



FORGING THE

WARRIOR SPIRIT

THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

Vol. 47, No. 1

Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

Jan. 3, 2020

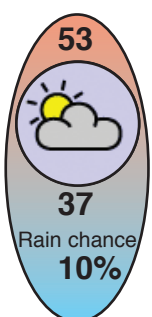


JRTC training crucible

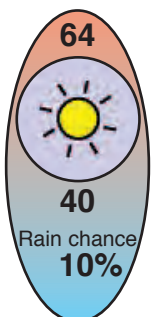
As 2020 begins, the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Operations Group prepares to train Army Brigade Combat Teams and Security Force Assistance Brigades for the crucible that is "The Box" so their worst days in battle take place at Fort

Polk and not in combat. There are nine JRTC rotations scheduled this year for units to test their mettle against JRTC's renowned 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment -- Geronimo opposing forces. Look for future issues of the Guardian for more.

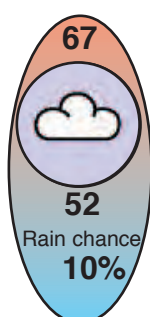
Weekend weather



Today



Thursday



Friday

Inside the Guardian

If you've got an idea for a story or your organization is hosting an event, call the Guardian at 531-1392.

In our view

Guardian staff asked Fort Polk community members, "What's your biggest goal for 2020?"

Here are their responses:

Angel Thomas: "I want to finish my degree in business administration."



Ketty Harris: "I'm 66, look great and want to continue to look beautiful."



Ardell McNutt: "I want to continue to be healthy."



Lynn Gautreaux: "I want to get back into shape."



Deann Fernandez: "I want to get back into shape and eat healthy."



Katrina Wade: "I want to close doors on things that are not going to help me."



Kat LaLonde: "Provide our patrons good meals and a quality experience to our Soldiers and Families."



M.J. Ramey: "I want to graduate with my master's degree in English with an emphasis on teaching."



Guardian

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Tax Center opens Jan. 21 for Soldiers, retirees

INSTALLATION TAX OFFICE

FORT POLK, La. — The 2019 tax season has arrived, and the Fort Polk Installation Tax Center is once again providing assistance free to Soldiers, retirees and their Family members. The Tax Center is located at 2165 Ninth St. (inside Home of Heroes Fitness Center/Pizza Hut building).

Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, beginning Jan. 21. Appointments for preparing a tax return may be made by calling 531-1040 starting Jan. 21.

Appointments will have priority. Walk-ins for preparation of an electronic tax return will also be avail-

able on a limited basis.

To prepare your tax return and provide a faster, smoother process, please use the following as your checklist:

- Both spouses must be present to file joint returns unless the absent spouse has prepared a power of attorney that allows the other spouse to file and sign a tax return for him or her. Bring the valid power of attorney. For the IRS, it is IRS Form 2848.

- Social Security cards are required for the Soldier and spouse and all Family members claimed on the tax return.

- Dates of birth of Soldier, spouse and all Family members being claimed.

- Original W-2s.
- If you have any interest income from banks or stocks, bring Form 1099.

- If you received any unemployment compensation, retirement pay or mortgage interest paid, bring Form 1098.

- If you claim any education expenses, provide your student registration for itemized expenses paid and any loans/grants that were to be applied.

- If you are claiming an exemption for a person who is in someone else's legal custody, you will need either IRS Form 8332 signed by the custodial person or have a court or-

der or divorce paperwork saying you may claim the exemption for that person.

- To take the child-care deduction, you will need the provider's name, Social Security number or Taxpayer Identification Number and address, and the total amount paid to your provider. Most child-care providers give you an itemized statement with this information.

- If you want to have your refund directly deposited into your checking or savings account, bring a check or other confirmation of your routing number and bank account number.

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Briefs

Spec Ops briefings

U.S. Army Special Operations briefings for civil affairs and psychological operations are held Wednesday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m.

The briefings are open to active duty personnel and year group 15 and 16 officers. Call (785) 215-7602 or email kristopher.l.swift.mil@mail.mil.

Abandoned vehicles

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Section will release the following vehicles to a towing company for disposal on Jan. 27 if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four numbers of their VIN number. If one of these vehicles belongs to you please contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Section 531-1806/2677.

