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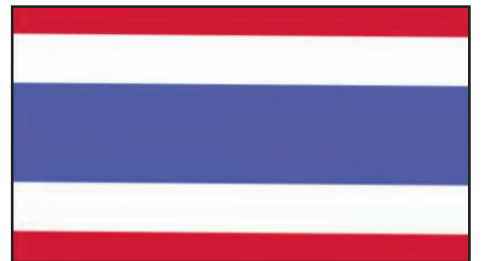
WARRIOR SPIRIT

THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

Vol. 46, No.40

Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

Oct. 4, 2019



Soldiers with the British 5 Rifles conduct combat operations during Rotation 19-10 at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Sept. 30.

JRTC OPERATIONS GROUP



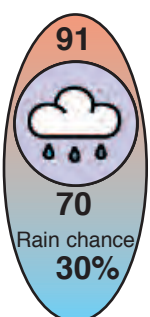
Kingdom of Thailand soldiers work on a terrain model during JRTC Rotation 19-10.



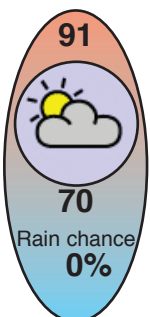
Australian Army Maj. Gen. Chris Field (right) is briefed by one of his soldiers during JRTC Rotation 19-10.

Allies forge Warrior Spirit at JRTC during Rotation 19-10

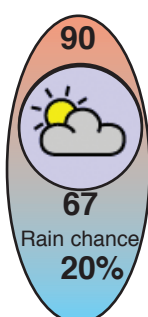
Weekend weather



Today



Saturday



Sunday

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Viewpoint

Secretary of the Army addresses Army readiness

By **RYAN D. MCCARTHY**

Secretary of the Army

To the Army team,
It is a great honor to serve alongside you as your 24th Secretary of the Army. Over the past two years, I witnessed firsthand the dedication and sacrifices our Soldiers, civilians and Families make every day defending our great nation. Thank you for your hard work and continued service.

Despite significant leadership transition across the Department of Defense recently, the Army has remained focused on its missions in support of the National Defense Strategy. Continuity of priorities and leadership focus is critical to achieve the 2018 Army Vision, which provides the strategic framework for guiding the Army into the next decade.

Therefore, the Army's priorities — readiness, modernization and reform — are not changing.

The Army has increased its tactical readiness drastically, and now we will expand our focus to improve strategic readiness — our ability to mobilize, deploy and sustain the force. We must maintain a sustain-

able level of readiness to meet current demands while executing an aggressive modernization strategy to ensure the Total Army remains the most lethal ground combat force in the world.

The Army must modernize today or we could lose the next war. We will remain focused on delivering the 31 signature systems our cross-functional teams are developing in support of the six modernization priorities and ensure we can employ them the day they show up.

To achieve this, we are integrating modernization efforts across doctrine, organizational designs, training models, leader development, personnel systems, facilities and policies.

Furthermore, the Army cannot maximize its modernization strategy without the Cloud, which is the backbone for artificial intelligence. On reforms, the Army will continue to ruthlessly prioritize resources and divest legacy programs through "Night Court" sessions, so we can scale new capabilities for low-rate initial production.

Most importantly, we must do all of this while taking care of our people.

The Army fights and wins with cohesive, disciplined teams. We will reverse the negative trends in suicide, sexual assault and sexual harassment that tear at the fabric of our formations.

To do this, we have to change our Army culture to become better teammates. Teammates know each other, mentor each other and help each

other through difficult times.

Leaders at all levels must build cohesive teams and

get to know their people to address challenges before they manifest into larger problems that degrade unit effectiveness.

I will work shoulder-to-shoulder with my teammates, the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Sergeant Major of the Army, to take care of our people, sustain readiness gains and build irreversible momentum in our modernization efforts. Through teamwork, the U.S. Army will remain the most lethal, modern fighting force in the world.

Army Strong!

Commentary

In our view

Guardian staff asked Fort Polk community members, "What is the one thing you have always wanted to do and why?"



Kofi Kyereme: "Finish my master's degree because I want that achievement before I retire in the next couple of years."



Pfc. Christina Martinez: "I've always wanted to have a chicken as a pet because I think they are so cool."



Spc. Dionna Garcia: "I've always wanted to get a college degree to set myself and my Family up for success and to have a good career."



Spc. Aspen Gramig: "I want to go to Norway. That's where my ancestors are from and I want to learn more about my family's heritage."



Guardian

Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank
Joint Readiness Training Center
and Fort Polk commanding general

Col. Ryan K. Roseberry
Garrison commander

Kim Reischling
Public affairs officer

Chuck Cannon
Command information officer

Angie Thorne

T.C. Bradford

Keith Houin
Staff writers

Editorial Offices

Building 4919, Magnolia Street
Fort Polk, LA 71459-5060

Voice (337) 531-4033

Fax (337) 531-1401

Email: Kimberly.Reischling@us.army.mil

Trading post ads:

tradingpostads@yahoo.com

Fort Polk Homepage

<http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil>

Advertising

For advertising contact
Theresa Larue
(337) 404-7242

Email: sales@thefortpolkguardian.com

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Briefs

Road repair

The contract to repair Louisiana Avenue from the Visitor Control Center to La. Hwy 467 was awarded with a required completion date of Nov. 15. Work requirements include base failure repairs, removing (milling) the asphalt and repaving with a new asphalt overlay and new pavement markings.

The work is planned for a phased execution to minimize disruptions to access control point 1 operations for both inbound and outbound traffic.

The first phase of the project will require the contractor to place one lane closures at multiple locations along Louisiana Avenue to execute the base failure repairs. Motorists should expect aggregate travel surfaces at the locations the contractor has executed base failure repairs and should be aware of construction crews and equipment adjacent to travel ways.

ACP 1 will remain open for both inbound and outbound traffic for phase 1, but alternate routes are encouraged to minimize delays and traffic congestion at these sites.

Updates will be provided when the Fort Polk Directorate of Public Works receives detailed schedules and traffic impacts for each phase.

Access Control Point 4 (Louisiana Avenue near La. Hwy 10 and Lookout Road) is open 4-6 p.m. Monday through Friday for outbound traffic to relieve congestion cause by road construction on Entrance Road and will remain open until construction is complete.

DAV assistance

Chapter 20 Disabled American Veterans in Leesville has a service officer available to file VA disability claims. The officer is located in the Railway Suites behind the Vernon Parish Court House. For more information and to setup a appointment call 531-5614.

Branch visit

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk hosts an infantry officer branch visit Oct. 16-17 at 9 a.m. in the Fort Polk Mission Training Center theater.

Officers in the grades of second lieutenant through major will be given the opportunity to meet their branch manager, receive an informational brief and individually discuss their careers.

POC is 1st Lt. Madeline Platt, madeline.l.platt@mail.mil or 531-1107. For more information see Fort Polk OPORD 19-073.



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter accident claimed the life of Maj. Trevor Joseph, commander, Charlie Company, 1-5 Aviation, at about 12:50 a.m., Sept. 26. The other Soldiers were injured and are in stable condition. Joseph was commissioned in 2008 and served two combat tours in Afghanistan (2010 and 2017). Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Valor and Parachutist Badge.

Accident claims life of JRTC Soldier

GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — Maj. Trevor Joseph, the commander of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment MEDEVAC unit known across the Army as “Cajun Dustoff,” was killed Sept. 26 at about 12:50 a.m. in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter accident during a Joint Readiness Training Center rotation within the Fort Polk training area.

Three other 1-5 AV Soldiers were injured.

Joseph, from Collierville, Tennessee, comes from a family with a tradition of proud military service. He was commissioned in 2008 as a medical services officer and began his exceptional service to the U.S. Army as a pilot. Joseph took command of C/1-5 AV in July 2018. During the course of his career he deployed twice to combat in Afghanistan (2010 and 2017). Previous duty assignments include Fort Riley, Kansas (2015-2017), Fort Rucker, Alabama (2011-2013) and Fort Bragg, North Carolina (2008-2010).

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Valor, two Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Senior Service Medal.

“The Army, JRTC and Fort Polk, and 1-5 AV have lost an exceptional leader, warrior, officer and pilot,” said Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commander, JRTC and Fort Polk. “Major Trevor Joseph led the most active MEDEVAC Company in our Army; he excelled leading Cajun Dustoff and ensuring Soldiers in rotation at JRTC had rapid access to medical coverage — his team built readiness for the US Army. Trevor’s spouse, Erin, and his entire Family are in our thoughts and prayers.”

