



# FORT DETRICK THE STANDARD

A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE



## Fort Detrick Celebrates the Holidays with a Successful Tree Lighting Ceremony

By Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

Fort Detrick officially kicked off the holiday season with its annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 11, 2025, at the Blue and Gray Field. The event brought together service members, families, and the community for an evening of festive cheer, holiday music, and fun activities.

Senior installation commander, Maj. Gen. Paula Lodi, opened the event with welcoming remarks, reminding everyone to look out for one another and have a safe and joyful holiday season. She also took a moment to praise the behind-the-scenes efforts of the Garrison team, whose hard work ensured the event's success.

The Directorate of Public Works (DPW) played a key role in preparing for the ceremony, installing the lights on the tree and ensuring the electrical systems were ready for the big moment. The Public Affairs team worked tirelessly to promote the festivities, while the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) ensured the safety of all attendees. The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) provided logistical support, and the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DFMWR) orga-

nized activities to make the evening memorable for families and children.

One of the highlights of the evening was the announcement of the winner of the lawn card decoration contest. The 302nd Signal Battalion took home the prize for their creative elf design, which featured their faces as part of the display.

The children of the Child Development Center delighted the crowd with their singing skills, performing holiday classics such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "Jingle Bells." After their performance, Maj. Gen. Lodi invited the children to join her at the candy cane light switch to help turn on the tree, marking the official start of the holiday season.

The excitement continued as Santa Claus made a grand entrance, buzzing down the street with the assistance of the fire department. Santa greeted the children and invited them to the Santa Workshop, where they could take pictures with him, create holiday crafts, and enjoy snacks generously provided by local businesses.



*The Fort Detrick Holiday Tree is lit during a ceremony on Dec. 11, 2025 at the Blue and Grey Field to kick off the holiday season.*

*Photo by USAG Public Affairs*

**TREE, continued on Page 2**

Despite the frigid temperatures, the event was a resounding success, bringing holiday cheer to the Fort Detrick community. The teamwork and dedication of the Garrison staff ensured every detail was handled, from the sparkling lights on the tree to the safety and enjoyment of all attendees.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony was a shining example of the Fort Detrick community coming together to celebrate the season and support one another. Maj. Gen. Lodi's message of gratitude and care resonated throughout the evening, reminding everyone of the importance of connection and teamwork during the holidays.



# Chapel Distributes Stockings To Our Single Soldiers

By Fort Detrick Chapel

On December 11th, volunteers from the Ft. Detrick Chapel Congregation, RSO staff, along with the Garrison Commander and Command Sergeant Major delivered 157 Christmas stockings to the single service members living in the barracks. The stockings were filled

with tasty treats, sundry items, and snacks. Each year the chapel hosts this event to provide the service members a bit of joy at Christmas time.



*Volunteers line up to stuff stockings and distribute 157 stockings that were distributed to Soldiers in the barracks on Dec. 11, 2025.*



*157 stockings sit on the back of a truck to be distributed to our single soldiers in the barracks on Dec. 11, 2025.*

*Photos compliments of the Ft. Detrick Chapel*

# Fort Detrick Bids Farewell to Assistant Fire Chief Jerry Dorsey After 38 Years of Service

By Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

After an incredible 38 years of service as both a career and volunteer firefighter, Fort Detrick's Assistant Fire Chief, Jerry Dorsey, has officially retired. On December 11, colleagues, leaders, friends, and family gathered at the Forest Glen Annex Fire Station to celebrate his remarkable career and wish him well as he transitions into retirement.

Jerry Dorsey's career has been defined by his unwavering dedication to protecting Fort Detrick and Forest Glen Annex as well as the communities of Frederick and Montgomery counties. His commitment to service, both on and off the installation, has left a lasting impact on countless lives.

Ray Wharton, from the Directorate of Emergency Services, praised Dorsey's contributions, saying, "He made a tremendous impact in our community, and his service and dedication are recognized."

Fire Chief Jeremy Rebok also spoke about Dorsey's passion and loyalty, highlighting the profound influence he has had on his colleagues and the community. "Your extraordinary loyalty has been a hallmark of your service—not just to the fire department, but to every member of this community. Your passion for service has illuminated the path for your colleagues and provided reassurance to the citizens of Fort Detrick. Whether responding to emergencies, leading training sessions, or engaging in community outreach programs, you approached every task with enthusiasm and an unwavering commitment."

As the Fort Detrick community reflects on Dorsey's career, his legacy of service, leadership, and dedication will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps.

