



## Fort Detrick Celebrates Army Heritage Month, 250th Birthday

**By Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs**

Fort Detrick observed Army Heritage Month throughout June, with a series of events honoring the U.S. Army's 250th birthday and its enduring legacy of service. The celebrations highlighted the Army's role in shaping American history and its commitment to national defense.

The month's festivities commenced on June 3 with an opening ceremony celebrating the Army's 250th anniversary. The U.S. Army, founded a year before the nation it defends, has been a steadfast guardian of the United States for a quarter-millennium.

Maj. Gen. Paula Lodi, Fort Detrick's senior commander, delivered opening remarks, reflecting on the Army's rich past while emphasizing its ongoing transformation and modernization to maintain readiness and lethality in a dynamic global environment.

"This we'll defend," the theme for this year's observance, was originally a battle cry of the Continental Army and continues to underscore the Army's core mission: to fight and win the nation's wars. The Army remains dedicated to honing its warfighting skills, upholding standards and discipline, and living the values that have defined its culture for 250 years.

Keynote speaker Col. (Ret.) Fred Schumacher, remarked on his extensive service in the Army and offered insights to attendees. Maj. James Brown, chaplain



**Fort Detrick Soldiers stand in formation on Blue & Gray parade field as the bugle sounds and the nation's colors are lowered during a Retreat Ceremony to officially mark the end of the day's Army birthday celebrations, July 13.** (Photo courtesy of Jeff Miller)

for the 21st Signal Brigade, provided words of empowerment, strength, dedication and faith, as the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps' sacred service is also marked in 2025. The opening ceremony concluded with attendees singing the Army Song.

On June 13, a traditional Army Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony was held in the auditorium of Building 1520. In keeping with tradition, Garrison Commander Col. Christopher Chung provided inspirational remarks before being joined by the installation's oldest and youngest Soldiers for

the ceremonious cutting. Following the cake cutting, attendees were invited to explore Heritage Displays within the auditorium, highlighting the Army story and dedication to service from the Revolutionary War to today's modern warfighter.

"This milestone is a powerful showcase of the Army's enduring values – of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. It's a testament to an institution that has not only defended our nation but has also empow-

**ARMY, continued on Page 2**

# Fort Detrick's DPW Saves Thousands, Enhances Readiness

By Erickson Barnes, USAG PAO

Fort Detrick's Directorate of Public Works (DPW) demonstrated exceptional value and efficiency while completing critical infrastructure improvements at Building 1430 recently.

The DPW team proactively addressed a critical safety concern at the home of U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity (USAMMDA) by repairing a crumbling concrete awning on the building's exterior – a task that would typically involve a lengthy and costly contracting process. As one of a handful of the Army's only full-time federal employee DPW crews, their in-house efforts saved the Army approximately \$244,000.

Army installations receive limited resources for infrastructure projects each fiscal year, which requires prioritization and, sometimes, creativity to work within the budget. Due to safety concerns for USAMMDA personnel, this project was a high priority for Fort Detrick's senior commander, Maj. Gen. Paula Lodi, and the Garrison's command team.

"The DPW team proactively stepped up and said they could handle the job – and they did," said Col. Christopher Chung, Fort Detrick's Garrison Commander.

The dedicated team responsible for the Building 1430 repair included Jason Campbell, Randy Blair, Jerry Carbaugh, Taylor Chase, Curtis Dryman, Mike Moore, Stanley Clabaugh, Corey Carbaugh, and Greg Bonner.



**The DPW team proactively addressed a critical safety concern at the home of U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity by repairing a crumbling concrete awning on the building's exterior.** (Photo courtesy of Installation Safety Office)

## ARMY, continued from Page 1

ered individuals to realize their full potential," said Col. Chung. "From the snow-covered fields of Valley Forge to the shores of Normandy, the American Soldier has been the guardian of an audacious idea: a nation founded on liberty. But that defense is not always fought on distant shores. Today's Army is the best-trained and most prepared in the world, ready to face any obstacle, including natural disasters, public health emergencies, and, of course, our nation's adversaries.

"Here at Fort Detrick, we live at the intersection of that national defense and domestic support," he continued. "Our history is one of pioneering science to protect the warfighter on the bat-

tlefield. Today, our mission has evolved into a national asset. The vital work done within these gates – in medical research, global communications, and public health – is a shield for every American. We are a testament to how the Army adapts, innovates, and prepares for the threats of the future."