During a speech Frank made at Fort Riley,

Kansas, for the 98th year of the Annual Officers of the First Division Dinner, he recognized Joseph’s actions under fire in Afghanistan.

“Captain Trevor Joseph a MEDEVAC pilot, serves as the Company Commander of Charlie Company, 2-1 Aviation,” Frank said. “Last fall, on the 3rd of November in Eastern Afghanistan, the DUSTOFF Medevac crew was notified of U.S. and Afghan Army forces involved in a fierce battle against the Taliban.

“Responding to the call, DUSTOFF-62 maneuvered to a small, dusty landing zone — only big enough for one helicopter. Immediately the enemy engaged the Blackhawk with intense fire. DUSTOFF-62 was advised to evacuate the area, but Captain Joseph refused to depart. Instead, he calmly identified Taliban fighters and called out their locations to his door gunners allowing the flight medics to load two wounded American Soldiers and four injured Afghan Army soldiers — all while under constant enemy fire.

“As DUSTOFF-62 pulled off the landing zone, Taliban machine guns fired on the aircraft, but a series of evasive maneuvers allowed the Blackhawk to avoid accurate enemy fire and rapidly move the injured Soldiers to a surgical team. Trevor’s courageous actions and leadership saved the lives of multiple Soldiers. He and his crew were awarded the Air Medal with ‘V’ Device for Valor. A 1st ID combat hero, Captain Trevor Joseph is here with us tonight with his wife Erin.”

Joseph is survived by his wife, Erin Joseph.

“All 8,000 Soldiers assigned to JRTC and Fort Polk salute Major Joseph and his proud service to our Army and Nation,” Frank said.

The three injured Soldiers are in stable condition. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Milley takes oath as 20th Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff

By **JIM GARAMONE**

Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Army Gen. Mark A. Milley was sworn in Sept. 30 as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in a rain-soaked ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia.

President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper and other officials watched as Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford swore in his successor.

Milley is the 20th chairman since the position was established in 1947.

"You can rest assured that I will always provide informed, candid, impartial military advice to you, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council and to the Congress," Milley said.

Milley takes over as the military's highest-ranking officer, guiding a force of 3 million service members. He noted that U.S. service members serve "on freedom's frontier" — many in harm's way — in more than 160 countries.

Milley thanked Dunford and Dunford's spouse, Ellyn, for the examples they set.

"I know that I have big shoes to fill," Milley said. "I have known Joe Dunford throughout my career, served with him in combat, and I consider him a close personal friend — a friendship forged with the unbreakable bonds of combat that only shared sacrifice can produce. It is truly an honor to follow General Dunford and become the next in a long line of distinguished chairmen."

Milley said he will work with his fellow joint chiefs, combatant commanders and senior leaders across the government to address national security issues.

"I see in the audience today many chiefs of defense from around the world," he said. "Your presence here today demonstrates the importance of our shared security interest and common values. As chairman, I look forward to working with you to ensure our collective security."

Milley said the U.S. military faces complex challenges in the international environment, but said service members are up to those challenges.

"We are the best-equipped, best-trained, best-led military in human history, and our adversaries should know never to underestimate our skill, our capability and our combat power," he said. "We will remain the world's premier fighting force — respected by our friends and feared



U.S. NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS DOMINIQUE A. PINERO

Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the incoming 20th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrives at an armed forces welcome ceremony hosted by President Donald J. Trump and Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper at Summerall Field, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., Sept. 30, 2019.

by our adversaries. We will do this by emphasizing readiness and the modernization of the joint force, while providing unwavering support, care, and leadership to our troops and their families."

Esper thanked Dunford for more than 40 years of service. Former President Barack Obama appointed Dunford as chairman in 2015, and President Trump renominated Dunford for the job in 2017.

Esper said he observed Milley's talent and dedication while the general was Army chief of staff and Esper the service secretary.

"During his time as chief of staff, he was instrumental in helping to rebuild the Army's readiness, which suffered from years of insufficient defense budgets," Esper said.

"At the same time, he advanced the Army's ability to prepare for future warfare by standing up Army Futures Command, the largest organi-

zational change within the service in 45 years. The president could not have selected a more competent advisor or a more capable soldier to help prepare our military for the challenges of the future, he said"

President Trump congratulated Dunford on a job well done and thanked Milley for accepting the position.

"In his new role as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Milley will serve as my top military advisor," Trump said. "I have absolute confidence that he will fulfill his duty with the same brilliance and fortitude he has shown throughout his long and very distinguished career."

"From the great General Omar Bradley to the famed Joe Dunford," he continued, "our nation has been blessed by the advice, counsel and wisdom of 19 chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Today, we pass the baton to the 20th."

ArmyCon: Where virtual and reality meet with high tech displays

By **USAREC PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

FORT KNOX, Ky. — The U.S. Army is aiming to connect the gaming world to the military characters and equipment featured in many of today's most popular games during the first-ever ArmyCon at the Army Ten-Miler Expo Park and D.C. Armory in Washington, D.C., Oct. 11-12.

ArmyCon will showcase high tech, warfighting capabilities with interactive displays and demonstrations. Individuals can test their skills as virtual warriors in the Mobile Gaming Semi-Trailer and then meet the real-life Soldiers face-to-face, equipped with all the associated gear and weaponry, in one action-packed area.

Spectators can test out robots, climb inside helicopters and challenge their hacking skills. They can even get a close-up look at two new pieces of Army tech — the Enhanced Night Vision Goggle-Binocular and the Black Hornet Nano Un-

manned Aerial System.

The ENVG-B's are the Army's most advanced night vision goggle, providing close combat forces with the capability to observe and maneuver during limited visibility and enabling Soldiers to shoot around corners. The Black Hornet is a tiny drone that offers intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support.

"There are so many young people who don't know what high-tech jobs the Army can offer or what Army life is like," said Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, U.S. Army Recruiting commanding general.

"ArmyCon is a prime opportunity for us to start the conversation about the professional jobs our Soldiers do," he said.

ArmyCon will feature the two new outreach teams created this year — the Army eSports Team and the Warrior Fitness Team. The eSports team will host a "Twitch" gaming tournament in-

side of the U.S. Army Mobile Gaming Semi-Trailer, which features scorpion chairs and a variety of gaming platforms.

In addition to the new equipment and the gaming trailer, attendees will have a variety of Army assets to experience up-close and personal, including:

- Electric motorcycle
- Talon EOD robot
- Percussion explosive neutralization system
- Portable X-ray
- EOD blast suit
- Cyber Protection Team (demo cyber effects, display geo tagging effects with social media)
- Helicopters
- Stryker

Along with the equipment, attendees can meet Olympians from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, the Golden Knights Army Parachute Team, Rangers, Special Forces Soldiers and more.

Allies join forces during JRTC Rotation 19-10

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Command information officer

FORT POLK, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk has a reputation of providing some of the best combat training available to the U.S. Armed Forces and its allies.

With an ever-changing and expanding battlefield, it's important that the U.S. and its allies are able to work together seamlessly, against both near peer and non-traditional foes.

America's adversaries have begun challenging U.S. forces in nearly every domain including the air, land and sea, Lt. Gen. Eric Wesley, Army Futures Command deputy commanding general and director of the Futures and Concepts Center, said while taking part in a Center for European Policy Analysis panel in Washington Sept. 24. He said the Army will increasingly need to lean on other military branches as well as foreign partners to assure military dominance.

JRTC Rotation 19-10 captured that need as Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division from Hawaii; the 5th Battalion The Rifles — called 5 Rifles for short — a British infantry battalion based in Bulford Camp, Wiltshire; 5th Royal Australian Regiment; and A 1-29 Royal Thai Infantry trained together in the sandy hills and piney woods of southwest Louisiana.

Lt. Col. Andrew Roidland, battalion commander, 5 Rifles, said his unit's Delta Company was training on "a number of training objectives" at JRTC.



Roidland

"But it is primarily about interoperability with our closest ally, the United States," he said.

Roidland said his Soldiers are facing different terrain than they would normally train on in the UK.

"The heat and humidity, the spiders and snakes, some of the things you don't neces-

sarily get back in the UK and Europe, are a challenge," he said. "It's a different, novel training environment for us."

But again, he highlighted the importance of the opportunity to train with allies.

"We get interoperability not only with the Americans, but also with the Thais and Australians who are on this exercise," he said. "It is a fantastic opportunity for us to develop those bonds we need to operate together as part of NATO and wherever else we have to operate."

