Civil Air Patrol shortly after their son because the Squadron needed some help.

"They needed more senior member support, so we joined and kind of went all in and went through the senior member track, working on the cadet side," said Victoria. "Our goal, not just for our son Dean, but for the Civil Air Patrol cadets in general, is to offer as many opportunities as we can and get them to as many places as we can so they can participate in activities."

As the Squadron's deputy commander of cadets, Victoria is focused on providing opportunities for all the Squadron cadets. In addition to rifle flow and preparing cadets for a potential military career, CAP offers orientation flights for cadets where they can fly a Cessna airplane, a myriad of STEM activities, and a variety of community outreach events.

"There are so many opportunities for the cadets in CAP where they can go out and participate in the community events," said Victoria. "We've participated in Wreaths Across America, we've met Senator Susan Collins, done an honor guard event down at the Defense Intelligence Agency headquarters..."

"We've done a couple of parades for some of the cities in our local area, working with the honor guard, we've posted the Colors at various retirement ceremonies, as well as for the Gold Star Families, Air Force Memorial, and the former Air Force Chief of Staff," added Dean.

Dean added that the CAP also serves as the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force and the CAP's National Capitol Wing participates in exercises

with Homeland Security and emergency services.

“Disasters, disaster recovery, the CAP gets trained to do search and rescues, there are actually a lot of things we’re doing in support of the U.S. Air Force, as well as part of the DHS,” said Courtney.

“There are opportunities to meet individuals on the military, the civilian political side that you might not get otherwise, and every opportunity that we can bring as many cadets as possible to an event, that is our goal, that has always been my goal, to open that for everybody,” said Victoria

Victoria and Dean Courtney fully support their son, his future goals, and their Wing.

There are different areas, but for us, we have always wanted to support him and that means supporting the Civil Air Patrol,” added Victoria. “We’ve spent a lot of time with CAP.”

“Whatever he wants to do,” said Courtney. “I do a lot on the character development side, but it’s all about supporting the cadets, it’s all about what we can instill in them while we support the community. It teaches leadership.”

The Courtney Family believes leadership is one area of importance that the CAP really emphasizes.

“I remember when I first joined, I was a quiet little kid and I didn’t talk very much,” said Courtney II. “(CAP) has really focused on my leadership, they have molded me to the point where now I am fortunate enough to be cadet deputy commander for my squadron. It is a really great job, it’s fun, you work with a lot of people, you get to build new relationships, and it can take you far into your future and your career.”

“Definitely big on leadership,” added Victoria. “I would say the Civil Air Patrol, especially in our squadron, it’s a leadership squadron, and every cadet is serving in some type of leadership capacity, and they have opportunities to stand in front of a group and teach blocks of instruction.

“We heavily rely on the cadets to teach the other cadets the leadership, the drill, the protocols, all of that, and really let the senior members kind of step aside and

be there to guide, because the cadets are going to listen to each other more, and they see as the cadets are rising up in rank, they want to emulate that, there’s a level of professionalism, and so, there’s a high drive to be competitive and professional in the organization. So, you see the cadets work hard to earn their ranks, to earn their grades, and then to earn a position in leadership, it’s very important to them.”

For the Courtney Family serving in the CAP’s National Capitol Wing is a Family affair. ■

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. -- The Courtney Family has made serving in Civil Air Patrol’s National Capitol Wing a Family affair. Dean Courtney (left), a resource manager with the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), is the Tuskegee Composite Squadron character development instructor; his spouse Victoria (center) is the Squadron’s deputy commander of cadets; and Dean Courtney II (right) is a sophomore at Chesapeake Math and IT (CMIT) Academy South, joined the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) when he was 12 years old, and is currently serving as the cadet deputy commander for his squadron.





Cyber Legion Change of Responsibility

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT GORDON, Ga. – Soldiers, Army Civilians and their Family Members bid a fond farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Christian Adkison and his Family and embraced Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Crislip and his Family during a change of responsibility ceremony hosted by Lt. Col. Wayne Sanders, commander of the 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), on Barton Field, April 16.

The ceremony symbolizes the transition of responsibility of the senior enlisted advisor to the battalion commander and is a momentous event as the command sergeant major (CSM) is responsible for the professional development of the battalion's Non-Commissioned Officer Corps (NCOs), and the shared responsibility for the health and welfare of the battalion's Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families.

