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Fort Polk hiring events see on-spot interviews, job offers

By CHRISTY GRAHAM Public Affairs Specialist

FORT POLK, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Employment Readiness Program hosts hiring events, which have regularly seen onthe-spot job offers, to bolster military Spouse employment on the installation.

"This is a quality of life mission for Fort Polk. Many Families are separated due to Spouses unable to find employment at a new duty station," said Stacey Delgado, Employment Readiness program manager.

Delgado said they've been keeping the events smaller, ensuring that the employers present have open positions to offer applicants.

"Many hiring events have employers that 'may have' job openings in the future, but nothing available the day of the event," she said.

If a person takes the time to attend, Delgado explained, they should be afforded an opportunity to find employment within the near future — not months from that date.

Many of the employers at the event are from businesses or agencies on the installation; other employers are those with whom Delgado has networked or built a relationship, she said.

"We've had a lot of non-appropriated positions within (the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation) to fill, and

Upcoming JRTC and Fort Polk Hiring Events

You're hired!

May 25 and Aug. 31

we have done so with tentative offers, on-the-spot, at the events," said Delgado.

The events seem to be working, said Delgado. "In February, 31 of 35 job seekers received offers. During April's event, 12 offers were made on the spot and five more were extended after necessary background checks were completed."

For attendees, Delgado said, it's all about networking and how you present yourself to the employers.

"In March, we had a Spouse who met with an employer that happened to know of another job opportunity that matched her skill set. The Spouse's resume was forwarded, and she eventually received a job offer." Openness to networking and a professional presentation can make all the difference when attending these hiring events, said Delgado, especially since on-the-spot interviews and job offers are always a possibility.

"As a Spouse myself, I understand the challenges associated with frequent moves. We have a hard time finding employment at each duty station. The Employment Readiness Program is an important tool for military Spouses in their hunt for employment, not just within the federal system, but within the established networks of local employers as well," said Delgado.

Future hiring events are scheduled for May 25 and Aug. 31; for more information, please call (337) 531-6922.



Cover photo: 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Soldiers sharpen their skills at the map reading station during E3B training at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk. (Photo courtesy 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division).

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For more information on Fort Polk units and happenings visit the following Facebook pages: @JRTCOperationsGrp, @ BayneJonesACH or @fortpolkmwr.

Soldiers train hard for upcoming E3B testing

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More than 600 Soldiers gathered at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk for E3B training – Expert Infantry Badge, Expert Skills Badge and Expert Field Medical Badge. Fort Polk Soldiers, as well as Soldiers from other installations, hone skills in day and night land navigation, field medical, warrior and communication skills, to name a few. Testing takes place this week and Soldiers who pass earn their badges May 27.











Fort Polk's Protect Program graduates first class

By ANGIE THORNE Public Affairs Specialist

FORT POLK, La. — There's no doubt that life is full of challenges. They can be heartbreaking to live through and painful to overcome — especially alone. But maybe you don't have to face those situations by yourself. What if you had someone stand by your side through adversity or step up to protect you from the worst before it happens?

Sgt. 1st Class Erik Rostamo, 519th Military Police Battalion, is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Protect Program — an initiative which focuses on teaching junior enlisted Soldiers, at the grass roots level, how to protect and keep each other safe.

Rostamo said Soldiers taking part in the program can be proud that it proactively promotes a culture of dignity and respect that can create positive environments.

"They will aid their fellow Soldiers by intervening in difficult situations when needed, informing them and assisting with available resources and supporting them through the process until they get the help they need," he said.

Rostamo said Soldiers know that sexual harassment and assault, as well as other harmful issues, are damaging and that they need to stop. What they might not realize is how those situations affect the customs and climate of an organization like the Army.

"The program training shows how harmful behaviors such as extremism, racism, bullying, hazing, suicide ideation and sexual harassment and assault are to the culture they live and work in," he said.

Rostamo said a program like this is beneficial for both the Soldier and the Army.

"The training teaches Soldiers that these experiences happen and negatively impact them and that the Army is trying to prevent the harm and toxicity before it starts," he said. "Can you imagine how successful the Army would be if we didn't have to worry about all those issues and instead concentrated on protecting each other and successfully completing the mission?"

The Protect Program training is a three-day course. Two days are conducted in the classroom where Soldiers learn pertinent information such as how to step in and deal with bullying or sexual harassment.

The classroom training includes interactive vignettes that bring home the seriousness of what the Soldiers are learning to do.

Ten students, all from the 519th MP Bn, went through the inaugural course.

On the third day of the program, participants experienced an escape room scenario, encompassing several rooms, in which a pri-



The Protect Program begins with two days of classroom instruction held May 2-3 at Fort Polk's Education Center.



The Protect Program escape room scenario begins in a room set up like a bar. Soldiers look for clues to unlock a box with the journal entry from an imaginary "Soldier" that is the focus of the training.

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vate (male) is sexually assaulted. The escape room was created by the 519th MP Bn and was located at one of the 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment hangers.

The scenario

The "Soldier" has a journal and makes entries about each step in the process he has to go through from the point of his assault. Program participants travel through rooms set up as different parts of the Soldier's journey. Participants must search each room for clues to find the Soldier's journal entry before moving on to the next room.

"As they go through each room, they experience and feel what the Soldier is going through. It's a powerful tool to bring home the real world importance of the program and can evoke emotional responses from participants," said Rostamo. "It's Army policy put in real world terms."

Second Lt. Jeneva Robison, the panic room event officer in charge, said students become

invested in the imaginary Soldier and what he is going through.

