

THE JRTC AND FORT POLK

# GUARDIAN

Friday, Nov. 5, 2021 Vol. 48. No. 44



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# Emergency resources:

## Prepare! Don't let **tornadoes** take you by surprise

DPTMS

FORT POLK, La. — A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. Tornadoes are capable of completely destroying well-made structures, uprooting trees and hurling objects through the air like deadly missiles.

Tornadoes can occur any time — day or night — and any time, though spring is the most active time of year. However, tornadoes, flash flooding, damaging wind and hail can occur during the autumn, the “secondary” severe weather season. Other than spring, November sees the most amount of tornadoes. Although tornadoes are most common in the central plains and the southeastern United States, they have been reported in all 50 states.

### Before actions

- Although there is no completely safe place during a tornado, some locations are safer than others. The safest place during a tornado is a small interior room (such as a bathroom, hallway or closet) on the lowest floor, away from windows and exterior walls.

- Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning. Tornado watch: Weather conditions are favorable and a tornado is possible. Stay tuned to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio or TV for more information and be prepared to seek shelter quickly if necessary. Tornado warning: A tornado is already occurring or will occur soon. Take shelter immediately



- Be familiar with tornado warning signs. An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Watch for dark, towering and threatening clouds, greenish sky, large hail, rotating low-lying clouds and loud roar similar to a train.

- If you live in a mobile home, identify a nearby building you can get to quickly. Don't stay in a mobile home during a tornado. If you live in a tornado-prone area, encourage your mobile home community to build a tornado shelter.

### Create and practice a tornado emergency plan

Develop a tornado emergency plan. Conduct drills and ask questions to make sure your loved ones remember information on tornado safety, particularly how to recognize hazardous weather conditions and where to take shelter. Make a list of important information, including emergency telephone numbers such as police, fire, paramedics and medical centers. It's also good

to have the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your insurance agents — including policy types and numbers — and telephone numbers for local electric, gas and water companies.

- Identify a safe place in your home for household members and pets to gather during a tornado.

- Sketch a floor plan of your home or walk through each room and discuss where and how to seek shelter.

- Identify a second way to exit from each room or area (if possible). If you need special equipment, such as a rope ladder, mark where it is located.

- Mark where your first-aid kit and fire extinguishers are located.

- Mark where the utility switches or valves are located so they can be turned off (if time permits) during an emergency.

- Make sure everyone understands the tornado warning system in your area.

- Teach your family how to admin-

Please see **Tornado**, page 3



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

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



**Cover photo:** Col. Samuel P Smith Jr. receives a gift of candy from a small Soldier as he and his mom enjoy the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Warrior Hills Golf Course Trick or Treat event held Oct. 29. (Photo by Angie Thorne, Public Affairs and Communication)



# Tornado

Continued from page 2

ister basic first aid, use a fire extinguisher, and how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity in your home.

- Learn the emergency dismissal policy for your child's school.

## During a tornado:

- Quickly go to an interior room/bathroom while avoiding windows, corners and places with wide-span roofs.

- Get under a sturdy table or similar piece of furniture, and cover your head with your arms.

- If in a mobile home, get out immediately and find shelter in a nearby building.

- If time permits, put on sturdy shoes.

- If you are outside, get inside a building.

- If a shelter is not available or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or crouch near a strong building and cover your head with your arms.

## After a tornado:

- Stay tuned to local radio or TV for updated information.

- Stay out of damaged buildings and do not return home until authorities declare it is safe.

- Be aware of hazards from broken glass, exposed nails and downed power lines.

- Leave the house if you smell gas or chemical fumes.

- Check for damage to walls, roof, foundation, electrical system and water lines.

Fort Polk is committed to disseminating severe weather information as rapidly as possible, and diligently pursuing resources to help educate the public on severe weather preparedness, by use of the Mass Warning Notification System.

Receiving timely information about weather conditions or other emergency events can make all the difference in knowing when to take action and stay safe.