"CSM Adkison is one of the finest NCOs with whom I have ever served, and he is the best command sergeant major that a battalion commander could hope for," said Sanders. "He is incredibly smart, physically fit, professional, well respected, and humble. CSM Adkison doesn't say a whole lot (unless he's running a formation), so when he does, everyone quiets down to listen. They know that he is about to impart some wisdom, advice, and guidance that will benefit everyone. I couldn't imagine my battalion command

without him. Day or night, weekend or holiday, CSM was always available to help me navigate command and support our personnel."

Being a command sergeant major in 782nd MI Battalion, a cyberspace organization which has a footprint in four states – Georgia, Maryland, Hawaii, and Texas – has its challenges. There are the administrative responsibilities of the five companies and three operational detachments, as well as the operational challenges of manning, equipping, and training the cyber teams.

"CSM Adkison has the respect of all Cyber Legion Soldiers and Civilians. He is a mentor to junior officers and senior NCOs, and an example of excellence to our junior workforce," added Sanders. "Furthermore, CSM was critical in balancing operational needs with the right expertise from the teams. Each of the Team Leads owe a lot of their success to CSM Adkison's talent management abilities. We are all better because of this incredible leader. I am proud to call him my battle buddy and friend!"

Adkison believes he was able to accomplish his multitude of tasks because of the professionalism of Cyber Legion Soldiers, NCOs, Officers, and Civilians, as well as his relationships and partnerships with the senior NCOs of the Cyber National Mission Force, the Cyber Center of Excellence, Fort Gordon Garrison' staff,

Office of the Chief of Military Intelligence, and U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

"The thing I will miss the most is the Soldiers and Civilians of the Cyber Legion. It has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of professionals who not only excel at conducting operations in the cyber domain, but also genuinely care for each other," said Adkison. "The unit developed a reputation for aggressively pursuing targets in cyberspace; to such an extent that Army Teams are leading sister service' Task Forces. My proudest moments are when I get to see Cyber Legion Soldiers and Civilians grow and demonstrate excellence. There are too many examples of excellence to list, but if I was able to help anyone reach their personal and professional goals – I consider that a success."

Adkison is not moving far. He will next assume the duties and responsibilities as the Joint Force Headquarters – Cyber (Army) Sergeant Major and will continue to work with the battalion's Army aligned teams to support the Combatant Commands.

Crislip, a 17C, cyberspace operations NCO, is not a stranger to the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Family, having previously served, among other duties, as the brigade operations' sergeant major and Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant. ■



FORT GORDON, Ga. – The Soldiers and Army Civilians of the 782nd Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion (Cyber), accompanied by friends and Family, bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Christian Adkison, the departing senior enlisted leader for the 782nd MI Battalion (Cyber), and his Family, during a Change of Responsibility ceremony on Barton Field, April 16.



FORT GORDON, Ga. – Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Crislip is the new senior enlisted Soldier for the 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber) and assumed responsibility as the 'keeper of the colors' from Lt. Col. Wayne Sanders, the battalion commander, during a Change of Responsibility ceremony on Barton Field, April 16..



Army 'Cyber Legion' Battalion Changes Command

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT GORDON, Ga. -- The Soldiers and Army Civilians of the 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), accompanied by friends and Family, bid a fond farewell to Lt. Col. Wayne Sanders, the departing battalion commander, and welcomed back Lt. Col. Thomas Nelson, during a change of command ceremony hosted by Col. Matthew Lennox, the commander of the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), on Barton Field, June 4.

Although it was bittersweet for the 782d MI Battalion, Cyber Legion, to say farewell to a great command team, this ceremony was also a homecoming for Lt. Col. Nelson, who previously served as the battalion's operations officer.

The Cyber Legion battalion is a unique organization with more than 750 Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians serving in eight subordinate companies and detachments, each with multiple cyber teams, dispersed across four states and six time zones. The largest of the 780th MI Brigade's battalions, their latest initiative in 2020 was to expand its Joint Mission Operations Center (JMOC) capabilities and now operates two JMOCs from two disparate locations in support of multiple operational headquarters.

