



# FORGING THE

# WARRIOR SPIRIT

## THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

Vol. 47, No. 34

Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

Aug. 21, 2020

### Strike: Air assault

### Screaming Eagles soar into JRTC Rotation 20-09

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Command information officer

FORT POLK, La. — Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 20-09 got off to a flying start as CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters inserted elements and equipment of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) into the JRTC box in the early morning hours of Aug. 17.

Thirty-eight Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd BCT, 101st Abn Div, established a gun emplacement with M119 howitzers to provide cover fire for an air assault operation.

That operation took place between 11:30 p.m. Aug. 18 and about 6:30 a.m. Aug. 19, and consisted of 372 Soldiers with equipment from 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 101st Abn Div doing battle with JRTC's world-famous Opposing Forces — 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment Geronimos.

Lt. Col. John Britton, an Observer, Controller/Trainer with JRTC Operations Group Task Force Aviation, said the first night's plan called for 1/320 FA to get its batteries in place to provide support for the next

night's air assault, which Britton said was a complex operation.

"It gave the unit an opportunity to come down and train at a level they can't do at home station, which is integrating a true, dedicated ground force with a complementing aviation task force," Britton said. "Because of COVID restrictions back home, they haven't been able to do this type of training for the past four or five months, so coming down to JRTC has provided them a medium to do that."

Britton said the air assault operation on the second night consisted of UH-60 Blackhawks, CH-47 Chinooks, attack helicopters, unmanned aerial systems and CAS (close air support).

"There was every (aviation) facet you can imagine that you can't get back at home station," he said. "Having to coordinate those is something units aren't able to do, like having heavy PZ (pickup zone) operations, where they're having to move vehicles, equipment and water buffaloes — all the things needed to ensure sustainment for ground forces. It's an amazing opportunity to be able to come down here and do it self-contained."

To complicate matters even more,



CHUCK CANNON/GUARDIAN

*Soldiers with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) practice sling load operations at Fort Polk's Self Army Airfield prior to air assault operations Aug. 17.*

Britton said the operations were conducted using night vision goggles.

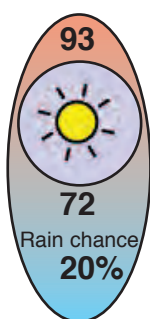
"That is probably the hardest medium you can choose for aviation operations, and to top it off, it was 0% illumination," he said. "It

was impressive. Their ability to fight through multiple challenges, delays and air space coordination was good."

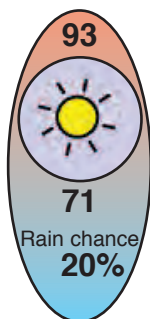
The environmental conditions

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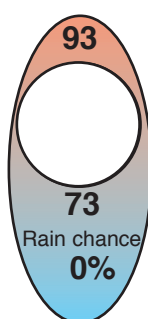
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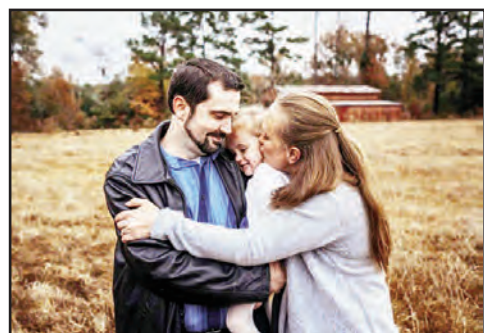
# Viewpoint

## In our view

Guardian staff asked the JRTC and Fort Polk community,  
"Who is your favorite superhero and why?"  
Here are their responses:



**Troy Boudreaux:** "Captain America is patriotic, he's Army and combat arms. After 23 years in the Army, it's only fitting that he's the one I would like."



**Susan Cawley:** "My husband, Jared. He is an amazing father, husband and service member. He served in the United States Air Force. I am truly impressed with who he is and how much he does for our family."



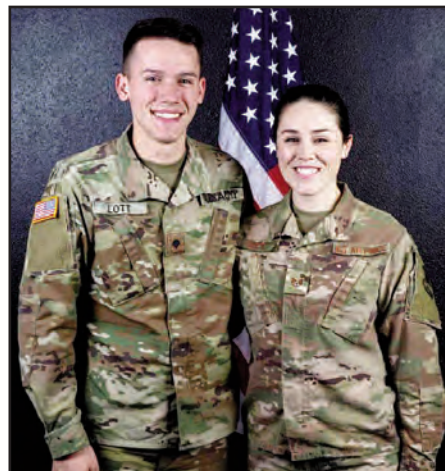
**Andrea Kirk:** "My hero is my son! He is the first in our immediate family to join the Army, and I couldn't be more proud of him!"



**Lynn Anderson:** "My heroes are my three sons. The two on the left of the picture are Army and the one on the right is Navy."



**Virginia Lippert Holloway:** "My hero is my son. He is brave, courageous and I'm so proud of him."



**Tara Lott:** "I'd pick my daughter, who has served in the Air Force for 8 years; she is also the first female in our family to join. I also pick my son, who has been in the Army for 4 years — he is going through the Joint Readiness Training Center training right now. They have been great kids and have always helped when they could. They come from generations of military heroes. Joining was a way to help others and carry on our family's tradition."



**Marc LeMere:** "I have to go with the Punisher. He's ex-military, he takes vengeance into his own hands against evil and understands that unjust laws must be broken."



## Guardian

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The **Guardian** is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

The **Guardian** can be found on the JRTC and Fort Polk web site at [home.army.mil/polk](http://home.army.mil/polk) and the JRTC and Fort Polk Facebook page at [@JRTCandFortPolk/](https://www.facebook.com/JRTCandFortPolk/). **Guardian** archives can also be found on the JRTC and Fort Polk website.

Links to the **Guardian** are also included in all-users emails to government email users and by request to non-military units. To be included on all-users messages email [kimberly.k.reischling.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kimberly.k.reischling.civ@mail.mil).

All editorial content of the **Guardian** is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

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



## Briefs

### DG app

The Army's new Digital Garrison mobile app is now available for Fort Polk. The DG app, which can be downloaded on Android and Apple devices, gives users access to resources about their local exchange, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, facility information, direct links to on-post housing entities and other services. The app is portable among numerous installations.

Users can customize the app to meet their needs, and it is set to receive improvements through daily updates.

Current local app solutions will cease

### ACP 1 lane 1 closure

Travel lane 1 at access control point 1 (Entrance Road) will be closed beginning Aug. 27 at 9:30 a.m. to perform concrete pavement repairs.

Lane 1 repairs are expected to take four days and will be operational by Aug. 31. Lane 2 and 3 at ACP 1 will be operational during this effort. However, during peak entry times, motorists should anticipate a delay in gate access.

### Hiring event

Fort Polk is hosting a Hiring and Law Enforcement event to help transitioning Soldiers, eligible Spouses and Veterans within the Fort Polk community prepare and connect with employers and service providers.

Pre-workshops will be held on Sept. 15 from 1 - 4:30 p.m. The Hiring and Law Enforcement event will be Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The workshops and the event will be located at 1321 Corps Road.

