



# The Standard

## Fort Detrick



A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

## Milestones: Fort Detrick's Emergency Services Division

*By Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs*

The Fort Detrick Directorate of Operations, Emergency Services Division celebrated four employees at Fort Detrick and Forest Glen during recent promotion ceremonies.

"These individuals bring a great deal of leadership, experience, and passion to their respective positions. I am honored to be part of their journey and know that they will all be successful in their new positions," said Fort Detrick Fire Chief Sean Edwards.

Chad Umbel and Thomas Fritz's promotions from Battalion Chief to Assistant Fire Chief took place at Fort Detrick, Feb. 12, 2021.



Lieutenant Marquis Beavers' celebrates his promotion from Lieutenant to Supervisory Captain during a ceremony at Forest Glen Annex, Feb. 16, 2021. (Courtesy photo)



Newly promoted Assistant Fire Chief Thomas Fritz receives a Certificate of Promotion from Fort Detrick Garrison Commander Col. Dexter Nunnally during a ceremony Feb. 12, 2021. (Photo by Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs)

Umbel began his fire service volunteering with the Vigilant Hose Company in Emmitsburg, Maryland, at 18 years old. His federal service as a career firefighter with Site R and the Fort Detrick Fire Department began in 2000. His calling to serve has resulted in numerous awards from Fort Detrick, the National Fire Academy, and the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services division, to name a few.

Congratulations, Assistant Fire Chief Umbel, for this outstanding achievement, and thank you for your service to Fort Detrick and our Nation.

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Fritz began his fire service as a volunteer when he was 15 years old with the New Market, Maryland Volunteer Fire Department and became a career firefighter in 1999. He joined the Fort Detrick Fire Department in 2005. His expertise has led to several distinguished awards, including the Department of the Army Civilian Service Achievement Medal and the Federal Executive Board Gold Team Award.

Congratulations, Assistant Fire Chief Thomas Fritz, on this great accomplishment. Thank you for your continued service to Fort Detrick and the Nation.

Firefighter Robert Reed and Lieutenant Marquis Beavers took their next step up the career ladder during their promotion ceremonies held at the Forest Glen Annex on Feb. 16, 2021.

Lieutenant Marquis Beavers' celebrates his promotion from Lieutenant to Supervisory Captain and as a bonus had the pleasure of sharing in this moment with his mother in attendance.

Beavers began his career in June of 2006 at the Walter Reed Medical Center Fire Department. That department would later transition to the Forest Glen Fire Department and later become part of Fort Detrick.

During the ceremony, Beavers' enthusiasm for lifelong learning took the spotlight. Beavers challenged himself to read 52 books in 52 weeks in 2020 while logging hundreds of departmental training hours, mostly completed on his days off. When Beavers isn't reading or taking classes, you can find him volunteering his time in his community or at his church.

During the ceremony at Forest Glen, Firefighter Robert Reed's step from a GS-05 to a GS-06 Firefighter/EMT was also recognized and celebrated.

Congratulations to Fort Detrick's fantastic team of firefighters and leaders. Your service to the Installation and the Nation is valued and appreciated. Well done.



Newly promoted Assistant Fire Chief Chad Umbel receives a Certificate of Promotion from Fort Detrick Garrison Commander, Col. Dexter Nunnally, during a ceremony Feb. 12, 2021. (Photo by Jenni Benson, USAG Public Affairs)



Left: Firefighter Robert Reed's step increase is recognized during a ceremony at Forest Glen Annex, Feb. 16, 2021. (Courtesy photo)

# Army Medical Logistics Command recognizes 30-year career of retiring Sergeant Major

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

As an 18-year-old high school graduate in 1990, Corey A. Lord looked to the U.S. Army as a way to launch his career. But he didn't figure it would be his entire career.

"I had no intentions of staying 30 years. None," Lord said, as he explained that he only intended to stay in the military as a medical maintenance equipment repairer for six years. "But after six years ... I fell in love with it. I didn't want to do anything else, so I stayed in."

After three decades, multiple deployments and numerous achievements, Lord, 48, has retired at the rank of sergeant major. Lord's final duty station was at Fort Detrick, serving as the first sergeant major for Army Medical Logistics Command. Prior to the establishment of AMLC in 2019, he served in the same role for the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, now a direct reporting unit to AMLC.

At his retirement ceremony on Jan. 29 at Fort Detrick, Col. Lynn Marm, a former USAMMA commander, said Lord's service and sacrifice spanned multiple wars, as well as the battle against a global pandemic.