Lennox, who previously served as the Cyber Legion's battalion commander, said "I'll admit to a bit of bias when it comes to the 782d. Simply put, this battalion is somehow both the crown jewel and a cornerstone within the Department of Defense for offensive cyberspace operations. Regardless of who they support, Army Combat Mission Teams and Combat Support Teams, work tirelessly to execute their assigned mission. They accomplish 'stuff and things' better than anyone else. It takes talented leaders to achieve that level of readiness and success and for as long as I have known him Lt. Col. Wayne Sanders has been that person."

Sanders previously served in the battalion's sister organization, the 781st

MI Battalion (Cyber), as an operations officer and executive officer, was a National Mission team lead, and the first leader of the Expeditionary Cyber Support Detachment, which served under the 782d MI Battalion, and ultimately became the 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion.

"His thoughtfulness and team building have always impressed me and Wayne put those attributes to work with the Cyber Legion," said Lennox.

During his tenure, Sanders increased the operational capacity of the battalion by planning and executing the opening of a JMOC in Fortitude Hall, the headquarters for U.S. Army Cyber Command at Fort Gordon; and established a leadership professional development series, mentoring programs, and a tailored work program.

"Beyond cyber operations, Wayne took great care of his people," added Lennox. "His commitment to Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members of the battalion is evident through his Soldier Family Readiness programs, and his work-life balance initiatives."

In his remarks, Sanders focused his attention on the battalion's officers, warrant officers, Civilians, noncommissioned officers, and junior enlisted Soldiers.

"We're spread out over four states, supporting Joint Force Headquarters Army Cyber, Fleet Cyber, Marine Forces Cyber, and Air Force Cyber. These missions span the globe, which we are responsible for 24/7/365," said Sanders. "We are a deployed in place unit with the highest caliber of talent anywhere in the world. Our talent pool starts with the top ten percent of any other branch and then we take the top ten percent across the cyber branch and they all want to be Cyber Legion."

In addition to taking the "fight to our nation's toughest adversaries," Sander's command philosophy has been "Ready, Responsive and Resilient."

"Are we ready for the mission, are we

ready for our Families, are we ready for each other; are we responsive to mission changes, are we responsive to Families' needs, and our we responsive to each other; and resiliency, always being a work-life balance, being able to sustain the work that we do," recited Sanders. "...and none of what I mentioned is going to be what I remember about being a battalion commander; I'm going to remember the people."

Sanders will remember the time he spent with people, both in and out of the office. He will remember the Fall Fest in October 2019, for the Trunk or Treat and Chili Cook-Off; the Holiday Ball; running the '48 for the Fallen' with Soldiers and Civilians last Memorial Day; running around Steed's Dairy in the spring with his kids; and getting a pie in the face on organizational day. He will remember the one-on-one mentorship sessions with his officers and NCOs; the late-night operations with energy drinks and pizza in the JMOC; the leader's call nominating people for the Caesar's award.

"These are the memories that will stick with me forever," said Sanders.

Sanders next assignment is to attend the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C.

The 782d MI Battalion welcomes back Lt. Col. Nelson and his Family. Nelson is a graduate of the United States Military Academy with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and was commissioned in 2004 as an Infantry Officer. He switched to the Cyber Branch, and has most recently served as the 782d MI Battalion's operations officer, a team lead for a Combat Mission Team, and then spent the last two years as Chief of the Cyber Tactical Operations Center for Joint Forces Headquarters Cyber. He also earned a Master's of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. ■

"Cyber Legion... Silent Victory"





A Command First: CNMF Trains, Certifies Task Force in Full-Spectrum Operations

Stories and photos by Josef Cole, U.S. Cyber Command Public Affairs

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – For the first time in U.S. Cyber Command history, a Cyber National Mission Force task force exercised, tested, and certified the capability to execute full-spectrum operations, including defensive, offensive, and information operations.

The collective training exercise, initially envisioned as a means to certify cyber task forces every two years as required, evolved into a holistic event that integrated real-world based threats, operations, and processes to create realistic scenarios for cyber warriors.

The Beginning

In April 2019, then U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Timothy Haugh, the CNMF commander at the time, presented the task force construct to Gen. Paul M. Nakasone, USCYBERCOM commander and National Security Agency director, one aligned by threats, versus teams like service cyber mission teams.

