

Soldier Systems Center

SPOTLIGHT

Issue 16

March 2025



1863



1898



1904



Present

MEDAL OF HONOR

MONTH



U.S. ARMY



A Brief Word



Team Natick,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new teammates to Natick Soldier Systems Center! Over the last several weeks we have gained several new employees here at Natick. As you encounter new faces across the installation, please welcome them with open arms and help integrate them into our great community.

There has been a lot of rapid change over the last month. As military organizations, it is important to remember we rely on the chain of command for direction and guidance and execute based on written DoD policy and equivalent service orders processes. We need to be careful to not get out in front of our leaders by utilizing second-hand information from an outside source like social media or the news. To that end, engage your supervisors and leaders if you have questions or need guidance.

Remember, as we are all back to in-person work here at Natick, with change comes some increased risk. Please be aware of one another as we move about the installation and observe posted speed limits and traffic signs. Reminder, the speed limit on post is 15 miles per hour unless otherwise posted.

Finally, whether it's parking, office space, network speeds, or lack of snacks in the AAFES retail unit, it's important we all have patience with one another as we adjust to the increased population here at NSSC. The Garrison will strive to meet everyone's needs and requirements to ensure you can accomplish your mission and thrive personally and professionally while at work here. Please don't hesitate to reach out to CSM Kelley, Mr. Jackson, myself, or anyone of our Garrison Civilian Professionals if there is anything we can do to support you, your people, or your mission.

LTC Andrew Ballow
Garrison Commander



In This Issue

4

Upcoming
Events

5

MWR

6

ACS
Resource
Calendar

10

Hygge Series

11

Regional
Commanders
Conference

12

Housing
Manager

13

Keeping NSSC
Connected

15

Soldier Center
Employee of the
Month

17

TDY Parking

18

National Medal of
Honor Day

20

NSSC and the
Medal of
Honor

22

Safety
Bulletin



Upcoming Events & Opportunities

March

- **11 & 12 March: Veterans Assistance Expo**
 - **Gillette Stadium**
 - **(www.va.gov/boston-health-care/events/77123)**
- **19 March: Hygge Series**
 - **Guided Mindfulness Meditation**
 - **11:30 a.m. - Hunter Auditorium**
- **20 March: Newcomers Orientation**
 - **10 a.m. - Hunter Auditorium**
- **22 - 23 March: NSSC Chaplain lead BRS event for Servicemembers and their families at Great Wolf Lodge (See Chaplain's office to sign up).**
- **27 March: Installation Planning Board**
- **28 March: Housing Town Hall - 3 p.m.**

April

- **7 April - Monti S2PRINT Dedication Ceremony**



MWR Resources



At Natick Family and MWR, we strive to continuously improve the quality and ease of access to MWR services and information. When planning your next event, please visit our website where you can easily request rental equipment, request dates for facility use, or send a message to one of our representatives.

Equipment Rental

Visit www.natick.armymwr.com and click on the 'Equipment Checkout Center' banner.

Items Available:

- Leaf Blowers
- Chainsaws
- Hydraulic Log Splitter
- Landscape Trailer
- Pop-Up Camper
- Snow blowers! \$200 for the entire season!
- Party and tailgate equipment!



Hero WOD

February 2025

KLEPTO

U.S. Air Force Maj. David "Klepto" L. Brodeur, 34, died on April 27, 2011, in Afghanistan, after sustaining gunshot wounds from an Afghan military trainee.

4 Rounds for Time

27 box jumps using a 24-inch box

20 burpees

11 reps, 145-pound squat cleans

A Hero WOD, also known as a Hero Workout, is a challenging and intense CrossFit workout that is named after a fallen hero. These workouts are created to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country or community.



Do you and your team participate in the monthly Hero WODs? Send us your photos completing the workouts and we'll share them here in the Spotlight!





Natick Army Community Service Program March 2025



2025 AER Campaign | 1 March – 14 June 2025



The AER Campaign kicks off on March 1, 2025! This is a great opportunity to provide financial support to our Soldiers and their Families.

To make a contribution visit: <https://give.armyemergencyrelief.org>

Employment Readiness Program



Did you know ACS has a new information office with employment resources available for Soldiers, Family Members, and DoD civilians. Come check out the books, work station, and employment board.