"Sgt. Maj. Lord represents the very best of the NCO corps," Marm said. "He's a great American, a servant leader, a master logistician, a loving husband, brother and son, a loyal friend."

Equipment maintainer

Lord's assignments as a biomedical equipment specialist, also known as a 68A, also included various roles with units at Fort Carson, Colorado, and with the 32nd Medical Logistics Battalion (Forward) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Serving as platoon sergeant from 2001 to 2007, Lord deployed to Iraq a total of



Col. Lynn Marm, left, presents Sgt. Maj. Corey A. Lord with his certificate of retirement from the U.S. Army during his retirement ceremony on Jan. 29 at Fort Detrick, Maryland. (U.S. Army photo by C.J. Lovelace)

three times.

"That group of Soldiers, we were all really tight," said Lord, a native of Sherman, Maine. "We got deployed, came home, got deployed, came home. We just got really close."

As a forward-deployed medical equipment maintainer, Lord and the other 68As serve as the subject-matter experts for medical devices.

"We are so dependent on technology. Medical care is dependent on equipment and technology, and we're the ones who fix it," he said. "That saves lives."

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jesus Tulud, director of AMLC's Medical Maintenance Policies and Analysis directorate, said Lord's legacy is manifested in his efforts to promote the 68A military occupational specialty and position professionals in appropriate places across AMLC and the wider Army medical enterprise.

"Without the 68A, there is no medical maintenance on the front lines," Tulud said. "In my opinion, our providers would not have the same confidence that medical devices will be ready and available for patient care without them."

Tulud added that Lord has been a great mentor for younger Soldiers and "one of the most active sergeant majors for the medical maintenance community."

"Down to the unit level, Sgt. Maj. Lord always focused on ensuring our community was always improving," he said. Inspiring others

When talking about Lord's impact



Sgt. Maj. Corey A. Lord speaks during his retirement ceremony on Jan. 29 at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Lord retires after 30 years of service to the U.S. Army, including his final stints with Army Medical Logistics Command and the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency. (U.S. Army photo by C.J. Lovelace)

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## **LORD, continued from Page 3**

on the Army, Marm used Lord's love of football to make her point.

Throughout his career, Marm said Lord has been similar to a football player and coach—staying in shape, both mentally and physically; always recruiting the best talent; building his bench with capable “players;” coaching those players; and staying loyal to his fans.

“Leaders like Sgt. Maj. Lord help to build winning teams and winning players,” she said. “But there is one very special thing ... leaders like Sgt. Maj. [Lord] inspire others to bring their very best. They play with all their heart, truly care about the players, the team, the country and everything else. They play with all their might.”

One of many mentored by Lord over his career was Sgt. Maj. Monnet Bushner, current sergeant major at USAMMA. Bushner credited Lord as an influential role model as she started her first senior enlisted adviser role.

“Having served over 30 years, Sgt. Maj. Lord has developed a network and team to help mentor and guide so many military and civilian personnel to be successful,” Bushner said. “This tightly knit group continues to get bigger and stronger.”

Bushner added that Lord is always quick to share his institutional expertise and exhibits a passion for grooming young Soldiers to help improve any organization.

“Soldiers and NCOs look for leaders to emulate,” she said, “and I believe Sgt. Maj. Lord has been an excellent example and his legacy will continue after he retires through other leaders he has encountered.”

### **Educational opportunities**

Although he enlisted with just a high school diploma, Lord took advantage of Army educational programs to advance his career, earning bachelor's de-



Col. Lynn Marm, left, pins the Legion of Merit medal on to Sgt. Maj. Corey A. Lord, whose 30-year career was recognized during a retirement ceremony on Jan. 29 at Fort Detrick, Maryland. (U.S. Army photo by C.J. Lovelace)

grees in biomedical technology and business finance in 1997, then a master's in engineering in 2004.

Lord's message to future Soldiers? Take advantage of opportunities to advance your education.

“Use the education benefits that the Army offers,” said Lord, who plans to operate a private hunting ranch in Maine in his retirement. “Do I need a master's in engineering to run a ranch? No, but there's things I learned from going to school.

“Whether I use it or not, it's always a plus,” he added. ‘Been blessed’

Lord said many retirees look at the end of active duty life as a “bittersweet” decision, but he's not in that bunch.

“If the Army would let me do another 10 years, I'd probably do another 10 years. That's just how I feel. Physically, mentally, I would stay,” he said. “But it is time for me to go.”

