



Honoring Fort Detrick's Volunteer Force

Story and Photos by USAMRDC Public Affairs

Fort Detrick held its Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at the Community Activity Center, April 17, honoring the incredible men and women who give their time, talent, and heart to our community.

Hosted by Garrison Commander Col. Chris Chung and Command Sergeant Maj. Erick Dietrich, the ceremony reflected the deep appreciation and respect we hold for those who give so much to others.

In 2025, 163 active volunteers logged more than 9,200 hours, extending the Army's budget by nearly \$328,000 and making a lasting impact on the Frederick and Forest Glen communities. From supporting Service Members and their families to championing important causes, our volunteers are truly the heart of Fort Detrick.

U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's Maj. Gen. Paula Lodi and Command Sergeant Maj. Curtis Conklin shared a special video message of gratitude, reminding us that our volunteers are the driving force behind so many of our organizations, both on and off the installation.



Fort Detrick Kicks Off Month of the Military Child with Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation Event

By Lanessa Hill, USAG Public Affairs

Fort Detrick kicked off Month of the Military Child with a special Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation event at the Community Activities Center, April 1.

The event celebrated the resilience and importance of military children while emphasizing the community's commitment to their safety and well-being.

Fort Detrick's Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Paula Lodi, opened the event by thanking the parents and adults in attendance for their dedication to supporting military children. She shared an inspiring message, quoting a proverb: "The most honorable thing you can do is plant a seed that will grow a tree under whose shade you will never sit. Today we did that—we are all planting the trees."

Lodi also addressed the children directly, emphasizing their importance and the community's commitment to their happiness and safety. "You are the stars of the show today, and all the adults here are in support of you—your well-being, your safety, and your happiness—making the world a great place for you to grow up in," she said.

The event featured a variety of activities for the children, who were invited to dress up as either police officers or firefighters. Many initially chose to wear blue, expressing their desire to "help people and catch bad guys," but as more children arrived, a wave of red emerged, showing their admiration for firefighters.

The room was filled with excitement as children explored stuffed animals, giveaway bags, coloring books, and other fun items. Leaders from across the installation, including Maj. Gen. Lodi, Garrison Commander Col. Chris Chung, Fire Chief Jeremy Rebok, and Officer Alan Halton of the Fort Detrick Police Department, read books to the children. This year, the Frederick County Library joined the event, not only reading to the children but also providing a mobile library where kids



Above: Fort Detrick's Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Paula Lodi, and Garrison Commander Col. Chris Chung read to children at an event to begin Month of the Military Child. Below: A Fort Detrick fire fighter shows his newest recruit how to drive a fire truck during the event. (Photos by Lanessa Hill, USAG PAO)



could explore books and learn about library resources.

As the event concluded, the children had the opportunity to explore a firetruck, po-

lice squad car, and the mobile library, adding an interactive and memorable experience to the day.

Fixed and forward: Army boosting readiness with new medical maintenance strategy

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

In a move to increase readiness, U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command has redefined its Forward Repair Activity-Medical, or FRA-M, shifting from deployable experts to physical, home-station maintenance sites.

This change, along with the formalization of “fly-away” teams, marks a significant step in enhancing medical readiness and support for the operational force. It is a key part of a wider transformational effort, Medical Logistics in Campaigning, or MiC, which aims to better integrate medical logistics into the Army’s wider sustainment enterprise.

Previously, the term FRA-M was synonymous with the mobile teams of highly skilled medical maintenance personnel who deployed to assist units in the field. Under the new MiC initiative, AMLC rebranded its forward repair capability to better align with other Army commodities.

Today, the program establishes maintenance sites on Army installations, bringing vital field-level support to operational units. The FRA-M sites, starting with Fort Bragg in October 2024, provide regional support for units lacking their own organic biomedical equipment specialists, or 68As.

The goal is to bridge a long-standing readiness gap caused by the costly and time-consuming process of shipping devices to AMLC’s Medical Maintenance Operations Divisions, or MMODs, which continue to provide sustainment-level support.