MilTax | Available Now



MilTax e-filing software is free for Service Members, eligible family members, survivors, and recent veterans up to 365 days from their separation or retirement date. Military Tax Consultants are available 24/7 to schedule.

Visit the website below for more information:

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/taxes/miltax-military-tax-services/>

Volunteer Opportunity



Looking for a way to give back, gain valuable experience and earn volunteer service hours. ACS is seeking a volunteer Administrative Assistant to help with office tasks, marketing, and program support. Reach out to ACS for more information.

**Thank you for
your participation!**



ACS Community Needs Assessment Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Community Needs Assessment! With 352 responses, your input will help shape programs and resources that support our community.



For more information contact: Natick Army Community Service

Phone: 508-206-4035

Email: usarmy.natick.id-training.list.nati-accs@army.mil

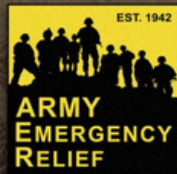
ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN MARCH 1 - JUNE 14



**AER CELEBRATES THE U.S. ARMY'S
250 YEARS OF BRAVERY AND SERVICE**

HONORING THE PAST 1775 - 2025 SECURING THE FUTURE





It's almost time for the FY25 Army Housing's Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Are YOU In?

Opt-In from your cell phone now to receive your Survey via text message when it becomes available in March*



***U.S. phone numbers only at this time**

Text option is not available for Army UH for FY25.

The survey is being conducted online and is being administered through a third party, CEL & Associates, Inc. (CEL). All households living in privatized, government managed Army or Unaccompanied Housing are invited to participate in the survey, and this is your opportunity to provide feedback on your housing and community.

Households will also receive the survey via email but only one survey per household or room/bed can be submitted. All surveys submitted are confidential and anonymous. For more information contact your Housing Office or management office for privatized housing.



Take a Stand Against



CHILD ABUSE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

WHAT: PLANTING PINWHEELS FOR
PREVENTION, SUBSEQUENTLY
FOLLOWED BY A SAAPM AWARENESS
WALK

WHEN: 1 APRIL @ 1200 HRS

WHERE: IN FRONT OF CARNEY HALL,
BUILDING 1



SHARP
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT
RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

The Hygge Series: Hygge and Its Importance for Winter Wellness

Story by Lynn Valcourt, USAG-N PAIO Director

Hygge (pronounced hoo-gah) is a Danish concept that encompasses a sense of cozy contentment, well-being, and intentional joy. The Hygge Series provides inspiration and guidance for anyone seeking to navigate winter with joy and purpose. The H&W Committee set out to offer a series of practical ideas and reflections on how to create cozy, meaningful moments that nurture both body and spirit.

The NSSC Health and Wellness Committee has curated a Hygge Winter Wellness Series to bring warmth and connection to our community. The four events encourage self-care and mindfulness:



1. Warm Beverage Gathering (held January 29 in the cafe) – A cozy kickoff with tea, cocoa, and coffee, fostering warmth and conversation.



2. Restorative Yoga (held February 5 in Hunter Auditorium) – A gentle session focused on relaxation, deep breathing, and stress relief.



3. Meal Prep / Recipe Exchange and Tasting (held March 5)
Meal prep is the concept of planning and preparing meals ahead of time to be eaten over the course of the following days.

As March continues, the NSSC Health & Wellness Council will be hosting one more Hygge event this winter.

4. Community Mindfulness Practice
The last event is a Guided Mindfulness Meditation Practice on Wednesday, March 19 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in Hunter Auditorium. According to Ellen Merrill, a Research Psychologist within DEVCOM SC, "Mindfulness Meditation is a practice that trains your attention by focusing on the present moment, observing thoughts, and bringing awareness to sensations of the body and breath without judgement. Regular practice can help relax the body and mind, reduce stress, build resilience, and improve overall well-being. It's a quality that you can embody not only while meditating, but also through every moment of your life." The meditation will be 30 minutes and at the end of practice there will be a poetry component - an invitation to bring your favorite poem or quote to share with others [this is optional]. Chairs and some mats will be provided, if you have a personal mat or cushion please bring them along. For questions about this event, please contact Ellen Merrill, ellen.p.merrill.civ@army.mil.