2008 KIA	SPORTAGE	7546
2011 CHEVROLET	1500	4608
2001 KIA	RIO	5378
1999 CHEVROLET	1500	5469
2002 SATURN	VUE	7797
2009 VW	JETTA	0049
2006 KIA	OPTIMA	9904
2012 NISSIAN	VERSA	8379
2006 GMC	1500	3847
2008 BMW	X5	4757
2003 TOYOTA	COROLLA	0139
2006 MAZDA	3	9500
2010 KAWASAKI	KLR650	9760
1990 HONDA	CIVIC	1536
1996 CHEVY	IMPALA	0432
2001 FORD	MUSTANG	1007
1999 HONDA	ACCORD	3691

Recycle trees

There will be a 24-hour drop off available at the Fort Polk Recycling Center for Christmas trees. In addi-

tion, Jan. 8 and 16 are neighborhood pick-up days. The Conservation Branch will drive around housing to pick up Christmas trees for recycling.

This is meant to be a lagniappe option for folks that may be unable to transport their trees to the recycling center.

Trees should be free of any lights, ornaments, or tinsel and left curbside.

Prescribed burn

Weather permitting, a prescribed burn will occur in the following areas on the dates indicated:

- Peason: Today-Monday
- Peason: Saturday-Wednesday
- Six Mile Creek: Saturday-Tuesday

School lunch menu

The following school lunch menu is for Vernon Parish schools for Monday through Jan. 10. Meals are served with salad bar and choice of milk:

Monday: Steak finger basket, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, peaches and Jell O cup, whole wheat roll.

Tuesday: Steak finger basket, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, peaches and Jell O cup, whole wheat roll.

Wednesday: Carnival corn dog, Bush's baked beans, oven baked fries, mixed fruit.

Thursday: Barbecue ribettes on whole wheat bun, Cajun French fries, peas and carrots, pineapple chunks.

Jan. 10: Chili or hot dog on whole wheat bun, French fries, ranch style beans, watermelon, coleslaw.

2019 year of growth for AMC as missions focus on readiness

By KARI HAWKINS
AMC

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — In a year marked by expanding missions, the Army Materiel Command's effectiveness in enabling the Army's continued ability to fight and win the nation's wars remains firmly entrenched in the capabilities of its major subordinate commands.

Major restructuring and mission changes at a fast pace defined operations in 2019 throughout AMC as employees at all levels worked to synchronize efforts, focus on readiness and move toward mission success.

"If we come together, are moving in the same direction, focused on the right priorities and applying the right leadership, we will get the things done we need to get done," AMC commander Gen. Gus Perna told the major subordinate command leadership teams at a commander's forum in early 2019.

"We have some things we have to do, collectively, to synchronize the capabilities of Army Materiel Command. As individual commands, we will not succeed; it is our collective effort that makes the difference."

Those comments set the tone for a year during which the AMC enterprise synchronized its efforts in support of the Army's new Futures Command; gained three command missions as the Army reshaped to gain effectiveness, ensure efficiencies and prioritize resources; took the lead in the Army's Strategic Support Area; and refocused internally on improving the workplace and providing support to its number one asset — its people. As a result of restructuring, AMC grew from nine to 11 major subordinate commands, and from 120,000 to 190,000 employees in 2019.

"We have to continually look at how are we operationalizing, integrating and synchronizing our individual capabilities to meet combatant command requirements and secretary of the Army and chief of staff of the Army priorities as AMC prepares the Army materiel enterprise for large-scale, multi-domain combat operations," Perna said.

While AMC transitioned its research mission to Futures Command with the realignment of the Research, Development and Engineering Command, AMC grew in 2019 with the further integration of three major subordinate commands — the newly formed Army Medical Logistics Command, Installation Management Command and Financial Management Command.

Installation Management Command transitioned from an Army Direct Reporting Unit to a major subordinate of AMC in March. The transition of IMCOM to AMC better aligned installation services and support functions, and enabled prioritization and execution of resources to facilities, infrastructure and programs across the Army.

Army Medical Logistics Command stood up as a major subordinate to AMC June 1, following the Army restructure of the Medical Research and Materiel Command. With the transition, AMC gained responsibilities for all classes of



supply and, through AMLC, now ensures medical forces have the specialized equipment and materiel they need to provide the best care for Soldiers, on and off the battlefield.

Army Financial Management Command transitioned to a major subordinate of AMC Oct. 1, re-aligning financial management under the Army four-star command responsible for sustainment across the Strategic Support Area. The transition better delineates roles and responsibilities for financial management policy and execution, and gives FMCOM the ability to establish new ways of doing business while allowing the Army to remain auditable.

"U.S. Army Financial Management Command is an integral component of the sustainment enterprise, executing financial, technical and controller activities across the entire force," Perna said. "Simply stated, this change directly improves the stewardship efforts of commanders at all echelons, and it ensures optimization of the Army's purchasing power that will enable readiness."

