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USO Honor Guard Lounge game room keeps service members connected

By Rachel Deloach JBM-HH Public Affairs Office

Since 1941 the mission of the United Services Organizations (USO) has remained the same -- to serve the men and women in the U.S. military, and their Families, throughout their time in uniform from the moment they join, during their assignments and deployments, and as they transition back to their communities.

During WWII, service members stayed connected to their Families, homes, and country through hand-written letters transported via ship. In the 1990s, prior to email and texting, they stayed connected through USO grams. More than 80 years later, service members now connect with each other through video games such as Halo.

To better support service members, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Honor Guard Lounge has replaced pool tables for personal computer (PC) games and instituted a game room in the community center to be more representative of the 21st century.

In a ribbon cutting ceremony highlighting JBM-HH's new state of the art game room on Friday, April 22, Pam Horton, senior director of special projects for the USO for the National Capital District, said she is proud of the work that had been put into the facility over the past 18 months. Horton thanked several key players including the Morale, Welfare and Recreation team for helping secure the space for the game room, Executive Director for the USO National Capital District Lisa Marie Riggins for helping purchase the equipment, and Spc. Edmundo Navarro, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Soldier, for installing and testing the equipment.

Riggins, who lived at Fort Myer as a child, said she remembers her parents communicating only a handful of times during her father's 6 month deployment to said Rigg Vietnam, so she understood the need for the USO to grow with the rapidly changing to champ to champ

"[Gaming] is truly the way our service members not only connect with just one person, but the entire globe whenever they want, however they want," said Riggins. "They are more connected now than they've ever been."

Despite service members' constant con-

nectivity, Horton said she hopes they will stop by the community center and use the equipment in the gaming room.

"The reason why people should come over here and game on our equipment is because we have a direct connect fiber line that is running into this building so the speed is very fast," said Horton to the service members in attendance. "If you want to come in and game for a little bit during the day or participate in a gaming tournament, you have that ability here."

For Riggins, the Honor Guard Lounge gaming center would not have been a success without support from Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander Col. David Bowling.

"Command is what makes this happen," said Riggins. "We can be in the background, we can be the force behind the force, but if we don't' have a commander to champion this, it doesn't happen."

Bowling, a self-proclaimed gamer of 20 years, stopped by game room opening to cut the ribbon alongside Riggins and Spc. Navarro, and play video games with the service members in attendance.

See USO GAME ROOM, Page 2



Photo by Rachel Deloach

(From left to right) Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Majeski, Joint Base Commander Col. David Bowling, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment Soldier Spc. Edmundo Navarro, Executive Director for the USO National Capital District Lisa Marie Riggins, and E.W. Lilliewood, vice president of public sector programs and channels for Dun and Bradstreet, cuts the ribbon for the USO game room opening April 22.

USO GAME ROOM from Page 1

Bowling applauded the work of the USO and encouraged the younger service members to gain a newfound appreciation for the USO.

"As you get older you will gain a better perspective and understand that there are a lot of people in this country that care about you and your families, who go out of their way to ensure you are taken care

of," said Bowling.

One of those ways is through the USO's shift to gaming as a way to connect with others.

"Gaming is what you want, and gaming is what we are going to give you," said Riggins.



Photos by Rachel Deloach

(Above) Executive Director for the USO National Capital District Lisa Marie Riggins gives opening remarks at the USO Honor Guard Lounge Gaming Center ribbon cutting April 22.

(Left) Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander Col. David Bowling plays video games with service members at the USO **Honor Guard Lounge Gaming Center April 22.**



How my sexual assault shaped me but did not break me

By Staff Sgt. Kayla White Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Public Affairs Office

Joining the military was an intense, transformational experience filled with rites of passage, experiences designed to prepare me to act as a

member of a team and conform so I could truly commit to something bigger than myself. One unexpected and devastating experience during my initial training changed me forever.

My rape damaged not only my sense of self, but also my sense of belonging at a critical phase of my career. I became a member of the more than 20 thousand annual unreported cases of sexual assault, according to Department of Defense survey estimates. In the midst of high rates of reported and unreported cases of sexual assault from military members, my rape felt like some dark rite of passage.

I signed up to join the military to become a public affairs broadcast journalist in the New Hampshire Army National Guard in July 2008, barely 17 years old and still in high school.

My mother had been a medic in the state's medical unit for longer than I had been alive at that point. While I may not have been the traditional active-duty "military brat," I still viewed the military as a normal way of life because I grew up surrounded by it. Joining was not a matter of 'if' for me so much as a matter of 'when.'

