



FORGING THE

WARRIOR SPIRIT

THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

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Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

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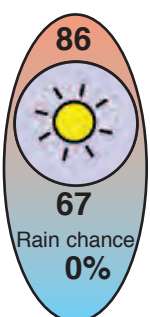
DPTMS VISUAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Reserve component leaders visit JRTC, troops

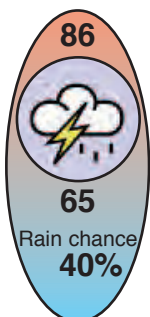
More than 5,000 Reserve Component Soldiers from 19 state National Guard units are at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk for Rotation 19-07. Senior leaders from several of the

participating states visited JRTC May 14-15 to watch their Soldiers in action. For more photos and a story on the visit see page 7 of today's Guardian.

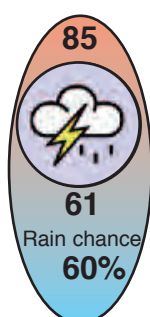
Weekend weather



Today



Saturday



Sunday

Inside the Guardian

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Viewpoint

In our view

Guardian staff asked Fort Polk Soldiers, "What is one thing you learned the last time you were in the field?" Here are their responses:



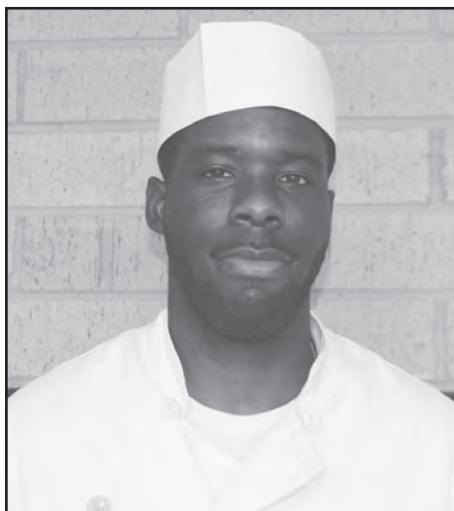
Sgt. Brandon Bedard: "I learned to be aggressive — don't sit back and wait, just go out and accomplish the mission."



Sgt. Daquon Ingram: "The importance of digging in a mortar position for better cover and concealment when you are in one location for more than a day."



Pfc. Zachary Davis: "The importance of face paint and how to apply it."



Spc. Yusef Rice: "Army training will continue no matter the weather."



Pvt. Chandler Shetter: "How important it is to have your ruck organized so you can get to whatever you need."



Sgt. Shi Zheng: "How to set up a new air beam tent for our aid station."



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Moody: "Soldiers work better when they have a goal to work toward — they need proper motivation."



1st Lt. Michael Utley: "How to keep your feet dry — always carry extra socks."



Guardian

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Briefs

Geronimo DZ 10K

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, along with the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation, will host the Geronimo DZ 10K June 1 from 7-11 a.m. The event consists of an adult 10K run, adult 10K bike race, youth 10K bike race and youth 5K run. There are categories for both male and female in each race and will start at the Geronimo War Memorial and take place on the running trails around Geronimo Drop Zone. Check-in and same day registration begins at 6 a.m. Online registration continues through May 30 at Eventbrite.com. The event is free and open to authorized DFMWR users ages 8 and older. Race packet pick up is May 31 at Alligator Lake Recreation Site. Call 531-2056 or email sean.p.mccroary.naf@mail.mil for more information.

Memorial Day

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk hosts a Memorial Day Ceremony Thursday at 11 a.m. at Warrior Memorial Park. Everyone is invited to attend.

Islander observance

An Asian American and Pacific Islander observance is held Wednesday at Bayou Theater from noon-1 p.m. This year's theme is "Unite Our Mission by Engaging Each Other." Call 531-1911 for more information.

3rd Bn, 353rd Inf CoC

The 3rd Battalion, 353rd Infantry Regiment "Tiger Battalion" hosts a change of command ceremony May 31 at 10 a.m. on Fort Polk's Warrior Field. Lt. Col. Francisco J. Lopez will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Mark K. Snakenberg.

DENTAC CoC

The Fort Polk U.S. Army Dental Health Activity will hold a change of command ceremony June 7 at 10 a.m. on Warrior Field. Lt. Col. Paul Colthirst will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Melissa Tucker. Call 531-2327 for more information.

Fitness program

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk offers Army civilians up to three hours of excused absences per week, to participate in command sponsored physical training or education. Supervisors must approve and submit packets to the Community Ready and Resilient Integrator. For more information call Luewana Hannon at 531-1191 or email luewana.l.hannon.civ@mail.mil.



ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

Spc. Shamar C. Bonner, culinary specialist, (left) and Spc. Zimboussa R. Prophete, culinary specialist, (right) hold the ribbon for the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony at the Patriot Inn May 13. From left to right: Command Sgt. Mag. Kenneth R. Franco, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division command sergeant major, Col. Jarrett Thomas, Fort Polk garrison commander and Col. Kendall J. Clarke, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div commander, cut the ribbon.

Patriot Inn DFAC celebrates grand opening

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — Good food is essential to keeping the body running at peak capacity, as well as potentially providing emotional comfort when times get tough and a social outlet where you can commiserate with friends while sharing a meal. The perfect location for all of this to happen, if you are a Soldier, is in a dining facility like Fort Polk's Patriot Inn.

The newly renovated DFAC celebrated its grand reopening May 13. The refurbishment's focus was to provide a great atmosphere, as well as healthier choices following the Go for Green Initiative — a joint service performance nutrition initiative that improves a food environment where service members live and work. The program provides better food and beverage selections with the aim to optimize performance, readiness and health. It also incorporates best practices in health promotion and the latest nutrition science to more effectively impact the nutritional status of service members based on the impact food can have on performance.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Franco, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division command sergeant major, was the guest speaker at the grand opening.

Franco said it is a joy to showcase the Patriot Inn dining facility that will serve not only the Soldiers of the 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, but also the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

"Chows or mess halls have been part of our Army since its humble beginnings. Many Soldiers can recall fond memories after a hard session of physical training or coming together on the weekend with fellow Soldiers for a good Army breakfast or bowl of Army chili mac," he said. "With the reopening of this dining facility, we will continue to carry that legacy forward, but also look into the future while adapting to more relevant feeding trends that maximize the utilization rate of this chow hall."

Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Barrett, Patriot Inn manager, said the DFAC's remodel has given it a new atmosphere.

"You eat with your eyes as well as your stomach. The facility's new look offers diners a modern and sleek design that I think Soldiers will enjoy," he said.

The new, top of the line equipment is also an impressive addition, said Barrett.

"We can do more with what we have now as far as meal preparation and offering Soldiers a wide variety of food options in a timely manner," he said.

Spc. Cameron Marshall, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, said he was excited to see the dining facility open again.

"I'm sure the upgrades will improve our lives because good food is important to the success and happiness of Soldiers," he said.

Spc. Samuel Caplin, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, said having just one DFAC while Patriot Inn was

Please see **DFAC**, page 10

New initiatives to cut cost, time for spouses to continue careers

By SEAN KIMMONS

Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — The Army recently issued a directive to reduce the financial burden for spouses who wish to continue their professional careers after they move to a new duty station.

The policy allows spouses to be reimbursed up to \$500 for qualified relicensing costs that result from a permanent change of station or assignment to a different state.

“Our spouses are lawyers, nurses, teachers, cosmetologists and real estate agents,” said Dee Geise, who works in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. “It eases part of the stress of the cost associated with relicensing after a PCS move.”

Instructions on how to apply for reimbursement can be found in the all Army activities, or ALARACT, message 036/2019 and will eventually be on the Military OneSource website at www.militaryonesource.mil.

Reimbursement is available to spouses of Soldiers in all three components and will be retroactive to Dec. 12, 2017, when the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 was signed into law.

Qualified costs include exam and registration fees required by the state, where the new duty station is located, for a license or certification for the same profession a spouse had before moving.

“So if your new real estate license in North Carolina is \$250, then the Army will reimburse up to the \$250 cost,” Geise said.

Child care providers

For spouses who work at Army child care centers, the service is developing another initiative that aims to retain their training, pay and ensure a job is waiting for them when they move to a new installation.

“If they’re working in a child care center at Fort Belvoir (Virginia) and PCS to Fort Hood (Texas), they should move right into a job without going through the reapplication process,” she said.

At a family forum in February, Army Secretary Mark T. Esper said he also supported the idea for more spouses to run child care businesses from home, which could even shorten wait lists at the main centers.

When he came onboard last year, Esper said it took the Army an average of 134 days for a civilian to be hired. His goal is lower than that to 60 days.

“You can see the challenge,” he said. “No one is going to wait 134 days or by the time you do another opportunity has come before you or it’s time to (move) again.”

Spouses who are teachers also experience a lengthy re-hiring process. While some just have to wait a month to move into a new job, others wait six months or even the next school year to start, Geise said.

“We have so many wonderful spouse teachers that should be able to quickly move into a teaching job when they move,” she said. “It is expensive and it is time consuming.”



ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army recently issued a directive to reduce the financial burden for spouses who wish to continue their professional careers after they move to a new duty station. The policy allows spouses to be reimbursed up to \$500 for qualified relicensing costs that result from a permanent change of station or assignment to a different state.

State reciprocity

The Defense State Liaison Office, she noted, is doing a lot of work toward state reciprocity to speed up re-licensing and re-certification efforts for military spouses.