That afternoon, Col. Chung led a Retreat Ceremony to officially mark the end of the day's birthday celebrations and the duty day. Soldiers from tenant units on Fort Detrick stood in formation on the Blue & Gray parade field as the bugle sounded and the nation's colors were lowered.

# USAMRIID is Advancing the Next Generation of Pathogen Detection

By Paul Lagasse, DHA R&D-MRDC Public Affairs

Researchers at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases are testing a promising new biological threat detection method in high-fidelity training scenarios, demonstrating its suitability for use in the field so that it can someday fill a crucial biosurveillance capability gap.

The detection method works by adding molecular inversion probes, or MIPs, to samples of suspected pathogens collected in the field. MIPs are single strands of nucleic acid that quickly “capture” the DNA patterns of organisms they are exposed to. Researchers then use a laboratory process called polymerase chain reaction to multiply the captured DNA patterns until there is enough for researchers to compare against a master library of pathogens, called a panel. MIPs have the advantage of enabling researchers to detect pathogens in complex samples, such as tissues, using currently available detection equipment.

“Molecular inversion probes can be highly multiplexed, which means that thousands of genetic targets in a single sample can be amplified,” explains Dr. Christopher Stefan, chief of the Developmental Diagnostics Branch in USAMRIID’s Diagnostic Systems Division. “And because of the unique nature of the technology, you can add and remove targets from the panel without destroying the efficacy of the entire platform.”

In laboratory experiments that have led to numerous papers published in scientific journals, Stefan and his colleagues demonstrated that MIPs can be used to accurately identify the genetic markers for antibiotic resistance as well as for various types of highly contagious viruses such as chikungunya. More recently, they also demonstrated the efficacy of the MIPs technique in the field, through participation in a U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command research and development program called Far-Forward Advanced Sequencing Technologies.

Sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and led by the Naval Research Laboratory, F-FAST was a multi-year project to field test methods for rapidly detecting, analyzing, and sequencing biological agents at the point of exposure, rather than by sending samples to laboratories far behind the lines. In addition to the MIPs technique developed at USAMRIID, F-FAST also evaluated an “agnostic” sequencing method for pathogen identification – that is, one that tests whether a sample contains any pathogens at all, rather than testing for the presence of a specific one.

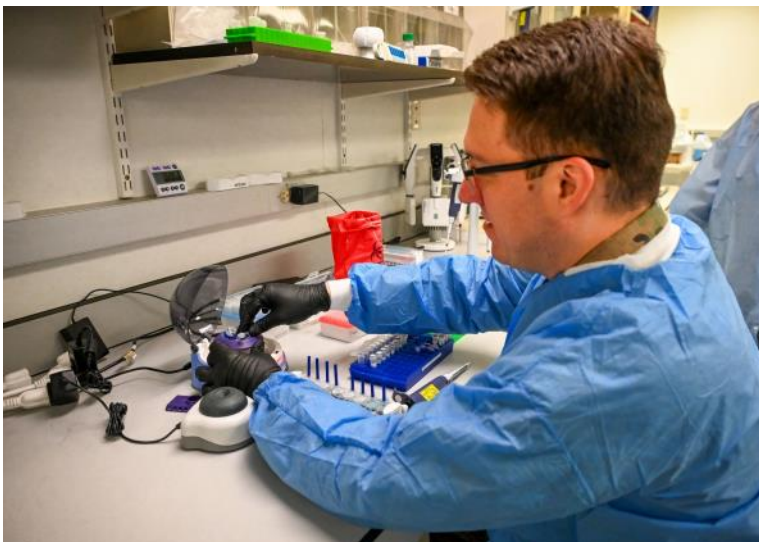
DEVCOM is pursuing development of agnostic sequencing methods under the auspices of the new Far-Forward Biological Sequencing program of record, while USAMRIID and NRL will continue to pursue the targeted sequencing method that uses MIPs plus PCR. The use of complementary detection methods will ensure Warfighters are able to maintain operational effectiveness in chemical and biologically contaminated environments.

USAMRIID’s unique capabilities – including the largest Biosafety Level 3 and 4 containment laboratories in the DOD – en-

able researchers to test the MIPs technique on a wide variety of threats. Furthermore, its engagement with the Defense Health Agency’s Global Emerging Infections Surveillance program enables it to conduct tests in the field, in the hands of actual Warfighters, under real-world conditions.