No matter where you are, you must be able to receive warnings or at least recognize the danger signs that something bad is about to happen.

In the event of severe weather, the Warrior Operations Center will send a message via All Users and ALERT and simultaneously activate the appropriate message using the Mass Warning Notification System "Giant Voice." When you hear the message, tune in to your local television and radio station and available Fort Polk media outlets.

**Message 1:** "This is a test. This is a test of the Fort Polk emergency warning system. This is only a test."

**Message 2:** "Warning! Warning! This is a severe weather alert. The national weather service has issued a tornado watch for Vernon Parish and Fort Polk. Tune to local radio or



television stations for further updates."

**Message 3:** "Warning! Warning! This is a severe weather alert. The national weather service has issued a tornado warning for Vernon Parish and Fort Polk. Take shelter immediately. Tune to local radio or television stations for further updates."

**Message 4:** "Warning! Warning! This is a severe weather alert. The national weather service has issued a severe thunderstorm warning with high winds and damaging hail for Vernon Parish and Fort Polk. Tune to local radio or television stations for further updates."

**Message 5:** "Warning! Warning! This is a severe weather alert. The national weather service has issued a hurricane warning for Vernon Parish and Fort Polk. Tune to local radio or television stations for further updates."

**Message 6:** "Warning! Warning! This is a

severe weather alert. The national weather service has issued a flash flood watch for Vernon Parish and Fort Polk. Tune to local radio or television stations for further updates."

**Message 7:** "This is an official alert. All military personnel report to your units immediately. Repeat, this is an official alert. All military personnel report to your units immediately."

**Message 8:** "Warning! Warning! This is a hazardous material alert. Remain indoors until all clear is sounded."

**Message 9:** "All clear, all clear. The emergency condition has ended. All clear, all clear. The emergency condition has ended."

For more information on how to plan and prepare for all disasters or hazards, contact Tommy J. Morris, Emergency Manager at 337.531.4875 or [tommy.j.morris2.civ@army.mil](mailto:tommy.j.morris2.civ@army.mil).



# Check VIN numbers

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Division will release the following vehicles to the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four numbers of their VIN number.

If one of these vehicles belongs to you, please contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Section at 531.1806/6675/2677.

You may also report in person to the traffic division at 1668 22nd St., bldg 2396. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

2006	Ford	Mustang	2407
2011	Toyota	Prius	9170
2011	Chevrolet	Cruz	7126
2011	BMW	4DSD	3071
2002	Chevrolet	Tahoe	0440
1977	GMC	K2500	1813
1998	Toyota	Avalon	1668
2001	Buick	Park Ave	7941
2004	Cadillac	CTS	2634
1998	Ford	Taurus	8440
2017	Nissan	Versa	1496
2004	Infinity	G35	4539
UNK	Sportrailer	trailer	UNK
1991	Tidecraft	V15	F191
2011	Chevrolet	Impala	0135
2002	Ford	Escape	5409
1999	Chevrolet	Suburban	3573
1996	Ford	F150	6750
1996	Acura	4dr	3406
1984	Chevrolet	Corvette	9704
2000	Chevrolet	2500	0222
2005	Honda	Civic	2048
2000	Toyota	Tacoma	0294
2005	Toyota	4dr	8911
1993	Honda	2dr	0478
2017	Ford	Fiesta	9660
2009	Chevrolet	Equinox	7783
2002	Honda	CR-V	7722
2014	Nissan	Maxima	0131
1988	Chevrolet	3500	4195
2005	Mercury	Sable	9544
2011	Chevrolet	Equinox	3730
2014	Chevrolet	Malibu	9771
2009	Chevrolet	Cobalt	8756
2006	Hyundai	Elantra	4769
2019	KIA	Forte	0634
2011	Dodge	Avenger	1373
1999	Ford	F150	6684
2003	Lincoln	Navigator	8394
2008	Chevrolet	Equinox	5638
2004	Lincoln	Town Car	1307
2014	Nissan	Altima	6092
2001	Toyota	Corolla	6348
2005	Ford	F150	9044
2008	Chrysler	PT Cruiser	6573
2005	Nissan	Altima	9465
2017	Nissan	Sentra	3505



## Fort Polk Soldiers found guilty of 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 the most recent examples of adverse legal actions for units within the Fort Polk jurisdiction.

