



# FORGING THE

# WARRIOR SPIRIT

## THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

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Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

July 31, 2020

### An interview with the COG

*Colonel Jason Curl — JRTC's new Commander, Operations Group*



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN



By **CHUCK CANNON**

Command information officer

FORT POLK, La. — When then Capt. Jason Curl finished his tenure as a company commander in 2004, he told his branch he wanted to be assigned as an Observer Controller/Trainer with Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group at the JRTC and Fort Polk.

"I'm from a small town, my kids were small and my extracurricular activity consisted mainly of pushing the kids on the swing in the playground," Curl said. "I thought, 'What could be better than walking through the piney woods of Louisiana training other infantry Soldiers?'"

As often happens, the Army had different plans for Curl in 2004. However, move ahead a little more than 15 years and Col. Jason Curl has finally found a home at the JRTC as the commander of Operations Group.

Curl said his last few assignments have prepared him for what he considers the best job in the Army. His most recent assignments include commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg, North

**Above left:** Helicopters with 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment insert Soldiers with 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade at Peason Ridge during Rotation 20-08.

**Left:** A vehicle traverses the JRTC "Box" while helicopters sit in the background during a recent rotation.

Carolina, an instructor at the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and command of a cavalry squadron in the 3rd BCT, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



Curl

"(Those assignments) give me a pretty good perspective on IBCTs (Infantry Brigade Combat Teams) and warfighting functions within an IBCT," he said. "Our goal here will be to continue to train IBCTs and their enablers — the multi-functional aviation task force, the CSSBs (Combat Support

tainment Support Battalions), the soft forces, so I think having that background will help."

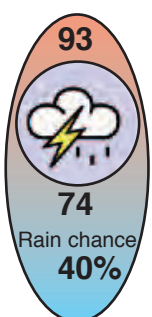
Curl said like with any new job there's a learning curve, and there's a lot to learn about JRTC Ops Gp.

"Within it (Ops Gp) are a lot of great capabilities that I've got to become more comfortable with," he said. "I also need to make sure I know all of the different warfighting functions and doctrine to support them so that we can always be the experts that the rotational training unit deserves."

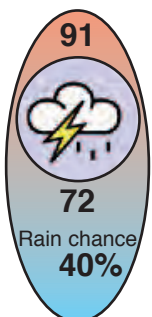
Although he has passed through all of the

Please see **COG**, page 5

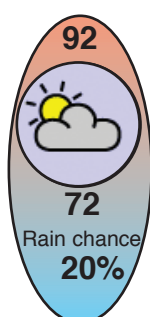
### Weekend weather



Friday



Saturday



Sunday

### Inside the Guardian

Sharing knowledge ..... 3 Monument dedicated . 8

Medics train ..... 6 VPSEB shifts ..... 11

REAL ID postponed ..... 7 Poor kitty ..... 12



# Viewpoint

## In our view

Guardian staff asked the JRTC and Fort Polk community,  
“What songs on your playlist are helping you get through these tough times?”  
Here are their responses:

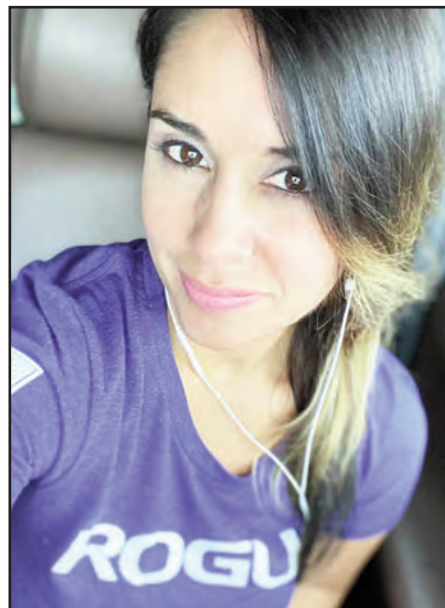


**Keith Morrow:** “Old school heavy metal ... loud.”

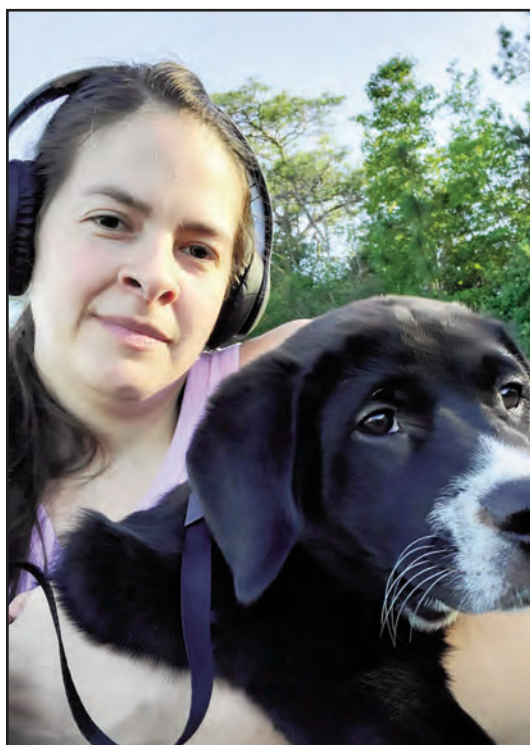


Rieu

**Joe McKee:** “I am listening to a lot of Andre Rieu!” Rieu is a Dutch violinist and conductor.



**Karla K. Garcia:** “I listen to “Vivir Mi Vids,” by Marc Anthony. I come to my car where it’s quiet so I can sing along with the Smule app (a music app).”



**Deanna Sabala Eskew:** “Tank and I enjoy walking around and listening to 90s country and hip hop.”



Janson

**Clay Stephens:** “I listen to “Good Vibes,” by Chris Janson. It helps me get through the rough days working at BJACH.”



**Sam Watkins:** “I listen to 90s grunge and I’ll surrender my man card while admitting to some late 90s pop.”



## Guardian

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For more information on Fort Polk units and happenings visit the following Facebook pages: [@JRTCOperationsGrp](https://www.facebook.com/JRTCOperationsGrp), [@BayneJonesACH](https://www.facebook.com/BayneJonesACH) or [@fortpolkmwr](https://www.facebook.com/fortpolkmwr).



## Briefs

### Vehicle release

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Section will release the following vehicles to a towing company for disposal on Aug. 19, if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four numbers of their VIN number. If one of these vehicles belongs to you, please contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Section at 531-1806/2677.

2002	Pontiac	Bonneville	3776
2003	Chevrolet	Cavalier	7798
2002	Pontiac	Firebird	4585
2002	Ford	Taurus	0589
2005	Nissan	Sentra	7413
2010	Chevrolet	Malibu	9609
1999	Jeep	Cherokee	5435
2002	Nissan	Altima	5680
2012	Toyota	Tacoma	0296
2007	Pontiac	Grand Prix	1872
2005	Mitsubishi	Galant GTS	8409
2007	Toyota	Camry	7497
2008	Ford	F250	1075
2002	Subaru	Impreza	6083

### R2 performance center

The R2 Performance Center hosts a brown-bag “Lunch and Learn: Building Trust in the Workplace” the first Wednesday of each month beginning Aug. 5 (runs through Dec. 2).

