



FORGING THE

WARRIOR SPIRIT

The JRTC and Fort Polk Guardian

Vol. 48, No. 20

Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

May 21, 2021



Honoring Vietnam veterans

Brig. Gen. David Doyle, commanding general of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, stands with Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 215. The veterans had just completed a "Farewell to Arms" in honor of their lost brothers-in-arms. The CG attended the event: The City of DeRidder Veterans Brunch held in DeRidder May 15.

Weekend weather



Inside the Guardian

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# Viewpoint

## In our view

Guardian staff asked the JRTC and Fort Polk community, "What is the best compliment you have ever received?" Here are their responses:



**Cpl. David Chairez:** "It would probably be, 'I like your eyes.' It's really the only compliment I get."



**Jeremy Tavarez:** "A lot of people tell me I act older than I am. It makes me realize how mature I am in comparison to some people my age."



**Spc. Toymeisha Patterson:** "I get compliments about my smile. I laugh and smile a lot. I have a goofy personality."

**Spc. Rebecca**

**Camp:** "A fellow Soldier once told me they were happy I was in their section because I bring the mood up. I'm always happy and upbeat."



**Pfc. Buny Sar:** "My grandpa told me I was passionate about everything I do. It meant a lot to me because it was unexpected and it came from him. I tend to take my work seriously."



**Pfc. Lance Gleghorn:** "One of my supervisors told me that I'm a hard worker."



**Spc. Kellie Burton:** "People have told me that I have a bubbly personality and make people happy."



**Brittany Bias:** "When I was in the Army, I was told that I was great at physical training, especially running."



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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

### Memorial Day

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk hosts its Memorial Day ceremony May 27 at 11 a.m. at Warrior Memorial Park to recognize the sacrifices of service members.

### COVID-19 drive-thru

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk invites the community to a COVID-19 Drive-Thru Vaccination Event Saturday from 8 a.m.-noon at the "Old Commissary," bldg. 830, Colorado Avenue. Anyone interested in volunteering for the COVID-19 vaccine is welcome — this event is open to the public. Anyone 18 and older from the surrounding community can participate. Together, community immunity can be achieved, the pandemic defeated and activities resumed.

### School registration

Registration for Vernon Parish Preschool Programs (LA4 and Head Start) for the 2020-21 school year is ongoing. You can go to the school of your choice to register during school hours. Applications can also be completed online via the Vernon Parish School Board website (<https://www.vpsb.us>) for school age children 4 years old. For more information call Christina Heather, LA4 coordinator, at (337) 537-5109 or the Head Start office at (337) 239-6899.

### Change of command

The Fort Polk community is invited to attend the 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne) change of command as Lt. Col. Henry Moltz relinquishes command to Lt. Col. Brendan D. Fitzgerald June 1 at 10 a.m. on Spike Field, located at 8433 Mississippi Ave. The inclement weather location is the Bayou Theater, 7830 Mississippi Avenue. A reception follows at the Geronimo Resilience Center, 2155 16th Street. Dress code is duty uniform for military; business casual for civilians. To RSVP contact Capt. Gregory Taliferro at (229) 894-7467.

Please see **Briefs**, page 5

*Mike Domitrz, guest speaker at Fort Polk's Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response Program two day training event — May 18-19, talks to Soldiers and civilians about the importance of consent and listening when someone says no in an intimate situation.*



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

## SHARP hosts training to prevent sexual harassment, assault

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Sober consent in intimate situations and taking care of your battle buddies or any human being when sobriety and consent are in question were just a couple of the key issues discussed one of several Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response Program training sessions May 18-19 at Fort Polk's Bayou Theater.

Fort Polk service members, Department of Defense employees and dependents attended The SHARP training called, "Can I Kiss You," led by internationally renowned speaker, Mike Domitrz.

Domitrz is the author of three books and an award-winning DVD. He is one of the world's leading influencers and thought-leaders on the topics of respect and consent.

The presentation engages the audience with interactive questions, an intense, inclusive approach — led by Domitrz — that he said makes participants an active part of the training process.

"We ask questions about the world they are experiencing right now and let their answers drive the conversation. That gives them ownership over the choices they will make after they walk out these doors," he said.

This presentation is different from other trainings that may deliver the same information but have little to no direct interaction with the audience, according to Domitrz. He said when people experience the same training over and over, it shouldn't be a surprise that the results will continue to be the same.

"We want to change those results and encourage a different perspective. That means building a new culture founded on respect for all," he said.

Domitrz said some of the main lessons he wants Soldiers and civilians to take away from the SHARP training include choosing to be their best self, choosing the culture they live in and showing respect for others in intimate situations. "Consent is not the standard of excellence. It is the bare minimum requirement. Ask first and respect the answer," he said.

Master Sgt. Mark Dunlop, Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group, attended the event and said the training is valuable to continue the Army's goals when it comes to sexual harassment and assault.