Contact Soldier for Life- Transition Assistance Program at 531-1591 for details.

### Suicide prevention

There will be Ask, Care and Escort Suicide Intervention skills training Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in bldg 4275 on Polk Army Airfield.

The course teaches participants to recognize when someone may have thoughts of suicide and how to properly address the situation. Masks will be mandatory.

For more information, contact John Pilgrim at 531-6187.

### e-Guardian email list

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






## MILITARY SPOUSE CAREER EMPOWERMENT EXPO

### ONE-DAY VIRTUAL EVENT

**Military spouses – join us to get job search ready!**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9, 2020 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT**  
**#MilSpouseEmpower**

## Fort Polk hosts DoD Military Spouse Career Expo

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

FORT POLK, La. — Unfortunately, COVID-19 has negatively affected unemployment rates, and military spouses haven't been immune from its impact.

In addition to the pandemic's hurdles, military spouses often face uphill battles stemming from frequent moves and varying state license reciprocity regulations.

With this in mind, the Department of Defense chose to empower military spouses through a virtual career exposition.

On Sept. 9, Fort Polk will have the honor of being the first to host this DoD roadshow — the free Virtual Military Spouse Career Empowerment Expo. The event, which will be held between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., is exclusively for Fort Polk spouses of active duty, Guard and Reserve service members.

Spouses will have access to Spouse Education and Career Opportunities career coaches, Military OneSource consultants, Military Spouse Employment Partnership companies and employment readiness personnel.

These experts will help with resumes, job searching, navigating education options and more.

Informative sessions will cover the federal hiring process, networking guidance, self-employment, remote work opportunities, salary negotiation tips, career changes and even key points of self-care.

Some of the event speakers include Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, commander, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk; Leah Esper, spouse, United States Secretary of Defense; Anne

Kimberley Joiner, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy; Lee Kelley, director, Military Community Support Programs; Alyson Lilley, health and wellness coach, Military OneSource contractor; Patti J. Larney, city administrator, City of Leesville, and Cheryl L. Mason, chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals.

For the full list of speakers and expo agenda visit the **event registration website**, which also lists various expo materials including a participant guide, a LinkedIn Premium upgrade, Military OneSource Specialty Consultation fact sheet, new SECO resources, SECO career coach fact sheet and more.

If you're an interested Fort Polk spouse, please follow the below steps to register for the virtual event:

- Visit the **event website**.
- Click on the "register" button, which will lead to the registration form.
- Complete all of the required fields on the registration tab, including the sessions tab.
- Agree to the end user and privacy terms.
- Select the "register" button at the bottom once all of the previous steps are complete.
- A page will confirm that the registration process was successful.

To contact a SECO coach, call Military OneSource at (800) 342-9647.





## Army system successfully completes second missile intercept test

By DEVON SUITS

Army news service

WASHINGTON — The Army is one step closer to improving its air and missile defense capabilities after a successful live-fire evaluation intercepted two low-altitude targets flying at close proximity Aug. 13.

The intercept test is part of the larger Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System, or IBCS, limited user test, said Gen. John M. Murray, commander of Army Futures Command.

"This is a major milestone, not only for the air defense community but for the Army as a whole," Murray said Aug. 13 during a media event.

"I'm fully confident that we're on the road to a successful (initial operational test and evaluation) in about a year's time."

More than 500 Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, have been involved with the user evaluation since July, said Col. Philip Rottenborn, a project manager with the Program Executive Office of Missiles and Space.

The IBCS is the Army's contribution to the Joint All-Domain Command and Control system, capable of blending current and future sensors and weapon systems under one unified network. The limited user test out of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, is slated to end in September.

All personnel within the 3-43 ADA, a Patriot missile unit, supported the live-fire intercept — a first for this LUT, said Brig. Gen. Brian Gibson, the Air and Missile Defense Cross-Functional Team director.

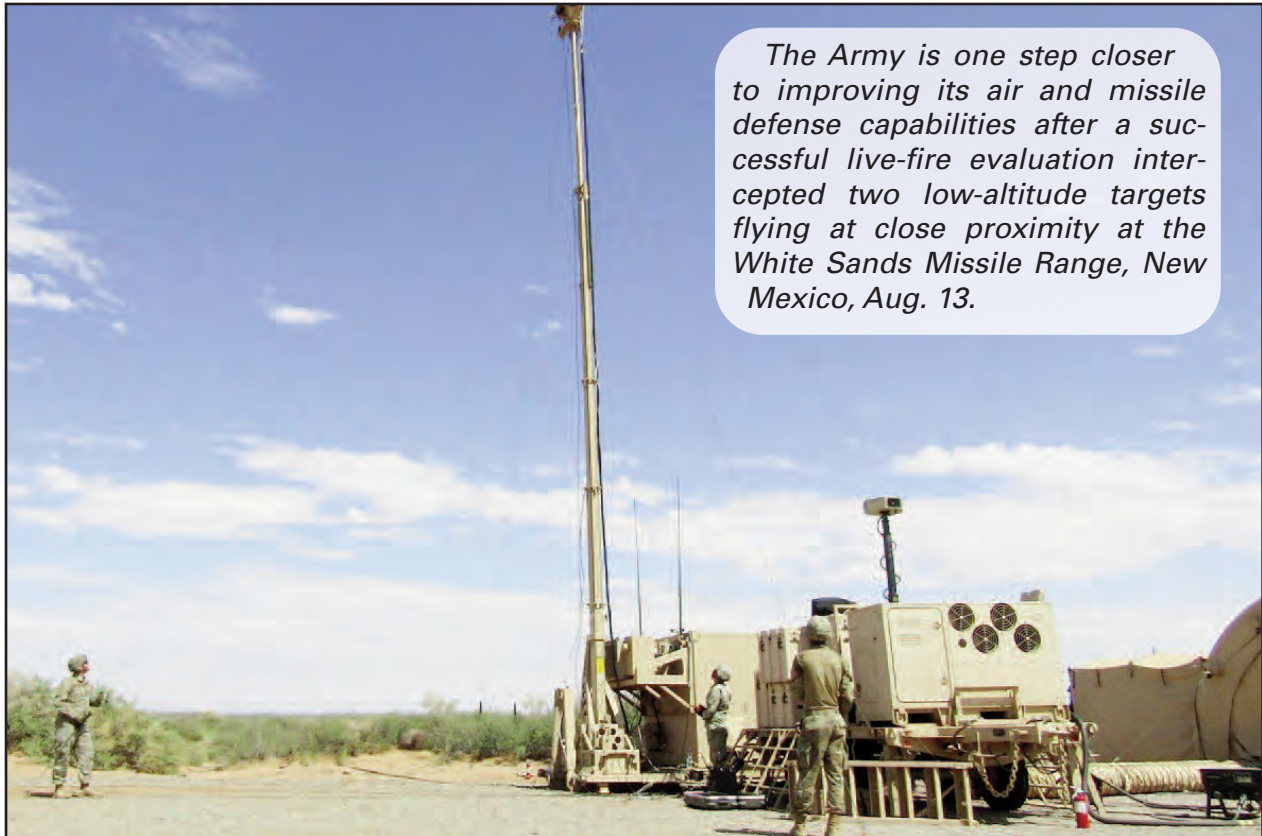
During the test, Soldiers relied on the IBCS to interconnect two Patriot radars, two AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel radars, three Patriot launchers, and several battalion and battery engagement centers to take down the pair of targets, Rottenborn said.