Lord said he looks forward to spending more time with his family, including his wife, Christiana, and their children. He also recognized the countless individuals who helped him along his career.

“I've only gotten this far because of the people I've worked for and the people I've worked with,” Lord said. “I've been blessed throughout my career to have great Soldiers. You can't do it yourself. You can provide a little bit of direction, but that support comes from the people below you.”

Lord said he's been “really humbled” reflecting on his career, specifically when thinking about his past leaders and the Soldiers who supported him.

“I just hope that I left the Army a better place than when I came in,” he said. “That's all I can do.”



Sgt. Maj. Corey A. Lord presents flowers to his wife, Christiana, and daughter, Elena, following his retirement ceremony on Jan. 29 at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Lord, a native of Maine, retired after 30 years of service to the U.S. Army. (U.S. Army photo by C.J. Lovelace)

# Lieutenant Colonel Christian Cook retires after nearly 30 years of service

By Jeffrey Soares, USAMMDA Public Affairs

How do you say farewell to a consummate Soldier who has served his country, and its citizens, for nearly three decades? Some may want pomp and circumstance, while others may ask only for a firm handshake, a crisp salute and a sincere “thank you.” In the case of Army Lt. Col. Christian Cook, both of these certainly are warranted — along with quite a bit more. Cook, who currently serves as deputy project manager for the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity’s Warfighter Health, Performance and Evacuation Project Management Office, will be retiring from active duty at the end of February, capping off a truly admirable military career.

Speaking with Cook, he recalls growing up in Springfield, Missouri, where his family had a large farm, and he remembers the three horses he kept there throughout his high school years. He loved to ride, and participated in several parades during his younger years. But more than horses, however, Cook took an early interest in airplanes and aeronautics. The attraction was so great, in fact, that his enthusiasm grew to a level that led him to pursue a career in aviation.

“I’ve always liked planes,” he explained. “In 1987, I convinced my parents to take our summer vacation in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to attend AirVenture, ‘The world’s largest air show and fly-in’. After that, I was hooked. I came home after vacation and mowed lawns to start paying towards my private pilot’s license. I quickly saw the military as the venue to keep flying.”

However, there’s an interesting backstory to the military connection. You see, Cook’s family, on both sides, has a long history of military service. His father and uncle were Marines who



Army Lt. Col. Christian Cook, U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity’s Warfighter Health, Performance and Evacuation Project Management Office, retires from active duty. (USAMMDA photo)

fought in Vietnam during the 1960s, and his mother’s father served in World War I. Her three brothers also served, with two having retired after “full careers.” Cook said one of these men was a tail-gunner on a B-24 bomber in World War II, afterwards serving in the Korean War as well as several tours in Vietnam. In light of this, it seems inevitable that Cook would join the military, and thus he began his career in 1992 at the Army Airborne School, as a member of the 1105th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot in the Missouri Army National Guard.

“Many of my family members served in the military, so there was plenty of influence when I was young,” said Cook. “Initially, I wanted to serve because of patriotism. Flying was fun, but a strong desire to serve Soldiers is what kept me going. Serving these men and women at the unit level and on missions soon transitioned to serving them on a much broader scale, through serious product development and the delivery of critical tools they needed for the fight.”

Before Cook made the transition to serving other Warfighters, however, he had gained quite a bit of experience through numerous deployments, missions and training assignments. Between 1997 and 2013, he is credited with three combat tours as a UH-60 Blackhawk MEDEVAC pilot.

Cook was very clear in relating the various missions he flew, and he said many do not realize the harsh reality that comes with retrieving injured Warfighters from the battlefield. He explained that although MEDEVAC crew members may often wait for hours in “boredom” before a



Army Lt. Col. Christian Cook, U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity’s Warfighter Health, Performance and Evacuation Project Management Office, pictured here with friends and colleagues at Fort Detrick, retired from active duty in February. (Courtesy photo)

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call to fly, the time spent in landing and onboarding casualties may be the “most horrific” few moments you could ever imagine. Cook and his team took on this great responsibility without hesitation, despite being under fire often — he recalled many times when they were hunkered down behind the seats, taking cover against the armor that saved their lives.

Going back to the beginning of his career, Cook completed U.S. Army Flight School training in 1999, then relocated to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he served in the 50th Medical Evacuation Company (Air Ambulance) in support of the 101st Airborne Division. After two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as Battalion Executive Officer and C Company Commander of the 291st Aviation Training Battalion, Fort Riley, Kansas.

