



FORGING THE

WARRIOR SPIRIT

The JRTC and Fort Polk Guardian

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Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

March 12, 2021

Garrett delves into Fort Polk quality of life upgrades

By T.C. BRADFORD
Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commanding general of United States Army Forces Command, visited Fort Polk March 9-10 to see people and facilities integral to the quality of life for Soldiers, civilians and Families.

In 2019, the Army designated Fort Polk, Fort Irwin, California, and Fort Wainwright, Alaska as “The Big 3,” or garrisons identified to receive prioritization for improving quality of life on the post for Soldiers, Families, and civilians who live, work, train and recreate there. This year, the Army added Fort Hood, Texas, to this group, now called “The Big 4.”

People are the Army’s number one priority. The team of professionals assigned to the Joint Readiness Training Center and U.S. Army Garrison Fort Polk, focus on ensuring the quality of life programs and facilities are the best in the Army.

Supporting their efforts is an Army-wide task force committed to improving housing, spouse employment, education, child care, recreational opportunities, medical access and care and permanent change of station moves across the Army. However, empha-

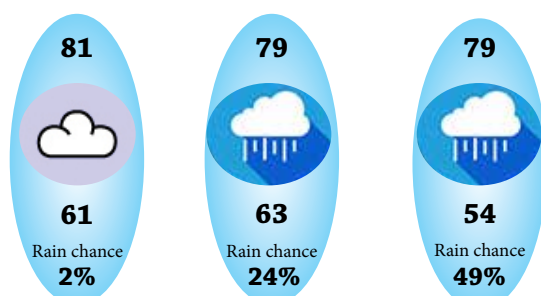
Please see **Garrett**, page 5



Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command, visits one of Fort Polk’s child development centers. Garrett visited the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk to observe quality of life issues. In addition to the CDC, he also took a tour of Parkway Elementary and observed housing damaged by hurricanes Laura and Delta late last summer and early fall.

T.C. BRADFORD/GUARDIAN

Weekend weather



Inside the Guardian

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Viewpoint

In our view

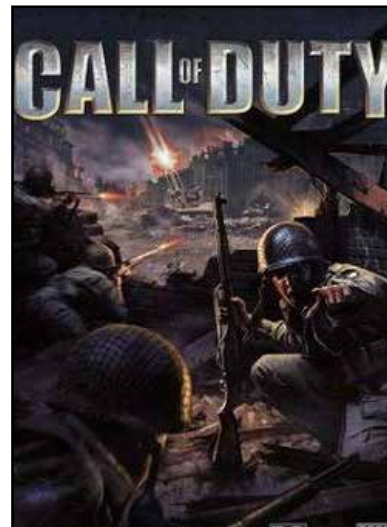
Guardian staff asked the JRTC and Fort Polk community, "What is your favorite video game and why?" Here are their responses:



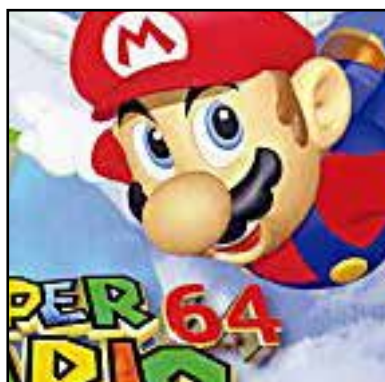
Josh Bradford: "The 'Kingdom Hearts' franchise because I get to play in all the worlds Disney has to offer."



Billy McShan: "Old school 'Pac Man' because I loved playing it as a kid."



Kristopher Swift: "'Call of Duty' because of the competitive nature of the game."



Lindsey Weaver: "We still have our Nintendo 64, so I still play 'Mario' and my son likes the game. I enjoy the nostalgia factor."



Kat Lalonde: "'Sonic the Hedgehog' because it reminds me of my childhood playing with my cousins and it doesn't require quick reflexes like some other games."



Isaac Goke: "'NCAA football 14' is a great way to relax and get away from everything."



Lindsey Easterhouse: "'Crash Bandicoot' because it was one of the first games I was introduced to. Video games are a very good way to destress."



Jamie Lynn Blum: "'Just Dance!' I love playing with my kids; it's a fun and interactive family game. It also helps wear everyone out for a good night's sleep."



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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**.

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**, **@BayneJonesACH** or **@fortpolkmwr**.

Briefs

New service

Fort Polk's Religious Support Office is increasing its spiritual outreach to the Fort Polk community by offering a new Protestant service.

The service is held Sundays at Glory Chapel, 1980 Glory Loop Road. The service, called Christ the King Chapel Fellowship Service, follows a traditional format and will be held each Sunday at 9 a.m.

The service promotes family integrated worship, which means there is no child care or children's church offered. Instead, children sit with their parents through the service.

Off limits

Military personnel are prohibited from entering or doing business with the following establishments, areas or businesses in Fort Polk, Leesville, Barksdale Air Force Base and Shreveport areas.

Violators are subject to Uniform Code of Military Justice disciplinary or further administrative actions. Businesses include the American Legion Post 510; Leesville; Adolph's Grocery; New Llano; Banshees Motorcycle Club; Alexandria; BEAST Motorcycle Club; West Lake; Blackhawks Motorcycle Club; Lake Charles; Black Reign Motorcycle Club; Leesville; Days Inn; Leesville; Kokopellis; Shreveport; Lotus; Bossier City; Outcast Motorcycle Club; Lake Charles and Pipes Emporium; Bossier City.

If you have any questions regarding off limits establishments, call the Directorate of Emergency Services at 531-2677.

NAF auction

A nonappropriated fund auction takes place through March 24. Viewing dates are March 19 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and March 20 from 8 a.m.-noon. The pick up dates are March 26-27. Check out all the auction items at <https://www.equip-bid.com/auction/10547>.