"The interceptors were (Patriot Advanced Capability-3) cost reduction initiative interceptors launched from separate launchers at the same battery site," he said.

"They were against two MQM-178 cruise missile surrogate targets, flying challenging maneuvers."

The sensor-to-shooter system also provided a real-time communication capability across seven different network relays to multiple echelons, Rottenborn said.

Simulated opposing forces also jammed one of the network relays to test the system's ability to seamlessly transition data to another node. Test-



*The Army is one step closer to improving its air and missile defense capabilities after a successful live-fire evaluation intercepted two low-altitude targets flying at close proximity at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Aug. 13.*

ing and evaluation officials will review information collected during the intercept to ensure the IBCS handled this process correctly.

The live-fire test is the second time the Army has used the IBCS to successfully intercept a set of targets. In December, the Army proved the capability after launching a pair of Patriot Advanced Capability-2 missiles to take out two cruise missile surrogates.

Moving forward, the Army will continue to make improvements to the IBCS capability. The 3-43 ADA will become the first unit equipped with the initial operational capability, slated for fiscal year 2022, Gibson said.

The battalion first received the new system in August 2019, said Col. Anthony Behrens, the Army capability manager and director of Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

"They created their own tactics, techniques and procedures, (which are) vastly different than how we operate today at the crew, battery and battalion levels," Behrens said.

Current units are typically limited to Patriot radar technology to discern a missile's flight path — a system that is restricted in both range and capability, when compared to an IBCS-enabled network, he added.

"Normally, (the Army) would probably fire two interceptors at each of these targets," Behrens



*Soldiers conduct a successful live-fire evaluation intercepting two low-altitude targets Aug. 13.*

said. "We were able to integrate Sentinel radars far from the launchers. By adding those additional sensors to a network ... we add several minutes to the decision cycle."

In turn, prolonging an engagement creates more time for leaders to make an informed decision and allows for more effective and efficient use of Army assets and capabilities.

The Army is slated to conduct a third intercept test next week. Air and missile defense program leads will continue to learn from the 3-43 ADA and plan to use that knowledge to shape future air defense doctrine, Behrens said.

## CID's Defense Forensic Science Center frontline fighters against COVID-19

CID

QUANTICO, Va. — In the middle of March, as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the United States, the Army made mission adjustments to focus on protecting the force, posturing for global operational readiness and supporting the national effort to fight the novel coronavirus.

"Army researchers were critical during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome epidemic, the Zika virus and the Ebola outbreak as they helped develop antivirals and vaccines," said Ryan McCarthy, Secretary of the Army, in an April 1 press release. "They've done it before, and they will do it again."

During this timeframe, a team from the Army

Criminal Investigation Command's Defense Forensic Science Center's (DFSC) Forensic Exploitation Directorate (FXD) collectively identified the required skills, training and equipment needed to conduct COVID-19 testing.

"At the early onset of the COVID-19 pandem-

Please see **CID**, page 9



# Rotation

Continued from page 1

and the complexity of the plan are what make a unit's rotation to JRTC so important, Britton said.

"I think JRTC provides the medium to do that, and allows leaders to make mistakes," he said. "It's in a controlled environment that you can learn from. That, in turn, makes them better when they leave the box. It provides them an amazing training opportunity they get in feedback and on-the-spot coaching with observer, coach/trainers."

The air assault was fully contested by OPFOR Geronimos.

"The brigade combat team did some bold planning and tried to get the air assault force behind the OPFOR, maximizing their ability to mass upon the objective and try and surprise the OPFOR," Britton said. "It was a bold and audacious plan throughout."

Capt. Ryan Hunt, an OC/T with Task Force 3, was on the ground with the 1st Bn, 26th Inf Reg during the air assault.

He said the unit's primary mission was to disrupt enemy (OPFOR) movement from east to west, to keep them out of the area where the brigade combat team fight was centered. He said that even though Geronimo was disruptive, it was not enough to cause the mission to fail.

"It was a brief skirmish that only lasted about 15 minutes," Hunt said. "Geronimo destroyed a couple of vehicles and inflicted 14 (notional) casualties, but it was not enough to cause the mission to fail."

Hunt added no Soldiers were injured during the operation.

As of the evening of Aug. 19, Hunt said the majority of the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn Div was now in the disruption zone, with 1st/26th protecting the northern flank in preparation for an attack on the southern flank.

"This was a complex operation," said Hunt, echoing Britton.

"Once the Soldiers were on the ground, they achieved their purpose and mission relatively well with minimal casualties and loss of equipment."

Britton, who flew during both operations, said Task Force Aviation OC/Ts were pleased with how things unfolded.

"It provided an opportunity to get young aviators out into a contested air assault environment, and allowed them to train doing things they are not able to do back home," he said. "Having the multiple levels of complexity, not only with ground forces, aviation task force, air space coordination and OPFOR, it gave them a basis to learn from."

While the operation wasn't "perfect," Britton said the unit conducted extensive after action reviews where they identified issues and how to capitalize on gains as they go forward.

"The beauty of being at JRTC is they will have the opportunity two or three more times to go through and apply what they learned," he said. "It might not be to the same scale, but it's the same planning process with the same ground forces and contested environment."

As a member of the Aviation Task Force, Britton said the training received at JRTC by helicopter pilots in the 82nd Airborne Division — who are providing the air support for the 101st — is invaluable.

"The difference we're seeing now with aviation task forces coming to JRTC is their experi-



*Soldiers with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are briefed prior to an air assault operation Aug. 17 at Fort Polk's Self Army Airfield.*

JRTC OPERATIONS GROUP



*Helicopters of 2nd BCT, 101st Abn Div (Air Assault) Soldiers in the Joint Readiness Training Center 'box' during air assault operations Aug. 18.*

ence level," he said. "You don't have your 2,000-hour pilots that you once had. You're getting guys fresh out of flight school, who only have a little bit of time in the unit, that get to come down to places like JRTC to exercise the most complex and dynamic mission sets they've ever seen."

Britton gave as an example the sling load operations.

"You've got young Soldiers sitting on top of those vehicles having to hook those loads up," he said. "The complexity of identifying which hook they have to put that on, configuring them properly, it's huge."

"Brig. Gen. (Patrick D.) Frank (commander, JRTC and Fort Polk) highlighted it when we went into this: It's all about risk. How you mitigate that risk is the environment; having OC/Ts

in the right places at the right time; following COVID-19 protocols and mitigations, which they did; and truly giving that unit the opportunity to train, identify mistakes or strengths and capitalize on them."