- 48 Soldiers were issued a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for disobeying a lawful order by refusing to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

- A private first class assigned to 2nd Battal-

ion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division received a Field Grade Article 15 for wrongful use of tetrahydrocannabinol.

They received a punishment of reduction to the grade of E-1, forfeiture of \$892 pay per month for 2 months, suspended for 180 days, 45 days of extra duty, 45 days of restriction and an oral reprimand.

- A private (E-2) assigned to 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment was tried at a Summary Court Martial for absenting himself from his unit two times and failing to obey a lawful order two times. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to the grade of E-1, forfeiture of a half month’s pay for one month and 30 days of restriction.

- A private (E-2) assigned to 519th Military Police Battalion, was separated under Chapter 14-12b (Patterns of Misconduct) for breaching quarantine and multiple instances of failing to report to their assigned place of duty.

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.

# TIME CHANGE

With an increase of darkness, accident risks jump 186% from October to November. It takes several days to fully readjust causing fatigue. Avoid building up a sleep debt in the days before the change

Time to check and replace batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Check to see if your fire extinguishers need recharging

Sunday, 7 November 2021  
2 a.m. clocks are turned back 1 hour to 1 a.m.



# Engineer becomes highest ranking Native American in Union Army

By DAVID VERGUN

DoD News

WASHINGTON — November is Native American Indian month. It's a time to reflect on the contributions and sacrifices Native Americans have made to the United States, not just in the military, but in all walks of life.

Ely S. Parker overcame adversity to attain the highest rank of any Native American in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Parker, whose tribal name was Hasanoanda, was born on the Tonawanda Reservation in Indian Falls, New York, in 1828. He was a member of the Tonawanda Seneca tribe.

His father, William Parker, was a chief in that tribe and had fought in the War of 1812 for the United States.

In addition to English, Parker spoke Seneca, which is an Iroquoian language. The Seneca Tribe is one of six in the Iroquois Confederacy. The others are Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Tuscarora and Mohawk.

As a young man, Parker worked in a law firm in Ellicottville, New York, before applying to take the bar examination. However, he was not permitted to take it because, as a Native American, he was not then considered a U.S. citizen.

American Indians were not considered U.S. citizens until passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.

As fate would have it, Parker had a chance encounter with Lewis Henry Morgan, a non-Native American lawyer, who was also a famous anthropologist interested in Iroquois ethnography.

The two became close friends and had a number of meetings in which Parker shared his knowledge of Iroquois culture and traditions.

Their relationship was mutually beneficial because Morgan helped Parker gain admission to study engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

As an engineer, Parker contributed to maintenance work on the Erie Canal and other projects.

Later, as a supervisor of government projects in Galena, Illinois, he befriended Ulysses S. Grant, forming a relationship that would prove useful later.

In 1861, near the start of the Civil War, Parker tried to raise a regiment of Iroquois volunteers to fight for the Union, but he was turned down by New York Gov. Edwin D. Morgan.

He tried to enlist in the Union Army as an engineer, but he was told by Secretary of War Simon Cameron that, as an Indian, he could not join.

Later, Parker contacted Grant, who was by that time a brigadier general in the Union Army. The Union Army suffered from a shortage of engineers, and Grant ensured that Park-



er was accepted into the Army.

Parker was commissioned in the Army in early 1863. He became chief engineer of the 7th Division during the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, which occurred from May 18 to July 4, 1863. Grant, who had become a major general, was in overall command, and the Union Army prevailed at that siege.

Grant was pleased with the work done by Parker during that siege and made him his adjutant during the Chattanooga Campaign in Tennessee, Sept. 21 to Nov. 25, 1863.