The workshop is held from noon-12:45 p.m. at the R2 Performance Center, bldg. 2380, 8148 Alabama Ave.

The event is open to Soldiers, Family members or Department of the Army civilians interested in discussing performance and resilience skills, effective communication and building trust, cohesion and positive relationships in the workplace.

Slots are first come, first served. Due to COVID-19 protective posture, only 11 seats are available. For more details or to register call 531-2427.

### e-Guardian email list

If you’re interested in receiving the weekly e-Guardian to your inbox, then please send your personal email address to [kimberly.k.reischling.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kimberly.k.reischling.civ@mail.mil), and you’ll be placed on the distribution list for non-government email users.

### DA photos

DA photos are available on Fridays beginning Aug. 7 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at bldg 4416, Louisiana Avenue. DA photos are not the same as command photos. Call 531-4254/6818/6428 or email [Yolanda.a.max-ile.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:Yolanda.a.max-ile.ctr@mail.mil) to schedule an appointment. Customers must provide justification for the photo before an appointment will be given.



Fort Polk Army Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Ausbun (left) and Col. Ryan K. Roseberry, commander, Fort Polk Army Garrison, teach a class on leadership to members of the city of Leesville’s administrative staff July 29 at Leesville City Hall.

## Command team offers leadership tips

By **JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES**

Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — The city of Leesville invited Col. Ryan Roseberry, Fort Polk garrison commander and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Ausbun to facilitate a leadership discussion with its supervisory staff July 29 at Leesville City Hall. Eighteen supervisors from the city’s administrative staff, police, fire, public works and parks and recreations departments, along with the mayor, attended the professional development training.

Mayor Rick Allen said he reached out to Roseberry about conducting the training to enhance employee performance and increase their effectiveness. He said leadership and professional development are commonplace in the Army and he knew the garrison command team would bring years of experience and insight to the city’s employees. He said the city of Leesville has lacked formal training opportunities and he wanted to rectify that situation.

“You are here because you are an important part of this team,” he said in his opening remarks. “We need you to be not just good, but great at your job.”

The doctrine for Army leadership and professional development defines leadership as the activity of influencing people by providing purpose, direction and motivation to accomplish the mission and improve the organization. For the

military, a shared set of values creates a culture of trust and conduct that affects all aspects of a Soldier’s life. The garrison command team, like a municipality, is responsible for managing a diverse work force predominately made up of civilian employees. Roseberry said the style needed to lead civilians is different than leading Soldiers, but the principles remain the same.

“Leadership is never about the leader; it is about the individuals being led,” Roseberry said. “Your job as a leader is to care about your people and provide them with the resources and training they need to succeed.”

Participants learned about six different leadership styles and the difference between them. Roseberry said the most effective form of leadership in a civilian organization is coaching because it develops employees for future success. He said although it can be hard and time consuming, a good leader makes the effort to know his team, understands what motivates them and empowers them to advance. “If you take care of your team, your team will take care of you,” he said.

Ausbun echoed the commander’s sentiment regarding leadership. He said as a leader you want commitment from your employees — not blind compliance.

“Compliance is coercive; it’s bringing the hammer down,” he said. “If that’s the only tool

Please see **Leaders**, page 8



## Army leaders pledge to eradicate sexual harassment, racism

By JOSEPH LACDAN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army plans to take extra measures to combat sexual harassment and assault within its ranks, including changes to its promotion boards and competitions, senior leaders said July 22.

“First and foremost our focus is on prevention,” Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy said during a virtual town hall.

Situational questions on sexual harassment and assault will be added to promotion boards and Best Warrior competitions that quiz Soldiers on what actions to take during incidents, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston.

Starting next fiscal year, a special module on building trust will also be implemented into the Army’s “This is My Squad” initiative, an effort that focuses on unit cohesion, Grinston added.

Additionally, the service will prioritize improving race relations within the force. The Army looks to increase its dialogue and discussions with Soldiers of different ethnic backgrounds.

“These are things we have to address and take decisive and quick action on and improve,” McCarthy said. “We can only do that by listening and learning from all of you.”

The service has had ongoing efforts to eradicate sexual harassment/assault when the recent death of a Soldier pushed the topic to the forefront again.

Spc. Vanessa Guillen was reported missing April 22 and authorities found her remains near Fort Hood, Texas, June 30 ruling her death a homicide.

According to Guillen’s family lawyer, the 20-year-old told fellow Soldiers and friends that she had been sexually harassed but did not report it.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville attended Guillen’s memorial services in Texas last week and met with her family.

“They were very angry. They’re heartbroken,” McConville said. “They’re in a lot of pain because they sent us their daughter and, quite frankly, we didn’t take care of her.”

“We have to find out what happened and we have to make sure that something like this never happens to one of our Soldiers. This is not who we are. This is not what we are about.”

McConville said the Army must have a culture shift where Soldiers take a more active role in the prevention of sexual harassment and assault, as well as quickly report incidents to their chain of command.

“What I need every leader to do is to teach our Soldiers — to teach our leaders — that they must intervene,” McConville said.

After speaking with Soldiers stationed at Fort Hood during a virtual meeting, Grinston said Army leadership is considering additional security measures such as adding security cameras in parking lots.

And following a conversation with League of United Latin American Citizens representatives, McCarthy ordered an independent assessment of Fort Hood’s command July 10, according to news reports.



ARMY NEWS SERVICE

*Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston visits with 82nd Airborne Division Soldiers as they go through Expert Infantry and Soldier Badge training on Fort Bragg, N.C., June 22. Grinston announced changes to promotion boards and Best Warrior competitions to help combat sexual harassment and assault during a town hall July 22.*

“We have to listen in order to create enduring change,” McCarthy wrote the same day on Twitter.

**“Everybody in the formation has to find the right venue and they have to be willing to listen and learn from each other.”**

**Hon. RYAN D. MCCARTHY**  
Secretary of the Army

Last summer Army leaders took part in a joint national discussion on sexual harassment and assault at the U.S. Naval Academy. There, leaders from each military branch and the service academies discussed prevention, intervention and identifying key behaviors.

### **Push for understanding**

Following the death of George Floyd in late May, nationwide protests for social justice and reform occurred. With ethnic minorities compris-

ing 39% of the Army, McConville said Soldiers must also intervene during incidents of racial injustice.

“Diversity is the strength of our Army,” McConville said.

Last month, the Army’s judge advocate general and provost marshal general ordered a reassessment of the service’s military justice system to examine racial disparities.

Grinston recalled a recent conversation with a Black master sergeant where the sergeant major mentioned that he and other Army leaders don’t “see” race and instead only see Army “green.”

“He said, ‘When you say that, you don’t see all of me,’” Grinston said.

The master sergeant added when he takes off his uniform that he might be treated differently as an African-American.

McCarthy encouraged Soldiers to learn about the backgrounds of their peers, especially those of a different ethnicity to them. Something as simple as asking fellow Soldiers about how they grew up can be a positive step toward understanding, he said.

“Everybody in the formation has to find the right venue and they have to be willing to listen and learn from each other,” McCarthy said.



Army's Combat Training Centers as part of rotational units, Curl said the JRTC always impressed him as the best.