Regional Commanders Conference

U.S. Army Garrison Natick, hosted senior leaders from military installations across the region during the regularly held Regional Commanders Conference, Feb. 26.

Military and civilian leaders from the Massachusetts National Guard, Hanscom Air Force Base, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S.S. Constitution, U.S. Coast Guard Base Boston, FBI, and others attended the event to connect with their counterparts and discuss shared opportunities for partnerships and local resources provided by Natick Soldier Systems Center and other installations around the region.

Natick Soldier Systems Center leads the Army's research and development efforts in warfighter survivability, focusing on clothing, food, protective equipment, and human performance, which supports readiness and innovation across the Department of Defense.

"We have a unique mission here at Natick, and with that comes a great opportunity to collaborate with our sister services and partner agencies," said Lt. Col. Andrew Ballow, U.S. Army Garrison Natick Commander. "These meetings are about sharing best practices and making sure we're all in sync."

Representatives from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the FBI, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, and the USO provided briefings on their respective roles and capabilities, sharing insights on how they support service members and the broader defense community.

Following the briefings, leaders engaged in an open dialogue to discuss the DoD's refocus on warfighter lethality, ongoing changes, and best practices for coordinating missions and requirements across organizations.

Attendees then participated in a base tour, showcasing the vast array of sections and capabilities housed at NSSC.

"This kind of engagement is vital as we work together to meet the needs of today's warfighters," said Ballow. "By strengthening these connections, we ensure we are aligned in supporting our shared mission."

The conference concluded with plans for continued collaboration, reinforcing the importance of joint efforts in enhancing operational effectiveness.

"Opportunities like this allow us to share resources, lessons learned, and best practices, ultimately making us all more effective," said Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Kelley, U.S. Army Garrison Natick's Senior Enlisted Advisor.



USAG-Natick has a New Housing Manager



Story by Vannessa Josey, USAG-N Public Affairs

USAG-Natick is pleased to welcome Zeila Chicoma as its new Housing Manager. With over 15 years of experience in affordable residential housing—including tax credit programs, HUD, project-based housing, and veteran housing—she is eager to apply her expertise to serve service members and their families. Now stationed at the DPW office in Building 45, Chicoma is focused on building trust with residents, addressing housing concerns, and ensuring that service members feel safe and supported in their homes.

“DPW is extremely pleased to have Ms. Chicoma onboard as our new Housing Services Office Manager,” said Russell Stokes, Director of DPW at USAG-Natick. “Ms. Chicoma brings to us vast experience working in private industry with residential property portfolios, often exceeding 2,000 units or residences. In a very short time with us, she has quickly learned and adapted to DoD business processes. Integrating her past experience with a high level of work energy, she has already made improvements within the Housing Office. In addition to her primary responsibility of working with the Privatized Housing Partner, Cadence Communities, we look forward to the Housing Services Office becoming more robust in its ability to assist service members with all their housing needs, including off-post housing referrals, inspections, and contractual assistance.”

Chicoma’s path to USAG-Natick is both professional and personal. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, she moved to Massachusetts eight years ago to ensure her son, who has autism, had access to the best educational resources. As both a mother and a housing professional, she understands the importance of a strong support system at home and within the community.

Her motivation to join USAG-Natick stems from a long-held goal of working in federal service while continuing her passion for housing. “I’ve always wanted to work in government, and when I saw this position, I knew it was the perfect opportunity to blend my skills with public service,” she shared.

To build strong relationships with the community, Chicoma is already working with Army Community Services (ACS) to improve outreach efforts and create open lines of communication with residents. She hopes to make a meaningful impact by listening to concerns, addressing issues, and ensuring service members and their families have the resources they need.

“I want residents to know that I’m here for them,” she said. “I’m committed to making sure they feel at home and have the support they deserve.”

Chicoma encourages anyone with housing-related questions or concerns to reach out. She can be contacted at Zeila.Chicoma.civ@army.mil.



