



**Fort Meade Exchange: DOCS Dental Open**

The grand opening event took place on Aug. 21, where they cut the ribbon with special guests, including Garrison Commander Col. Michael Sapp, Services Business Manager Scott Brintnall, and more! This new dental office isn't just for military families and retirees – Department of Defense civilians and Veterans with service-connected disabilities are welcome too! With six treatment rooms and convenient hours, they're here to serve you Monday through Saturday. Plus, they accept TRICARE, FEDVIP, and other various insurance plans! Visit them at 2799 Rose Street, and let's keep those smiles shining! For more info, call 410-988-2798



**Fort George G. Meade named Great American Defense Community**

The Fort George G. Meade region is one of five communities across the United States selected as a 2023 Great American Defense Community by the Association of Defense Communities. Launched in 2016, the Great American Defense Community program recognizes and celebrates communities that support military installations and are committed to improving the quality-of-life for military members and their families. Communities are chosen through a competitive nomination process based on community building efforts, such as educational and employment opportunities, and support and collaboration with neighboring military installations.

Fort Meade was selected for the successful partnerships, initiatives, programs, and events led by the Community Covenant Council. These include the intergovernmental support agreement with Howard County, the expansion of Route 175, the building and beautification of the Kaboom Playground, located behind the Main Post Chapel; Friends of Meade, the Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce Army-Navy Tailgate, the workforce development agreement between Anne Arundel County and Howard County to provide workforce services to active duty spouses, transitioning service members and veterans at Fort Meade; and the renovation of the Kuhn Hall Education and Resiliency Center.



**The United States Army Field Band's Jazz Ambassadors**

The United States Army Field Band's Jazz Ambassadors played a free concert at sunset at Constitution Park! Featuring Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Epley - guitar, Sgt. 1st Class Hamilton Price - bass, Sgt 1st Class Wesley Anderson - drums, Staff Sgt. Anthony Pocetti - piano, Staff Sgt. Eric Williams - trumpet and Staff Sgt. Dave Mosko, trombone, the Ambassadors treated more than 100 service members and their families who gathered at the park to more than an hour of tunes from this uniquely-American genre of music.



**Members of the Community Covenant Council gather to Sign the Covenant**

The Fort Meade Community Covenant Council is dedicated to ensuring that lasting bonds are forged for Fort George G. Meade. The Council recognizes the great potential for beneficial partnerships, initiatives, programs, and events that can connect our communities and enhance the overall well-being of the entire Fort Meade region.

The mission of the Fort Meade Community Covenant Council is to provide the Fort Meade Military Community and Region with the support and resources reflective of the commitment they have made to our Nation. The Fort Meade Military Community is an integral component of our region and our Council pledges to make every effort to identify needs, fill those needs and gaps, and mobilize resources.

**Maryland Department of Health announces positive case of locally acquired malaria** *(August 18, 2023)*

**Baltimore, MD** –The Maryland Department of Health has confirmed and reported a positive case of locally acquired malaria in a Maryland resident who lives in the National Capital Region. The individual was hospitalized and is now recovering. They did not travel recently outside of the United States or to other U.S. states with recent locally acquired malaria cases. Read the full story: <https://health.maryland.gov/newsroom/Pages/Maryland-Department-of-Health-announces-positive-case-of-locally-acquired-malaria.aspx>

**MHS/KACC News: Telemedicine available 24/7**

Did you know that Dr. On Demand telemedicine offers urgent care and behavioral health, psychology, and psychiatry services 24/7?

You'll need a behavioral health referral annotating that virtual care is an appropriate treatment for you.

Visit [doctorondemand.com/HumanaMilitary](https://doctorondemand.com/HumanaMilitary) for more information.

**Safety Corner GETTING READY TO DRIVE FOR PRE-TEENS**

We know your kids are excited to learn to drive, and this can be a good thing for you, too. Use their interest in this topic to have conversations about safety and what the rules will be in your household when they begin to drive. Your driver will need to be a safe passenger, not just in your car, but in every car. This is an area where safety must come first, and it's never too early to start. Everything you need to know: <https://www.safekids.org/tip/getting-ready-drive-pdf>



Fort Meade Garrison Command Team Honors Sgt. Clarence Leon ‘Boone’ McNeill with Ceremonial Demolition of McNeill Hall



(From left) Fort George G. Meade Garrison CSM Andre Welch, Garrison Commander COL Michael Sapp, Timothy L. Clark, NSA-FMMD DPW Liaison; and Matthew Shaffer, director of Fort Meade DPW pose for a picture outside of McNeill Hall on June 26, 2023. Building 9827, known as McNeill Hall, was honored in a ceremonial demolition by Fort George G. Meade by the Garrison Command team on June 26, 2023.