"I came through here as a cavalry squadron commander," he said. "I've been to all the CTCs as a rotational training unit, and out of all of them I was really impressed with the professionalism of our OC/T team."

Curl said he was surprised by the amount of work that has been done in the "Box" in the past couple of years since his last visit.

"There's been a lot of work done out in the box just since my last rotation here, in terms of transforming it from the COIN (counterinsurgency) environment to the Decisive Action training environment," he said. "And there have been many improvements to the facilities and structures on main post and North Fort, making it more functional for rotational training units going through."

Curl said he doesn't anticipate the growth in the Box to slow down anytime soon.

"I think we will build out the northern training area, and try to make it as continuous a fight as possible between the Fullerton Box all the way up to Peason Ridge," he said. "I think there will be a lot more multi-domain operations here, a lot more electronic warfare, cyber, all those sorts of operations, and multi-domain maneuvers. I think we will start to incorporate those much more into CTC operations, not just here but throughout the Army."

Along with infrastructure growth, Curl said JRTC Ops Gp would continue to offer world-class training to RTUs.

**"To be here, training our light infantry force, aviation, Special Forces, is absolutely the best job you can have. This is the greatest place to be."**

**Col. JASON CURL**

Commander, JRTC Operations Group

"We're not going to let up on the RTUs, but at the same time, Operations Group has got to be focused 100% on making the rotational training unit better and building training readiness across the Army," he said. "Our OC/Ts, the opposition force and all the support functions in Operations Group are going to focus on how we make units better. We'll take those lessons learned and push them out to the rest of the Army so other units can benefit from the lessons learned here at JRTC."

An old saying that has circulated between the Ops Gp faithful over the years is, "Make their (RTUs) worse combat day in the Box, not down range." Curl has his own take on that adage.

"Our purpose is to help the rotational unit get better," he said. "We're going to make the easiest day here harder than the hardest day in combat. At the same time, we're going to coach, teach and mentor our counterparts in the RTU, and together those things will make every unit that comes here better than when they started."



JRTC OPERATIONS GROUP

Curl said the JRTC has evolved over the years to adapt to the Army's current mission, and he sees no change in that.

"I think we will continue to evolve, and work on creative ways to make every rotation different and unique, and to push the RTU," he said. "As far as the structure of Operations Group, I haven't seen anything yet that needs to be fixed. But I think if we're not creatively looking for ways to improve, especially in looking for ways to improve the rotations, then we'll start to stagnate and eventually slip backwards."

As Curl prepares for Rotation 20-09, his first as COG, he faces unique challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think we're in a very good position in terms of COVID," he said. "We just had a VTC with the 2nd Brigade, 101st leadership going through all the protocols we're going to have for COVID, and I think between testing all the rotational unit personnel, 100% testing in Operations Group and anyone who will come into contact with the RTU, creating a safety bubble around North Fort, having quarantine and isolation facilities, and the ability to test people with symptoms during the rotation, I think we'll be able to have a safe, effective training rotation. Some things will be different, but for the most part, it will be almost like any other Decisive Action rotation, just with the COVID protocols."

One of the keys to the success of Ops Gps is the talent of their OC/Ts. Curl said it's important that the JRTC and Fort Polk continue to draw the best the Army has to offer so RTUs get the best training possible.

"The quality of life improvements on Fort Polk are great and I think it will help draw top talent to Operations Group," he said. "That's what our rotational training units deserve — the best the Army has to offer. Anything we can do to attract Families of the top talent is absolutely critical. It's important that units across the Army have the



*Rotational unit Soldiers dodge incoming "fire" from Geronimo OPFOR.*

benefit of the top talent in the Army, and the way to get that talent is make sure our quality of life is top notch."

As he becomes acclimated to both the weather and living environment at the JRTC and Fort Polk, Curl said there is nowhere else he'd rather be.

"To be able to come here and be a part of the training readiness of the entire Army, I don't think any organization has as much effect on the entire Army's readiness as this organization," he said. "To be here, training our light infantry forces, aviation, Special Forces, is absolutely the best job you can have. This is the greatest place to be."



# Medics receive hands-on training during medevac operations

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Command information officer

FORT POLK, La. — Medics across the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk were given the opportunity to work closely with the medical evacuation helicopters of 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment's Cajun Dustoff during training July 24 adjacent to Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital.

Staff Sgt. Cameron Reeves, hospital education and staff development NCOIC, arranged the training for medics assigned not only to BJACH, but also units across the installation footprint.

"We try to conduct training with Cajun Dustoff at least once a quarter, shooting for the time when there is no rotation in the box," Reeves said. "They (Cajun Dustoff pilots and crew) are always willing to help us and provide top-notch training."

Reeves said the training consisted of anything a medic might face in a field environment when treating ill or injured patients, and how to call in medical evacuation in the event it is required.

"A lot of medics have not had the opportunity to work around helicopters in motion," Reeves said. "This training gives them the confidence to work safely around a helicopter, learn its capabilities, and how to load patients on the aircraft."

Reeves said Cajun Dustoff personnel also gave the 44 medics who attended the training instruction on hoist operations in the event a helicopter is unable to land and must lift a patient from the ground.

"That kind of training can be a lifesaver if someone is severely injured," he said.

Another aspect of the training dealt with the 9-Line MedEvac Request. The report, as stated in its title, is nine lines long to maintain simplicity and informs the incoming pilot and crew of the following: Site location; call sign and frequency; number of patients by severity of injuries; special equipment needed; number of litter or ambulatory patients; security at pick-up site; method of marking the landing zone; patient nationality and status; and any possible chemical contamination.

Reeves said the training on July 24 included medics with 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, 46th Engineer Battalion, OC/Ts from JRTC Operations Group, an Irish liaison officer, BJACH and 519th Military Police Battalion.

"There are about 350 medics stationed at the JRTC and Fort Polk," he said. "We've made our office available for training and actively seek units and let them know what training we are conducting."

That training includes tactical combat casualty care for both humans and K-9s, Medic Table 8 that deals with medic recertification, CPR, advance life support and dental emergency.

"We do training every week," Reeves said. "The majority of our training is conducted in the new BJACH/JRTC Medical Training Range on Pennsylvania Avenue."

Command Sgt. Maj. Alexander Poutou, BJACH command sergeant major, said current training is important for the installation's medics.

"You train as you fight, so it's important to have hands-on training with this equipment, particularly with the UH-60 medevac Soldiers," he



*A team of medics carry a litter patient to an awaiting medevac helicopter during training July 24 adjacent to Fort Polk's Bayne-Jones Community Hospital, conducted by the hospital education and staff development office and 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment's Cajun Dustoff.*



*Medics from units across Fort Polk practice loading a litter patient into a medevac helicopter.*

said. "They need the confidence to know that when they find themselves down range, they know they're going to be taken care of."

Poutou said medic training is about conserving the fighting strength in the Army medical department.

"It's important to know our equipment and its capabilities, and what we have in our inventory when we go to combat," he said. "We must know what will help us achieve success on the battlefield. If Soldiers get wounded, this is their mode of transport."

Poutou said he's seen first-hand what the capabilities of medevac helicopters are down

range. "I respect what they do on a daily basis," he said.