"They feel his frustration, humiliation and pain through his journal entries. Instructors check in with the Soldiers after each clue is read and ask how they think the Soldier is feeling and why," she said.

With the panic room scenario complete, the program concludes with a graduation ceremony in which graduates receive their Protect Tabs and a certificate of achievement.

Earning and wearing the Protect Tab is a show of force, said Rostamo

"The Soldiers wearing them feel empowered and encouraged to use what they have learned from this program and take part in bystander intervention. When they see sexual harassment or bullying, they will do something about it," he said.

Rostamo said the program also teaches Soldiers how to be good battle buddies.

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"They learn not to be afraid to broach tough subjects and communicate with and support a Soldier that has been through something like sexual assault or another difficult issue," he said. "The Soldier wearing the Protect Tab knows that a Soldier in crisis is more important than anything else. They won't leave them to go through a crisis alone."

Spc. Natalie Wuebker said she wanted to take part in the Protect Program because she has experienced bad situations herself.

"I've seen people say some horrible things to others and I wanted to help prevent that, if I could, by getting ahead of the situation before it gets worse," she said.

Wuebker said it means more than can be imagined to be part of a program that makes the Army a better place to live and work.

"I will wear that Protect Tab with pride because everything I've been through has taken me to this point. Now I can protect others," she said. "I want to let them know they have a voice and someone in their corner that cares about them."

Spc. Marcus Roff said he is glad the program isn't just about sexual assault.

"It's also about racism, sexual orientation and bullying," he said.

"Everyone can be bullied. I've seen it so many times and experienced it myself. I want to make a difference," he said.

Roff said after he came out and told people he was gay, it was difficult.

"It's been tough for me, but also I've seen others come out and get bullied," he said.

He said one of his gay friends was bullied to the point that he wanted to commit suicide.

"I know someone else who was bullied based on his religion, ethnicity and the way he speaks. I can relate and I want to help them get

through those rough times and be the support system I didn't have when I came out," he said.

Roff said he believes going through the program is going to make him a better person.

"It's giving me the skills I need to guide and mentor others who have had difficulties in their lives," he said.

After experiencing the escape room, Spc. Natalie Conrad said the scenario was emotional for her.

"I was sexually assaulted and it made me think about the things that I went through like the private in the scenario — that no one wants to think about," she said.

Conrad said one of the most important things she learned was to be situationally aware at all times.

"Pay attention to the little things and if something happens, I need to ask myself if I'm



doing what I'm supposed to do to help those around me — then do it," she said.

Pfc. Abbigale McAdams said, at first, she thought the escape room was just another part of the training.

"After we found the first note, it became real for me. The further we went into the scenario, I knew this person needed help."

McAdams began to relate to the imaginary Soldier because she, too, has been sexually assaulted. She said she found someone that supported her and got the help she needed.

"Everything that happened to him in that scenario, happened to me. If it hadn't been for the help I got, I might not be here today. The training brought home that just one person can make a difference and I want to be that person for someone else," she said.

Lt. Col. Patrick Murphy, 519th Military Police Battalion commander and guest speaker at the graduation ceremony held May 4, said he was proud to recognize Fort Polk's first Protect Program graduating class and all they have accomplished.

"We are thankful to have Soldiers

like you in our formation," he said. That's important, said Murphy, be-

cause the vast majority of sexual harassment and assaults, discriminatory behavior and suicidal ideations or completions directly targets the junior population of Soldiers.

"We recognize that we need to create a culture where it is acceptable for people to stand up against these injustices," he said. "The Protect Program empowers our Soldiers to become ambassadors for the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention, Equal Opportunity, Army Resiliency and Army Suicide Prevention programs. These protectors will aid in prevention and promotion efforts through intervention at the lowest level," he said.



Lt. Col. Patrick Murphy, 519th Military Police Battalion commander, places Protect Tabs on Soldiers graduating from the Protect Program May 4.

Murphy said the protectors graduating from this all-volunteer program are a predator's worst nightmare.

"They are committed to protecting the force from the threats that erode trust and destroy cohesive teams. They not only embrace the diversity found in their fellow Soldiers, but also care, listen and stand up to protect them," he said.

Rostamo said, as far as he knows, this is the only program of its kind at the Army Forces Command level and he was happy with the success of the first class.

Rostamo said he was already getting interest and requests from other units on the installation to have their Soldiers participate in the Protect Program.

"This is a program that allows Soldiers to be part of something bigger. They will be joining a band of brothers and sisters in arms that have stepped up to be the change makers and innovators of today's Army," he said.

For more information about the Protect Program email **erik.a.rostamo.mil@army.mil**.

JRTC, Fort Polk School Support Services eases PCS

By CHRISTY GRAHAM Public Affairs Specialist

FORT POLK, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk works to improve processes that, in turn, improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families.

Education is one of those areas in which JRTC and Fort Polk has recently shifted procedures to ensure that dependents' needs are being met shortly after or just prior to a permanent change of station.

Tiffany Koch, JRTC and Fort Polk school liaison officer, said School Support Services is now able to brief incoming Soldiers earlier during in-processing. In doing so, Families are better able to efficiently establish their kids within a school or schooling option that best fits their child's interests and needs, she said.

"Fort Polk has adjusted the newcomers brief schedule, so School Support Services and Child and Youth Services brief on day zero. Before you take your permissive leave and go to your unit, your initial brief is with us, so we can ask Families if they've enrolled their kids in schools or see if they need child care," said Koch.

School Support Services helps Families tackle the hurdles that accompany transitions and navigate the enrollment systems, Koch said, whether they are new to JRTC and Fort Polk or heading to a new installation.

