



FORGING THE

WARRIOR SPIRIT

The JRTC and Fort Polk Guardian

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Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

June 4, 2021

Corvias plans facelift to Fort Polk's Dogwood, Maple Terrace housing

By **CHUCK CANNON**
Public affairs and communications

FORT POLK, La. – Fort Polk residents may soon see signs of improvements to the installation's housing as Corvias winds up Outyear Development Plan 1 and hopefully soon kicks off ODP2.

Wil Motta, Corvias operations director, said work on ODP1, a \$50 million project that comprises both Dogwood and Maple Terrace housing areas, has resumed after Mother Nature put a kink in the plans by throwing two hurricanes, a tropical storm and an ice storm at Fort Polk.

"Dogwood, Phase 1 of ODP1, had a ribbon cutting last year and is completed," Motta said. "The second phase of the project is taking place in Maple."

Motta said Corvias leaders and the local Fort Polk command worked together to develop ODP1 to enhance the community.

"In this case there was \$50 million available, and the decision was made to do a lot of exterior work," he said. "The Dogwood project involved exterior painting of buildings, removing and repairing fascia, overlay of roofs and rain gutters. It was a large-scale project. We also did 3.5 miles of road in the area of North Fort."

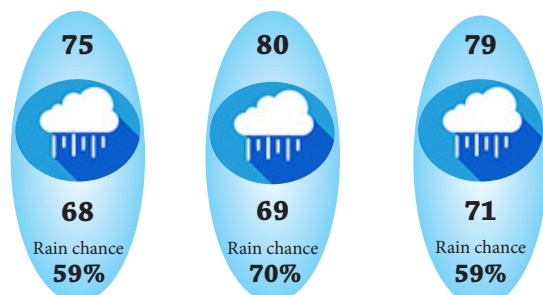
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CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

Corvias and Fort Polk's Outyear Development Plan 2 calls for the demolition of 46 homes, including 36 houses on Norris Loop in the Palmetto housing area. That area contains not only the older houses on Fort Polk, but also those most affected by Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020.

Weekend weather



Inside the Guardian

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Viewpoint

In our view

Guardian staff asked the JRTC and Fort Polk community, "What is a cartoon you still watch and why?"

Here are their responses:

Dawn Book: "I love 'Tom and Jerry' cartoons because they bring back good memories. There are no words, just good times and I can watch them with my grandchildren."



Cpl. Isaac Soto: "'The Simpsons' has always been a favorite and their topics are still relevant about what's going on today. They have been on air a long time. They are like a continuing part of my childhood and the show is just funny."



Haley Barker: "It's got to be 'Tom and Jerry' for me. All my childhood memories come rushing back when I watch them today. They are great when I don't want to think and want to spend some time watching something fun with my kids."



Spc. Shian Brown: "It would have to be 'Teen Titans.' I still watch them when I get the chance. When I was a kid, I loved the superhero aspect and I guess being a Soldier is my chance to be a little bit like them."



Pfc. Kevin Stanford: "Scooby Doo was my favorite. I liked the friendship between Shaggy and Scooby. I guess I could relate because when I was a kid, my best friend was my dog."



Pfc. Nathan Franz: "It would definitely be 'Sponge Bob.' It was my favorite as a kid. You can't go wrong with it and it never gets old."



Guardian Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle

Joint Readiness Training Center
and Fort Polk commanding general

Col. Ryan K. Roseberry

Garrison commander

Public Affairs Office

Kavanaugh Breazeale

Kim Reischling

Chuck Cannon

Angie Thorne

Keith Houin

T.C. Bradford

Jeff England

Editorial Offices

Building 4919, Magnolia Street

Fort Polk, LA 71459-5060

Voice (337) 531-4033

Fax (337) 531-1401

Email: **Kimberly.K.Reischling.civ@mail.mil**

Fort Polk Homepage

home.army.mil/polk/

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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

School registration

Registration for Vernon Parish Preschool Programs (LA4 and Head Start) for the 2020-21 school year is ongoing. Visit the school of your choice to register during school hours. Applications can 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 337.537.5109 or 337.239.6899.

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. The first repairs will be at courts 2254, 2264 and 2268. Court locations include buildings 1057, 1052, 1355, 2254, 2264 and 2268. Repairs 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, bldg 4996, along with a new outdoor game pad and similar court improvements. Traffic and parking surrounding each court site will be impacted due to construction activities.