Reeves said that not only does his office conduct routine training, but they can also design training to meet a unit's specific needs.

"All a unit needs to do is give us a call and we'll work up a course of training that specifically fits their need," he said.

To schedule a training event with the BJACH hospital education and staff development office, contact Reeves at (254) 220-3863, (337) 378-9330, 531-3036 or [cameron.b.reeves.mil@mail.mil](mailto:cameron.b.reeves.mil@mail.mil), or Jack Reed at (337) 509-7127 or [jack.t.reed.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jack.t.reed.civ@mail.mil).





CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN



### 'Rolling on the river'

**Above:** A barge pushes a platform with vehicles from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to a dock at the Port of Alexandria, La.

**Right:** A barge pushes platforms containing vehicles from 2nd BCT, 101st Abn Div (Air Assault) up the Red River to the Port of Alexandria, where they will be off-loaded and convoyed to the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk for Rotation 20-09. See the Aug. 7 Guardian for story on the barge and port operations.

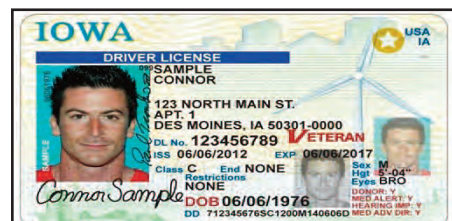
## Deadline for implementation of REAL ID Act extended until 2021

By KEN BROWN  
OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — The REAL ID Act was originally scheduled to go into full effect on Oct. 1. However, with the uncertainty of government operations due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Department of Homeland Security determined that compliance in the current environment would be difficult to achieve as many states closed or significantly reduced the staffing of local Departments of Motor Vehicles to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

Therefore DHS, pursuant to President Donald J. Trump's directive, officially extended the deadline to implement the REAL ID Act until Oct. 1, 2021. The extension does not change any of the substantive requirements originally set forth in the Act.

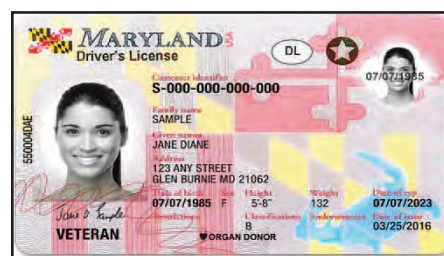
The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the federal government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for license issuance and production and



prohibits federal agencies from accepting for certain purposes driver's licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act's minimum standards. The purposes covered by the Act are: Accessing federal facilities, entering nuclear power plants and boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2021 federal agencies will no longer accept the standard state-issued driver's license or identification to access federal facilities, buildings or installations. In addition, federally regulated, commercially operated airlines will also be prohibited from accepting the standard state-issued driver's license and identification cards.

Only driver's licenses and identification cards that are REAL ID compliant will be accepted for those purposes.



There are however, acceptable alternative forms of identification, such as military identification cards (including dependent and retiree), an enhanced driver's license (currently issued in five states) and a United States passport.

While military members and dependents may rely on their military-issued identification to access the installation, the REAL ID requirement will be problematic for other family members who cannot present a Real ID compliant identification or an acceptable alternative. Therefore, it is important to inform family members outside the military of this new requirement.

At this time, most but not all states and U.S. territories are issuing REAL ID compliant identification. REAL ID compliant licenses are marked by a star on the top of the card. There are five current symbols

in use: Gold star, black star, star cutout in gold circle, star cutout in black circle and star cutout in grizzly bear.

The Enhanced Drivers License is an exception to the star marking system. Rather than a star, it will state "Enhanced Drivers License" on the front of the card.

State driver's license and identification cards that do not meet the REAL ID standard will specifically state "Not for Federal Identification." However, if an identification card was issued before the state began issuing REAL ID compliant license or identification cards, there may not be any symbol or identifying language on the card. Therefore, that card would not meet the federal identification requirement. Persons who are not sure if their state-issued ID is compliant should check with their state driver's license agency.

For more information regarding the compliance status of the various states, acceptable alternative forms of identification, and other general information regarding the enforcement of the REAL ID Act, visit the DHS website at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>.



# Monument honoring military dedicated at Anacoco Veterans Park

By Maj. ANDREA L. KELLY

3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div PAO

FORT POLK, La. — Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commander, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, joined with Anacoco Mayor Keith Lewing and leaders from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and U.S. Army Garrison in a monument dedication ceremony at the Anacoco Veterans Park, July 29.

Lewing opened by explaining the importance of the memorial as it honors every branch of the military. He also highlighted the countless hours of work by the local community to complete the park.

"We wanted to thank the military for their service because without them, we could not do what we need to do every day," said Lewing. "Our freedom isn't free. We always wanted to give back to our veterans."

More than a year after the groundbreaking for the memorial park, it bears numerous memorial bricks and a memorial bench honoring those who served in the military.

Anacoco Councilman John Schraven explained the bricks bear the names of service members both past and present.

"This is our way of memorializing all of the veterans," said Schraven. "I think this is one of the greatest things that has ever happened for us here in Anacoco."

Frank was one of several guest speakers. Frank expressed his gratitude to the residents and the town of Anacoco for their continued support to Fort Polk. He presented Lewing with an anvil to place into a time capsule that will be buried in front of the monument. The time capsule will be opened in the year 2120.

"It is in places like Anacoco where you see Louisiana values, and small hometown values intersect with Army values," said Frank.

Lewing expressed that he hopes to continue adding names of additional veterans as the memorial expands.



MAJ. ANDREA L. KELLY / 3RD BCT, 10TH MTN DIV PAO



**Above:** Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Commanding General Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank (center right) presents an anvil to Anacoco Mayor Keith Lewing for inclusion in a time capsule that will be buried in front of the Anacoco Veteran's Memorial in the town's Memorial Park. The time capsule will be opened in 2120. With Frank and Lewing are Soldiers with the JRTC and Fort Polk's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and area civilians.

**Left:** Soldiers with the 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, watch as a memorial is dedicated in the town of Anacoco's Veteran Memorial Park July 29.

## Leaders

Continued from page 3

you have in your leadership tool box, you won't be very effective."

Ausburn said commitment is a team approach to leadership where you give purpose, motivation and direction to get the job done. He discussed the "Be, Know, Do" attributes of a good leader.

"A good leader is professional, confident, empathetic, humble and disciplined; they build trust, communicate effectively and set the example for those who follow," he said. "Good leaders develop others and get results. No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care is the premise of Be, Know, Do."

Nicole Merlino, an Army veteran and former noncommissioned officer, said the training was a great fresher and reminder of how military leadership principles can be applied to her position as the director of the city's finance division.

"When I was in the Army I saw some great leaders and some not so great leaders, and I appreciated what the colonel said today about learning from both," she said. "In my current po-

sition I am all about the team approach; everyone has a job to do and we all care about each other and help each other to accomplish our goals."

Merlino said the training was motivating and provided introspection to see where her strengths are and areas she can improve. She said she would take away some of the ideas to let her staff know she appreciates them and try harder to recognize them for the efforts.

