



Effective April 1, Fort Belvoir Garrison will not run a centralized recycling program and will not provide large item disposal. The Recycling Center will be closed on that date. See the full story in next week's Belvoir Eagle.

Army's senior energy executive impressed by Ombudsman, Village Mayor program

By Paul Lara
Belvoir Eagle

Jack Surash, the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, took a close look at energy, operations and housing in a visit to Fort Belvoir, Friday.



Photos by Paul Lara

Jack Surash, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Energy & Sustainability, left, speaks with Col. Joshua SeGraves, Garrison commander, about housing improvements, Friday.

"I had a great time today, meeting with the Garrison commander and the command sergeant major, and we talked about the various important functions that the Garrison performs here. I heard about some real innovative things going on here on Fort Belvoir," Surash said.

Surash is responsible for all matters related to Army installation policy and oversight, coordination of energy security and management program direction, and refinement of strategies and oversight for implementation of all programs and initiatives related to Energy Security and Sustainability within the Army. As the Army's senior energy executive, Mr. Surash coordinates and integrates both

installation and operational energy programs and strategies. Much of his discussion with Garrison leadership and public works was on ways the installation could reduce energy consumption and even some ways those savings could be returned to Garrison operations. He urged leadership to keep an eye on designs for creating the most sustainable building possible using energy analysis and lifecycle cost estimates. During a windshield tour of the post, Surash stopped at

See Army, page 4



From left: Col. Joshua SeGraves, Garrison commander; Jack Surash, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Energy & Sustainability; and Brian Smith, Garrison chief of housing, inspect renovations to enlisted barracks, Friday.

Garrison Ombudsman, mayors are housing communications conduit

By Paul Lara
Belvoir Eagle

After working on housing issues for 18 months on Fort Belvoir, the command group created a position last year, for an Ombudsman that offers an additional path for problem resolution.

"This position does not work for Clark or Michaels, which manages the housing on post. This position works directly for the Garrison commander, and her office is next to mine in the command group," said Dr. John Moeller, deputy to the Garrison commander. "This position gives residents a line of communication that is totally independent from any of the offices involved with managing and overseeing the residential housing on Fort Belvoir," said Moeller, in response to questions submitted by the Eagle.

Moeller added that hiring Jennifer Hudson as the Garrison's Ombudsman is a step in the right direction.

"I don't believe this one position will be a panacea for all



Photo by Paul Lara

Jennifer Hudson, Garrison Ombudsman

of the issues we need to address with housing on Fort Belvoir, but Ms. Hudson knows the housing business inside and out," Moeller said. "More importantly, she has the people skills that the job requires."

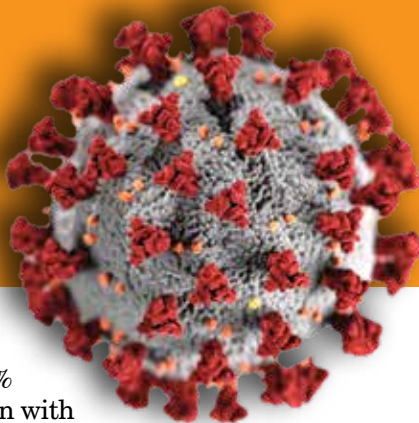
Hudson said she's been in property management for almost 12 years, serving in a variety of positions, starting as a maintenance coordinator, as well as leasing specialist; community manager; property manager; and assistant community director.

"I'm well-rounded, and

understand how certain processes work," said Hudson. "I've been on a Marine Corps base, an Air Force base, and I've now worked an Army post. I understand the different metrics that have to be met, by each of the partners' guidelines." Moeller said Hudson will work closely with Clark, Michaels, the DPW Housing Division, the Safety Office, as well as state and local government officials. "She knows the government privatized housing business from top to bottom, so she has the hard skills required for the position," Moeller said. "But the primary quality we were looking for in an Ombudsman was someone with effective communications skills, problem-solving skills, the ability to resolve conflict, and the ability to collaborate and persuade, for example. Jenn brings the interpersonal skills necessary to succeed. To be a successful Ombudsman takes a special kind of person, a 'people person', and Jenn is just that kind of person." Hudson agreed that the job is to be a voice of reason for both sides.

STUDY:

More children than adults have COVID-19 antibodies



Courtesy from InsideNoVa

A much higher percentage of children in Northern Virginia appear to have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus than previously believed, according to a new study released March 18.