Retirement services

If you've reached 18 years in service, it's a good time to start looking at the Army retirement process. The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Retirement Services Office offers mandatory preretirement briefings quarterly at the Education Center. For more details call 531.0363/0402.

New Secretary of Army offers message

To the Army Family:

Late last week, I had the great honor of being sworn in as your 25th Secretary of the Army. As I watched the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, I reflected on what a distinct privilege it is to lead the finest men and women that our great Nation has to offer. It is truly humbling to represent the Soldiers, civilians and Families that make up the world's greatest land fighting force.

As a career civil servant and later as a senior official in the Department of Defense, I have worked alongside and seen firsthand the sacrifices Soldiers and their Families make when answering our Nation's call at home and abroad. I am proud to represent the service of so many serving today, but also that of my grandfather, a World War II Army veteran, my father-in-law, an Army veteran, and my sister, who serves today in the Army Reserve. I join General McConville (Gen. James C. McConville, the 40th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army) in striving to ensure we provide the Army with the resources it needs to succeed through our priorities of people, readiness and modernization.

Our people are the priority effort, and I intend to champion a full range of initiatives to better the force. Character and culture matter — I will do my utmost to ensure we have a healthy command climate which fosters Army values at every installation, securing the well-being of our people. I will focus on making sure the Army can recruit, develop, train and retain the diverse talent it needs to remain the world's premier land force. Our Soldiers, civilians, and Families deserve the best quality of life possible, and I will strive to continue improving our Army housing, health care, child care and spouse employment opportunities.

Without fail, the Army will continue to provide ready forces capable of responding globally. I will ensure the Army continues to adapt and stay ahead of the capabilities of our adversaries, whether they are near-peer nations or newly emergent threats, while also competing successfully below the threshold of conflict. To maintain our readiness, we must strike a difficult balance between meeting the demands of



WORMUTH

current operations while also preparing for the future. We must also eliminate harmful behaviors that undermine readiness. There is no place in our Army for sexual harassment and assault, domestic violence, extremism or racism.

I am committed to continually transforming our forces to be able to compete, deter, and if necessary, fight and win across the multi-domain battlefield. The Army must be manned, trained, equipped and modernized to be ready to fight today, but also to meet the

demands of an uncertain and unpredictable future. Seeing our modernization programs through successfully will remain a top priority so that the Army is ready to meet future challenges.

I promise to lead as a hands-on Secretary who works closely with the Army's leadership at all levels. I will model ethical and transparent leadership and I will demonstrate care for the entire Army team each and every day. I could not be prouder and more humbled to have this opportunity to serve as the Secretary of the Army. I look forward to meeting with and hearing from many of you in the coming months, and I am excited about what we can do for our Nation together.

Christine E. Wormuth
U.S. Secretary of Army

MESSAGE

Army News

Special Forces gets a small yet powerful cyber support device

BY KATHRYN BAILEY
PEO C3T public affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — U.S. Special Operations Forces have a new aid in the fight against cyber-attacks. The Tactical Key Loader cryptographic key device, which answers the Army's call for the Next Generation Load Device-Small, provides critical command and control of emergency, time sensitive and secure communications during Special Forces missions. The device is a smaller, faster version of the Simple Key Loader, which is currently fielded across the Army.

"The TKL utilizes proven technology that has worked in combat for the special forces of other services," said Michael Badger, product lead communications sSecurity, assigned to the Program Executive Office for Command, Control, Communications-Tactical. "It provides niche capabilities that are enhancing U.S. Army special operations missions, including a smaller and dimmer screen to reduce detection during nighttime operations."

PEO C3T completed fielding of the NGLD-S TKL in March to Army Special Operations Forces, under U.S. Army Special Operations Command, the Army Component for the U.S. Special Operations Command.

"The Army uses National Security Agency Type 1 cryptographic keys to encrypt the data, which ensures unauthorized individuals can't access the information," said Jeremy Pilkington, deputy product leader for COMSEC, project manager tactical radios, assigned to PEO C3T.

"These keys are loaded onto tactical radios, secure phone, network encryptors, and data storage devices and can store up to 40 tactical and 80 strategic keys."