“They’ve made some gains there,” she said. “They’re doing a really great job helping states understand the stresses on a spouse when he or she moves to another state and gaining employment.”

A “spouse licensure map” showing progress of interstate compacts that support license portability can be found on the Military OneSource website.

“It eases ... stress of the cost associated with relicensing after a PCS move.”

DEE GEISE

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Spouses who want to pursue their first license, credential or associate degree may check out the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts Program at the Military OneSource website. The program offers up to \$4,000 in scholarships to spouses of Soldiers in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 and W-2, and O-1 and O-2.

Financial assistance can only be used for approved portable careers found on the Military OneSource website, which include jobs in aerospace, education, energy, health, hospitality, legal and skilled trades, among others.

Another option, the Military Spouse Employment Partnership, prepares spouses to be “job ready” applicants and connects them to companies. The partnership now has nearly 400 partners that have hired more than 130,000 military spouses.

“It started in the Army; now it is a defense-wide program,” Geise said. “They work with corporations, large and small, to help spouses find portable jobs.”

Army Community Service centers on installations also operate the Employment Readiness Program, which can assist spouses in finding and preparing for jobs as well as volunteer opportunities. Call 531-1941 at Fort Polk.

As a former Army spouse, Geise said she is proud of the steps the Army and Defense Department are taking to make it easier for today’s spouses.

“I, too, had to start all over again,” she said. “I, too, had to worry about what state required what from me when I moved. I, too, had to worry about the application process and if I was ever going to be able to get my foot in the door.”

“I’m really excited about not only the license reimbursement issue, but also all the things we’re doing to help our spouses maintain their careers while their service member maintains their career as well.”

Geronimo Scouts return after Gainey Cup competition

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Guardian editor

FORT POLK, La. — Eight Scouts from Dog Troop, 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment “Geronimos” returned to Fort Polk May 4 from the Gainey Cup Best Scout Squad Competition held at Fort Benning, Georgia from April 30 to May 3.

The competition pitted 25 squads from the U.S. Army, Army National Guard, German Army, Dutch Army and British Army against one another in a grueling test of basic Scout skills.

“This competition challenged us mentally and physically,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Liderbach, squad leader for the Geronimo team. “I’m very proud of the effort the squad put into it and the results we obtained.”

Capt. Michael Glass, commander, D Troop, 1st Bn, 509th Inf Reg, said since being selected to lead his squad to the Gainey Cup in December, Liderbach has planned, resourced and executed a myriad of training events to prepare his Soldiers for the competition. The preparation included land navigation, call for fire, advanced rifle marksmanship, vehicle identification and communications.

Glass said it was an honor to welcome his Soldiers back into the troop where they can put what they learned from the Gainey Cup into practice.

“It’s not every day you get to asses yourself against the entire Army,” Glass said. “I’m proud of the immense effort the squad has put forth to prepare themselves for the competition while still continuing to support our rotational opposing force requirements.”

Pfc. Quentin Smith, one of the junior members of the team, said it was interesting to see how units and nations sometimes took different paths to reach the same result.

“Everyone has a different way of doing things and it was interesting to see that there can sometimes be more than one solution,” Smith said. “As long as it worked, and you could complete your mission, that was great.”

Smith said that after completing the competition, he was more confident in their ability to accomplish their mission as the JRTC opposing forces.

“I came back with more knowledge that I can share with my platoon,” he said. “We are already having classes teaching others in the unit what we have learned.”

Sgt. Mitchell Blackwood, the squad’s team leader, participated in the Gainey Cup in 2015, and noted how dramatically the event had changed since that time.

“This year’s competition focused much more on mounted skills as opposed to last time which was entirely dismounted,” Blackwood said.

Glass said Blackwood’s observations about the Gainey Cup are an indication of how dynamic the 19D military operational specialty — cavalry scout — can be. Operating as the opposing force in rotational exercises at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Dog Troop Scouts take on missions ranging from tank platoon attacks to special purpose force disruptions. Glass said the Gainey Cup experience would help refocus Dog



Above: Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commander, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk (center, facing Soldiers), welcomes home members of Dog Troop, 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment “Geronimos” after their return from the annual Gainey Cup Cavalry Scout competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

Below: Sgt. Mitchell Blackwood (left) and Spc. William Treadway, Scouts with D Troop, 1/509th Inf Reg, compete during the 2019 Gainey Cup.



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Geronimos

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Troop's training on essential Scout skills for the foreseeable future.

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank welcomed the Scouts back to JRTC and Fort Polk and presented each Soldier with a coin. He complemented them on their taking on the Gainey Cup challenge while still maintaining their up tempo work in the JRTC "box."

"Most teams were practicing in the two weeks prior to the competition," Frank told the Scouts. He then asked, "What were you guys doing two weeks prior (to the competition)?"

"We were in the box," the Soldiers answered in unison.

"That says something," Frank said. "You guys have just set the new standard for Geronimo. We're proud of you guys."

Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Wilson, JRTC Operations Group command sergeant major, also addressed the troops.

"You'll see everyone of the teams you competed against in the box over the next few months and we'll see who's better then," he said, drawing laughter from the Scouts. "It's like being the New York Yankees — you have a target on your back. Keep doing what you're doing."

Liderbach agreed.

"There is a lot of motivation on our part to show the ones who finished ahead of us, when they come here for a rotation, that we can take them," he said. "It was a great experience for me, testing my knowledge, and showed me where I need to improve. It also showed the skill level Geronimo had across all skill levels."

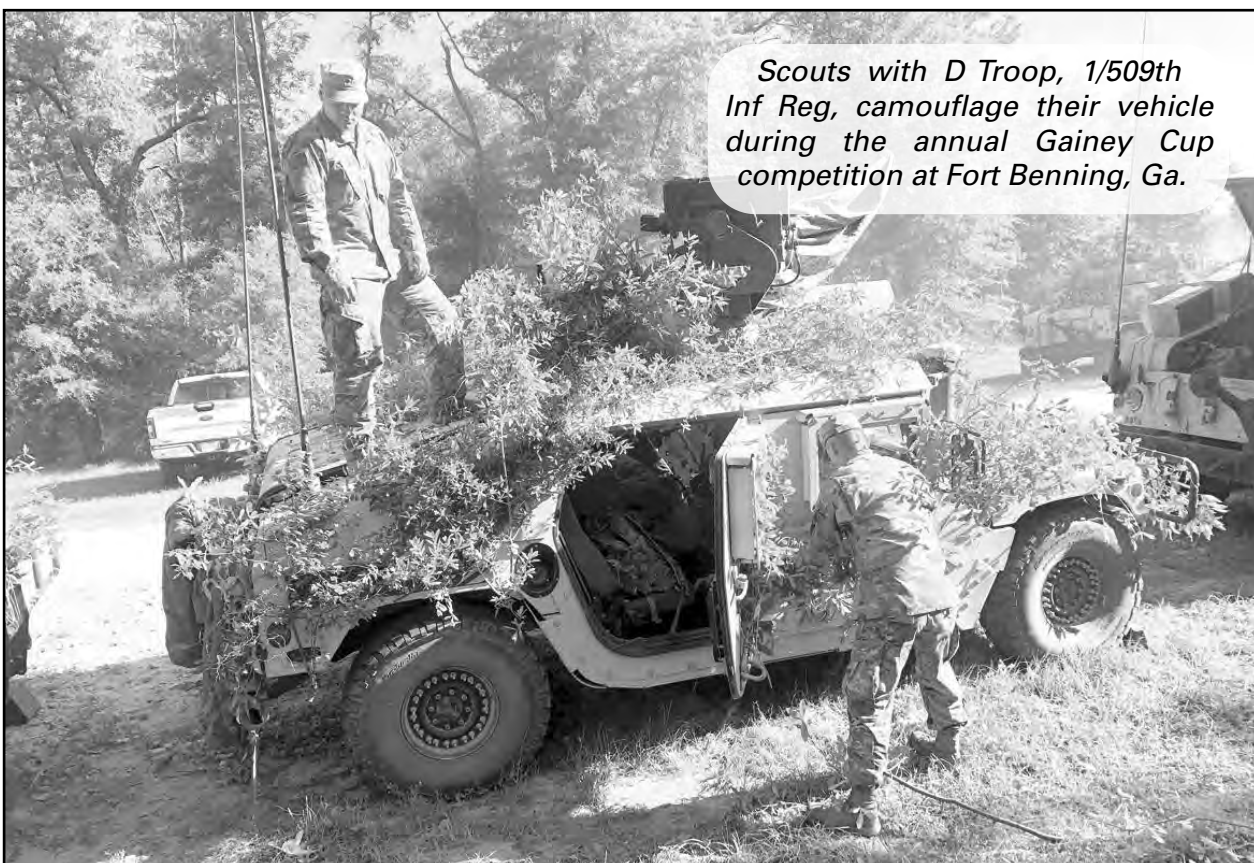
Geronimo Scouts from D Troop, 1/509th Inf Reg who competed in the 2019 Gainey Cup included: Pfc. Austin Solomon, Spc. William Treadway, Staff Sgt. Jason Liderbach, Spc. Darwin Ongy, Spc. Caleb Morse, Pfc. Quentin Smith, Sgt. Mitchell Blackwood and Spc. Ben Watts.

Members of the scout squad that represented the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, and the 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, in the annual Gainey Cup Scout competition at Fort Benning, Ga., April 30-May 3, meet with JRTC and Fort Polk leadership May 4.



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

Scouts with D Troop, 1/509th Inf Reg, camouflage their vehicle during the annual Gainey Cup competition at Fort Benning, Ga.