CNMF is comprised of five task forces, each aligned against an individual threat actor: China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and emerging threats. Assigned members have expertise across the full spectrum

of operations: defensive, offensive, and information operations, with services still providing cyber protection and national mission teams to each task force.

“If you fight like a task force, you have to train and certify like one too,” noted U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joe Hartman, current CNMF commander, to exercise observers.

The exercise was developed specifically for CNMF’s threat-based task force structure and to test the full-spectrum operations they execute. This construct is made possible, in part, by the Persistent Cyber Training Environment, which was used on both unclassified and classified networks and serviced three locations simultaneously.

“The ability to certify our task forces in full-spectrum operations is a big deal. We couldn’t have done it without the Army’s support, and hopefully this will become a model to certify other task forces, with similar support from other services,” emphasized Hartman. “We think this makes Cyber Command, CNMF, and our task forces better.”

Sharpening Cyber Skills

The holistic exercise allows individual participants to clearly see how their

actions fit into the larger mission, which enables different sorts of operators to better support each other. The defensive, offensive, and information operational components each experience real-time how their actions integrate, improving the cohesiveness of the task force.

“This is also an opportunity to try new things. The exercise allows us to get the creative juices flowing and experiment with new techniques and processes in a controlled environment,” said the commander of the task force which conducted the exercise.

The Nature of Cyber

During the exercise, Hartman stressed the importance of continuing CNMF’s readiness beyond its initial and full operational capability certifications and how organizational health must be maintained, especially in an environment of persistent engagement.

“We are never going to have two weeks off to surge for task force certification... this is the environment we are in,” said Hartman. “The other missions aren’t going to stop, so we have to both train, and execute real-world missions simultaneously. ■



Maj. Gen. Joe Hartman, U.S. Cyber Command, Cyber National Mission Force commander, speaks about the importance of training and readiness at Fort George G. Meade, Md., May 24, 2021. The CNMF plans, directs and synchronizes full-spectrum cyberspace operations to disrupt, degrade and defeat malicious cyber actors.



U.S. Cyber Command, Cyber National Mission Force members participate in a training and readiness exercise at Fort George G. Meade, Md., May 24, 2021. The CNMF plans, directs and synchronizes full-spectrum cyberspace operations to disrupt, degrade and defeat malicious cyber actors.



Army Cyber Warfare Battalion's First Change of Command

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT GORDON, Ga. – The Soldiers of the 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion (the Hydras), accompanied by friends and Family, bid a fond farewell to Lt. Col. Matthew Davis, the departing battalion commander, and welcomed Lt. Col. Benjamin Klimkowski, during a change of command ceremony hosted by Col. Matthew Lennox, the commander of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), in Signal Theater, June 3.

The 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion, “Global Reach...Global Impact” is a fairly new organization and Davis was the organization’s first battalion commander.

Established by order of the Secretary of the Army on June 6, 2018, the organization has since activated three companies, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Alpha and Bravo companies; and participated in over a dozen training events supporting the Army and various echelons and exercises worldwide. The battalion is a force of more than 170 Soldiers, will continue to grow and build, all while supporting ARCYBER with cyberspace operations, electronic warfare, and information advantage efforts.

“The 915th is a unique battalion, it’s not a normal-sized battalion – if anything is normal in cyber,” said Lennox. “The Hydras are capable of offensive and defensive cyber operations, as well as electromagnetic and information operations... in support of Army tactical formations.”

“However, it’s not just what the Hydras can do that makes them special,” explained Lennox.

“During my last visit with the 915th I had a discussion with a lieutenant. She started talking to me about pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections, the need for rehearsals and how she learned how to fill out a 5988 E, Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services form,

for a vehicle, and all this was in preparation for a weapons qualification range.” said Lennox. “These are not common discussions amongst cyber officers. It is a common discussion for those of us who started out in other branches, like the Field Artillery, who recognize those terms.”

“This battalion has come a long way over the last few years. It takes time and leadership to achieve that level of greatness and success, and for as long as I’ve known him, Matt Davis has been that person,” said Lennox. “I found Matt to be action oriented, caring and committed.”

After talking about the battalion’s achievements, Lennox talked about what mattered most to Davis – his Soldiers.