For incoming personnel, Koch said School Support Services often helps Families with determining which school district and schools their kids are zoned to attend.

"Six different attendance zones are serviced by Leesville's 71446 zip code. So, if a Family falls in love with a house on Texas highway, it's easy to assume that, due to the zip code, their child will go to Leesville High School; but they are actually zoned for Evans High School," said Koch.

At this point, Koch said, School Support Services offers a level of customization in terms of programming for Families and their kids.

"Using an intake form, we ask about students' previous academic situations, extracurricular experiences, interests, goals and even what they'd like to see here.

"We use this information to help Families find the right schools, resources and programming for that individual student," she said.

Before the day zero briefing schedule began, Families would arrive to JRTC and Fort Polk and sometimes find themselves in less-thanideal situations for their kids, Koch said, but School Support Services can still help in these situations.

"Athletic and academic programming is one of the biggest areas which we help Families," Koch said.



Montana Mullins (left) sits with her Family, Rutledge (second to the left), 1st Sgt. Michael Mullins (second to the right) and Peyton (right). Mullins used School Support Services to find the right school for her eldest son and learn about the programming available for her youngest.

For example, if a Family enrolls their student at School A and later finds they don't offer a sport their child has played for years, then a school liaison officer can help find a school with the programming best suited for the child. Once a school is found, School Support Services can aid the Family with the exception to policy paperwork, which may be necessary to transfer schools, she said.

"Once a parent signs enrollment paperwork for where their child is zoned, if they change schools the high school athletic association views it as if that new school has recruited the student, resulting in a recruiting violation, even if the student has never entered that school."

From there, Koch and her team will speak with the schools and identify a solution, she said.

"Sometimes, they may ask the student to remain in their school, but try out for another school's team. This doesn't always work. In that case, we show hardship — such as transportation concerns — as a basis for an exception to policy. However, the school district can only allow so many exceptions to policy each year," Koch said.

The expansion of Department of Defense Education Activity virtual school options has also alleviated some of the academic programming constraints, she said.

This option expands what a school can offer, such as Arabic or German language classes; and students can take up to two DODEA virtual classes each year, said Koch.

"Some schools aren't as familiar with DO-DEA virtual options, but, SLOs can work with these schools to walk them through the steps. That partnership with the schools is part of what our office offers."

Staff Sgt. Joycelyn Bonvillain, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and her Family found themselves in a unique situation after arriving and was one of the Families, Koch said, that helped reshape the incoming process for Soldiers.

Bonvillain said she and her three kids (Johnathon, Ja'Darian and Ja'Mariah Bonvillain) stayed in a Leesville hotel for a month before they found a place, which ended up being in the Rosepine area. While in the hotel, she said she wasn't aware of the School Support Services available to her, so she called the Vernon Parish School Board to determine which schools her kids needed to attend.

"My kids ended up starting school in Leesville. Once we moved, the drive from where we lived was about 25 minutes," she said.

Bonvillain said she'd signed her kids up to bus home each day after school, unaware that her Rosepine address wasn't serviced by the bus routes of her kids' schools.

"There was a road in Leesville with the same name of the road we lived on in Rosepine. I got a call from the bus driver on the first day because my kids refused to get off the bus on a street they didn't recognize," Bonvillain said.

Ultimately meeting the principal and her kids back at the school, they pulled up maps and realized the mix-up that had occurred

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with the road names, and it was determined that her kids were not eligible to ride the bus, she said.

"I didn't know what I was going to do, or if my chain of command was going to understand and support a single mother who now needed to drop off and pick up her kids every day."

Bonvillain received her School Support Services brief after this incident, and she said, "I knew they had something for me."

"Lindsay Sloggett (school liaison officer), told me about Staff Sergeant Bonvillain's extraordinary situation. This is when we learned that, although we are getting in touch with incoming Families, some of them had already been here for so long that they were finding themselves in extremely unique scenarios in regard to school enrollments. That's when our brief was moved to day zero. Her story is part of the reason why installation leadership adjusted the process," Koch said.

One of the resources Bonvillain and her kids learned about was the free Middle School and Teen Center, where Bonvillain said her kids now bus to after school each day.

Kathleen Kent, military Spouse, said she also reached out to School Support Services during her Family's transition to Fort Polk, as her daughter, Esther, was about to begin kindergarten.

"This wasn't our first PCS, but it was a new experience in the sense that it was the first time we had to think about schools," Kent said.

At first glance, Kent said there seemed to be so many schools in the area that she wasn't sure where her daughter would attend. Luckily, she said, her network of other military Spouses connected her with Koch to get a handle on the schools and programming in the area.

"Schools were one of the things that people scared me about before coming here. I was told that Louisiana schools were terrible. Tiffany (Koch) was able to reassure me that wasn't the case. My daughter has learned a lot, and she's really enjoying school. I'm glad that we chose to do kindergarten at North Polk Elementary, because it was a good first-school experience for her," Kent said.

"We've learned that kids leaving Vernon Parish schools rank 86 and 76 in reading and math proficiency, respectively. For most people around the country, their scores are 40, which is average," Koch said.

Similarly, Montana Mullins, military Spouse, said she was directed to School Support Services through a friend already stationed here.

"This ended up being super beneficial because my husband didn't attend the brief before our eldest son needed to be enrolled in school. Lindsay (Sloggett) spent 45 minutes on



the phone with me, and she couldn't have been more helpful. Not only did she help me with my teenage son, she also gave me resources for my 3-year-old son, like information about headstart," Mullins said.

Mullins said that her Family feels like they made the perfect school decisions for her kids.