"Be, Know, Do" resounded with Shonda Coley, the utilities billing supervisor who said the training was valuable. She said she is responsible for three people and hopes the city will continue offering professional development opportunities not only for supervisors, but also for all employees. She said her biggest take away was the importance of understanding the big picture and her role in it.

"Productivity and morale would improve across the organization if all employees understood the big picture," Coley said. "Bringing all the supervisors together today is a great start in

building team cohesion and communication among different departments."

Lt. David Burnett has worked at the Leesville Police Department for 17 years. He said he appreciated the training because it reinforced his personal leadership philosophy.

"I currently supervise three officers," he said. "I don't wear the lieutenant insignia because I am an officer and part of the team and we all work together to accomplish our duties."

Burnett said he retired last year, but because he missed the department and working for the city he decided to come back.

Patti Larney, the Leesville city administrator, said she and Allen want to provide classes to enhance the written and oral communication competencies and provide professional development opportunities for their staff.

"Ideally, we want to do a series of classes to focus on different topics such as communication skills, time management, skills for supervision and diversity in the work place," she said. "The possibilities and subjects are endless."



# FSC sets standards for West Point cadets to emulate

By Capt. SAMANTHA BROWN

2-2 Inf Bn

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Juliet Forward Support Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, is an essential element of Task Force Ramrod and its support to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point's cadet summer training. Commanded by Capt. Justin R. Morgan, J FSC performs multiple tasks to include providing meals and troop transportation for West Point's cadets and Task Force Soldiers.

J FSC begins the day with its culinary specialist team preparing meals for more than 900 Soldiers at the Task Force Ramrod Restaurant. Before each Soldier enters the restaurant, they are required to wear a mask, get their temperature taken and sanitize their hands. These measures are enforced to practice proper hygiene and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Sgt. 1st Class April D. Brown, the dining facility manager, ensures every Soldier adheres to the COVID-19 protocol and receives quality service.

J FSC also ensures that its motor transport operators provide safe transportation for cadets to and from training exercises. Sgt. 1st Class Billy R. Artis, Task Force truck master, has overseen more than 10,000 troop movements since the beginning of Task Force Ramrod's support to West Point's cadet summer training. Prior to every troop movement, J FSC ensures cadets receive a convoy brief of the route, speed limitations and safety procedures. It is imperative each Soldier receives these instructions and understands the fundamentals of operating a military vehicle.

The Soldiers of J FSC perform and exceed the standards every day. Spc. Elicia D. Workman, a J FSC motor transport operator, was recognized as the TF Ramrod Hero of the Week after serving as the convoy commander for several missions. She flawlessly connected convoy checks and delivered mission briefs to her supervisors. Workman exemplifies the professionalism of many J FSC Soldiers and Task Force Ramrod.

J FSC is an integral component of Task Force Ramrod and is showing the future officers of the Army what right looks like.



*J FSC motor transport operators provide safe transportation for cadets to and from training exercises.*



*Culinary specialists prepare meals for more than 900 Soldiers at the Task Force Ramrod Restaurant.*



*Prior to every troop movement, J FSC ensures cadets receive a convoy brief of the route, speed limitations and safety procedures.*



*Before they get to eat, Soldiers entering the restaurant are required to wear a mask, get their temperature taken and sanitize their hands to prevent the spread of COVID-19.*



# Army designates August Anti-Terrorism Awareness Month

By MITCHELL SMITH

DPTMS anti-terrorism officer

FORT POLK, La. — The Army has designated August as Anti-terrorism Awareness Month and Fort Polk's Antiterrorism Branch uses the opportunity to train, educate and increase the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk's overall awareness.

Violent extremism poses a critical threat to the United States and U.S. military operations overseas, and undermines the rule of law and the protection of human and civil rights. The threat is not limited to a single political, religious or ideological background. Regardless of its motivation, violent extremism can have devastating effects on both civilian and military communities alike (as evidenced by the attacks at Fort Hood, Texas and the Washington Navy Yard).

Although violent extremism is not a new phenomenon, rapid changes in online communications continue to evolve the threat. Violent ideologies and propaganda are now more accessible than ever, making it difficult to identify and stop extremists before they act. To prevent terrorism, Soldiers and civilians must stay ahead of the terrorists and be on guard in their communities for violent extremism.

A wide variety of domestic violent extremism movements pose a threat to the U.S., such as white supremacists, eco-terrorists, anti-government or radical separatist groups. Some individuals become active members in groups (terrorist organizations or hate groups) and take action within their affiliated group's purview. Others don't have direct connection with a specific group, but are inspired by the group's rhetoric or group-sponsored violence.

For example, in San Bernardino, California, 14 people were killed and 22 seriously injured by violent extremists inspired by jihadist terrorist groups but not directed by such groups and not part of any terrorist cell or network. Nonetheless, affiliating with any specific group or espousing extremist beliefs does not mean an individual

will commit violent acts.

Police and local law enforcement, other members of the JRTC and Fort Polk community, community leaders, friends, families, co-workers, teachers, retirees and community services play an important role in preventing vulnerable individuals from entering the path to radicalization and violence. Education, promotion of awareness, and dialogue are important tools for prevention.

The 2020 focus areas help guide commanders on how to recognize and report suspicious activity, and actions to take to prevent terrorist activities. The following programs are of special emphasis this year: iWatch army; Threat Awareness and Reporting Program (TARP); isalute; Operations Security; Insider Threat, and violent extremism; Cyber Security Awareness; threat awareness and security for schools; tenant and community involvement in antiterrorism awareness; and antiterrorism risk assessments. The AT Branch will also focus its efforts on heightening awareness and vigilance to protect the JRTC and Fort Polk community from acts of terrorism. Focused AT Awareness Month themes throughout the month of August are:

- Insider threat;
- Threat information sharing;
- Antiterrorism operations; and
- Joint Analytic Real-Time Virtual Information Sharing System.

The goal is for Soldiers, civilians and Family members to understand the concepts, principles, roles, responsibilities and suspicious activity reporting procedures. Last year, Fort Polk introduced its AT Awareness and iWatch programs. The iWatch mission is to get the word out to Soldiers, Families, civilians and contractors about how they can help prevent terrorism and protect the community.

The Antiterrorism Branch will provide the installation with posters, brochures and other visual aids during AT Awareness Month. Its presence at different venues will ensure that every Soldier and Family member knows what suspicious be-



havior and indicators are, and understand the importance of reporting suspicious activities.

The Fort Polk community must understand the terrorist threat, take actions to detect and deter terrorists, and report all suspicious activities. Fortunately, the local Army community wants to help secure the installation and protect the country. Many have noticed something that raised their suspicions and made the call to 531-COPS (2677). It only takes one report to prevent something atrocious.

Every member of the Army community plays a part in this fight. Increasing awareness and vigilance can prevent terrorism. If you have any questions regarding AT Awareness and iWATCH, call 531-0413/6007 or email [mitchell.smith3.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mitchell.smith3.civ@mail.mil) or [jeffrey.m.sweeney.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jeffrey.m.sweeney.civ@mail.mil). Remember — if you See Something ... Say Something! Report all suspicious activities to 531-COPS (2677) or the Antiterrorism Hotline at 531-6584.

## It's never too late to learn, execute effective leadership

By BEN ILES

JRTC Ops Gp

FORT POLK, La. — "Throw me to the wolves and I will end up leading them!"