An antibody study conducted from July to October by Inova Health System, the Virginia Department of Health and George Mason University found that the overall antibody positivity rate in children ages 0 to 19 was 8.5%.

In addition, two-thirds of the children who had antibodies had no history of symptoms of COVID-19 infection. That highlights the silent, or asymptomatic, infection in children and subsequent risk of transmission of infection to others, Inova said in a news release.

Through the end of October, Northern Virginia as a whole had reported about 58,000 confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus, representing only 2.5% of the region's population. Following the post-holiday surge, cases have nearly tripled, to a total of about 164,000, or about 7.1% of the region's population.

The Inova study analyzed blood samples from more than 1,000 children, with those of Hispanic origin found to have the highest rate of antibody positivity, 26.6%.

COVID-19 antibodies were found in 8.2% of white children, 5.3% of Black children, 5.7%

of Asian children, and 16.2% of children with multiple racial origins.

Broken down by age groups, the rate was 13.7% in young children (0-5 years), 7.5% in elementary school-age (6-10 years), 5.1% in early adolescents (11-15 years) and 10.8% in older adolescents (16-19 years).

Compared with an earlier study of adults in Virginia, which reported a COVID-19 antibody positivity rate of 4.4%, the pediatric rate of positivity is nearly double.

"The pediatric serology project unexpectedly found more children were seropositive than we had anticipated," said Dr. Rebecca Leverson, division director for pediatric infectious diseases at Inova Children's Hospital.

"Most of these children did not have symptoms, which makes it difficult to know who may be infectious and who is not at a specific time," she added. "Nearly a quarter of the U.S. population is children, and as they may represent a larger proportion of SARS-CoV-2 disease than we previously thought, we need to recognize that children will continue to be infected with and possibly asymptotically spread this disease."

More information about the pediatric serology project can be found at bit.ly/NoVa_Antibodies.

TRICARE

COVID-19 VACCINATION

GET THE FACTS

Is It Your Time to Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

*UPDATE

Health Care, Emergency, and Safety Personnel, and Other Essential and Critical Groups

PHASE 1A

Emergency room, urgent care centers, and first responders (i.e., police, search and rescue, and fire personnel), and Armed Forces Retirement Home residents

Health care and support personnel at military hospitals and clinics, along with other non-clinical staff authorized to receive vaccine from DoD, who support patient care with a high risk of exposure or potential to interface with COVID-19 positive cases

Outpatient health care and support personnel, including National Guard and Reserve personnel as well as active duty service members deploying or supporting COVID-19 response operations in Title 10 or Title 32 duty status

PHASE 1B

National critical capabilities (strategic and nuclear deterrence forces, homeland defense)

Personnel preparing to deploy to locations outside of the continental U.S. (SCOMUS)

Personnel preparing to deploy within the next three months, including military child care and contractors authorized to receive immunization from the DoD

New! Beneficiaries age 75 or older

New! Front Line Essential Workers: Education and youth and child service staff sector, eligible defense manufacturing, DoD corrections staff, DoD postal service staff, DoD public, family workers, Commissary and other isolation food service or agricultural workers

Vaccination appointments are underway for Phase 1B beneficiaries (75 years and older only) through TRICARE Online.

Source: DoD Population Schema

www.defense.gov/portals/11/spotlight/2020/coronavirus/vaccine-availability/SCHEMA.pdf



Call if you have unresolved health or safety concerns:

1-800-984-8523



LEARN MORE

Visit the Housing Resident Portal on the Fort Belvoir Website

USAG FORT BELVOIR

Installation Management Command

How to Resolve Housing Concerns

LEVEL 1 – SUBMIT YOUR WORK ORDER

- Online - www.villagesatbelvoir.com
- In-Person - Maintenance Facility Building 1108
- Phone - 24-Hour Emergency Maintenance Request Line: 703-619-3880

LEVEL 2 – MAKE CONTACT

- Villages at Belvoir Management: 571-318-7546
- Contact Your Chain of Command
- Fort Belvoir Housing Office: 703-805-3018/3019

LEVEL 3 – CONTACT GARRISON COMMANDER

- Garrison Commander's Housing Hotline: 571-259-9867
- Submit concerns to the Fort Belvoir Interactive Customer Evaluation ICE System: <https://ice.disa.mil>

Residents with health concerns related to housing conditions, call Fort Belvoir Community Hospital Rapid Hotline: 571-231-2004

LEVELS OF ESCALATION

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Command Sergeant Major CSM Gregory Kleinholz
Director of Public Affairs Joe Richard
Deputy Director Public Affairs Ganesa Robinson
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1-800-MyVA411: the one number to reach the Veterans Administration

By Kiran Dhillon

Department of Veterans Affairs

With one phone call, Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors can easily access information on VA benefits and services or be connected to an expert for answers to questions.