For Soldiers out-processing the installation, Koch said that transitioning service members are asked to fill out a simple form, so a SLO can later reach out to those Families and ensure they have the proper resources and SLO contacts at their next duty assignment.

Koch said, even if Families are going to a recruiting command, a Fort Polk SLO can provide contacts for that state's Department of Defense lead, which may be a SLO from another service branch.

Another service SLOs assist with is eliminating any barriers or issues that military-connected students may face at a community school.

"We can provide resources and tips for schools to better understand the unique circumstances and challenges military-connected students face, so the schools are better prepared to support them," she said.

In the future, School Support Services will have access to a roster of incoming personnel, so they can begin reaching out to Families as they begin their transition to JRTC and Fort Polk, said Koch.

Reaching military Families early in the process eases a huge part of the transition, said Koch, and she hopes School Support Services becomes more widely known. Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Bonvillain, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, (center) picks up her two sons, Ja'Darian (left) and Johnathon (right) at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Middle School and Teen Center after school. Bonvillain learned about the free MST Center after a School Support Services brief.



"The biggest thing I want Families to know is — don't struggle alone — School Support Services is here to help Families and schools better support our military-connected kids."

If you have questions regarding School Support Services, call (337) 531-6673.

BJACH NCO tackles challenges, wins titles, achievements

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES BJACH PAO

FORT POLK, La. — Staff Sgt. Tabitha Moore, a combat medic from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital emergency department, recently achieved three major milestones in her career. The junior noncommissioned officer won the BJACH NCO of the year competition, was selected as one of the Regional Health Command Central Best Junior NCOs and earned her Expert Field Medical Badge.

Lt. Col. Michelle O'Neill, chief nurse in charge of BJACH's emergency department said Moore is highly motivated to excel as a Soldier.

"She took on the challenges presented to her, whether it be Soldier boards, physical training or preparing for a highly coveted badge like the EFMB," she said. "She also spent many hours encouraging and coaching some of our junior Soldiers in their efforts to compete as well. As a senior leader, I personally loved seeing her take on all of these challenges and exceed the standards set forth. She has unlimited potential."

O'Neill said despite minor setbacks along the way, her tenacity and competitive spirit drove her to success — those traits are an inspiration to her Soldiers, peers and leaders.

Originally from California, Moore enlisted in the Army in 2016.

She said she joined the Army for the educational benefits. She chose 68W, combat medic, as her military occupational specialty because of her childhood aspirations to work in the medical field.

Her first assignment was at 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk. Afterward, she accepted an intra-post transfer to the BJACH emergency department in 2019.

While stationed at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, Moore deployed with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team in support of a border mission. She also deployed to the Virgin Islands as part of the Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force - Medical Command to support the COVID-19 community vaccination mission. Moore said she found the vaccination mission professionally rewarding.

"I was notified 72 hours before I was supposed to leave, but I was excited because I love helping people," she said. "It was an eye-opening experience for me. I was on a beautiful tropical island surrounded by seaside resorts but as I traveled inland I saw the extreme poverty many were living in."

Before her vaccination mission, Moore had begun competing in NCO of the month and quarter boards but was unable to compete for the NCO of the Year in 2020 due to the COVID-19 community vaccination deploy-



Six Soldiers out of 44 passed all tests and earned the Expert Field Medical Badge on April 29 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Pictured from left: Cpt. Alex Boyd, Staff Sgt. Tabitha Moore, Spc. Conner Crisafi, 1st Lt. Sean Kratchman, Cpl. Paulo Dasilva and Sgt. Charles Deleon (front).

ment. "I started participating in competition boards at the encouragement of my NCOs who said it would enhance my career," she said. "I won my first board, and kept studying and kept going back, winning each time."

She finally had her chance to compete and win the BJACH NCO of the Year competition in February.

"I enjoy field training, physical fitness and competing in competition boards. I think they are a lot of fun and allow me the opportunity to learn new skills," she said. "I'm motivated by the challenge and I like to win."

Moore said she studied and prepared a lot for the NCO of the Year admitting the biggest challenge was the weather.

"We did a lot of ruck marches, and we were caught in a thunderstorm the first day," she said. "Everything was wet; we did the Yarbrough Mile soaking wet, and we were required to walk to every event."

Moore knew winning NCO of the Year would solidify her spot on at the Best Leader competition and that motivated her to prevail.

Next, Moore went to Fort Bliss, Texas, to compete with a squad of Soldiers from BJACH in the Regional Health Command-Central Best Leader Competition.

Capt. Christopher Julian, chief of occupational therapy for BJACH was part of her team and said Moore was a fierce competitor who deserved to win the best Junior NCO title.

"There are not enough words to describe how great Staff Sergeant Moore is as a teammate," he said. "She is the ultimate competitor and warrior."

Julian said Moore was the first female to cross the finish line after a 15-mile foot march with a 45 pound pack.

"Even after I witnessed the blood and

wounds on her feet following that challenge, she never had an ounce of quit in her," he said. "She was my motivation, she kept me in the fight every step of the competition. I attribute BJACH's Best Squad success to her. She leads from the front in all situations. She has an altruistic character and exemplifies what it is to be a Soldier and a non-commissioned officer."

Moore said the first ruck march was the most difficult part of the Best Leader Competition.

"On the second day of the competition we began a road march that turned out to be 15-miles long. I don't know if I wore the wrong socks or what, but my feet were torn up," she said. "After I hobbled across the finish line I was taken to the ambulance where they suggested tincture benzoin to treat my feet."