I made it through basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, with

diers endure: falling asleep standing in line for chow; severely blistered feet from breaking in new boots; pushups...pushups anywhere and anytime; regular fire guard shifts by flashlight at the end of a dark bay, surrounded by dozens of other exhausted, homesick, snoring, sleeping Soldiers. These are all rites of passage I remember fondly and can laugh at today. After gradua-

tion, I eagerly proceeded to Fort Meade, Maryland, to attend Advanced Individual Training. There, I shifted gears from basic Soldiering to job-specific training at the hub for all DOD public affairs specialists, the Defense Information School, or DINFOS.

Shortly after arriving, my roommate and I went to a hotel party off post with some male Soldiers where we engaged in heavy drinking with several other military members. I eventually separated from the crowd to go to another hotel room. I remember feeling very tired and, this point is important to me, I chose to lay down to go to sleep.

I went to sleep, surrounded by my "Battle Buddies" with whom I should've been able to entrust my life. Instead, at least one of those male Soldiers seized the opportunity to rape me while I was in that compromised, vulnerable

I do not feel compelled to give a detailed description of what I remember from the assault, nor do I choose to name the individual(s) involved. What matters is the profound impact it had on me from the very onset of my military

career. Days later, I hesitantly asked my roommate for her take on what happened, quietly praying for some kind of validation.

See SEXUAL ASSAULT, Page 7



many of the memorable and universally-shared experiences most Sol-

Pentagram



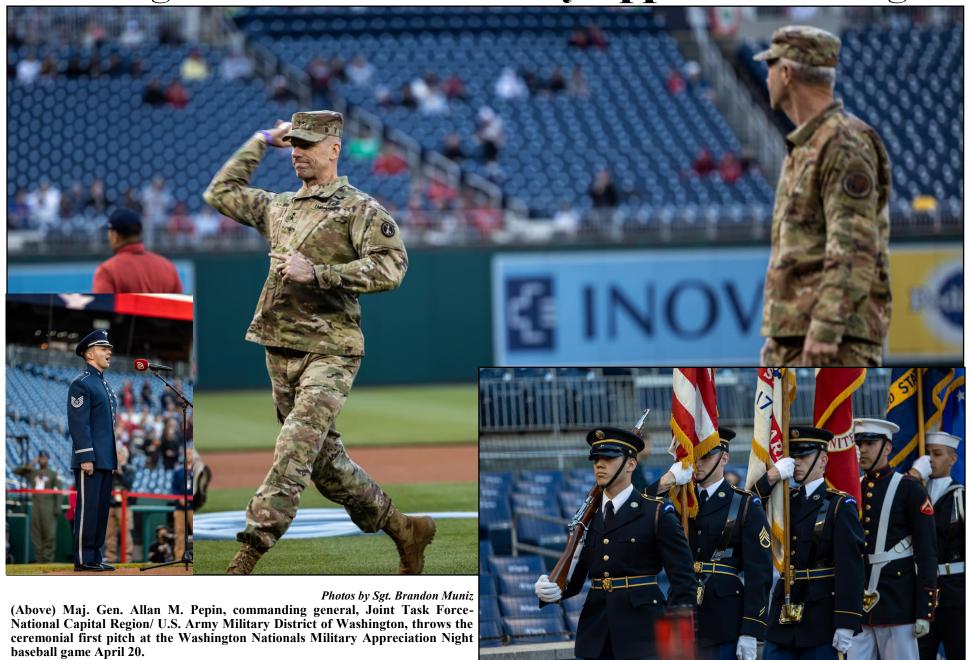
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Col. David Bowling Commander Command Sgt. Maj. **Matthew Majeski** Command Sergeant Major