Fort Polk takes part in stand down training

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk will hold an Extremism Stand Down March 22 for all personnel, military and civilian, across Fort Polk. The stand down focuses on discussing the issue of extremism and racism in the military force as part of a Department of Defense-wide initiative announced Feb. 5 by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

In a video released Feb. 19, Austin lauded the commitment and dedication of service members.

"There is not a doubt in my mind that you take seriously your oath to the Constitution in that you serve this country with honor, dignity and character. I know a stand down like this can seem like yet another task to undertake, another burden. The truth of the matter is that we need your help. I'm talking of course, about extremism and extremist ideology, views and conduct that run counter to everything we believe in that can actually tear at the fabric of who we are as an institution," he said.

Army senior leaders affirm they are committed to confronting extremism within the Army, identifying the root of the problem, and understanding the issue's depth. The Army does not tolerate extremism and other "corrosive behaviors in our ranks," Army leaders say.

"Actively espousing ideologies that encourage discrimination, hate and harassment against others will not be tolerated within Forces Command," said Maj. Gen. Eugene LeBoeuf, Forces Command chief of staff. "I expect the core principles of dignity and mutual respect to guide the actions of the personnel in this organization at all times."

Treating each other with dignity and respect is an essential part of the Army culture, said Gen. Michael X. Garrett, FORSCOM commanding general.

"Leaders must start conversations with young officers and NCOs about race, for example," he said, "letting them know it is okay to talk about it. Open dialogue is crit-



Austin

ical to helping our people understand and support each other. Our leaders at all levels will afford all individuals an environment free from harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation."

Army officials caution that violent extremism poses a critical threat to the United States, both in the homeland and to U.S. operations overseas. Acts of violent extremism undermine the rule of law and the protection of human and civil rights. The potential threat is not limited to any single political, religious, ethnic/cultural, or ideological background.

Regardless of its motivation, violent extremism can have devastating effects on both civilian and military communities and could, if left unchecked, impact Army readiness, Army officials warn in discussions and via Army policies.

Stand down training for military and civilian leaders at Fort Polk is underway. The March 22 Extremism Stand Down will also involve the sharing of ideas to combat extremism and personal experiences. "We need your ideas to help us stamp out the hate this ideology inspires," said Austin.

"Leaders must start conversations with young officers and NCOs about race."

*Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense*

Army News

After challenging year, Army posts high marks in civilian employee survey

By JOSEPH LACDAN
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — In a year where the Army overcame numerous challenges, it also achieved its best overall ratings, ever, in the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, a top Army civilian personnel leader said Wednesday.

The service posted an employee engagement index rate of 72.7% in fiscal year 2020, up three percentage points from the previous year and saw its biggest increase in the leaders lead category, which at 62.7% marked a 3.5% increase from 2019. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management released the results in January after distributing the survey in the fall.

“When the numbers first started rolling out, I was extremely excited by the high response rate year over year, especially in this COVID year,” said Todd Fore, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for civilian personnel. “But I really think what is key is the engagement of our leadership at all levels, because they really do care about the feedback they are receiving.”

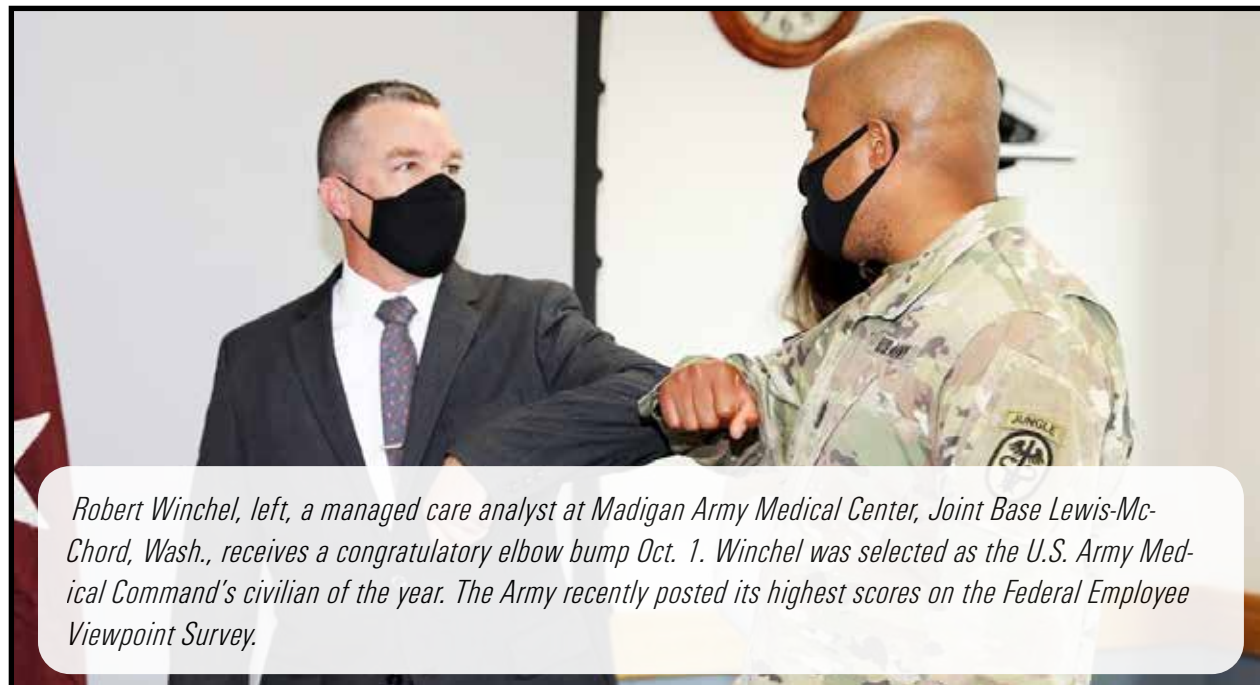
The Army also had an increase in its global satisfaction index at 69%. The category measures federal employees’ overall satisfaction with their job, pay and organization. About 70% of Army civilians said they would recommend their organization to others, up from 68% the previous year.