According to O'Neill, tincture benzoin is issued and used in the U.S. military to treat blisters. A common treatment utilized by medics in the U.S. Army is to drain the fluid from a blister and then inject enough compound tincture of benzoin into the void to glue the blister to the underlying skin, to serve as a local antiseptic, and to prevent further abrasion or loss of skin. This is commonly known as a "hot shot" amongst military personnel due to the extreme burning sensation that will be experienced for several moments when the tincture is applied.

Moore said the treatment was extremely painful but she knew the rest of the team was looking up to her and she didn't want to let them down.

"I bit the brim of my hat in the back of the ambulance and screamed as they treated my feet. Once it was over I went right into the day and night land navigation courses," she said.

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"I wasn't sure how I was going to make it, but I knew the junior Soldiers were watching me, and I just couldn't quit. I knew they were hurting, too, and if I quit it would affect their morale."

Moore said overall the entire competition was a lot of fun despite the pain of her injuries.

"The most rewarding part for me was watching the Joes, our junior enlisted teammates. For them, it was their first competition and I loved cheering them on," she said. "We had to trauma-bond and embrace the suck at times, but I know they had a lot of fun, too."

Moore said her accomplishments are motivational to her Soldiers.

"It makes me more confident in myself, knowing that I am competent and proficient in Soldier and medical tasks," she said. "I can pass my knowledge on and mentor junior Soldiers. I've pushed a lot of my Soldiers to compete in boards. They are usually nervous and unsure, so it helps them to see me do it too. Because I've won several of these competitions, they trust me when I tell them what they need to study and work on in order to compete and win."

A few days after the RHC-C competition, Moore went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for Expert Field Medical Badge testing.

"After I won the NCO of Year Board and before the regional competition, I went to EFMB at (JBSA) Fort Sam (Houston) and I failed," she said. "I was extremely disappointed that I didn't earn it. I really let it get in my head."

Command Sgt. Maj. Shavonda Devereaux, senior enlisted advisor for BJACH, said she recognized Moore's defeat and self-doubt.

"We were at the engagement skills trainer and I recognized that Staff Sergeant Moore was a little down," she said. "I knew what she came up short on during her first attempt at the EFMB, but I also knew she was the type of Soldier who could recognize her shortfalls and quickly adapt and overcome them."

Devereaux said the unit put some systems in place to reinforce those skills she needed work on in preparation for the EFMB.

"I reaffirmed with her that if there was any way I could get her to the next EFMB testing event I would," she said. "I had faith in her and her ability to go out and get after it and earn the badge."

Devereaux said it's all about having trust and faith in your Soldiers and their abilities.

"Staff Sergeant Moore did exactly what I thought she would," she said. "She dug deep, challenged the badge and she earned it."

Moore said Deveraux got her in to the next available EFMB testing event and warned her it would be a quick turn around after the Best Leader Competition at Fort Bliss.



Staff Sgt. Tabitha Moore, a combat medic from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital emergency department, recently achieved three major milestones. Moore won the BJACH NCO of the Year competition, was selected as one of Regional Health Command Central's Best Junior NCOs and earned her Expert Field Medical Badge.

"I literally had time to come home and do laundry before I left again," she said.

Moore said she refused to fail, and was focused on passing the EFMB the second time around.

According to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence website, the EFMB is special skill award recognizing the exceptional competence and outstanding performance of Army Medical Department Corps personnel.

Earning the badge consists of a written exam, a 12-mile foot march, the Army Physical Fitness Test, day and night land navigation, an evacuation lane, a scenario based tactical combat casualty care lane, and a warrior skills lane with combined tasks shared with Expert Infantryman and Expert Soldier Badge testing.

Moore was one of six out of 44 Soldiers who passed all of the tests and earned the EFMB.

"The only reason I passed the second time is because I partnered up with two other Soldiers (Spc. Connor Crisafi, combat medic, Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado and 1st Lt. Sean Kratchman, occupational therapist, 85th Combat Operational Stress Control, 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 1st Medical Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas,)... who I had met at Fort Sam when I attempted to earn my EFMB the first time," she said "We stuck together. During all of our free time we went over the lanes together and practiced and studied and prepared."

Moore will be leaving Fort Polk for Fort Drum, New York, soon and will be unable to represent RHC-C at the Best Leader Competition, nor will she be able to represent BJACH at



Staff Sgt. labitha Moore crossing the finish line after the 12-mile road march during the Expert Field Medical Badge testing at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

the JRTC and Fort Polk NCO of the Year board but she's still motivated to complete other challenges and goals.

"I've got my sights on the Sergeant Audie Murphy Board next," she said. "I also want the Air Assault badge."

Moore plans to make a career of the Army and encourages other Soldiers to compete whenever possible.

"There are so many benefits to participating in competitions," she said. "I won awards which helped with promotion points; I've read a lot of regulations, increased my general Army knowledge and I've learned a lot about myself and how resilient I can be. It feels good knowing I've done something really hard and I persevered and I won."

Moore said she loves being an NCO and hopes to be a command sergeant major someday.

Devereaux said the recent achievement says a lot about Moore as a person, a medic and a Soldier.

"Staff Sergeant Moore completed three back-to-back events that really challenged and tested her intestinal fortitude," she said. "She had the will to win; the hunger to achieve and demonstrate what it is to be Army Medicine and Army Strong."

Field day fun

Kids, parents, school staff and 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division volunteers had tons of fun at North Polk Elementary's Field Day May 16, celebrating the end of the school year.







DES engages community

A crew of Fort Polk firefighters stopped at the Catfish Cove playground to let some excited kids check out the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk's newest fire engine. The crew, who were training nearby, also took the opportunity to teach kids about fire safety.