One recent field test involved providing a molecular sequencing tool and clinical specimens to the Level III hospital facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, to test the efficacy and feasibility of using the technique for biosurveillance in a deployed environment. The mission also provided USAMRIID with valuable experience with the logistics of transporting equipment and samples to and from the camp.

Lt. Col. M. Kelly Hourihan, director of the division’s Special Pathogens Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory, said the project successfully demonstrated the value of next-generation sequencing capabilities in preserving force health protection, and also revealed gaps that will drive improvements to the technologies and procedures in the future.



**Capt. Ian Davis, chief operations officer of the USAMRIID Applied Diagnostics Branch, prepares biochemical samples for DNA sequencing.** (Courtesy photo)

“The purpose of the project was to show that you can rapidly move to a new location and set up and begin testing within a few hours,” says Hourihan. “As far as showing that the technology worked, it went really well. The preliminary results were promising, but we will know more when the device comes back to USAMRIID and Chris can analyze all the data.”

Recently, Diagnostic Systems Division personnel participated in African Lion 2025, U.S. Africa Command’s largest annual exercise. There, they put the sequencing tool into the hands of Warfighters to test in a joint, all-domain, multinational environment. Hourihan says that the experience gained from testing the MIPs method in realistic training exercises is vitally important for determining its efficacy in a wide range of conditions and scenarios, in order to ensure its effectiveness in protecting Warfighters from dangerous biological threats.

# Fort Detrick Fire Department Training Bolsters Military Readiness

By Erickson Barnes, USAG Public Affairs

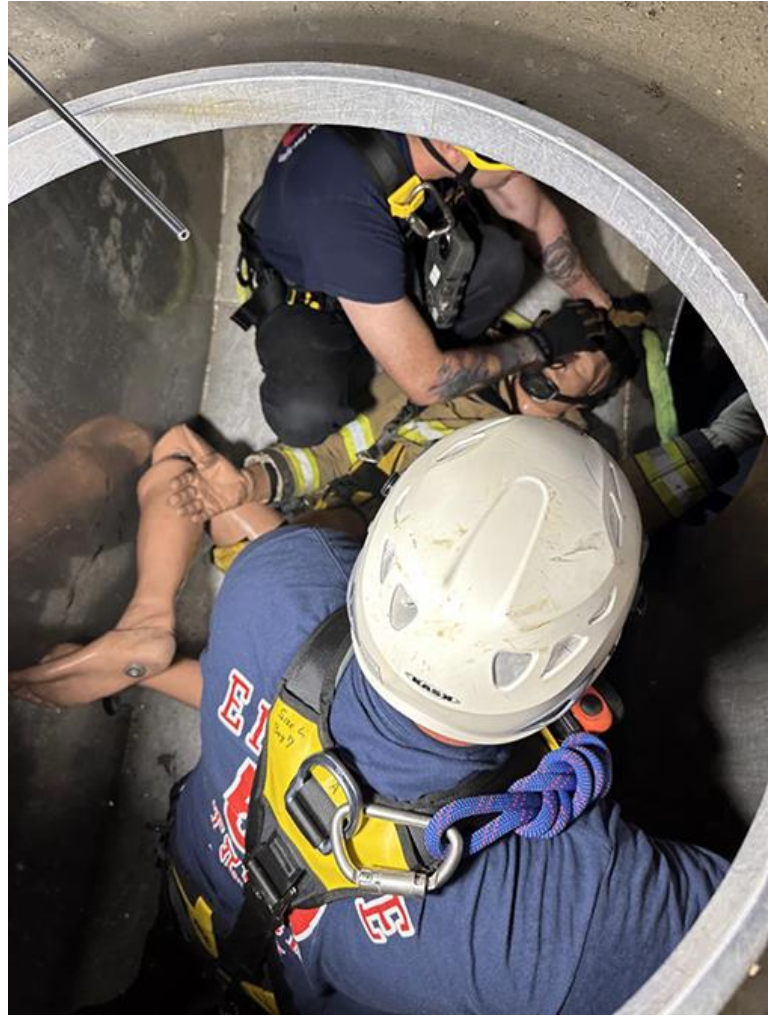
High-level technical rescue training for firefighters at Fort Detrick and throughout the region is ultimately enhancing the readiness of military personnel on posts and within local communities, strengthening their comprehensive ability to contribute to national security and win our nation's wars.

From June 8-15, Fort Detrick Fire & Emergency Services (FDES) participated in an intensive Confined Space Rescue Technician course, significantly expanding the specialized capabilities of first responders who protect vital military assets.