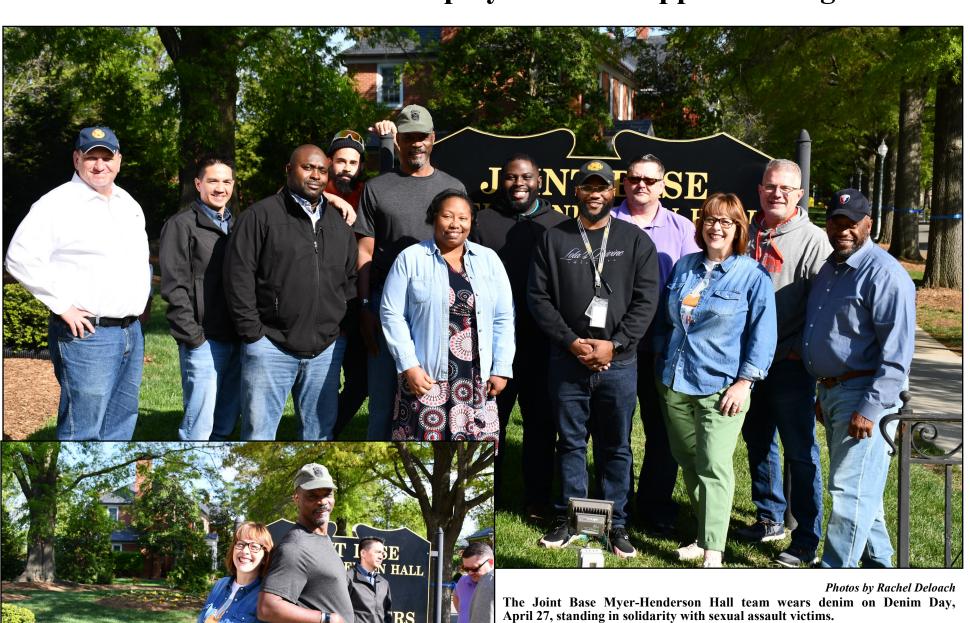
Leah Rubalcaba Interim Public Affairs Officer Rachel Deloach **Editor**

Community-

Washington Nationals Military Appreciation Night



Dressed in Denim: JBM-HH employees show support during SAPM





ACS services are virtual

To keep all safe and healthy, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's Army Community Service is closed for general service, but providing services telephonically and digitally. To contact ACS, call (703) 696-3510 or 3435. Online resources such as Army One Source, myarmyonesource.com and the community resource guide are linked to the JBM-HH homepage as well.

Financial readiness training

First term Soldiers must attend a financial readiness training upon arrival at JBM-HH, which is mandated by AR 608-1, 4-38, c. This training reviews how to develop a budget,

credit-building strategies, making sense of the Thrift Savings Plan and more. Soldiers may elect to attend a group session or a one-on-one appointment.

To schedule training or for more information, contact Cheyanne Pace at Cheyanne.n.pace.civ@mail.mil or call (703) 696-3510.

Find support with JBM-HH ACS

At Army Community Service, people will find all kinds of programs and services that combine fun with self-improvement. The joint base ACS office continues to serve virtually. To learn about available opportunities, call (703) 696-3510. All JBM-HH ACS programs support Soldiers, civilian employees and

Families in maintaining readiness by coordinating and delivering comprehensive, responsive services that promote self-reliance, resiliency and stability.

Army Emergency Relief is here for Soldiers, Families

Army Emergency Relief is an invaluable resource for Soldiers and Families. Financial help is given in the form of an interest free loan, grant, or combination of the two. If a Family has a financial need, the Soldier should call ACS at (703) 696-3510. AER is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please note that documentation is required to justify the dollar amount for loans.

Soldiers inspire US Army directive on parenthood, pregnancy

By U.S. Army Public Affairs

What began as a grassroots effort by Soldiers to identify issues facing pregnant and postpartum Soldiers became formal policy today, when Army Secretary Christine Wormuth signed a directive aimed at improving opportunities for Soldiers to advance their careers while providing the

time and flexibility needed to care for growing families.

The Army's Parenthood, Pregnancy and Postpartum directive makes a number of significant policy changes and program improvements, including expanding postpartum operational and training deferments, extending exemptions for physical fitness testing and the Army Body Composition Program, standardizing convalescent leave in cases of pregnancy loss, allowing select professional military education attendance while pregnant, creating stabilization while undergoing fertility treatments, and increasing family care plan flexibility.

"We recruit Soldiers, but we retain Families,' said Gen. James of the Army. "Winning the have to choose between service and Family."

The directive contains 12 components. Six of them are entirely new – five of which were suggested from Soldier feedback – and the other six are updates to existing policies. Although four components were required by Congress, the Army expanded on the initial requirements to improve the health and quality of life for all parents.

Sgt. Carrie Vargas, a human resources sergeant stationed at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, holds her now 10-month old son, Keanu was born with a congenital heart defect. Vargas said her command McConville, Chief of Staff team at Fort Bliss, Texas, and JBLM helped accommodate her so that she could care for her son before and after a heart transplant.

war for talent means making sure our best and brightest people don't

These changes affect over 400,000 parents within the total force, including 29,000 single father Soldiers, who outnumber single mother Soldiers by a 3-to-1 ratio.

Under this directive, all of the components – which previously existed in over 20 Army regulations – are consolidated in one document to provide a resource for leaders to assist military families. Brigade-level leaders will be required to establish their own policies to reinforce the directive.