While admitting the heat and environmental conditions were the biggest surprises for his unit, they weren't completely caught off guard.

"We were lucky in that we had a company out here last year — Alpha Company — and they were able to give a lot of our soldiers a bit of a head's up on what to expect, which really helped," he said.

Roidland said the 5 Rifles are due to deploy to Estonia next year, operating alongside many NATO multinational partners, including Americans, Canadians and Germans in the Baltics as part of an important NATO operation.

"The interoperability issues working with our allies is something we'll take away from this deployment," he said.



An Observer/Controller/Trainer with the Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group offers instruction to soldiers with A 1-29 Royal Thai Infantry during JRTC Rotation 19-10. Soldiers with the U.S., Thailand, British and Australian armies participated in the multinational training event.



An Australian soldier with the 5th Royal Australian Regiment assumes a defensive posture during JRTC Rotation 19-10, a multinational rotation featuring U.S., British, Thai and Australian soldiers.

While not an infantry Soldier, Staff Sgt. Abbi Morrow still found herself as part of the 5 Rifles JRTC rotation — as someone whose job it was to extract casualties via ambulance to rear medical areas. Back in the U.K. she serves as a master fitness trainer for her unit.



Morrow

sion, so when I'm back in camp I can train them

and get them ready," she said.

She said she's been impressed with how each of the different nations involved in Rotation 19-10 have worked together.

"The amount of logistics that have gone into this operation is humongous," she said. "When we put our minds to it — all nations — we can make it happen."

While the JRTC has its own cadre of Observer/Controller/Trainers, the 5 Rifles also brought O/C/Ts of their own.

"We stand off and watch the guys and platoons go through their tactics, and if we see something drastically going wrong, we'll step in

Please see Allies, page 6

Allies

Continued from page 5

and ask leading questions, mentor them and if not too bad, hold all our instruction to the end during our after action review," Sgt. Scott Abraham, British O/C/T said.

Abraham said there have been challenges for his unit's Soldiers as they face the crucible that is the JRTC.

"This training area is much bigger than anything we have in the UK," he said. "It provides our soldiers with more realism. Rather than having notional moving parts in the background, they are actually out here."



Abraham

"Back in the UK, the training areas are smaller and the woods are cleared out; here the training area is large and there are trees and brush everywhere so most of the time you can't see further than 15 feet in front of you. It's a great training environment for us. It's completely different."

Abraham also echoed the comments of Roidland: The heat and humidity have been tough.

"It's especially tough for the younger guys who have never been in this environment," he said. "And although I've yet to see a snake, I had a banana spider on me last night. Normally spiders don't bother me, but when they get in the four-to-six inch range, I get concerned."



JRTC OPS GP

British soldiers with the the 5th Battalion The Rifles — called 5 Rifles for short — race up a flight of stairs to conduct room clearing operations as part of Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 19-10 Sept. 29. The British soldiers were part of a multinational training event that included U.S., Australian and Thai soldiers.



Above: Soldiers with the 5th Royal Australian Regiment perform security during part of a multinational rotation at the Joint Readiness Training and Fort Polk. Joining the Australians were soldiers from Thailand, Britain and the United States.

Left: Soldiers with A 1-29 Royal Thai Infantry conduct communications operations during JRTC Rotation 19-10 on Sept. 29. Soldiers from four nations joined forces for the multinational training opportunity.

JOC tour gives Families behind the scenes rotation look

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Command information officer

FORT POLK, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk's Operations Group gave its Family members an informal tour of the JRTC Operations Center Sept. 28.

The JOC is a state-of-the-art facility used by JRTC to manage rotations and exercise oversight and control of training events. The Family members and friends who attended the event received a first-hand look at how the JRTC manages, trains and prepares for combat 60,000 Soldiers, multiservice and multinational military members during the course of 11 JRTC rotations each year.

"They get a glimpse of how we — the JRTC — comes together to make this happen," said Lt. Col. Joseph Black, Ops Gp. "I think it's a pride thing for Family members. The spouses, significant others and kids see that their Soldier is making a significant contribution and impacting these rotations."

Col. David Gardner, commander of Operations Group, welcomed the participants before breaking them into two groups to tour the JOC.

"This is an opportunity for them to follow their spouse, children or parents to work" he said. "They can actually see what their Family member does."

Each team was taken into the JOC and received briefings from each of the sections explaining their team members' roles during rotations and other training events. Black said that when his wife and son attended the previous tour in February, they were surprised at what they were able to learn about his work.

"I know that often when we get home at the end of the work day we don't talk about what we do," he said. "But we do some pretty cool, important things, and they get a chance to see that."

Black said for those who work at the JOC, it's an opportunity to share what they do each day and see the smiles on the faces of kids and spouses when they learn what their Soldier or civilian employee does.

"After the tour in February, my wife asked, 'Why didn't you tell me what all you do?'" Black said. "She was amazed. My son couldn't stop talking about it. He thought it was fantastic."

Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Wilson, Ops Gp command sergeant major, echoed Black's comments.

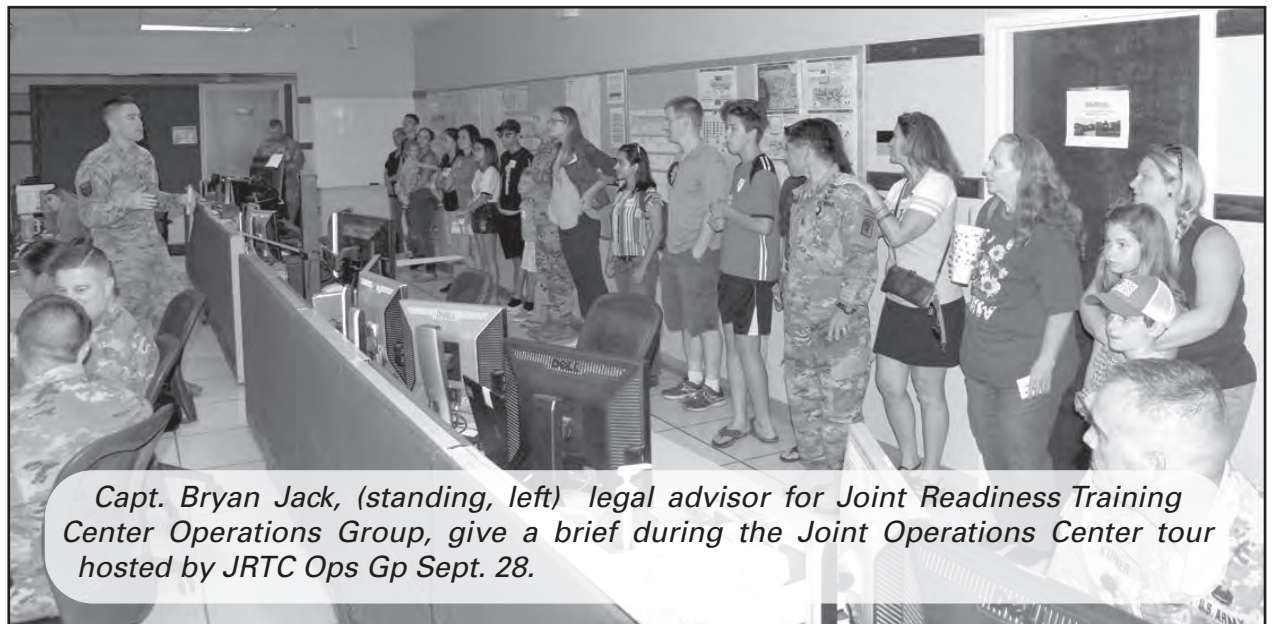
"It gives an understanding to Family members, who don't get to see what their husbands and wives, moms and dads do on a daily basis," Wilson said. "You can go home, talk about rotations, talk about the JOC, things the Family has no idea what you're talking about, and this gives them a perspective about what you do to help units go and fight our nation's wars."

Wilson said the JOC tour compliments the JRTC's annual box tour.