As part of AMC's internal Shape the Fight initiative, its Logistics Support Activity re-designated as the Logistics Data Analysis Center, with several of its functions transitioning to AMC's Army Sustainment Command. LDAC's mission was refocused to synchronize, integrate and conduct analysis of sustainment data to provide materiel solutions that improve Army readiness.

During the year as the Army adapted to the Multi-Domain Operations concept, AMC turned its focus to the Strategic Support Area, defined as the space where logistics and sustainment functions emanate.

"Army Materiel Command is responsible for ensuring readiness of the Strategic Support Area," Perna said. "The SSA is not confined to the U.S. It is wherever we support the fight. It is where combat power is generated, projected and sustained."

At the Association of the U.S. Army Global Force Symposium in March, Perna highlighted

seven focus areas to build and maintain readiness of the SSA — Soldier, Civilian and Family Readiness, Installation Readiness, Industrial Base Readiness, Munitions Readiness, Strategic Power Projection Readiness, Supply Availability and Equipment Readiness and Logistics Information Readiness. AMC is focusing the critical resources of the materiel enterprise on these key areas, with initiatives ranging from infrastructure upgrades to energy independence on installations, and from modernizing Organic Industrial Base facilities to improving the ability to overhaul and maintain current and next-generation weapon systems.

"Multi-Domain Operations require us to effectively generate combat power, quickly project our forces, and then sustain systems and formations for extended durations along multiple dispersed routes, against an enemy laser-focused on disrupting our abilities," Perna said.

"Maximizing our capabilities in these seven focus areas will assure our advantage and allow us to execute the expeditionary logistics and sustainment operations necessary to fight and win on a multi-domain battlefield. Our efforts in the Strategic Support Area will reach the target, and drive and support success."

Through the seven focus areas, AMC is setting conditions for the Army's future success in defense of the nation. It's synchronization with other Army Commands, the Secretary of the Army and the Army Staff have been vital and, in the area of modernization, its partnership with Futures Command and its Cross Functional Teams will ensure sustainment of the next generation of modernized equipment.

"Our logistics and sustainment efforts at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels — across all domains — must be synchronized and resourced to best meet Army readiness requirements and, ultimately, support operations to win our nation's wars," Perna said. "The difference between being ready and reacting will be measured by the number of lives lost."

Top 2019 Soldiers' stories range from saving lives to spotlighting fitness

By **DEVON L. SUITS**

Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — Some of the biggest stories of the year highlighted people, “the Army’s No. 1 resource,” as emphasized by senior leaders.

This year three Soldiers were recognized with the Medal of Honor for their acts of heroism in Iraq and Afghanistan. A handful of Soldiers revealed their fitness potential, either by maxing the Army Combat Fitness Test or by participating in one of the largest fitness competitions around the globe. One Colorado-based Soldier walked away with a pageant crown, while another Soldier was promoted to his 16th rank in 35 years.

Soldier self-amputates leg

Spc. Ezra Maes and his two armor crew teammates were jolted awake by their M1A2 Abrams tank as it rolled downhill at nearly 90 mph with them inside. The sheer force of the vehicle hitting an embankment threw Maes from his position, and his right leg was immediately pinned down by the vehicle’s turret gear.

Recognizing that his teammates needed help, Maes “pushed and pulled” at his pinned appendage until he felt a sharp tear. With his leg removed, he quickly applied a tourniquet. At the same time, the tank’s gunner, Sgt. Aechere Crump, realized their communications were inoperable as she tried to radio in for support.

It was around that moment that Maes’ phone rang. With one leg cut and the other broken, Crump retrieved the cellular device and tossed it to Maes. He swiftly unlocked his phone and sent a text message to a friend — help was on its way.

Ms. Colorado credits Army, competitive nature to her success

First Lt. Angela May DiMattia was the first active-duty Soldier to win the title of Miss Colorado after competing in a “United States of America Pageant” in March.

At the time, DiMattia was serving as the Family Readiness Leader for the 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson, Colorado. Through it all, DiMattia attributes her success to her Soldier teammates, command, family and loved ones, who all provided their care and support.

Three Soldiers receive Medal of Honor

President Donald Trump and Army leaders recognized three Soldiers for their heroic and life-saving actions during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Travis W. Atkins, a 10th Mountain Division squad leader, was posthumously awarded the

Medal of Honor in March. While in Iraq, Atkins saved three Soldiers’ lives by wrapping his arms and body around a suicide bomber. His son, Trevor Oliver, had just turned 11 when his father passed. At 22, Oliver attended the White House ceremony to accept the award on his father’s behalf.