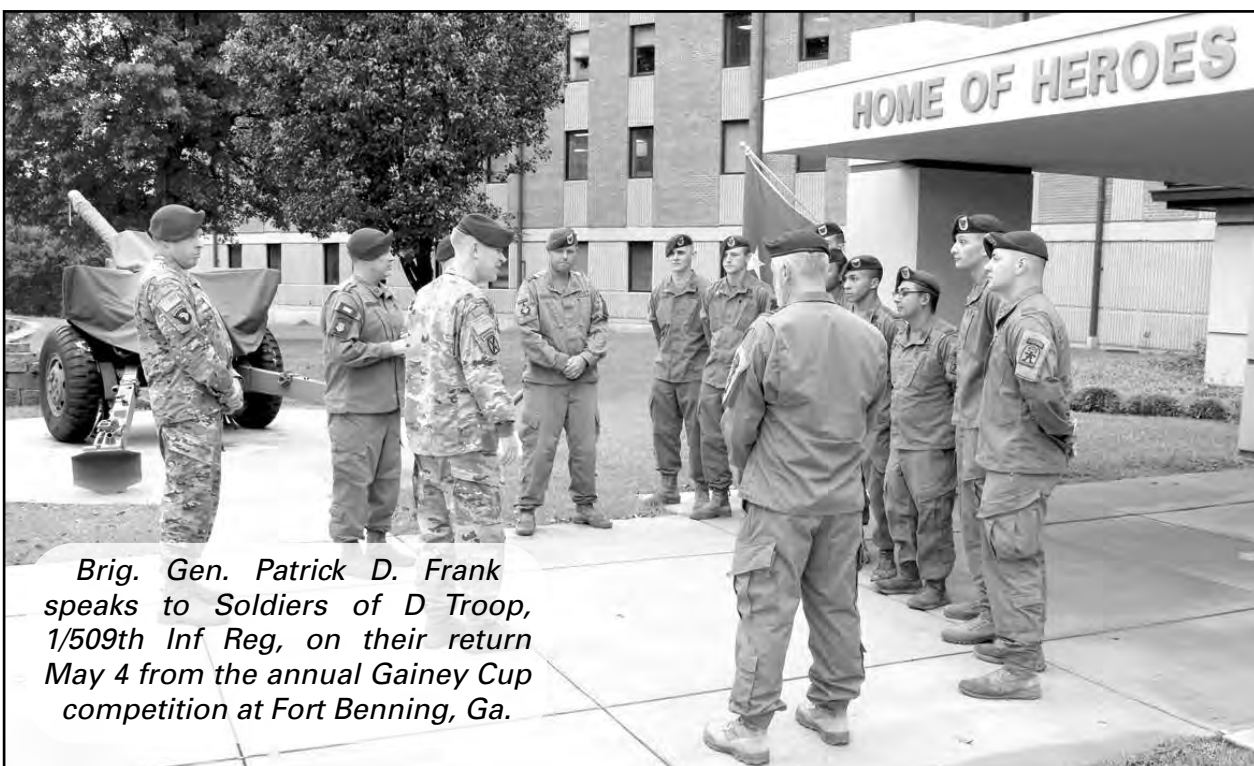
1ST BN, 509TH INF REG



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank (right), commander, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, presents a coin to Staff Sgt. Jason Liderbach, squad leader, D Troop, 1/509th Inf Reg, who led his squad in the annual Gainey Cup competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank speaks to Soldiers of D Troop, 1/509th Inf Reg, on their return May 4 from the annual Gainey Cup competition at Fort Benning, Ga.



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

Thousands of Army National Guard Soldiers take on Rotation 19-07

By **JEAN DUBIEL**
Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — Roughly 5,000 Reserve Component Soldiers from 19 state National Guards have converged on the Joint Readiness Training Center for Rotation 19-07. Senior leadership from several of these states visited the JRTC May 14-15 to watch their units in action, spend time talking with their troops, and learn more about the rigorous and relevant challenges they will face as they are forged for war at the JRTC.

One of those leaders was Maj. Gen. Thomas Carden, adjutant general for Georgia. He said he has three companies here for the rotation — an engineer support company, elements of a transportation company and a maintenance company.

“The combat training centers are the best opportunities we have to train our forces for combat. It’s all about building readiness, capability and lethality,” he said. “JRTC gives us an opportunity to replicate the most challenging conditions that our Soldiers may face in combat, and, in a larger context, it allows us to bend the odds in our favor so that we can accomplish the mission and bring everybody home.”

Carden said the rotation enhances the Soldiers’ combat skill set and lethality to address a broad range of conditions and contingencies they may encounter downrange.

“Decisive action is arguably one of the most challenging forms of war because it represents the complexity of combat,” said Carden. “We have been fighting a counter insurgency fight for the last 18-19 years, and now we have to be ready for adversaries like Russia, North Korea, China, Iran and still fight the ISIS counter insurgency — we have to maintain a capability to fight across the full spectrum of combat operations.”

Brig. Gen. Gregory Knight, adjutant general for Vermont, has the largest number of troops in the rotation at 2,000. He said a JRTC rotation increases a Soldier’s confidence at multiple levels.

“The rotation gives them confidence in themselves, their equipment, their teammates and in doing the job for which they are trained,” he said. “The benefit to training in this environment is the ability to identify any shortcomings and work toward making yourself better,” he said. “The more you train here and the more you

Please see **Rotation**, page 8



JEAN DUBIEL / GUARDIAN

Brig. Gen. Gregory Knight (right), adjutant general for the Vermont National Guard, speaks to Spc. John Obrion, one of 2,000 Vermont Soldiers currently training at the JRTC in Rotation 19-07.



OPERATIONS GROUP PAO

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct live fire rehearsal at Peason Ridge training area, May 13.



OPERATIONS GROUP PAO

A Soldier assigned to 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team engages the opposing forces, May 13



OPERATIONS GROUP PAO

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct live fire rehearsal at Peason Ridge training area, May 13.

Rotation

Continued from page 7

learn, the less you're going to have to learn — more painfully — downrange."

Second Lt. Madailein Blaney, the battalion S2 for the 572nd Brigade Engineer Battalion from Vermont, said this was her first JRTC rotation and it has given her an opportunity to apply many of the things she learned at Basic Officer Leaders Course, or BOLC.

"I have been able to translate all of that school-house training directly into this scenario," she said. "We were transitioning from the counter insurgency threat into more of a hybrid threat while I was in BOLC. The enemy is now more of an equal, near-peer threat and we have to be prepared for that. But we still have to manage that with civilians on the battlefield, understanding what's happening at the rear, and planning for sustainment and security."

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OPERATIONS GROUP PAO

A Soldier assigned to 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team secures a village during Rotation 19-07.



OPERATIONS GROUP PAO

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct live fire rehearsal at Peason Ridge training area May 13.



OPERATIONS GROUP PAO

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct live fire rehearsal at Peason Ridge training area.



JEAN DUBIEL / GUARDIAN

A security patrol with the 572nd BEB from Vermont returns to their tactical operations center accompanied by an observer-controller during Rotation 19-07.



OPERATIONS GROUP PAO

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 172nd Cavalry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team engage the opposing forces May 13.

Rotation

Continued from page 8

Blaney said smaller training exercises like those conducted at home station are fine for understanding the basics, but being immersed in an environment like JRTC triggers the combat mindset.

"Having the air assets flying over us all the time — both red air (enemy) and U.S. air (friendly) — and having actual issues with convoys, make (the training) realistic. We have to do jumping (tactical operation center), which means once the enemy knows where we are, we have to pack everything up and move," she said. "This adds an element of awareness, executing noise and light discipline, we need security on all the time, and it's all go-go-go."

Sgt. Jeremy Nadeau, a medic with Headquar-

ters and Headquarters Company, Medical Platoon, 572nd BEB, said there was a lot of field craft involved in this exercise, which was good for some of the "greener" Soldiers that have not been Soldiers for more than a weekend at a time. Nadeau is a veteran of JRTC, having completed a rotation about five years ago.

"I like the training environment offered here. It tests Soldiers and leaders, as well as the sustainment elements, including medical and (food and water)," said Nadeau. "It puts more pressure on the command teams to ensure food is there for your troops and to have a back up plan in case your convoy gets hit on the way out — you don't want to end up stranded without food and water."

Knight was visiting the 572nd TOC and made time to walk around the area and speak with as many Soldiers as he could.

He said it was important for him to visit his Soldiers during this rotation because he's been in their shoes, and he wanted them to see that their leadership is engaged and supportive of their efforts during a rotation as rigorous as this one at the JRTC.

"I've lived through a combat training center rotation — ours was at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California — and it was hard, as it is designed to be, but it was important for us to see our senior leaders come out and maybe share some of their experiences," he said. "No one wants absentee leaders."



Clockwise from left: Soldiers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team engage the opposing forces May 13 during rotation 19-07 at the JRTC.

A Soldier assigned to 186th BSB, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team off loads artillery rounds May 13.

Brig. Gen. Richard Lebel gets a rundown of the situation at the 572nd BEB TOC from one of his Vermont Soldiers, 1st Lt. Matt Bross, during Rotation 19-07 May 14.