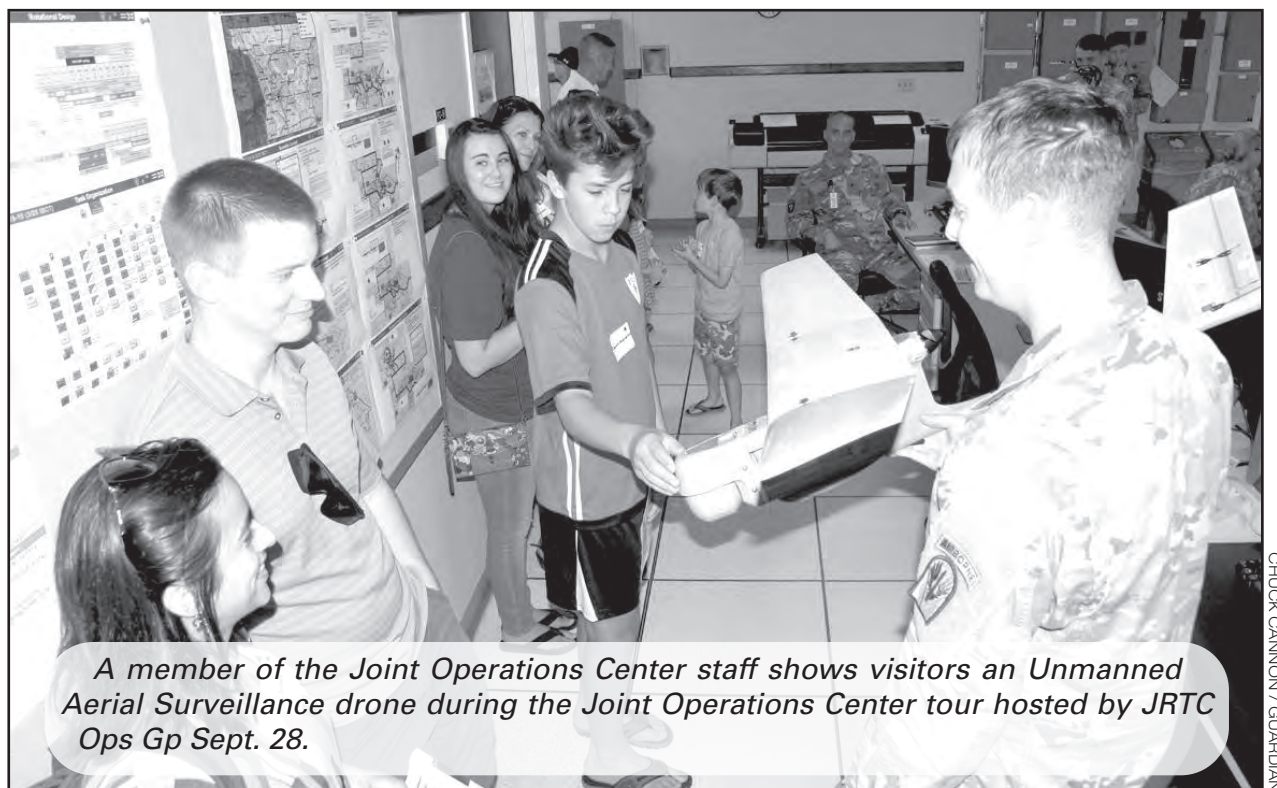
"During a box tour, you get to see what goes on in the training area, but you don't get to see what goes on behind the scenes," he said. "We thought it would be great for Family members to actually see what it takes to run a rotation."

Dana Davis, along with her daughters Evangeline and Henrietta, attended the tour to see where their Soldier, Capt. Stewart Davis, works.

"This is really fun," Dana Davis said. "It was interesting to see and hear what he does. We've never gotten to tour his work before. The girls are excited about the animals."



Capt. Bryan Jack, (standing, left) legal advisor for Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group, give a brief during the Joint Operations Center tour hosted by JRTC Ops Gp Sept. 28.



A member of the Joint Operations Center staff shows visitors an Unmanned Aerial Surveillance drone during the Joint Operations Center tour hosted by JRTC Ops Gp Sept. 28.

Maj. Justin Sedlak, a rotational planner, brought his spouse Lala to the event.

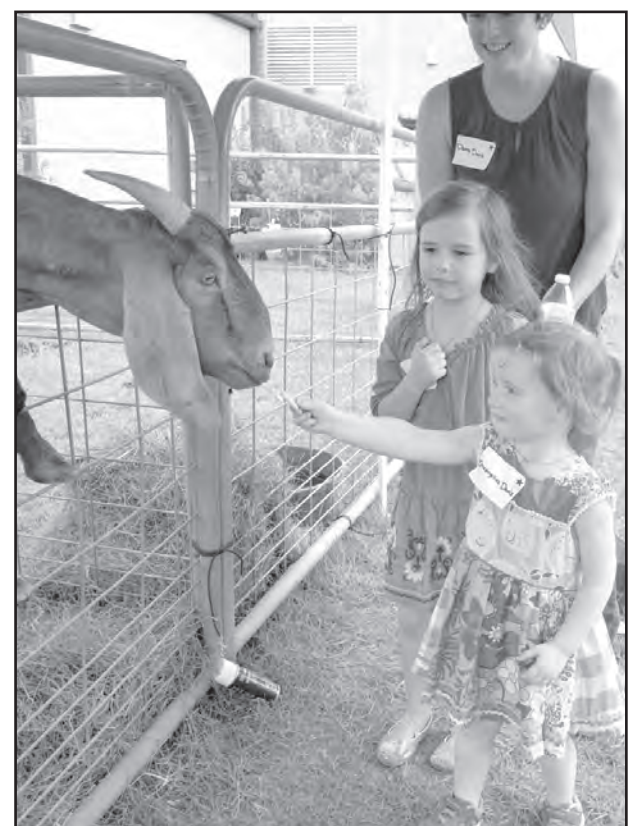
"This is the first time I've seen where he works," Lala Sedlak said. "I've heard about it a lot. I really enjoyed it."

Before the tour, Lala said she never had a clear image of how the JOC looked inside. "It was interesting to see what it actually looked like," she said. "I enjoyed the map inside with all the units. I thought it was interesting how there were so many different stations yet they all worked together so smoothly, and received feedback from the people on the ground."

Sedlak said he was glad his spouse had an opportunity to see what he does on a daily basis.

"We always talk about these places we work, but they've never seen them," he said. "This helps them visualize things and paints a picture of what we actually do. They get a much clearer perspective."

Evangeline Davis feeds one of the goats used during JRTC rotations as her sister Henrietta and mom, Dana, look on during the JOC Tour hosted by JRTC Ops Gp Sept. 28 on Fort Polk.



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

Combatives training teaches Soldiers to close gap

By Staff Sgt. SHELLY ANDERSON
3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div

FORT POLK, La. — Several Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division and other units on Fort Polk graduated from the basic combatives course on Sept. 27. The modern Army combatives program teaches Soldiers to close the gap between themselves and the enemy, gain dominance and finish the fight.

The MACP allows Soldiers to train realistically in a safe environment without extra safety restrictions, allowing a better assessment of individual Soldier training needs.

Soldiers are taught fundamental techniques which illuminate the fundamental principles of combatives training. The basic techniques form a framework upon which the rest of the programs can build and are taught as a series of drills, which can be performed as a part of daily physical training.

"I believe combatives is a necessity for Soldiers."

Spc. BLAKE OWENS
3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div

The course is heavy on grappling — most fights end on the ground. It does not lose sight of the fact that the course is for Soldiers going into combat. While combatives can be used to kill or disable, the man that typically wins a hand-to-hand fight in combat is the one whose allies arrive with guns first.

There are several reasons that the Combatives course is taught:

- To educate Soldiers on how to protect themselves against threats without using their firearms.
- To enhance unit combat readiness by building Soldiers' personal courage, confidence and discipline.
- To provide a non-lethal re-

sponse to situations on the battlefield.

- To instill the warrior instinct to provide the necessary aggression to meet the enemy unflinchingly.

- Provides the ability to conquer fear and anger, allowing for controlled actions and enhanced situational awareness.

"The reason I became a combatives master trainer course instructor is to instill confidence and the Warrior Spirit into each Soldier I train," said Staff Sgt. David Cubillos, a BCC instructor from 3rd Battalion, 353rd Training Regiment, Joint Readiness Training Operations Group. "We are in ever changing conflicts all around the world that require different techniques and tools to either subdue the enemy or finish the fight."

The training begins with learning to maintain control of your weapon in a fight. Soldiers are then taught how to gain control of a potential enemy by maintaining their tactical flexibility at the farthest possible range, the different tactical options and how to implement them.

Soldiers are taught to dominate an opponent with superior body position during ground grappling and how to control someone during clinch fighting. They are taught small, easily repeatable drills in which practitioners can learn multiple related techniques rapidly.

During the graduation exercise, the trainee must react to contact from the front or rear in full combat equipment. They must execute whichever of the three tactical options is appropriate and take part in competitive bouts using the basic rules.

