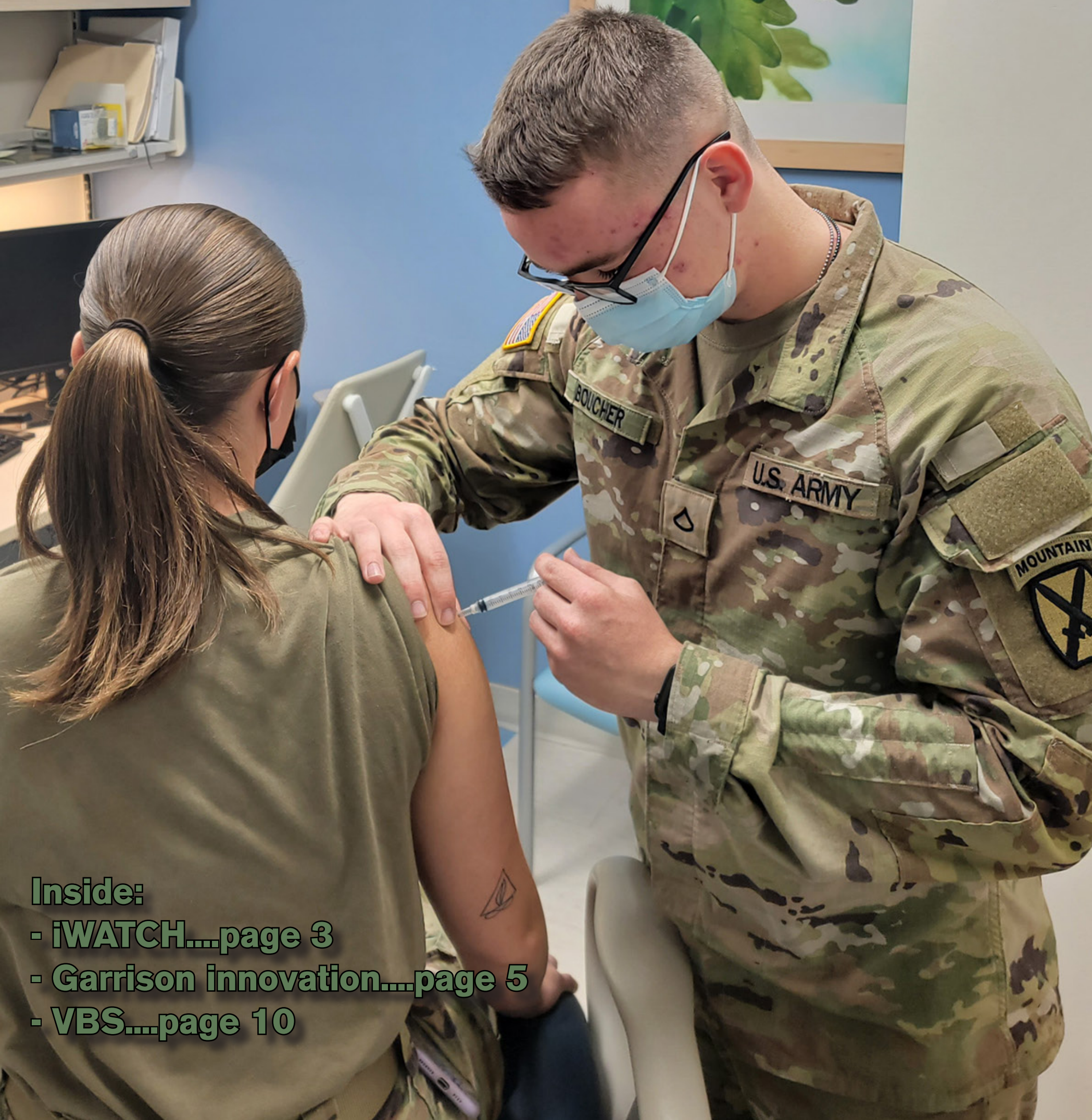


THE JRTC AND FORT POLK

GUARDIAN

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WEATHER WISDOM

Should you stay or go?



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For more information on Fort Polk units and happenings visit the following Facebook pages:

@JRTCOperationsGrp, @BayneJonesACH or @fortpolkmwr.

Emergency Resources

FORT POLK, La. - Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over ocean water and often move toward land. Hurricanes bring high winds, heavy rain, storm surge (rise in water level), flooding and tornadoes. These storms are dangerous and can cause damage to places far inland. Prepare now so you can stay safe. Determine your best protection from high winds and flooding. Have a plan to evacuate and a plan to shelter safely. Take time now to gather the supplies and knowledge you will need when the storm arrives.

Plan to Shelter Safely



DPTMS - Severe Weather Season 2021

Shelter - In - Place

In some emergency situations staying put is the best option. Sheltering-in-place means to seek safety within the building one already occupies, rather than evacuating the area. The Commanding General or designated representative will order personnel to shelter-in-place and for how long the order is expected to be in effect.