“Those are good numbers across government (organizations), but exceptional in large organizations,” Fore said. “I think it is incredible that we have such a high response rate across the department.”

According to the survey, which OPM made available to full-time and part-time, permanent Army civilians, 45% of the Army’s more than 184,000 employees participated.

Fore said that the Army has seen the employee engagement index increase in each of the past six years due to supervisors communicating more effectively with Army employees. The Army also published an employee engagement guide for supervisors and leaders and hosted listening sessions for civilian employees.

“Our employee engagement activities have enabled us to not only communicate to employees, but actually hear what em-



CHRISTOPHER LARSEN/ARMY NEWS

ployees have to say,” Fore said.

In 2020, the Army evolved the way it communicates with its employees in large part because of the coronavirus pandemic. As the nation’s largest military branch, communication had been an area where the Army struggled, Fore said.

But the ability to communicate has improved in recent years and the global pandemic opened the need to make contact more effectively.

When the Army began stay-at-home orders in March 2020, leaders had to open more lines of communication including using virtual options as many of its Soldiers and civilians had to work from home or were separated from their units. To achieve mission requirements, supervisors have used virtual means such as online conferences and chat rooms to reach employees.

“I think we’ve really upped our game in communication,” Fore said. “I believe that COVID has enabled us to talk to employees at a different level. Since we’re all using various forms of technology, I think our communication and outreach for employees has actually improved.”

Fore said the survey revealed the Army’s strengths in managing its civilian workers and areas where it needs to improve. The Army looks to build up on its strong points: Work-life balance, merit system principles, performance recognition, performance feedback, training and development and job resources.

Fore said performance recognition has

become an increasingly strong point as the Army has transitioned to giving performance-related awards throughout a work cycle instead of at the end.

Fore said the Army’s Civilian Implementation Plan, or CIP, as well as the Army People Strategy, has had an impact on the service’s civilian workforce in encouraging them to seek career advancement opportunities. The CIP is the Army’s effort to augment and enhance the contributions of its civilian workforce by modernizing talent management policies and activities.

“We have (improved) our outreach to our employees at the strategic level, as well as at their career-field level,” Fore said. “We talk to them about where we are in our journey with career management, career training and development, as well as career opportunities.”

Fore added that the opening of the Army Civilian Career Management Activity, or ACCMA, in October has helped reach employees at the strategic level. ACCMA will help Army recruiting and retention attract qualified candidates to critical positions that have been challenging to fill.

The Army still has areas where it must continue to improve, Fore said, including in diversity and inclusion. Listening sessions are now being held at various installations as part of Project Inclusion, the service’s plan to listen to the concerns of Army personnel to promote diversity and equal opportunities not only for Soldiers but also their civilian counterparts.

Garrett

Continued from page 1

sis is placed on the Big 4.

Garrett had the opportunity to visit Parkway Elementary School, just outside Fort Polk's gates, where many students are the children of Soldiers, and a good portion of the staff are military spouses. Garrett met Samantha Westerfield, Vernon Parish Elementary Teacher of the Year, whose husband is a Soldier assigned to Fort Polk. "My daughter is a teacher in the Fort Bragg community, and I've learned a lot lately about the profession. Teaching is hard! It is a calling," said Garrett. "I think this pandemic has forced parents to think about schools differently; about how important these facilities and the teachers who serve in them are to their children. I can't thank you enough for what you do." Garrett presented a commander's coin of excellence to Westerfield for her achievement.

Tiffany Koch, Fort Polk's School Liaison Officer or SLO, was on hand to describe her role as an Army civilian employee serving military parents and students. "SLOs keep the Army integrated with our communities and serve to resolve issues quickly, so children receive the best education possible," she said.

Brig. Gen. David Doyle, commanding general of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, led the Parkway tour. Doyle praised Dione Bradford, the Louisiana State Principal of the Year. "We work hard at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk to help our Soldiers build resiliency and be ready for anything," said Doyle. "I want to thank you and your team for doing those same things for our children, right here at Parkway Elementary."

Garrett and Col. Ryan Roseberry, Fort Polk garrison commander, visited one of Fort Polk's Child Development Centers. The Army's nationally recognized child development programs offer Families quality, consistent and convenient services that enable Soldiers to focus on their mission and spouses to pursue professional ambitions. Here, Garrett and the staff discussed the changes required to operate in a COVID environment.

Like others across the Army, CDCs remained open during the pandemic to look after the children of mission-critical Soldiers and civilians who could not telework. The CDC currently has 135 children on-site, the maximum allowable under the current health protection condition.

Please see **Garrett**, page 6



Above: Louisiana State Principal of the Year, Dione Bradford leads Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command, on a tour of Parkway Elementary School-March 9. **Right:** Garrett receives a briefing on housing repairs from Brig. Gen. David Doyle, commanding general, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, during his visit.



T.C. BRADFORD/GUARDIAN



Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commanding general of United States Army Forces Command, meets with Samantha Westerfield, 1st grade virtual teacher at Parkway Elementary School March 9. Westerfield

is a military spouse and also the Vernon Parish Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Westerfield was presented commander's coins of excellence from Garrett and Doyle for her achievement.

Garrett

Continued from page 5

The CDC usually cares for 195 children at full capacity.

Roseberry called the CDC work force “heroes. From the beginning of the pandemic, through tornadoes, two hurricanes and an unprecedented snow storm earlier this year, our CDC work force have been there — caring for children despite the challenges they faced. Their efforts have been essential to keeping this installation running smoothly through myriad obstacles,” he said.

No quality of life visit is complete without a look at where Soldiers and Families live. Fort Polk has 3,661 houses on the installation and works closely with its privatized partner, Corvias Group LLC, to maintain and repair them. And, Fort Polk is no stranger to storm damage. Garrett visited some of the housing areas hardest hit by hurricanes Delta and Laura, including a house with a roof so damaged, it became uninhabitable. The residents were moved to a new home as were all those whose abodes took significant damage.