Seventeen firefighters from Fort Detrick, Letterkenny Army Depot, Camp David, and Frederick County underwent rigorous, hands-on and classroom instruction provided by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) at the University of Maryland. This weeklong training program culminated in participants demonstrating advanced proficiency in confined space rescue techniques, adhering to the stringent standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

"This certification course is critical for our first responders due to the complexities we face during these high-risk, low-frequency events," said Jeremy Rebok, Chief, Fort Detrick Fire and Emergency Services. "By hosting this class, we have effectively grown our capabilities by ensuring our personnel are proficient to identify and assess potential hazards within confined spaces."

The comprehensive curriculum covered a wide array of topics essential for safe and effective confined space operations, including hazard assessment, atmospheric monitoring, ventilation techniques, patient packaging, and the expert use of specialized rescue equipment. Confined spaces, as defined by NFPA standards and U.S. Army safety protocols, can present a variety of life-threatening dangers, such as oxygen deficiency, the presence of toxic gases, flammable substances, and inherent physical hazards. Participants learned to utilize specialized equipment, including sophisticated gas detectors and advanced venti-



**Fort Detrick Fire & Emergency Services participated in an intensive Confined Space Rescue Technician course, significantly expanding the specialized capabilities of first responders who protect vital military assets.** (Courtesy photo by FDES)

lation systems, to establish a secure environment for rescue operations.

According to MFRI, specialized training like this is paramount for emergency responders who may encounter complex and perilous confined space scenarios in both military and civilian environments. The NFPA, a global leader in fire, electrical, and building safety, develops standards that are widely adopted to ensure the highest level of preparedness and safety for firefighters.

This collaborative training underscores the interconnectedness of military installations and their surrounding communities. By enhancing the skills of these highly trained firefighters, Fort Detrick is not only safeguarding its own critical missions but also contributing to a more resilient and capable emergency response network that serves the broader region. This preparedness directly supports the U.S. Department of Defense's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of service members, their families, and the communities where they live and work, thereby directly impacting overall military readiness.



**Seventeen firefighters from Fort Detrick, Letterkenny Army Depot, Camp David, and Frederick County underwent rigorous, hands-on and classroom instruction.** (Courtesy photo by FDES)



## School's Out!

Whittier Elementary School students and faculty welcomed Soldiers from Fort Detrick to help celebrate the end of the school year, June 12. In keeping with this tradition, Soldiers from the 21st Signal Brigade lowered the American Flag on the last day of school. USAG Fort Detrick Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Detrich spoke to the kids, encouraging them to celebrate their accomplishments and enjoy their summer. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Amber Smith, 21st Signal)



# Editorial: Building Relationships for Medical Emergency Response in High-Containment Labs

By Kyle Boedecker, Deputy Chief, Fire & Emergency Services

At the end of May, I had the privilege of participating in a presentation at U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) titled “Bridging the Gap: Coordinated Response to Medical Emergencies in BSL-3/4 Laboratories.” As the Deputy Fire Chief for Fort Detrick Fire and Emergency Services, I know firsthand how critical partnerships and information sharing are to ensuring readiness – especially when working with the unique challenges presented by high-containment laboratories.

At Fort Detrick, we support a community that is home to some of the most advanced bioresearch in the world. That’s why presentations like this one are so important – they remind us that no single agency or organization can go it alone.

Garth Phoebus, USAMRIID’s Emergency Manager, opened the presentation by emphasizing the strategic importance of building relationships at every level – from lab personnel to public health agencies to emergency responders. He highlighted that while sharing information can sometimes be viewed cautiously in the biosecurity community due to concerns about negative publicity, transparency is key to building trust and ensuring effective response. As he put it, “The more we collaborate and share knowledge, the better we can dispel rumors, reduce apprehension, and ensure we’re ready for those black swan incidents that no one sees coming.”

Our role in Fort Detrick Fire and Emergency Services is to be prepared to respond to medical emergencies inside these high-containment environments, where the stakes can be incredibly high. From the moment an emergency call is received, we coor-

dinate closely with biosafety officers, laboratory personnel, and medical staff to make sure that every step – entry, rescue, and decontamination – is executed with precision.

This isn’t just about following a checklist. It’s about understanding the unique layout and engineering features of BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs – like PPE requirements, airlocks, and effluent decontamination systems – and knowing exactly how to work within those controls without compromising safety.