Our values, always HONORABLE SERVICE & TRUST & STEWARDSHIP

Chaplain's Corner

Peace in a war of differences

By Retired Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Ray Bailey **Former Deputy Chief of Chaplains**

I have this focus, especially lately in my life...show kindness, compassion, and empathy. I look for moments where I can

pass this on. It's such a drive in my life and I had to ponder why. Then it occurred to me but let me illustrate by a story that really was profound on this topic.

There is a story told about the surrender of the Confederacy at Appomattox Courthouse as the Civil War concluded. General Grant was an unusual man. Knowing the

war was over and the victory was his, he showed great, and unusual, kindness and respect toward the chief general of the Confederates.

He allowed General Robert E. Lee to ride freely in and out of the area. He also allowed the Confederate men to keep their possessions and horses. Grant gave them food because they were hungry and let them all go home undisturbed.

Lee was permanently touched by Grant's kindness. After the war, Lee became the president of Washington College in Virginia. On one occasion, one of his fellow instructors, also a Southerner, began to speak poorly of Grant to Lee

(assuming he'd receive a sympathetic audience). Lee turned, looked the man straight in the eye, and said, "Sir, if you ever again presume to speak disrespectfully of General Grant in my presence, either you or I will sever his connection with this ference in this big world? I don't know university."

Because General Lee had received such kindness from Grant, he treasured and pro- well, to me. tected the good name of the one who had

showed him such kindness.

Two sides of a war came together and showed kindness, compassion, and empathy rising above the hatred and bitterness.

Today we have political sides, ethnic sides, national sides, religious sides, gen-

> der sides, and the list grows. The friction, suspicion, and blindness creates hostility and destruction.

I hear and see this and I respond with more kindness. I take the time to care and show that differences are not reasons for anger and suspicion. To my optimism, others respond with kindness and respect, al-

most as if I have given water to a thirsty person. They too are looking for peace in wars of differences.

Does a smile, gesture of kindness, or small considerations make much of a difbut I hope it is a small ripple effect. At least, it makes a difference for me and as

Sun rises once again on worshipers at **Memorial Amphitheater Easter Sunday**

By Leah Rubalcaba **JBM-HH Public Affairs Office**

After a two-year hiatus, the annual Easter Sunrise Service was held once again in person at Arlington National

17. Approximately 800 worshipers braved the chilly morning breeze to gather for the service hosted by Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander Col. David Bowling and facilitated by the JBM-HH Religious Support Office.

As the first light of the morning began to lighten the night sky, Sgt. 1st

Class Kevin Gebo, bugler with the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," sounded the "Church Call" for the start of the service.

The "Call to Worship" and welcome were provided by Chaplain (Col.) James Foster, Command Chaplain for the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region and Military District of Washington.

Musicians and vocalists with "Pershing's Own" band and chorus were once again in their places to provide the Cemetery's Memorial Amphitheater April beautiful musical backdrop for the Easter

service. This year's Easter message was delivered by Rear Adm. Terry Eddinger, Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters, who spoke of the 36 hours of darkness from the time that Jesus was laid in the tomb until Easter morning. "We all have our hours of darkness," he said.

> "Jesus provided a new light and a new hope for all of us." As the sun rose over the Memorial Amphitheater, Eddinger added, "The light of the world has risen today."

> The U.S. Army Band and Chorus concluded the Easter service with their signature, rousing performance of Handel's 'Hallelujah

Chorus.' Due to technical difficulties, the live stream was not able to play on the JBM-HH Facebook site during the service Easter Sunday. You may still view the service via the following link: https:



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ian Gassaway

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall hosts the Easter Sunrise Service at Arlington National Cemetery.

Sunrise Service – the service being a time -honored tradition that has taken place at Arlington National Cemetery since 1927.

Army, Navy and Air Force Chaplains from the region were on hand to read the prayers, lessons and readings during the

www.dvidshub.net/video/839781/eastersunrise-service-arlington-nationalcemetery.

Twilight Tattoo returns to joint base for the 2022 season

By Rachel Deloach **JBM-HH Public Affairs**

One of the U.S. Army's time-honored traditions, Twilight Tattoo, will return to in-person performances for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic next Wednesday, May 4, at Joint base Myer-Henderson Hall. Weather permitting, Twilight Tattoo will take place on Summerall Field every Wednesday from May 4 through July 27, with the exception of June 29 and July 6.

Free of charge and open to the public, Twilight Tattoo communicates the Army's proud heritage and traditions to the American public - from the Army's early origins and contributions, to the history and development of the United States, to safeguarding freedom.

Joint Task Force-National Capital Region and Military District of Washington Community Relations Officer Jeremy Kern said Twilight Tattoo demonstrates that U.S. Army history is America's history.