"Chief Dorsey, your passion for the fire service and your unwavering



*Garrison Commander, Col. Chris Chung pins a retirement pin on Assistant Fire Chief, Jerry Dorsey during a retirement ceremony on Dec. 11, 2025 at the Forest Glen Annex Fire Station. Dorsey retired after 38 years of service.*

*Photo by USAG Public Affairs*

dedication to our community will continue to inspire us long after you hang up your helmet. Congratulations on your retirement," Rebok concluded.

The Fort Detrick Fire Department and the entire community extend their heartfelt gratitude to Jerry Dorsey for his decades of service and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement. His contributions will not be forgotten, and his impact will be felt for years to come.

## Fort Detrick Access Control Procedures During Inclement Weather

To ensure the safety of our security staff at the access gates during periods of inclement weather, we kindly ask for your cooperation in following the updated access control procedures:

- **Peak Hours (6:00–9:00 a.m. & 12:00–1:30 p.m.):** ID checks will be conducted using handheld scanners by security personnel.
- **Non-Peak Hours:** Please use the available pedestal scanners for ID verification.

Your understanding and adherence to these procedures are greatly appreciated as we work to maintain safety and efficiency during challenging weather conditions.

# Brown takes reins as senior enlisted leader for AMLC detachment

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, or HHD, welcomed a new senior enlisted leader during a change of responsibility ceremony Dec. 12.

The ceremony recognized the transfer of leadership from Master Sgt. William Harbeson to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brandi Brown.

HHD Commander Justine Juan presided over the event, which featured the traditional passing of the unit guidon to symbolize the transition and the commander's trust in the new enlisted adviser.

For Army units, HHDs are a crucial command support element, overseeing training programs, personnel and administrative tasks, and other support functions. They also are responsible for the overall health and welfare of the unit's Soldiers and their families.

Juan credited Harbeson's expertise and guidance as his senior enlisted adviser since taking detachment command in July. He praised him for being a leader "24/7" in support of the command.

"You balanced the fine line between being approachable and having a firm hand when it was needed," Juan said to Harbeson. "It's apparent that you care about the Soldiers as if they were your own children or family."

Harbeson, born in South Carolina and raised in Georgia, entered the Army in 2007 as a 68A biomedical equipment specialist. Over his 18-year career, he has held numerous leadership roles and is a member of the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Harbeson called it an honor to serve as detachment sergeant for the past 18 months.

"Serving as your detachment sergeant has been absolutely the most challenging thing I've ever done in my life, but it's been the highest honor of my career," he said, noting that Brown will bring a renewed vision and resilience to the team.

A native of Oklahoma, Brown began her career in 2011 as a 68J medical logistics specialist. She has served in various noncommissioned officer positions both stateside and abroad, including her most recent in another role within the AMLC headquarters.

As she assumes responsibility for the HHD, Brown said her priorities are simple: Uphold the standard, communicate clearly and take care of AMLC's "amazing civilians and Soldiers."

"And, of course, continue doing all the fundraisers that we do here," Brown smiled. "I'm here to support the mission."

Juan said he looks forward to serving alongside Brown and offered some advice, echoing words once shared with him.

"This job will challenge you, but it also will be one of the most fulfilling things you get to do in your career," he said. "I'm confident that you will succeed in this position and you will do an amazing job. I'll stand by your side as we lead this detachment together."



*Capt. Justine Juan, right, commander of U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, passes the unit guidon to incoming detachment sergeant, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brandi Brown, during a change of responsibility ceremony Dec. 12, 2025, at Fort Detrick, Md. Also pictured are Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Aaron Taylor, background center, and outgoing detachment sergeant, Master Sgt. William Harbeson. (U.S. Army photos by C.J. Lovelace)*

# “Unwrapping” Domicile for Military Spouses

By Fort Detrick Legal Assistance Office

Unwrapping presents at the holidays is something many people enjoy. However, unwrapping the layers of the law is not always as fun (especially for non-lawyers). Researching this issue may seem simple but it is a daunting task filled with potholes. A simple internet search will return a variety of results that are outdated, incorrect, or both. This is true even from seemingly reputable sources. This often leads clients to our office to ask: What domicile can my spouse claim for income tax purposes?

## ***This is easy, don't I just look to the SCRA?***

The Servicemember's Civil Relief Act (SCRA) provided the original rule that a service member does not obtain or lose residency in a particular state solely by their presence there on military orders. This original protection under the SCRA **did not** extend to the spouse of a service member.

In 2009, Congress passed the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act (MSRRA). Through this law, military spouses were permitted to claim the same domicile for tax purposes as their service member spouse. However, under the initial version of the MSRRA, the spouse must have independently established domicile in that jurisdiction to make the claim. Thus, the spouse could not go back and claim the service member's domicile if the spouse had not independently established domicile there.