"We all need to be on the same page to ensure we are adhering to the Army values and the greater goal of taking care of one another," he said.

Please see **SHARP**, page 5



## Soldier's journey to service began in South Vietnam

BY DAVID VERGUN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have helped shape the history of the United States, and many of their lives have been dramatically influenced by moments in U.S. history. Every May, the Defense Department joins the rest of the nation in celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Col. Danielle Ngo said she encourages young people to consider serving, whether it be in their communities or in the military.

For as long as she can remember, Ngo said she wanted to be a Soldier. Her path to that career started halfway around the world in South Vietnam.

In late April 1975, at age 3, Ngo said the world her family had known was collapsing around them as North Vietnamese forces began to overrun the defenses of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City.

Her mother, Thai-An, and sister, Lan-Dinh, left their paternal grandparent's Saigon home where they were visiting, for the Tan Son Nhat airport for evacuation. Ngo's grandfather took eight short-distance buses and scooters from the seaside village of Vung Tau, where they all lived together, to take Ngo back to her mother because the South Vietnamese government had issued an off-limits restriction for traveling that week. He did not want them to be separated.

Ngo said they were among those eligible to be evacuated because her grandmother had worked at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

Ngo has only a few, vague recollections of the evacuation because she was so young at the time. As aerial bombs rained down on the airport, their airplane took off. Ngo said her mother told her it was most likely the last plane to leave.

Unfortunately, her father wasn't on the evacuation flight. He stayed behind to fight, as he was a captain in South Vietnam's army. Many years later he emigrated to the United States.

Ngo's mother took her two daughters and settled in Massachusetts, living first in the town of Melrose and later in the towns of Malden, Hingham and Watertown.

Growing up, Ngo said her mom taught her all about the Vietnamese culture and



*Army Col. Danielle Ngo, the executive officer to the Army Inspector General, displays her Asian-American Engineer of the Year trophy in her office at the Pentagon, May 4.*

how to make Vietnamese food, which she enjoys preparing even today.

At age 17, Ngo said she coaxed her mother to sign enlistment papers so she could serve in the Army Reserve.

At 19, Ngo found out that her grandfather was sick in Vietnam, so she went to see him. It was the first of four trips she would take to Vietnam to see the country and visit relatives or travel for Army assignments.

The U.S. at the time had established diplomatic relations; today, Vietnam is a valued U.S. partner.

In 1994, Ngo graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science in finance and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army, serving in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Since then, Ngo has had many assignments, including in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Her decorations include a Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster.

In November 2016, while attending the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, Ngo was one of the authors of a study titled "U.S.-China Competition:

Asia-Pacific Land Force Implications." One of the other writers, Hung Nguyen, was an exchange student from the People's Army of Vietnam.

Ngo said their collaboration on the project was truly rewarding, and she only regrets that her Vietnamese vocabulary is limited.

She is currently the executive officer for the Army Inspector General at the Pentagon.

Her younger sister, Lan-Dinh, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served seven years of active duty in the Army.

Ngo said that whenever she meets a Vietnam veteran, she always asks them to tell their story and then gives them a hug — with their permission, of course.

She also tells them that, were it not for their service and sacrifice, she wouldn't have been able to live her dream as an American.

"They had gone through hell and back and they never really got the appreciation that they truly deserve," she said.



# SHARP

Continued from page 3

Sgt. Sheppard Alaimaleata, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, also attended the training. Alaimaleata said programs like this help Soldiers learn to be smart and become better people.

“NCOs have to talk to their Soldiers and help them understand that it is imperative that they listen and that no means no,” he said.

Domitrz said he knows he is reaching his audience and making a difference based on the feedback he gets from the post event survey he has his audiences take.

“After they take this training, about 90 percent of participants say they are more likely to ask for consent in their personal interactions, intervene in other situations that involve alcohol and sexual harassment and assault and more likely to reach out to loved ones who have experienced sexual assault,” he said.



*From left to right: Sgt. Amelyne Clark, Spc. Hannah Lambright, Mike Domitrz, guest speaker for the Fort Polk Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention Program “Can I Kiss You” training, Sgt. 1st Class Adrian Carhee, installation lead sexual assault response coordinator and Gustacia Gabriel, installation SHARP program manager discuss the day’s progression during SHARP training sessions held at the Bayou Theater May 19.*

KAVANAUGH BR/ GUARDIAN

## Briefs

Continued from page 3

### Newcomers brief

Beginning June 11, the Newcomers brief undergoes a transformation as it becomes the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Family Newcomer orientation, an effort that not only welcomes Soldiers to the installation, but also their Families.

The program is also geared to Department of the Army civilians.