Keeping NSSC Connected



Story by Alfred Tripolone III, USAG-N Public Affairs

Behind every smoothly running operation at the Natick Soldier Systems Center (NSSC) is a dedicated team ensuring that technology and communication never miss a beat. One key player in that effort is Robert Moore, Business Operations Chief for the Network Enterprise Center (NEC). As part of the NEC team, Moore helps manage IT acquisitions, ensures contract compliance, and works with technicians to support personnel across the installation. A local native and Army veteran, he is committed to making NSSC a more connected and efficient workplace.

Moore's career path has been anything but conventional. Born and raised in the Natick area, his first job after high school was in shipping and receiving at a computer parts company. Wanting to challenge himself and gain new experiences, he decided to join the Army.

"I said, you know, I need to expand. I need to experience life a little bit. So, I joined the military," Moore recalls.

He served three years in the infantry before returning to civilian life, initially resuming his work in shipping and receiving. Then, a conversation with a friend changed everything. "A buddy of mine who worked across the street was like, 'Hey, we have an opening as a contractor here for IT support. I know you can do it. I've seen you do it before,'" Moore said.

That opportunity led him to NSSC, where he started in a service desk role and worked his way up to Business Operations Chief at the NEC.

"I surrounded myself with folks who are IT savvy and learned from them," he continued. "Then I got myself over to business operations and kind of expanded from there."

Moore plays a key role in ensuring NSSC's IT services run smoothly. "I'm in charge of all NEC acquisitions—purchasing, contracts," he says. As the Contracting Officer Representative (COR), he helps oversee the technicians who provide IT support for NSSC employees. "I make sure that they're holding up to their contract," he adds.

His leadership style is a major asset to the team. Andrew Almstrom, Director of the Network Enterprise Center, noted, "His leadership style meshes very well with the rest of the leadership. He is always in a good mood and is ready and willing to assist. He has more patience than most and he is able to talk through a complicated problem with others in a way they would understand."



Beyond Natick, Moore also assists the Northeast Region, which includes Fort Drum, West Point, Fort Buchanan, Fort Dix, and Fort Hamilton. His oversight ensures that these installations receive the IT services they need to function efficiently. When he stepped into his role as Business Operations Chief, the department was in disarray. “When he was hired as the Business Operations Chief, the department was in shambles, and with no staff or experience, he turned it around in minimal amount of time,” Almstrom explained. “This allowed the NEC to make purchases once again for much-needed supplies and equipment.”

One of his recent projects includes upgrading the Wi-Fi system at NSSC. “We always want to hear from the tenants what you need to make your lives easier,” he said. “We want to be up to date. We don’t want to be behind when it comes to this.”

His message to the NSSC community is simple: “If you guys need anything when it comes to purchasing, IT support—work with your IMO, but also work with us. Just let us know. We’re always here to help.”

For Moore, working at NSSC is more than just a job—it’s a chance to give back to a community he knows well. “I’ve been here since 2016. I grew up in Framingham and Natick. My parents live right down the street,” he says with a smile. “Sometimes I even go pick their fridge at lunchtime.”

Despite growing up in the area, he wasn’t always familiar with NSSC’s mission. “I always knew this place existed, but I just never came around here,” he admits. His early perception of the installation was informed by the rumors he heard in school growing up. “I thought, oh, they must do underground testing there, but, when I walked in for my first interview and saw the uniforms and the MREs, it all came together.”

Now, he takes pride in being part of a team that supports NSSC’s personnel and the mission of equipping America’s Warfighters. “It’s a good place to work, honestly. I love it here. The folks, everyone. There’s a lot of townies like myself that are here,” he says. “We’re here to support everyone for all their IT needs.”

What many may not realize is that Moore, despite having the least amount of time in his role compared to others across the region, has become the go-to expert. “He has the least amount of time on the job—less than three years—compared to others with more than ten years of experience, but he is the one that everyone calls when they need help,” Almstrom noted. “Our Higher Headquarters asked Bobby to be the POC for all COR-related questions and problems.”

With a strong background in both military service and IT, Moore is dedicated to helping NSSC stay ahead of the curve and at the cutting edge of technology. Whether it’s troubleshooting a technical issue, procuring new IT equipment, or managing contracts, he and his team are committed to ensuring NSSC has the tools it needs to succeed. His military background also influences his approach to leadership and problem-solving. “Bobby sees a problem and deals with it head on, zero hesitation,” Almstrom observed.