1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is a national, toll-free number that serves as a “front door” to VA. You can still reach VA at any other direct or contact center numbers, but 1-800-MyVA411 offers the simplicity of a single number to call when you don’t know who to call. The Veterans Crisis Line is always available 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, by Chat, or by Texting 838255. You can also call the White House VA Hotline at 1-855-948-2311 to share your compliments or concerns.

Call 1-800-MyVA411 to get information on VA care, benefits and services, such as:

- Information on COVID-19 and the MISSION Act, which delivers access to health care – at VA facilities, virtually with telehealth, and in the community.
- Health care eligibility and enrollment.
- Information on VA benefits, such as disability compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home loan guaranty, and burial scheduling and markers, among others.
- The nearest VA facilities to where you live or to where you may be traveling; directory

assistance, and connection to VA Medical Center operators.

- Technical support for www.VA.gov.
- Financial information, such as debt and payment options.
- Referrals during business hours, with an introduction from you and your issue to a VA specialist best able to assist.
- Immediate transfer to the Veterans Crisis Line or the National Call Center for

Homeless Veterans for services and support from caring and trained responders.

1-800-MyVA411 callers have the option of pressing 0 to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer any questions or provide a warm-handoff to the appropriate VA expert.

1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) is available 24 hours-a-day, 365 day-a-year to serve Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.



several villages, including Cedar Grove Village, to discuss the three sets of 3,000 sq. ft. duplexes that are under construction. He learned from Clark that the high occupancy rates on post are principally because Service members want neighbors with their shared experience. “Post housing is attractive for the community it offers,” said Alex Rhoads, a Clark executive, and he said resident polling also showed a strong desire to avoid the D.C. area commute.

Surash spent more than an hour listening to several village mayors, who have now teamed up with the Garrison Ombudsman to smooth communications between residents and Michaels, and provide follow-up on maintenance issues in homes and across the neighborhoods. Surash said the conversation was enlightening.

“If somebody came to my office in the Pentagon, and tried to describe what the mayors are doing, it would not have sunk in,” said Surash. “This is a voluntary program, and these are not all residences where things are going perfect; in fact, a couple of the mayors have had issues with their own houses. On a volunteer basis, these mayors and deputy mayors help their entire neighborhood

to try to move things in the right direction, and it’s a wonderful thing. I truly appreciate what they’re doing. There’s a positive trend here because of the mayors.”

Col. Joshua SeGraves, Garrison commander, explained that Fort Belvoir’s program, with each village having a mayor for residents to reach out to, is still not the Army norm.

“We formalized the mayor program in July,” SeGraves said, adding, “This is not common for the Army.”

The Mayor Program is the only authorized group to represent the interests of the residents, and SeGraves said there has been slow, but steady progress achieved through caring volunteers in each village.

“Things have gotten better, because of (Ombudsman) Jennifer (Hudson), and the Mayor Program,” said SeGraves. “We still have problems, but it’s getting better for the residents of Fort Belvoir.”

That was an assessment that Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Purcell, George Washington mayor, agreed with. He said that the mayors initially were dealing with maintenance back-orders and repeated calls to resolve issues, but he’s noticed that as those get addressed, more of the issues



Photo by Paul Lara

Brian Smith, Garrison chief of housing, briefs Jack Surash, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Energy & Sustainability, on the modifications to enlisted barracks, Friday.

in his neighborhood are now external.

“I see improvements continuing since the mayor program has begun,” Purcell said. “Infrastructure issues, such as roads, crosswalks, and traffic control in neighborhoods are more common. When I first came on as mayor, a lot of my attention was at the resident level, with work orders. The program has improved that, so (now my) issues are village-wide.”

Surash said the way forward in this military-private partnership is continued persistence.