The revamped orientation emphasizes the “People First Initiative”, a priority of Brig. Gen. David Doyle, commander of the JRTC and Fort Polk, and will also offer digital resources that people can use before they arrive to the installation.

Family orientation will be held bimonthly, on the second and fourth Friday of each month.

The newly formatted orientation includes short, informative briefings on resources used by incoming personnel, booths set up by units and selected post agency briefers and a bus tour.

Digital resources offered can be accessed [JRTC and Fort Polk web site at https://home.army.mil/polk/index.php](https://home.army.mil/polk/index.php). Click on Newcomer’s sponsorship page.

Watch for more information in an upcoming issue of the Guardian.

### Repair project begins

The Alabama Avenue repair project from Third Street to LA Hwy. 10 is underway.

Beginning June 1, the segment of Alabama Avenue south of Louisiana Avenue will be closed for about three weeks. Motorists accessing facilities along 14th, 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd streets will be detoured through Mississippi Avenue.

Bellrichard Avenue and 23rd Street will remain open for through traffic. Facilities with access limited to Alabama Avenue will be accessed off of Georgia Avenue with flaggers providing safe passage across the work zone (Alabama Avenue).

The segment of Alabama Avenue north of Louisiana Avenue consists of work primarily on the west travel lane and along the adjacent curbing and sidewalk with minor saw-cutting operations ongoing on the roadway.

Primary construction impacts will be single lane closures.

Rough road conditions and loose aggregate are possible near these work zones. Motorists should anticipate traffic delays due to closures and flagging operations around the work zones and pedestrians are encouraged to stay clear of work zones.

### Quality of life initiative

A Quality of Life initiative is underway to repair seven basketball courts within the barracks footprint and a new covered court at bldg. 4996, the Middle School and Teen Center, using a design build contract delivery method. It is a \$4.8 million dollar project with an anticipated construction completion between January and March of 2022. Site activities at three courts (2254, 2264 and 2268) are anticipated to start May 24. Court locations include buildings 1057, 1052, 1355, 2254, 2264 and 2268. Repairs will include new cushioned surfacing, NCAA court markings, tempered glass backboards, new LED lighting and fencing.

The outdoor court located at building 2276 (next to the Warrior Fitness Center) will be redesigned with three new court layouts for basketball, volleyball and tennis. Improvements include new cushioned surfacing, NCAA court markings, nets and LED lighting. A covered outdoor court will be constructed at the Middle School Teen Center, building 4996, along with a new outdoor game pad and similar court improvements. Traffic and parking to the areas surrounding each court site will be impacted due to construction activities.



# Writer looks back at first visit to 'Home of Heroes'

By **CHUCK CANNON**  
Public affairs/communications

FORT POLK, La. — With this year marking the 80th anniversary of Fort Polk, I thought back to my first trip to the sprawling post in south central Louisiana, known today as the “Home of Heroes.”

I came here in March 1974 as a 19-year-old rotund country bumpkin who knew a lot less than I thought I did, and left two months later, 50 pounds lighter, with the attitude of a lean, mean fighting machine.

I exited the cattle truck after receiving my duffle bag full of equipment I’d never heard of before, and immediately ran headlong into Drill Sgt. Daryll Vaughn, who happened to be about 5 inches shorter than I am and I never saw him. We had a pleasant exchange that resulted in me occupying the front leaning rest position as he pounded me on the back with the afore-mentioned duffle bag until I assured him I understood how much of an inconvenience it was to be struck by said bag.

Having survived that first day, I eased my 260-pound self into my bunk, wondering what in the world I had gotten myself into.



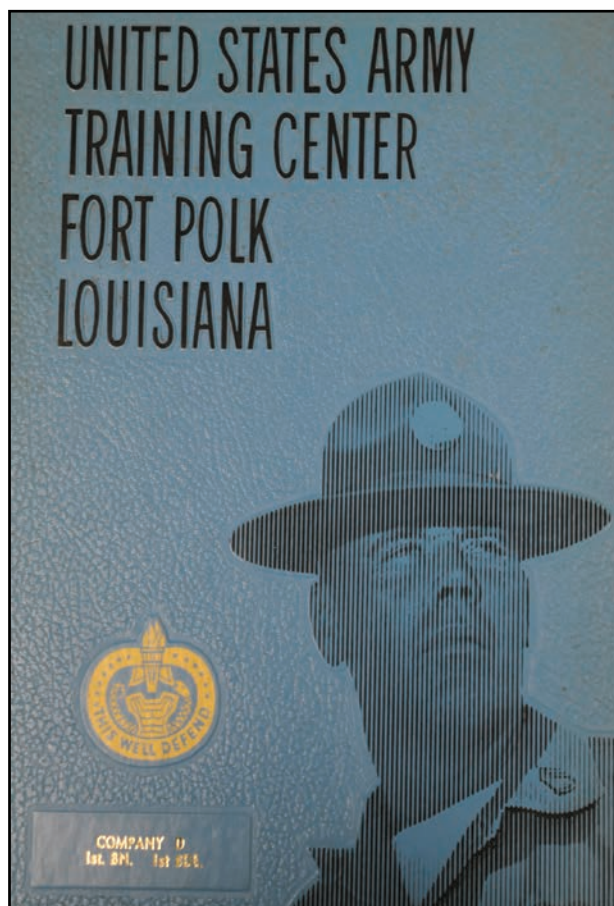
**CANNON**

The next morning I met the two men who would work to shed those 50 pounds and trim 8 inches from my waist: Drill Sgt. James Poullard and Drill Sgt. Charles Broussard.