Unexpectedly, Garrett stopped the driving tour when saw a few parents enjoying a neighborhood playground. One of those parents, Chanel Sohl, spoke to Garrett about living on post. Sohl is the spouse of a JRTC observer/controller. “I love all the parks around here,” Sohl told Garrett. “The command is trying to focus on family and the balance between work and down time. My husband is gone a lot during rotations. What that focus means is that when he has down time, he is mentally off, and he’s never had a job where he has that ability until this assignment.”

Garrett finished the tour by observing the new greensand filtration system construction for South Fort Polk. The system will significantly improve the quality of water.



T.C. BRADFORD/GUARDIAN



Top: Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commanding general of United States Army Forces Command (left), Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general (middle), Col. Ryan K. Roseberry Fort Polk garrison commander (far left) and Parkway Elementary School Principal Dione Bradford listen as James Williams, Vernon Parish School Superintendent, talks about educational initiatives in Vernon Parish

Above: James Williams, Vernon Parish School Superintendent, Mike Kay, Vernon Parish Assistant Superintendent, Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commanding general of United States Army Forces Command, Anne Smith, Parish School Board Elementary curriculum director, Dione Bradford, Parkway Elementary School Principal, Col. Ryan K. Roseberry Fort Polk garrison commander, Samantha Westerfield, Vernon Parish Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Tiffany Koch, Fort Polk School Liaison Officer, Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, and Ian McDonald, Parkway Assistant Principal, pose for a picture during the tour of Parkway Elementary.

Left: Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commanding general of United States Army Forces Command, greets workers during his tour of the School-Age Center and child development centers March 10.



Soldiers punished for violations under UCMJ

OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — The preamble to the Manual for Courts-Martial states, “The purpose of military law is to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the armed forces, to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the military establishment and thereby strengthen the national security of the United States.”

At the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, the commanding general and subordinate commanders take good order and discipline seriously. Across Fort Polk, the following disciplinary issues continue to be prevalent: Violations of General Order #1, driving under the influence of alcohol, wrongful use/possession of controlled substances, fraternization, sexual assault and underage drinking. Below are recent examples of adverse legal actions for units within

the Fort Polk jurisdiction.

- A captain, assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, had his aviation service and aeronautical rating permanently terminated at a Flying Evaluation Board, for misconduct involving a minor. The board recommended the officer no longer be authorized to wear the Army Aviation Badge or fly for the U.S. Army.

- A specialist, assigned to the 46th Engineer Battalion, was punished under Article 15 for failing to report to accountability formation, in violation of Article 86, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to extra-duty for 14 days; restriction for 14 days and an oral reprimand.

- A specialist, assigned to 1st Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, was punished under Article 15 for wrongfully using a controlled substance, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. The Soldier was

sentenced to a reduction to E-1; forfeiture of \$892 pay per month for one month; suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated within 13 days; extra-duty for 13 days; restriction for 13 days and an oral reprimand.

- A private, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), was issued a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of 0.178%, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ.

- A private, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), was issued a GOMOR for driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of 0.152%, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ.

Laboratory technician graduates from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES
BJACH Public Affairs Officer

FORT POLK, La. — Leaders and team members from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital held a graduation ceremony for Pfc. Elizabeth Mantlo, medical laboratory technician, March 4. U.S. Army clinical medical laboratory technician training takes 52 weeks. The clinical practicum portion is conducted at one of 22 military treatment facilities such as BJACH.

Mantlo said the training is rigorous and requires competencies in microbiology, parasitology, urinalysis, blood donor center operations, specimen collection and processing, laboratory operations and laboratory safety. Upon completion of her training she is required to pass the American Society of Clinical Pathologists certification.

“The training requires dedication and discipline. It’s challenging and not for everyone,” she said. “The training was stressful, especially during Phase I (26 week residency at Joint Base Sam Houston) because you must be mentally

prepared to stay up late studying for tests and still get up early for physical training”

Mantlo said the BJACH laboratory staff made her feel comfortable and provided a relaxed learning environment.

“My training at BJACH has been great,” she said. “It is a small lab, so I got practical hands on training on all of the equipment. I was also able to form personal relationships, which enhanced and facilitated my learning. I never felt intimidated to ask questions or make mistakes.

The daughter of immigrants, Mantlo said she was the first in her family to graduate from high school and have the opportunity to go to college.

“My parents didn’t have the money for college, so I had always planned to join the military,” she said. “My long term goal is to become a pediatrician and working in the lab exposes me to a health-care environment.”

Mantlo will stay at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk. Her first assignment is with the 32nd Hospital Cen-

ter.

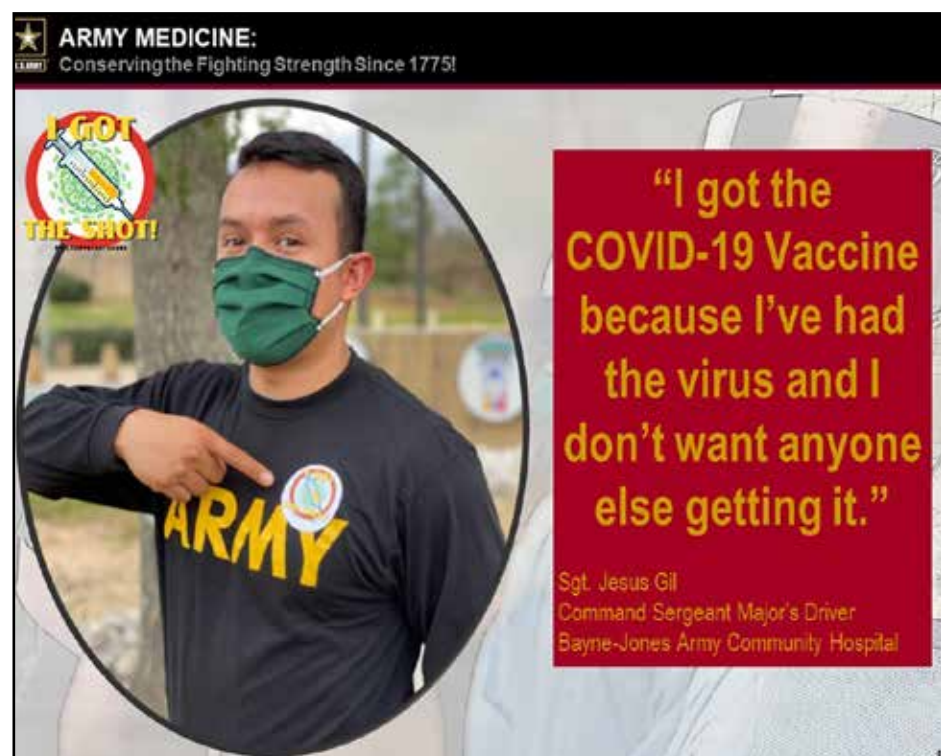
“I looking forward to going to the 32nd Hospital Center because I will have an opportunity to experience field medicine,” she said. “I’m excited because some lab techs never get to serve in a field hospital.”