Spc. Blake Owens, an infantryman assigned to 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, said, "I believe combatives is a necessity for Soldiers and the Army should put a larger emphasis on teaching it. The course helped me expand my knowledge of self-defense."



Fort Polk Soldiers participate in combatives training Sept. 27 on North Fort.

STAFF SGT. SHELLY ANDERSON / 3RD BCT, 10TH MTN DIV

Leesville Lions Club Presents

October 3, 4, & 5 **THE BEST RODEO NIGHT** IN LEESVILLE 70th Annual

Friday October 4 is Military Night
\$10.00 at the gate with Active Duty ID
Welcome CHRISTUS USFHP

Starts at 7:30 pm each night

★ Leesville Lions Club Rodeo Arena ★

Featuring Harper and Morgan Rodeos, Mike Mathis, and Rider Kiesner

Proceeds benefit Lions Camp
Tickets \$12.00 advance and \$15.00 at gate

2019 Women's Fall Conference

Thursday, Oct. 17th at the Lake Charles Civic Center

Women's
Commission
of Southwest Louisiana
INCORPORATED



FEATURING **Taya Kyle**
womenscommissionswla.com



Briefs

School lunch menu

The following school lunch menu is for Vernon Parish schools for Monday through Oct. 11. Meals are served with salad bar and choice of milk:

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

Tuesday: Barbecue ribettes on whole wheat bun, Cajun French fries, green English peas, pineapple chunks.

Wednesday: Oven fried chicken, barbecue sauce cup, steamed cabbage, candied sweet potatoes, fruit.

Thursday: Pork roast with gravy, fluffy whole grain rice, sweet peas, fruit, sherbet, whole wheat roll.

Oct. 11: Hot dog with chili on whole wheat bun, French fries, ranch style beans, watermelon, coleslaw.

MCY nominations

WASHINGTON — Operation Homefront is accepting nominations for the 2020 Military Child of the Year Awards, as well as applications for the 2020 Military Child of the Year Award for Innovation. Nominations are open through Dec. 9, and the awards will be presented at a recognition gala April 2 in the nation's capital.

The awards will recognize seven young people ages 13 to 18 who are legal dependents of a service member or military retiree. Six Military Child of the Year recipients will represent a branch of the armed forces — Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard.

The seventh award is the Military Child of the Year Award for Innovation to a military child who has designed a bold and creative solution to address a local, regional or global challenge.

To nominate a child for the award go to www.militarychildoftheyear.org and click on the nominations tab.

Award recipients will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., and recognized at the April 2 gala, where they will receive \$10,000 each and a laptop computer.

Teen fun

The Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Child Youth and School's Middle School and Teen program hosts a special screening of "Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age," Oct. 22 from 5-8 p.m. at the Warrior Community Center. Tickets are free and include dinner. Register at MST, bldg 4966. For more information on the movie visit www.screenagersmovie.com.

Fire education important to avoid injuries

By KEITH HOUIN

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — Fire Prevention Week runs from Monday through Oct. 11, a week in which first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education. It's a time when Fort Polk residents are encouraged to take part in public education measures and take action to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes, Carlos Jackson, Fort Polk Fire Prevention Inspector said.

This year's campaign, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!" works to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to reduce the risks of a fire, and in the event that they do have a fire, how to put out the fire or escape, he said.

To help with that education there will be a number of activities taking place through the week.

"The display most people like is the fire prevention trailer. They like the hands on stuff. The kids really like the bedroom portion where they learn to feel for heat in the door, block the door to prevent smoke getting in and how to escape through a window," James McArthur, Fort Polk Fire Prevention Inspector said.

There is an area in the trailer that teaches how to put out kitchen fires and how to use a fire extinguisher as well, he said.

There will also be school visits by Sparky the Fire Dog, fire drills at numerous locations, static displays and more, Jackson said.

Below is a list of the Fire Prevention Week activities.

Monday

- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire station open house and tours.
- 8:30-11:30 a.m. North Polk Elementary – Classroom visits and handout Fire Prevention Materials and kickoff coloring contest.
- 1-2:30 a.m. University Parkway – Classroom visits and handout fire prevention materials and kickoff poster contest.

The schools will be visited by Sparky the Fire Dog and his friends to educate students and faculty on the importance of home fire safety and prevention. Students and faculty will receive fire prevention handouts and given instructions concerning the poster and coloring contest.

Tuesday

- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire Station Open House and tours.
- 9-10 a.m. Static display and handouts for Child Development Center and static display for FCC children at the Youth Activity Center. Fire prevention personnel will educate the Child and Youth Services children and staff on fire safety and set up a static display with a fire truck for CYS children to enjoy and for photo opportunities.
- 12:30-4 p.m. Prevention staff out conducting unannounced fire drills across the North and South Fort cantonment areas.
- 4-6 p.m. School Age Center and Middle School Teen fire drill.



Wednesday

- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire Station Open House and tours.
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Fire drill, fire extinguisher class and fire inspection at the Commissary. Fire prevention personnel will conduct a fire drill to assure the employees of the Commissary are aware of fire reporting procedures, evacuation routes and muster points, as well as their No. 1 concern, the customer's safety. While Commissary personnel are outside they will also receive fire extinguisher training.

- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Fire safety trailer at the Commissary.

Thursday

- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire station open house and tours.
- 9-11 a.m. Static display and handouts for CDCs (buildings 701 and 702). Fire prevention personnel will educate the CYS children and staff on fire safety and set up a static display with a fire truck for the CYS children to enjoy and for photo ops.
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Static Display and handouts for CDC (building 14500). Fire prevention personnel will educate the CYS children and staff on fire safety and set up a static display with a fire truck for the CYS children to enjoy and for photo ops.
- 12:30-2 p.m. Fire prevention staff out conducting unannounced fire drills across the North and South Fort cantonment areas.

Oct. 11

- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire station open house and tours.
- 8:30-11:30 a.m. Fire prevention personnel will conduct a fire drill to assure the Exchange employees are aware of fire reporting procedures, evacuation routes and muster points, as well as their No. 1 concern, the customer's safety. While the Exchange personnel are outside they will receive fire extinguisher training. There will also be a digital fire extinguisher simulator set up inside the PX for customers to practice fire extinguisher operations.
- 1-3 p.m. Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital static display with fire safety trailer.

Oct. 16

- 9 a.m. Recognition of Coloring Contest Winners at North Polk Elementary.
- 10 a.m. Recognition of Poster Contest Winners at University Parkway.

Fort Polk kids have tons of fun at ACS Play Morning



Rafael Marques, 2, learns his letters with an alphabet puzzle.



Bennett Johnston, 18 months, uses crayons to create a colorful masterpiece.



Lillian Gaskins, 2, focuses intently on the animals found in her book.



Fort Polk Families enjoy an opportunity to gather while learning and playing together at Army Community Services Play Morning held Oct. 1



Kaidon Fitts, 9 months, is checking out the ins and outs of playing with a fire truck at Play Morning Oct. 1.



Aurora Erickson, 2, pushes her baby doll around in a stroller.

Combined Federal Campaign: Chance for giving

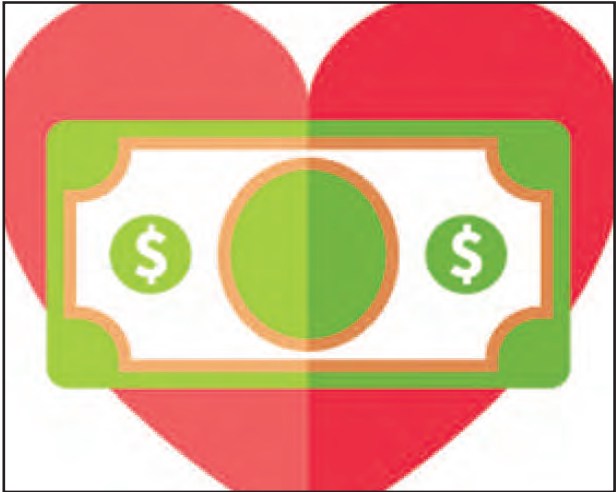
GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — Now that summer has ended, it's time for the annual Combined Federal Campaign. Last year, the federal community contributed nearly \$100 million to help those in need in area communities, across the country and around the world.

These generous donations are being distributed to thousands of CFC charities with programming to support hundreds of causes, including: Human rights, disaster relief, veteran support, health care, clean water and education.

Maybe it's the first time you've heard about the CFC, and you're asking, "How do I Show Some Love? "Where do I start?"