For eight weeks, it seemed to me that one of those two NCOs was at my side every waking hour. When we lined up to go into the chow hall, they would let five Soldiers in at a time. Poullard or Broussard would take up a position next to me, always at the end of the line. As each group of five moved forward, my bodyguards would have me do sit ups until the line moved forward, then they would have me do pushups. This went on, back and forth, until it was my turn to enter the mess hall.

Once inside, they would instruct me on what was acceptable for me to eat/drink: Meat, vegetables, salad, water. That was it. No bread, no starches, no milk, no sodas.

Our barracks were in the area where today you’ll find the MP Station and Rock Shop. There was a slight incline and after each meal the drill sergeants would line



*Chuck Cannon, Fort Polk Public Affairs Office, fires a rifle on of the installation’s ranges more than 40 years after first using the range during basic training in 1974.*

our platoon along the top of the incline and have those of us who were a tad overweight roll down the hill, then low crawl back up while everyone else was instructed to laugh at us. I guess they meant to embarrass us into getting in shape. It worked.

Three weeks into basic training, my dear mother sent a box of brownies. I was in Fourth Platoon, but Drill Sgt. William Bodie, Second Platoon, happened to see me with the box and instructed me to open it in his presence. Once he saw the brownies, he confiscated the box and said that was not part of my meal plan.

That’s pretty much how I spent my first six weeks of basic training: What I considered a starvation diet, constant PT and nothing edible from home. Then came the gas chamber.

It happened that Bodie was the drill sergeant who stayed with each platoon as we went through the chamber, tasking each Soldier to respond to such requests as “give me your Social Security Number” or “spell your name backwards” all while having your gas mask removed. When it came time for our platoon, Bodie said, “Cannon, I want you to be my door guard.”

It was all I could do to keep from laughing out loud as those poor souls tried to respond to Bodie’s requests without covering themselves and Bodie with liquids that seemed to be emanating from every open-

ing in their faces.

Finally, it was my turn. Bodie told me to remove my mask, and then said, “I just want you to do one thing.” I stammered, “Anything drill sergeant!” He said, “You’ve got to promise me you’ll do this.” I slobbered, “I will!” He said, “Are you sure you’ll promise me?” By now, my face was covered with several different forms of liquid and I strained to pull myself out of Brodie’s grasp to escape the chamber as he clung to my wrist.

“Promise me you’ll ask your mother to send you another box of brownies,” he said, laughing.

“Yes, please let me go,” I yelled.

He let go of my wrist and I bolted out of the door. The first thing I saw was a water buffalo strung between a couple of trees. I made a beeline for it, ripped off the top and plunged my head into the cool, refreshing water.

After everyone had finished laughing, Brodie came up to me and said, “Cannon, you’re gonna be OK.”

## COMMENTARY

The last two weeks of basic were a breeze. The drill sergeants quit shadowing every move and even allowed me potatoes for lunch and milk at breakfast. When basic training began, I weighed 260 pounds, had a 42-inch waist and scored 274 on the five-event PT test. Eight weeks later, I weighed 210 pounds, had a 34-inch waist and scored 498 out of 500 on the PT test.

It was 47 years ago this month that I graduated and left Fort Polk after basic training for Military Police School at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Now, as I’m getting close to the time when I’ll consider the life of a retiree, I find myself back where it all started. Fort Polk did a lot to shape the person I am today, and I’m thankful for the role it has played in my life and will continue to play in the years to come.



# Fort Polk command attends Veterans Brunch at DeRidder's historic USO



Brig Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk is the guest speaker at the Veterans Brunch held May 15 at DeRidder's War Memorial Civic Center.



Veterans place their hats on a VIP table reserved for them at the Veterans Brunch held May 15 at DeRidder's historic USO.