“We have the entire chain of command engaged,” said Surash. “We also have the attention of the property companies, and we need to keep proper attention on this matter. Remember, this is a partnership. What we’re looking for, in my opinion, is a win-win outcome. When you’re in a partnership, that’s what you want. Hopefully, that can happen.”

Keep the Army ready: report any and all crime, all suspicious activity immediately

By U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command



The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly referred to as CID, is asking the Army community and American public to help the Army maintain its readiness by reporting any and all criminal or suspicious activity.

"It is critical for people to say something when they see something and it literally can mean the difference between someone receiving the justice they deserve or victimizing another innocent person or our Army," said Christopher Grey, spokesman for CID.

CID is responsible for conducting felony criminal investigations in which the Army is, or may be, a party of interest. The digital crime tips submission system allows users the ability to easily and anonymously submit information online. Utilizing the P3 Crime Tips, a nationwide platform used by crime stopper programs, schools, law enforcement entities, and a various federal agencies, CID is able to vet crime leads from incoming tips.

The program allows a person to submit

crime solving assistance to CID without being directly involved in the investigation process and eliminates fear of retaliation.

Whenever a person submits a tip online, the completed form is securely transferred directly to Army CID through a Secure Sockets Layer connection, which means that the tips are encrypted, entirely confidential and completely anonymous. Users can also attach images, videos and documents with their tips.

Additionally, persons providing anonymous tips will have the ability to communicate with CID.

Special Agents. After submitting a tip, a tip reference/ID number is created that allows the tipster to create a password to check the status of the submitted tip or check on the status of a reward – if applicable.

There is also the multi-language feature for global use that allows tips to be auto-converted

into English on the backend regardless of what language they were submitted. The public can access the system via any Internet-connected device by visiting, <https://www.cid.army.mil/>.

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CID LOOKOUT
ON POINT FOR THE ARMY



Colton Arms, 5, flexes his muscles during the Superhero Fun Run at Specker Field House, in this 2019 file photo. The ACS event was an observance of Autism Awareness Month.

Photos by Paul Lara

Black Panther and Supergirl lead the pack into the home stretch during a 2019 Superhero Fun Run at Pullen Field.

Exceptional Family Members will benefit from online tool for leaders, providers

By C. Todd Lopez
DoD News

The Exceptional Family Member Program's online tool, EFMP & Me, recently got an upgrade that provides leadership and program service providers with access to an array of information and checklists curated especially for them, according to Karen M. Terry, program analyst with the Defense Department's Office of Military Community and Family Policy.

"There are four specific users we identified for EFMP & Me – family members, Service members, leaders and service providers – and now they each have their own section, their own content and an information source for their particular role within the Exceptional Family Member Program," Terry said, adding that DoD created the Exceptional Family Member Program to ensure the department considers the needs of military families during the assignment process.

The online tool is one of many resources on Military OneSource. Planning and development began a few years ago when leaders in the Military Community and Family Policy Office recognized that families with special needs may have concerns unique to their situation that are not addressed elsewhere. Terry said MC&FP

developed EFMP & Me to provide Service members and their families an online tool to explore information and resources of interest to them. Users can access the tool via a mobile device or desktop.

"For example, these families have additional concerns or considerations when they're moving," she said. "So, we put together a working group to kind of talk about the idea of checklists. And what became very apparent very quickly was because of the differences in each family's individual concerns and where they might be in their military career, a one-size-fits-all approach

would not be sufficient. There are so many variables in every family's military life, and even more so with families in EFMP."

The EFMP & Me tool was born out of those discussions. The tool initially launched in June of last year with resources and checklists tailored for family members. They

cover multiple concerns within 10 different topic categories and are customizable to the needs of the user.

"The tool also gives suggestions of resources and tools that they can check out for more support or guidance, like who to ask a particular question to, so that they experience less guesswork and less running around. With EFMP & Me, they have more information on exactly what they need to do to get that PCS move, or whatever it is, done as efficiently as possible," Terry said.

The EFMP & Me tool gives leaders access to resources that allow them to better understand the Exceptional Family Member Program and better help their Service members. It should be a tool that leaders use to be more effective ensuring their units are ready for whatever the military asks the unit to do, Terry said.

"A lot of times we find, with

family members who have special needs, there's a lot going on at home, and there are a lot of considerations," Terry said. "It may be that you don't just need to find a babysitter; you need to find a babysitter who is skilled at taking care of a child with a particular disability. For those families, it's helpful for the military leader to understand not just that the Service member has a family member with special needs, but also that the Service member is going to have additional concerns and priorities on their mind."