The campaign hasn't opened yet, but now is a great time to explore your pledge options and familiarize yourself with this giving opportunity that empowers federal employees to donate and pledge volunteer hours to their favorite organiza-



tions. The federally regulated CFC supports thousands of charitable organizations.

Learn more about this federal tradition and the 58-year history of the CFC at

www.opm.gov/combined-federal-campaign/. This is the only campaign of its kind that engages the greater federal community and connects its employees to causes and charities close to their hearts.

If you've donated previously, consider increasing your pledge this year by 5% or 10%.

And if this is your first time participating, you'll be able to create a new account via payroll, credit card or e-check.

You can even pledge volunteer hours. Beginning Oct. 15, employees have the opportunity with pledges to save a life, protect a coastline, help the homeless, send a child to school and more.

Are you ready to show some love? For more information, contact Roy Mosby, campaign coordinator at 531-8765, email: roy.l.mosby4.naf@mail.mil or Kim Grady, CFC outreach worker at (619) 392-1321, email: kgrady.cfc@kaptivegroup.com.

domestic violence Awareness Month

Across the nation, October is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, (below) commander, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, affixes his signature to a proclamation pledging installation leaders, community members and service agency support for education programs about the warning signs of and prevention strategies to reduce the occurrence of domestic violence. The proclamation was also signed by all subordinate unit command teams on the installation.



IMCOM leadership pledge promotes excellence

At the same meeting, Col. Ryan K. Roseberry, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Polk, signs the Installation Management Command leadership pledge. The pledge is meant to serve as a visible reminder to leaders and employees of the requirements and expectation of effective, caring and engaged leaders. The pledge will be posted in all workplaces showing employees that leaders acknowledge, recognize, value and respect their efforts and contributions and are pledged to support them. The pledge will also be posted on the web and social media platforms to ensure widest possible dissemination.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

Study Hatch Act guidelines before becoming politically active

GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — Will the election season moving full swing it time to review what is — or isn't — allowed for those who are Soldiers or federal employees when it comes to involvement in political activities.

When questions arise about what is permissible and prohibited with regard to a specific political activity, the Hatch Act is the sole source of information.

Ignorance of the law does not excuse an employee's violation of the Hatch Act.

The political activity of government employees has been a concern of government officials since the earliest days of the republic. Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president, was among the first to express concern about this issue.

In response to his concern, the heads of the executive departments issued an order, which stated, while it is "the right of any officer (federal employee) to give his vote at elections as a qualified citizen ... it is expected that he will not attempt to influence the votes of others nor take part in the business of electioneering, that being deemed inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution."

However, despite the concerns of Jefferson and other American statesmen, almost a century and a half elapsed before Congress began enacting a comprehensive law regarding the political activities of government employees.

The Hatch Act, a federal law passed in 1939, limits certain political activities of federal employees, as well as some state, D.C., and local government employees who work in connection with federally funded programs.

The law's purposes are to ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion, to protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace, and to ensure that federal employees are advanced based on merit and not based on political affiliation.

The law was named for Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico.

It was most recently amended in 2012, limiting the activities of certain state and local government employees.

Military member guidance:

U.S. military service members are limited when it comes to political activities.

Some restrictions are based in federal law, others in military regulations.

The main purpose for these restrictions is to avoid the implication or inference that military members

represent some official point of view.

The major military prohibition is against any type of partisan activities. A partisan activity is defined as "activity directed toward the success or failure of a (particular) political party or candidate for a partisan political office or partisan political group."

A military member may:

- Register, vote and express personal opinions.
- Encourage other military members to exercise voting rights.
- Join a political club and attend political meetings and rallies as a spectator when not in uniform.
- Make monetary contributions to a political organization.
- Sign petitions for specific legislative action or place candidate's name on the ballot.

• Write letters to the editor expressing personal views (so long as not part of organized letter writing campaign).

• Place bumper stickers on private vehicles.

• Participate in local nonpartisan political activities, so long as not in uniform and no use of government property or resources, no interference with duty and no implied government position or involvement.

A military member may not:

• Use official authority to influence or interfere.

• Be a candidate for, hold or exercise functions of a civil office.

• Participate in partisan political campaigns, speeches, articles, TV or radio discussions.

• Serve in official capacity or sponsor a partisan political club.

• Conduct political opinion surveys.

• Use contemptuous words against certain civilian leaders (10 U.S.C. 888), which applies to commissioned officers only.

• March or ride in partisan parades.

• Participate in organized effort to transport voters to polls.

• Promote political dinners or fundraising events.

• Attend partisan events as official representative of armed forces.

• Display large signs, banners or posters on private vehicles.

• Display a partisan political sign, poster, banner or similar device visible to the public at one's residence on a military installation, even if that residence is part of a privatized housing development.

• Sell tickets for or otherwise actively promote partisan political dinners and similar fundraising events.

Permitted activities for federal employees:

- May be candidates for public



office in nonpartisan elections.

• May register and vote as they choose.

• May assist in voter registration drives.

• May express opinions about candidates and issues.

• May contribute money to political organizations.

• May attend political fundraising functions.

• May attend and be active at political rallies and meetings.

• May join and be an active member of a political party or club.

• May sign nominating petitions.

• May campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments and municipal ordinances.

• May campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections.

• May make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections.

• May distribute campaign literature in partisan elections.

• May hold office in political clubs or parties, including serving as a delegate to a convention.

Prohibited activities for federal employees:

• May not use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election.

• May not solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee.

• May not knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency.

- May not engage in political ac-

tivity while on duty.

• May not engage in political activity in any government office.

• May not engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform.

• May not engage in political activity while using a government vehicle.

• May not be candidates for public office in partisan elections.

• May not wear political buttons on duty.

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commander, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, said individuals will be held accountable for deviations from the above direction.

"Any person who is concerned about their activities or needs further guidance should seek advice from their unit's servicing legal advisor," Frank said in a memo dated Aug. 7 to JRTC and Fort Polk Soldiers and civilians. "Both military leadership and civilian supervisors are instructed to ensure this memorandum is distributed to personnel within their respective components."

To find out more about the Hatch Act, visit these sites:

• www.oge.gov/Topics/Outside-Employment-and-Activities/Political-Activities/

• www.osc.gov/Pages/Hatch-Act.aspx

• www.osc.gov/resources/ha_fed.pdf

Consult Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 Feb 2008, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces. You may also contact the Administrative Law Division, Office of Staff Judge Advocate, at 531-2754/2155.

Plan next weekend adventures with top Louisiana attractions

GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — Louisiana is made up of a wide variety of unique events and beauty-filled location that offer visitors and citizens fun opportunities to take part in adventures all over the state. Take a peek at the following suggestions — just a few friendly ideas — that don't begin to cover all there is to do — to get you started.

The best place to begin this journey of possibilities is New Orleans. In fact, there are so many things to do in the Crescent City the list had to be limited to just a few:

New Orleans

- Preservation Hall, 726 St Peter St., New Orleans, was established in 1961. This venue is part of the foundation of the New Orleans music scene created to preserve and protect traditional New Orleans Jazz. Every night, the hall hosts acoustic jazz concerts that offer visitors and locals some of the best music in the city.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, and guests are advised to arrive 30-45 minutes in advance to ensure they get a seat. A limited number of reserved tickets are also available that guarantee the best seats in the house. The performances are open to people of all ages.

For more information visit www.preservationhall.com or call (504) 522-2841

- The Audubon Zoo, 6500 Magazine St, New Orleans, is dedicated to conserving nature and the envi-

ronment. The zoo is located on 58 acres in New Orleans and is home to more than 2,000 animals spread out over a number of themed exhibits.

Some of the most popular exhibits include the Louisiana swamp exhibit, the African Savanna exhibit and the reptile encounter where visitors can see a Komodo dragon as well as a rare white alligator with blue eyes. The zoo is open year round, but hours vary according to the season.

For more information visit www.audubonnatureinstitute.org or call (504) 861-2537

- The National World War II Museum, 945 Magazine St, New Orleans, is a military history museum dedicated to sharing the American experience during the second World War through narratives rife with detail and permanent collections that take visitors inside the history that changed the world and its impact on today's world.

The museum houses collection of restored WWII artifacts and an immersive exhibits. There is also a theater in which visitors can view a 4D film for an additional fee. The museum is open seven days a week, but is closed on all major holidays.

For more information visit www.nationalww2museum.org or call (504) 528-1944.

- If you can't make it to the Mardi Gras parade, visit Mardi Gras World, 1380 Port of New Orleans, to step inside the colorful life of New Orleans and its featured procession.