"This interactive and high energy performance features Soldiers from the U.S. Army Military District of Washington's ceremonial units, the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," said Kern. the Army Civilians, Contractors, and our "Twilight Tattoo offers an opportunity to community," said Kern. people to experience the history of the United States as seen through the eyes of with a half-hour pre-Tattoo concert by The the millions of young Soldiers whose hard work and sacrifice built this nation for 247 years," said Kern.

Music and military pageantry recognize and salute the service and sacrifice of U.S. Army Soldiers and Families, past and present. Short theatrical vignettes highlight the courage of the American Soldier, the innovation of the military, and professionalism of the force.

Despite Twilight Tattoo returning to in -person services, Kern said the Military District of Washington will be in full compliance with Department of Defense guidelines regarding COVID-19.

"While there is an anticipation for groups to see in-person performances this year, we continue to follow Department of Defense guidelines and CDC recommendations in order to ensure the safety of our Soldiers, Families, Department of

The military pageant will start at 6:30 p.m. U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own." The Tattoo performance will immediately follow the pre-concert, starting at 7 p.m. and concluding at 8 p.m. Guests are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit in certain sections of the lawn or in bleacher seating.

The 2022 Twilight Tattoo schedule can be found at https://twilight.mdw.army.mil/ schedule.

Courtesy photo Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The

Old Guard), The United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the United States Army Drill team, and the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" pose on Summerall field at Joint Base Myer- Henderson Hall.



SEXUAL ASSAULT from Page 2

I didn't get that. Instead, what she seemed to imply was because it appeared like I was willingly leaving with this male Soldier that any reasonable person would interpret what happened as a consensual interaction that I welcomed.

The male Soldier shared his "achievement" with others, and I became "that female" according to the detachment rumor mill. I didn't deserve that. No one does.

After that, I isolated myself from others during the school week. I went binge drinking every weekend to numb and distract myself

Drinking also became an unhealthy way to disinhibit myself enough to be around other people, because even though I did not feel safe around them, I still longed for their acceptance and camaraderie. I felt like a mess, and I probably looked like one to everyone around me.

I failed out of that first DIN-FOS course and was recycled while my classmates graduated and moved onto their first duty assignments.

When I started the next iteration of the course, it felt like an opportunity to reclaim some semblance of myself around people who didn't know what happened. Instead of continuing to collapse in, I shifted gears into controlling perfectionism.

I volunteered for student leadership positions, and I outperformed my classmates, earning praise from my DINFOS instructors and detachment leadership. I promoted early twice within the five and a half months I was there because of my performance.

What they saw was a stellar Soldier. They saw my charismatic, funny, ambitious persona.

What they did not see was how hypercritical I had become of myself. They did not know every bit of feedback from anyone felt like it could make or break the precarious balance I struggled to achieve.

They did not know I compulsively tracked what I ate or that, in addition to morning group physical training, I exercised two to three hours every night just so I could fall asleep.

They had no idea the amount of pain I was in, and I was too wound up in the belief that my rape was

at least partially my fault to report it.

Any time I considered disclosing the rape to my leadership, I shamed myself into thinking that if I had just been more careful or if I had not flirted with him, then it would not have happened. When I wasn't blaming myself, I at least felt certain I could not convince anyone else to believe me. And when I felt like I could convince someone to believe me, I worried that I would be kicked out of the military because I had been drinking underage.

I was burning myself out in search of acceptance and approval and in a desperate effort to avoid calling my rape what it was. I think I thought that if I could continue to excel through performance, I would eventually prove that I belonged, that I was worthy, and that what happened to me was only as serious as I let it appear to be. To whom I was trying to prove this, I could not have told you at the time. Who I should have been trying to convince was myself.

It took me five years to validate my own experience, only after another Soldier disclosed their own assault to me and how it was impacting their ability to contribute to the mission. When they shared their experience with me, I did my best to show up for them and advocate for our leadership to accommodate them as they weathered the stormy aftermath.

I distinctly remember driving home from work one day with my husband at the time and memories from my rape came creeping back to me. I started crying but could not begin to articulate what was wrong. I could not yet name my feelings, but it was as if I had opened the flood gates and this general sense of overwhelm came pouring out. I could no longer hold it back.

It took me at least another year to finally disclose to my then-husband what happened to me. It was not until after our divorce, after more than six years of marriage, that I finally got into therapy and began the work of acknowledging this significant violation of my body and mind. Only then could I explore all the areas of my life it had ripple-affected.