The cryptographic keys are vital to protect the contents of classified communications, he said.

As part of a continuous DEVSECOPS — software development, security and operations — improvement process, Special Operations Forces at United States Army Special Operations Command headquarters in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, continue to assess the TKL's capabilities.

"The TKL is made for small-unit teams on patrol," said Staff Sgt. Travis Weber, COM-



Secure communications are a top priority for the unique nature of Special Forces missions, such as the one pictured featuring a U.S. Army Special Forces Soldier, attached to Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan, providing security prior to an assault in the Alingar district, Laghman province, Afghanistan, Feb. 18, 2018. Recently fielded, the Tactical Key Loader, developed specifically for Special Operations Forces due to its smaller, dimmer screen and one-button key fill capability, provides cryptographic keys that block unauthorized individuals from accessing mission information.

SEC manager for 5th Special Forces Group, USASOC, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. "Its enhanced battery capability gives us 40-hours of uninterrupted crypto key performance, and it provides the required boost that allows us to boot up and login in seconds versus the minutes required to perform the same functions on the Simple Key Loader."

Simplicity is another key feature of the TKL, because once the device is set up, the user only has to push one button to fill the key slots. The process is further streamlined because Soldiers only take the keys they need on patrol versus their entire database. If for some reason communications devices such as radios become compromised, the whole structure isn't completely compromised. With the TKL the remaining radios can be quickly loaded with a new key, Weber said.

In addition, using the TKL eliminates the need to carry extra cables because its manual port allows Soldiers to clip the device directly to the radio to load the keys, he said.

To meet the Army's urgent requirement for a Special Operations-designed crypto key device, the Product Lead COMSEC team procured and fully fielded the NGLD-S TKL worldwide in under 16 months, despite challenges due to COVID-19 restrictions. The team is now currently in source selection for the big brother to the NGLD-S, the Next Generation Load Device-Medium, which is a development effort that will award up to two contracts by the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2021. The NGLD-M will be capable of storing over 10,000 keys, and is designated to replace the SKL for use in tactical, strategic and enterprise network locations.

"Modern network cryptographic key technologies will be critical to the Army's effort of protecting tactical network communications from the prying eyes of potential adversaries," Badger said. "The NGLD family of systems will help to meet this requirement across echelons in the very near future."

Housing

Continued from page 1

Work in Dogwood Terrace included 526 roof repairs, 202 buildings painted, and 402 buildings received trim and rain gutters, Motta said.

"The roof overlays extended the lives of the existing roofs and prevents roof leak issues, which means fewer ceilings and walls we would have to repair due to water intrusion," he said.

The second phase of the same project involves Maple Terrace renovations, Motta said.

"Keep in mind these renovations were supposed to be completed last year, but nature happened," he said. "We resumed the Maple Terrace work in mid-January and have overlaid 620 roofs. We identified 620 buildings to paint, of which 297 have been completed."

Motta said the last part of this phase 2 would be trim or rain gutters on 436 buildings, which has not yet started.

"We've been pounded by rain which has made it difficult to complete the work," he said.

The anticipated completion date of phase 2 is early third quarter of 2022, Motta said.

The monkey wrench in ODP1 was weather that ranged from hurricanes to tropical storms to ice storms," Motta said.