There is much debate on who actually said this first, but, there is a lesson to be learned. How do we "lead" others? Passively? Actively? Directly? Indirectly? The correct answer is "Yes." We, in fact, lead by all of these practices, whether we want to or not.

When a person is in charge, he or she is expected to lead.

Regardless of the task at hand, whether appointed by an official or inherited or when the lack of a leader emerges and the job must be done, leaders lead. I know that sounds corny, but it is true. Either we lead in a positive manner resulting in success, or we lead negatively, causing dissention and confusion.

And just because we are not the "identified or responsible leader," doesn't mean we can't or don't influence.

In his book, "It Doesn't Take a Hero," Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf wrote that, "he had

learned just as much from bad leaders as he ever did from good ones." And when I think about that statement, it is certainly true in my life. I have spent most of my adult life in service to my country, either through active duty or in a support role as a contractor or civil servant. I have had many different leaders in my career, many were good and some were not so good. But I learned from each.

What is it that we learn from leaders? We learn behavior; behavior that is either positive or negative.

When one shows up late to work for example, in an office with numerous co-workers, what do we learn? We learn that person does not care enough about his or her co-workers to get up and be ready 10 minutes earlier. Too harsh? Perhaps, but certainly true. Just because this line offends, doesn't mean it isn't true.

When one shows up to work without the proper equipment, what do we learn?

We learn that person doesn't care enough about his or her co-workers to come to work pre-

pared to carry his or her load.

When one shows up to work unprepared for the task at hand, what do we learn? We learn that person is selfish and is depending on the good nature of co-workers to carry the load for the day.

Leadership; it is not just for leaders, but rather for everyone. I have found the Army to be an extremely easy organization in which to be successful. Just show up on time, with the needed equipment, in the proper uniform and you will be successful. But if you go the extra mile and prepare for the task at hand, you will

shine.

Success is in the eye of the beholder, but success judged and viewed by those around us is judged and viewed either positively or negatively. The good thing about life is we can start over every day. It is never too late to start over. It is never too late to start leading. It is never wasted effort to demonstrate positive leadership traits. It is never too late.

## Commentary



# Special education law ensures equal opportunities for every child

By KEITH MILAM  
OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — If your doctor has informed you, or you suspect your child suffers from a disability, then your son or daughter may be entitled to certain critical services that will enhance their educational experience.

There is a federal law commonly referred to as IDEA, an acronym for Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, which provides you, as the parent, with certain rights, and imposes certain obligations on the public school system.

The essential goal of IDEA is to ensure your school-age child (3 to 21 years old), whose disabilities affect access to the educational experience, has the same opportunities as those students who do not have a disability.

Once it is medically verified that your child suffers from any one or more of the 13 disabilities enumerated by IDEA, and it is determined that this disability affects access to receiving an education, then the next step is the development of the IEP, or the Individualized Education Program.

As the title suggests, this is the “road map” on how to provide for your child’s educational needs.

It is important that you realize this is a collaborative effort between parents and the school.

A team of educational professionals will be assembled to work with you to develop your child’s IEP and these school members of the IEP team are mandated by law to consult with you and to carefully consider your input into the process.

If you would like to review the 13 disabilities established by IDEA, visit: [www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/upload/Disabilities\\_Defined\\_IDEA.pdf](http://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/upload/Disabilities_Defined_IDEA.pdf).

You should be proactive and establish effective methods of communicating with your IEP team on a regular basis from the beginning of each school year or at your child’s annual review. As the parent, you should be thoroughly informed about your child’s education on an ongoing basis.

Establish a daily, or at least weekly, school communication log. This log is a method by which school team members will share information about the learning activities your child participated in across the school day, including activities delivered by service providers, such as a speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist or interpreter.

As a parent, you should participate in the development of the communication log so that it captures information important to you.

Additionally, you should establish regular parent meetings with the IEP team, monthly or quarterly, depending on your child’s level of need.

Parent meetings can serve multiple functions, but generally, this can be a time for team members to share information about your child’s progress, discuss ways to promote the generalization of acquired skills in the home or community setting, share and review data, troubleshoot and discuss changes in the home setting.

Effectively communicating with your IEP team also means you should be prepared to participate in the discussion about your child’s progress and evaluations.

This means that you will need to formally request, in writing, any progress reports, evaluations, data or related documents that will be reviewed at your child’s IEP meeting, ahead of time. This is a critical request and should be done before every IEP meeting.

As you navigate this important, but somewhat complicated process, you may find that you need legal assistance and advice.

The Soldier and Family Services Division of the Staff Judge Advocate Office at Fort Polk is here to help. You can call 531-2580 or come by their office at 7090 Alabama Ave., bldg 1454.

You can also call the Fort Polk School Liaison Officer, Tiffany Koch, at 531-6673.

## Vernon Parish 2020 School Reopening



### When And How Will School Begin

In light of the spike of COVID-19 cases in Vernon Parish, as well as the additional preparation that is required for facilities, faculty and staff, Vernon Parish will delay school opening until August 17, 2020 from the original date of August 10, 2020. Students will return in the following order:

- Pre-Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade will start Monday, August 17, 2020
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will start Tuesday, August 18, 2020
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade will start Wednesday, August 19, 2020 using the hybrid schedule:
  - Monday – Virtual for all 9-12 students
  - Tuesday and Thursday 9-12, last names A-L face to face
  - Wednesday and Friday, 9-12, last names M-Z face to face

Vernon Parish School Board website at <https://www.vpsb.us> for additional information

### What Is Vernon Parish Virtual School?

The Vernon Parish Virtual School will be available to all students in grades K-12 within Vernon Parish Schools for the 2020-2021 school year. This program provides students with:

- Certified Vernon Parish Teachers
- Tier I curriculum that addresses Louisiana Standards
- Office hours for communicating with teachers



### Advantages of Enrolling in Vernon Parish Virtual School versus a Home Study Program or an Online Vendor:

- Vernon Parish Virtual School is free
- Vernon Parish Virtual School follows the same school calendar as the Vernon Parish School District
- Vernon Parish Virtual School provides accommodations for unique learning styles, including special education services
- Students earn State-Approved Carnegie credits that meet Louisiana graduation requirements and are easily transferable
- Access to a certified counselor who will work with you and your student to ensure that they are taking the courses that will meet Louisiana graduation requirements. The counselor will also work with them on their Individual Graduation Plan
- Breakfast and lunch will be available to students for pickup. These meals will be based on the same fee schedule as if they were attending in the school building.
- Students will be allowed to participate in athletics

#### Phase 1 In Brief

- Vernon Parish teachers will provide virtual learning.
- School facilities are closed to the public
- Vernon Parish School Board employees are classified as essential and may be required to report to their assigned locations.

#### Phase 2 In Brief

- Schools will operate on a blended learning model
- PK-8 will attend school with face-to-face instruction on Monday-Friday
- For grades 9-12, Mondays will be virtual for all students except the RTI students and CTE students that need hands-on learning that will attend face-to-face. Students with the last name beginning with the letter A-L will report for face-to-face instruction on Tuesday and Thursday. Students with the last name beginning with the letter M-Z will report for face-to-face instruction on Wednesday and Friday. The other days of the week they will have virtual instruction.
- Virtual Learning Days will be held on designated days throughout the school year.
- Vernon Parish Virtual School will be available to families who do not wish for their student(s) to attend school face to face.