The annual Mardi Gras parade is as much a part of the fabric of the city as music and the French Quarter. The museum brings together an extraordinary collection of Mardi Gras floats and costumes.

For more information visit www.mardigrasworld.com or call (504) 361-7821.

- Take a ride on the Steamboat Natchez, 400 Toulouse St, New Orleans, to glide back in time. Step aboard the historic craft for a morning or afternoon float down the mighty Mississippi. Stroll the deck, admire the iconic paddlewheel, enjoy live music and snap picturesque

shots of New Orleans.

For more information visit www.steamboatnatchez.com or call (800) 233-2628.

- The New Orleans French Quarter is the oldest and most famous neighborhood in the city. Its offers old world architecture that dates back as far as 300 years. The area offers tourists abundant sightseeing, shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. The area is filled with tourists and live music offering restaurants, Jazz clubs antique shops, art galleries and more.

Please see **Plan**, page 14

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For more information visit www.neworleans.com.

Vacherie

- Oak Alley Plantation, 3645 La. Hwy 18, Vacherie, is a 25-acre plantation built in 1837 which was originally established to grow sugarcane. Today the plantation offers its visitors a chance to step back in time and view first hand what plantation life was like during the 1800s. The plantation was named for its 800-foot-long alley lined with gorgeous oak trees that are more than 300 years old.

Other highlights of the plantation include slavery and sugarcane exhibits, Civil War tent and blacksmith shop that includes the plantation's original forge. Guided tours are available every half hour.

For more information visit www.oakalleyplantation.com or call (225) 265-2151

Edgard

- Whitney Plantation, 5099 La. Hwy 18, Edgard, was originally called the Haydel Plantation. It is the only plantation museum in Louisiana with a focus on the slaves that built, lived and worked this sugar plantation. Take a tour through restored slave cabins, a freedmen's church, detached kitchen, owner's house and out-buildings such as a barn and blacksmith shop, as well as memorials built to honor the enslaved.

For more information visit www.whitneyplantation.com or call (225) 265-3300.

Baton Rouge

- Visit the USS KIDD, 305 South River Road, to explore the World War II ship and Veterans Museum. A tour allows visitors of all ages to soak up the history of WWII and learn about the science of flotation and tides in the Mississippi River.

Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends. For more information visit www.usstkidd.com or call (225) 342-1942.

- Take in the Louisiana State Capitol, 900 North Third St. Located in downtown Baton Rouge, the capitol was completed in 1932, is 34 stories and totals 450 feet. It is the tallest capitol building in United States.

The building sits on 30 acres of gardens and there is an observation deck on the 27th floor where visitors can see the view of the city. For more information visit www.visitbatonrouge.com or call (225) 342-7317.

- The Old Louisiana State Capitol, 100 North Blvd., is also something you don't want to miss. The Gothic-Revival-style building that

looks like a castle in the middle of modern day downtown Baton Rouge makes a dramatic impression on visitors and the inside is as impressive as the outside. This historic landmark houses a political history museum, which includes artifacts, documents and interactive exhibits that explore the state's history.

For more information visit www.louisianaoldstatecapitol.org or call (225) 342-0500.

DeQuincy

- The DeQuincy Railroad Museum, 110 Lake Charles Ave., is located in the old Kansas City Southern Depot, which was built in 1923. This grand old building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, now contains a variety of railroad equipment and related memorabilia.

Exhibits also include an a collection of museum quality gauge 1 model steam and diesel engines created by master model craftsmen. Visitors can admire the museum's 1913 steam locomotive and a 1947 Pullman passenger coach, as well as two cabooses.

For more information visit www.dequincyrailroadmuseum.com or call (337) 786-2823.

Avery Island

- Visit the Avery Island Tobasco Museum and Factory, La. Hwy 329. The island is made of salt and completely surrounded by bayous. Known as a salt dome, this unusual geological formation is home to the fields that grow the red pepper used in making Tabasco since 1868.

The McIlhenny Company, owned by the fifth generation of descendants of the original family that settled the island, still runs the factory, along with a museum, country store, and restaurant. There are daily tours of the greenhouse, barrel and blending processes, the island's salt mine and the factory's bottling plant.

For more information visit www.tabasco.com

Gibland

- The Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Museum, 2419 Main St, Gibland, is all about the story of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow.

The couple captivated the country as they robbed, stole and shot their way onto police radars. Their crime spree and their love affair turned them into legends.

Eight miles south of Gibland on Highway 154/Par Road 300 is a monument marking the spot of the epic shootout that ended the cou-

ple's reign of Texan terror.

The museum is housed in what used to be a cafe, allegedly the last place Bonnie and Clyde visited before heading down the road to their doom.

For more information visit www.roadsideamerica.com or call (318) 843-1934

Lake Charles

- Drive into Louisiana's Outback. Located along the Creole Nature Trail All American Road, this 180 mile trail is a wonderful opportunity to view the state's prairies, marshes and wildlife with more than 400 species of birds for avid birders to admire, and enough alligators to outnumber people.

You can pick up a free GPS Ranger at the Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau to experience a self-guided tour.

Shreveport

- Take in the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, 3015 Greenwood Road, Shreveport. The museum opened in 1939.

It is a rotunda-style circular building noted for its architecture,

which combines neoclassical and modern design. Also noteworthy are the Italian frescos, rotating exhibits, murals and 18 unbelievably intricate beeswax dioramas.

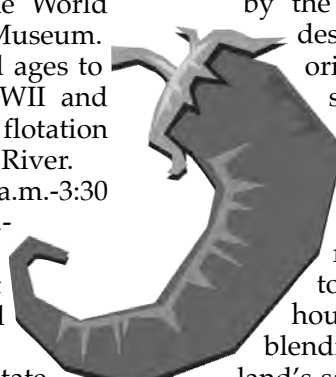
For more information visit www.laexhibitmuseum.org or call (318) 632-2020.

Louisiana coast

- There are a lot of swamps in Louisiana. That means you don't want to miss your opportunity to take a swamp tour. Folks have a wide variety of choices as far as the area they want to see and how they want to explore this abundant form of nature.

For instance you could kayak or take an easy guided canoe tour through dense cypress forests, expansive wetlands or feel the excitement of zooming through the marshes on an airboat. The choice is yours. You just have to do a little research online.

No matter what you choose to do or what part of the state you explore, Louisiana offers a wide variety of opportunities for individuals and Families to enjoy. Get out there and start having fun.



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Rice takes starring role at Crowley Festival

CROWLEY, La. — If you have lived in Louisiana for any length of time, you know rice plays a major role in the make up of many of the state's most famous culinary dishes. It's a key ingredient in everything from gumbo and jambalaya to red beans and etouffee.

It's is a pantry staple in Louisiana, as well as homes all over the world and all that rice has to come from somewhere. Louisiana is one of those places.

Rice plays a huge part in the state's agriculture production. Louisiana is one of the nation's top three rice-producing states, growing mostly long grain rice.

While southwestern Louisiana is the primary center for rice production and milling, rice is also grown in the northeastern part of the state, according to www.thinkrice.com.

The website also states that Louisiana grows rice on about 400,000 acres each year, and the annual crop is valued at \$360 million. Rice production and processing both play important roles in the state, generating annual economic

activity of almost \$200 million and accounting for thousands of jobs. Rice is the state's top agricultural export.

If you would like to find out more about this small but mighty grain and the industry surrounding it, as well as taste the end results of all that hard work in Cajun kitchens and have fun while doing it, head to downtown Crowley — located about two hours south of Fort Polk along Interstate 10 — for the 83rd International Rice Festival held Oct. 18-20.

Deborah Nutt Whiting, festival president, said the event gives folks the opportunity to celebrate Louisiana's rich heritage and the men and women who are a part of this ever-growing industry.

"From the rice fields to our tables, it is a long journey involving many people along the way," she said.

Enjoy live performances by Marc

Broussard, Wayne Toups, Side Show, Richard Lebouef, Dustin Sonnier, Three Thirty Seven, Geno De-laFose, The Fleurtations, Chubby Cariier, Jamie Bergerson and more.

Music lovers can also sit back in their lounge chairs to listen to young artists compete in the Fiddle and Accordion Contest Oct. 19 at 10 a.m. at the Cramer Equipment Sound Stage.

Those interested in the history of rice can watch live demonstrations of rice threshing performed with an antique machine to demonstrate how it was done back in the day.