“This is a fundamental shift in our support posture,” said Alfred Zamora, interim deputy director for the FRA-M, a program under AMLC’s Medical Maintenance Management Directorate, or M3D. “We’re pushing maintenance support to the tactical edge, so commanders no longer have to take critical equipment offline for weeks. This gives them back time and ensures life-saving equipment stays

with the Soldiers who need it.”

The Fort Bragg FRA-M site completed over 1,600 maintenance service requirements in its first year. AMLC is planning future expansion to additional locations, including Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

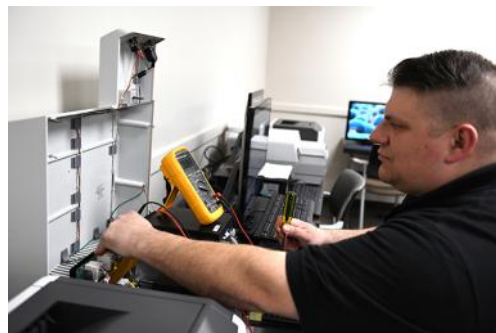
While the FRA-M’s definition has changed, AMLC still provides skilled, mobile maintenance support through its fly-away teams.

These teams consist of expert Soldiers and Army Civilians who deploy from AMLC’s MMODs to troubleshoot and repair complex medical equipment anywhere in the world.

The fly-away team does not replace unit-level maintainers, who are still responsible for providing significant capability as first-call technicians. They have the training and experience to perform scheduled services, such as preventative maintenance checks and services, calibration and safety checks on equipment.

Rather, the fly-away team assists, mentors and provides critical back-up expertise, enhancing unit-level medical readiness.

William Wall, director of AMLC’s MMOD-PA at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania, described the teams as a “force multiplier for medical readiness.”



Mark Kisel, lead biomedical equipment technician at U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command’s Medical Maintenance Operations Division, performs checks on a medical device. (U.S. Army photo by Katie Ellis-Warfield)

“As FRA-M increases field-level capacity, MMODs can hone in on what we’re built to do: provide sustainment-level expertise for the most complex systems and repairs,” Wall said. “That balance creates a healthier flow of work across the enterprise and ensures units receive timely, appropriate support without pulling equipment out of the fight longer than necessary. When paired with our ability to project specialized teams forward, it truly becomes a force multiplier for medical readiness.”

At the heart of both initiatives is the mission to support the 68A medical maintenance community. These Soldiers are crucial for ensuring that life-saving medical devices are always ready for use.

The new FRA-M sites provide 68As with local resources and a valuable training ground to work alongside experienced maintainers.

“The professional advancement of our 68A biomedical equipment specialists remains a critical component of our mission,” said Wes Ladlee, chief of M3D’s Maintenance Support Office. “The FRA-M sites serve as additional hubs for technical development, enabling junior specialists to leverage the extensive institutional knowledge of veteran technicians. This structured mentorship is fundamental to cultivating the high-level proficiency and confidence required to sustain operations and enable flexibility in our formations.”

This dual-pronged approach – both fixed, regional support and rapid, deployable expertise – represents a significant enhancement of the Army’s medical logistics capabilities.

“Ultimately, this is about keeping a promise – that a Soldier’s medical devices will work, every time,” M3D Director Jorge Magana said. “This new approach of fixed FRA-M sites and rapid-response fly-away teams ensures we keep that promise, making our Army more resilient, lethal and ready to win on any battlefield.”

Army Surgeon General visits AMLC maintenance hub

By Katie Ellis-Warfield, AMLC Public Affairs

Emphasizing the life-or-death importance of medical logistics, the Army's top doctor visited a critical maintenance hub operated by the U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command.

Lt. Gen. Mary K. Izaguirre, the Army surgeon general and commander, Army Medical Command, toured the Medical Maintenance Operations Division in Tracy, or MMOD-CA, to see firsthand how the facility sustains and services complex medical devices from around the globe.

Drawing from her experience as a young officer in Afghanistan, Izaguirre shared a powerful memory of when properly functioning equipment was all that stood between life and death for wounded Soldiers.