On June 26, 2023, the Fort George G. Meade Garrison command team participated in a ceremonial demolition of building 9827, McNeill Hall, named after Air Force Sgt. Clarence Leon ‘Boone’ McNeill. McNeill was killed in action on February 5, 1969, when the EC-47 aircraft, callsign CAP 72, on which he was serving as an airborne cryptologic linguist, was downed by enemy fire over Laos. He was born on June 30, 1947, in Wayne County, North Carolina and graduated from James Kenan High School, Warsaw, North Carolina in 1965. After high school, McNeill attended East Carolina University until he joined the Air Force in June 1966. He completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas and Vietnamese language training at the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, California; and technical training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. Following completion of training in January 1968, he was assigned to the 6990th Security Group at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. On May 29, 1968, McNeill was reassigned to Det 2, 6994th Security Squadron at Pleiku Air Base, Vietnam. McNeill was posthumously promoted to the grade of Sergeant on June 1, 1969. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart (Posthumously), Air Medal (3rd OLC), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal. McNeill was originally interred in a communal grave that held unidentified remains at the Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri. However, after DNA testing, his remains were identified and on November 28, 2013, McNeill was interred at the Devotional Gardens Cemetery in Warsaw, North Carolina, close to his parents. His name is engraved on the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall on Panel 33W, line 66. In November 1987, the conference room in Building 1523 at Misawa Air Base, Japan, was redesignated as the McNeill Memorial Auditorium in his honor. In 2004, a dormitory, building 9827, at Fort Meade was redesignated as the McNeill Hall in his honor.



Annual Vacation Bible School Strengthens Community and Spiritual Resilience at Fort Meade

The yearly Vacation Bible School – a unique opportunity for military-connected families to foster spiritual growth and community bonding event – takes place this week from Aug. 7 to 11 at the Argonne Hills Chapel Center here. “This event, staffed by dedicated volunteers, caters to children aged 5 to 11, providing a platform for spiritual enrichment and interactive engagement, while simultaneously allowing adults to contribute to their community,” said U.S. Army Counterintelligence Command, Operations Support Battalion Chaplain, Cpt. Homer Edwards.

“Vacation Bible School provides a spiritual readiness and family support opportunity for the children of families living and working on Fort Meade. The significance of this event is to make a positive lasting impact on all who participate,” he said.

Edwards shared a memory that stood out to him for its profound impact on the participants at this year’s VBS, when he explained that a shy 9-year-old boy volunteered to lead the prayer at the conclusion of one of the events this week.

Chaplain (Major) Robert Sterling, the Family Life Chaplain of U.S. Army Garrison Fort George G. Meade, articulates the objectives of VBS:

“The goal of Vacation Bible School is twofold. First, we want to provide military connected children ages 5-11 with a fun, safe, interactive way to improve their spiritual fitness. Second, we want to provide caring adults with an opportunity to serve their community through leading small groups, games, music, and administrative aspects of the event.”

“[The primary objective is to] help children develop their own faith life, their own spiritual resiliency, just to let them have some fun,” according to Ms. Sheila Stewart, the Religious Education Director, who provided insights into the operational dynamics and significance of VBS.

“It does bring in a lot of new families sometimes, depending on the school year and a few other factors. Doing it in August is a great community outreach tool,” notes Stewart.

The theme of this year’s VBS, “Stellar: Shine Jesus’ Light,” reflects the aim to provide a sense of hope amid challenges. Each day’s program revolves around a distinct gospel theme, delivering engaging activities, interactive Bible lessons, STEM-based crafts, and inspiring stories of shining Jesus’ light.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

28 – First Day of School  
31 – At the Waterpipe On Broadway Presents “Don’t Catch The Vapors” (10:30 a.m., At Post Theater)

September

4 – Labor Day  
7 – Town Hall / Facebook Live  
11 – 9-11 Installation ‘All Services’ Remembrance Run  
14 – MIA/POW Run  
20 – Commander’s Call  
28 – National Hispanic Heritage Month

FOR THE HERO WITHIN

BE A HERO. SAVE LIVES. DONATE BLOOD.

**ASBP BLOOD DRIVE**  
at Ft. Meade

September 7<sup>th</sup> | 0900-1300  
**McGill Training Center**

For appointments: [militarydonor.com](https://militarydonor.com)  
Sponsor Code: FTMEADE or email: [shawntel.c.browell.civ@health.mil](mailto:shawntel.c.browell.civ@health.mil)

DHA health.mil/militaryblood ASBP

Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) Blood Drive

7 September, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Fort Meade McGill Training Center

GC's 3Cs in 2023

- Consideration
  - Of our customers and our employees
- Caring
  - Self-Care opportunities: Resiliency Center, Wellness Center, and Civilian Wellness Program
- Community
  - Education, Employment, Transportation, and Resiliency