**“The more we collaborate and share knowledge, the better we can dispel rumors, reduce apprehension, and ensure we’re ready for those black swan incidents that no one sees coming.”**

- Garth Phoebus, USAMRIID Emergency Manager

But even the best facilities and plans rely on people. That’s why joint training and familiarization tours are so important. These aren’t one-time events; they’re ongoing commitments to build trust and operational understanding. We make it a priority to regularly train inside these facilities, so that when an incident happens, we’re not figuring it out for the first time.

I also want to highlight the critical role of our partners at Johns Hopkins Biocontainment Unit, represented by Christopher Sulmonte during the presentation. His segment focused on first receivers – those dedicated healthcare professionals who receive potentially exposed patients after they leave the laboratory. Their role is essential to ensuring a seamless handoff from lab containment to medical care, and it underscores how every part of the system is connected.

As public safety and public health professionals, when time is of the essence, we do not wait for incidents to occur. We are committed to working together. That means building relationships, sharing knowledge, and fostering the kind of collaboration that keeps our personnel and our community safe.

At the end of the day, what stands out to me is the culture of collaboration that presentations like this foster. We’re not just practicing for the next big incident; we’re investing in the relationships that make effective response possible.

As Healthcare, Emergency Managers, and Fire and Emergency Services professionals, we stand ready to support Fort Detrick and the surrounding community – because readiness isn’t just a plan, it’s a partnership. We hope this collaboration sets a standard for others to follow and encourages them to reach out for advice or assistance.



Kyle Boedecker, Deputy Chief, Fire and Emergency Services at Fort Detrick presents during an event at U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. (Courtesy photo)

# Army MEDLOG enables readiness during deployment exercise in Kuwait

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

When the order comes, U.S. Army units have to be ready to go.

Army Medical Logistics Command did its part to answer the call during a recent emergency deployment readiness exercise, or EDRE, conducted by U.S. Army Central Command.

An EDRE is a no-notice, rapid deployment exercise to assess a unit's ability to quickly mobilize personnel and equipment for potential real-world contingencies.

AMLC and personnel from the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, one of its three direct reporting units, moved quickly to issue sets from the Army Prepositioned Stocks site in Southwest Asia, known as APS-5, in support of a deploying forward resuscitative surgical detachment to sustain EDRE medical operations from May 24 to June 30 in Kuwait.

"The AMLC staff and USAMMA personnel reacted swiftly and professionally within the first 24 hours of receiving the request to issue a FRSD from APS without any prior notification," said Lt. Col. Ibrahim Kabbah, AMLC's assistant chief of staff for Support Operations, or SPO.



**Staff members at the Army Prepositioned Stocks site at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, known as APS-5, load blood freezers onto a 3rd Medical Command (Forward) truck in preparation for a training exercise in June. (Courtesy photo)**

The exercise was a true test of AMLC's readiness as well. Kabbah said the command was not tracking the EDRE in ad-

vance and did not forecast the equipment requirement.

"This EDRE truly exercised AMLC's capability and readiness to support the warfighter, as well as our USAMMA personnel who manages the APS at the Force Projection Directorate," Kabbah added.

"These MEDLOG professionals executed this hasty handoff without a hitch and the EDRE was able to have a FRSD to exercise during this realistic training and readiness exercise."

Maj. Ian Dunn, chief of future operations for USAMMA, took it one step further, noting that the agency was simultaneously supporting other ongoing operations when the notice came down.

"During this timeframe, we had DEFENDER 25 Europe retrograde and issue operations, as well as an APS-3 vessel download occurring," he said. "We had to rapidly reprioritize support and synchronize efforts across an additional COCOM. We were able to prove that USAMMA is able to rapidly issue its materiel at a moment's notice, projecting readiness and capabilities to our Soldiers and units."



**Staff members at the Army Prepositioned Stocks site at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, known as APS-5, prepare equipment and supplies for hand-off to 3rd Medical Command (Forward) as part of an emergency deployment readiness exercise, or EDRE. (Courtesy photo)**

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# News - Events - Training

## Holiday Gate Closures

In observance of the FEDERAL HOLIDAY, all Visitor Centers, and gates, EXCEPT Nallin Farm Gate at Fort Detrick and Brookville Gate at Forest Glen, WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025. Nallin Farm Gate and Brookville Gate will remain open 24/7.

Vetting operations for Fort Detrick visitors will occur at Nallin Farm Gate 24 hours a day.

Vetting operations for Forest Glen visitors will occur at the Forest Glen Police Station 24.