Maj. Josh Lazzarini and Maj. Josh Naillon, Task Force Aviation OC/Ts, were at the PZ at Fort Polk's Self Army Airfield during the operations. Lazzarini said among the equipment and personnel moved Aug. 17-18 were 410 Soldiers, 16 vehicles and three trailers.

Four Chinooks and 11 Blackhawks were used as transports with a total of 80.1 flight hours during the two missions.

Naillon said the operation at Self went well.

"Both heavy and light PZs went off with few problems," he said. "Except for starting a little late on the second night, it went really smooth."



## OSJA





# 2nd BCT, 101st Abn Div (Air Assault) rehearses sling load ops

## GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), worked on sling load operations Aug. 12 using CH-47 Chinook helicopters and aviators assigned to the 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, prior to Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 20-09 at the JRTC and Fort Polk.

The 3rd GSAB, 82nd CAB, 82nd Abn Div is providing aviation support to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn Div (Air Assault) — their sister division in the XVIII Airborne Corps — during the rotation.

Rotation 20-09 kicked off with an air assault operation in the early morning hours of Aug. 17 in the JRTC training 'box.'



*Clockwise, from above: A CH-47 Chinook helicopter with the 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82 Airborne Division, moves into position for sling load operations at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Aug. 13; Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) connect a pallette to the Chinook; Soldiers clear the area under the Chinook after hooking the sling load; a CH-47 exits after dropping its sling load as another CH-47 moves in to take its place.*



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN



# Fort Polk NCO exemplifies leadership, selfless service coaching football

By **CHRISTY GRAHAM**

Guardian editor

FORT POLK, La. — As the weather warmed and the impacts of the pandemic continued to permeate society, Families had to come to terms with the lack of activities available to kids over the spring and summer months. Luckily, for Fort Polk's Dogwood Terrace community, a 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Soldier stepped forward to offer a simple but invaluable solution. Demonstrating the essence of the selfless-service Army value, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Arnold, platoon sergeant, volunteered to coach football to neighborhood kids.

"I've coached football for Child and Youth Services at every one of my duty stations," said Arnold. "With the COVID-19 lockdowns, I noticed my own boys were getting lazy, so we bought equipment and started training outside. That's how it all began."

As he and his kids took to grassy fields in Dogwood, some of Arnold's previous flag and tackle football players noticed and wanted to join, he said. "Eventually, as more kids wanted to play, we just opened it up to the entire Dogwood community. I realized that it was a good way for these kids to stay in shape during the pandemic."

Arnold's heart of selfless service illuminated the essence of his leadership. Not only did he apply these fundamental Army values to his job, but he also brought them into his home and community, emulating discipline and selflessness for the kids he coached.

Three months later, in the thick of summer, Coach Arnold (as the kids know him) is still running speed agility drills as dragonflies buzz above the same Dogwood fields. Punctuating the hot air with his whistle, Arnold commands his group to get ready for each successive drill, from stretching to karaoke exercises.

To instill a sense of discipline through the exercises, Arnold has the kids clap to demarcate the beginning and end of each different drill. "They know, if I don't like the clap, then I'll keep repeating the command until they get it right. It adds structure and discipline to our practices."

As a true leader, Arnold also uses these practices to offer words of positivity and wisdom. He covers important and relevant topics at each practice.

As the summer inches closer to the beginning of fall semester, Arnold said he focused on school at a recent practice. "We huddle up and talk, and I try to give them some positivity. This week we've focused on school and getting ready for the year, keeping in mind some of the differences the kids might encounter, like virtual learning."

Arnold said he encouraged kids to get into the habit of reading now, preparing themselves for their upcoming academic years. "They've been focusing on keeping themselves physically fit, but now they need to focus on being mentally fit and getting smarter."

He does all this while also adhering to the mandates and recommendations for COVID-19. "When we stretch, we stay within the 6-foot mitigation guidelines. On Saturdays we do scrimmage, but we use spread-out formations at those times also," said Arnold. Staying within the parameters of the issued general orders remains a top priority, he said. "We've never been over 10

*Neighborhood kids from Fort Polk's Dogwood Terrace run various speed and conditioning drills under the direction and supervision of Staff Sgt. (Coach) Jonathan Arnold, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.*



CHRISTY GRAHAM / GUARDIAN

kids; if we did get bigger, I would split the kids into separate groups, which requires another coach."

Pfc. Trent Waibel, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, has since joined Arnold's endeavor to keep Dogwood kids active and positively engaged through the summer. "He's a young guy, but he and his wife just started coming and helping," said Arnold.

With the additional coach volunteer, Arnold is better able to maintain the scheduled practices each week. "I like the idea of having more volunteers, so we can keep the practices going for the kids. It's easy to get the kids to commit; it is harder to get adults to commit at the same level," he said. "But, having others help is vital in keeping the practices consistent for the kids."

"I dedicate three days a week to coaching. It's challenging — especially when everybody's in the field. I've even had to cancel a few times, which hurts. There are a lot of times that I'll conduct a practice and then get right back into uniform and go back to work," he said.

For Arnold, however, the difficulties are well worth the rewards. "Just seeing the differences in the kids makes it worthwhile. There is one kid who wasn't coordinated at the beginning. I could throw a ball to him, and it would slip right through his fingers. Now, he's catching and running as fast as some of the fastest kids at practice," said Arnold. "I like seeing the kids' progress."

The kids and their parents are equally as happy, grateful and impressed with the experience.

"Coach is an amazing motivator and ensures that the kids are staying safe and having fun," Kelsey Kelley, one of the kid's mothers, said. "He involves the parents in scrimmages and creates a positive atmosphere for everyone involved. He teaches the players self-discipline and motivates them to push themselves further with each practice. With many parks, pools, and gyms closed, this program allows the players to focus their energy in a positive way."

Over the course of a few months altered by COVID-19, Coach Arnold has found a way to



*Responding to the lack of kids' activities due to the pandemic, football coach and noncommissioned officer, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Arnold, holds football practice on Aug. 10 in an open, grassy field in the Dogwood Community Terrace community of Fort Polk.*

mentor a group of kids and other young Soldiers volunteering to help with practices. Arnold stresses discipline and positive thinking with the kids and is an example of core Army values for Soldiers that know him. This simple act has created a fun, healthy outlet for Dogwood kids, but it also highlights the high caliber NCOs that serve at Fort Polk.



# AAFES offers Fort Polk Soldiers, Families weekly workout videos

## AAFES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk Soldiers and military Families needing some Monday motivation can use live BE FIT workouts on the **Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Facebook page** at 11 a.m. every Monday.

Each week, BE FIT ambassadors Roy Montez and Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Sonja Berry host these live Facebook events over the course of 20-minute workout sessions. In addition, Soldiers, Airmen, retirees, Veterans and military Family members can watch the series on the **Exchange Facebook page**, allowing users to review previous workouts.

The live workouts, which include interval training, core workouts, strength exercises and more, grew from a desire to promote wellness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These BE FIT workouts remind Fort Polk Soldiers that staying fit is critical —especially during the pan-

demic," said Fort Polk General Manager Ronald McDuffie. "Joining the Exchange workouts through Facebook fosters a sense of community and resiliency."