How to Prepare

- Have an emergency supply kit ready
- Identify potential interior space for sheltering-in-place
- Know how to turn off your heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system
- Safely bring everyone to an interior room or one with as few windows and doors as possible
- Know how to close and secure doors, windows, vents, and other exterior openings quickly

How you will be Notified - Any of the following emergency warnings procedures may alert you to shelter-in-place:

- A voice announcing system using exterior (Giant Voice) and interior PA system
- Automated Notification Systems for sending recorded voice messages or text
- Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts on the radio or television
- Residential route alerting - messages announced from vehicles with loudspeakers

Shelter "Up" - When there is flooding, the safest place in the house is upper floors.

Shelter "In" - There are other circumstances when you should create a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside.

Shelter "Down" - In case of tornadoes or high winds, the safest place is in the basement or an interior room with few windows and doors.

Adjust your shelter-in-place procedures according to the type of building you are in.



For more information, please contact
Tommy J. Morris, Emergency Manager
at (337) 531-4875 or email,
tommy.j.morris2.civ@mail.mil



Cover Photo: Pfc. Samuel Boucher, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, medic vaccinates Spc. Hannah Lambright of the 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div. (U.S. Army photo by Keith Houin)

Antiterrorism branch encourages focus, vigilance

DPTMS

FORT POLK, La. — As the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 draws closer, the Army has designated August as Anti-terrorism Awareness Month. The Antiterrorism Branch intends to use the opportunity to train, educate and increase the installation's overall awareness.

In light of recent attacks on the nation's capitol, violent extremism poses a critical threat to the homeland and U.S. military operations overseas. Acts of violent extremism undermine the rule of law and the protection of human and civil rights. The threat is not limited to a single political, religious or ideological background. Regardless of its motivation, violent extremism can have devastating effects on both civilian and military communities alike (as evidenced by the attacks at Fort Hood and the Washington Navy Yard, among others). Although violent extremism is not a new phenomenon, rapid changes in online communications continue to evolve. Violent ideologies and propaganda are now more accessible than ever, making it more difficult to identify and stop extremists before they act.

To prevent terrorism, it is imperative to stay ahead of the terrorists and be on guard in your own community for violent extremism. A wide variety of domestic violent extremism movements pose a threat to the U.S. — some examples include white supremacists, eco-terrorists, antigovernment and radical separatist groups.

Some individuals become active members in groups (terrorist organizations, hate groups and more) and take action within their affiliated group's purview.

Others, however (often referred to as "lone wolves"), don't have direct connection with a specific group, but are inspired by the group's rhetoric or group-sponsored violence. For example, 10 people were killed May 26 in the San Jose, California rail yard mass shooting. The perpetrator was a 57-year-old Vally Transportation Authority employee.

On Dec. 26, 2020, in Rockford, Illinois, the



suspect in a shooting was an active duty Soldier charged with three counts of murder and three counts of attempted murder.

Affiliation with a specific group or espousing extremist beliefs does not mean an individual will commit violent acts. Police and local law enforcement, members of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk community, community leaders, friends, Families, co-workers, teachers, retirees and more play an important role in preventing vulnerable individuals from taking that first step on the path to radicalization and violence. Education, promotion of awareness and dialogue are important tools for prevention.

The 2021 focus areas are to help guide commanders on how to recognize and report suspicious activity and actions to take to prevent terrorist activities. This year, iWatch army, Violent Extremist and Insider Threat, iSalute, Evolving Threat, Cyber Security Awareness and New Antiterrorism Strategy, tenant and community involvement in antiterrorism awareness

and antiterrorism risk assessments are some of the areas of emphasis. The AT Branch will also focus its efforts on heightening awareness and vigilance to protect the JRTC and Fort Polk community from acts of terrorism. Focused AT Awareness Month themes throughout August are:

- Violent extremist and insider threat
- Information environment
- New antiterrorism strategy
- Evolving threat

The goal is for Soldiers, civilians and Family members to understand the concepts, principles, roles, responsibilities and suspicious activity reporting procedures. Last year, Fort Polk's AT Awareness and iWatch programs were introduced. The iWatch mission is to get the word out to Soldiers, Families, civilians and contractors about how they can help prevent terrorism and protect the community.

The Antiterrorism Branch will provide the installation with posters, brochures, and other

Please see **Antiterrorism**, page 5

Briefs

Mobile vaccine event

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk hosts a walk-in mobile COVID-19 vaccination event at the Main Post Exchange (7742 Colorado Avenue) from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday. The Pfizer Vaccine is available to beneficiaries 12-17 years old and the Moderna Vaccine is available to any Soldier, Family member, retiree, civilian em-

ployee or contractor 18 years and older. Bring your vaccination record with you if this is your second dose.