## Beasley Drive, adjacent walking path closure

Beasley Drive between Bldg. 375 and Bldg. 393 (including the perimeter walking path) and Davis Street will be closed starting 7 July 2025 through the project end (est. 2031). Please treat all areas with posted signs as off limit areas.

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](https://www.facebook.com/DetrickMWR).

## Instructions for coordinating HHG Transportation with FORT MEADE Office

Effective immediately, Fort Meade Transportation Office has assumed responsibility for Fort Detrick's transportation services until further notice.

All inbound and outbound Household Goods (HHG) shipments should now be coordinated through the Fort Meade Transportation Office.

Contact Information: Phone: 520-706-8613, Option 1

Email: [usarmy.meade.406-afsb-lrc.mbx.personal-property-group-box@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.meade.406-afsb-lrc.mbx.personal-property-group-box@army.mil)

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

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

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Ft Detrick Chapel

JULY 14 - 18, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

K\* - 5th Grade

301-619-7371



FREE Registration at the Chapel

\*Must have completed K

# Fort Detrick Garrison Employee of the Quarter Nominee



*Highlighting Our Outstanding Employees!*



Aja Roberts  
U.S. Army Garrison  
Workforce Development Specialist, DHR

Ms. Aja Roberts is a vital member of the Directorate of Human Resources at USAG Fort Detrick, consistently exemplifying the Army Values and Civilian Corps Creed through her dedication, professionalism, and selfless service. As the sole coordinator of the Garrison's Service Culture Campaign, she leads critical initiatives that improve onboarding, streamline Civilian Award processing, and enhance the overall employee experience. Her proactive efforts ensure all personnel, including those geographically separated, feel welcomed and informed. Ms. Roberts' commitment to excellence, innovation, and inclusivity makes her an invaluable asset to Fort Detrick and a deserving nominee for Employee of the Quarter.

# Work/Rest and Water Consumption Table

*Applies to average sized, heat-acclimated Soldier wearing ACU, hot weather. (See TB MED 507 for further guidance.)*

Easy Work	Moderate Work	Hard Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weapon Maintenance</li> <li>• Walking Hard Surface at 2.5 mph, &lt; 30 lb Load</li> <li>• Marksmanship Training</li> <li>• Drill and Ceremony</li> <li>• Manual of Arms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking Loose Sand at 2.5 mph, No Load</li> <li>• Walking Hard Surface at 3.5 mph, &lt; 40 lb Load</li> <li>• Calisthenics</li> <li>• Patrolling</li> <li>• Individual Movement Techniques, i.e., Low Crawl or High Crawl</li> <li>• Defensive Position Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking Hard Surface at 3.5 mph, ≥ 40 lb Load</li> <li>• Walking Loose Sand at 2.5 mph with Load</li> <li>• Field Assaults</li> </ul>

Heat Category	WBGT Index, F°	Easy Work		Moderate Work		Hard Work	
		Work/Rest (min)	Water Intake (qt/hr)	Work/Rest (min)	Water Intake (qt/hr)	Work/Rest (min)	Water Intake (qt/hr)
1	78° - 81.9°	NL	½	NL	¾	40/20 min	¾
2 (green)	82° - 84.9°	NL	½	50/10 min	¾	30/30 min	1
3 (yellow)	85° - 87.9°	NL	¾	40/20 min	¾	30/30 min	1
4 (red)	88° - 89.9°	NL	¾	30/30 min	¾	20/40 min	1
5 (black)	> 90°	50/10 min	1	20/40 min	1	10/50 min	1

- The work/rest times and fluid replacement volumes will sustain performance and hydration for at least 4 hrs of work in the specified heat category. Fluid needs can vary based on individual differences (± ¼ qt/hr) and exposure to full sun or full shade (± ¼ qt/hr).

• **NL** = no limit to work time per hr.

• **Rest** = minimal physical activity (sitting or standing) accomplished in shade if possible.

• **CAUTION: Hourly fluid intake should not exceed 1½ qts.**

**Daily fluid intake should not exceed 12 qts.**

• If wearing body armor, add **5°F** to WBGT index in humid climates.

• If doing Easy Work and wearing NBC (MOPP 4) clothing, add **10°F** to WBGT index.

• If doing Moderate or Hard Work and wearing NBC (MOPP 4) clothing, add **20°F** to WBGT index.



<http://phc.amedd.army.mil>  
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For additional copies, contact: U.S. Army Public Health Command Health Information Operations Division at (800) 222-9698 or USAPHC - Health Information Operations@apg.amedd.army.mil.