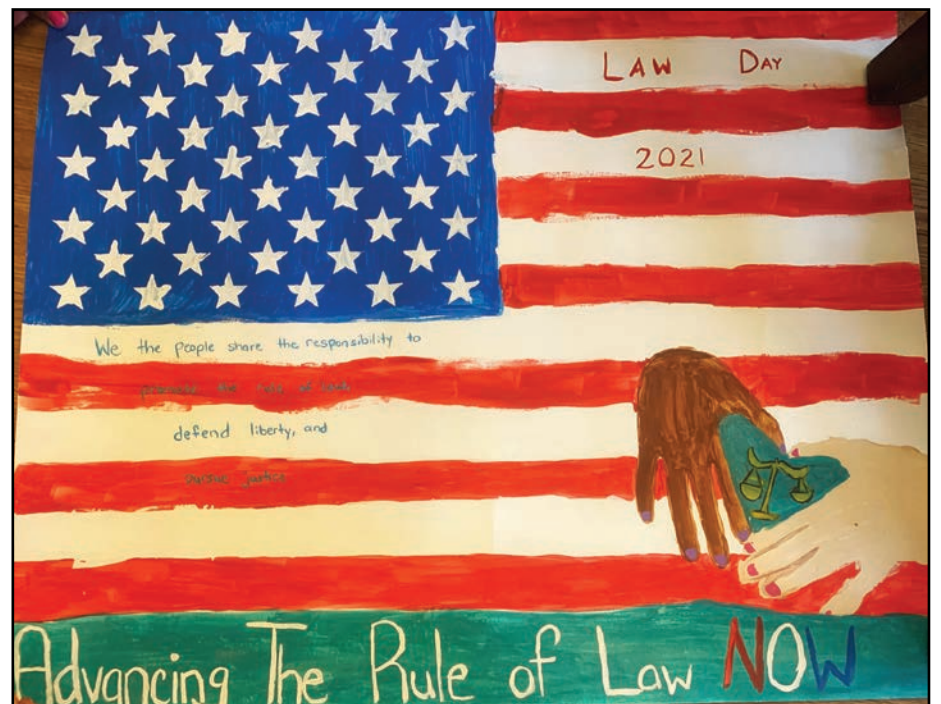
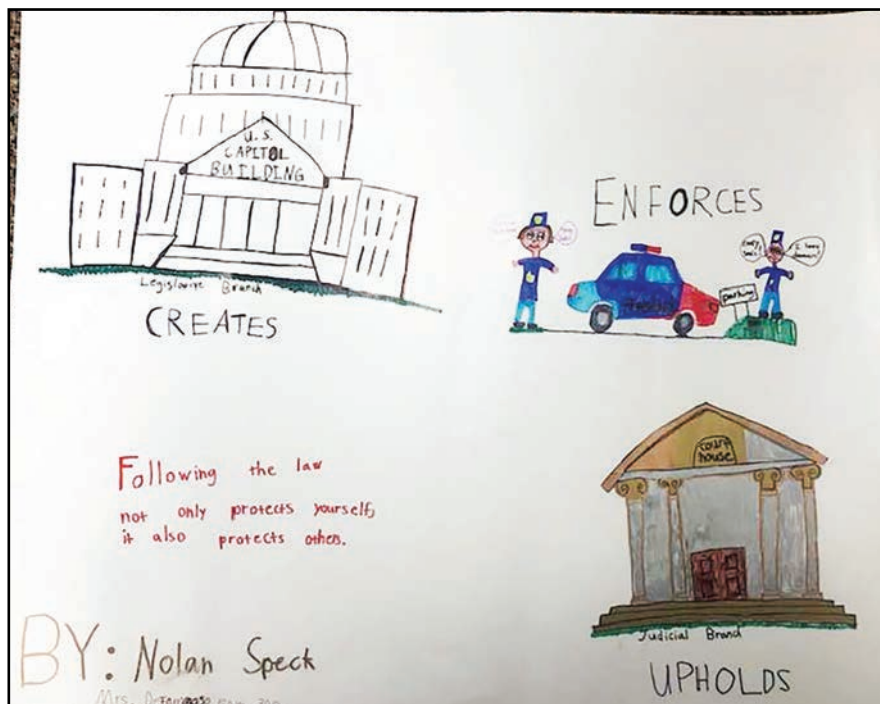


A Fort Polk color guard, provided by the 519th Military Police Battalion, marches into the Civic Center for the Veterans Brunch held May 15.



From left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Henry, post command sergeant major, Brig. Gen. David Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center commanding general and Louisiana State Senator Mike Reese, District 30, talk at the veterans brunch held May 15 in DeRidder.





### Law day poster winners

Each year, the American Bar Association celebrates National Law Day. This year's theme was *Advancing the Rule of Law, Now*. Fort Polk's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate decided to get involved by having a Law Day Poster Contest with the ABA theme. The contest was open to all third and fourth graders at Parkway Elementary School. The contest ended April 26 and Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness

Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, selected the top two posters May 7. Nolan Speck, a fourth grader, won the category of Best Theme for his poster submission (*The Three Branches*) (left). Aundrea Gibson, a fourth grader at Parkway Elementary, won the category of Best Artwork for her poster submission (*American Flag*).