“They all took a risk joining the tactical cyber unit and accomplished remarkable things, in his (Davis) words ‘with ingenuity and resourcefulness, despite ambiguity and changing conditions,’” remarked Lennox.

When he spoke, Lt. Col. Davis said he initially struggled when preparing his remarks; however, the words flowed easily once he started at the beginning – which for a new unit came with both challenges and opportunities.

“Starting a new battalion comes with a lot of challenges, but anything worth doing has challenges, and anything with challenges has opportunities. Learning that lesson throughout life came from my parents who are here today,” said Davis. “From that first day (in command), I was never alone in this endeavor, and am humbled and honored by the talented and dedicated professionals who helped build this battalion.”

In addition to his parents, Davis thanked the many Soldiers who helped build the battalion to where it is today, including Lt. Col. Louis Etienne and the original first crew

“Lt. Col. Etienne, Capt. Allyson Hauptman, Lieutenants L’Hommeideu, Sullivan, Neal, Cushman, and Cordial,

in addition to Sgt. Rios, the original battalion S6 (communications), and then Capt. Schinder, Sgt. 1st Class Boyer, and the 782nd ECSD (Expeditionary Cyber Support Detachment), formed the basis of our first crew and the battalion staff. We started there. To that intrepid, dedicated, and exceptionally talented first crew, I say thank you. This battalion stands today, two years later, on your shoulders,” said Davis

Davis went on to thank the Iron Majors, Master Sgt. Welch, the senior NCOs, officers and company commanders, the warrant officers, and his senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Marlene Harshman.

“I’ve seldom met an NCO, or any leader for that matter, so dedicated to taking care of the Soldiers in her charge, or in ensuring they’re properly trained and led,” said Davis. “I’m privileged to have served with you, and this battalion is fortunate to have you. Wherever you go, your care for Soldiers’ welfare and high standards, will follow and make that organization a better place for it.”

Davis ended his comments by thanking his wife, Deborah, and their two girls Grace and Lillie.

The 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion welcomes only its second battalion commander, Lt. Col. Klimkowski, and his Family. Born and raised in Wantagh, N.Y., Klimkowski is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, was commissioned as an Infantry Officer. He was part of the original transition to Army Cyber, and recently served in the U.S. Army Cyber Protection Brigade. He holds a Master of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, a MS in Telecommunication from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from USMA. ■



FORT GORDON, Ga. -- The Soldiers of the 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion (the Hydras), accompanied by friends and Family, bid farewell to Lt. Col. Matthew Davis, the departing battalion commander, and welcomed Lt. Col. Benjamin Klimkowski, during a Change of Command ceremony hosted by Col. Matthew Lennox, the commander of the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), in Signal Theater, June 3.



FORT GORDON, Ga. -- Lt. Col. Matthew Davis (right), the departing battalion commander of the 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion, relinquished his command authority to Col. Matthew Lennox, the commander of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), during a change of command during a ceremony in Signal Theater, June 3.



FORT GORDON, Ga. -- Command Sgt. Maj. Marlene Harshman, the senior enlisted leader and "Keeper of the Colors" for the 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion, prepares to pass the battalion Colors during a change of command ceremony in Signal Theater, June 3.



FORT GORDON, Ga. -- Lt. Col. Benjamin Klimkowski (left), assumed command of the 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion during a change of command ceremony hosted by Col. Matthew Lennox, the commander of the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), in Signal Theater, June 3.



The 34th Infantry Division and the 442nd Infantry Regiment Connection to the Asian American Soldier

By Capt. Dat Dang, 177th Cyber Protection Team, 123rd Cyber Protection Battalion (Raiders), Task Force Echo

"Special Thanks to Capt. Richard Clay, Capt. Tyler Jongewaard, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Joseph Caceres"



A mortar crew from the 100th in Montenero, Italy, firing upon a hillside suspected to house German snipers. Courtesy of the UHM Library Digital Image Collection

THE HISTORY AND SUCCESSES OF AN ARMY UNIT drives the Soldier's pride of association. Immortalized on streamers and guidons, Americans recognize celebrated units like the 101st Airborne, 82nd Airborne, Patton's 3rd Army, and so on for their prowess on the battlefield. Similarly, Americans feel national pride when their athletes take the podium at international sporting events. The connection to this success is reinforced even further when the athlete is from the same state or locale as the spectators. By this same token, the successes and sufferings of a shared heritage, ethnicity, or origin is an incredibly powerful feeling in society. For currently serving Asian American Soldiers in the 34th Infantry Division, their association parallels with the legacy of 442nd Infantry Regiment/100th Battalion (hereafter collectively labeled the 442nd). Their forbearers' contributions to the Army trail blazed the current force structure of desegregated units and most importantly a sense of belonging for all Asian American servicemembers.