OPERATIONS GROUP PAO



JEAN DUBIEL / GUARDIAN



OPERATIONS GROUP PAO

JRTC, Fort Polk honors blue line brethren at annual breakfast

By **JEAN DUBIEL**
Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation that designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls as National Police Week, to pay tribute to the local, state, and federal law enforcement officers who serve and protect with courage and dedication. These observances also serve as a reminder of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially to acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

Much of the holiday centers on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., whose walls feature the names of more than 21,183 law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty — 106 of those died in 2018. Tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington annually to participate in a number of planned events to honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Here at the Home of Heroes, the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk played host to several off-post police agencies during its second annual National Police Week Law Enforcement Breakfast May 15 at the Warrior Community Center.

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commanding general, JRTC and Fort Polk, said the breakfast served as a backdrop to “share a little friendship, partnership and teamwork with law enforcement officers from our local municipalities. We greatly appreciate what you do for us every day. You do an unbelievable job on a day-in-day-out basis, and you don’t get a lot of credit for it.”

Frank said that while the jobs of Soldiers and police officers share

similar risks and goals, police are seldom recognized for their efforts.

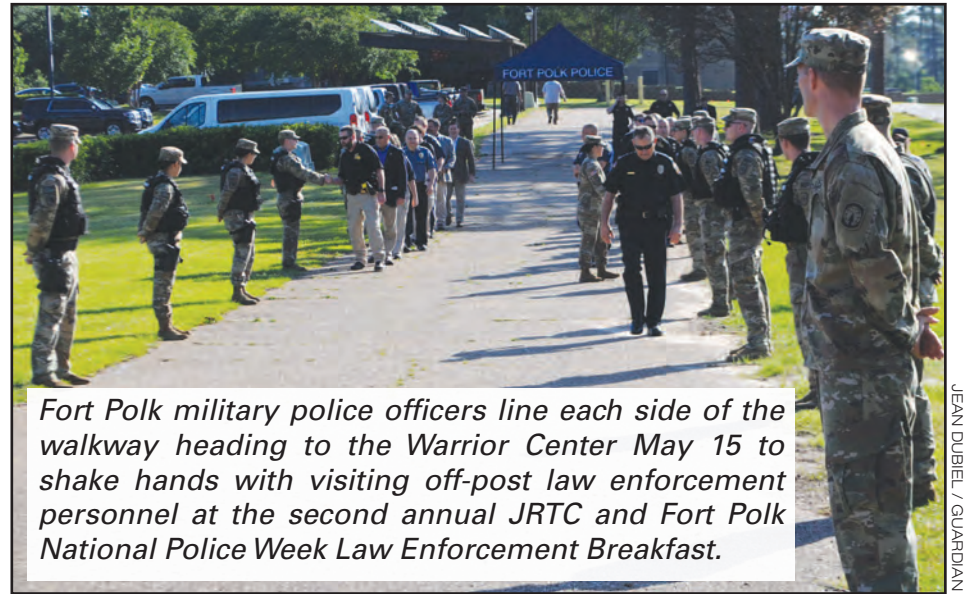
“When our Soldiers come back from (deployment) we have welcome home ceremonies for them here at Fort Polk all the time. There are huge crowds, it gets (featured) on TV and in headlines, but you don’t necessarily see that for law enforcement,” he said. “Your officers are out there on a daily basis, doing much the same thing our Soldiers do overseas, but you don’t get the credit you deserve for what you do, especially for our Soldiers and their Family members.”

Soldiers can focus on their mission because they know the local police will help look after their families back home, said Frank, reading off some examples of how off-post law enforcement assisted Soldiers in their time of need.

“Here is one example from a non-commissioned officer in 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, that says ‘I was recently out in the box at JRTC when a city police officer escorted my spouse’s ambulance from my house to the hospital. It turned out well as my spouse was alright, but knowing that the local authorities cared enough to escort the ambulance gave me great confidence while I was separated from my Family,’” said Frank. “Here’s one from the spouse of a Soldier: ‘We greatly appreciate the way the police patrol through our neighborhoods. Their presence gives our kids and neighbors confidence in the safety of our area.’”

Paul Cryer, Louisiana Department of Safety and Corrections district manager for probation and parole in Vernon and Beauregard parishes, said his agency has a good relationship with installation law enforcement.

“We have Soldiers that have, unfortunately, gotten into trouble out



Fort Polk military police officers line each side of the walkway heading to the Warrior Center May 15 to shake hands with visiting off-post law enforcement personnel at the second annual JRTC and Fort Polk National Police Week Law Enforcement Breakfast.

JEAN DUBIEL / GUARDIAN

of the state of Louisiana, and we supervise their return here,” said Cryer. “We’ve also had some investigations in the past that involved Soldiers and worked with the (Criminal Investigation Division) and (Directorate of Emergency Services) police. We interact with them quite a lot. We’ve always had a good working relationship with Fort Polk.”

Capt. Mike George, Fort Polk investigations chief, said he has worked with many off-post agencies in cases of Soldiers that were absent without leave, confinements, investigations, courts martial, civil papers and serving warrants.

“We have a very good relationship with off-post law enforcement agencies,” he said. “We deal a lot with Vernon Parish and Beauregard Parish, state probation, and all local jurisdictions like Deridder, Leesville, Anacoco and Many.”

Beth Westlake, deputy chief of the Leesville Police Department, said Leesville and Fort Polk law enforcement have had a long, strong relationship of working and even training together. “We help each other all the time. Our relationship

is important because they deal with some of our civilians and we deal with military people, so it’s great to have this kind of partnership,” she said. “I’ve been at the department for 22 years and we’ve always worked well with Fort Polk and I see that continuing in the future.”

Another visiting law enforcement official, Capt. Marty Fletcher of the Pineville Police Department, said the missions of local and military law enforcement are essentially the same. “We are both here to protect and serve, we just do it in a difference capacity,” he said. “It doesn’t matter what part of the country you’re in, all law enforcement are friends. There’s an automatic connection between all of us who serve, and we have the same calling to do this kind of work.”

Frank said the Department of Defense released a message to all installations, buildings, grounds and Navy vessels around the world, to fly the U.S. flag at half-staff on May 15 in acknowledgement of the service and sacrifices law enforcement make each day for their fellow Americans.

DFAC

Continued from page 3

closed was difficult, especially since Soldiers have a limited time frame to eat.

“Having the Patriot Inn open again will be much more convenient. It will help get us in and out faster while enjoying a renovated facility,” he said.

Franco said because of this facility, leadership can have peace of mind that Soldiers are receiving proper sustenance with three square and balanced meals a day, allowing them to keep more money in their pocket.

“Most importantly, Patriot Inn will be providing nutritious meals to our Soldiers that will improve the performance of the formation. Just like the family that eats together, our Patriots and their leaders joining to break bread will strengthen the cohesion of our companies, troops, batteries, platoons and squads,” said Franco.



Culinary specialists serve Soldiers in the entree line at the grand reopening of the Patriot Inn May 13.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

Community

Briefs

School lunches

The following school lunch menu is for Vernon Parish schools for Monday through Thursday. Meals are served with salad bar and choice of milk:

- **Monday:** Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, green beans, chilled pear halves, whole wheat roll.

- **Tuesday:** Taco salad with whole grain chips, Mexicana corn, taco salad cup, fruit, spice cake.

- **Wednesday:** Cheesy chili mac, buttered corn, creamy coleslaw, fruit, whole wheat garlic bread.

- **Thursday:** Hamburger on whole wheat bun, French fries, ranch style beans, lettuce/tomato/pickle cup, orange wedges.

Diva dash

In honor of May's designation as Women's Health Month, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital's Preventive Medicine hosts a Diva Dash 5K, Saturday, from 8-11 a.m. in the BJACH and Army Wellness Center parking lot on Third Street. Check in time is 7:30 a.m. the day of the dash. Register at www.2019DivaDash-walkrun.Eventbrite.com. Call 531-6880/7945 for more information.

Sports physicals

Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital Family Practice Clinic hosts an after hours clinic for Child and Youth Services, school and sports physicals on Tuesday and May 28 from 4-7 p.m. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries will be seen by appointment, one patient per slot. Appointments must be booked through the BJACH appointment line at 531-3011 or (800) 278-9920.

Movie night

The Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts a Movie Night featuring "The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part," Saturday at Warrior Field. Free concessions start at 7:30 p.m. and the movie begins at 8 p.m. Call 531-1959 for more information.

Beach strong

A Beach Strong Man/Woman Competition is held May 25 from 9-11 a.m. at the Toledo Bend Recreation Site. Cost is \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the event. Advance registered participants receive a T-shirt. The event consists of a farmer's carry, atlas stone, tire flip and overhead medley, and is open to active duty, Family members, retirees and Department of Defense

Please see **Briefs**, page 16



ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

From left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher M. Ausbun, garrison command sergeant major, Tamela Phillips, high school principal of the year, Kathy Bass, junior high/middle school principal of the year, Sandra Blakeway, elementary school principal of the year, Tammy Cecil, high school teacher of the year, Tiffany Martin, junior high/middle school teacher of the year, Danelle Nash, elementary school teacher of the year, Faith Sauer, high school student of the year, Evan Shelton, junior high/middle school student of the year, Sydnee Strum, elementary school student of the year and Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, stand together after honorees receive the commanding general's certificate of achievement May 9 at Parkway Elementary School.

Fort Polk celebrates education excellence

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — Building a quality foundation in education can strengthen the chance for a student's future success. Celebrating excellence in education can be key to that outcome.

That's why Fort Polk honored those selected as the Vernon Parish School District's students, teachers and principals of the year for 2019 at a ceremony held at Parkway Elementary School May 9.