Only then was I able to begin identifying the unhealthy ways I coped. I gently but honestly started holding myself accountable so I

could heal and learn to thrive again.

I have had so many wonderful opportunities and met so many incredible people along the way, but my rape colored the lens through which I viewed every single life experience after it.

I struggled with some level of imposter syndrome. Every success I had felt like this ongoing magic act, like I am seconds away from someone exposing me for the fraud I am. I felt like I would never be good enough and nothing I contributed would be truly meaningful.

I struggled to connect personally or professionally with people; I convinced myself that if they only knew how complex and damaged I was, they would not want anything to do with me. I have pushed people away and been incredibly guarded. It has hindered my ability to connect people who served alongside me every step of the way. For the longest time, I felt like even though I enlisted in the military, I never quite belonged.

Earlier on in my therapy, I was so deeply angry. It felt like my rapist robbed me of some key part of myself, without which I would never find peace or be truly loved. I mourned the perceived loss of who I was and dreaded what I anticipated would be a lonely, half-lived life.

As time went on, even as I made great strides, I was always painfully aware of how much more work there would always be to do. It was exhausting and intimidating, and sometimes it still is.

It has been more than 12 years since my sexual assault. More than 150 turns of calendar pages, because even though my own slice of it would never be the same, life, in fact, did not stop moving.

My path to healing does not come with oversimplified suggestions and advice to others who have been sexually assaulted. However, I know my journey can be relatable and hope that it validates and encourages to those who want or need a push to move forward.

I committed myself to therapy, journaling, healthy eating and exercise habits, and good sleep hygiene. I gradually sought more challenging opportunities to be vulnerable with the people who mattered to me and who I trusted. Once I did this, it felt like a heavy

sandbag had been lifted off my chest. I could finally breathe.

Healing and growth are not simple. That's in no way what I'm implying. And it's not like once I reached a certain level of either that I never struggled again.

True growth and healing after sexual assault is not linear. It requires a special kind of diligence and a tremendous amount of support. I am still triggered sometimes, and it can take time to find my footing again. But I have learned that the work is still worth it – that I am still worth the effort.

It took time to recognize that I am not fundamentally damaged or irredeemable ... because I did not do anything wrong.

My rape and the related struggles I have overcome do not detract from my inherent value or my potential in the world. As the days, weeks, and years continue to pass, I consistently become more confident in that fact.

I am allowed to be incredibly proud of how far I have come. I am in awe at and thankful for how profoundly I feel things and am truly grateful for how compassionate and intuitive a person I have become.

I know there is no reset button and that I cannot go back in time to stop my rape from happening. I do still wish I could go back and be there for that younger version of myself in that difficult time. I wish I could hug her, tell her she did nothing to deserve what happened to her, and try to show her that things can and will get better.

I know I cannot do that, so I will focus my energy on reaching out to connect with others who might relate to my story and are struggling.

Your story is unique to you, and however you are feeling is valid. You have every right to feel your way through the aftermath in your own way and in your own time. There is no approved map or timeline you are required to follow

When you are ready, help is there in the form of resources and tremendously caring people, all dedicated to your recovery and ready to meet you where you are.

At every phase of your healing, you are worthy, you are loved, and you are incredibly brave. And, even if we have never met before, I am beyond proud of the warrior you are.