Get physicals

Back to school Child and Youth Services sports physical appointments are available at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital from 8 a.m.-noon Aug. 7 and from 4-5:30 p.m. Aug. 24 and 31. Call BJACH at 531.3011 to schedule an appointment. Please bring immunization records and all required paperwork to your appointment.

Community shower

Fort Polk's Army Community Service hosts an outreach luau baby shower Saturday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Warrior Center. The event is for expecting military Families (E-5 and below). There will be baby shower games and luau dishes to enjoy. Spots are limited and a reservation is required. For more information call 531.1895.

24/7 prescription center

The Script Center machine located at BJACH's entrance A, is available 24/7 for

Please see **Briefs**, page 9

Take part in Fort Polk Garrison **Innovation** Program

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — The Fort Polk garrison supports and recognizes that people have great ideas. Asking them to share their innovative concepts to increase efficiency and enhance the garrison processes is how the Garrison Innovation Program began.

The program encourages Soldiers, Families and civilians to submit their state-of-the-art ideas through the Fort Polk Interactive Customer Evaluation System (ICE) — part of the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office — when inspiration strikes.

Since November 2020, when the program began, a little more than 30 ideas have been submitted for review.

Kayla Moore, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office management and program chief, said if you have a good idea and it is implemented, the person that submitted the concept could be recognized for their contribution.

“As leadership gets out on Fort Polk and talks to front line workers, Soldiers and Family members they hear them say they have great ideas but don’t know how to get the idea in front of leadership. That’s why we implemented this program. Anyone can submit an idea. They don’t have to go up the chain of command. It’s a direct line to leadership,” she said.

LaVersa M. Wiltz, PAIO analyst, said the Fort Polk garrison realized the workforce had innovative ideas.

“What we are trying to do is look for ways to improve efficiency in garrison organizations,” she said. “We want to take what’s already good and make improvements if we can. That’s what can happen when people take their ideas and submit them to the Garrison Innovation Program,” she said. “I think it’s a great idea, because it gives customers a voice.”

Though the ideas can be submitted anonymously, Wiltz urges people to submit their names along with their ideas.

“If PAIO has questions about their idea that

needs clarification, it’s great to have a way to get feedback,” she said.

Wiltz said after an idea has been submitted, a panel reviews each submission and then discusses and researches the plausibility of each idea before bringing it to the Garrison Commander, who has the final say on whether the idea will be implemented or not.

Some of the ideas that have been submitted are already in the works in some way, shape or form, through the many quality of life improvements taking place at Fort Polk.

“It might not be implemented in the exact way they wanted, but they will see their idea completed in some way,” she said.

Jonathan Hirsch, Staff Judge Advocate attorney advisor, sits on the PAIO panel that reviews submissions.

“Often suggestions come in and they can’t be executed exactly the way the person wants due to fiscal constraints or restrictions. But we try to work together as a panel to find another way to make the idea happen,” he said.

That can’t always be done said Wiltz.

“We want the Fort Polk community to know that we are reading what they send in and listening to what they want, but sometimes, no matter how hard we try and for whatever the reason, we just can’t move forward with a suggestion,” she said. “But it’s not for lack of trying.”

A few examples of the wide variety of ideas that have been submitted include the following:

Idea — The Fort Polk Motocross Track, located on North Fort, is used by many Families and Soldiers. It would be good to have additional resources for its improvement. I hope something will be done considering the large amount of service members and Families who would like to use the track. Thank you for your time.

Status — There was follow up with Directorate of Public Works and Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the PAIO panel discussion led to currently surveying the



Pamela T aylor, Garrison ICE site manager, holds a Garrison Innovation Program poster.

number of people using the track on a regular basis to help determine if this facility is of use to the Fort Polk community and whether to take further action.

Idea — Install infinite lap equipment on the lanes in the pools — 50% of lanes. Have that in conjunction with training for the Army World Class Athlete Program triathlon program.

Status — Panel discussion led to the recommendation of using bungee training straps, as a less expensive alternative. The aquatics manager is now looking into buying straps for use

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Antiterrorism

Continued from page 3

visual aids during AT Awareness Month. AT’s presence at different venues will ensure that every Soldier and Family member knows what suspicious behavior and indicators are and understands the importance of reporting suspicious activities.

AT wants the Fort Polk community to understand the terrorist threat, how to take action to detect and deter terrorists and report all suspicious activities.

In the past, many people have noticed some-

thing that raised their suspicions and made the call to 531.2677. To those concerned heroes, thank you. It only takes one report to prevent an atrocity.

Antiterrorism representatives will be available to answer any questions regarding AT Awareness and iWatch, as well as handing out brochures and other items that remind everyone to stay vigilant.