Each video begins with a short introduction, and then Montez describes each exercise before he and Berry lead viewers through stretching exercises. During the workout, Montez pauses to rest, provides advice and answers questions from the online audience.

"It's like having a free trainer," said Berry, the Exchange's assistant director for public health and food safety.

"It demonstrates the Exchange's commitment to fitness and healthy lifestyles."

The Exchange's BE FIT initiative highlights better-for-you dining, grab-and-go options and provides an assortment of fitness gear and wellness services.

The program empowers military customers, their Families and the broader military community to



make healthy lifestyle choices.

The community is encouraged to

visit the Exchange's community hub for more BE FIT choices.

## CID

Continued from page 4

ic, we (DFSC FXD) understood the severity and global impact the virus would have," said Crystal Allen, chief, Forensic Exploitation Branch 2, FXD, DFSC.

"We knew very quickly that, given the organic skillset of the FXD examiners, we could assist the medical community with testing. Our support provided the Department of Defense with additional resources across the globe to support the increasing demand for COVID-19 testing."

Located on the Gillem Enclave in Forest Park, Georgia, the DFSC's mission is to provide full-service forensic and biometric support to Army and Department of Defense entities worldwide. This includes the subordinate units of the Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, FXD, Biometrics Operations Directorate and the Office of Quality Initiatives and Training. The FXD houses the capability to deploy a scalable and modular forensic exploitation team to provide the joint force commander or combatant command with a deployable forensic capability.

Five months later, a team from FXD continues to support COVID-19 testing in support of military forces.

According to Allen, the initial planning team (seven individuals formed in mid-March) was tasked early on with concept development.

The team used their vast scientific and operational expertise to learn proper medical testing procedures and requirements in order to establish a way ahead to support the DoD.

Despite not having used the Panther Fusion, BioFire or Gene Expert platforms before, the FXD examiners used their knowledge and skillsets in complex scientific instrumentation and sample handling to adapt, said Allen.

These platforms utilize polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology, much like the FXD examiners utilize to conduct forensic DNA testing.

"FXD's support to COVID processing improved the military's readiness and provided enhanced value to the government," said Allen.

"The FXD's support helped to identify service members testing positive within basic training formations, deploying units, mobilized National Guard units, Navy ships and Marine Expeditionary Forces so commanders could isolate those infected personnel in order to preserve the readiness of the remainder of the Joint Forces."

Since March, dozens of FXD Forensic DNA examiners, latent print examiners and explosive/drug chemists have deployed to work in military medical treatment facilities at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and Camp

Humphreys, Korea, in support of Army Medical Command (USAMEDCOM).

They have also deployed to Camp Ripley, Minnesota, in support of a mobile medical lab set up to handle COVID-19 specimen testing in remote locations.

Allen said CID's FXD team transformed their current forensic instrumentation and software into a viral testing capability and also modified five mobile forensic laboratories to meet the needs of medical testing facilities for rapid deployment into austere locations.

The mobile forensic labs have aided in expedited testing and allowed military personnel to be tested without having to mail tests to another medical location.

The transformation from a forensic science capability into a medical testing capability required exhaustive research, planning, contract modifications and countless hours of coordination with the DFSC staff, CID staff, USAMEDCOM, numerous scientific vendors, the Center for Disease Control and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Allen stated.

The FXD has significantly impacted the fight during the COVID-19 pandemic with noticeable results by providing more than 8,100 hours of support and processing more than 47,530 DoD COVID-19 samples as of Aug. 11. In addition to the sig-

nificant number of samples the FXD team was able to process, they were also able to provide their USAMEDCOM partners with novel testing concepts and efficient processing mechanisms based on their experience working in high operational tempo forensic laboratories.

The team has processed samples submitted from Basic Training formations at Fort Benning, Georgia; deploying units from Fort Campbell, Kentucky; mobilized National Guard units preparing for rotations at the Combat Training Centers; forward deployed military units along the Demilitarized Zone in South Korea; and Marine Expeditionary Forces in Okinawa, Japan.

"Our FXD Teams continue a high level of support to USAMEDCOM with COVID-19 testing," said Col. Jeremy Willingham, executive director, DFSC, after processing 8,000 swabs in one week alone. "In a single day, the FXD team accessioned, packaged and shipped 2,820 specimens from

the USS America, USS Ronald Reagan, USS New Orleans, U.S. Naval Hospital in Okinawa and Camp Humphreys."

The primary mission for FXD is global forensic exploitation support; however, innovative thinking led to FXD supporting a full range of military operations, including the global fight against this novel threat, said Allen.



# BOSS Soldier wins Soldier Showdown Tournament week

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Who said all those years of playing video games wouldn't pay off? Pfc. Timothy Cleghorn, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, used his hard-earned gaming skills to perfection as he took first place in the Soldier Showdown Fortnite Video Tournament's fourth week ending July 25 for this region of the country.

The Soldier Showdown online tournaments showcase a multi title/multi platform tournament held over a period of 12 weeks from July 4 through Sept. 19. Some of the games Soldiers can compete in include Madden, Rocket League, Call of Duty, Fortnite and more.

Cpl. Bianca Ortiz, BOSS president, said the feedback on the tournament and the games being played by single Soldiers has been positive.

"The Soldiers like the games they get to play in the tournament because they are recent games they are familiar with and play every day," she said.

Cleghorn said he was familiar with some of the games, but not all of them, so he didn't sign up for those.

"I've only played Fortnite and Call of Duty, but I plan to continue playing to try to win again."

The Army National Guard, Army Entertainment, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and Complexity Gaming worked together to offer and promote the free event.

Ortiz said the BOSS program, Fort Polk Morale, Welfare and Recreation and leadership is really proud of Cleghorn.

"When I sent the MWR Facebook posting of the winners for that week to Command Sergeant Major Christopher Ausbun, garrison command sergeant major, he was impressed," she said.

The purpose of the video competition in the middle of a pandemic is to give single Soldiers a chance to have fun doing something they would nor-



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

*Pfc. Timothy Cleghorn, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, shows off his Fortnite playing skills at the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers headquarters inside the Home of Heroes Recreation Center Aug. 13.*

mally do anyway — play video games in the barracks while maintaining social distance. It also added a layer of competitiveness by having Soldiers from all over the world play against and interact with each other while giving them a chance to win prizes for their efforts.

Cleghorn said with quarantine, there wasn't a lot to do, so this opportunity to play and compete with other Soldiers online was great.

"I enjoyed communicating and playing against other Soldiers from different bases. It was pretty cool," he said. "I appreciate the opportunity to take part in the tournament. It's awesome —

I love it."

Playing game after game during the tournament was intense, said Cleghorn.

"I played five games and it took about two and a half hours," he said. "The game play was set up so that it was always two versus one. It was frustrating and challenging."

Cleghorn said for him, gaming is all about using your imagination and strategy to win.

"A lot of people don't understand how much thinking goes into a game like Fortnite. Players that can think fast have the advantage," he said.