# Soldiers punished, separated for UCMJ violations

## OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — The preamble to the Manual for Courts-Martial states, "The purpose of military law is to promote justice, assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the armed forces, promote efficiency and effectiveness in the military establishment and 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: 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 specialist, assigned to 317th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), was issued a General Officer Memorandum of Record for indecent visual recording of his spouse without his spouse's consent, in violation of Article 120(c), Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

- A specialist, assigned to 519th Military



Police Battalion, was issued a GOMOR for wrongful sexual contact, in violation of Article 120, UCMJ.

- A specialist, assigned to 46th Engineer Battalion, was punished under Article 15 for dereliction of duty by leaving his post as the guard for the arms room, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to E-3; forfeiture of \$400 for one month; and restriction for 14 days.

- A specialist, assigned to 519th MP Bn, was separated under Chapter 14-12c (Commission of a Serious Offense) for assaulting

another service member. The Soldier was issued an Other than Honorable conditions characterization of service and a bar to post. Generally, this characterization of service results in the loss of a service member's educational and health benefits. This characterization of service also results in the service member being reduced to the grade of E-1.

- A private, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div (LI), was issued a GOMOR for abusive sexual misconduct, in violation of Article 120, UCMJ.



# Community

## Nurses Week celebration focuses on community outreach

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES  
BJACH PAO

FORT POLK, La. — Nurses from Bayne-Jones Army Community hospital conducted several community relations events to celebrate Nurses Week 2021.

This year's theme, "Unified, Reliable, Ready," provided the opportunity to demonstrate unity through outreach efforts with regional hospitals and academic partners.

On May 12, BJACH nurses visited Northwestern State University's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health along with the Demon Battalion, Reserve Officer Training Corps, in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Maj. Carmen Salcedo, command surgeon liaison officer for the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, said spending the afternoon at NSU was a beneficial way to enhance the Army's reputation as a respected professional organization.

"Building relationships with community partners is important to Army nursing," she said.

"Northwestern State University needs instructors and we need nurses; it's a great way to work together for a common goal and advance the profession. Ultimately we would love to have NSU nursing students graduate and join the Army Nurse Corps in our quest to gain more talent in our ranks."

Salcedo said several nurses from BJACH serve as adjunct faculty for the NSU-Leesville campus, and during the visit she learned about the school's combat medic to associate of science in nursing program.

Dr. Linda Nichols, nursing coordinator for the Leesville campus, said the experience was beneficial.

"I thought the event was great and opened up avenues to continue working with BJACH," she said. "I'm very excited about the possibility of partnering with the hospital on post to enhance our program for paramedics and combat medics."

Dr. Joel Hicks, dean of the NSU College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, said the visit provided an opportunity for the university to have a more in-depth understanding of the staffing needs of BJACH.

"Based on these conversations, several ideas regarding the current relationship between NSU and Fort Polk and furthering



JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES/BJACH

*From left: Dr. Joel Hicks, dean, Northwestern State University School of Nursing and Allied Health; Lt. Col. Michelle O'Neill, chief nurse, Emergency Department; Maj. Markeisha Hubbard, chief nurse, Mixed Medical Surgical Department; Lt. Col. Dwight Berry, chief of Quality; Troy Boudreaux, medical recruiter, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital; Maj. Carmen Salcedo, Command Surgeon liaison officer, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk; and Dr. Chris Maggio, president, NSU, discuss undergraduate and graduate nursing programs offered at the university during a visit in honor of Nurses Week in Natchitoches, La., May 12.*

the partnerships between the two were able to occur," he said.

"Additionally, numerous undergraduate and graduate level nursing programs were discussed that would help increase the number of registered nurses and nurse practitioners in areas that need them most."

On May 13, BJACH hosted 16 nurses from Byrd Regional Hospital and Beauregard Health System for a unified community luncheon and tour. During the visit nurses also met with pilots and crew of Fort Polk's Army Air Ambulance Detachment, "Cajun Dustoff," 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment.

Kevin Quinn, CEO, Byrd Regional Hospital, said he appreciated the opportunity to visit Fort Polk with his nursing team.

"The nursing profession is the backbone of health care," he said. "I can't think of a better way to show our appreciation to nurses than to partner with BJACH and Beauregard Health Systems to partake in this celebration. Nurses are on the frontline, we are always reliable and because of our training and education, we are ready to take care of our patients."

April Newman, assistant director of same-day-surgery, Beauregard Health Systems, said she had never been on Fort Polk or to BJACH before.

"The hospital is beautiful and it was great to see what is available to Soldiers and their Families," she said. "I hope we can collaborate more in the future to implement best practices together."

Nurses Week culminated May 14 with a formal ceremony and cake-cutting. Guest speaker Hicks compared the nursing profession to the military.