"I was very young ... and we had to have CT scans in order to treat the Soldiers that were coming in," she said, recounting a rocket attack during a deployment. "It was the equipment that was so critical in being able to provide those Soldiers with the proper care."

During the April 10 engagement, Izaguirre and her senior advisers, Command Sgt. Maj. John Dobbins and Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Deanna Hughes, received a briefing on the readiness of medical devices. The surgeon general emphasized their work directly influences patient outcomes.

MMOD-CA is one of three specialized medical maintenance sites operated by AMLC. Along with facilities in Utah and Pennsylvania, the three divisions support sustainment-level maintenance for the operational Army.

Specifically, MMOD-CA is the Army's center of excellence for the maintenance and calibration of medical imaging systems and specialized "Special Purpose" Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment. The division's work is critical for ensuring that highly complex medical devices are accurately calibrated, safe for patient use and ready for operational deployment.



Lt. Gen. Izaguirre listens as Jorge Magana, left, and Fernando Gonzales-Rodriguez explain how the Army's center of excellence for medical imaging system maintenance operates. (U.S. Army photo by Katie Ellis-Warfield)



Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Mary Izaguirre participates in a demonstration of a diagnostic medical imaging system at the Army Medical Logistics Command's Medical Maintenance Operations Division. (U.S. Army photo by Katie Ellis-Warfield)

"What you do ensures our Soldiers come back home," Izaguirre said. "I can't tell you what this means to me personally – to be able to look every one of you in the eye and say thank you."

For Site Director Isaac Newman, the visit was a powerful affirmation, especially for the depot's large veteran workforce whose experiences resonated with the general's battlefield accounts.

"This shared understanding validated our vision for modernizing MMOD-CA on the [Defense Logistics Agency] San Joaquin force projection platform, confirming it as the bedrock of medical readiness for the Pacific," Newman said. "Her message was clear: Our unique, depot-level skillset is a critical link in the chain of survival, and our work as a strategic asset directly ensures that our Soldiers make it home."

Jorge Magana, director of AMLC's Medical Maintenance Management Directorate, added that the visit reinforced the direct connection between the depot's work and the Soldier in the field.

"Her personal stories bring a real-world gravity to our mission," Magana said. "It connects our daily technical work to the life-saving outcomes on the battlefield, and it reinforces to our entire team that we're not just servicing equipment – we're ensuring Soldiers make it home."

In recognition of outstanding performance, Izaguirre presented command coins to eight AMLC employees, including Anthony Zapanta, Fernando Gonzales-Rodriguez, Maleke Devoux, Nicholas Brower, Ian McNesby, Newman and Magana.

Army announces new Combat Field Test to enhance readiness

By U.S. Army Public Affairs

The U.S. Army announced on April 22, the implementation of the new Combat Field Test (CFT), a major update to its physical readiness program designed to align fitness standards with the demanding realities of modern combat.

Implementation will begin in April 2026. The CFT is required annually for active-duty Soldiers serving in 24 designated combat military occupational specialties.

"The Combat Field Test is a critical step forward in ensuring our Soldiers serving in the most physically demanding specialties have the specific fitness required to dominate on the modern battlefield," said the Secretary of the Army Hon. Dan Driscoll. "This is about readiness, lethality, and the well-being of our Soldiers."

The CFT does not replace the Army Fitness Test. Combat specialty Soldiers in the Regular Army and Reserve Component on active-duty orders will be required to pass one of each test annually. All other Reserve Component Soldiers in combat specialties will take one fitness test per calendar year, alternating between the AFT and CFT.

The CFT is a seven-event sequence conducted continuously and scored on total time. Events include:

A one-mile run.

30 dead-stop push-ups.

A 100-meter sprint.

16 lifts of a 40-pound sandbag onto a 65-inch platform.

A 50-meter carry of two five-gallon Army water cans weighing 40 pounds each.

A 50-meter movement drill consisting of a 25-meter high crawl and a 25-meter 3-5 second rush.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Malik Retemiah, assigned 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) performs a dead-stop push-up during the new Combat Field Test (CFT), at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va. The CFT is an annual requirement for Soldiers in designated Combat Military Occupation Specialties, to reinforce combat standards and lethality by assessing Soldiers' physical ability. (Photo by U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Aaron Troutman)

A final one-mile run.