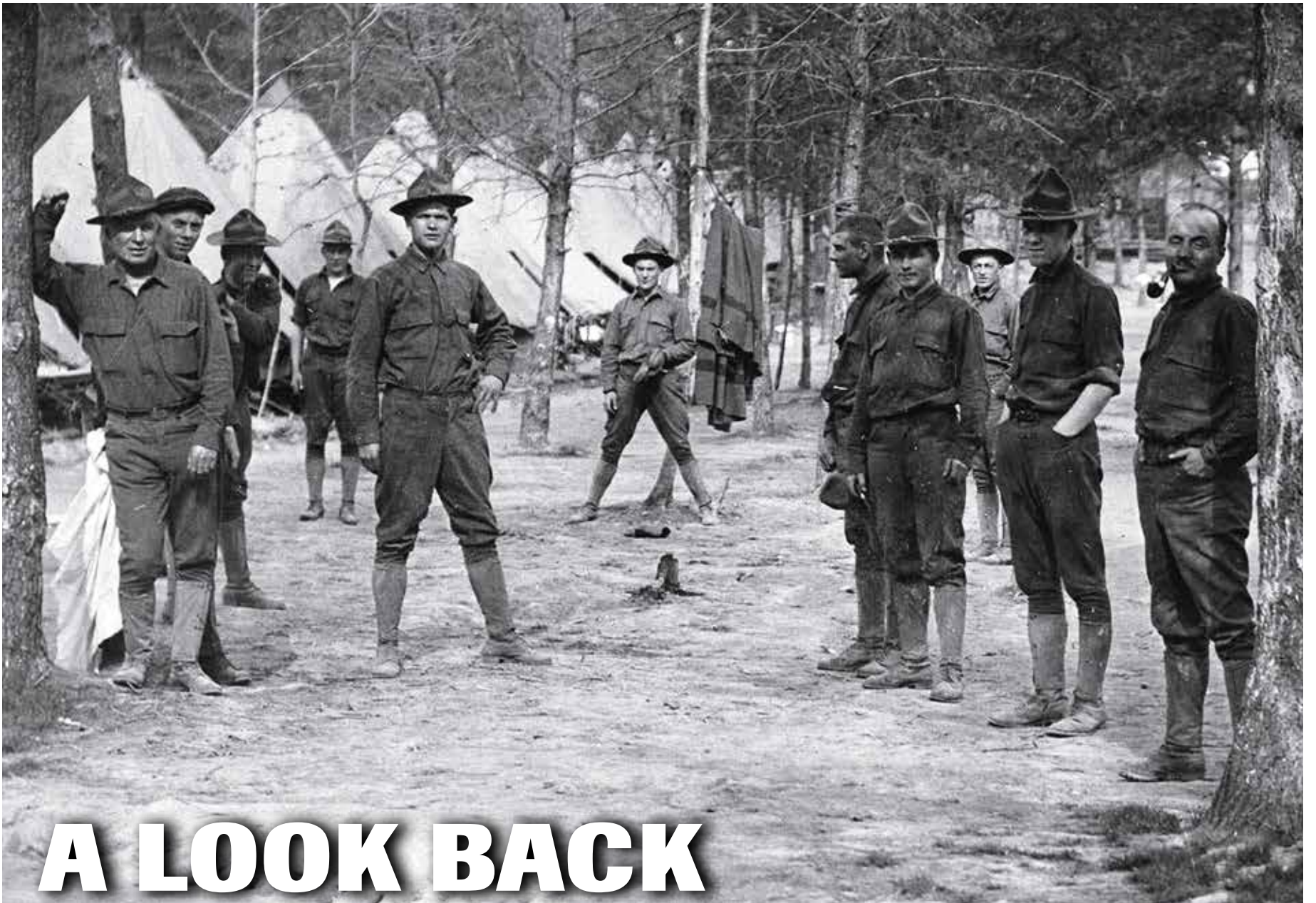
"We did our best to anticipate what those questions and situations might be and organized the content accordingly," Terry said. "We wanted to make it less intimidating and easier to get them the information they need quickly. The resources included in EFMP & Me can help promote a Service member's readiness and, therefore, help the leader in what he or she is trying to do, which is to maintain a high level of overall readiness."