As NSSC continues to evolve, Moore’s role remains focused on collaboration and service. “We’ll always point you in the right direction,” he says. “We want to make this place better.” With professionals like Moore on the team, NSSC’s IT operations remain in good hands.



January Employee of the Month advances VR medical training technology research

Story by Jeff Sisto, DEVCOM SC Public Affairs

Another new Army civilian scientist is immediately contributing to Soldier Center's success by leading assessments of important virtual reality technologies, earning January's Employee of the Month award.

Sophia Cafferty, a computer scientist and S&T manager from the Soldier Effectiveness Directorate, Training & Simulation Directorate, Medical Simulation Branch at the Simulation and Training Technology Center (STTC) in Orlando, earned the popular award for leading and executing a critical user evaluation of a medical virtual reality technology training platform, called "Sim-X."



The achievement marks the second month in a row that a new hire has earned the EOM, further proving the center's ability to attract the best young scientific minds to support Soldier optimization research.

After graduating from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in computer science, where she is now pursuing a master's degree in computer engineering, Sophia served as an intern at STTC for a year before starting her current position.

Now, in only her second year at STTC, Sophia took on the experimental design, technology implementation, study execution, and data analysis of the evaluation, demonstrating tremendous initiative, versatility, and technical expertise to her leaders and coworkers.

"Ms. Cafferty led all IRB and study methodology activities, developing a study design that would deliver a thorough assessment of the Sim-X platform," reads the award citation.

"She used her technical acumen to configure and test all the equipment, as well as troubleshoot the hardware and software packages during test events. Throughout the research effort, she provided leadership and coordinated with user groups" involved.

It also highlighted that Sophia "was the first STTC individual to use the Soldier Research Volunteer (SRV) cohort at Natick, paving the way for leveraging this Soldier Center asset for future assessments."



January Employee of the Month advances VR medical training technology research - Cont.

“The broad test population she was able to orchestrate enabled data and findings that can be broadly applied to the military healthcare system. Importantly, Ms. Caffery was able to highlight key capabilities and deficiencies in the Sim-X platform system.”

Sophia also provided guidance to the Medical Center of Excellence’s Directorate of Simulation (MEDCoE DoS), which funded the research, regarding where the system could be utilized, and a potential development path for broad implementation of virtual reality technology for military healthcare training, “beyond the limited scope of the Sim-X system.”

“This work benefits Soldiers by offering access to new technologies that can enhance their medical training and provide them the opportunity to evaluate its effectiveness,” said Sophia. “From this evaluation, we can draw conclusions that help inform the future development and integration.”

Despite her remarkable accomplishments, Sophia remains humble about her role in the effort, preferring to praise her colleagues and how her technical and leadership skills help Soldiers.

“This project was my first assignment after being hired post-grad, and I was excited to take ownership and learn as much as possible,” Sophia said. “I was fortunate to have great colleagues across the organization, who provided guidance and support throughout the process.”

“What I enjoy most about my job is the opportunity to make a real impact by empowering Soldiers and working creatively to find the best solutions,” she said.

Congratulations, Sophia!



Instructions for TDY Parking at NSSC

If you are an employee at the Natick Soldier Systems Center and will be on official temporary duty (TDY) orders for more than 24 hours, please follow these detailed instructions for parking your vehicle:

1. Purpose of Designated Parking:

- This designated TDY parking space is intended for long-term use to minimize the need for daily parking spaces.
- Parking in this designated area helps reduce security concerns and decreases the likelihood of your vehicle obstructing repair work, construction, or snow removal operations.

2. Parking Location:

- You are authorized to park in Lot-C parking spaces.
- Ensure that you back your vehicle in along the fence line as indicated on the provided parking map.

3. Required Information Submission:

Before parking, you must provide certain information to the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES). Visit the police desk located inside Building Number 1, directly across from the Hanscom Federal Credit Union to submit the following details:

- Your full name
- TDY contact information (phone number and/or email)
- A comprehensive description of your vehicle (make, model, color, license plate number)
- The specific parking location (Lot-C)
- The dates of your TDY orders
- The name and contact information of a Point of Contact (POC) who will remain in the area and has access to your vehicle.