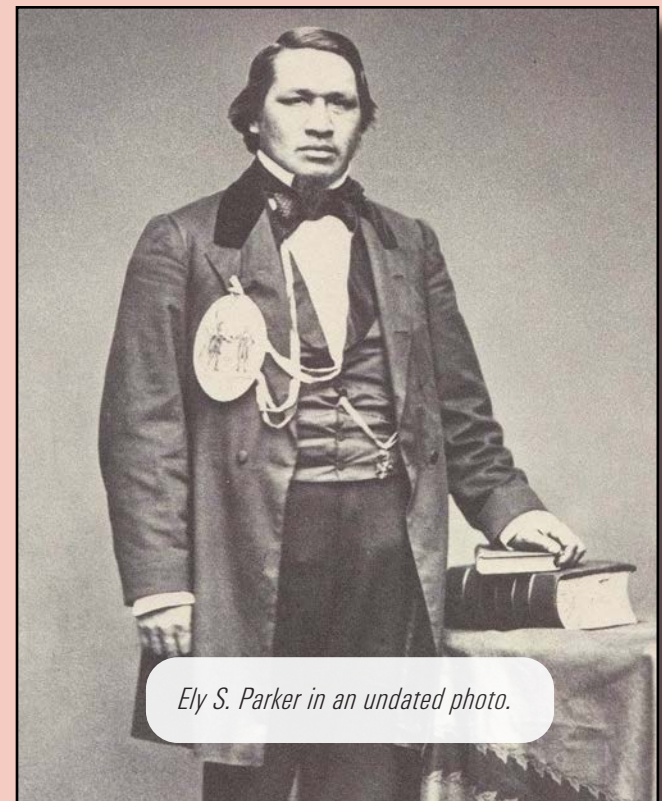
Parker subsequently transferred with Grant and served with him through the Overland Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg, Virginia, from May 4 to June 24, 1864. At Petersburg, Parker was appointed as the military secretary to Grant, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He subsequently wrote much of Grant's correspondence.

Parker was present when Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April 9, 1865. He helped draft the surrender documents.

At the time of surrender, Parker said that Lee "stared at me for a moment. He extended his hand and said, 'I am glad to see one real American here.' I shook his hand and said, 'We are all Americans.'"

Parker was brevetted a brigadier general on that day. Brevet is a former type of military commission conferred especially for outstanding service, by which an officer was promoted to a higher rank without the corresponding pay.

After the Civil War, Parker remained the military secretary to Grant. He also was a member of the Southern Treaty Commission, which renegotiated treaties with Indian tribes, mostly in the southeast, that had sided with the Con-



federacy. Parker resigned from the Army on April 26, 1869.

After Grant was elected president of the United States, he appointed Parker to serve as commissioner of Indian affairs, the first Native American to hold that post. He held the position from 1869 to 1871.

Parker became the chief architect of Grant's peace policy involving Native Americans in the West. Under his leadership, the number of military actions against Indians were reduced, and there was an effort to support tribes in their transition to living on reservations.

Parker died in poverty in Fairfield, Connecticut, on Aug. 31, 1895.

He was portrayed in the 2012 film "Lincoln." He's also featured in the novels "Grant Comes East" and "Never Call Retreat."

U.S. ARMY PHOTO

COURTESY ELY S. PARKER



# Briefs

## Veterans Day

Fort Polk's Veterans Day ceremony will take place Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. at the 5th Aviation hangar.

## Alabama Avenue update

The Alabama Avenue closure was delayed due to unforeseen site conditions encountered early in the closure period. After significant delays, the project is back on track with construction continuing south of Louisiana Avenue. The segment of Alabama Avenue south of Louisiana Avenue is anticipated to remain closed through mid-November.

Motorists accessing facilities along 14th, 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd streets will continue to be detoured through Mississippi Avenue. Bell Richard Avenue and 23rd Street will remain open for through traffic. The closures of Alabama Avenue north of Louisiana Avenue are estimated to begin mid-November. 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.