Every member of the Army community plays a part in this fight. You can prevent terrorism by

increasing awareness and vigilance. If every individual recognizes and reports suspicious activities as a team ... the Army team can achieve success. If you have any questions regarding AT Awareness and iWATCH, call 531.0413 or email mitchell.smith3.civ@mail.mil or Jeffrey Sweeney at 531.6007, email; jeffrey.m.sweeney.civ@mail.mil.

Remember, if you See Something ... Say Something. Report suspicious activities to 531.2677 or the Antiterrorism Hotline at 531.6584.

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, 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: 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 staff sergeant, assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, was issued a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for engaging in an intimate relationship with a junior enlisted Soldier, in vio-

lation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

- A specialist, assigned to the 46th Engineer Battalion, was issued a Field Grade Article 15 for failing to obey a lawful general regulation by wrongfully storing a privately owned firearm in a government transportation motor pool, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to private first class (E-3); forfeiture of \$1,118 pay per month and extra duty and restriction for 45 days.

- A private first class, assigned to 519th Military Police Battalion, was issued a Company Grade Article 15 for dereliction of duty and also sleeping on guard duty, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to private (E-2) and extra duty and restriction for 14 days.

- A private, assigned to 46th Engineer Battalion, was separated under Chapter 14-12c (Commission of a Serious Offense) for resisting apprehension by an armed policeman, failing to obey a lawful general order and being drunk and disorderly. The Soldier was issued



a general under honorable conditions characterization of service. Generally, this characterization of service results in the loss of a service member’s educational benefits.

- A specialist, assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division was issued a Field Grade Article 15 for disrespecting his superior commissioned officer, in violation of Article 89, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to Private (E-1); forfeiture of \$892.00 pay per month for 2 months, extra duty, and restriction for 45 days.

Innovation

Continued from page 5

by the general public.

Idea — I would like to recommend an electronic post clearance system that would be beneficial to civilian employees (and eventually all employees) who are clearing and to the directorates that are involved in the clearance process.

Status — CPAC was contacted and asked to research the development of a electronic digital civilian post clearance form. The idea is moving forward. A CPAC button will be created on sharepoint, as well as a clearance form.

Idea — Sponsor a community theater program. Start small and figure out a schedule that allows anyone to participate, including Soldiers who support rotations in the box. Build it up. Find a performing space. Stock it right.

Status — The panel recommendation concluded that garrison can make facilities available if someone volunteers to take the lead. The Bayou Theater is a possibility for a location to hold theater performances if there is enough interest and volunteers.

Idea — Through the School Board Liaison Officer, offer sponsorship of speech and debate teams at local schools, or of any other extra-curricular activities that Fort Polk school age dependents want to do that they currently do not have access to.

Status — The option is being explored through Quality of Life programming. Vernon Parish Schools are willing to pilot these programs if we can provide evidence there are

enough people willing to participate (about 20) in the program and to show its feasibility.

Mona Marshall, Resource Management Office installation agreement manager, submitted an idea for a one stop employee electronic post clearance system. Though not implemented yet, Marshall’s idea is in the process of being put into practice.

“It’s going to start out being for civilians during the initial period, but we want to eventually get to the point where it’s for everyone,” she said.

Marshall said the idea came about because she saw people struggling to physically go to each place on post that required them to clear.

“I didn’t feel it was necessary and there should be a simpler and more convenient way to clear,” she said.

Marshall said the Garrison Innovation Program gave her the incentive and opportunity to come up with an idea that could help improve things for Fort Polk employees.

“We didn’t have a platform before this program to present an idea like this,” she said.

Hirsch said he has also submitted a few ideas such as implementing an infinite lap lane at the pool and the possibility of a community theater.

“I thought an infinity lap would help with triathlon training in the pools and the theater would be a creative outlet for the Fort Polk community,” he said.

Wiltz said the theater idea is all about find-



PAIO Garrison Innovation Program ICE QR code

ing out if there is a real interest in a volunteer community theater.

“It’s all about if there is enough interest in having something like that. We have all these great ideas submitted, but we need community enthusiasm, interaction and involvement to see many of them implemented,” she said.

Hirsch said he thinks the Garrison Innovation Program is great.

“I only wish I could come up with more ideas centered on improving Fort Polk workplaces,” he said.

Wiltz said she feels the program has been successful, but would like to see it grow.

“Whether it’s in your organization or not, if you see a way to do things differently, improve efficiency and enhance the garrison, submit an idea. We want to hear your voice,” she said.

“I want the community to understand that there are no bad ideas,” said Moore.

Main Post Exchange hosts BJACH COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES

BJACH Public affairs officer

FORT POLK, La. — Nearly 100 individuals were vaccinated during a COVID-19 vaccination clinic July 24. The event was hosted by Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital's Department of Public Health at the Main Post Exchange. The clinic was open to all Tricare beneficiaries 12 years old and older along with Department of Defense employees and contractors. The Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines were both available. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, both are proven effective against the new Delta variant of the virus.