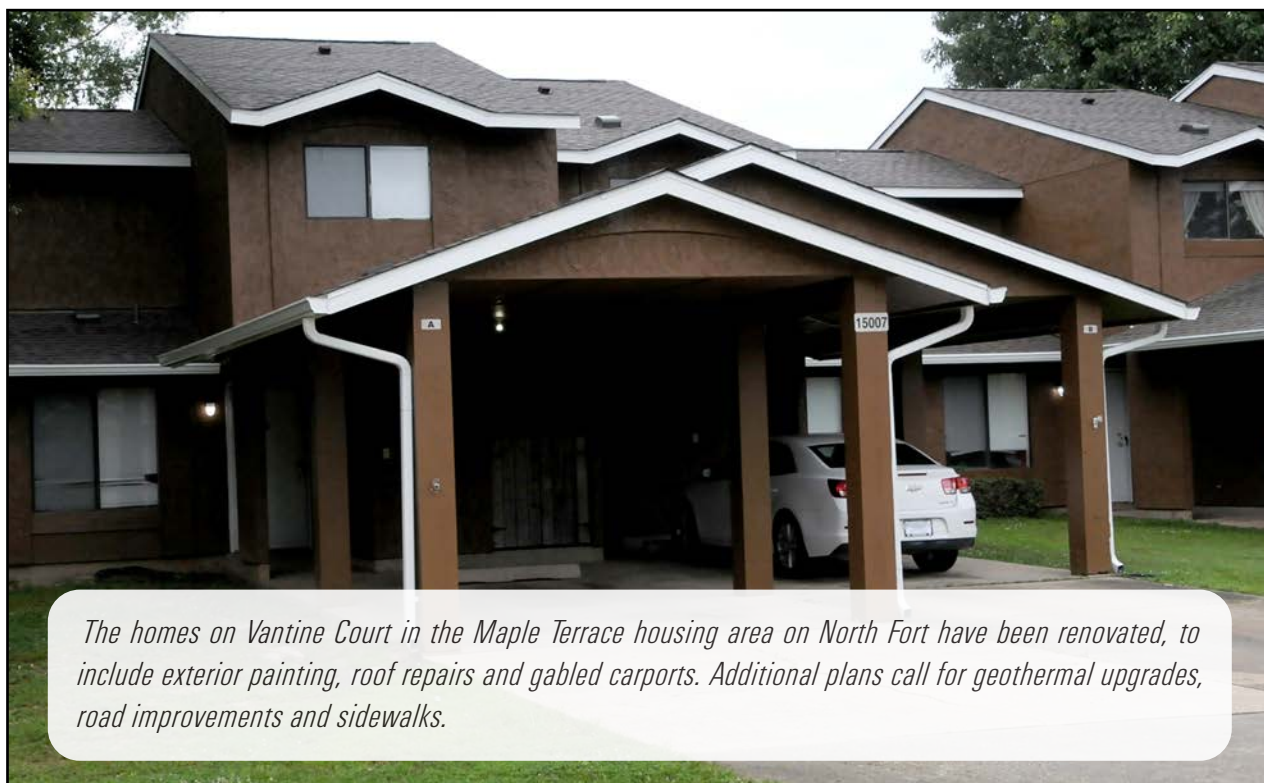
"We had 2,652 roofs that had damage of some sort," he said. "Half of those roofs had significant damage. The decision was made by Corvias and the local command that any roof determined by insurance adjusters to need just partial repairs, we would do 100 percent repair. When this project is completed, more than 75 percent of the homes will have an overlay, like we did in Dogwood or Maple, or replaced, like in Palmetto, which was hardest hit by the storms."

There are still 178 roofs that need repairs, and Motta said they would be taken care of as part of ODP2.

"The original plan for ODP2 called for \$39 million," Motta said. "When you add an additional \$36 million from hurricane insurance proceeds, then adjust that for hurricane repairs, that leaves about \$60 million for ODP2."

The local command is on board with the ODP2 plan, Motta said, and it has been forwarded to Installation Management Command and Army Materiel Command for final approval.

Motta said part of ODP2 involves the



The homes on Vantine Court in the Maple Terrace housing area on North Fort have been renovated, to include exterior painting, roof repairs and gabled carports. Additional plans call for geothermal upgrades, road improvements and sidewalks.

CHUCK CANNON/GUARDIAN

demolition of the homes on Norris Loop in Palmetto.

"Most of those buildings are vacant so the agreement was to demo 36 of the homes on Norris Loop," Motta said. "That's one of nine areas in Palmetto that will be demolished or have already been demolished and will be converted to either more parking or green spaces."

Part of ODP2 involves housing conversions, Motta said.

"Forty percent of our inventory is two-bedroom homes," he said. "It is a disservice to our service members when the majority of our inventory is two-bedrooms. Nine out of 10 times, we don't have service members that come here unaccompanied. At times, they need more space."

Motta said there are 94 apartment-style two-bedroom fourplexes, upstairs and downstairs.

"The idea is to split the building in two, and make two four bedroom houses instead of four two bedroom houses," he said.

The total number of buildings to be demolished is 46, Motta said, and the converted houses will decrease the numbers by an additional 47.