In 1944, during the march to Rome in

the Italian campaign, the 442nd Infantry Regiment was temporarily attached to the 34th Infantry Division. The 442nd was a segregated unit comprised of mostly Japanese-American "Nisei" (second generation) who served under intense adversity throughout the war. Even though Japanese American families were transferred to internment camps, these Asian American Soldiers enlisted out of a strong sense of patriotism after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Furthermore, during their service (after their time attached to the 34th) "the unit was often looked upon as an expendable unit as noted during their rescue of the 'Lost Battalion' [...] via the 36th Infantry Division." Despite this relegation, the regiment's motto "Go for Broke", an allegory to wager everything for success resulted in "21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 15 Soldier's Medals and 9,500 Purple Hearts, among many other honors". Without question, their dedication to fighting coupled with the high tempo on the frontline contributed to the unit being "recognized as the most decorated American unit for its size and length of service". These accolades highlight the high price paid in blood and solidifies the foundation of Asian American military service.

Reflecting upon Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month, the triumphs of 442nd's Asian American Soldiers tied to the 34th should be shared and celebrated collectively throughout both units. Although these Soldiers served during a time where hostile politics severely affected them and their families, the regiment's successes directly influenced President Harry Truman to sign Executive

Order 9981. This resulted in the full racial integration of the armed forces following World War II. These historical successes are substantial to currently serving Asian American Soldiers who wear the same insignias as their forbearers. As with other national accomplishments valued in American society, this history is vital to the Asian American consciousness when it comes to inclusivity, views of self-respect, and answering the call of service. ■

¹<https://militaryhallofhonor.com/honoree-record.php?id=214>

²<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/04/05/this-japanese-american-army-unit-is-the-reason-we-celebrate-national-go-for-broke-day/>

³<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/japanese-american-100th-infantry-battalion>

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Word of the Day: Careful Spending

By Chaplain (CPT) Jeffrey Brannen, E Company (Empire), 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)



Proverbs 21: 5 "The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty." (NASB)

As we come out of the COVID lockdown status, many Soldiers, Families, and Civilians are facing a surprising difficulty: managing their money. COVID kept us from going out and spending time with friends and families. We had to put vacations on hold and weren't able to eat out at restaurants like we used to. In fact, many of the loose habits we had towards our finances were externally curtailed. In short, we spent less because we had less opportunity.

Now that the restrictions are being lifted, suddenly we are able to go and do the things we had put off. Now we can take the family on vacation. Now we don't have to eat at home. All of this newfound freedom can set up catastrophic effects

with our finances. With more opportunity, we can overspend and put ourselves in debt.

Solomon, in Proverbs 21:5, is urging us to consider the matter of our finances carefully. First, we need to consider which category we are in: diligent or hasty. The diligent are those who keep a firm reign on themselves, watching over their choices and not shooting from the hip. The hasty are those who make decisions, big and small, without weighing out the consequences. Which category describes you best?

Next, we need to think about what sort of plans we have for our resources. As a child, any money I was given or earned was spent as soon as I got it. Comic books, movies, video games, and candy bars were the most frequent choices whenever I had cash in my pocket. I often couldn't do things I really wanted to simply because

I had no money available. In other words, my money burnt a hole in my pocket. Without a budget, without a plan, then I had nothing available when I needed it.

If we are not diligent and working from a plan, we will hastily spend what we have on whatever catches our attention in the moment. As a result, we may get short-term joy but we will have long-term debt. Credit cards and easy financing allow us to buy beyond our ability, which in turn fuels a cycle of debt and poverty.