#### Phase 3 In Brief

- All PK-12 students will physically attend face-to-face instruction Monday-Friday.
- Virtual Learning Days will be held on designated days throughout the school year.
- Vernon Parish Virtual School will continue to be available to families who do not wish for their student(s) to attend school face to face.



### Re-opening phase



# Fort Polk Soldiers, veterinary staff band together to rescue kitten

By **ANGIE THORNE**  
Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Anger, uncertainty and fear often dominate the news narrative on a daily basis — a reflection of not only the emotions people are feeling, but also the realities that must be faced. The stress can be so overwhelming that folks lose sight of the good things happening all around them.

One of those good things is an extraordinary animal rescue that took place at Fort Polk recently. It all started with Pfc. Anton Majewski, 32nd Hospital Center. Majewski said he loves animals, so when he heard a pitiful “meow” as he was walking from his barracks on the afternoon of July 15, the noise made him stop.

“I didn’t see a cat, I just heard it. I followed the cries to a sewer lid and realized the kitten had probably gotten into the sewer tunnels and couldn’t get back out. I could tell it was young by the way it was crying for help. I couldn’t just walk away and leave a little kitten in trouble,” he said.

That’s when Majewski began his efforts to get the kitten some help. He called several numbers over the next couple of hours trying to get someone to get the kitten out of the sewer. He said he hit roadblocks at every turn.

“I must have stayed on the phone for a couple of hours. I would call one number and they would pass me on to another number to call. I talked to six or seven people and they all said basically the same thing — ‘we don’t do things like that,’” he said.

Majewski was running out of options when a fellow Soldier, Spc. Newton Vang, 32nd Hospital Center, suggested calling the vet clinic.

Vang came to help because he said he overheard coworkers talk about the kitten and couldn’t stand the thought of it dying down there.

“That just didn’t sit well with me,” he said.

Majewski called the Fort Polk Veterinary Treatment Facility and ended up talking to Capt. Gina Cipolla, VTF officer in charge.

“By the time I called the vet’s office, the kitten had been meowing almost constantly for the last hour and I was afraid nobody would help it. I explained everything to the vet clinic and they also said they didn’t normally do that kind of thing, but they didn’t want the animal to suffer or die. They said they would come out to see what they could do,” said Majewski. “I felt so relieved that someone was finally going to help this kitten.”

Cipolla and her team, consisting of Sgt. Angela Noble, Spc. Diana Velez, Spc. Ashleigh Lyons, Pfc. John Flores, Spc. Evelyn Batalla and Sgt. Krista Ramirez, got to the kitten’s location and immediately began trying to figure out how to best help the little one.

“It was toward the end of the day when we got the call. It was so hot that day, I knew if we couldn’t help him soon, he (the kitten) probably wouldn’t make it,” said Cipolla.

With no additional aid on the way, the VTF staff and some Soldiers from the nearby barracks, who had stopped to see if they could help, put their heads together to figure out the best way to move forward.

“It was amazing the support we had from the Soldiers. Saving this kitten had become this wonderful team-building activity and impromptu problem solving mission,” she said. It was re-

Please see **Kitten**, page 13



Fort Polk Veterinary Treatment Facility staff members and Fort Polk Soldiers gather around two sewer manholes as they try to figure out the best way to reach a kitten stranded in the tunnel connecting the two areas.



Sgt. Krista Ramirez, a food inspector that has been cross training with the Fort Polk Veterinary Treatment Facility, straps on a headlamp before heading into the sewer tunnel to help find the kitten July 15.



Spc. Diana Velez, a Fort Polk Veterinary Treatment Facility vet technician, climbs down another sewer manhole to find the kitten in need of rescue.



# Kitten

Continued from page 12

warding to see these Soldiers come together and show they care."

Vang said he remembered he had a crowbar in his toolbox.

That was the eureka moment that got everyone moving, said Cipolla.

"Once we removed the sewer lids with the crowbar, Velez and Ramirez jumped down to see if they could find the kitten," she said. "We could hear him, but we couldn't pinpoint where he was. We were down there a couple of hours before we found him, but we still couldn't reach him."

Velez, a Fort Polk VTF vet tech, said she took part in the rescue because she wanted to make sure the kitten would be OK.

Velez said she offered to go down in the sewer to look for the cat and that it lived up to everything you would think a sewer tunnel would be like.

"The smell was terrible. There was gross sewer water and muck. It was disgusting. There were spiders and roaches everywhere," she said.

That didn't seem to deter this Soldier intent on finding the little feline and getting him to safety.

"Hearing him continue to meow in distress kept us going," she said.

They finally discovered the kitten in the middle of a long and narrow tunnel. Velez said she and Sgt. Krista Ramirez, a food inspector who has been cross training at the vet clinic, felt like they wouldn't be able to get to the little guy without getting stuck.

"We were on each side of the tunnel and the kitten was in the middle, but it was scared and wouldn't come to us when we called," she said.

Velez said that's when another Soldier came into the picture.

Spc. Aaron Pan, 317th Engineer Battalion, who lives in the nearby barracks, was headed to dinner when he saw several people surrounding the sewer tunnels and wondered what was going on. A friend called him over and clued him into the rescue in process. Pan is tall and slim and he said he seemed to be the perfect size to traverse the small tunnel.

"To be honest, once I found out what was going on, I didn't even think about it. I just acted. I knew there was a cat down there in distress and if I could help resolve the issue and save it, I would," he said.

Pan said he likes animals and has done much worse than crawl through a sewer to save a cat. He crept through the tunnel, gently maneuvering the kitten safely toward the hands of Ramirez.

"I'm just glad I was able to help," said Pan.

Once they had the feline in their hands, the veterinary staff assessed his condition. Cipolla said the kitten was extremely dehydrated, dirty and had an eye infection.

"He was in pretty rough shape," she said. "We took him back to the clinic, gave him a bath, ran a line for fluids, fed him and treated his eye."

Over the next 10 days, the VTF staff monitored the kitten as he made progress.