Interested family members, Service members, leaders and EFMP service providers can access the EFMP & Me tool at <https://efmpandme.militaryonesource.mil/>. They can also contact Military OneSource 24 hours a day at 1-800-349-9647. Take a video tour of the tool on YouTube at bit.ly/EFMP_And_Me.



Photo by Michelle Gordon

Conner Cronin, 8, left, is his brother Finn's biggest fan and advocate. Finn Cronin, 3, was born with Mosaic Down syndrome, the rarest form of the condition. His mom, Maj. Shanna Cronin, is a Fort Bliss Soldier assigned to the installation Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.



A LOOK BACK

Camp Humphries and the origins of Fort Belvoir

By Gustav J. Person
Former Fort Belvoir Garrison Historian

Photo courtesy Gustav Person

In 1911, the District of Columbia had acquired land on the Belvoir peninsula for the construction of a reformatory. Community opposition, however, soon put an end to that idea, and by the following year the land was turned over to the War Department for use by the Engineer School at Washington Barracks for marksmanship and tactical training. The troops bivouacked at a small camp, known as Belvoir, in the southern end of the peninsula.

After the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917, it became evident that a large camp was needed for training the engineer replacements that would be called for in ever-increasing numbers for service on the Western Front.

In December 1917, the Secretary of War approved the construction of a cantonment at Belvoir for 30,000 engineer replacement troops.

This was designated as Camp Andrew A. Humphreys, in honor of Major General Andrew A. Humphreys (1810-1883), a brilliant topographic engineer and administrator, who rendered distinguished service during the Civil War as chief of staff of the Army of the Potomac. From 1866 until retirement in 1879, he served as Chief of Engineers.

The tract was selected for several excellent reasons: a large amount of round timber, essential for engineer troops learning how to construct Sapper devices used in trench warfare; Gunston Cove provided an ideal site for pontoon and bridge training; deep water in

Soldiers played a key role in the construction of Camp Humphries, during their engineer training, as seen in this 1915 photo.

the Potomac insured a site for a dock for river craft; and the railroad was only four miles from the heart of the camp.

Construction began amid deep snow and the intense cold of the winter of 1917-18 - the hardest Virginia winter in years. In February came the thaw, with roads pounded to pieces, and endless trains of heavily-laden trucks grinding their way through deep ruts over the various routes between Alexandria and Camp Humphreys. A contemporary observer commented on the "miles and miles of mud" which seemed almost bottomless.

The biggest job in terms of man-days was the clearing of land. It was common to see several thousand troops at work on the main parade; chopping trees, driving mules hauling away the logs, uprooting stumps with tractors or blasting out the more obstinate ones. On one day, 10 acres of forest were converted into an open, level parade field.

During the winter months, an average of 1,000 engineer troops was in garrison with the double duties of completing their training, and playing a vital role in the construction program. Few of the Soldiers of these early units found any harder work in France than they did during their brief tour of construction work at the camp.

By September 1918, there were 1,385 officers and 21,400 enlisted men quartered in the camp. Between January and Armistice

Day, about 57,000 men received their training there, and then were shipped overseas. Notably, a high percentage of recruits were illiterates, or immigrants who did not speak English well, and evening classes were organized to address this problem.

That same month, the camp - along with Europe and the Americas - was struck by the Spanish Influenza pandemic. Leadership took immediate steps to head off the disease. For two weeks in October all drills and formations were suspended, and Soldiers had to spend as much time outdoors as possible. Everyone attended lectures on the spread of the disease. During the five weeks of the epidemic, 4,237 cases were reported in the camp. The mortality rate among all troops was reported at 35%.

The war ended abruptly on Armistice Day in November. Although the camp did not close, all training was suspended.

Camp Humphreys had proved its worth, and in 1919 was officially re-designated the U.S. Army Engineer School. Three years later, the name was changed to Fort Humphreys, a reflection of the installation's permanent status in the Army's organization. That name remained in effect until 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed the name to Fort Belvoir, in order to re-establish the installation's links to the colonial past. Fort Belvoir continues to serve the Army and the nation to this date.

Army combat fitness test: designed for combat

By David Overson
TRADOC Communication Directorate

Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, is here to stay. Or at least some form of it, says Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston. What some may overlook when making an opinion on the program is the “combat” aspect of the ACFT, which was designed to prepare Soldiers for combat and reduce injuries caused by physical fitness routines.