Post COVID, PAO's Tour Program kicks into high gear







The Public Affairs Office Tour Program is back in action. These are two of the most recent tours that hit the highlights of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk. First up, third grade students from Faith Training Christian Academy took a field trip to Fort Polk May 11. While here, the students took a tour of the Fort Polk Museum and enjoyed a picnic and playtime at the Catfish Cove covered playground area. Next, JROTC cadets from North DeSoto High School visited Fort Polk May 13 and stopped by the Museum, watched military working dogs in action, had lunch at the Patriot Warrior Restaurant Dining Facility, learned what it is like to parachute from an aircraft, and fired simulated weapons. The group was welcomed by Col. Sam Smith, garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Nielsen, garrison command sergeant major.





Leader reader — read one, watch one, listen to one

By Lt. Col. (retired) MARK LESLIE DPTMS

FORT POLK, La. — This Chief of Staff of the Army reading list review will be unlike my other reviews in a few unique ways.

One, I will be discussing three separate titles off of the Chief's reading list including "Like War," The Social Dilemma (available on Netflix) and "Faster Than You Think" (available in traditional book form or through e-book).

Second, I didn't read all of these. I read "Like War" around Thanksgiving last year, watched "The Social Dilemma" (as the CSA directs) during Christmas and listened to "Faster Than You Think" as I drove to and from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, while visiting my son and family in January.

The CSA is deliberate in his selections for the reading list and it is my personal belief he is using this reading list as one of many methods to change the way leaders in the Army think and subsequently, our culture and approach to war and warfare.

The Army and Department of Defense, in general, are transforming the approach to warfare — to include cross-domain operations that bring the Army into the next century and prepare us not only for the fights of tomorrow, but today.

The Army has recognized that warfare is changing, as evidenced by the release of "TRADOC Pamphlet 525-3-1, The U.S. Army in Multi-Domain Operations 2028" in December of 2018.

If you haven't read it, I recommend that you at least pick it up and become somewhat familiar

with it before diving into any of the three CSA titles above.

The pamphlet is a good "primer" to get the reader ready for what the Chief wants you to get out of these reads. It will help the leader reader know what to look for and what to take back from these reads to their formation.

To drive rapid, non-linear solutions in Army doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy, the leader must first understand the operational environment. To understand that environment, the above three titles are essential and are a good primer for the much anticipated release of the Army manual of Multi-Domain Operations, hopefully in June.

I will give you an introduction to each of the three titles that I think the Chief wants us to study as leaders to be better postured, prepared, trained and educated to execute warfare in the multiple domains in which we must operate, not only in the future, but now — as the war in Ukraine so clearly demon-

strates.

"Like War," by P. W. Singer and Emerson T. Brooking

I read this one off the list the old fashioned way, as a traditional book, and I am glad I did. In my opinion, it is a "must" read for every leader in our Army. I have more pages "dog-eared" and things underlined and highlighted than not. This read is basically a text-book on how to execute a credible information narrative through cross-domain actions that communicate and counter threats in the cyber-space domain. While the first third of the book is dedicated to how this domain evolved into the "super-shaper" of the operational environment that it is today and the latter third is slightly politically tainted, the majority of the book is chock full of nuggets that apply to today's "pre-battlefield" cyber domain and "Like War" elements that are indispensable.

As an added bonus, in the chapter 9 conclusion, the Joint Readiness Training Center is highlighted for its Social Media Environment and Internet Replication (SMEIR). This SMEIR accounts for the internet as a battlefield and should change how the military leader thinks about information. This book is superb and of all three in this review the highest rated at 4.5 Anvils out of a max score of five anvils.

"The Social Dilemma," directed by Jeff Orlowski and written by Orlowski, Davis Coombe and Vickie Curtis

The main point of this movie, and why I think the Chief put it on the list, is to demon-

REVIEW

strate just how powerful social media is and how it can be used to influence and manipulate not only a society, but an wironment as well

operational environment as well.

Social media has been "weaponized" to put it bluntly. For us as an Army, to not fully use this medium to positively influence and condition the global operational environment would be a mistake. Take the time to watch it and see how whole generations of people across the globe are influenced into action (or inaction) by social media. What I liked about this movie was the multiple interviews with all types of experts. The insight and perspective provided to the leader is invaluable. Social media today makes the 1938 broadcast of "War of the Worlds," where Americans were convinced that we were being attacked by aliens, look like child's play. In the information age of today, this kind of "attack" or "conditioning" of the OE is happening thousands of times every minute across the globe. This one earns three out of five anvils on the scale.

"Faster Than You Think," by Peter H. Diaminds and Steven Kotler

An excellent read that will blow your mind



when the authors brilliantly forecast the speed at which technology is advancing and how the world will change as a result. The authors tackle the impact of technology in just about everything in our lives — transportation, retail, advertising, education, health, entertainment, food, finance and more.

I listened to this title on an audio book and really enjoyed the interjections and breaks that they would take from the book itself and talk with the authors. Their insight and reflections on their writing a few years later is insightful and worthy of reflection and consideration.

Overall, a nice addition to the audio book. What made the "light come on" for me as to why the Chief wanted us to read this book was the line; "we will see more change in the next ten years than our parents saw in a lifetime." To me, that is a very powerful statement, and likely accurate and telling for the leader reader.

The operational environment is going to change rapidly, producing more vulnerabilities and threats than the military and industry can likely develop and procure to protect these vulnerabilities.

The OE will be expanded, broader and more dangerous than ever before. It will be up to the leader to recognize and react to a rapidly transforming technology environment. Overall, a great read and rightly earns four out of five anvils on the scale.