"In many ways, the selfless nature of the Soldier and the nurse are similar. Both professions are built on the principle of service to others. For this reason alone, it is great to connect," he said.

"On a more practical level, the shortage of registered nurses continues to be an issue for our region, state and nation. The United States military branches are not immune to these workforce shortfalls. Building relationships between our university and Fort Polk provides mechanisms to craft solutions to nursing shortages using creative, 'out of the box' thinking."



# Spouses' Club gives back to community through scholarships

## FORT POLK SPOUSES' CLUB

The Fort Polk Spouses' Club is a charitable and social organization focused on community involvement. FPSC raises funds throughout the year through various philanthropic events such as their wreaths, trees and centerpiece auction in December, flamingo flocking and an annual spring fundraiser.

These events help generate funds that support college scholarships awarded to eligible FPSC Family members. The club also gives out as many grants as its funds allow, selecting nonprofit organizations such as schools and other entities, who support the military community directly.

Even though COVID-19 kept most people home during the past year, the FPSC did not let this stop them from raising money to give back to the community. Volunteers put in hundreds of hours to ensure each event was successful.

The club had to make constant changes to ensure compliance with state mandates and safety protocols — including changing some festivities to virtual events.

Putting the results of those actions into




*Pictured from left to right: Kimberly Moltz, Fort Polk Spouses' Club scholarship chair, and scholarship winners Sierra Johnson, Katelynn Furlow, Ashley Gorrell, mother of Dominic Ross (not pictured), James Joshua Cole and Jenna Wood.*

motion, the Fort Polk Spouses' Club awarded \$18,700 to the recipients of the scholarships and grants program May 2.

In addition to scholarship and grant assistance, FPSC also hosts monthly socials and sub-club events to provide fellowship, networking and fun for members on Fort Polk. The club offers many ways for mem-

bers to volunteer, including participation on the board, as a member of the decorating committee, acting as a "flocking fairy" or through their community service sub-club.

For more information about the FPSC and their mission, check out their website at <https://fortpolkspousesclub.wildapricot.org/>.

 **ARTS & CRAFTS**

**ALL AGES**

**ACTIVITY DAY**  
**& FAMILY FINGER PAINT ON CANVAS**  
**\*UNDER THE SEA\***  
**MAY 22 | 10:30AM - 2PM**

CREATE A FINGER PAINTING  
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FORGING THE WARRIOR SPIRIT

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FORT POLK MAIN POST CHAPEL

## Fort Polk Main Post Chapel celebrates Eid al-Fitr

A religious holiday was held on Fort Polk May 12 at sunset. Eid al-Fitr, the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," is celebrated by Muslims worldwide marking the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan. Eid al-Fitr is celebrated for one to three days, depending on the country. It is forbidden to fast on the Day of Eid, and a specific prayer is nominated for this day. As an obligatory act of charity, money is paid to the poor and the needy (Zakat-ul-fitr) before performing the Eid prayer. The Eid prayer is performed by the congregation in an open area such as a field, community center or mosque. After the prayers, Muslims visit their relatives, friends and acquaintances or hold large communal celebrations in homes, community centers or rented halls.

**Above:** Those of the Muslim faith and their friends and families gather for the Eid al-Fitr at the Fort Polk Main Post Chapel May 12.

**Right:** A young child partakes in the Eid al-Fitr celebration May 12 at the Fort Polk Main Post Chapel.



## Celebrating Volunteer of Month

The Fort Polk Army Volunteer Program has begun hosting monthly recognitions for the registered volunteer with the most certified hours. Each month, the individual with the most hours registered in the volunteer management information system will win a \$25 Gift card and an Army Community Service coin. The recipient will also be recognized on the Fort Polk Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation and ACS Facebook pages. Individuals interested in volunteering should register at [vmis.armyfamilymwebportal.com](https://vmis.armyfamilymwebportal.com) to apply for open positions. They can also contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 531-1895. The Volunteer of the Month for April is Sherina Blett, left. Blett donated 109 hours of her time during the month of April participating in outreach events, spreading the word about the opportunities at ACS and the benefits of the Army Family Team Building Program, which has resulted in Soldiers and their Family members strengthening their bonds to the community. Blett demonstrates selfless dedication, passion and commitment by continuously helping wherever needed, from setup and clean-up of events to coordinating, planning and instructing AFTB courses.