Rick Allen, Leesville mayor, spoke on behalf of Fort Polk Progress. He said dedication to the education initiative by educators and students is imperative to its success and those being honored deserve the recognition.

The education initiative, led by Fort Polk Progress, is a partnership with Vernon and Beauregard parishes, Fort Polk, the Vernon Parish Chamber of Commerce and community stakeholders to improve academic performance in school districts which have a large population of military students.

"On behalf of Fort Polk Progress, I want to say to each of you — congratulations," said Allen.

James Williams, VPSD superintendent, said this annual recognition of the best of Vernon Parish education has become a tradition and something to look forward to.

Williams said the selection procedure was intense. "Our honorees are the best of the best and have earned this recognition," he said.

As an example of the process for Principal of the Year, Williams said once selected, candidates were evaluated based on guidelines such as excellence in their field, ability to guide students of

all backgrounds, ability to achieve excellence, demonstrating a positive impact on student achievement and leadership among their peers.

Williams said principals are the leaders that help bring everything together. "They help guide, motivate and support their teachers and students," he said.

Teacher of the Year nominees also had to demonstrate those same attributes. Williams thanked teachers for the work they put into the classroom and their students every day.

"You are the ones making a difference for these kids," he said.

Student nominees were selected by their teachers and administrators, said Williams. "They had to create a portfolio and stand before a committee, which also had stringent criteria to uphold — including excellent academic achievement, leadership ability and citizenship," he said.

Williams told the students being recognized that he appreciated their hard work.

"You have made the right choices and dedicated yourselves and you deserve congratulations," he said.

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, said Fort Polk leadership appreciates its partnership with the Vernon Parish School Board, the city of Leesville, Leesville Chamber of Commerce and Fort Polk Progress in making the education initiative a success.

He said recognizing the top principals, teachers and students is something Fort Polk is proud to do.

"This event is near and dear to Fort Polk be-

Please see **Education**, page 12

Leesville High School JROTC changes command

LHS JROTC

LEESVILLE, La. — The Leesville High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps held its annual change of command ceremony April 12, during which Cadet Lt. Col. MyKayla Alvarez relinquished command to incoming commander, Cadet Lt. Col. Ashlynn Moretti.

Alvarez is the daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Alvarez and Sgt. Jessica Alvarez, who serve at Fort Polk. After graduation, Alvarez will serve her country in the Navy.

Ashlynn Moretti is the daughter of Col. Christopher Moretti, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk chief of staff, and Debra Moretti.

Moretti intends to pursue a scholarship through ROTC and earn a commission in the US military.

Alvarez thanked her staff for their support during her successful tenure as commander. The battalion accomplishments included a drill team that won multiple awards and a physical fitness team that finished in first or second-place in each of their competitions.

The battalion hosted a successful Vernon Classic Drill Meet that included 12 JROTC programs from across the state, with the assistance of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, local Army and Navy recruiters, and Soldiers from the Fort Polk Better Opportunities

for Single Soldiers program.

The battalion conducted several service projects. Working with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 6-1 and the Leesville High School student body, JROTC Soldiers collected more than 1,250 toys for area children in support of the Toys for Tots program. The cadets visited the Veterans Administration Hospital in Pineville, providing gifts, cards and a drill team performance for the veterans there.

The cadets also assisted local Disabled American Veterans Jack Redell Memorial Chapter 20 during the Forestry Festival, manning their concessions booth.

The battalion also hosted the JROTC military ball in December, during which Col. Kendall Clarke, commander of the 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, served as guest speaker. Clarke inspired and challenged the cadets, recollecting his own experiences in JROTC, which helped to shape his decision to serve in the Army.

Alvarez thanked her staff for their hard work and her instructors, retired Lt. Col. Kevin McAllister and retired 1st Sgt. Charles Babineaux for their guidance and the opportunity to lead the battalion. She also thanked her mother for her constant support.

MyKayla said that her time leading the JROTC Battalion provided her with “so many amazing experiences that were truly one of a kind.”

Moretti thanked the outgoing



COURTESY LHS JROTC

Col. Christopher Moretti, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk chief of staff, and his spouse, Debra, pin the rank on their daughter, Ashlynn Moretti, during her promotion to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel prior to the Leesville High School Change of Command Ceremony and Ashlynn's assumption of command April 12.

leadership by saying, “Our (JROTC battalion) is one of the best within the state because of the outstanding cadet leaders that stand before us.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the cadets participated in the battalion's annual organizational day. The cadets competed in various events to earn the title of top company. The results also weigh heavily into the year-long competition for the LHS JROTC Battalion's Honor Company, which takes into account academic performance, athletic achievement and service hours committed to the school and community. The Honor Compa-

ny competition was one instituted by the LHS Battalion staff this school year.

JROTC is a cadet-run program, meaning that while the instructors provide classroom instruction and leadership guidance to the cadets, the cadet chain of command is encouraged and expected to run the battalion. As a result, the leadership lessons for cadets who stay with the program for four years are immeasurable.

All Vernon Parish District students, grades nine through 12, are eligible to participate in the Leesville High School JROTC program.

Education

Continued from page 11

cause improving quality of life for our Soldiers and Families is important to us. Education is the number one issue for our Soldiers and Families. We look closely at how our children are being educated and greatly appreciate the excellence that is represented here tonight. We applaud everything that each of you has done for us at Fort Polk by helping us to move education forward,” he said.

Tamela Phillips, Vernon Parish High School Principal of the Year, is the principal of Leesville High School.

Phillips said she is honored to be commended for the work she does on a daily basis.

“I love my students, teachers and school, but it is special to be recognized for all the hard work me and my fellow principals do,” she said.

Tiffany Martin, Vernon Parish Junior High School/Middle School Teacher of the Year, said she appreciates that someone noticed the work

she does. Martin teaches at Leesville Junior High School.

She said being recognized in this way is something she has shared with her students.

“My kids see how hard I work to nurture their academic achievements and our personal relationships and this shows them how that hard work pays off,” she said. “I told them that being recognized for what I do is really about them being honored.”

Sydnee Sturm, Vernon Parish Elementary School Student of the Year, is a fifth grade student at Vernon Middle School. She said it feels great to be recognized for the many hours of work she and her fellow students do to reach their academic achievements.

“I’m happy to win this award, but there are other kids who have worked just as hard as I have and I feel like I’m representing them, as well as my school, with this honor,” she said.



ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, speaks to the awardees and audience at an event celebrating the Vernon Parish best principal, teacher and student of the year 2019 at Parkway Elementary School May 9.

Practice perishable motorcycle skills before hitting road

By J.T. COLEMAN

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — Each May, Motorcycle Safety Month is celebrated and by now everyone has noticed a marked uptick in the amount of motorcycles sharing the roads with four-wheeled vehicles.

A safe, conscientious motorcycle rider knows riding skills can perish if not used for long periods of time. It is recommended that riders, both novice and experts, review the motorcycle refresher exercise videos found on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center web site at <https://www.rucker.army.mil/tenants/usacrc/>.

In 2016, 4,976 motorcycle riders and passengers died in crashes, and nonfatal injuries that year totaled 88,000, according to Injury Facts, the statistical compendium on unintentional deaths and injuries published by the National Safety Council. Fatalities among motorcycle riders and passengers have increased nearly 3 percent from 2006, driven largely by an 8 percent increase in 2015.

- Motorcycles make up 3 percent of all registered vehicles and only .7 percent of all vehicle miles traveled in the U.S.

- Motorcyclists accounted for 13 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2016.

- 26 percent of riders who died in a motorcycle crash in 2016 were alcohol-impaired.

- 91 percent of riders who died in a motorcycle crash in 2016 were male.

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 80 percent of all motorcycle crashes resulted in serious injury or death.

- 36 percent of all fatalities in 2016 were “older riders.”

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, so-called “re-entry riders,” who rode motorcycles in their 20s and decided to take it up again in their late 40s to 60s, face additional challenges. There is a lot more traffic to operate in, more powerful motorcycles, an overabundance of distracted drivers and their own diminished physical skills. That’s why it’s important when choosing a motorcycle to get one that fits your skill level — not your ego.

A properly-fitted helmet is the most important piece of personal protective equipment the rider and their passenger can use. You should never buy a used helmet, and be sure to look for helmets with the DOT (Department of Transportation) sticker. There are a lot of “fake” helmets that offer little to no protection during accidents. According to Injury Facts, helmets have been estimated to be about 37 percent effective in preventing fatal injuries for the rider and 41 percent for the passenger.

The Army Progressive Motorcycle Program is designed to consistently keep motorcycle operator training current and sustain or enrich rider skills. The program consists of the following courses: Basic Rider Course, BRC2 (formerly Experienced Rider Course), Military Sportbike Rider Course (within 12 months of BRC completion), Motorcycle Refresher Training (required if the Soldier’s deployment is greater than 180 days, and on the individual’s motorcycle) and Motorcycle Sustainment Training (every 5 years following completion of the ERC or MSRC).

If you have questions about required training, contact the Fort Polk Garrison Safety Office at



COURTESY PHOTO

531-1981 or visit the Army IMCOM Registration System (AIRS) website at <https://safety.army.mil/OFF-DUTY/PMV-2-Motorcycles/Training> for information or questions on courses at your location. For courses in your local area please use the Motorcycle Safety Foundation website at www.msf-usa.org.

No matter what kind of motorcycle you ride, the training you have received, or the personal protective equipment you wear, there are a few extra things to consider before venturing out for your season-opener ride.

- Drive defensively and exercise caution — especially at intersections.