In 2018, Congress amended the MSRRA to permit a military spouse to claim the domicile of their spouse for tax purposes if (1) the service member was living in a state that is not their domicile, (2) the spouse is in that current state to live with the service member, and (3) both the service member and the spouse claim the same state of domicile. The effect was that a spouse could now claim the domicile of the service member even if they had not independently established domicile there themselves.

The most recent expansion to the domicile rules for service members and their spouses came in 2023 through the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act (VAEIA). Through this most recent expansion, the service member and spouse may, but are no longer required to, elect the same state as their domiciles.

## ***That's a lot to unwrap, so what is the current rule?***

Putting together the rules from the SCRA, MSRRA, and the VAEIA, the rule for domicile is now:

A service member and their spouse, for any taxable year of the marriage, may elect as their state of residence for tax purposes:

- (1) the domicile of the service member,
- (2) the domicile of the spouse, OR
- (3) the duty station of the service member.

Importantly, the most recent set of changes removes the requirement that the spouse must claim the same domicile as the service member.

## ***But that is not what I read in my research. Are you sure?***

Yes, this is the rule as it stands at the end of 2025. When doing your own research always be sure to check the dates. The changes in the VAEIA were passed in 2023. Many of the items surfacing in a search may have been drafted before that change was made.

Additionally, the VAEIA may not be the logical place that someone would look for the latest updates to the domicile rule. It is possible that other sources preparing guidance on the rule inadvertently overlooked or missed this important update.

## ***We talked a lot about domicile. What is that exactly?***

Domicile can be a tricky subject to understand. At its most basic, it is the place you intend to return. In other words, domicile is a state of mind.

There is not one single thing you can do to demonstrate that a particular jurisdiction is your established domicile. However, below are a list of things that are often considered when determining where a person's domicile is:

- Voter Registration
- Driver's License
- Vehicle Registration
- Bank / Financial Accounts
- Ownership of Real Property
- Domicile of your Estate Planning Documents (What state is declared on your Will as your domicile)
- Where you file / pay taxes

UNWRAPPING, continued on Page 8

# USAMMA inducts MEDLOG leaders into O2M3

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

Leaders at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency welcomed three more members into the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit during a recent unit awards ceremony.

Membership in the Order, commonly known as O2M3, denotes distinguished service that is recognized by Army Medical Department senior leadership, signified by a sterling silver medallion and maroon ribbon.

The inductees recognized at the Nov. 20 ceremony at Fort Detrick included Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard Hendricks and Army Civilians Cheryl Alligood and Claudie Shelton.

Hendricks previously served as deputy chief of the Maintenance Operations Center-Medical under USAMMA's Medical Maintenance Management Directorate before transitioning to a new role at U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command.

During his tenure, Hendricks oversaw the establishment of the new Home-Station Medical Maintenance Support, or HMMS, program, which aims to close gaps in field-level medical maintenance for units without organic maintainers across the operational force, and spearheaded efforts to improve medical maintenance integration in the Army's sustainment system of record.

"I've always viewed the O2M3 as one of the most respected distinctions in our career field," Hendricks said. "Being selected was a genuine honor, and it means a great deal to know my contributions to the field and our cohort were recognized at that level."

Alligood, chief of procurement for USAMMA's Force Projection Directorate, or FPD, has provided "unwavering support to global strategic medical materiel programs" throughout her career, according to Alligood's nomination, submitted by Lt. Col. Joshua Singleton.

Among her achievements, Alligood oversaw the execution of past presidential drawdown missions and possesses extensive knowledge and expertise in Army supply systems, as well as developing a contingency contract to support future USAMMA operations.

"Mrs. Alligood's steadfast commitment to the medical logistics enterprise has been nothing short of amazing," Singleton said. "Cheryl's actions have significantly enhanced medical readiness across the force, improved logistical planning within the enterprise, and ultimately benefitted the well-being and operational effectiveness of the U.S. Army."

Alligood, who has 26 years of combined military and civilian service, said earning induction into O2M3 is "both an honor and a meaningful acknowledgement" of not just her individual contributions, but



Leaders at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency inducted three new members into the Order of Military Medical Merit, or O2M3, during an awards ceremony Nov. 20 at Fort Detrick, Md. Flanked by USAMMA Commander Col. Joselito "Joe" Lim and Sgt. Maj. Todd Brenecki are, from left, Claudie Shelton, Cheryl Alligood and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard Hendricks. (U.S. Army photos by C.J. Lovelace/Released)

also the support and collaboration with her colleagues.

"It motivates me to continue striving for excellence and to positively impact our organization and those we serve," she said.

With nearly 40 years of total service to the Army, including two decades on active duty as a Medical Service Corps officer, Shelton currently serves as USAMMA's Centrally Managed Medical P&D Materiel program manager.