Got News?

Call the Guardian
at 531-1416



JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES/BJACH PAO



Writer explains what Civil Air Patrol has done for him

By MARSHALL MCGURK
JRTC SOF plans

Editor's note: Maj. Marshall McGurk serves at the Joint Readiness Training Center Special Operations Forces Plans and is a former Civil Air Patrol Cadet from South Carolina.

FORT POLK, La. — It was the spring of 1996 when I saw two classmates walking around in BDU uniforms at school. “What’s that?” I asked. “Civil Air Patrol” (CAP) they replied. “It’s an Air Force auxiliary. I had no idea what that meant, but it sounded cool. I went to a Tuesday night meeting with my younger brother, and we joined the next week. My parents joined the senior member program six months later — a common occurrence.

Twenty-four years later, I found myself on a Zoom video conference call with CAP cadets from New Jersey. Three months into a global pandemic and the CAP squadron had pivoted to virtual meetings. As I waited for my time slot, senior members taught cadets about the “Do and Don’ts of Virtual Learning.” It may seem like common sense, however, within the moral leadership construct of CAP, this class was quite appropriate. Teenagers learning respect, public speaking and the confidence to give a presentation are life skills I knew weren’t taught when I went to high school, and perhaps still aren’t.

I titled my notes: “What Civil Air Patrol Has Done For Me.”

I published them to relay my gratitude to the organization, and to let others know about an opportunity for their children, or even themselves.

Civil Air Patrol introduced me to the military lifestyle. It was a starting point. It set me on a course that led to West Point and the Army. Within that lifestyle, cadets are taught military values (Air Force values of course). I feel those values are common throughout all the services, especially the notion of “Service before Self.” There were numerous community service opportunities as a cadet, whether working an airshow or building a playground at a local school.

Through our weekly Tuesday night meetings, weekend events and summer encampments, I learned a lot of things outside of the formal education system: Team building, problem-solving, leadership skills and conflict resolution to name a few. I learned how to use a radio, first aid and CPR. My first foray into land navigation



COURTESY CIVIL AIR PATROL

was as a CAP cadet. There were cadet orientation rides in Cessna aircraft with CAP pilots who had often infamous careers either flying in the Berlin Airlift, Vietnam or Desert Storm. CAP got me into shape and gave me the confidence to try out for high school sports. As a self-described nerd, physical training was something I learned to enjoy and do well.

I’m not sure I would have gotten into West Point without my participation in Civil Air Patrol. I was a B student

in high school, with average test scores and an average sports record. One area I excelled in was CAP. I earned the Spaatz Award, the highest rank a cadet could achieve. I’d gone to a wilderness summer experience in the mountains of Northern Virginia working with Air Force Pararescue, a leadership school at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and summer encampments at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Many teenagers focus on sports, music and clubs. CAP was my club, and I was a better person for it.

I was fortunate to have those experiences, and many cadets from across the socio-economic spectrum got to do things normally outside of their life arc. Many cadets soloed in gliders or Cessna aircraft. Some gained credits toward Emergency Medical Technician training that they could use after high school. Other cadets traveled worldwide in the International Cadet Exchange Program. Many got into

service academies or earned Air Force Reserve Officers’ Training Corps scholarships. A lot of us felt like we got a hand up towards things that might have been in our grasp. That’s a powerful connection, filled with gratitude.

Most of all, CAP provided me with something I’d never had before: Best friends. I’ve been friends with two guys for 25 years now. One is an Air Force Special Operations gunship pilot and the other is an Army noncommissioned officer. I’ve got CAP friends across all services who’ve deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. Others didn’t join up, but they’re successful in their respective professions. One is a helicopter instructor pilot, two are long-time county police officers and another is a successful businessman and future CAP Wing (state) Commander.

Your experiences may vary of course, but after moving around so many times as I kid, I hadn’t been able to maintain friendships. Remember, this was before the cell phone and social media era.

Even though we graduated high school and moved away, we’ve stayed in touch, through letters, emails, text messages, attending one another’s weddings and driving hours out of our way on road trips to spend time together. That blessing for me is priceless.

If you’re a teenager interested in the military, emergency services or flying, Civil Air Patrol might be for you. As it turns out, it was just what 13-year old me needed at the time.

Laissez les bon temps rouler through Fort Polk's neighborhoods

By ANNABELLE ARCAND
DFMWR marketing illustrator

FORT POLK, La. — Neither the pandemic nor a snowstorm could stop Mardi Gras at Fort Polk. Residents of all on-post neighborhoods decorated their porches in lieu of Mardi Gras parades, and the results were stunning.