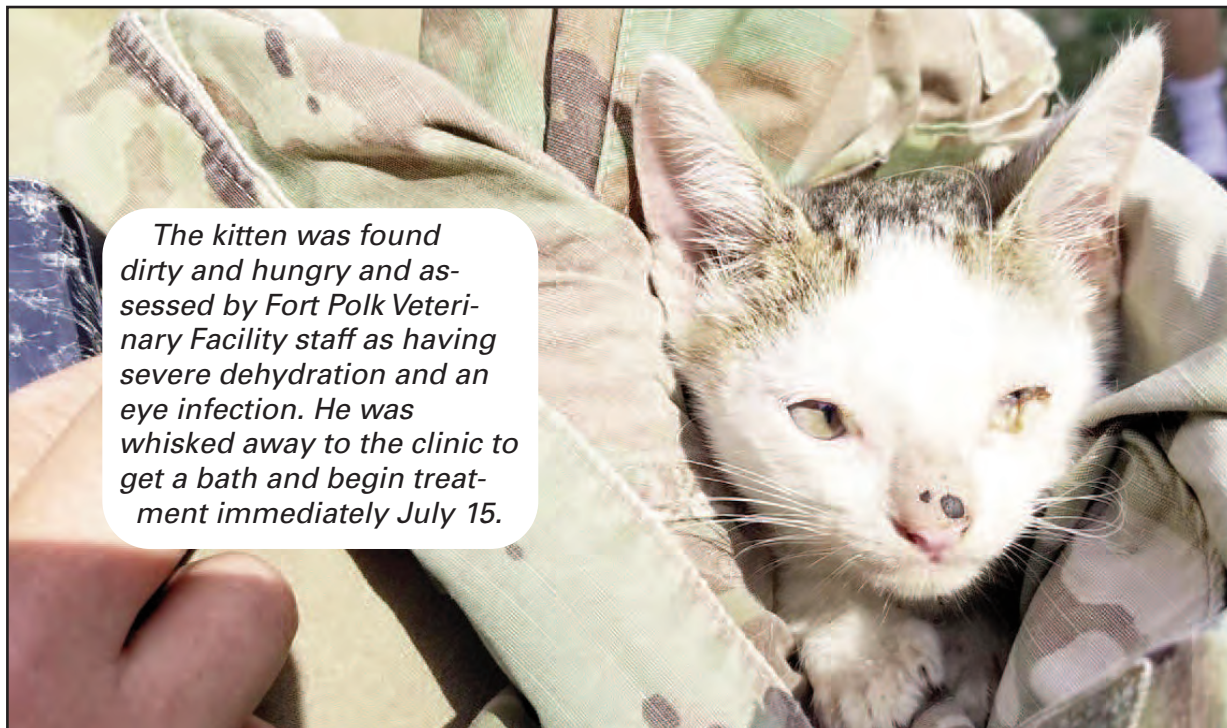
"The kitten has made an amazing recovery. I thought he might lose the eye, but he continued to get better every day," said Cipolla.

Once the kitten was completely healed, the real happy ending occurred when Vang adopted him and took him to his forever home.

"Even before we left the rescue site, Vang said he wanted to adopt him," said Cipolla.

Vang said the kitten is cute and he wants to continue to help it. He named the kitten Ronin.

"I knew Ronin was going to need a home and I wanted it to be with me," he said.



*The kitten was found dirty and hungry and assessed by Fort Polk Veterinary Facility staff as having severe dehydration and an eye infection. He was whisked away to the clinic to get a bath and begin treatment immediately July 15.*

COURTESY OF THE FORT POLK VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY



COURTESY OF THE FORT POLK VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY

*The injured kitten's health improved by leaps and bounds while being cared for at the Fort Polk Veterinary Treatment Facility and he was soon playing and ready to be adopted by his forever home.*



COURTESY OF THE FORT POLK VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY

*Spc. Newton Vang, 32nd Hospital Center, stops by the Fort Polk Veterinary Treatment Facility to officially adopt Ronin and take him home.*



ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

*At the Fort Polk Veterinary Treatment Facility July 27 are Spc. Aaron Pan, 317th Engineer Battalion (left), who helped rescue the kitten, Spc. Newton Vang, 32nd Hospital Center (center), who adopted the rescued kitten (Ronin) and Pfc. Anton Majewski, 32nd Hospital Center, who started the rescue by not giving up and getting people to care about saving the tiny feline on July 15.*

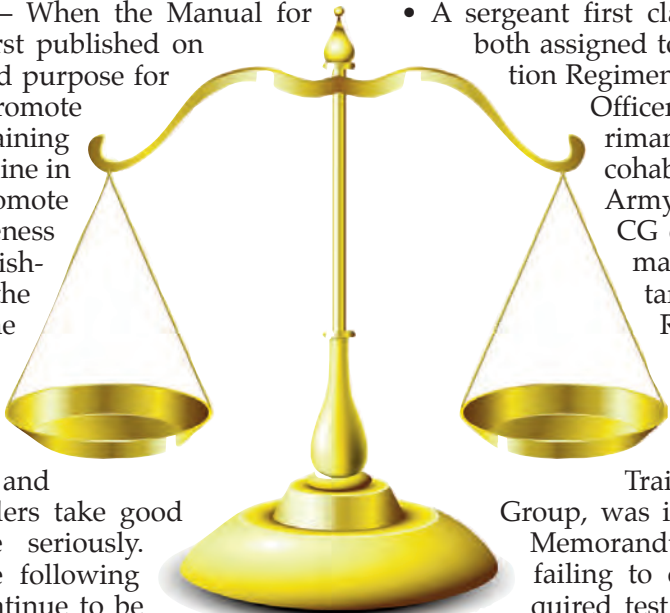


# Soldiers, leaders disciplined for UCMJ violations

OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — When the Manual for Courts-Martial was first published on May 31, 1951, its stated purpose for military law was to promote justice, assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the armed forces, promote efficiency and effectiveness in the military establishment, and strengthen the national security of the United States.

At the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, the Commanding General and subordinate commanders take good order and discipline seriously. Across Fort Polk, the following disciplinary issues continue to be prevalent: Violating General Order No. 1, driving under the influence of alcohol, wrongful use/possession of controlled substances, fraternization and sexual assault. Below



are recent examples of adverse legal actions for units within the Fort Polk jurisdiction.

- A sergeant first class and first lieutenant, both assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, were issued a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for fraternization and cohabitating, in violation of Army Regulation 600-20. The CG directed filing the reprimands in their Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR).
- A specialist, assigned to 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group, was issued a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for failing to complete a lawfully required test to measure their blood alcohol content, operating a motor vehicle while impaired or intoxicated, and possessing drug paraphernalia. The CG directed filing the reprimand in the Soldier's AMHRR.

• A specialist, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), was punished under Article 15 for failure to report, in violation of Article 86, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The service member was sentenced to extra-duty for 14 days and restriction for 14 days.

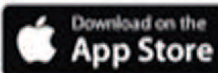
• A private first class, assigned to 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div (LI), was punished under Article 15 for making a false official statement, in violation of Article 107, UCMJ. The service member was sentenced to a reduction to E-2, suspended for 30 days; extra-duty for 14 days and restriction for 14 days.

• A private (E-1), assigned to 46th Engineer Battalion, United States Army Garrison, was administratively separated under Chapter 14-12c(2) — Commission of a Serious Offense, with an Other Than Honorable (OTH) characterization of service for wrongful use of a controlled substance. Generally, an OTH characterization of service results in reduction to the lowest enlisted grade and the loss of a majority of a servicemember's VA benefits.

## SAFETY CORNER

USAG Fort Polk – Garrison Safety Office  
7130 Pennsylvania Loop, Bldg 4209-D  
Fort Polk, Louisiana 71459  
(337)531-1981  
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Find us in the app store  
"Fort Polk Home of Heroes"



### National UV Safety Month

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the leading cause of skin cancer in the US. It can cause eye damage including cataracts and macular degeneration- the primary cause of vision loss among seniors

- ☐ Go for the shade
- ☐ Wear protective clothing
- ☐ Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen
- ☐ Pick up those stylish sunglasses