Cleghorn said if you are good at the

game, you are going to probably win quickly.

"If your competition is good and you are good, it's going to take longer to win," he said.

Each week, the winner of each time zone receives a gaming package that includes a tactical backpack and a top of the line gaming mouse — these are the items Cleghorn, a BOSS Soldier, won.

"I have a nice mouse already, but the one I won will be my backup if mine breaks. The backpack is great. I really like it," he said.

At first, Cleghorn said he didn't believe he had won.

"I didn't expect to win, but it felt good. I kept repeating, 'I won this; I won.' Everyone online started congratulating me," he said.

If Cleghorn continues to play and win in the Soldier Showdown Video Tournament, he could garner enough points to find himself at the leaderboard.

The three Soldiers at the top will win a 24-inch gaming monitor and a VIP experience at Complexity's headquarters in Frisco, Texas, where they will enjoy a day in the life of a gamer.

Cleghorn said he's pretty confident that he has a chance to win future games as well.

"The tournament is based on a point system, so if I win more than one week, I might make to the top of the board at the end," he said.



Prizes



# Women celebrate 100 years of making progress at polls

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Public affairs officer

FORT POLK, La. — It sometimes seems like the year 2020 is trying to see just how much we can take. Personally, I was ready to yell “uncle” months ago, but that would be the easy way out, and my parents didn’t raise a quitter. So I have continued to navigate COVID-19, a tanking economy, protests, politics, masks, murder hornets and more. I’ve tried to keep my spirits up, but it’s been a challenge.

Thankfully, there have been small good news stories that have made me smile. Those tiny victories keep me going.

One such celebratory moment is the fact that 2020 also marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The amendment was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and ratified (to make it officially valid) Aug. 18, 1920, granting women the Constitutional right to vote.

The fight for that right took decades. Women called suffragettes utilized protests, marches, lobbying and civil disobedience to make it happen. I can’t help but admire these women who never gave up and passed their passion for change to their daughters and following generations. Their efforts allow women like you and me to vote, serve as mayors, state representatives, U.S. Senators and, possibly this year, vice president.

The fight for the right to vote began in the early 1800s. The movement evolved from small groups scattered all over the country to a more unified organization that fell under the banner of the women’s suffrage movement. Suffrage literally means the right to vote in political elections.

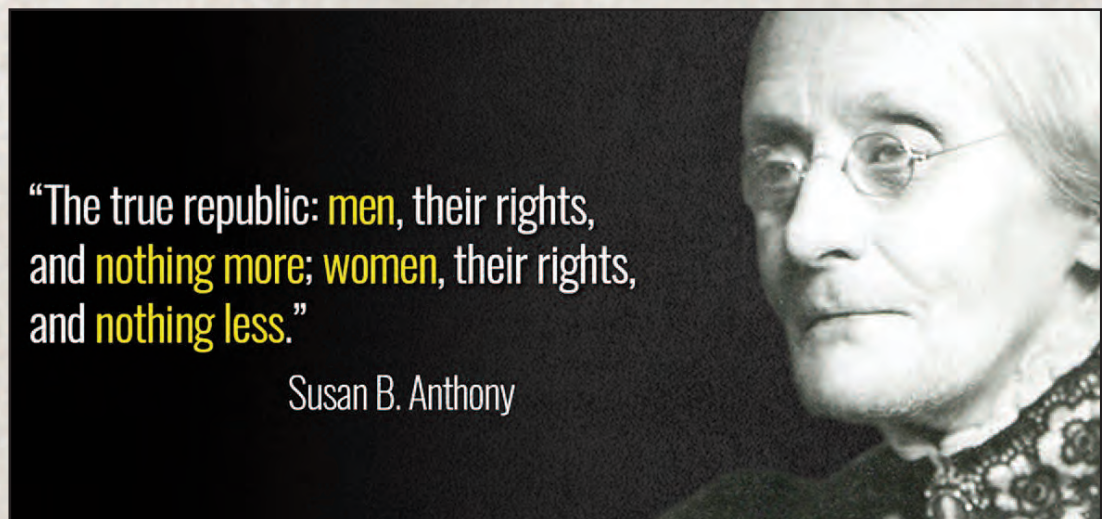
Along the way, men who ridiculed them opposed their efforts, going so far as to create their own national association to oppose women’s suffrage. Believe it or not, they weren’t alone. The Women’s Suffrage movement also had to fight their own gender to be heard and taken seriously. Like men of the time, these anti-suffrage groups believed a woman’s place was in the home — taking care of the kids and being submissive to their husband’s needs.

They even questioned the mental capabilities and intelligence of women who wanted to vote and have their voices heard. Wow, it’s amazing that people are still trying to do that today. Some things don’t change and history does repeat itself.

A pivotal leader in the women’s suf-



*Suffrage picketers marching along Pennsylvania Avenue on March 4, 1917.*



## Commentary

frage movement, Susan B. Anthony, worked for 50 years traveling the country, giving speeches and demanding that women should be given the right to vote. Sadly, she died in 1906, before accomplishing her goal of having the 19th amendment ratified.

On the 100th anniversary of the amendment’s ratification, we have to continue celebrating that accomplishment for her.

Since women have fought for and won the right to vote, we have continued to grow and strive for equality, but it sometimes seems the further we get from the accomplishment of gaining that right, the more it appears we take it for granted by not using it.

But it’s not just women who fall into that trap. Across the board, only 60% of registered voters tend to vote during presi-

dential elections. That number goes down to about 40% during midterm elections.

Those numbers frustrate me. Though, since 1980, women have had slightly higher voter turnout rates than men, according to the **Pew Research website**.

I want to shake people that sit at home when they can’t bother themselves to cast a ballot and tell them that voting is fundamental to a healthy democracy, according to the **Fair Vote website**. They also mention on their website that voter turnout in the U.S. is much lower than most established democracies. That makes me think, one of the greatest democracies in the world — that’s the U.S. if you weren’t keeping track — seems to feel like, “meh, maybe I’ll vote and maybe I won’t.” What?

Where has that sense of wonder and the goal that all those suffragettes fought for

Please see **Polls**, page 12



# Polls

Continued from page 11

gone? The U.S. seems to have lost it somewhere along the long years of toil. You would think voting to implement change might make people eager to be heard via a check on the ballot box, but it seems that's not so.

From what I've seen myself, many Americans tend to believe that the right to vote will always be there, but that's not necessarily the case. A democracy, in my opinion is a living thing; if it is neglected it can die. Instead, people must continue to fight and care for it while believing in its purpose.

I know several people who don't vote for various reasons such as they don't care, it doesn't really affect them and, the one I hear the most, their vote won't change anything.

I want to somehow help them understand they are throwing away the best and most important tool they were ever given as free and independent citizens of this great nation. In a way, they turn their backs on a responsibility to continue making sure the inalienable rights (we have enjoyed for more than 200 years) won't be torn away. It's a person's best chance to make a difference; it's a chance to make their lives and those of their neighbor's lives better.