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk is no stranger to embracing local culture and festivities. Mardi Gras is part of the Carnival celebration and Louisiana's signature annual festival. With all public parades canceled in the surrounding areas, Fort Polk's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation program organized a Mardi Gras Porch Float Contest.

Residents were encouraged to transform the front of their houses into a creative Mardi Gras float and send pictures to the MWR Marketing and Special Events team for the chance to win.

The judging criteria was based on three categories — intent to produce a clear Mardi Gras theme, the creativity used to construct a unique design and the overall effort

of the artist and quality of the design. A committee of judges gathered to evaluate all porch float pictures. While all homes gave observers a New Orleans Mardi Gras feel, Jeanie Compton's house exceeded all expectations and emerged as the winner of the grand prize: A Traeger grill and two outdoor rocking chairs. A 150-dollar American Express gift card went to first runner up, Lydia Davis, for her spectacular porch float.

Second runner up, Tammy Tate, dazzled with her impressive artwork and received a 75-dollar American Express gift card.

Special appreciation goes to sponsors USAA, Benoit Motors and Southwest Beverage for supporting this event and bringing Mardi Gras cheer to Fort Polk.

For more information about MWR contests and events, stay connected on **facebook.com/fortpolkmwr**.



Mardi Gras spirit and family effort was all it took to transform Jeanie Compton's house front into a giant stationary float. The "New Orleans Masquerade" design exceeded expectations and took home the grand prize.

ANNABELLE ARCAND/DFMWR



Residents throughout Fort Polk's neighborhoods showcased thoughtful and creative porch floats. First runner up Lydia Davis opted for a cheerful masquerade themed porch float.



It's like Bourbon Street at Fort Polk. Second runner up Tammy Tate let New Orleans lead her inspiration as well, and presented a unique design.



FORTNITE - INFO

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Fort Polk Garrison lands certification of Child, Youth Services facilities

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk's Child and Youth Services has met the 2020 requirements to achieve Department of Defense certification.

Section 1794 of Title 10, United States Code, requires each military child development center to be inspected no less than four times per year.

Jean M. Wadman, Child and Youth Services coordinator, said one inspection is completely unannounced — it's called the Army Higher Headquarters inspection.

"It's the one I worry about the most. G9 brings a team of people in to inspect everything from our work orders and background checks through the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center to observing in the classrooms, lesson plan review and more. Every aspect is carefully examined to ensure quality child care," she said.

Throughout the year, other local inspections are conducted separately from the four DoD inspections.

Wadman said the garrison commander performs an inspection of the facilities, as well as Army Public Health, fire safety and more. Those local inspections take place to identify trouble areas and correct them in preparation for DoD inspections.

"There is always something that needs to be fixed. Fort Polk's Directorate of Public Works, the Army Public Health nurse, garrison command, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital and all our stakeholders are great. They support us and the work we do," she said. "If the fire department inspects a Child Development Center and finds errors that need to be corrected, then we fix them. That means by the time the Army higher headquarters inspection takes place, we are in great shape," she said.

Wadman said they must always be ready for an inspection.

"It's pretty intense. We are in a constant mode of accreditation or inspection," she said.

Wadman said everyone involved in the certification process is particularly excited this year because Fort Polk met all but two of its inspection requirements.

"There were only two findings (minor paperwork issues), that needed to be corrected out of a possible thousand on the Army Higher Headquarters inspection" she said. "The quality of our child care is great."

Wadman said that's important to Fort

Please see **Certification**, page 11



Faith Nietfeld, a teacher at CDC bldg 3349 watches over her students as they play.



Piper Smith, 3, and Kayla Morris, 3, have fun trying to balance while playing outside



Kayla Morris, 3, works hard to climb on the playground equipment at CDC bldg 3349.



Kashton Summers, 4, seems to enjoy cooking a meal during playtime at Fort Polk CDC bldg 3349

Certification

Continued from page 10

Polk's Soldiers and Families because it gives the CDCs a level of transparency that shows the Fort Polk community they can have confidence in the garrison team that supports CYs, and care is taken with the facilities, keeping the kids safe and providing quality programing.

"I think doing so well on our certification comes down to our unsung heroes — the staff in the classrooms, cooks, maintenance staff and more. They are the ones that go through the training, fix things, get the certifications and provide nutrition for those kids while they are in our care," she said.

"If it wasn't for them doing their job well every single day, we wouldn't have had only two findings on our inspection. When they see an error they fix it. Our staff is well trained and do a great job."

In addition, Wadman said a certification with so few findings is an accomplishment in a normal year, but functioning with COVID-19 safety measures in place only added to the challenges faced by the team as they continued to perform their duties.

"We never closed because the Soldiers and Families of Fort Polk needed us and that only makes this certification even more impressive," she said.



Hunter Davis (right), Camryn Bouya (center) and Adonis Bell play on scooters at the School Age Center March 9.

ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



Emily Rodriguez spends some quiet time alone at the School Age Center's After School Program March 9.

ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



Brock Williams stands next to Michelle Thymon, School Age Center director (left), as Kynley Ellie steps off the bus at Fort Polk's School Age Center.

ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



Madison Murphy waits at the top of the slide as Madison Moreno, reaches the bottom March 9 at the School Age

ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

Run, jump, swim, think ... Amazing Race requires all

By **ANGIE THORNE**
Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Soldiers and Family members took part in Fort Polk’s annual Amazing Race March 6. Teams worked

together through physical and mental challenges to advance through 22 locations on Fort Polk to complete the race. Participants participated in challenges from swimming to counting coins at the bank.



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANNABELLE ARCAND/DEMWR



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES/ BIACH PAO



JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES/ BIACH PAO

Please see **Race**, page 13

Race

Continued from page 12



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

Fort Polk home-based business event sees good turnout

Katie Thompson, owner of KT Bakes, stands behind a table filled with homemade cookies as she takes part in the Employment Readiness Program's Military Spouse Owned home-based business event March 6 at Fort Polk's old commissary parking lot from 9 a.m.-noon. The event takes place the first Saturday of each month. The next HBB event is April 3. Thompson bags up a few cookies for a customer as a line forms to get a taste of her baking skills.