Soldiers must complete the test in 30 minutes or less while wearing the Army Combat Uniform, combat boots and a brown T-shirt, with no cover.

"This isn't just about passing a test; it's a direct measure of our commitment to readiness and ensuring our warfighters can dominate in any environment," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer. "We're asking more of our combat arms Soldiers, and this test validates their ability to meet that high standard."

To allow time for adaptation, no adverse administrative actions will be taken for failing the CFT during an initial 365-day diagnostic period for Regular Army and active-duty Reserve Component Soldiers, and a 730-day period for all other Reserve Component Soldiers. During this phase,

Soldiers may request voluntary reclassification to a non-combat specialty if they determine they cannot meet the standard, allowing the Army to retain valuable talent.

The CFT establishes a single, mission-based standard aligned to the demands of combat to ensure readiness and lethality. All Soldiers in designated combat roles must meet the same passing criteria, regardless of age or sex.

The Army will provide support to Soldiers preparing for the CFT through command-led physical training programs, Holistic Health and Fitness resources, and a dedicated CFT microsite with additional guidance. For more information on the Combat Field Test, visit <https://www.army.mil/aft/>.



**THESE
THREE DIGITS
COULD
SAVE A LIFE**

988 will serve as the new direct dial number for the National Suicide Prevention Helpline. The number will be available for use at national, state, and local levels.



**988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE**

   **Call, Text, Chat**

AMLC partners with Maryland National Guard

By C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs

For the nation's citizen-Soldiers, readiness can be a constant challenge.

Unlike their active-duty counterparts, Army National Guard units operate on a part-time basis, making it difficult to keep pace with the intensive maintenance requirements of complex, life-saving medical equipment.

It's a critical gap that experienced technicians from U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command are uniquely positioned to fill.

Over two days in early April, a maintenance team from AMLC's Medical Maintenance Operations Division at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania, or MMOD-PA, performed calibration and maintenance checks on over 130 devices in support of the Guard's 224th Medical Company (Area Support) near Gaithersburg.

"The Maryland National Guard plays a vital role in our nation's readiness and we're proud to reinforce that mission through dependable medical maintenance support," MMOD-PA Director William Wall said. "When their equipment is ready, their Soldiers are ready; and that's what matters most."

The 224th MCAS holds the largest medical inventory of Maryland Guard units, but relies on just two Soldiers who manage its vast and varied equipment, including vehicles and tools in addition to their primary responsibilities.

"Medical is complex and a lot different from other types of commodities," said 1st Lt. Jaleh Ames, an evacuation platoon leader with the unit. "It's a lot for them to do it just themselves, so we need as much support as we can."

The support can be a game-changer, especially in the case of the 224th MCAS, a Role 2 medical unit that is preparing for an upcoming overseas deployment as part of its annual training requirement.

Compared to a Role 1, or initial battlefield care for Soldiers, Role 2 units act as a bridge between battlefield care and field hospitals, providing enhanced medical capabilities, including triage, trauma man-



Frank Cali, a biomedical equipment technician with U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command, inspects a suction machine with Maryland National Guard Staff Sgt. Amber Charles during a maintenance site visit. (Photo by C.J. Lovelace, AMLC Public Affairs)

agement and holding capabilities for patients.

MMOD-PA technicians Frank Cali and Rob Carter performed calibrations, function checks and other services on the unit's inventory of devices, including patient monitors, defibrillators, imaging devices, steam sterilizers, dental sets and more.

For Staff Sgt. Amber Charles, the unit's supply sergeant, the visit provided immediate and tangible relief as the unit prepares to deploy.

"Having this team here, it helps me clear a lot off my plate, making sure our equipment is good to go," Charles said.

While the on-site work provides a crucial boost to maintenance metrics, Charles said it's about more than just scores, especially as the 224th prepares to support a medical training exercise in Estonia alongside NATO partners.