## COVID-19 vaccine

Schedule your COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna) appointments every Tuesday-Thursday through the Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital call center at 337.531.3011.

If this is your second dose please bring your

vaccination record with you.

## Civilian fitness

Taking part in the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Civilian Fitness and Health Promotion Program is an opportunity for civilian employees to start or continue a healthy lifestyle.

Individuals wanting to participate can sign up at Army Community Service, bldg 920, 1591 Bell

Richard Ave.

Upcoming events include:

- Dec. 4: Diabetes awareness and education — knowledge regarding causes of diabetes, risk factors, prevention and methods to improve health.
- Jan. 10: Mind over body — evaluate goals and use mental skills to maximize physical efforts. Understand behavior and emotions to increase and maintain fitness and wellness goals.

# FORT POLK COMMISSARY NOW OPEN MONDAYS

## Commissary Hours of Operation are:

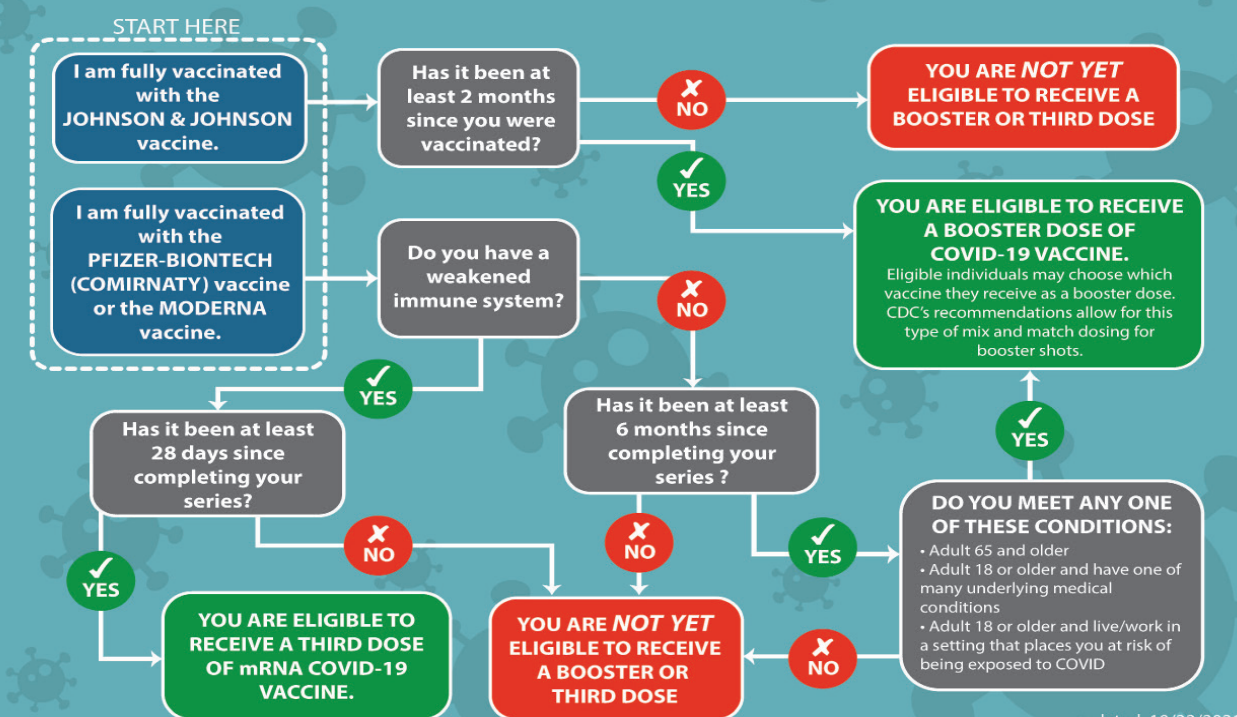
Sunday:	1000 - 1800
Monday:	1000 - 1800
Tuesday:	0930 - 2000
Wednesday:	0930 - 2000
Thursday:	0930 - 2000
Friday:	0930 - 2000
Saturday:	0900 - 2000