- Watch for hazards like potholes, manhole covers, oil slick roadways, puddles, debris, railroad tracks and gravel. These can cause you to wreck if not properly addressed.

- Assume you are invisible to other motorists around you and position yourself to be seen. Never ride in someone’s blind spot; that can prove to be deadly.

- Always use your headlights — both day and night.

- Be courteous to other drivers; don’t weave in and out of lanes, or ride on the shoulder or in between lanes.

- Wear bright or reflective clothing with long-sleeved shirts, long pants, leather boots that cover the ankles and full-fingered gloves.

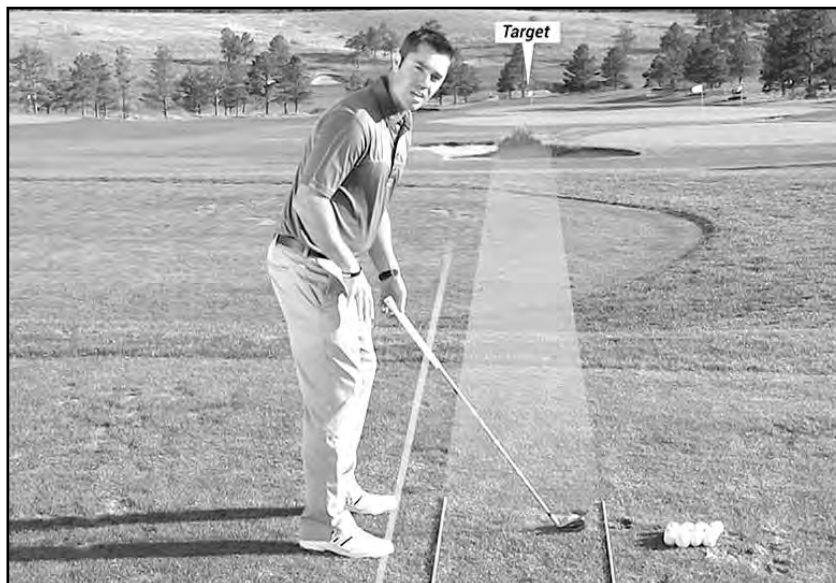
- Wear a DOT approved helmet with goggles, glasses or use a face shield that is ventilated to prevent fogging, and make sure it’s clear if riding at night.

- Under no circumstance should you drink and ride. There are too many other safer options to getting you home. Use them.

So, before you grab a handful of throttle and hit the open roads, make sure to have your motorcycle checked out, your training current and the appropriate weather for your planned route. Remember, the most effective piece of equipment is your brain.

Don’t leave home without it.

Weekly golf tip for beginners



COURTESY PHOTO

*This week’s golf tip for beginners is titled: **Take Dead Aim.***

Not just for your feet but also knees, hips, shoulders and club face. Most right-handed golfers aim right but this doesn’t always mean the ball will go right as often their swing will compensate for poor alignment. Check your alignment every practice session for the rest of your life!

Parkway Elementary School students celebrate Louisiana Culture Day

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — Parkway Elementary School's third grade celebrated Louisiana Culture Day May 15.

The day began more than 25 years ago when Gloria Orgain, a third grade teacher, decided to highlight the Social Studies unit on Louisiana by ending it with a day of fun and Louisiana food.

"In the beginning, it was just my class that did this, but over the years it became so popular that now every class on the third grade hall participates," said Orgain.

Students learn about the foods that are a staple of the Louisiana culture including fried catfish, boiled crawfish and more.

Parent volunteers help cook the food and participate with their children. Because of the high concentration of military children at the school, Orgain said this is the first time many of the children and parents are trying these dishes.

After everything was cooked and ready to serve, third grade students, teachers and parents sat down to enjoy the bounty of their labor.



ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

Kellie Majners, a third grade teacher at Parkway Elementary School, takes a picture of some of her students as they watch a live crawfish before it meets its doom in boiling water. To the left and bending close for a better look at the crawfish is Aiden Henry, 9, behind him is Jake Skinner, 10, center is Konner Smith, 9, and on the right is Tristan Alexander, 8.



Brittany Pomier, parent volunteer, shakes on some batter for fried catfish at Parkway Elementary School's Louisiana Culture Day May 15.



Todd Pomier, parent volunteer, empties live crawfish from a bag as Parkway Elementary students and his daughter Adalynn, 3, look on.



Todd Pomier, parent volunteer, pours boiled crawfish into an insulated chest to keep them warm before Parkway Elementary students and parents peel and eat.

Ruston home to oldest ag-based festival in state

By **CHUCK CANNON**
Guardian editor

FORT POLK, La. — Back in the early 1950s, peach growers and businessmen put their heads together to come up with a way to boost the summer economy and draw crowds into downtown Ruston, La.

Now, each fourth weekend in June, fun, food and festivities fill the city during the annual Squire Creek Louisiana Peach Festival. This year's festival is June 21-22.

Both spectators and vendors come from throughout the South to be part of Louisiana's oldest agriculture-based festival.

The festival's infancy was born in the late 1930s when several commercial peach orchards were located

in Lincoln Parish. In 1947, the area peach growers organized the Louisiana Fruit Growers Association. In 1951, the decision was made to promote their industry by spreading word throughout Louisiana and surrounding states of the excellent taste of Lincoln Parish Peaches.

Through extensive hours of planning and sleepless nights for several months, plans to hold an annual Louisiana Peach Festival were placed on the drawing board in June 1951 by J. E. Mitcham, president of the Louisiana Fruit Growers Association, and Walter Smith, chairman of the first Louisiana Peach Festival. Advertisements were placed everywhere from newspapers to banners and placards

headlining the popular Dixie gem peach.

The first Peach festival was held on June 27-28, 1951, and achieved far greater success than any of the sponsors expected. The event consisted of "Peaches and Posies" flower show, a peach cookery contest, an art show, several athletic tournaments, and the crowning of the First Queen Dixie Gem and Princess Peach.

It was no surprise that the

Louisiana Peach festival grew in size and popularity. In 1952, its activities doubled in attendance. In its third year, the festival won national attention when Queen Dixie Gem III, Dorothy Elta Goff, traveled to Washington D.C to present then Vice President Richard Nixon a box of peaches.

Events include arts and crafts, food, live music nightly in Ruston's

Please see **Peach**, page 16



Visitors wander the grounds of the Louisiana Peach Festival in downtown Ruston.



Judges sample peach-themed dishes during the cooking contest at the Louisiana Peach Festival in Ruston.



You can count on plenty of peaches at the Louisiana Peach Festival in Ruston.

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Peach

Continued from page 15

historic Railroad Park, a parade, antique car show, 5K run, children's day in the park, fishing tournaments for both kids and adults, a treasure hunt, tennis tournament, pet show, petting zoo, pony rides, rock wall, peach-eating contest, cookery contest, and an invitational golf tournament at the Tom Fazio-designed Squire Creek Country Club course.

This year's featured musicians are Jelly, Joe Haydel Band, Jordan Sheppard and the Cypress Knees, North Louisiana Gris Gris and others.

Admission on June 21 is free from noon-5 p.m. and \$10 from 5-10 p.m. On June 22, all-day admission from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. is \$10. A weekend pass that covers both days is \$15. Children age 11 and under get in free.

Tickets to the concert are available now by contacting the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce at (318) 255-2031 or emailing peach@rustonlincoln.org.

In addition to music, the festival features two venues for arts and crafts. One is exclusively for handmade items, and the other open to handmade or resale items. Items range from candles and soaps to woodworking, metal work, paintings and photographs, children's toys, clothing, home décor, and knickknacks.

And there are always fresh peaches and peach ice cream. This year's food menu will also feature peach tea and other peach-theme items.

For more information visit www.louisiana-peachfestival.org.



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Briefs

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civilians age 18 and older. To register or for more information call (318) 565-4235 or (888) 718-9088.

Surplus sale

The Fort Polk Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Spring Surplus Outdoor Recreation and Boat Sale will take place via an online auction.

For details visit the Fort Polk DFMWR website at www.polk.armymwr.com and its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fortpolkmwr. There are two physical viewing dates for customers to see items in person: Today and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 531-1787 for more information.

Sidewalk sale

The Fort Polk Commissary is hosting a sidewalk sale today and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. each day. Shoppers can purchase limited items by the case at bargain prices. Call 531-7678 for more information.

Superman 5K

In honor of June's designation as Men's Health Month, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital Preventive Medicine hosts a Superman 5K, June 8, from 8-11 a.m. in the BJACH and Army Wellness Center parking lot on Third Street. Check-in time is 7:30 a.m. the day

of the event. Register at www.superman5kfunwalkrun.Eventbrite.com. Everyone is invited to wear Superman or super hero T-shirts. There are free raffle prizes. Call 531-6880/4818 for more information.

Arts, crafts contest

The 2019 U.S. Army Arts and Crafts Contest recognizes the artistic talent and creativity in two experience levels and nine categories. Entry deadline is July 8. Enter online at www.armymwr.com/artsand-crafts. For more information call the Fort Polk Arts and Crafts Center at 531-4348.

ARC VolunTeen

The American Red Cross summer VolunTeen Program is open to youth ages 13-17 and runs from June 10-July 26. Applications are due no later than today at 4 p.m. For more information and to see if you qualify call Leslie Jones at (804) 385-0966.

Right arm night

The Fort Polk Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts a Right Arm Night May 31 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Warrior Center. The event is open to DFMWR patrons ages 18 and older, and includes a hamburger

bar, prizes and more. Call 531-1959 or visit www.polk.armymwr.com for more information.