"I am absolutely elated to be awarded the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit and to be recognized by the Army Medical Department senior leadership for my actions and contributions toward the promotion of Army healthcare logistics and to our Warfighters," he said.

Singleton called Shelton a "stalwart pillar" for USAMMA's P&D and unit deployment package, or UDP, programs. UDPs support deploying medical units with supplies for the first 30 days of operations and address strategic-level medical readiness gaps.

Additionally, Shelton has managed \$35 million worth of requirements across multiple portfolios of supply, as well as developed the Care of Supplies in Storage, or COSIS, plan for 106 medical unit identification codes in support of multiple combatant commands and global exercises.

O2M3, continued on Page 8

**O2M3, continued from Page 7**

The O2M3 was founded in 1982 by the commanding general of the U.S. Army Health Services Command. It serves to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among Army Medical Department personnel.

According to the U.S. Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage, O2M3 membership is granted to individuals who have clearly demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character. They also must have displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, served in the AMEDD for at least 15 years with selflessness, and have made a sustained contri-

bution to the betterment of Army Medicine.

USAMMA is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command, the Army's Class VIII medical materiel command, delivering medical logistics, sustainment and materiel readiness from the strategic support area to the forward tactical edge to increase survivability and sustain fighting strength.

AMLC is a major subordinate command to U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

**UNWRAPPING, continued from Page 6**

You should attempt to have as many of these things done / or established in your chosen domicile. When discussing domicile, the below things often are confused:

- Domicile may or may not be the same as your Home of Record. This depends on whether you established a new domicile after entering service. In other words, your domicile can change, your Home of Record does not.
- Domicile and residence are NOT the same. Residence is a temporary place or home you intend to live in for a period, while domicile is the place you intend to return. You can have many residences, but only one domicile at a time.

***Just because you and your spouse are not domiciled in your current jurisdiction, don't forget to consult state requirements for additional obligations.***

Even if your spouse is not domiciled in a particular jurisdiction for tax purposes, they may still have to complete certain filings or forms.

For example, here in Maryland, a military spouse with a domicile in different state must file a few forms through their civilian employer to document their exemption.

Maryland requires that:

MD Form MW507 (Standard Maryland Withholding Exemption Certificate): On this form, the spouse will list the state he/she is claiming domicile and that, as a result, are not subject to withholding under the SCRA as amended by the MSRRA. (Block 8 on the current form)

MD Form MW507M (Exemption form for Qualified Civilian Spouse of a U.S. Armed Forces Servicemember): Maryland also requires this form

be completed by the employee and employer to document qualification

Both forms include instructions, but our office is happy to answer any questions regarding these forms if they apply to your situation.

If you are in a different state be sure to consult their requirements.

**Additional Information or Questions:**

If you need additional information or have questions, please contact the Fort Detrick Legal Assistance Office at 301-619-2221 to schedule an appointment.

# News - Events - Training

## ◆ VA Benefits Assistance Available at Fort Detrick

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces may qualify for a wide range of benefits through the

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as outlined in Title 38 of the U.S. Code. To apply,

specific VA forms must be completed based on the benefit requested.

A Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Service Officer will be available at the Community

Support Center, Building 1520, Freedman Drive, Fort Detrick, MD, on the third Friday of each

month by appointment only.

**The DAV Service Officer will assist Service Members, Veterans, spouses, and dependents with VA claims and benefit applications.**

To schedule an appointment, contact Ernie Unger:

Office: 301-842-2562

Cell: 301-331-0091

Email: [michelobqt@yahoo.com](mailto:michelobqt@yahoo.com)

Please bring:

Military discharge papers (DD 214 or equivalent)

VA claim number (if issued)

Any VA correspondence or rating decisions

This is a free service provided by DAV for all eligible individuals

## ◆ FY 26 TARP Face to Face Training – All sessions at 1 p.m. Building 1520 Auditorium.

\*Note\* Training starts promptly at 1 p.m. allowing a 5 min grace. If you arrive after that time, the

rosters will NOT be available for signing and you will NOT be credited for attendance.

**CY 2026 Dates:** Jan 20, Feb 17, March 17, April 14, May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug 18, Sept. 22.

For FMWR News and Events, visit [www.detrick.armymwr.com](http://www.detrick.armymwr.com), Instagram us at #DetrickMWR, and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DetrickMWR](http://www.facebook.com/DetrickMWR).

To view our job openings, please visit USAJOBS or click on the link below:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?!=Fort%20Detrick%2C%20Maryland&d=AR&a=ARBA&p=1&s=agency>

In observance of the upcoming **HOLIDAY**, all Visitor Centers and gates, **EXCEPT** Nallin Farm Gate at Fort Detrick and Brookville Gate at Forest Glen, **WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JAN 1-2, 2026**