Staff Sgt. David Bellavia was recognized in June for his heroic actions on Nov. 10, 2004. As a squad leader during the second battle of Fallujah, Bellavia repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to help defend his team and their position. He is the first living recipient of the Iraq War to earn the Medal of Honor.

In October, Master Sgt. Matthew O. Williams received his medal for his actions on April 6, 2008. Serving as a weapons sergeant with the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Williams helped stop the enemy from overrunning the team’s position. Through the near-seven-hour operation, Williams moved around the battlespace and helped relocate four critically wounded for medical evacuation.

ACFT stars

As the force transitions to the Army Combat Fitness Test, a handful of Soldiers came close to, or achieved, a perfect PT score.

In June, Spc. Ryan Sowder, assigned to the 2112th Transportation Company, scored a 597 out of a possible 600 points. A month later, Maj. Timothy Cox, a 22nd Chemical Battalion executive officer at Fort Bliss, Texas, was the first Soldier to record a perfect score. After scoring a 587 during his initial test in December 2018, Cox spent the next six months training before maxing out his ACFT.

Later in the year, Spc. Juan Gonzalez, with the 32nd Infantry Regiment out of Fort Drum, New York, was the second Soldier to achieve a perfect ACFT score. Additionally, Spc. Benjamin Ritchie was the first Soldier in Basic Combat Training to max the new fitness test.

Army Warrior Fitness Team

Capt. Chandler Smith, an armor officer and member of the Army Warrior Fitness Team, and Lt. Col. Anthony Kurz, a Special Forces officer assigned to the Asymmetric Warfare Group at Fort Meade, Maryland, recently participated in the 2019 CrossFit games along with Sowder. As a former wrestler and West Point cadet, Smith continues to leverage his athletic talent to be a positive example for all of his peers and teammates. During the grueling four-day event, Smith placed 15th overall, while seizing the opportunity to share his Army story at one of the largest fitness competitions in the world.



Dealing with a slight injury during the games, Kurz placed 9th overall in the 40-44-year-old men’s master competition bracket. At the start of the games, Kurz proudly displayed his Special Forces flag as a nod to the community. He was proud of his overall performance and said he looks forward to returning to Madison in the future.

35 years, 16 ranks

In June, then-Colonel Gen. Jeth Rey, the director of operations, G-3, with Army Cyber Command, was promoted to brigadier general, his 16th rank held throughout his 35-year career.

During the early years of his career, Rey excelled as a member of the Army special operations community. He was eventually promoted to the rank of sergeant first class and then transitioned into the warrant officer corps.

Rey’s leadership talent motivated him to become an officer. As a warrant officer 2, Rey transitioned to officer candidate school, continuing his career path as a second lieutenant. Rey then spent the next 23 years moving through the ranks until his current position.

Soldier provides first aid to shooting victims

Maj. Karl D. Buckingham, a Command and General Staff Officer’s Course student, was busy working out in the gym of his apartment building in Kansas City when someone ran in yelling for support. Someone had just been shot.

Garnering support from another person, Buckingham leveraged his Army training and provided first aid to one of the victims until emergency responders arrived. Buckingham’s command recommended him for a Soldier’s Medal.

From NFL to Army’s front line

Spc. Daryn Colledge, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter repairer with the Idaho National Guard, is a former NFL offensive lineman that joined the Army in 2016.

He started his career with the Green Bay Packers and helped the team to a Super Bowl victory in 2010. He later played for the Arizona Cardinals and Miami Dolphins before retiring from the league.

Determined to serve his country, Colledge enlisted in the Guard and later volunteered for a deployment with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. While in Afghanistan, Colledge was assigned to a medical evacuation crew — a mission that provides life-saving support to patients.

Former actress joins Army

Carly Schroeder, former Lizzy McGuire and General Hospital actress, traded in her previous life to become a Soldier. In June, she graduated Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

During her time in BCT, Schroeder chose to keep her life as an actress a secret, fearing that people would treat or see her differently. While word eventually spread about her previous career, she became close with her teammates, developing several lasting friendships.

Three-star general couple share secrets to family success

James and Laura Richardson have spent more than three decades adapting to new assignments and deployments. With both reaching the rank of lieutenant general, the Richardson family had their share of challenges as a dual military couple.

During permanent changes of station, the couple learned to be proactive by researching their new installations and starting their house hunting and childcare search as early as possible.

The Richardsons shared secrets of their success and said the Army is currently making changes to its Soldier and Family Readiness Groups. They said the SFRG is a vital resource, providing Soldiers with command information and them with available services.

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