For electronic versions, see <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/heat>. Distribution unlimited. Local reproduction is authorized.

CP-033-0811

# The Facts about Kids and the Danger of Drowning

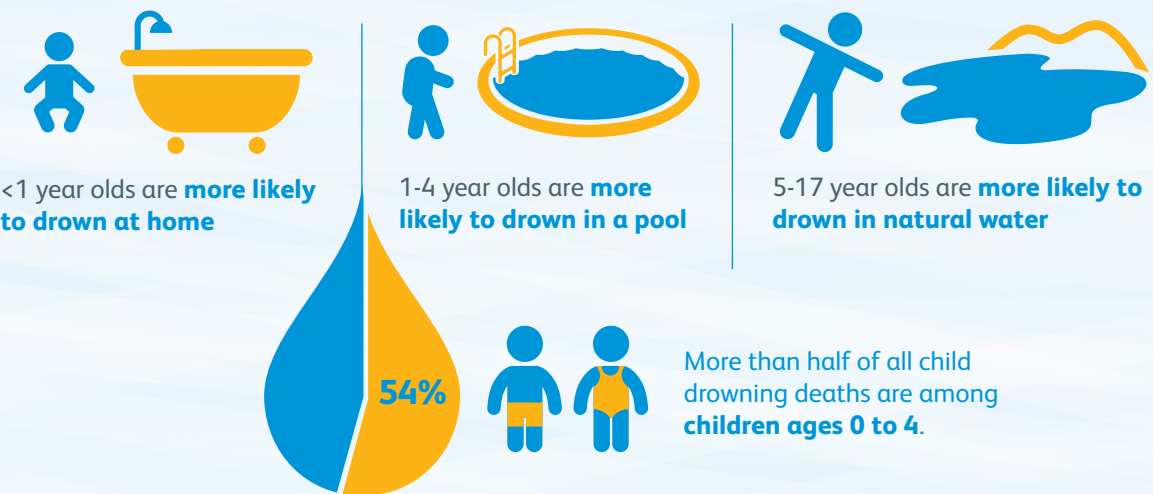
## THE PROBLEM

Almost 800 children drown in the U.S. every year.