The responsibility given to Cook early in his career surprised even himself, as he admitted, “Becoming a Pilot-in-Command of a \$20 million UH-60 Blackhawk as a First Lieutenant with only 300 flight hours — I remember thinking that there was no way I would ever get to do this on the civilian side. You can’t even get insurance for something like that unless you have 2000 hours. I feel very fortunate to have had that opportunity.”

In 2011, Cook was assigned to command the Aviation Detachment, 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment, 110th Aviation Brigade at Fort Rucker, Alabama, where he provided 24/7 crash rescue support of military trainees at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, as well as support to the local civilian community through the Defense Support of Civilian Authorities program. Over his career, Cook transported approximately 1,700 critical and non-critical patients to medical treatment facilities, both military and civilian.

An ideal leader, Cook utilized his experience and unique skillset to help prepare other Service Members for duty. He provided expert training to numerous MEDEVAC crews, comprised of commissioned officers, warrant officers, flight medics and firefighters, while he concurrently attained Pilot-in-Command status of multiple MEDEVAC helicopters in day, night, and instrument conditions.

Army leadership quickly recognized Cook’s broad knowledge of military aviation as a valuable asset, and this catapulted him into the world of acquisition, which began at the Program Executive Office – Aviation, where he focused on the modernization of the Army’s aeromedical MEDEVAC fleet.

In 2014, he served as deputy commander for the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, Fort Rucker, a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, and in 2015, he became project manager for MEDEVAC

Mission Equipment at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency. In this role, which focused on the UH/HH-60 Blackhawk MED-EVAC, Cook was charged with upgrading the helicopter’s medical interior based on lessons learned in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He helped to identify a modernization package that included the Forward-Looking Infrared video system for the MEDEVAC in degraded conditions, the Blackhawk Advanced MEDEVAC window for paramedic visibility, and a litter rack system to support the expedited loading and treatment of multiple casualties.

With a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering and a Master’s in Procurement and Acquisition, Cook’s experience and insight have been instrumental throughout his career. As a Medical Service Corps officer and defense acquisition professional, he has been involved in enterprise and organizational development, logistics planning, and Department of Defense-level budgeting, while managing various product development teams. A work load such as this may keep many from enjoying their daily routine, or their teammates — but this isn’t

the case for Cook, and his colleagues will miss his knowledge, and his presence.

“Lt. Col. Cook provided the operational insight that is lacking in most civilians who haven’t served in the military,” said Steven Hawbecker, project manager of USAMMDA’s WHPE PMO. “He was able to quickly dissect the medical nuances of the Army’s Multi-Domain Operations concept, and convey these to the PMO staff. His real-world experience and ability to serve as a mentor for his subordinates have been vital to the growth of the WHPE PMO.”

“Not only did Christian bring a wealth of knowledge on aeromedical evacuation and Army operations, he was also a great person to call on for help,” he added. “More than once, he assisted team members with problems, ranging from car troubles to personal matters, and helped them however he could — which is certainly a true testament of his character as a Service Member. Our team will truly miss him.”

Jay Wang serves as product manager of the WHPE PMO’s Medical Hands-free Unified Broadcast system, or MEDHUB, team, which is supervised by Cook. Both are extremely proud of this innovative device, which is an electronic medical communications system designed to improve the way medics and hospitals share patient information, such as vital signs, injuries and treatments during medical evacuations.

Reflecting on their relationship, Wang said, “Lt. Col. Cook is a friend and mentor to me, and a valued member of the medical community — his leadership and connection to this large group will be sorely missed. He brought to our team an operational view and mentality, as a MEDEVAC pilot, which provided a sense of realism and unique under



**COOKE, continued on Page 7**

standing for our MEDHUB program to be successful in theater. We wish him well, and I know he will be successful in anything he does.”

Looking towards his retirement, Cook says he’s not in a hurry to do anything except spend more time with his wife, Christina, and their two teenage daughters, and “build a pillow fort in the living room.” His long-range “to-do” list includes things such as hiking the entire Appalachian Trail, flying his collection of gas-powered radio-controlled airplanes with friends in his club group, restoring another vintage military vehicle (to accompany the 1968 M151 military jeep he already owns), and finding a beach house for the family to enjoy – perhaps sooner rather than later.

As he wraps up his amazing journey, Cook is quick to thank his family for their love and support.