Soccer camp

Challenger International Soccer Camp is back at Fort Polk by popular demand for two sessions: June 3-7 and July 22-26. Classes for TinyTykes (ages 3-5) are 8-9 a.m. and cost \$96. Classes for ages 6-12 are from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and cost \$149. Applications can be picked up at Child and Youth Services, bldg 400, 6880 Radio Road. Mail applications and payment (checks payable to Challenger Sports) to:

Mike Rees
Challenger Sports
4403 Manchaca Road, Suite C
Austin, Texas 78745
Email mrees@challengersports.com for more information.

Mulligan's hours

Hours of operation for Mulligan's Deli, Bar and Warrior Center Catering are as follows:

- Warrior Center Catering,

Monday through Friday, 8-10:30 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.; call 531-4440.

- Mulligan's Deli, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; call 531-7668.

- Mulligan's Bar, Tuesday through Friday, 4-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; call 531-7668. For details visit polk.armymwr.com.

Exchange pets

The Fort Polk Main Exchange offers a Patriot Pet Just Say "Treat" Photo Contest. Through May 31, Fort Polk shoppers can submit a patriotically-themed photo of their furry friends at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes for a chance to win prizes. One grand-prize winner will receive a \$1,000 Exchange gift card, while four first-place winners will receive \$500 Exchange gift cards. Complete contest rules can be found at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes. Call 537-1792 for more information.

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Youth, fire create volatile mixture: Set good example

By **CHAD ESTES**
FES fire inspector

FORT POLK, La. — It's hard to believe but this school year is almost over. While you may not be looking forward to the summer break, the kids are. Most are anxiously awaiting the day when they can say goodbye to their teachers and homework.

Unfortunately, that anxious energy may soon turn to boredom. With this boredom comes carelessness and experimentation which can lead to someone calling 9-1-1.

Each year in this country, fires set by children are responsible for more than 100 fire deaths, nearly 1,000 painful burn injuries and hundreds of millions of dollars in property loss. Children are often the victims in these fires. While curiosity about fire is natural, fires set by children are dangerous and deadly.

The best way to understand why children set fires is to look at their motivations for fire setting. For most young kids, the motive is experimentation and curiosity. Motives can involve a cry for help, thrill-seeking, willful intent to cause destruction or children who suffer from mental or emotional problems.

Younger children are more likely to set fires in homes, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside. Research shows that males are more likely to engage in fire play than females, as 83 percent of home structure fires

and 93 percent of outside fires are set by males.

Lighters were the heat source 150 percent of child-playing fires in homes. A child's bedroom continues to account for 40 percent of child-playing home fires.

To help keep your home safe, follow these guidelines:

- Always supervise young children.
- Never leave matches or lighters within reach of children. Keep matches and lighters out of reach in high, locked cabinets.
- Instruct young children to inform an adult if they find matches or lighters.
- Regularly inspect your home for fire hazards.
- Install and maintain working smoke alarms throughout your home.
- Plan and practice home fire-escape drills that include two ways out from every room.

The most critical message for children to learn is that matches and lighters are tools, not toys.

Parents should never use lighters, matches and fire for fun; children will mimic you, and when they do it unsupervised, tragic events can result.

Praise your child for practicing responsible behavior and showing respect for fire.

Set a good example: Use matches, lighters and fire carefully, as children will imitate positive behavior too.



A child's playhouse on Fort Polk in excellent condition.



The same playhouse after being destroyed by fire.

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As a teacher and a single parent, I work to provide for both my child and my students. I tutor in the afternoons. I teach summer school. I've worked as a store clerk and pizza delivery person.

Sometimes I drive for a ride sharing service on the weekends. I do a lot of things to make ends meet because I don't make enough in my career.

- Valencia Johnson -

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Learn about Cajun culture at Kent Plantation House Saturday

KENT PLANTATION HOUSE

ALEXANDRIA, La. — Kent Plantation House, located at 3601 Bayou Rapides Road in Alexandria, hosts a French Heritage festival Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Local Cajun food vendors will sell jambalaya, red beans and rice, boudin, fried catfish, poboys, pralines and snoballs.

Don't miss the soapmaking demonstration at Oma's Favorite Soap Cottage at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and observe lace tatting, wool spinning and candlemaking throughout the day.

You can even pick up a few Cajun skills, like learning to play bouree (a card game) or dancing while listening to the infectious strains of squeezebox, washboard and fiddle music.

Local percussionist Elizabeth Vidos hosts a children's program chock full of crafts and

games, so be sure to bring the kids.

The Kent Plantation House is an authentic creole plantation house built in 1796 prior to the Louisiana Purchase. It is one of the oldest standing structures in the state and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Together with its outbuildings, Kent House preserves the homestead of a successful Creole family.

All the material used to build the house came from the land: Clay was used for brick pillars, cypress wood for sills and beams, and mud, Spanish Moss and animal hair for the bousillage walls.

Admission to Kent house is \$11 for adults, \$9 for military and seniors age 65 and older, \$3.50 for children age 6-12 and free for children younger than 6. For more information visit the website at www.kenthouse.org or call (318) 487-5998.



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BOSS

Check out Fort Polk's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers. The organization offers single Soldiers the opportunity to volunteer, as well as participate in fun events. Don't miss your chance to take part. BOSS meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10-11 a.m. at the Home of Heroes Recreation Center. The next meeting is Wednesday.

Festivals

• Mayhaw festival

Celebrating 27 years, the Starks Mayhaw Festival features carnival rides, arts and crafts, live music, delicious Southern food and enough mayhaw berries and jelly for the whole family.

Festival grounds are located at the corners of La. hwy 109 and 12. Get your fill of biscuits, jelly and home-churned butter Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m., followed by the highlight of the festival, the Mayhaw Jelly Contest at 10 a.m. A live auction begins at 1 p.m. and musical acts begin at 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information visit www.mayhawfest.com.

• Meat festival

If you are hungry, stop by the Smoked Meat Festival today and Saturday.

This celebration speaks to the carnivore in everyone. Head south from Fort Polk for an hour and a half to visit Ville Platte, "smoked meat capital of the world," and stop at the North Side Civic Center and pavilion, 704 North Soileau St. You'll probably smell the smoked meat before you get out of your vehicle.

The festival began in 1992 and was dedicated to the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Association. Today, the festival's goal is to

honor all military veterans. Everyone is invited to take part in the two-day celebration of culture, cuisine and heroes.

Enjoy good food and live music by Ashton Dupre, Side Show, One Trick Pony and more. For more information visit www.facebook.com/lasmokedmeatfestival.

• Fair fun

The 30th annual Cajun Heartland State Fair, Thursday-June 2, offers ride specials, food, free attractions, live entertainment and family oriented games to make an outstanding summer experience.

There's something for everyone to enjoy at the midway and around the fairgrounds. The fair takes place at the Cajundome, 444 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette.

For more information call (337) 265-2104 or visit www.cajundome.com.

Miscellaneous

• Outdoor fun

For those who love flora and fauna, don't miss the 29th annual Bogs, Baygalls, Birds, Butterflies and Botanical Bliss event taking place today and Saturday at Allen Acres, Cravens. There will be presentations, tours, field trips, pot lucks and more. For more information visit

www.allenacresbandb.com.

• Concert series

Downtown at Sundown is a "can't miss" event in Lake Charles. The concert series starts today and continues for the next three Fridays — May 24, 31 and June 7 from 2-10 p.m. on Ryan Street.

This annual outdoor music and art event features a different local or regional artist for each concert, performing favorite music genres

of the region such as Cajun, Zydeco, swamp-pop and classic rock.

The event also offers food and beverage booths, tabletop galleries, art sales and activities for kids.

The 2019 line up includes:

*Today — Calcasieu Cajun Ramblers

*May 24 — Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience

*May 31 — Bluesiana RED

*June 7 — The Tugboats

In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be held inside the Lake Charles Civic Center. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music.

No pets or outside beverages are permitted on site. For more information call (337) 491-9159 or go to www.CityOfLakeCharles.com.

• Hearth cooking

Create your own experience in living history during an open hearth cooking demonstration at Audubon State Historic Site, 11788 La. Hwy 965, St. Francisville, Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Explore hearth cooking from the 1800s as costumed demonstrators use period techniques, equipment and recipes to show just how much effort it took to create the meals of yesterday.

The program is included in the standard grounds charge for the park. Admission is \$10 per adult ages 18-62; \$8 per seniors ages 62 and older; \$6 per student ages 4 to 17 and free for children 3 and under. For more information visit www.las-tateparks.com.

Clubs/groups

• Language club

Immerse yourself in learning a foreign language such as Russian,

Spanish, Brazilian, Portuguese or Tagalog by attending the Language Immersion Table. The club meets the first Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. The next meeting is June 5. For more information and location call Miguel Moyeno at (636) 577-4274.

• Bass Masters

Join the Fort Polk Community Bass Masters. The club meets monthly on the Tuesday before each tournament.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the New Llano American Legion, Post 387, 500 Vernon St., New Llano. The May tournament takes place at Toledo Bend May 25. The entry fee is \$40.

For more information visit www.fortpolkcommunitybassmasters.com.

• Lose weight

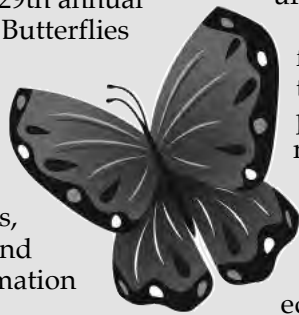
Join Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) every Thursday at the Vernon Parish Library meeting room. Weigh in is from 5-5:50 p.m.