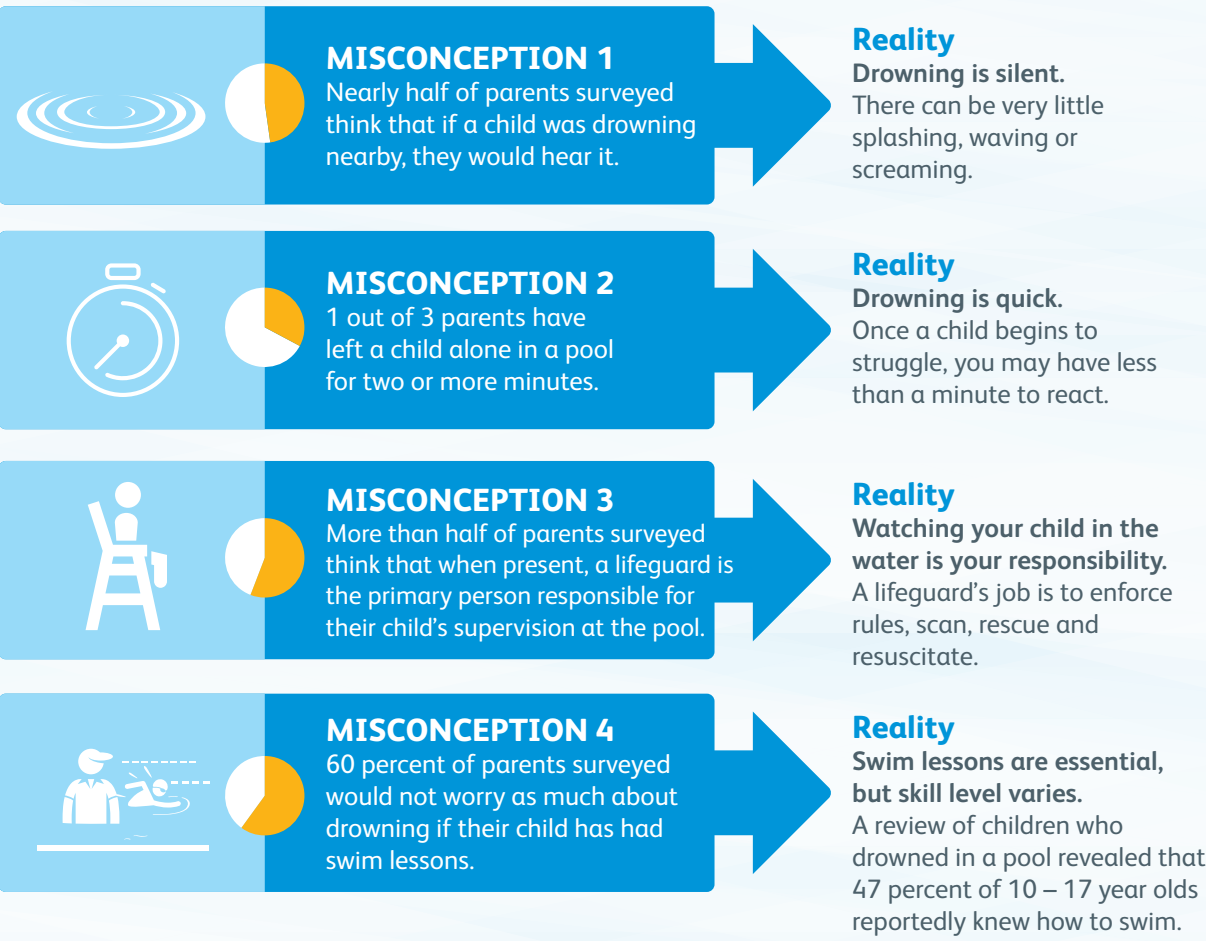


Two thirds of these deaths occur during May – August.

### Drowning Risk Varies by Age

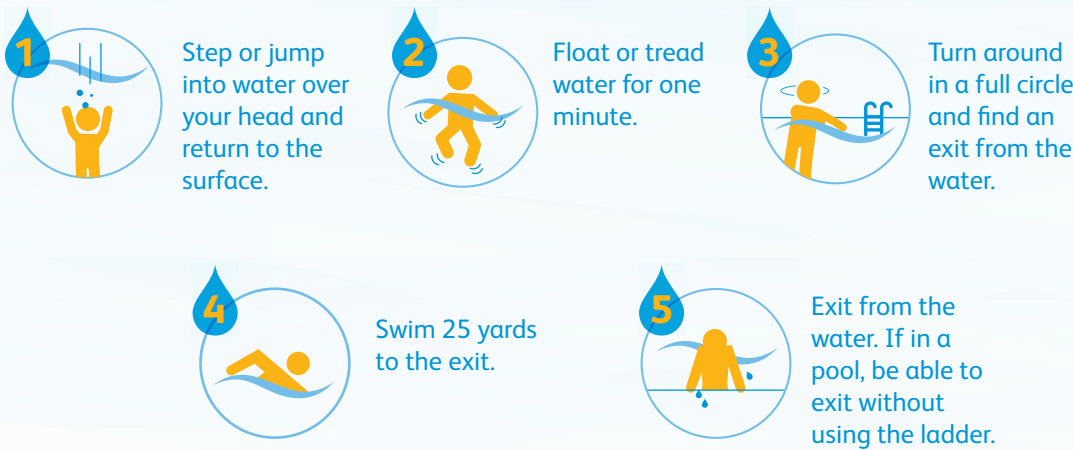


## PARENTS' MISCONCEPTIONS

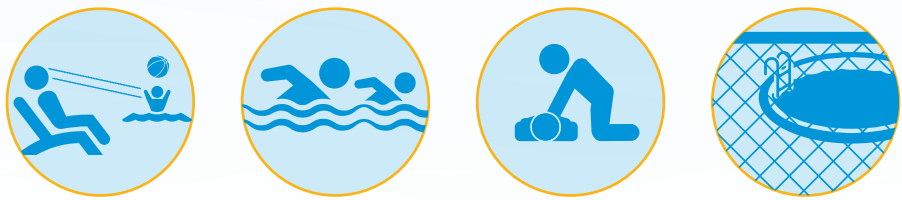


## WATER SURVIVAL SKILLS

### 5 Survival Skills That Could Save Your Life in the Water



## WATER SAFETY TIPS



- 💧 Watch your kids when they are in and around water, without distraction.
- 💧 Teach children to swim and the 5 Water Survival Skills.
- 💧 Learn CPR and basic rescue skills.
- 💧 Make sure pools have four-sided fencing at least 4 feet high.