4. Emergency Contact:

- The provided POC must be reachable in case your vehicle needs to be moved during your absence.

By following these instructions, you will ensure compliance with parking regulations and contribute to the efficient operation of the Natick Soldier Systems Center during your TDY assignment.



TDY Parking is only allowed in the designated area.



NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

March 25, 2025

National Medal of Honor Day was established by Congress to “foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor Recipients.” The first National Medal of Honor Day was celebrated on March 25, 1991. March 25th was chosen because it was on that date in 1863 that the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of Andrews’ Raiders.

To its Recipients, the Medal of Honor represents more than recognition of combat actions. Instead, it symbolizes the sacrifices of those we served alongside and those who came before. To honor those sacrifices, each year on National Medal of Honor Day, the Recipients lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The “unknowns” buried here are each Medal of Honor Recipients.

The Medal of Honor History

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States. In judging men and women for receipt of the medal, each service has established its own regulations.

The idea for the Medal of Honor was born during the Civil War as men fought gallantly, often displaying great heroism. General George Washington had originated the Purple Heart in 1782 to honor brave Soldiers, sailors and Marines.

From that time until the Civil War, certificates of merit and a "brevet" system of promotions were used as military awards. The first military decoration formally authorized by the American government as a badge of valor was the Medal of Honor for enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps.

On December 9, 1861, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced (S. No. 82 in the United States Senate) a bill designed to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by authorizing the production and distribution of "medals of honor". On December 21st the bill was passed, authorizing 200 such medals be produced "which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war (Civil War)." President Lincoln signed the bill and the (Navy) Medal of Honor was born.

Two months later, on February 17, 1862, Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson (who lived and worked in Natick, and is buried in the Dell Park Cemetery in Natick) introduced a similar bill, this one to authorize "the President to distribute medals to privates in the



Army of the United States who shall distinguish themselves in battle." Over the following months wording changed slightly as the bill made its way through Congress. When President Abraham Lincoln signed (S.J.R. No. 82) the bill on July 12, 1862, the Army Medal of Honor was born.

The Medal is awarded "in the name of the Congress of the United States," and for this reason, it is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was only on rare occasions, however, that Congress awarded special Medals of Honor. An executive order, signed September 20th, 1905, by President Theodore Roosevelt directed that the ceremonies of award "will always be made with formal and impressive ceremonial" and that the recipient "will, when practicable, be ordered to Washington, D.C., and the presentation will be made by the President, as Commander-in-Chief, or by such representative as the President may designate".

(NOTE: Both Teddy Roosevelt and his son Teddy Jr. were Medal of Honor Recipients, Teddy from the Battle of San Juan Hill during the Spanish American War, and Teddy Jr. from the D-Day Invasion of Normandy during World War 2)

Criteria for Award

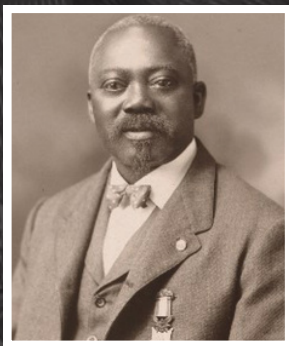
The Medal of Honor, established by joint resolution of Congress, July 12, 1862, (amended by Act of July 9, 1918, and Act of July 25, 1963) is awarded in the name of Congress to a person, who, while a member of the armed forces, distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against any enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice, an action that conspicuously distinguished the individual above his comrades. Incontestable proof of the performance of service is exacted and the recommendation for award of this decoration is considered on the standard of extraordinary merit. Eligibility is limited to members of the armed forces of the United States in active military service.



Your Installation and the Medal of Honor

You may have noticed the bronze plaques on some buildings and street corners on the installation and wondered why they were there. On April 19, 2008 (Patriots' Day in Massachusetts and the commemoration of the battles of Lexington and Concord, effectively starting the Revolutionary War in 1775) a dedication ceremony was held here at NSSC by the Senior Commander to rededicate by name all of the significant buildings and roads on the installation. The tenant units and workforce of NSSC are made up of Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Special Operations, Air Force, and Coast Guard commands and personnel. The scope of work and our mission focus supports the entire Department of Defense; therefore, it executes a truly joint role in support to all warfighters and homeland defenders and was a significant planning factor in selecting honorees. The facilities and roads previously were identified only by building number and alpha-numeric designation only. Four installation sites were named for individuals as memorials and were not rededicated.