"Our end state will be reduced on the two bedroom side, but will bring up more four bedrooms," he said.

Motta said residents will also see aesthetic improvements to the neighborhood.

"The idea is to upgrade neighborhoods," he said. "We'll add carports, geothermal

upgrades, road improvements and sidewalks. We want to improve roads, but the consensus is to spend money first on buildings, then on roads."

ODP1 and 2 will address many issues, Motta said, but there is a lot more to do.

"We're working with local command to make this an installation of choice, and meet quality of life criteria for our service members and their Families," he said. "We are the biggest landlord here. We want to make sure the incentive is there for service members to live here. We're looking into accommodating requests as best as we can."

Motta said while Corvias might not be perfect, they are concerned for their residents' welfare.

"When trees fell on houses and homes flooded, when things happened here, we took care of our service members," he said. "We're here for our service members. During the storms, we had open hospitality suites for our Families. Our task is to ensure we don't add stress to our households."

Motta said ODP2 will see another 1,300 roofs repaired, 1,000 exterior renovations, 185 interior renovations including appliances, 90 gabled carports, and 149 upgrades to geothermal units, putting more than \$60 million back into the community.

"This is what the community needed and what we plan to do in the future," he said. "Does this address every home on post? No. However, is this our goal for the future? Yes."

Child tax credit expands, may help families

OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — There have been important changes to the Child Tax Credit that can help many families receive advance payments starting this summer.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 expands the Child Tax Credit for tax year 2021 only.

The expanded credit means:

- The credit amounts will increase for many taxpayers.
- The credit for qualifying children is fully refundable, which means that taxpayers can benefit from the credit even if they don't have earned income or don't owe any income taxes.
- The credit will include children who turn age 17 in 2021.
- Taxpayers may receive part of their credit in 2021 before filing their 2021 tax return.

For tax year 2021, families claiming the CTC will receive up to \$3,000 per qualifying child between the ages of 6 and 17 at the end of 2021.

They will receive \$3,600 per qualifying child under age 6 at the end of 2021. The increased amounts are reduced (phased out) for incomes over \$150,000, married taxpayers filing a joint return and qualifying widows or widowers, \$112,500 for heads of household and \$75,000 for all other taxpayers.

Advance payments of the 2021 Child Tax



Credit will be made regularly from July through December to eligible taxpayers who have a main home in the United States for more than half the year. The total of the advance payments will be up to 50 percent of the Child Tax Credit. Advance payments will be estimated from information included in eligible taxpayers' 2020 tax returns (or their 2019 returns if the 2020 returns are not filed and processed yet).

Eligible taxpayers do not need to take any action now other than to file their 2020

tax return if they have not done so. Eligible taxpayers who do not want to receive advance payment of the 2021 Child Tax Credit will have the opportunity to decline receiving advance payments. Taxpayers will also have the opportunity to update information about changes in their income, filing status or the number of qualifying children.

If you have any questions, or want to talk to an attorney, you may call the Fort Polk Legal Assistance Office at 337.531.2580 to make an appointment.

Fort Polk Soldiers charged with UCMJ infractions

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. Listed are recent examples of adverse legal actions for units

within the Fort Polk jurisdiction.

- A private, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, was separated under Chapter 14-12c (Commission of a Serious Offense) for assaulting another service member. The Soldier was issued an Other Than Honorable condition 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's reduction to E-1.

- A sergeant first class, assigned to Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group, was separated under Chapter 14-12c (Commission of a Serious Offense) for assaulting their spouse. The Soldier was issued a General Under Honorable Condition characterization of service, suspended for a



period of 12 months. Generally, this characterization of service results in the loss of a service member's educational benefits.

- A specialist, assigned to 46th Engineer Battalion, was punished under Article 15 for failing to go to their appointed place of duty, in violation of Article 86, Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Soldier was sentenced to extra-duty for 14 days; restriction for 14 days and an oral reprimand.



Validation preparation

Fort Polk's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, conducts validation preparations. Validation is essential to the preparation of training and testing for special skills badges. Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Nema Mobar, Expert Infantry Badge/Expert Soldier Badge Board President and board members (above) conducted validations of the training lanes ensuring the setup and graders are certified. **Left:** a Soldier demonstrates medical training on a cardiopulmonary resuscitation training dummy. ESB, EIB and EFMb testing is taking place at Fort Polk through June.