# Patriot Warrior Restaurant



## Breakfast

Served Monday – Friday  
0730 – 0900  
\$3.65

Turkey Bacon  
Oven Fried Bacon  
Pork Sausage

Pancakes  
Oatmeal  
Grits  
Biscuits

Boiled Eggs  
Scrambled Eggs  
Omelets

Home Fried Potatoes  
White Rice  
Creamed Gravy  
Creamed Beef

Assorted Fruits  
Assorted Smoothies

Lunch

**Monday**  
(24 May 2021)

Meat Loaf  
Chicken-a-la-King  
White Rice  
Mashed Potatoes  
Jefferson Noodles  
Herbed Broccoli  
Glazed Carrots  
Egg Rolls

## Lunch

Served Monday – Friday  
1130 – 1300  
\$5.85

Served for lunch and dinner:  
Assorted Salads  
Assorted Fruit  
Assorted Pizzas  
Assorted Desserts  
Short Order  
Soup  
Assorted Smoothies

**Tuesday**  
(25 May 2021)

Tacos  
Shrimp Fajitas  
Savory Baked Chicken  
Lemon Pepper Fish  
Refried Beans  
Oven Glow Potatoes  
Mexican Corn  
Herbed Green Beans  
Jalapeño Cornbread

**Wednesday**  
(26 May 2021)

Spinach Lasagna  
Lasagna  
Chicken Pasta  
Sausage  
Lyonnais Rice  
Lyonnais Potatoes  
Seasoned Corn  
Herbed Cauliflower  
Garlic Bread

## Dinner

Served Monday – Friday  
1700 – 1830  
\$5.10

**Thursday**  
(27 May 2021)

Barbeque Ribs  
Fried Chicken  
Fried Catfish  
Mac & Cheese  
Broccoli Cheddar Rice Casserole  
Sweet Potato Casserole  
Collard Greens  
Corn on the Cob  
Hot Rolls

**Friday**  
(28 May 2021)

Swiss Steak  
Orange Chicken  
Buttered Penne Noodles  
Home Fried Potatoes  
Fried Cabbage  
Peas with Mushrooms  
Hot Rolls

Dinner

**Monday**  
(24 May 2021)

Five Spice Chicken  
Basil Baked Cod  
Parsley Buttered Potatoes  
Orange Rice  
Peas and Carrots  
Succotash  
Egg Rolls  
Hot Rolls

**Tuesday**  
(25 May 2021)

Chicken Cordon Blue  
Pepper Steak  
Paprika Potatoes  
Rice Pilaf  
Spinach  
Marinated Glazed Carrots  
Hot Rolls

**Wednesday**  
(26 May 2021)

Chicken Parmesan  
Braised Beef  
Tossed Green Rice  
Baked Potatoes  
Oriental Veggies  
Lima Beans  
Garlic Bread

**Thursday**  
(27 May 2021)

Szechwan Chicken  
Pork Adobo  
Oven Glo Potatoes  
Steamed Rice  
Cauliflower  
Green Beans  
Hot Rolls

**Friday**  
(28 May 2021)

Grilled Pork Chops  
Creole Fish  
Long Grain Wild Rice  
Mashed Potatoes  
Calico Cabbage  
Succotash  
Hot Rolls



# Geronimo Warrior Restaurant



## Breakfast

Served Monday – Friday  
0730 – 0900  
\$3.65

Turkey Bacon  
Pork Bacon  
Turkey Sausage  
Pork Sausage

Pancakes  
Oatmeal  
Grits  
Biscuits

Boiled Eggs  
Scrambled Eggs  
Omelets

Home Fried Potatoes  
Hash Browns  
White Rice  
Creamed Beef

**Monday**  
(24 May 2021)

Lasagna  
Grilled Salmon  
Buttered Egg Noodles  
Oven Glo Potatoes  
Peas with Onions  
Carrots Amandine  
Chicken Noodle Soup  
Philly Steak  
Hamburgers  
Hot Dogs  
Chicken Tenders

## Lunch

Served Monday – Friday  
1130 – 1300  
\$5.85

Baked Beans  
Curly Fries  
Assorted Salads

Chili with Beef  
Cheese Sauce  
Assorted Desserts

**Tuesday**  
(25 May 2021)

Orange-Pineapple Chicken  
Chili-Lime Salmon  
Fried Potatoes & Peppers  
Hispanic Rice  
Veggie Stir Fry  
Steamed Green Beans  
Cream of Broccoli  
Chicken Wings  
Hamburgers  
Hot Dogs

**Wednesday**  
(26 May 2021)

Five Spice Chicken  
Pork Chops with  
Asian Pineapple Sauce  
Garlic Soy Roasted Potatoes  
Fried Rice  
Five Way Mixed Veggies  
Steamed Broccoli  
Vegetable Soup  
Chicken Tenders

**Thursday**  
(27 May 2021)

Braised Spareribs  
BBQ Spareribs  
Grilled Chicken  
BBQ Chicken  
Southern Fried Catfish  
Baked Mac & Cheese  
Red Beans with Rice  
Southern Fried Okra  
Corn on the Cob  
Gumbo  
Chicken Wings

\*Dinner and Friday meals served at the Patriot Warrior Restaurant; Contact your staff duty for transportation\*