The meeting starts at 5:50 p.m. For more information call (337) 208-0896.

• Toastmasters

Is Toastmasters right for you? Do you want to become a confident public speaker and strong leader? If so, Toastmasters is the place you want to be. You'll find a supportive learn-by-doing environment that allows you to achieve your goals at your own pace. There is a Toastmasters Club located at Fort Polk called Speak and Grow Toastmasters. The club encourages anyone interested to stop by and visit with them.

The club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Education Center, Room 208 from noon-1 p.m. The next meeting is June 5. For more information call LaVersa Wiltz at (337) 208-8557.



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System Administrator Intermediate – Ft. Polk

Posting Date: 04-04-2019
Position Name: System Administrator-Intermediate
Company: Fort Polk, LA
SCA Wage Category: Exempt
Shift: 1st
Employee Type: Regular Full Time

Security Clearance Status: Active and/or Able to Obtain
Security Clearance Type: Top Secret
US Citizenship Required: Yes
Job Level: Technician
Travel: Negligible

As the System Administrator-Intermediate, you will have an expert understanding of system Servers to include Storage Area Network Servers (SAN), Network Attached Servers (NAS) and replication software in physical and virtual environment for both classified and unclassified environments.

Highlights of Responsibilities:

- Manage File access control permissions
- Coordinate file access with customers
- Participates in technical research and development to enable continuing innovation
- Ensures that system hardware, operating systems, software systems, and related procedures adhere to government policies.
- Perform daily system monitoring, verifying the integrity and availability of all hardware, server resources, systems and key processes, reviewing system and application logs, and verifying completion of scheduled jobs such as backups.
- Manage servers and data
- Monitor and troubleshoot all servers for availability
- Plan and schedule the installation of Government-approved, new or modified hardware, operating systems, and software applications.
- Test government-provided software and continually review IT hardware and software to ensure it is responsive to end user needs
- Administer accounts, network rights, and access to systems and equipment.
- Maintain, update and correct systems configurations to resolve hardware/software interface and interoperability problems

Candidate Requirements:

- Active DoD Top Secret Security Clearance
- Computing environment certification
- VMware
- SharePoint
- SQL Database
- SCCM
- CompTIA Security+ certified
- Must obtain Computing Environment certification within 6 months of hire
- MS Office Suite Proficient

It is the policy of GC&E to provide equal opportunity in recruiting, hiring, training, and promoting individuals in all job categories without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected class or category as may be defined by the federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

We affirm that all compensation, benefits, company-sponsored training, educational assistance, social, and recreational programs are administered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity. It is our firm intent to support equal employment opportunity and affirmative action in keeping with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

We maintain a drug-free work place and pre-employment drug testing is required.
The information above has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees with the classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees assigned to this position.
E-mail to Recruiting@gcesg.com

IT Customer Service Desk– Ft. Polk

Posting Date: 04-04-2019
Position Name: Computer Network Support Specialist Information Systems Mgr.
Company: Fort Polk, LA
SCA Wage Category: Computer Operator II
Shift: 1st
Employee Type: Regular Full Time
Security Clearance Status: Active and/or Able to Obtain
Security Clearance Type: Secret
US Citizenship Required: Yes
Job Level: Technician
Travel: Negligible

As the Computer Network Support Specialist, you will provide remote and deskside Help Desk support to general users and VIP/Priority users. Support includes active directory account creations, shared drive permissions, local and network printer installs, software uninstall/reinstalls, and basic software and network troubleshooting. More detailed support may be required in troubleshooting detailed organization specific software, network printer/multifunctional devices and the ability to identify/replace faulty warranty supported hardware.

Highlights of Responsibilities:

- Diagnose computer errors and provide technical support
- Troubleshoot software, hardware, printer and basic network issues
- Provide quality customer service skills
- Utilization of ITSM Remedy ticketing system
- Complete workload within contractual timeframes
- Provide additional availability to support associated tasks

Candidate Requirements:

- Active DoD Secret Security Clearance
- Windows 10
- Safe Driver Training
- Understanding of the C4IM services list
- Understanding of I3A standards
- CompTIA Security+ certified
- Must obtain Computing Environment certification within 6 months of hire
- MS Office Suite Proficient

It is the policy of GC&E to provide equal opportunity in recruiting, hiring, training, and promoting individuals in all job categories without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected class or category as may be defined by the federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

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E-mail to Recruiting@gcesg.com



Fort Polk
Guardian

www.thefortpolkguardian.com

Tradin' Post Ads

Published for the community of Fort Polk, La.

Deadline For All Classified
Ads Is Noon Tuesday

Turn in ads to the
Public Affairs Office,
Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr.
or fax to: 318-352-3667
or email to
tradingpostads@yahoo.com

Information Security Specialist – Ft. Polk

Posting Date: 04-04-2019
Position Name: Information Security Specialist
Company: Fort Polk, LA
SCA Wage Category: Exempt
Shift: 1st
Employee Type: Regular Full Time

Security Clearance Status: Active and/or Able to Obtain
Security Clearance Type: Top Secret
US Citizenship Required: Yes
Job Level: Technician
Travel: Negligible

As the Information Security Specialist, you will be responsible for assisting the Fort Polk NEC in meeting architectural and Defense-in-depth requirements for IA solutions and participate in the Risk Management Framework (RMF). You will provide information assurance vulnerability management (IAVM), system patches, and anti-virus updates from applicable original equipment manufacturer (OEM), industry, and government sources when published; evaluate each update against system components for operational impact; and deliver and implement each update to system components throughout the operations and maintenance phase of the system lifecycle.

Highlights of Responsibilities:

- Assist the Government in leading post-wide security initiatives that enhance overall network defense in depth, including DoD-mandated requirements in addition to local initiatives.
- Provide DoD PKI Services including directory support, certification validation, registration, interface to related Army systems, hosting of PKI-enabled servers, key management services and PKI solutions for required applications and objectives.
- Provide Security Risk Assessment support, perform risk analysis of resources, controls, vulnerabilities, threats and the impact of losing system capabilities of mission objectives.
- Facilitate decisions to implement security countermeasures or mitigate risk and implement approved countermeasures.
- Participate in the change management process and provide formal written recommendations to the Government for approval and implementation.
- Provide support to the Risk Management Framework (RMF) process in IAW AR 25-1 and NETCOM/NEC guidance. Review, validate, and maintain Tenant Support Plans (TSP) and all other Certification and accreditation (C&A) requirements and documentation for each organization/activity/unit on the installation in order to identify and document each network point of presence.
- Support Information Assurance Vulnerability Alert (IAVA) compliance programs and compliance monitoring of all network connected assets, including touch labor support.
- Perform Network and Workstation scans weekly or more often as required and compile vulnerability reports to facilitate corrections.
- Assist the Government in development of the Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) and IAVM Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) IAW ARCYBER/NETCOM/NEC requirements and guidance.
- Ensure new contract personnel obtain the appropriate background investigation/security clearance prior to unsupervised privileged access or management responsibilities to any systems.
- Assist in the planning, implementation and management of a Defense In Depth for the total network and/or enclaves within the network to include such items as: scanning, remediation, host and network intrusion detection/prevention, virus programs, vulnerability scanning, wireless intrusion detection sensors (WIDS), content filtering, remote dial-in protection, Host Base Security Services, Directory Services, and Risk Management Framework (RMF).
- Review audit logs and report suspicious activity.
- Provide/push patches for each authorized network-connected device as required.
- Monitor automated systems to detect and report malicious or unauthorized activities on the network.
- Distribute local IA policy, including Network Security, Security Awareness, Remote Access, Acceptable Use, etc.;
- Comply with the management and documentation of hardware/software changes as identified by the local Change Control Board Charter

Candidate Requirements:

- Active DoD Top Secret Security Clearance
- Computing environment certification
- Windows Server 2012 R2
- Windows 10
- VMware
- Host Based Security System (HBSS)
- ACAS Vulnerability Scanning
- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)
- SCCM
- CompTIA Security+ certified
- Must obtain Computing Environment certification within 6 months of hire
- MS Office Suite Proficient

It is the policy of GC&E to provide equal opportunity in recruiting, hiring, training, and promoting individuals in all job categories without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected class or category as may be defined by the federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

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E-mail to Recruiting@gcesg.com

Fort Polk Guardian

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Tradin' Post Ads

Published for the community of Fort Polk, La.

Deadline For All Classified Ads Is Noon Tuesday

Turn in ads to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr. or fax to: 318-352-3667 or email to tradingpostads@yahoo.com

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* Advertising is FREE for soldiers, family members and DA civilians.
* Businesses will not receive free advertising. All business ads must be prepaid. We accept Visa and Mastercard. (This includes child care, quarters-cleaning, or the sale and/or breeding of multiple pedigreed/registered animals)
* Only single soldiers living in barracks may list numbers with 531 prefixes.

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Deadline for FREE ads is NOON Tuesday.

Category: ☐ Household Appliances ☐ Furniture ☐ Sporting goods ☐ TV/Radio/Stereo
☐ Motor Vehicles ☐ Computers ☐ Pets ☐ Garage Sales ☐ Real Estate ☐ Misc.

Advertisement: In 25 words or less (one word per block) give description, price, telephone number and other pertinent information. For garage sales, list time, date and location.

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Signature: _____ Phone: _____

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