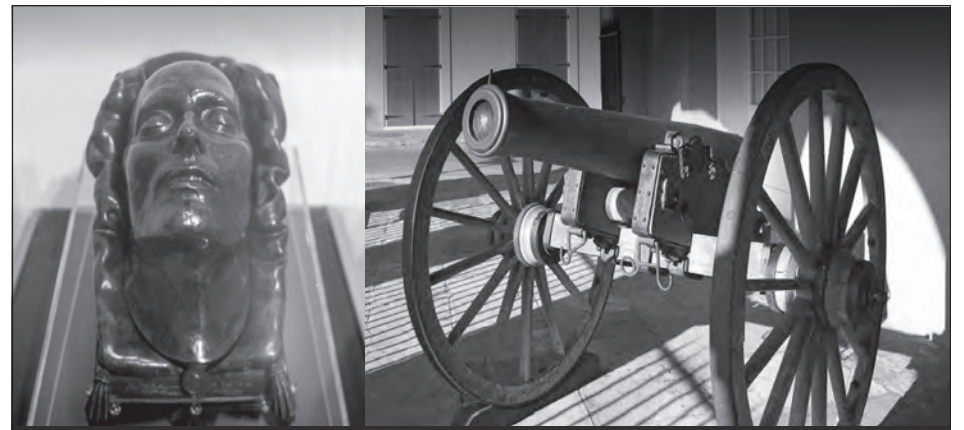
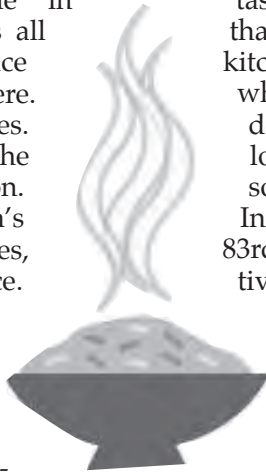
Once folks see the mechanics of how farmers used to separate the grain from the plant, they can watch folks try to eat as much rice as they

can at the rice eating contest. Everyone is a winner, but for this special occasion champion eaters have been challenged.

There will be plenty of action and opportunities for fun thanks to the outdoor arts and crafts on display at Levy Park, located a couple of blocks from the downtown festival activities, the classic car show on the parking lot at the corner of Third Street and Avenue G from 7-10 a.m. and the annual 5K Rice Festival run/walk at the Supreme Rice Sound Stage at 8 a.m. Awards are given out at 9:15 a.m.

In addition kids and adults alike can enjoy carnival games and rides.

For more information visit www.ricefestival.com.



113th Annual
WEST LOUISIANA FORESTRY FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 2 - 6, 2019
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EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCT. 4
SCHOOL DAY

9:00a Fair Gates & Carnival Rides Open
9:00a 4-H Pet Show (Livestock Barn)
11:00a 4-H Rabbit Show (Livestock Barn)
2:00p 4-H Poultry Show (Livestock Barn)
7:30p Leesville Lions Club PRCA Rodeo

SATURDAY, OCT. 5

10:00a 4-H Livestock Show (Livestock Barn)
12:00p Fair Gates & Carnival Rides Open
7:15p Parade of Champions (Rodeo Arena)
7:30p Leesville Lions Club PRCA Rodeo
Big Dog Bull Roping Contest
Sponsored by Country 105.7 & WLFF Board

SUNDAY, OCT. 6

12:00p Fair Gates Open
1:00p Carnival Rides Open
6:00p Festival, Fair & Carnival Ends

ADMISSIONS

ADULTS: \$3.00
STUDENTS: \$2.00
KIDS 5 & UNDER: Free

FREE ADMISSION
into the festival every day for
Military personnel & family
members with valid Military IDs

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
FREE admission for all K-12
students from 9:00a - 4:00p

CARNIVAL SPECIALS

FRIDAY, OCT 4: SCHOOL DAY
\$22 armband from 9a - 4p
\$22 armband from 6p - 11p

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
Rides reduced 1 ticket from 12p - 6p
\$22 armband from 6p - 11p

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
\$22 armband from 1p - 6p
Get \$2 off armband with canned
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Take note of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers upcoming events and volunteer possibilities.

• NBA tournament

Join BOSS for a National Basketball Association 2K20 video game tournament at the Home of Heroes Recreation Center, 2165 Ninth St. Oct. 11.

Prizes are awarded for First-, second- and third place. Pizza is provided for dinner. The entry fee is \$5 per person.

• Halloween trip

BOSS takes a trip to Leesville Tree Farm Massacre Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Sign up for a scary good time. The cost is \$5 per person. Space is limited, so register soon at 531-1948.

• Lemon lot

Trying to sell your vehicle? Bring it to the BOSS Lemon Lot. Registration is \$5 for 30 days. Cars that are not registered will be towed. Register at the Home of Heroes Recreation Center.

For more information call 531-1948.

Festivals

• Arts festival

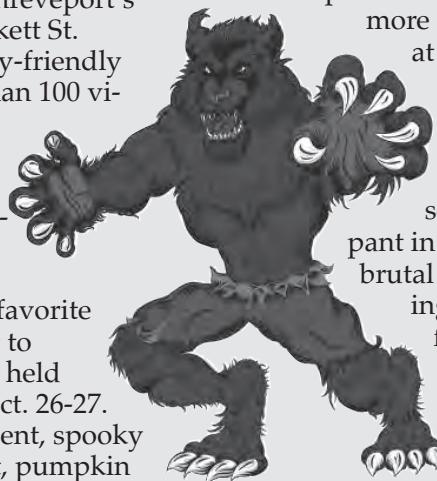
Sample a variety of local food and art during the Red River Revel Arts Festival, Saturday and Sunday in downtown Shreveport's Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St.

This enormous, family-friendly festival features more than 100 visual artists, music from every genre, food and drink vendors, and more. For more information call (318) 424-4000.

• Rougarou Fest

If Halloween is your favorite holiday you won't want to miss the Rougarou Fest, held in downtown Houma Oct. 26-27.

Enjoy live entertainment, spooky parade, costume contest, pumpkin



lighting and more. For more information visit www.rougaroufest.org.

Miscellaneous

• Film fest

Visit the eighth annual Lake Charles Film Festival Oct. 4-5 in various venues in Lake Charles and Sulphur. The festival is a fun weekend of independent film screenings, seminars, premieres, parties, networking and a celebrity guest.

There is also an awards ceremony where trophies are given to the top films and scripts in each category. This year, meet the cast of the hit CBS TV series "Shazam!" Actors Michael Gray (Billy Batson) and John Davey (Captain Marvel) will both be in attendance as guests of honor.

Hang out, get a photo or autograph and listen as they share stories about their acting careers, how to audition, work with an agent and other tips to help aspiring actors break into the business. For more information visit <http://lakecharlesfilmfestival.com>.

Pastoral celebration

The AGAPE Church of God in Christ, 606 South Fourth St., Leesville, celebrates its 31st year pastoral celebration. The celebration takes place Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. For more information call Elder Julius Johnson at (337) 208-7034.

Gothic Jail

Experience the haunting and historic Gothic Jail After Dark, 205 West First St., DeRidder, this Halloween season. Paranormal activity runs rampant in the jail and the walls hold secrets of a brutal murder, suicide and a double hanging. It's not for the faint of heart. Dates for the event are Oct. 11-12, 18-19 and 25-26 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Halloween (Oct. 31) the jail is open from 6-10 p.m. For more information call (337) 375-4000.

• Winter pops

The Lake Charles Symphony takes the stage at the Rosa Hart Theatre, inside the Lake Charles Civic Center, 900 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, under the direction of guest conductor Carl Topilow for Winter Pops: A Space Spectacular Nov. 10 at 3 p.m.

This intergalactic experience is the inaugural Winter Pops concert. The performance features music from a number of popular space-themed films, as well as classical composers' best imaginings of the cosmos.

The varied program showcases musical representations of space from the past century, as well as older music that was re-envisioned as humanity turned its sights toward the stars.

The music is choreographed to photos and features out-of-this-world footage from NASA, which will be displayed on a large screen behind the orchestra as the music plays.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m., a discussion with Topilow begins at 2 p.m., and the concert begins at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$40. For more information contact the symphony office at (337) 433-1611 or visit www.lcsymphony.com.

Clubs/groups

• Bass Masters

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

Meetings are held at 6 p.m. at the New Llano American Legion, Post 387, 500 Vernon St. The next meeting is Tuesday.

The October tournament takes place at Toledo Bend, Oct. 12. 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.

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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

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* Only single soldiers living in barracks may list numbers with 531 prefixes.

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