Col. Samuel Smith Jr., Garrison Commander, said the goal was to conduct a vaccination event at a location that Soldiers and Families often frequent.

"We thought doing this at the PX would increase our vaccination rates," he said. "We also thought the public venue would motivate those who have been resistant to getting vaccinated. Medical professionals were available to discuss the benefits of vaccination and allow everyone to make an informed decision."

Smith said he was happy with the turn out and proud of the collaboration between BJACH, the Army Air Force Exchange Service and the garrison team to make the event possible.

"I would encourage Soldiers to get vaccinated because we joined the Army to serve a greater purpose other than ourselves," he said. "Being selfless is one of our values. If you don't do it for yourself, think about your parents, your neighbors and those around you. By getting vaccinated you are protecting others."

This was the first time BJACH had the Pfizer vaccine available. Pfizer is authorized for use by anyone 12 years old and older and many Families brought their kids to get the shot.

Olivia Chapman, 13, Anacoco Junior High School student, said she wanted to get vaccinated because she plays sports. Chapman admitted she was the last person in her Family to get vaccinated because it was not available for her until now.

"I'm competing in the junior Olympics this year and I don't want to get sick," she said. "Coming to the PX to get the vaccine was very convenient. My dad brought me here before dropping me off at the pool to hang out with my friends."

Caleb Proctor, 13, a Leesville Junior High School student, said he wanted to get vaccinated before school starts because he doesn't want to be responsible for spreading the virus to anyone else.

"I want to have a clear conscience that I can go to school, be around people and not worry about bringing home COVID-19 to my baby brother," he said. "I like that I was able to get



JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES/BJACH

Olivia Chapman, 13, gives a thumbs up as Spc. Steven Blackburn administers her Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine during a vaccination clinic at the Fort Polk Main Exchange on July 24.

my shot at the PX because afterwards I can get Panda Express for lunch."

Robert Stuhlman, 15, who attends Deridder High School, said getting vaccinated is necessary.

"A sickness is a sickness and if there is a vaccine, you might as well get it," he said. "It's important to get vaccinated because I've heard there is a second wave of COVID-19 coming and I think it's important to get vaccinated before it comes," he said.

Tekail Buchanan, 16, a Leesville High School student, said he got vaccinated because it's the best thing to do.

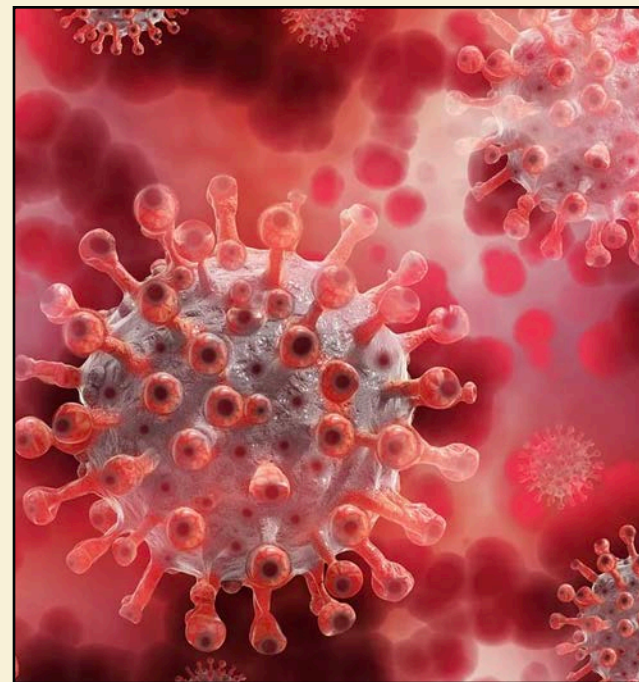
"I want to keep myself and everyone safe," he said. "I did school virtually last year and it was no fun. I want to go back to school this year and feel confident that I won't get sick."

Maj. Carmen Salcedo, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk command surgeon liaison officer, said the event was a success.

"I think people enjoyed being able to do some shopping, drink their coffee and get their vaccine," she said. "I want to remind our community, however, that if you are not fully vaccinated, please continue to wear your mask, maintain social distance and practice good hand hygiene."

Salcedo a registered nurse for BJACH, said people should remain vigilant to prevent the spread of this virus.

Editor's note: Safeguarding national security and the medical readiness of Soldiers is a priority for BJACH. The Delta variant of



the virus is another reason to get vaccinated. This variant spreads easily, with increased rates of sickness and hospitalization. Soldiers, Family members, retirees and beneficiaries, 18 and older who are interested in volunteering for the COVID-19 vaccine should contact the BJACH appointment line at 531.3011 or self-book at www.tricareonline.com.