Get pets registered

CORVIAS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk is a pet-friendly installation. Corvias understands that your pets are an integral part of your family. They also require a certain amount of responsibility that ranges from walking them on a leash, as required by the installation, to registering them with the on post Veterinary Treatment Facility.

Incoming Corvias residents must register their pets with both the Corvias Community Office and the Installation Veterinary Facility.

The following pet fees and deposits have been implemented to incoming residents and current residents that obtain a new pet after April 30, 2021.

- Active duty residents: \$200 refundable pet deposit per pet.
- Non-active duty residents: \$200 per pet deposit and \$100 non-refundable pet fee (non-refundable one-time fee)

For more information reach out to your Neighborhood Office or call the Fort Polk Veterinary Facility at 531-1322.



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ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

Geronimo changes command

The 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne) change of command took place June 1 at Fort Polk's Spike Field. Outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Henry Moltz, (right) passed the colors to Col. Jason Curl, (center) Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group commander, who then passed them to incoming commander, Lt. Col. Brendan Fitzgerald.

NAF





AUCTION

NAF Auction: May 17 - June 22

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Pick-up Dates:

June 24 • 8AM - 4PM | June 24 • 8AM - 2PM

<https://www.equip-bid.com/auction/11508>



Ribbon cutting takes place for MWR Outdoor Functional Fitness Area

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk has completed another project on its list of quality of life achievements. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Fort Polk's Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Outdoor Functional Fitness Area took place June 4.

Fort Polk command, special guests, representatives of DFMWR and Fort Polk's Directorate of Public Works and Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Holistic Health and Fitness Team were in attendance.

The fitness area is located to the left of the Home of Heroes Soldier Recreation Center, 2165 Ninth St., as you face the front from the parking lot and is an outdoor addition to the Fort Polk Functional Fitness Center.

The outdoor fitness area was completed using a combination of appropriated and non-appropriated quality of life project funds worth \$255,000.

The project included resurfacing the existing driveway with new asphalt, installation of commercial grade athletic flooring, a 40x40 foot shade structure to allow workouts to continue no matter the weather, a 40x20 foot concrete slab to support a 20 foot Beaver fit conex equipped with med ball targets, climbing rope, pull up bars, rowing machine, plybox warrior ropes, weighted ammo cans, drag sled, weightlifting bars and more.

Drew Weekley, DPW project manager for the outdoor fitness area, said the DPW team did a great job in conjunction with DFMWR to complete the quality of life project that gives Soldiers the opportunity to utilize indoor, as well as outdoor workout locations on the installation.

"We overcame every challenge and were successful in producing a quality facility for our Soldiers," he said. "Having a Cross-Fit gym like this, as well as other quality facilities throughout the cantonment is a great way to improve the quality of life for Soldiers as a whole."

Wayne Bardell, DFMWR director, said it was a team effort to complete the outdoor fitness area.

"Several agencies across the installation worked together, including DPW, Directorate of Emergency Services, contracting and more, to make this project happen," he said.

Bardell said the outdoor fitness area was just one of the many quality of life projects that will be completed in the coming months including the 50-meter pool, indoor



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

Left to right: Drew Weekley, Fort Polk's Directorate of Public Works project manager, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher M. Ausbun, garrison command sergeant major, Col. Ryan K. Roseberry, garrison commander, Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, Chris Provost, Gunter Construction Inc. project manager and Sean McCroary, acting Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sports Fitness and Aquatics chief, take part in cutting the ribbon on the new Outdoor Functional Fitness Area June 4.



3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Soldiers and Fort Polk leadership do physical training at the new Outdoor Functional Fitness Area after the ribbon-cutting ceremony June 4.

playground, bowling facility, Better opportunities for Single Soldiers Recreation Center and more.

"We have concentrated on project geared to everyone from children to adults to make sure that our Soldiers and Family members have a wide variety of recreational oppor-

tunities to stay physically fit and have fun," he said.

After the ribbon cutting Fort Polk command joined the 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div Soldiers and did physical training using the new Outdoor Functional Fitness Area equipment.



YOUTH RESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP CAMP
at North Toledo Bend State Park

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337-531-1988

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Aquatics Prices

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