What's happening at Henderson Hall



Photos by Felix Gonzalez

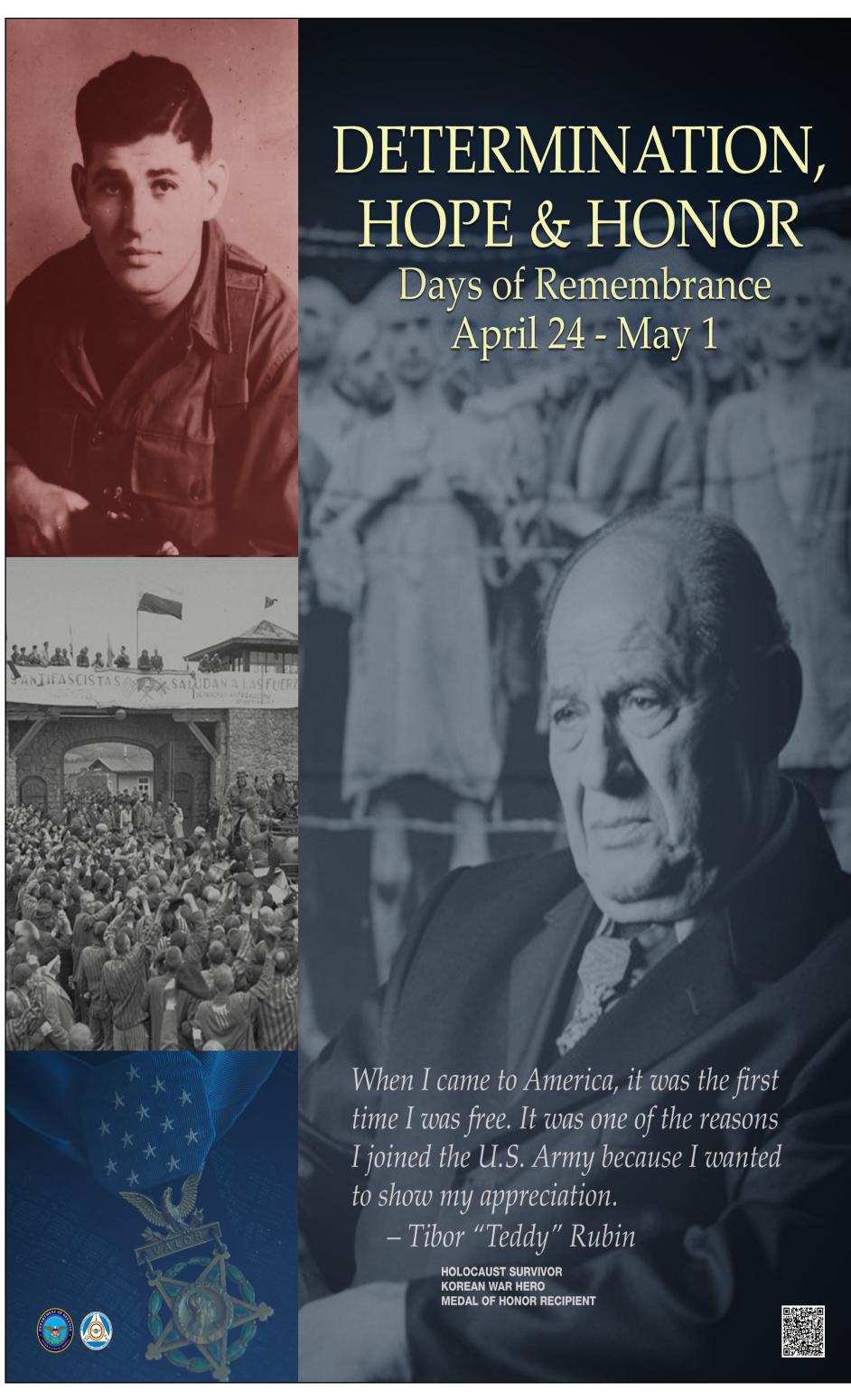
Sexual Assault Prevention Awareness Spring Salute 5K participants begin the 5K race around Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Friday, April 15. More than 75 service members and civilians stationed at JBM-HH participated in the race in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.



(From left to right) Yuko Whitestone, Lily Harrington, and Sarah Talone finish the SAPR Spring Salute 5K, April 15, as the top three in the female division in the first race of the OohRahh Run Series on JBM-HH.



(From left to right) Noah Harrington, Anthony Lenzini, and Kurt Rorvik finish the SAPR Spring Salute 5K, April 15, as the top three in the male division in the first race of the OohRahh Run Series on JBM-HH.



News Notes

Death notice

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Maj. Barbara K. Kerrane, U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, must contact Col. Carol Brewer, the summary court officer for the Soldier. Kerrane passed away April 5. For more information, call Brewer at (571) 256-7997.

Death notice

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of SSG Cameron C. Marshall, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of Military Commissions, must contact LTC Charles L. Flynn, the Summary Court Martial Officer for the Soldier. SSG Marshal passed away on April 17. For more information contact LTC Flynn at 757-975-7458

Road closures for ANC southern expansion

As part of Arlington National Cemetery's southern expansion construction project, the west-bound portion of Southgate Road from Columbia Pike to S. Oak Street has been closed for construction. This closure will last approximately three months. As part of the construction in that section of the road, the traffic pattern on the eastbound side of Southgate Road is now two way.

New Myer Flyer hours

Please be advised that the new Myer Flyer hours are now in effect. Face coverings may be required for all riders; and only a maximum of 50% of passengers are allowed on the bus at this time. Food or drink are not authorized while on the bus.

DFMWR sports & fitness at the Fort Myer Fitness Center

DFMWR Sports & Fitness at the Fort Myer Physical Fitness Center is currently in the process of establishing and upgrading facilities to offer new programs and education in sports and fitness for the JBM-HH community. The new equipment included in part of the basketball court area will include three new squat racks with deadlift platforms, assault bikes, assault treadmills and a turf conversion kit. The primary function of the turfed area is to provide an indoor training space for Soldiers to prepare for the new Army Combat

Fitness Test. This is not to be used for actual ACFT testing.