ANGIE THORNE/ GUARDIAN



COL. RYAN ROSEBERRY/ U.S. ARMY

Colorful cupcakes being sold at the home-based business held March 6.



COL. RYAN ROSEBERRY/ U.S. ARMY

Fun Louisiana merchandise was on display at the home-based business event held March 6.



ANGIE THORNE/ GUARDIAN

Joanna Garcia, owner of J Bow, shows off her bows to Karina Alvey as Evelyn, 1, and Noah, 2, wait patiently in their stroller.



ANGIE THORNE/ GUARDIAN

There was a good variety of items from baked goods to decor and more to be found at the Employment Readiness Program Military Spouse Owned Home-Based Business event March 6.



GERONIMO WARRIOR RESTAURANT



Breakfast: \$3.65 AND Lunch: \$5.85

Hours of Operation:

Breakfast: 0730-0900 AND Lunch: 1130-1300

Dinner/Weekends/Holidays: **CLOSED**

Open to all military and civilian personnel. Alabama Ave, Bldg. 2382 Fort Polk, LA 71459

15 MAR 21

BREAKFAST

- BOILED EGGS
- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- TURKEY BACON
- PORK BACON
- PORK SAUSAGE
- TURKEY SAUSAGE
- HOMESTYLE FRIED I ; POTATOES
- HASH BROWNS
- WHITE RICE
- BISCUITS
- CREAMED BEEF
- PANCAKES
- SYRUP W/ TOPPING
- OATMEAL
- GRITS
- WESTERN OMELET

16 MAR 21

BREAKFAST

- BOILED EGGS
- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- TURKEY BACON
- PORK BACON
- PORK SAUSAGE
- HOMESTYLE FRIED POTATOES
- HASH BROWNS
- WHITE RICE
- BISCUITS
- CREAMED BEEF
- FRENCH TOAST
- SYRUP W/ TOPPING
- OATMEAL
- GRITS
- WESTERN OMELET

17 MAR 21

BREAKFAST

- BOILED EGGS
- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- TURKEY BACON
- PORK BACON
- PORK SAUSAGE
- HOMESTYLE FRIED POTATOES
- WHITE RICE
- BISCUITS
- CREAMED BEEF
- PANCAKES
- SYRUP W/ TOPPING
- OATMEAL
- GRITS
- WESTERN OMELET

18 MAR 21

BREAKFAST

- BOILED EGGS
- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- TURKEY BACON
- PORK BACON
- PORK SAUSAGE
- HOMESTYLE FRIED POTATOES
- WHITE RICE
- BISCUITS
- CREAMED BEEF
- FRENCH TOAST
- SYRUP W/ TOPPING
- OATMEAL
- GRITS
- WESTERN OMELET

19 MAR 21

BREAKFAST

- BOILED EGGS
- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- TURKEY BACON
- PORK BACON
- PORK SAUSAGE
- HOMESTYLE FRIED POTATOES
- WHITE RICE
- BISCUITS
- CREAMED BEEF
- PANCAKES
- SYRUP W/ TOPPING
- OATMEAL
- GRITS
- WESTERN OMELET

15 MAR 21

LUNCH

- SPAGHETTI & MEAT SAUCE
- HERB BAKED SALMON
- LONG GRAIN WILD RICE
- OVEN BROWNED POTATOES
- GREEN BEANS
- CALICO CORN
- CHICKEN RICE SOUP
- PHILLY STEAK
- HAMBURGER
- HOT DOGS
- CHICKEN TENDERS
- BAKED BEANS
- CHILLI with BEEF
- CURLY FRIES
- CHEESE SAUCE
- ASSORTED SALAD
- ASSORTED DESSERT

16 MAR 21

LUNCH

- BRAISED PORK CHOPS
- CHICKEN FAJITA
- BEEF FAJITA
- FIESTA ROASTED POTATOES
- SPANISH RICE
- GLAZED CARROTS
- STEAM GREEN BEANS
- CREAM OF BROCCOLI
- CHICKEN WINGS
- TACO BAR
- HAMBURGERS
- HOT DOGS
- BAKED BEANS
- CHILLI with BEEF
- CURLY FRIES
- CHEESE SAUCE
- ASSORTED SALAD
- ASSORTED DESSERT

17 MAR 21

LUNCH

- KOREAN PEPPERED STEAK
- HONEY-GINGER CHICKEN
- GARLIC SOY ROASTED POTATOES
- FRIED RICE
- VEGGIE STIR FRY
- STEAMED BROCCOLI
- VEGETABLE SOUP
- CHICKEN TENDERS
- BAKED BEANS
- CHILLI with BEEF
- CURLY FRIES
- CHEESE SAUCE
- ASSORTED SALAD
- ASSORTED DESSERT

18 MAR 21

LUNCH

- BRAISED SPARERIBS
- BBQ SPARERIBS
- GRILLED CHICKEN
- BBQ CHICKEN
- SOUTHERN FRIED CATFISH
- BAKED MAC & CHEESE
- DIRTY RICE
- SOUTHERN FRIED CABBAGE
- CORN ON THE COB
- GUMBO
- BAKED BEANSCHICKEN WINGS
- CHILLI with BEEF
- CURLY FRIES
- CHEESE SAUCE
- ASSORTED SALAD
- ASSORTED DESSERT

19 MAR 21

LUNCH

- HOMESTYLE MEATLOAF
- HONEY GARLIC SALMON
- SCALLOPED POTATOES
- WILD RICE
- HERBED GREEN BEANS
- HONEY GLAZED CARROTS
- ONION SOUP
- PIZZA
- CHICKEN TENDERS
- HAMBURGER
- HOT DOGS
- BAKED BEANS
- CHILLI with BEANS
- CURLY FRIES
- CHEESE SAUCE
- ASSORTED SALAD
- ASSORTED DESSERT

No Better Place To Go, Than Geronimo!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Golf Scramble

STARTING MARCH 17

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5 PM

\$25 FOR NON MEMBERS

9 HOLE SCRAMBLE

\$20 FOR MEMBERS

Teams Randomly Selected Each Week

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SAFETY CORNER

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS

Sunday, March 14th, 2021 at 2:00 a.m.