With that in mind, 2020 Drill Sergeant of the Year, Sgt. 1st Class Erik Rostamo, and a team of experts from the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, brought realistic ACFT training to life here, Feb. 26.

The “sprint, drag, carry” event of the ACFT is designed to simulate “sprinting” to aid an injured Soldier, then “dragging” a Soldier out of harm’s way when under fire, and “carrying” ammunition to a fighting position on the battlefield. For the ACFT, two 45-pound weights are configured as a “sled” for dragging purposes. For the training Rostamo and the CIMT team designed for this day, a 140-pound dummy was used to represent an actual Soldier, and participants performed the task while wearing their Army Combat Uniform. In addition, an extra twist was added – after completing the “sprint, drag, carry,” participants were required to apply a field tourniquet to the dummy, which simulated a wounded Soldier requiring immediate first aid.



Sgt. Keith Powers performs curls for instructors teaching the Army Combat Fitness Test at Fort Belvoir’s Graves Field, in this 2020 file photo.

“This exercise showed the Soldiers why the Army is moving toward holistic fitness, and developing the ‘Soldier Athlete,’” Rostamo said. “All Soldiers, regardless of their MOS, never know when they will find themselves on the battlefield.”

Soldiers participating in the training weighed in with their thoughts.

“It was amazing training,” said Staff Sgt. Jacob Walker, 2nd Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment. “Unless you’re in a combat arms

MOS, and your leaders go out of their way to train these tasks, it’s a perishable skill. I will be adding this type of training to my physical training plan when I get back to FORSCOM.”

All Soldiers, whether they are a transportation Soldier, a mechanic, or an infantryman, must be physically able to deploy anywhere in the world at a moment’s notice. This was Rostamo’s mantra for the day.

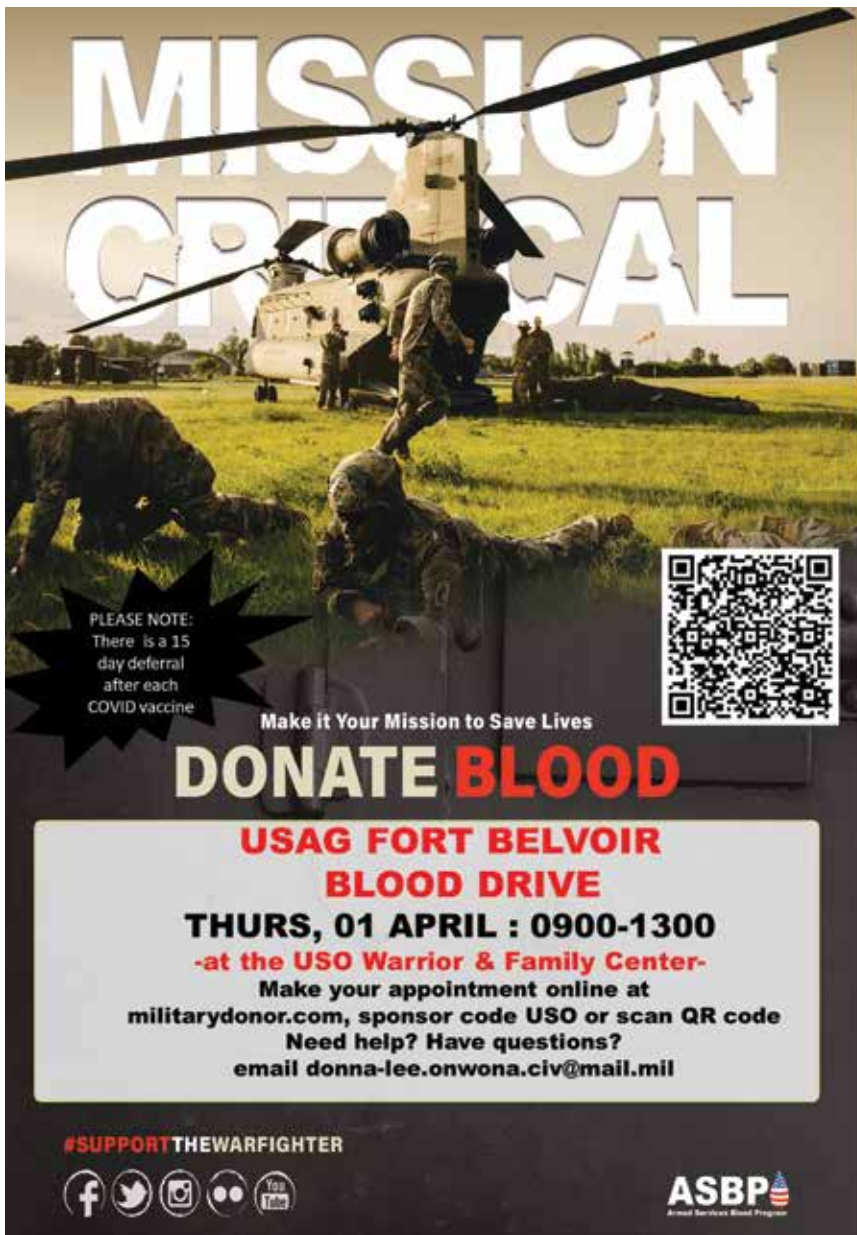
“I liked it. It drove home the reality of why we are training,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mario Rodriguez, 128th Aviation Brigade. “The dummy we were dragging instead of the weights provided extra motivation as a simulated battle buddy.”