My challenge to you is this: as we find ourselves with more opportunities to spend money with more freedoms being returned to us, be diligent and use a budget to moderate your spending. Do not let yourself make poor decisions based on the urge to return to old habits and patterns. Develop a plan and stick to it. The way of wisdom leads us down this path. ■



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Gregory Platt (right), senior civilian advisor, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), is recognized for his 30 years of service in the Government of the United States of America by Col. Matthew Lennox, the brigade commander, May 6.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Patricia Davison (right), 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), is recognized for her 30 years of service in the Government of the United States of America by Jonathan Goodwin, May 6.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Matthew Ellis (right), 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), receives the Civilian Service Commendation Medal for his recent achievement from Ricky Eden, May 6.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Pvt. Kangni Lantchible (left) and Spc. Caitlyn Lamouree (right), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), receive company coins for placing first in the April 26 SAAPM (Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month) 5K run.



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Lt. Col. David Hamlin, commander of Detachment Hawaii (Kopianas), 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), was promoted from major to lieutenant colonel, in front of his fellow Soldiers, Civilians, Family and friends, immediately before his change of command ceremony, June 17.

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Staff Sgt. Katie Quick, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), reenlisted for an additional four years of service in front of the Brigade headquarters, April 9. Maj. Sarah Crane, the brigade executive officer, was the officer administering the oath.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Matthew Mackey (right), an IT specialist with 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), received the Civilian Service Commendation Medal in front of the Brigade headquarters, April 9.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Toni Pisciotta (right), 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), received her pin and certificate in recognition of her 25 years of service in the Government of the United States of America in front of the Brigade headquarters, April 9.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Soldiers, Army Civilians and their Family members, representing Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), participated in a SAAPM (Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month) run April 26.

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Capt. Denzel Prince, the commander of the E Company (Empire), 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), informs Lt. Col. Wayne Sanders, the battalion commander, of the completion of his change of command ceremony on the field next to the brigade headquarters, May 21.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. –Lt. Col. Jesse Sandefer (left), the deputy commander for the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Krause (right), the brigade's senior enlisted leader, presented the Legion of Merit to 1st Sgt. Stanley Collins for his 22 years of honorable service during a retirement ceremony at the MG Baron Dekalb U.S. Army Reserve Center, May 26.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Chaplain (Col.) Howard Cantrell, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) Command Chaplain, was the guest speaker for this month's 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) Resiliency Talk Luncheon in the Brigade Annex, May 12. Howard talked about resiliency and used the life story of the Apostle Paul and how he overcame his trials and tribulations, through God and his relationships, quoting Philippians 4:13. Special music was provided by Maj. Jezmon Lewis, Task Force Echo V, 91st Cyber Brigade.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Capt. Alvaro Luna, the commander of the A Company (Avengers), 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), informs Lt. Col. Michael Arner, the battalion commander, of the completion of his change of command ceremony on McGlachlin Parade Field, April 29.



FORT GORDON, Ga. – Capt. Allyson Hauptman, the outgoing commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion, relinquished her command authority to Capt. Audra Morrow in a change of command ceremony presided by Lt. Col. Matthew Davis, the battalion commander, at Freedom Park Pavilion, May 6.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Soldiers and Army Civilians of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade said farewell to Maj. Neil Stevenson, the brigade S4 (logistics), Maj. Simone Boehmer, brigade S6 (IT/CIO), Maj. Sarah Crane, the brigade executive officer, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Travis Ysen, the brigade senior technical advisor, in a ceremony hosted by Col. Matthew Lennox, the brigade commander, in the brigade annex, June 10. Praetorians! "Strength and Honor"