"They've knocked out a lot of maintenance on our equipment ... and all of this is going with us on our mission," she said.

Cali understands the dynamic well. He sees the team's role as more than just technical. They also serve as ambassa-

dors for AMLC and its capabilities, building relationships and ensuring Guard units know how to request additional support when needed.

"I know this is a part-time job for a lot of people," he said. "We're just trying to verify the equipment is good and reliable, and when you put your name on that, you have a level of trust there that it will be used and perform adequately."

AMLC, a major subordinate command of U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, operates three stateside MMODs. Pending resourcing from the National Guard, MMOD-PA is postured to support Guard units throughout the northeastern U.S., while other sites in Utah and California aim to serve their respective geographical regions.

By bringing these services directly to the armories and motor pools of National Guard units across the country, AMLC can assist part-time units in maintaining full-time ready equipment.

"It makes you feel good that you can do that," Cali reflected. "You're supporting the agency, the Soldier and the mission as a whole. That's really what it's all about."

News - Events - Training

The 2026 AER Campaign is officially underway!

The Army Emergency Relief campaign is officially underway, and Fort Detrick is already making waves! Let's set the tone for success by rallying together and showing our commitment to Soldiers helping Soldiers.

Did you know that you can donate again at AAFES? When customers check out at AAFES here on Fort Detrick and select to give AER it goes direct to the Fort Detrick Campaign. Whether it's \$1 or \$100, every donation counts. Visit the AAFES kiosks, connect with your unit reps, or scan the QR code on displays around post to make your contribution today.

Reminder from the Fort Detrick Fire Department:

If you have an emergency on the installation, please dial 9-1-1. With the help from our county colleagues, calls are immediately dispatched to us here with details about the call, location, and necessary needs. If you call the Fire Department directly, you are dialing a non-emergency phone line.

Barquist Army Health Clinic Updates

Ft Detrick (Barquist) Army Health Clinic has a new clinic and appointment line. For appointments call 833-286-3734. To reach the clinic call 833-853-1391.

Reduced Hours and Clinic Closures:

22 MAY: DONSA – no Sick Call

25 MAY: Memorial Day – Clinic closed

19 JUN: Juneteenth Holiday – Clinic closed

26 JUN: Barquist Closed (1200-1600) – training afternoon

14 JUL: Barquist AHC Change of Command – Closed (1200-1600)

Upcoming Events:

Nicotine Cessation Program: Call 301-619-8783

Basic Life Saving Training Dates: May 14

Enrollment deadline is 2 weeks before the course date. Please ensure BLS Eligibility Form is completed & emailed to the POC prior to course entry. Please contact Ms. Burns for availability, registration, and questions.

Priority is given to Barquist staff. Additional slots are only available to Active-Duty Service Members and DOD Civilians. POC: Maylis Burns, (301) 619 – 2275, maylis.n.burns.civ@health.mil

Upcoming FMWR Events

May 8 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 15 – Outdoor Recreation Day

May 16 – Strong B.A.N.D.S. Hero Challenge

For FMWR News and Events, visit www.detrick.armymwr.com, Instagram us at @DetrickMWR, and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DetrickMWR.

Bike to Work Day is May 15

Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 15, from 6-8:30 a.m.

Registration Link

[Click Here for the Ceremonial Ride from Hood College to City Hall and Transit Center \(Route\)](#)

The Ceremonial Ride will take place at 6:45 a.m. in front of Alumnae Hall at Hood College.

[Click Here for Transit's Facebook Event Link](#)

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>

FORT DETRICK



WALK OF HEROES

**HONORING THE LEGACY OF
FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS AND
REMEMBERING THEIR SACRIFICES
FOR OUR NATION**

**COME WALK IN THEIR MEMORY
FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2026**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 10:30 AM AND
WALK WILL BEGIN AT 11:00 AM**



U.S. ARMY



**MEET AT THE BLUE & GREY FIELD PAVILLION
ON PORTER STREET**

PLACARDS WILL BE DISPLAYED ALONG PORTER STREET 22 MAY - 19 JUNE 2026