“I couldn’t have made it through all of these years without their flexibility and tolerance for my working late, overnight duty, weekend duty, TDYs [temporary duty travel], FTXs [field training

exercises], on-call MEDEVAC duty, combat deployments, holidays, getting calls at all hours ... ” he said.

“Although we have relocated less than other Service Members I know, every move caused stress, with leaving friends and jobs, and packing and unpacking a full household,” he continued. “But my wife always came through, and she made moving to each new home a truly positive experience for us. She quickly adapted to each new place, made friends quickly, and supported me more than I can ever thank her for. As she likes to say, ‘every place is what you make it.’”

It seems a little of his wife’s philosophy may have rubbed off on Cook, because he certainly made each of his military assignments better by his sincere enthusiasm and his passion for flying. Although he soon will head towards new skies, Cook’s jet stream will remain visible for many years to come. Without question, he made

a positive impression on those he worked with, and served as the catalyst for many positive changes in numerous processes and products for our military — and this is something that just won’t fade away that quickly.

**“Lt. Col. Cook is a friend and mentor to me, and a valued member of the medical community — his leadership and connection to this large group will be sorely missed.”**

**- Jay Wang, Colleague**



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## Get the facts, get the vax

Col. Dexter Nunnally, Fort Detrick's garrison commander, receives his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from Sgt. Clayton Keller, of USAMRIID who was tasked to assist the Barquist Army Health Clinic team. Nunnally, along with Command Sergeant Major Jason Gusman and other members of the garrison command team who were vaccinated last week, is encouraging all personnel here to get vaccinated when it becomes available to them.

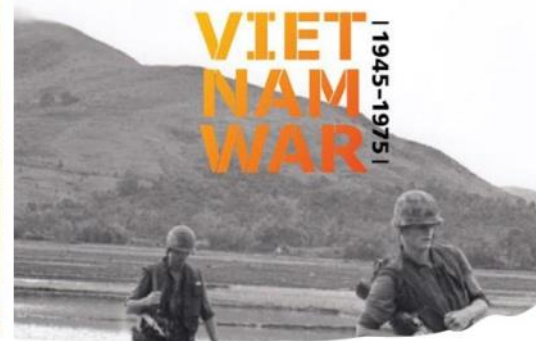
"Vaccination protects your health, your families and your communities, and it lowers the overall public health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic," said Nunnally.



## Be careful what you dispose down the drain

Fort Detrick maintains and operates its own wastewater treatment plant for treatment of sanitary waste (organic wastes from humans) originating from the installation. Sanitary waste generated on Fort Detrick is conveyed through a series of pipes to the plant for treatment. With this in mind we remind residents to only flush toilet paper. Fort Detrick encourages disinfecting your environment to prevent the spread of COVID-19, however never flush disinfecting wipes or other non-flushable items. Flushing only toilet paper helps ensure that the toilets, plumbing and sanitary sewer system will continue working properly.

Also, any chemicals disposed down the drain have the potential to harm the environment. Grease and solid material can clog pipes causing sewer disruptions and overflows and should not be placed in drains. Cooking grease and oil can be disposed by placing the cooled material into a container with a re-sealable lid and chill overnight so any fat solidifies, then dispose as regular garbage. Thank you for your assistance.



THE *FORT DETRICK COMMISSARY* WILL HAVE A VIETNAM DISPLAY TABLE AVAILABLE ALL DAY ON SATURDAY, 27 MARCH 2022, TO HONOR ALL VETERANS FOR COMMEMORATION OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

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# DOD Funded Research Leads to World's First Successful Face and Double Hand Transplant

*By USAMRDC Public Affairs Office*

Surgeons working on a Department of Defense-funded clinical trial performed the world's first successful face and double hand transplant on the same patient.

A team of more than 140 medical professionals from New York University's Langone Health, completed the 23-hour operation using 3D planning and printing procedures, ultimately restoring quality of life and function to the recipient, Joe DiMeo of Clark, New Jersey. The ground-breaking operation was funded in part by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Reconstructive Transplant Research Program.

"The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development command is proud to be a part of such innovative efforts, that will not only change Mr. DiMeo's life but also have the potential to make a significant impact on the overall quality of life for injured Service Members, veterans and the American public," said BG Michael Talley, commanding general of USAMRDC and Fort Detrick.

In 2018, DiMeo was badly burned in a car accident which left

him with third-degree burns covering 80% of his body and face and requiring his fingertips to be amputated. While the surgery was performed last August, the results were announced recently as DiMeo reached the critical six-month recovery mark.