## Booster dose

Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital has COVID-19 booster shots available for anyone 18 years and older who meet certain criteria. Retirees and beneficiaries can schedule an appointment with the immunizations clinic at 337.531.3011 or sched-

ule online at [tricareonline.com](https://www.tricareonline.com). Department of the Army civilian employees and contractors can visit the Occupational Health Clinic, during walk-in hours 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, 8099 Georgia Ave., bldg 3515.

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR A COVID-19 BOOSTER DOSE OR A THIRD DOSE?



— Wheelock Fitness Center —



# STOP Vaccinated Only

Fully vaccinated patrons will have access to Wheelock Fitness Center effective at 5 a.m. on Monday, October 25, 2021.

Vaccinated patrons can register at any of the five fitness centers on Fort Polk. Registration opens at all fitness centers at 8 a.m. on Friday, October 15. Registration is not available during PT hours Monday-Friday, from 6-7:45 a.m. or on weekends at Cantrell Fitness Center.

Patrons must have the following to register:

- Valid DoD ID card.
- Original copy of vaccination card or LA Wallet App that shows official vaccination card. Photos and/or photo copies of vaccination cards will not be accepted.
- \* Name on the vaccination card must match name on DoD ID card.
- \* Two weeks or more must pass after your final shot before being eligible to utilize the facility.

PT Hours: Soldiers utilizing Wheelock Fitness Center during PT hours will be required to scan their DoD ID cards before entering the facility. Soldiers that have not registered their DoD ID card prior to PT will be denied entry. Registration is not available during PT hours Monday-Friday, from 6-7:45 a.m.

Only registered patrons will be granted access. Registration can be completed upon initial visit, outside of PT hours.

Download the LA Wallet app to your smartphone!

No change in access to Cantrell, Warrior, Home of Heroes or Tigerland Fitness Centers at this time.





# Forging New Leader Course celebrates **graduating** class

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Public Affairs and Communication

FORT POLK, La. — A graduation ceremony for the Fort Polk Forging New Leader course — a premier garrison leader development program — was held Oct. 28 at the Directorate of Human Resources training classroom.

The seven graduates spent 10 months and more than 160 hours of formal classroom instruction learning about Army design methodology and the military decision making process, as well as taking part in individual directorate overview briefings and numerous hours of project research and mentoring from senior leaders across Fort Polk.

Workforce Development Officer, Bobbie Parks, said the Forging New Leader Program gives employees seeking to advance in government service the ability to solve complex problems, work as a team and enhance their skills in leadership.

“The FNL program is designed for employees in the grades of GS-1-11 and equivalent non-appropriated funds and wage grades to become more competitive for promotion or positions of great responsibility,” he said.

The graduating class includes Ramona J. Brenski — Logistics Readiness Center, Miguel Z. Guajardo — Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, Kevin B. Stuart — Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital (Stuart was the class honor graduate), Ashley M. Reyes — Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, Lucas L. Greer — Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Sylvia V. Gabriel — DHR (Gabriel was the class leadership awardee), Itzel Revera-Febus — DFMWR and James D. McArthur — Directorate of Emergency Services/Fire.

Rivera-Febus said she took the class to learn more about the garrison and improve her leadership skills.

“It’s a great course because it breaks down pertinent information you need to build a foundation of knowledge that helps you be successful in your own job,” she said. “Learning about how other organizations on the installation work and getting a better understanding of the complexities of the military decision making process will also help me with the big picture of how Fort Polk runs.”

Rivera-Febus said it feels nice to graduate.

“I’m proud of what I’ve done and learned. It takes a team to make the garrison work and it’s nice to be part of the team,” she said.

Stuart said he took the class to see how all the pieces of Fort Polk come together.