However, if you do vote, I would encourage you to take the time to make an informed decision, regardless of the issue or candidate. Going to the polling site and checking boxes without any real understanding of the choices you are making could be just as harmful as not voting at all.

This brings us to a potentially historic 2020 presidential election Nov. 3.

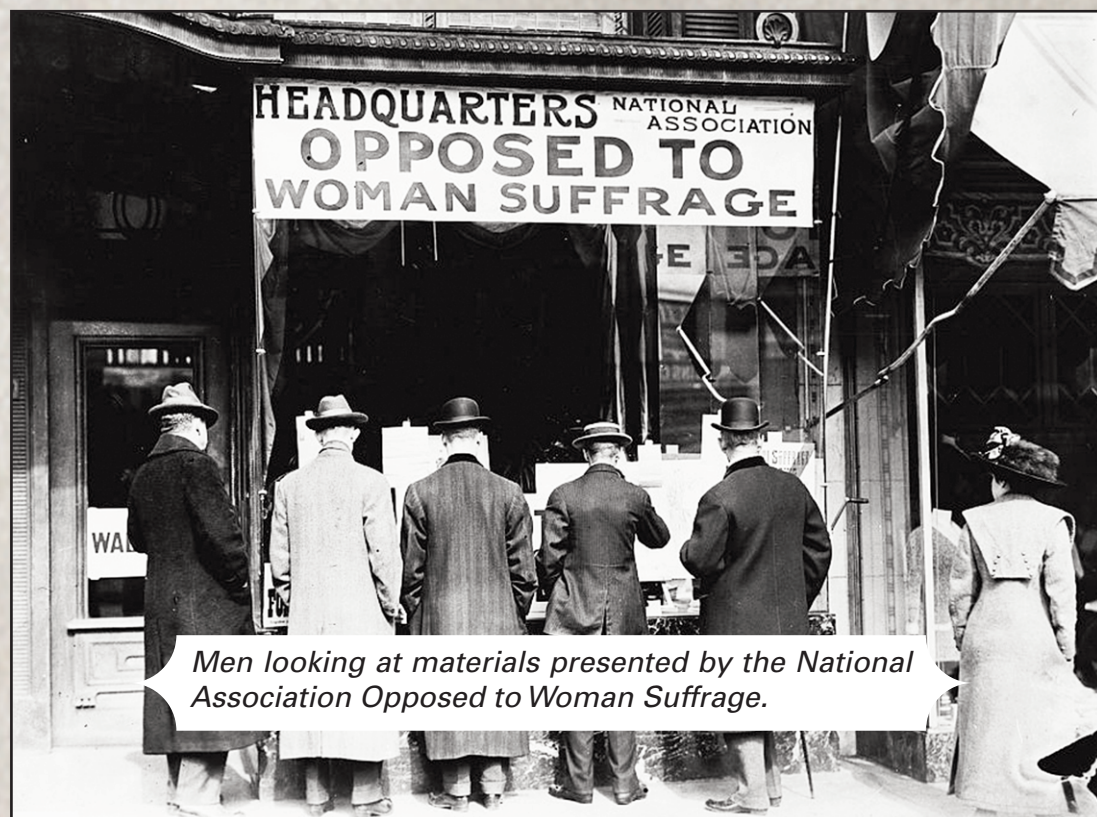
Do I have an opinion about which candidate to vote for? Of course I do, as do many of you. I've done my research; and I'm thankful I'm allowed to have that opinion, as well as the right to vote — thanks again Susan!

Now, though I might not agree with your choices, thanks to the good fortune of living in America, we are able to agree to disagree. I try my best to respect others' ideals and choices as long as they do the same for me.

Even with the added obstacles COVID-19 has put in our way this election year, we can't let it stop us from performing this sacred duty to democracy.

If you are a woman of voting age, do your research, make your decision and get out there and make those suffragettes proud by validating everything they worked and fought for 100 years ago.

Just think, you can celebrate the anniversary of their success by metaphorically pulling that lever on their behalf.



Men looking at materials presented by the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage.

However, it's not just about women voting. It's about all Americans — no matter their gender or race — standing up for what they believe in.

We should all take seriously the right to state our beliefs in the form of casting a vote. As far as I'm concerned, it's a grave duty afforded to all too few in the world and one that our military service members (including the Soldiers right here at Fort Polk's Home of Heroes) fight for every day.

Regardless of how you plan to vote, just make sure that you do:

- **Registration** — if you aren't registered, it's a pretty simple process to complete. The deadline to register in Louisiana is Oct. 13. You can register to vote online at the **Louisiana Secretary of State website**. Be sure to confirm your registration for the upcoming presidential election by checking your registration status on the same website.

- **Mail-in ballots** — you can vote by mail for specific reasons, but not for fear of coronavirus. The deadline to request a mail ballot is 4:30 p.m. Oct. 30, and the deadline for it to reach the registrar is 4:30 p.m. Nov. 2. Waiting that long to vote cuts it a little close in these uncertain times. So, if you need to request a mail ballot, do so as soon as possible. Once you receive it, complete the form and mail it right back. You want your vote to count.

- **Early voting** — this is a great option and one that I have used myself. It tends to reduce long lines and masses of people standing inside a building less than 6 feet

apart. Early voting for the presidential election in Louisiana takes place at the Registrar of Voters office from Oct. 20-27. The DeRidder Registrar of Voters office is located at 204 South Stewart St; its phone number is (337) 463-7955. The Leesville Registrar of Voters office is located at 301 East Courthouse St; its phone number is (337) 239-3690.

- **Vote on Election Day** — In person voting takes place Nov. 3. Including today, that is 75 days away. Polls are open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. An ID may be requested. Due to COVID-19, nobody is sure how long you will have to wait or how safe you may be, but in order to vote, I'll wrap myself in protective gear from head to toe and wait in line for hours.

This brings us back to the importance of the 19th amendment and its impact on history. The consequences have been profound and, in my humble opinion, I believe its ripple effect continues to spread and grow.

But you must understand, I've taken almost a 100 years of history and compressed it into a few paragraphs to give you the crux of the struggles that took place, but there's no doubt I've left much out. I encourage you to check out the websites I've listed below to learn more about this essential and profound piece of history.

**Editor's note:** Information for this story was found at [www.crusadeforthethevote.org](http://www.crusadeforthethevote.org), [www.ourdocuments.gov](http://www.ourdocuments.gov), [www.history.com](http://www.history.com), [www.fairvote.org](http://www.fairvote.org) and [www.sos.la.gov](http://www.sos.la.gov).





KEITH HOUIN/ GUARDIAN



## Monthly Garrison Commander's Golf Tournament

Forty golfers, including Darren Hopes (above left) and Michael Donohoe (top right) took to the links Aug. 14 at the monthly Garrison Commander's Golf Tournament on Warrior Hills Golf Course. This month's winning team (bottom right) is Tom James (not pictured), Carl Simone (left), Jim Doulin (center) and Jamie Doulin (right).

# Report

Continued from page 6

ficer will then have 14 calendar days to investigate the allegations. After this, they will meet with the victim to discuss the outcome and results.