"This is a dramatic example of the impact of the work that the CDMRP's Reconstructive Transplant Research Program funds. The RTRP challenges the scientific community to design innovative research that will foster new directions for and address neglected issues in the field of reconstructive transplantation, specifically focused on Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation research," said COL Sarah B. Goldman, director of CDMRP.

NYU's Dr. Daniel Ceradini received a 2.5 million dollar award from CDMRP's RTRP in 2015. He and his team are investigating the utility of 3D computer surgical planning and 3D-printed, patient-specific cutting guides for optimizing functional and aesthetic outcomes of transplant procedures. This extensive planning and use of patient specific guides contributed to the success of the surgery. Dr. Eduardo D. Rodriguez, director of the Face Transplant Program at NYU Langone led the surgical team.



## Lights, Camera, Action

Throughout the last week of February, a production company used various locations on Fort Detrick to produce multiple public service announcements for Army Public Army Resilience Directorate, Defense Media Activity, and the Army Multimedia and Visual Information Directorate/Production Acquisition Division. The final products will related to substance abuse, unit cohesiveness, engaging with colleagues, and a 6-8 minute video promoting the Army Readiness Assessment Program. (Photos by Lanessa Hill)



# ‘Women in Combat Summit’ Aims for Equity, Lasting Change

By Ramin A. Khalili, USAMRDC Public Affairs Office

As part of the U.S. military’s growing commitment to the tenets of diversity and inclusion, the second-ever “Women in Combat Summit” launched on February 9 with a global audience of more than 800 people. Developed as a joint effort between the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the TriService Nursing Research Program, the three-day, virtual event is billed as a means to present research and policy recommendations specifically related to female Service Members.

“That’s fundamentally the goal here, that high-performing women serving in combat continue to get promoted all the way up the ranks,” said retired General Martin Dempsey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the keynote speaker for the first day of the summit.

Notable for signing the official order (along with then-U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta) to rescind the rule preventing women from serving in direct combat back in 2013, Dempsey filled his address with a mix of personal anecdotes and positive encouragement, urging viewers to hone their leadership skills by finding ways to develop more equity and overall cohesion in their respective units.

“There is only one antidote to fear,” said Dempsey, pointing out the importance of women to the future of America’s all-volunteer military, “and that is a sense of belonging.”

Additionally, the summit also welcomed a series of presentations focusing on female-centric research and the importance of female voices in key national policy decisions. In her address entitled “Women, Peace & Security,” retired U.S. Marine Corps Reserve officer Jeannette Haynie made the argument that installing women in positions of military power gives the U.S. a



U.S. Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps cadet Raveen Mooney stands in a formation during a ceremony. (Photo by Ken Scar)

clear tactical advantage with regards to national security. To buttress that point, Haynie further presented research highlighting recent studies showing U.S. states and municipalities with greater gender equality tend to have less crime, less corruption, and a greater overall trust in key institutions.

“We need to include the perspective of women and girls in solutions for peace, security and stability,” said Haynie. “The quality and skill level of the women in this country dictate the military reach into that [talent] pool.”

Still other presentations (and associated breakout sessions, which were scheduled for the latter half of the first day) focused on such varied topics as leadership and peer behavior, advocacy, operational performance and health and well-being. The overall purpose of the summit is to identify health and performance capability gaps experienced by female Service Members, with the ultimate goal being to develop strategic recommendations for eventual submission to policy makers.

“Women in general tend to have perspectives that give them different experiences,” said Haynie, closing her presentation with a call to introduce female perspectives to every aspect of modern warfare. “We need to think of integration in addition to equality.”

The overall theme of the second “Women in Combat Summit” is “Forging the Future: How Servicewomen Enhance the Fighting Force.” The summit was organized in part by the USAMRDC Military Operational Medicine Research Program due to the Command’s role as a leader in women’s health research – specifically with regards to themes of readiness – and is further designed to update the policy recommendations made during the original summit, which occurred in 2014.



Retired U.S. Marine Corps Reserve officer Jeannette Haynie delivers a presentation entitled “Women, Peace & Security” at the virtual Women in Combat Summit. (Screenshot by Ramin A. Khalili, USAMRDC Public Affairs)

# Ransomware: A Virtual Hostage Situation

## **By U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command**

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Major Cyber-crime Unit (MCU) is warning the Army community about an increase in ransomware attacks.