With rainy weather, comes stormwater pollution prevention

DPW ENVIRONMENTAL

FORT POLK, La. — Have you ever heard the saying, "April showers bring May flowers?" While the start of summer and warmer days ahead is certainly exciting, it's important not to forget what else comes with an increase in seasonal rain — stormwater pollution.

Stormwater is precipitation that concentrates in low areas and flows. The water either soaks into exposed soil or remains on top of impervious surfaces like pavement or rooftops. Most stormwater will eventually evaporate, but often it will flow as runoff to another location.

As the water runs it picks up pollutants along its path including debris, sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste and more.

Polluted stormwater can cause soil erosion, stream impairment, flooding, fish and wildlife habitat loss, and reduced groundwater levels. Although stormwater pollution cannot be eliminated completely, you can do your part in preventing it. Check out these six ways to help prevent stormwater pollution this spring.

- 1. Only rain in the drain
- 2. Use lawn chemicals sparingly
- 3. Avoid over-watering your lawn
- 4. Wash your car over grass or gravel
- 5. Pick up pet waste

6. Grow low-maintenance grass and plants

If you are interested in learning more about how to help protect waterways, or in scheduling awareness training, check out the JRTC and Fort Polk, DPW Environmental Water Resource Teams Facebook page:

Fort Polk Environmental or call the water resource team lead at (337) 531-4013.



THE WATER CYCLE



The Water Cycle

Did you know that Earth has been recycling water for more than four billion years? The world's water moves the atmosphere and the land in an ongoing cycle called – the water cycle. As it goes through this continuous system, it can be a liquid, gas or a solid. **Precipitation:** condensed, the water droplets in the clouds become too big and heavy for the air to hold them. They then fall back down to Earth as rain, snow, hail or sleet, a process known as "precipitation." **Percolation:** Percolation is a natural process in which surface water is gradually filtered through the soil into aquifers. **Evaporation:** Energy from the sun heats up the surface of the Earth, causing the temperature of the oceans to rise. When this happens some of the water "evaporates" into the air, turning into a gas called vapor. Plants and trees also lose water to the atmosphere through their leaves. This process is known as **Condensation:** sky, it cools and turns back into a liquid, forming clouds. This "condensation." And there you have it - the ongoing water cycle! If you are interested in learning more about how you can help protect waterways, or in scheduling awareness training, check out the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Fort-PolkEnvironmental or call the Water Resource Team Lead at (337) 531-4013.

Students celebrate achievements at Installation Graduation ceremony





BEATEN H

JUNE 12 TO JULY 25

Come With Us to "Read Beyond the Beaten Path!"

The Allen Memorial Library is gearing up for this year's Summer Reading Program (SRP), taking place June 12-July 23.

JOIN US ON

for the Kick-Off with Miss Louisiana 2021, and learn about the fun activities and prizes for SRP 2022.

Register for SRP online at https://allenmemorial.beanstack.org, or in person at the Library beginning 10 June.

Eligible customers of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate in the free 6-week event. Allen Memorial Library account needed to check out Library materials.

Register for your account today!

For more information, please contact the Library at (337) 531-2665 (BOOK)

OT:

DOD-INWR SEES UNITED

JRTC & FORT POLK MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

> Marrior Memorial Park May 26 at 11 a.m.

Fort Polk Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month Garrison Ride



The ride promotes esprit de corps and community relations while instilling the principles of motorcycle safety. The ride ends at Alligator Lake where participants can purchase a meal from a couple of food trucks, listen to good music, enjoy bike games, take part in a raffle and relax. For more information call (719) 659-5540 or email brendon.c.murphy.mil@army.mil.





ACP 5 hour changes

Access Control Point 5, located on La. Hwy 467 south, will begin opening at 7 a.m. and closing at 7 p.m. Monday through Friday as a result of the installation traffic study. The ACP will continue to open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be closed on Sundays and federal holidays. The change to standard operating hours will begin June 3. Operational units needing access to training areas may contact the Directorate of Emergency Services by email at usarmy.polk. imcom.mesg.des-psi@army.mil or call (337) 531-1159/6988.

Garrison innovation program

Do you have a good idea? Don't let it go to waste. The Plans, Analysis and Integration Office wants the Fort Polk community to know that the garrison team is not only listening, but also taking action on many of the great ideas that have

already been submitted through the Garrison Innovation Program. Yours could be next. The

program works by asking individuals to share their concepts to increase efficiency and enhance garrison processes for the



Fort Polk community. Submit your ideas through the Fort Polk Interactive Customer Evaluation system. The PAIO Garrison Innovation Program link: <u>ICE</u> or use the QR code.

Alabama Ave. closure

The segment of Alabama Avenue north of Louisiana Avenue is closed for one to two months pending weather. Motorists accessing facilities along Ninth, 10th, 11th, and 12th streets will be detoured to Mississippi Avenue. Fourth Street will remain open for through traffic.

Facilities with access limited to Alabama Avenue will be accessed off of Georgia Avenue with flaggers or channelizing devices providing safe passage across the work zone (Alabama Avenue). Georgia Avenue will be converted to twoway traffic during this closure.

Rough road conditions and loose aggregate are possible near these work zones. Motorists should anticipate traffic delays due to closures and flagging operations around the work zones and pedestrians are encouraged to stay clear of work zones.