Non-TRICARE beneficiaries (civilian employees and contractors) who work on the installation can make an appointment with the Fort Polk Department of Public Health by calling the Occupational Health Clinic at 531.6131 or 531.2706. Receiving the vaccine protects you, the community, and the Army.

BJACH Soldier Regional Health Command-Central's Best First Sergeant

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES
BJACH public affairs officer

FORT POLK, La. — 1st Sgt. James Buchanan, will represent Regional Health Command-Central and Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital in the U.S. Army Medical Command 2021 Best Leader Competition at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, July 25-30.

Buchanan earned the title Best First Sergeant in May after finishing first in the RHC-C competition. If he wins he will go on to represent MEDCOM in the Army NCO of the Year Competition in the fall.

“Best first sergeant means just that,” he said. “I beat out the others in the region. They were tough competitors and it was a lot of fun, but in the end there can only be one winner. It’s a matter of pride for me, and my team here at BJACH, to hold this title.”

Buchanan, a native of Watertown, Wisconsin, enlisted in the Wisconsin National Guard in 1999 for the education benefits. He said he always knew he’d join the military.

“I wanted to follow in my grandfather’s footsteps,” Buchanan said. “He was a Marine during World War II.”

He said he picked the military occupational specialty of combat medic because he didn’t like the other two options his recruiter presented. He said he knew the skills learned as a medic would help him in the civilian sector.

Buchanan says there is nothing to lose by participating in competitions like this.

“I tell my Soldiers that competitions are an opportunity to set yourself apart from others,” he said. “There are plenty of people who are just passing time, I say, ‘seize the chance’ to be better. Bottom line — be someone who takes a chance. You never know where that road will lead.”

Buchanan takes his role as first sergeant very seriously. Setting an example for both his Soldiers and his children is what motivates him on a daily basis.

“My most important role is being the right example for my Soldiers,” he said. “I try to always be present for them, have a good character to emulate and provide discipline and guidance when needed.”

Buchanan said humility is an important part of being a leader, and that he understands the importance of always learning and being receptive to new ideas.

“I want my Soldiers and children to see that hard work pays off,” he said. “A strong work ethic, integrity and serving one’s country is a very honorable pursuit.”

Buchanan hopes to bring the MEDCOM Best First Sergeant title back to BJACH and Fort Polk.

“The thing I love most about Fort Polk and BJACH is that I have time for my Family,” he said. “My Soldiers are great and, in most instances, disciplined.”



JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES/BJACH

Buchanan also wants his Soldiers to see that you are never too old to “get after it.”

In addition to military competitions, he has earned an associate degree from Central Texas College and is a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

“I want my Soldiers to know that senior NCOs are not old and broken,” he said. “I want to set a good example for them that it is never too late to try something new, to learn different skills, go back to school or participate in competitions like this.”

STAY HYDRATED MOTIVATOR!

Drink more water than usual and don't wait until you're thirsty.



Start hydration the night before

BJACH helps Marines get medically ready at JRTC

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES
BJACH Public affairs officer

FORT POLK, La. — Bayne-Jones Army Community hospital conducted periodic health screenings, immunizations and labs for Marines from the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment during their annual two week training at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk July 22.

Maj. Timothy Greene, company commander, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, said the Reserves' primary mission is to augment active duty during time of war.

"The metric is 95% dental and 90% medical readiness," he said. "Even if we are proficiently trained in maneuver warfare, if we aren't medically and dentally ready it would usurp that process, preventing us from activating and augmenting active duty forces," he said.

Greene said their chain of command's goal is to achieve the 90% rate. The medical support BJACH provided ensured his unit reached that goal.

"We've had nothing but a positive experience," he said, "The medical support has been phenomenal, we're getting 65% of our immunizations and (have) had our audiograms done. This is our third time training at Fort Polk. The ranges are outstanding and range control is the best we've ever worked in accommodating our training objectives."

Tracy Tidwell, clinical nurse in charge of Soldier medicine, helped coordinate the event for



JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES/BJACH PAO

Sgt. Jonathan Harris, 3rd Battalion, 353rd Infantry Regiment, vaccinates Lance Cpl. Mason Brennan, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment at the Soldier Center Medical Home clinic during his annual periodic health assessment at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk on July 22.

more than 50 Marines. "It's a readiness rodeo," she said. "All Department of Defense service components have annual readiness requirements to be ready to deploy. Vision, hearing, dental, periodic health assessment and different labs and immunizations are required routinely for deployment."

Lance Cpl. Mason Brennan, infantry machine gunner, 1/23rd Marine Reg, said they were in the field for a week before coming to the Soldier Center Medical Home for their immunizations.

"It feels good to be able to get my medical readiness requirements out of the way," he said. "We are trying to make sure we are all up to date and medically ready if we get called to deploy."

Tidwell said the Marines were able to get

their labs done at BJACH and immunizations were conducted at the SCMh clinic.