According to Edward LaBarge, director of CID's Major Cyber-crime Unit, there was a rise in ransomware cyberattacks in 2020 and the trend is expected to continue this year.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software, or malware, designed to deny a user access to a computer system or computer files until the ransom, typically cryptocurrency, has been paid. Ransomware uses encryption to hold the data hostage and requires a decryption key before a user is granted access.

Similar to other types of malware, ransomware is one of many methods used by cybercriminals to gain data from users and to attempt financial gain. The first recorded ransomware attack was in December 1989 using floppy discs. As ransomware evolved, it moved away from being a tool exclusively used by advanced cybercriminals and became a service that can be implemented by any cybercriminal willing to purchase the software.

Today, there are many methods used by cybercriminals to trick a user into downloading ransomware. The most common ransomware attack methods to look out for are from socially engineered phishing emails, links in forums or search engines to compromised or copycat websites containing a malicious download, fake social media impersonators, and through software vulnerabilities.

LaBarge said the two most common ways MCU is seeing ransomware executed is by "infecting ones computer through phishing emails or visiting a malicious website via a drive-by download."

A drive-by download occurs when users unknowingly "download" a program without knowledge or by giving consent. LaBarge said users typically see an increase in system resources when a malware attack occurs. For example, an unexplained increase in CPU usage could be malware being loaded onto the computer.

To prevent ransomware from occurring or reoccurring, users should ensure data is backed up regularly, maintain the latest operating system updates, keep antivirus software installed and up-to-date, and always use caution when opening email links or attachments.

"It is important to always ensure your data is backed up," said LaBarge. "It is recommended that you back up your data month-

ly. If possible, you should have your backups automated so you don't have to worry about it. Whether it's using the iCloud, Time Machine or the Windows 10 backup feature, having it automated will help ensure your data is protected against tragedy."

He also recommends never paying the ransom. "Paying doesn't guarantee you get your data back and it won't prevent the cybercriminals from hitting you again with another ransom."

## **Ransomware Victim Recommendations**

**Isolate the infection** - Infected computers should be disconnected from the Internet (unplug the

Ethernet cable or place the computer in airplane mode) as soon as possible to prevent ransomware from communicating with the attacker or spreading to other computers.

**Identify the infection** – In most cases, it will be easy to determine if the system has been infected. However, determining how the ransomware was downloaded is not always as obvious. Identifying how the ransomware was downloaded can ensure other users do not make the same mistake.

**Report** – Ransomware attacks on Army issued computers must be reported to your system administrator or security representative. If a personally owned computer becomes infected, you are strongly encouraged to report the incident to the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

**Identify a solution** – How data gets recovered on Army issued computers is determined by your unit's system administrator. For personally owned computers, it is recommended to wipe the system and restore it using a clean offline copy. While it may be tempting to pay the ransom, there is no guarantee that your data will not be sold by the attacker. Furthermore, paying the ransom, making it profitable for the cybercriminals, only encourages future ransomware attacks.

**Prevent reoccurrence** – Evaluate how the infection occurred and put measures in place to ensure your system is not open to another infection.

## **Tips to Avoid Becoming a Ransomware Victim**

**Education** – Stay updated on ransomware trends and the evolving methods used by cybercriminals in ransomware attacks.

**Cyber best practices** – Avoid opening attachments or clicking on links in suspicious emails. Be mindful of pop-ups on websites and do not allow unsolicited downloads.

***RANSOM, continued on Page 12***


***RANSOM, continued from Page 11***

Regular updates – Ensure your computer’s operating system and antivirus software are updated. As ransomware variants are identified, updates and patches are created and released to prevent infection.

Backups – Maintaining valuable information offline, such as an external hard drive, provides an alternative method of recovering data lost in a ransomware attack.

For additional information please visit: <https://cyber.mil> or <https://public.cyber.mil>

For more information about computer security, other computer-related scams, and to review previous cybercrime alert notices and cyber-crime prevention flyers visit the Army CID MCU website at <https://www.cid.army.mil/mcu-advisories.html>. To report a crime to Army CID, visit [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil)




**MISSION CRITICAL**

Make it Your Mission to Save Lives


**DONATE BLOOD**

**Ft. Detrick Blood Drive**  
**Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, @ 0900-1400**  
**Appointments Only!!!!**  
**-BLDG 1520, Auditorium-**



For appointments: [militarydonor.com](http://militarydonor.com) using sponsor code  
**FTDETRICK**

**#SUPPORTTHEWARFIGHTER**



**ASBP**  
Armed Services Blood Program

# Around Fort Detrick

\*Nallin Farm Gate and Brookville Gate are open 24/7\*

## **COVID Immunizations, Priorities by Tier, and Notifications:**

The Barquist Army Health Clinic has begun Covid-19 Immunizations according to the CDC/DoD priority schema. As we receive shipments, we will notify and assist each unit/organization with scheduling their vaccination appointments as we progress through the tiers. In addition, family members and retirees enrolled to BAHC will be notified when we reach their corresponding tiers. Please be patient and wait for us to reach out to you.