Once the findings are released, the complainant will have seven calendar days to appeal the decision, officials said.

If a higher authority within the chain of command is dissatisfied with the investigation results or disciplinary actions, they can launch a new investigation. They have 14 calendar days to complete this process.

Final decisions on complaints rest with the general court-martial convening authority, officials said.

### Sexual assault reporting

Anyone who is a victim of sexual assault or suspects an assault should not be afraid to seek immediate care, Helis said.

However, these individuals should understand the difference between restricted and unrestricted reporting, he added.

Individuals looking to file a restricted report can only do so through a sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocate or health care provider, Helis said. A victim can confidentially disclose a sexual assault to a health care provider while still retaining the option to file a restricted report with a SARC or victim advocate. Then

they will have access to medical treatments, advocacy services, counseling and the option for a forensic exam.

Communication between these entities is considered confidential and will not trigger an investigation.

Communication with a chaplain is also considered privileged and confidential. Soldiers can reach out to a chaplain for support, but not to report an incident, SHARP officials said.

In addition to the chaplain, personnel can call the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247 or go to their [website](#) for confidential and anonymous services. The helpline is available worldwide and at any time.

### CATCH program

An individual will also have the option to enter their restricted report information into the DoD Catch a Serial Offender program, Helis said.

Soldiers can enter as much information that they can remember or feel comfortable sharing in the CATCH database, he added. Information can include names, ranks or other distinguishing factors such as height or tattoos.

If the program identifies a serial offender, all victims connected to the perpetrator will receive a notification from a SARC. An investigation will be launched if the victims agree to change their reports to unrestricted.

"Sexual assault is a crime, and punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice," Helis said. "If a Soldier files a restricted report, they can change it to an unrestricted report at any time ... (once) they feel ready to participate in an investigation."

### Unrestricted reporting

Soldiers who choose to file an unrestricted report can seek assistance through their chain of command, CID, judge advocate general, SARC/victim advocate or through their health care provider, Helis said.

If a Soldier reaches out to their chain of command or through a law enforcement agency, they waive their option to file a restricted report. Upon reporting, victims will receive the necessary care and support, along with the option for a protective order against the other party, SHARP officials said.

"First-line supervisors and junior leaders are at the tip of the spear when it comes to preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment," Helis said. "They are responsible for building cohesive teams that do not tolerate behaviors that are harmful to other Soldiers."

"If a Soldier approaches them and says 'I'm having an issue with a sexual assault or sexual harassment,' they need to listen and take appropriate action."



# MWR Special Events team hosts back-to-school event

By ANNABELLE ARCAND

MWR illustrator

FORT POLK, La. — Going back to school is looking a lot different this year, as some students are returning in-person and others are learning remotely. Either way, an exciting chapter in kids' lives is about to begin.

To celebrate the start of another school year, the Fort Polk Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Special Events team hosted a special drive-through to forge the Warrior Spirit on Aug. 15.

Between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., the DFMWR Special Events team handed out goody bags with school supplies, a hot dog lunch and a cookie to students of all ages.

"This year brought a lot of changes to how we structure events," said Shelby Waryas, Chief of the DFMWR Marketing and Special Events. "But, it challenges us to think outside the box to continuously create new and exciting events in a safe environment for our Families and community."

Not only did MWR prepare plenty of surprises for the Fort Polk community, but also Benoit Motors (a Leesville native car dealership and a DFMWR sponsor) came out to support and hand out school-themed sets.

Unlike previous drives, volunteers from the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to serve the military



*Sergeant Audie Murphy Club President Jacob Kelly (left), volunteer Ryan Facklam (middle) and SAMC contender Ronald Jackson (right) assist during the Fort Polk Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Special Events team's back-to-school event.*

community, supported this drive-through event.

Noncommissioned officers who have proved they are excellent leaders may be candidates to this exclusive organization. SAMC President Jacob Kelly and volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to support the MWR Marketing and Special Events team, helping with event setup, execution and tear down.

"This drive-through event is great to get the

kids out for snacks and goody bags and to be around other people," said Kelly. "It feels great to give back to the community."

Every season of the year offers opportunities for the community to actively engage.

For more information on things to do, events, contests and challenges, follow the **Fort Polk Family and MWR Facebook page** or visit the **MWR website**.

## World War II vet, former Louisiana adjutant general passes

GUARDIAN STAFF

SULPHUR, La. — Retired Maj. Gen. Erbon Wise, 99, passed away on Aug. 12 at his home in Sulphur. He was born on Aug. 14, 1920, in a log house in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana and grew up in Leesville.

Wise earned a bachelor's degree in 1941 from what is now Northwestern State University, where he met and married Natchitoches native, Marie Norris in July 1942. They were married for 74 years until her passing in 2016.

Upon the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, Wise entered the Army and completed the Army Finance School at Indianapolis, Indiana, and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the Army Air Force.

In later years he graduated from the U.S. Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and attended the United States War College. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Northwestern State University in 2004.

During World War II, he served as an officer in the Army Air Corps in England, France and Germany. In his two years in England he served in the 12th, 8th, and 9th Air Forces, and was early stationed with the 91st B-17 Heavy Bomber Group, that of "Memphis Belle" fame, the second B-17 group to be sent overseas.

In June 1944 he was serving with an Air Force Support Unit selected for the Utah Beach Landing of the Normandy Invasion. He went ashore in an assault landing craft and helped clear a dirt landing strip near the beachhead for a P-47 Fighter Group, the first planes sent into France. After the breakout from the beach area at St. Lo, France, Wise's unit followed closely behind the

forces of Gen. George Patton's 2nd Armor Division's drive across France and Germany. He was among the first Americans to arrive in Paris at its liberation. He was awarded meritorious ribbons for four campaigns and honorably discharged in 1946.

Wise returned home and entered military reserve status. In 1949 he organized the 372nd Financing Disbursing, an Army Reserve unit that he commanded for many years. Later when the Army Reserve Armory was built in Lake Charles, Louisiana, he commanded troops at its dedication and later commanded a Quartermaster Battalion there.

From 1964 to 1968 Wise returned to active military service as a major general and Adjutant General of Louisiana, with duties as commander of the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard, and as State Director of Selective Service, and State Director of Civil Defense.

From his headquarters at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, he lead during the turbulent years of the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights marches in Louisiana, and through two disastrous hurricanes. He secured legislative funding to rebuild the long-neglected, historic buildings of Jackson Barracks, new National Guard armories in the state. He retired from the Army in 1969 as a major general, after 29 years of active and reserve service.

Upon his return from WWII, Erbon and Marie Wise began establishing and purchased news publications across Louisiana and southeast Texas. He built the small Fort Polk military weekly into a large, modern twice-weekly and prize-winning newspaper, the Fort Polk Guardian. He and Marie retired in 1998 from 52 years of publishing newspapers.



**Wise**

Wise authored 21 books on history, genealogy, travel, hunting and fishing, including some autobiographies of his military and newspaper careers.

Funeral services were held Aug. 18 at Hixson-Sulphur Memorial Funeral Home, followed by a private burial.