"We are an Army base but we are all here to take care of service members," she said. "If we can ensure the medical readiness of any service member, regardless of branch, to me that is our mission."

Tidwell said as the hospital transitions to the Defense Health Agency and begins using the MHS Genesis electronic health record, it will be easier to provide support to sister services.

"Medical readiness is the number one priority of the Surgeon General," she said. "As the daughter of a Marine, it was an honor for me to support this mission. Every day, I am truly honored and humbled to serve the men and women who are willing to fight for our freedom."

Briefs

Continued from page 3

non-refrigerated prescription refills. It's quick, easy and hassle free:

Call in a prescription refill to 531.3785. Select Option 2 or request a refill at [tricare-online.com](https://bayne-jones.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Pharmacy). Prescriptions will be available after noon the business next day. For first time users, bring your Department of Defense ID card and prescription number to register with the Script Center machine.

Once registered, the Script Center can be used 24/7 to pick up refill prescriptions with ID card, username and password or finger print login For more information visit <https://bayne-jones.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Pharmacy>

ACP hours

- ACP 1 (Main gate on Louisiana Avenue): Open 24 hours per day, seven days a week and on all federal holidays
- ACP 2 (University Parkway, Hwy. 467

north): Open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

- ACP 5 (Post office, Hwy. 467 north and Hwy. 10): Open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m.-9 p.m.; open Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed on federal holidays.

- ACP 6 (Chaffee Road adjacent to North Fort housing): Open 24 hours per day, seven days a week and on all federal holidays in support of rotational traffic. Outside of a rotation, open from Monday through Friday from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

- ACP 7 K Avenue and Alligator Lake): Open 24 hours per day, seven days a week and on all federal holidays in support of rotational traffic; however limited to tactical and commercial traffic. No personally owned vehicles during rotation. Outside of

rotation ACP 7 is open 24 hours per day, seven days a week and on federal holidays to all traffic.

- ACP 8 (Artillery Road and K Avenue, into the Box): Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week during rotation only. Outside of rotation, ACP 8 is closed.

DES vehicles

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic section will release the following vehicles to a towing company for disposal on Aug. 30, if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four numbers of their VIN number.

2002	Honda	Shadow	2420
2003	SAAB	93	3023
2011	Chevrolet	Cruze	4358
2002	Ford	Taurus	7521
2003	Mitsubishi	Lancer	3693
2009	Volkswagen	Tiguan	0088

Fort Polk's Main Post Chapel vacation bible school rocks

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Public affairs and communication

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk's Main Post Chapel opened its doors and hosted Vacation Bible School for 56 kids from the Fort Polk community July 19-23. VBS centered around an archaeological theme of digging up the truth of Jesus.

Chrissa Gross, religious education director, said this allowed the children to study both the old and new testaments.

"It also allowed us to incorporate real places and things that add a realistic connection to what the Bible says," she said.

The children in attendance took part in everything from Bible study and crafts to dancing, singing, hunting for archaeological "finds," playing outside and more.

Gross said it's good to have children in the chapel again.

"We were ready to come back and do things together again," she said.

In addition to the in-house event, Gross said the Main Post Chapel will also host a virtual version in the fall, possibly in September, so Families that didn't feel comfortable attending the event in person and those just getting to Fort Polk through a permanent change of station, could take part in the Vacation Bible School experience.

Gross said though COVID-19 made hosting the Vacation Bible School more challenging, it didn't stop them.

"COVID has, understandably, decimated our volunteer corps, but the Fort Polk Chaplain Corps has stepped up to volunteer and have made some real connections with the kids," said Gross.

To help maintain safety measures, Gross said VBS students had home tents or "dig sights" and teachers came to them to cut down on foot traffic and crowds in the hallways.

Helena Duncan, Main Post Chapel child care provider, volunteered at VBS and said she was



Children dance and sing in the Main Post Chapel sanctuary at the beginning and end of each day of Vacation Bible School.

KEITH HOUN/ GUARDIAN

excited to see all the smiles.

"I think the week has been a success," she said.

Pfc. Ruben Volk, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Garrison Chaplain Corps, said he is thankful he could step up and support the Main Post Chapel and Fort Polk community by volunteering to help.

"It is a safe and positive place for these children to learn about Jesus," he said.

Maria Nieves, hospitality volunteer, helped out at VBS by making sure the kids had a great snack time.

"I volunteer every year, no matter where we are stationed. I love to help out and be an example for my children. I want them to realize how important it is to step up, do God's work and share his love," said Nieves. "Both of my sons are volunteering with me. I want them to see how important it is to help and serve others."

Elena Duncan does crafts during Vacation Bible School.



ANGIE THORNE/ GUARDIAN



Jennifer Dekerlegand (right) teaches her VBS students the Bible lesson about Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Josie Snipes washes Owen Tuckers' feet as Penny Dekerlegand, volunteer, (left) and other members of the pre-K class looks on.