Sports are back

With the return of games and events at Nats Park and Audi Field, all are advised of the increase in traffic on roads surrounding Fort McNair, to include P Street and 2nd Street, prior to and following games. Personnel who park at Fort McNair are advised to exercise caution walking to and from the stadiums and to be aware of the potential for increased criminal activity.

Strong chlorine smell, taste expected in water

Arlington County, along with northeastern Fairfax County and the District, have begun an annual cleaning out of their tap water networks — resulting in drinking water having a stronger chlorine smell and taste — lasting through May 16. In the interim, recommendations are to run the cold water tap for about two minutes before using, get a filter system or let water sit in a container for an hour or two to allow the chlorine smell and taste to dissipate. The links below provide information about the process, along with official websites for Arlington, Virginia and Washington D.C. water utilities, which supply water to JBM-HH.

Heat to air conditioning change

The annual changeover from heat to air conditioning on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's three installations has begun and will continue with a projected completion date of April 30. The order of priority for the changeover is the CDC, clinics, Army Family and guest quarters, barracks, DFMWR facilities and administrative offices. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis for chapels and club facilities based on anticipated ceremonies. During this time please refrain from calling in service orders for "no air conditioning" or "no heat", unless it is an emergency or in a facility designated as a key mission critical fa-

Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program accepting applications

The DCELP mission is to recruit and develop the next generation of innova-

tive leaders who possess the technical and leadership competence to meet the future leadership imperatives of the DoD. GS-7 through GS-12 and equivalent civilians and interagency partners are eligible to apply.

Qualifications: Applicants must be in grades GS-7 through GS-12 or equivalent; be a permanent, full time Civilian employee; served three years, or any combination thereof, in a Department of the Army Civilian Permanent Position at time of application; and must complete grade-related Army Civilian Education System (CES) training prior to nomination. GS-7 through GS-9 and GS-10 through GS-12 must submit Basic and/or Intermediate course completion certificates, respectively, with their nomination package.

Application Package: Application documents to be consolidated in one PDF (NOT portfolio) in the following order:

Completed application package (Pages 1-6 of Tab B) to include Statement of Interest, Supervisor Competency Assessment/Narrative/Acknowledgement of Requirements, and Director Approval b. Resume (see Template at Tab B) not to exceed six pages, Times New Roman, 12-pt font c. Notification of Personnel Action (APF SF50 or NAF DA3434) d. CES Certificate (or proof of completion) e. Individual Development Plan (IDP) - approved by supervisor with DCELP annotated.

Please submit applications to Jennifer Souza at

jennifer.s.souza2.civ@army.mil no later than May 6.

Never too late senior fitness Classes

Never too late senior fitness classes will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:45 to 11 a.m. at the Community Activity Center, 228 McNair Rd., Bldg. 405, next to the bowling center.

As of March 1, face masks are no longer required indoors in DFMWR facilities (except for the CDC). All certified instructors and current attendees are currently vaccinated. The N2L fitness class is open to all Department of Defense ID card holders, military, civilians, retirees, reservists and military spouses. For more information, please contact Chester Taylor at gotlanders@gmail.com.

Army Emergency Relief is here for Soldiers, Families

Army Emergency Relief is an

invaluable resource for Soldiers and Families. Financial help is given in the form of an interest free loan, grant, or combination of the two. If a Family has a financial need, the Soldier should call Trina Reliford at (703) 696-3510. open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please note that documentation is required to justify the dollar amount for loans.

Civilian Leave Assist

JBM-HH Directorate of Public Works employee Daniel Wilhite and Directorate of Emergency Services employee Talia Rankin have been approved to re-ceive leave under the Volunteer Leave Program.

Department of the Army civilian employees who would like to donate annual leave can fill out form OPM630a, "Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Vol-untary Leave Transfer Program (Within Agency)," at www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opm630a.pdf.

For federal government civilian employees outside the Department of the Army who would like to donate annual leave, please complete form OPM 630b, "Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (Outside Agency)," at www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opm630b.pdf.

Commissary early bird hours, Click2Go

The Commissary offers early bird services every day. The Commissary hours are Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Don't forget the Commissary's CLICK2GO online shopping and curbside pickup service individuals can access from their mobile devices. For full details, visit https:/ www.commissaries.com/ shopping/click-2-go. For additional information on the JBM-HH Commissary, visit the Commissary official website at https:// www.commissaries.com/ shopping/store-locations/