This will be the first part of a series highlighting those Medal of Honor recipients.



Building 1, the Headquarters Building

Sergeant Carney was the first Medal of Honor recipient from Massachusetts and was the first black recipient of the Medal of Honor, receiving this honor for protecting one of the United States' greatest symbols during the Civil War -- the American flag.

Rank and organization: Sergeant, Company C, 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry.

Place and date: At Fort Wagner, S.C., 18 July 1863.

Entered service at: New Bedford, Mass.

Birth: Norfolk, Va.

Date of issue: 23 May 1900.

Citation: When the color sergeant was shot down, this Soldier grasped the flag, led the way to the parapet, and planted the colors thereon. When the troops fell back he brought off the flag, under a fierce fire in which he was twice severely wounded.

Early in 1863, William Carney, then 23 years old, enlisted in the Morgan Guards, which became part of the 54th Massachusetts regiment. In July 1863, the regiment was engaged in the disastrous battle at Fort Wagner. When Carney saw that the color sergeant, the Soldier who carried the flag, had been wounded, he rescued the flag, going through a volley of enemy bullets. Delivering it to a squad of his own regiment, he shouted, "The Old Flag never touched the ground!" Then Carney fell to the ground in a dead faint, weak from the wounds that he had received.



Mustered out of the Army in 1864, he went to New Bedford, Massachusetts before going to California. In 1870, he returned to New Bedford and became one of the four men employed as letter carriers. After 31 years in the postal service, he retired in 1901, then spend his last years as an employee at the state capitol in Boston.

Carney was the first black Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor, although like Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain , he would have to wait over three decades for it. Born a slave in Virginia, he was studying for the ministry when he learned that the first regiment of black Soldiers, the 54th Massachusetts, was being formed, and decided that he “could best serve my God by serving my country and my oppressed brothers.”

Although the citation reads that he was twice severely wounded, he actually suffered multiple gunshot wounds in the head, chest, legs and one arm. He ended up carrying the flag to safety when the 54th was driven back by a Confederate counterattack. When a Soldier from another regiment offered to take the flag so Carney could seek medical aid, he replied, “No one but a member of the 54th should carry the colors!” Upon carrying the flag back into camp after the battle, he received rousing cheers from other units but simply replied, typically for a Medal of Honor recipient, “I only did my duty.”



Spring Safety Bulletin

Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting your home is a powerful defense against the spread of diseases and illnesses. Adopting consistent and diligent cleaning habits ensures the elimination of most germs, including harmful viruses and bacteria, from household surfaces. The chemicals used in your home can pose significant risks to both your health and the environment.

Per Poison Statistics National, in 2024, a staggering 77.2% of the 2.1 million poison exposures reported to the 55 United States Poison Control Centers across all age groups were unintentional. Alarming, household cleaning products emerged as the second leading cause of these unintentional poisonings, with many of the incidents occurring in children aged six and under. This indicates that the children were able to access cleaning agents without the awareness of a parent or adult guardian.

We often become so comfortable in our own homes that we may neglect essential safety precautions. Cleaning is a particularly common time for this lapse. To ensure the safety of your family, adhere to these crucial safety tips when cleaning your home and when using or storing household cleaning products.

- 1. Go Mild** - Only use cleaning products as directed. Read and follow the directions for safe and effective use. Some products (including bleach) need to be heavily diluted.
- 2. Read the Label** – Each cleaning and disinfecting product should have a label describing proper use and safety precautions to follow during use. Take time to read the label and follow the instructions. Don't transfer products to other containers. Keep cleaners and disinfectants in their original containers with the label and all-important instructions visible.
- 3. Keep the Area Ventilated** – When using cleaning and disinfecting products, it is crucial to open windows or doors and run a fan to enhance indoor airflow. This practice helps prevent the accumulation of indoor pollutants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from cleaning products, as well as dust, dander, and mold. By ensuring proper ventilation, you create a healthier and fresher indoor environment.
- 4. Consider a Mask** – If you have allergies or breathing issues, wear a mask to prevent allergic reactions and irritation.
- 5. Glove Up** – The benefits of wearing cleaning gloves are numerous. Firstly, they shield your hands from harmful chemicals that can cause severe skin damage. Secondly, they prevent dirt and grime from getting under your nails while scrubbing surfaces. Lastly, they act as a protective barrier between your skin and the germs lurking on surfaces.
- 6. Safely Store Cleaning Products** – Keep the products in a clean, cool, dry, and locked space where children and pets cannot gain access to them.