The added field tourniquet element at the end of the “sprint, drag, carry” was clearly noticed by participating Soldiers who were winded and exhausted after the event. They had to compose themselves in order to successfully administer the field tourniquet and

appreciated the challenge.

“I enjoyed it. I feel it was a great opportunity to connect the ACFT to actual combat training,” said Staff Sgt. Hillary Hernandez, 2nd Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment. “I look forward to taking this training with me to use with my future Soldiers.”

“The energy within the group is what motivated me,” said Pfc. Savanna Pendergrass, 10th Transportation Battalion. “This simulation gave me a true understanding of what it is like on the battlefield.”



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EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

Earth Day Every Day

By Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division

Despite our ever increasing reliance on technology, many people are turning to parks and trails to get relief from the “new normal” of pandemic life. With a new appreciation for our parks, greenspaces, and wildlife, it’s important to realize that these valuable natural resources need to be protected in order to continue using them. Earth Day 2020 was somewhat overlooked due to the initial COVID-19 outbreak. But it’s been a year now and we shouldn’t let Earth Day 2021 go by without a passing glance.

Although it isn’t safe to host our traditional Earth Day events, the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division still wants to celebrate. This year, we will be celebrating Earth Day as a virtual, month-long event, sharing educational information on our Facebook page. Check in each week during the month of April for videos, activities, and graphics explaining important environmental information. (See the accompanying graphic for more information)

Want to make a positive impact on the environment at home? Try building these good habits this month.

- 1. Reduce Single-Use Plastic Waste:** Skip the plastic straw when drinking, use reusable containers instead of plastic bags, and try to buy products with less plastic packaging. Recycle all plastics that are recyclable. Use cloth shopping bags instead of disposable bags and let your food delivery service know you don’t need those plastic utensils.

- 2. Reduce Your Water Use:** Make sure to turn off faucets when you don’t need them running and choose landscaping that requires little water. Native plants are typically drought tolerant, are very low maintenance (because they have everything they need to grow well right where you are), and support pollinator species which are critical to sustaining our food supply. Take shorter showers and only run your washer with a full load of clothes.
- 3. Drive Less:** Walk where you need to go whenever possible. Not only is this good for the environment, but it’s also great exercise.

- If you need to travel farther, use public transportation, if possible.
- 4. Eat Less Meat:** Eating less meat reduces emissions, water use, and water pollution all at once. Just taking meat out of one day a week can make a difference.
 - 5. Support Local:** Purchasing your goods from local shops and growers cuts down on how far these goods are transported. Less transportation means less energy is expended and results in lower emissions levels. Supporting local shops and growers also supports your community.



Fort Belvoir's Virtual Earth Day!

April 5 — 9: Biodiversity Makes the World Go Round
We have a beautiful world full of so many species! These species are critical to environmental health and human wellbeing.

April 12 —16: Hazardous Waste Management
Humans generate a lot of hazardous waste. It's important to manage and dispose of toxic wastes properly to keep our environment clean and healthy.

April 19 — 23: Our Water World
Water is all around us! Reducing water pollution and overuse preserves clean water for future generations. It's a community effort!

April 26 — 30: Earth Day All Year Long
Caring one day out of the year won't do the trick. Make every day Earth Day and leave a lasting impact on the environment around you.