ANGIE THORNE/ GUARDIAN



Pfc. Ruben Volk, (left) and Pfc. Carlos Matamoros, (right) Fort Polk Chaplain Corps volunteers, hold the limbo stick as group Fossil sees how low they can go.

ANGIE THORNE/ GUARDIAN

JRTC, Fort Polk commander visits Lions Camp

By CHUCK CANNON
Public affairs specialist

ANACOCO, La. — Nestled among more than 200 acres of pine forest in West Central Louisiana, just a few miles north of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, is one of the state's hidden gems: The Louisiana Lions Club Camp. Ray Cecil, the camp's Executive Director, said the camp opened in 1963 on 100 acres, but has grown over the years to its present size.

"Through the years we've taken the opportunity to purchase additional land, and have some donated to us," Cecil said. "Hopefully, we'll continue to grow."

Each year from 525-560 campers with developmental or physical limitations take advantage of the camp's free tuition to enjoy activities such as swimming, archery, bowling and arts and crafts, all within a safe environment where their needs are attended to.

"We have seven camps each summer, each one week long," Cecil said. "The camps are divided into the needs of specific campers."

They include the following:

- Camps for youngsters with severe respiratory issues such as chronic asthma.
- Downs Syndrome.
- Physical challenges such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida.
- Diabetes.
- Childhood cancers and blood disorders.

A couple of the camps — because of the number of campers involved — are split into two camps, with one group from New Orleans/Baton Rouge area and the other from across the rest of the state.

"Because the New Orleans/Baton Rouge areas are the primary population centers, it made more sense to divide the camps that way," Cecil said. "They are bused in from New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and the others are brought by parents or medical personnel."

The camp is supported by Lions Clubs across the state, but was begun by the Leesville Lions Club. It provides the lion's share of the contributions needed to run the camp each year.

"Louisiana Lions Clubs provide about half of our annual budget," Cecil said. "Our annual Leesville Lions Club Rodeo and spring golf tournament also provide a significant amount of funding for us."

This year's rodeo is Oct. 7-9 at the Leesville Fairgrounds and Cecil said Oct. 7 is military discount night.

"Remember, all of those funds come to us," he said.

In addition to no tuition charges for campers, the camp also awards eight scholarships annually, thanks to a foundation put in place



Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, (right) Commanding General of Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, visited the Lions Camp, Anacoco, July 22 for a tour the camp. Doyle talks to Ray Cecil, the camp's executive director before the tour begins.

in the 1970s, Cecil said.

"It's amazing how this has always worked," he said. "Every time we get to a point where we think, 'Where are we going to find the funding?' something always comes through," he said.

To run a camp that caters to more than 500 campers annually, many with physical or developmental disabilities, a large staff is needed, Cecil said.

"We have a huge staff that includes medical, dietary and pharmaceutical care," he said. "There are also counselors, kitchen and maintenance staff. It's quite a large operation."

Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Commanding General Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle paid a visit to the Louisiana Lions Camp July 22. Cecil said Doyle impressed him by visiting the camp, which included a tour of the facilities and a meeting with the Leesville Lions Club.

"I started working here as a counselor several years ago, and this is the first time the Commanding General has visited with us," Cecil said. "It's nice to know he (Doyle) appreciates what we do and is interested enough to come out and see us."

For those who want to apply to either attend camp or work as a counselor next summer,

Cecil said they can visit www.lionscamp.org.

"The application portal opens Jan. 1 each year, and there is a staff page set up to apply for summer jobs," he said.

Cecil said the camp's focus has always been — and would always be — on the kids.

"We have a great, safe environment for our campers to visit," he said. "This is the kids' place. We want them to feel that way about it. I tell everyone, 'If you come and take part it becomes part of you.'"

Cecil said the camp is not just for the civilian community, but for any child who has a disability that falls into one of the camp sessions — at no charge to the campers. He also said the campers love it when military units from Fort Polk pay a visit.

"We love for military groups to come out and set up static displays," he said. "The kids love it. And the Soldiers seem to enjoy it as much as the campers."

Cecil said he and the rest of the camp's staff are proud of the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces.

"We appreciate what they do so that we can do what we do," he said. "And having Fort Polk's top guy visit was very special."

For questions about Louisiana Lions Camp visit the website or email Lionscamp@gmail.com.

JRTC & Fort Polk & MWR Present



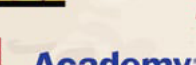
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SEPTEMBER 10

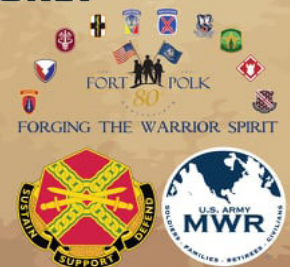
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