IT'S TIME TO



EDUCATE › ENCOURAGE › EMPOWER

DO YOUR PART

COVID-19

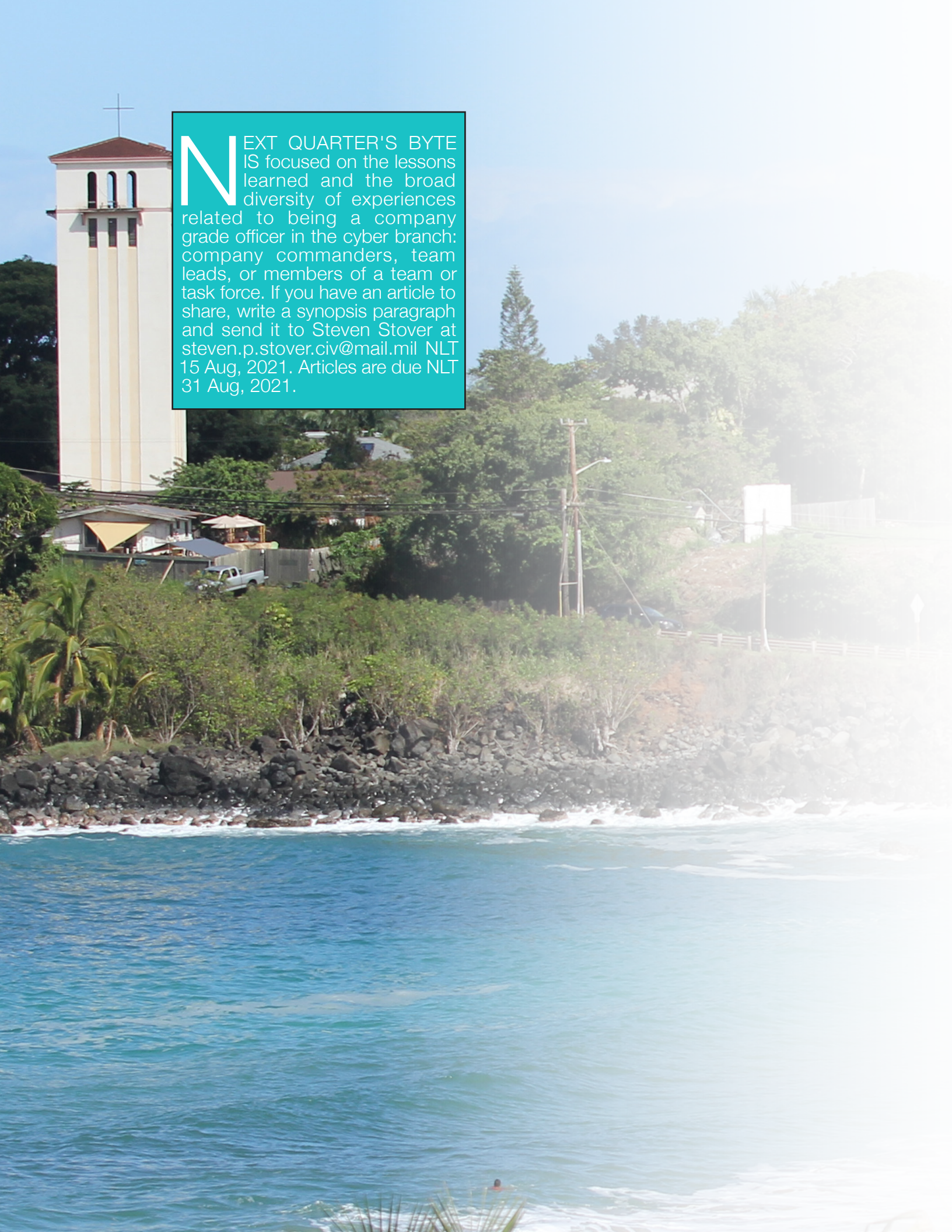
WHY VACCINATION IS SAFE AND IMPORTANT?

Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent infectious diseases.

Vaccines help train your body's natural immune system to recognize and fight a specific disease by stimulating a response to the virus that causes that disease.

When a virus is introduced to your body for the first time, your immune system mounts a defense. This includes making antibodies that help kill or neutralize the virus. If you're exposed to the same virus again, these antibodies also help your immune system recognize and fight the virus quickly.

TIME TO VACCINATE

A scenic view of a tropical coastline. In the background, a tall, light-colored church tower with a cross on top stands on a hill. The hill is covered in lush green vegetation, including palm trees. A white pickup truck is parked on a road near the base of the hill. In the foreground, a rocky shoreline meets the turquoise ocean. Waves are breaking on the rocks, and a person is visible swimming in the water. The sky is clear and blue.

NEXT QUARTER'S BYTE
IS focused on the lessons
learned and the broad
diversity of experiences
related to being a company
grade officer in the cyber branch:
company commanders, team
leads, or members of a team or
task force. If you have an article to
share, write a synopsis paragraph
and send it to Steven Stover at
steven.p.stover.civ@mail.mil NLT
15 Aug, 2021. Articles are due NLT
31 Aug, 2021.