> Got News? Call the Guardian



Bayne-Jones Army

Community Hospital

Pharmacy Q-Anywhere Mobile Check-In

FOR NEW/ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS ONLY

NO REFILLS OR PAPER PRESCRIPTIONS

WAIT FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS IN THE CONVENIENCE OF YOUR OWN HOME



STEP 1:

Scan QR Code or

Text "GET IN LINE" to 1 (844) 398-4169

STEP 2:

STEP 3:

Verify your identity and text "DONE"

STEP 4:

Wait for text that your prescription is filled.

STEP 5:

Enter DODID number (Located on your ID Card)





12 Months of Monuments: Shughart-Gordon monument legacy of heroes

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

FORT POLK, La. - The Joint Readiness Training Center's Shughart-Gordon MOUT (military operations on urban terrain) site, completed in February 1996, is located among the pine trees of the Fullerton Training Area and was constructed at a cost of about \$40 million. At the time, the site had a four-square mile training area broken into three sections: Shughart-Gordon urban complex, World Military Complex and Self Airfield. The largest area, Shughart-Gordon, was conceived as a 29-building city that replicated one found in a developing third world nation. It contained cinderblock and concrete buildings including a post office, church, hospital factory and warehouse — all with real furnishings. The first Soldiers to train there: The 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, using plastic bullets.

Shughart-Gordon was named to honor the sacrifices made by Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randy Shughart in Somalia 29 years ago, in 1993. Shughart and Gordon served as snipers within the Unites States Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. During the mission they provided precision fires from the lead helicopter during an assault and at two helicopter crash sites, while subjected to intense automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fires. They volunteered to insert into a crash site to assist the downed pilots knowing they faced an overwhelming force and reinforcements were unlikely. Both men were killed by enemy forces, fighting until they were out of ammunition.

Both Soldiers were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

The importance of the Shughart-Gordon training area and the legacy of the heroes who died in Somalia live on. Hundreds of thousands of Soldiers have trained there. Now, 29 years later, the MOUT site — the JRTC as a whole — remains the Army's premier combat training center, training about one-third of the Army's brigade combat teams, Army National Guard and Reserve units and their associated rotational units. It is the most important Army level requirement and influences all other operations on Fort Polk.



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Check VIN numbers

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Division will release the following vehicles to Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation for disposal, if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four of their VIN number. If one of these vehicles belongs to you, please contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Division at (337) 531-1806, 6675 or 2677.

| 2002 | Honda | CRV | 7722 |
|------|------------|---------------------|------|
| 1988 | Chevrolet | 3500 | 4195 |
| 2011 | Dodge | Avenger | 1373 |
| 2014 | Nissan | Altima | 6092 |
| 2005 | Nissan | Altima | 9465 |
| 2006 | Dodge | Charger | 5068 |
| 2000 | Ford | Ranger | 3852 |
| 1998 | Honda | CRV | 6564 |
| 1995 | Ford | Crown Vic | 4288 |
| 1995 | BMW | 530i | 4287 |
| 2005 | Chevrolet | Cobalt | 1230 |
| 2009 | Pontiac | G6 | 7014 |
| 2001 | Kawasaki | 650 | 0233 |
| 2011 | Dodge | Durango | 6226 |
| 2002 | Ford | Mustang | 1003 |
| 1979 | Kawasaki | KZ650 | 5918 |
| 2013 | Utility | trailer | 3802 |
| 2013 | Mitsubishi | Eclipse | 2929 |
| 2001 | Volkswagen | Jetta | 9197 |
| 2001 | Mitsubishi | Eclipse | 4078 |
| 2002 | Kia | Reo | 5808 |
| 1992 | BMW | 4dr | 7858 |
| 2005 | Dodge | Magnum | 9914 |
| 2005 | Kia | Optima | 8345 |
| 2010 | Honda | Civic | 5428 |
| 2001 | Ford | Explorer | 3754 |
| 2008 | Ford | Escape | 0697 |
| 2000 | Dodge | Avenger | 9243 |
| 2013 | Volvo | S 40 | 1073 |
| | | | 1075 |
| 2001 | Mercury | G. Marquis | 0144 |
| 2013 | Chevrolet | Camaro RDX Turbo | |
| 2007 | Acura | | 1092 |
| 2017 | Nissan | Sentra | 5638 |
| 1995 | Chevrolet | Caprice | 3876 |
| 1999 | GMC | 1500 | 0147 |
| 2006 | Hyundai | Sonata | 3189 |
| 2008 | Chevrolet | 1500 | 0226 |
| 2008 | Ford | Edge | 1971 |
| 2017 | Nissan | Versa | 1496 |
| 2008 | Saturn | Aura XE | 3244 |
| 2004 | Chevrolet | Trail Blazer | 8828 |
| 2003 | Toyota | Tacoma | 7528 |
| 2006 | Nissan | 350Z | 6628 |
| 2010 | Nissan | Altima | 6499 |
| 2005 | Ford | Explorer | 4483 |
| 2012 | Chevrolet | Malibu | 1689 |
| 2016 | Chevrolet | Malibu | 5420 |
| | | | |



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We are grateful for all you do to protect and serve our country.

We are proud to honor our service members and their families with these savings.

Fort Polk Commissary SIDEWALK SALE

JOIN US FOR 3 DAYS OF FUN & SAVINGS!

MAY 26 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. MAY 27 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. MAY 28 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Check your local commissary for dates and time of sales.

FORT POLK MWR PRESENTS

33^{for more information} -53⁷-53⁷ ation call -4667

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JRTC & Fort Polk and MWR Presents

KYLIE MORGAN

Scan for details

FRIDAY, MAY 27 8 PM TO 10 PM **Warrior Hills Golf Course**

buckets all night

Food and beverages will be available for sale at The Forge!