Your best protection from COVID-19 will be a combination of getting a COVID-19 vaccine, wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, and washing your hands often. No one tool alone is going to stop the pandemic. Learn about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccination so you will be ready when a vaccine is recommended: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>.

## **For updates and materials on COVID-19 visit:**

<https://home.army.mil/detrick/index.php/covid-19-information>

## **Tax Assistance Update**

The Fort Detrick Legal Assistance Office (LAO) will assist active duty members of U.S. Armed Forces assigned to units located on or supported by Fort Detrick in preparing and electronic filing of both federal and state income tax returns for Tax Year 2020 beginning in January 2021. Members in grades O-3 and below, to include enlisted personnel and warrant officers, and their DEERS dependent spouses, are eligible for assistance by appointment only. The LAO will publish instructions for making appointments in the coming weeks.

All active-duty military members may prepare and file federal and state tax returns via Military OneSource at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/miltax-military-tax-services>. Others, including military retirees, may self-prepare their federal and state returns using free commercial software available at the following IRS Website: <https://www.irs.gov/e-file-providers/efile-with-commercial-software>.

## **Retirement Ceremonies**

USAG Fort Detrick conducts Quarterly Retirement Ceremonies honoring retiring Service Members, and Civilian employees and their families. These ceremonies take place on the second Thursday of the second month of each quarter in the auditorium, Building 1520 at 10 a.m.

Any Military at Fort Detrick or in the local surrounding community or Civilian employees who wish to participate should contact Tom Yocklin with the Directorate of Operations by calling (301) 619-2503. The deadline for participants to be included is two weeks prior to the ceremony. Below are scheduled retirement ceremonies for the next 2 years.

May 13, 2021 / Aug 12, 2021/ \*Nov 10, 2021

\* Due to a National Holiday, this ceremony is not on the second Thursday of the month.

## **Mandatory DA Pre-Retirement/SBP Briefing**

THIS IS MANDATORY FOR ALL RETIRING ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS. During the current COVID-19 environment, the briefings will be conducted via DCS. To be added to the distribution list for the next Retirement briefing, please email Ms. Kira Fisher [kira.l.fisher.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kira.l.fisher.civ@mail.mil) or Mrs. Brigit Amos [Brigit.m.amos.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Brigit.m.amos.civ@mail.mil). Time: 8:30 – 10: 30 a.m. FY21 Briefing Dates: February 2, April 6, June 1, August 3.

Community Recreation Event: Intramural Softball Coaches Meeting

Wednesday, March 17 from 2-3 p.m. Location: Odom Fitness Center, Bldg. 1507

The 2021 Intramural Softball Season will run from 5 April through 30 June. Games are played Monday-Thursday, 5:15 & 6:15 p.m. Must be 18 years of age or older. If you are not part of a team and are interested in playing, contact the Odom Fitness Center at (301) 619-2564. All CDC/COVID-19 protocols are strictly adhered to and will be enforced during this program.

Thank you, snow removal crews!





**Fort Detrick Commissary Patrons**  
**Order Ahead**  
**Don't Miss a Minute of**  
**The Action!**  
**Email order to**  
**Kim.Selig@Sodexo.com**

## **MONSTER SIZED SPICY ITALIANO**

*A Full Loaf of Fresh Baked Italian Bread Loaded With  
Genoa Salami, Capicola, Ham, Provolone Cheese, Red  
Pepper Relish. Lettuce, Tomato And Olives*

**\$12.99/ea.**

## **Buffalo Wings And Rib Tidbits**

*In A Disposable Foil Pan For  
Easy Heat & Serve*

*Wings Include Blue Cheese Or Ranch Dip  
Rib Tidbits Include Extra Sauce*

**50 Wings – \$45.99**

**100 Wings – \$89.99**

**BBQ Smoked Rib Tidbits**

**5 Pounds \$39.99**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PICK UP DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ PREPAY \_\_\_\_\_