Natick Soldier Systems Center
Barbershop

OPENING:
MARCH 5, 11:00 a.m.

Open Wednesdays Only
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Regular Haircut:
\$20.50

**(Sign-up sheet will be posted Monday after
1 p.m. outside the Barbershop door in Bldg 1)**

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My Army Post

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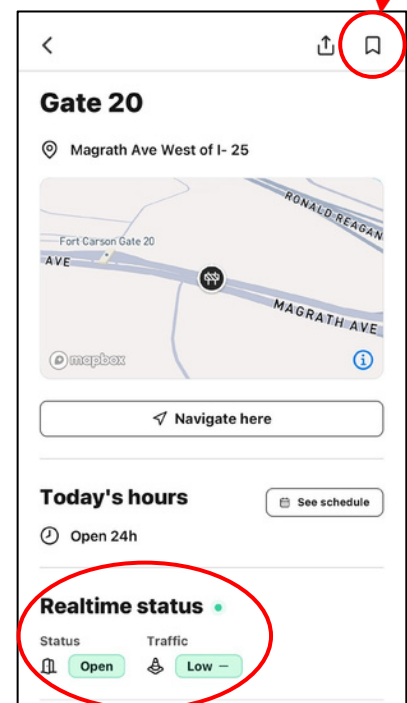
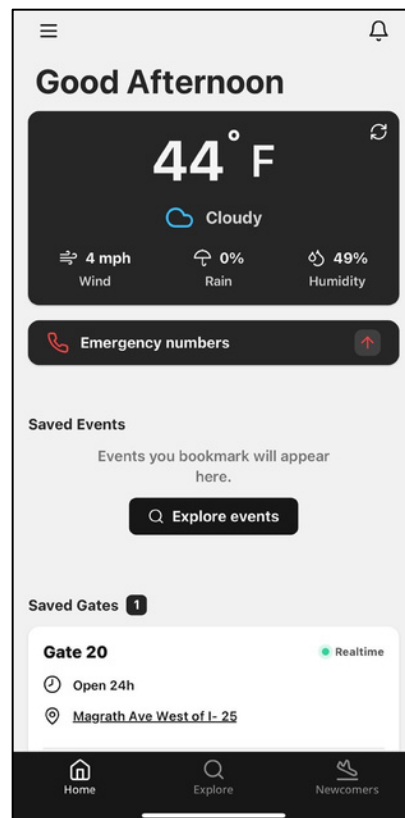
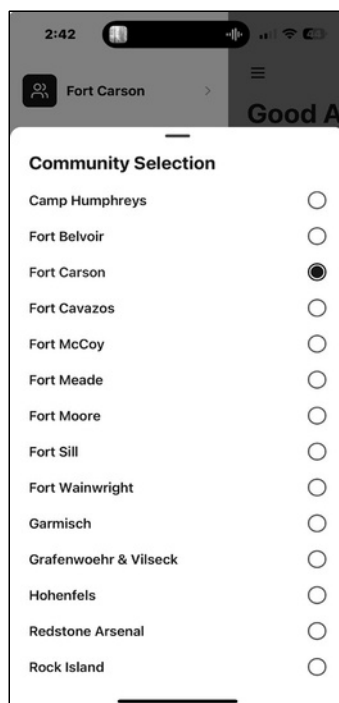


APP Features

- Gate real time status
- Map directions
- Notifications (delays, closures)
- Allows individuals to switch installations
- when on TDY or PCSing
- Bookmarks

Customize Your Homepage:

- Bookmark your preferred gate to track its status.
- Bookmark upcoming events to see updates.



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