(move your clocks ahead an hour & change your smoke alarm batteries)

Studies indicate a 10% increase in traffic accidents during the week that follows time change due to poor sleep & distracted driving

- Don't change your schedule
- Have a nighttime routine
- Avoid long naps
- Get some natural sunlight

SPRING FORWARD SAFELY



Patriot Warrior Restaurant 7 Day Menu

Breakfast: \$3.65; Lunch: \$5.85; Dinner: \$5.10; Brunch: \$6.55; Supper: \$8.00

Hours of Operation:
 Breakfast: 0730-0900; Lunch: 1130-1300; Dinner: 1700-1830;
 Brunch: 0930-1300; Supper: 1600-1730.

Open to all military and civilian personnel. 2020 Glory Loop, Building 1162 Fort Polk, LA 71459



15MAR 21	16 MAR 21	17 MAR 21	18 MAR 21	19 MAR 21	20 MAR 21	21 MAR 21
Breakfast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiled Eggs Scrambled Eggs Omelets Turkey Bacon Oven Fried Bacon Pork Sausage Home Fried Potatoes White Rice Biscuits Asst. Fresh Smoothies Creamed Gravy Creamed Beef Asst. Fruit Pancakes Oatmeal and Grits 	Breakfast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiled Eggs Scrambled Eggs Omelets Turkey Bacon Oven Fried Bacon Pork Sausage Home Fried Potatoes White Rice Biscuits Asst. Fresh Smoothies Creamed Gravy Creamed Beef Asst. Fruit French Toast Oatmeal and Grits 	Breakfast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiled Eggs Scrambled Eggs Omelets Turkey Bacon Oven Fried Bacon Pork Sausage Home Fried Potatoes White Rice Biscuits Asst. Fresh Smoothies Creamed Gravy Creamed Beef Asst. Fruit Pancakes Oatmeal and Grits 	Breakfast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiled Eggs Scrambled Eggs Omelets Turkey Bacon Oven Fried Bacon Pork Sausage Home Fried Potatoes White Rice Biscuits Asst. Fresh Smoothies Creamed Gravy Creamed Beef Asst. Fruit French Toast Oatmeal and Grits 	Breakfast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiled Eggs Scrambled Eggs Omelets Turkey Bacon Oven Fried Bacon Pork Sausage Home Fried Potatoes White Rice Biscuits Asst. Fresh Smoothies Creamed Gravy Creamed Beef Asst. Fruit Pancakes Oatmeal and Grits 	Brunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiled Eggs Scrambled Eggs Omelets Oven Fried Bacon Pork Sausage Home Fried Potatoes White Rice Biscuits Creamed Gravy French Toast Grits Roast Pork Baked Blackened Salmon Bourbon Chicken Chicken Pot Pie Seasoned 5-Way Veggies Calico Corn Hot Rolls Chicken Gravy Short order Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Soup 	Brunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiled Eggs Scrambled Eggs Omelets Oven Fried Bacon Pork Sausage Home Fried Potatoes White Rice Biscuits Creamed Gravy Pancakes Grits Roast Turkey Onion Lemon Baked Fish Rosemary Grilled Pork Chops Herbed Broccoli Cauliflower Hot Rolls Brown Gravy Short Order Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Soup
Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beef & Broccoli Blackened Cod Sweet and Sour Pork White Rice Pork Fried Rice Oven Baked Potatoes Herbed Broccoli Glazed Carrots Egg Rolls Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Fajitas Mexican Pork Chops Tamales Baja Fish Refried Beans Oven Glo Potatoes Mexican Corn Herbed Green Beans Jalapeño Cornbread Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meatloaf Spinach Lasagna Chicken Parmesan Hot Italian Sausage Lyonnais Rice Lyonnais Potatoes Seasoned Corn Herbed Cauliflower Garlic Bread Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smothered Pork Chops Saustrberry Steak BBQ Ribs Rotisserie Chicken Scalloped Potatoes Wild Rice Fried Cabbage Glazed Carrots Hot Rolls Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury Steak Fried Catfish Fried Shrimp Buttered Penne Noodles Home Fried Potatoes Fried Cabbage Peas with Mushrooms Hot Rolls Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 		
Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Tetrazzini Spaghetti W/ Meat Sauce Grilled Salmon Parsley Buttered Potatoes Egg Noodles Sliced Carrots Club Spinach Hot Rolls Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbed Baked Chicken Beef Stew Blackened Salmon Oven Glo Potatoes Rice Pilaf Asparagus Corn Hot Rolls Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stuff Bell Pepper Chicken With Rice Beef Stroganoff Tossed Green Rice Baked Potatoes Oriental Veggies Lima Beans Garlic Bread Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Szechwan Chicken Pork Adobo Creole Fish Oven Glo Potatoes Steamed Rice Cauliflower Green Beans Hot Rolls Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chili Macaroni Chicken Adobo Fried Pork Chops Long Grain Wild Rice Mashed Potatoes Calico Cabbage Succotash Hot Rolls Asst. Fresh Smoothies Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Asst. Pizzas Soup 	Supper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orange Honey Glazed Cornish Hens Veal Parmesan Lemon Baked Fish Parsley Buttered Potatoes Buttered Egg Noodles Seasoned Peas and Carrots Creole Summer Squash Hot Rolls Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Soup 	Supper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beef Stew Chicken Bulgogi Mustard Dill Fish Loaded Mashed Potatoes Steamed Rice Succotash Green Beans Hot Rolls Asst. Salads Asst. Desserts Asst. Fresh Fruit Short Order Soup