“Every single person is important to its (Fort Polk’s) overall success and you need good leadership to take care of those people,” he said. “It’s been a long and challenging course, but I’ve loved taking part in the class. As graduates, we have forged new skills to become



*From left to right: Deputy Garrison Commander, Johnny Bevers, Miguel Guajardo, James McArthur, Kevin Stuart, Ramona Brenski, Lucas Greer, Itzel Revera-Febus and Garrison Commander, Col. Samuel P. Smith Jr., take a group picture after the conclusion of the Forging New Leader graduation ceremony held Oct. 28.*



*Garrison Commander, Col. Samuel P. Smith Jr., says a few words to the Forging New Leader graduating class.*

better leaders.”

Fort Polk Garrison Commander, Col. Samuel P. Smith, hosted the event and told the graduates that he was proud of their accomplishments.

“I want to thank you for all of your hard work and a job well done,” he said.

Parks said, over the course of four years, 64 employees have graduated from the program with 31% of the graduates competing and being promoted to a higher grade.

“The program helps students hone problem solving skills by working together as a team

to help solve complex Fort Polk issues. Completion of the program instills pride and confidence in the employees, which promotes efficiency.

Next year’s class accepts applications in mid-November with selections made in December. The first day of class begins Jan. 7, 2022 and concludes Oct. 27, 2022. The class is tentatively expected to have 25 seats available with applications accepted from all installation agencies.

For more information call Bobbie Parks at 337.531.1102.

ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN





## NSU honors Soldier grad

Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Commanding General, David S. Doyle (left) and Associate Director for the Mississippi Delta Gulf Coast Combined Federal Campaign, Melanie Holden (below) kick off the 2021 CFC campaign Nov. 2 at Fort Polk's Army Community Center.



KEITH HOUIN/GUARDIAN

# 22ND ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



For additional information please contact:

Jody Campbell  
Event Coordinator  
337-348-6798  
War Memorial Fund of SWLA  
PO Box 321  
Dry Creek, LA 70637

**November 7, 2021**

**12:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Ceremony at 1:30 PM**

**East Beauregard High School**

**Football Stadium**



**LOUISIANA**  
NATIONAL GUARD  
PROTECT WHAT MATTERS™

Static Displays of Vintage  
and Civilian Military Vehicles

Static Displays By:  
Louisiana National Guard  
US Army  
US Air Force

Fly-overs include:  
USAF  
F4U T-6 Formation  
Missing Man Formation

Colors Presented By:  
Washington Marion JROTC



★★★★★  
**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
Major General  
D. Keith Waddell  
Adjutant General  
Louisiana National Guard  
★★★★★



## Thank You for Your Service!!!

★ FREE TO THE PUBLIC ★ COMPLIMENTARY FOOD AND DRINKS ★





# Celebrating service during Native American Indian Heritage Month

By KEVIN STUART  
BJACH Military ombudsman

FORT POLK, La. — By Public Law 101-343 (1990), the U.S. Congress sets aside the entire month of November each year for the celebration of National Native American Indian Heritage Month.

It's a unique opportunity to revisit the lessons the founding fathers and mothers attempted to learn during their time. I believe that all people, regardless of their heritage, can gain from studying and embracing the ways of our Native American Indian ancestors.

This month affords our nation an opportunity to celebrate and share the Native American Indian Heritage with pride and offers information useful in the process of self-discovery. It celebrates the diversity of the Native American peoples throughout history, and points to their successes as a model for modern day America to follow as we reshape our world into one that is supportive of all peoples. Native American month is a time to recognize the outstanding contributions and achievements Native Americans have made to our country and world.

It is commonly accepted that perceptions form our reality and shape our world view. What happens when people who perceive things differently meet? Their realities collide and conflict, unless the gap which exists between their worlds is bridged. Our history is full of examples in which perceptions based upon facts — tainted by fear, prejudice and misunderstanding — resulted in tragic consequences. This has never been truer than in the case of the Native Americans, commonly called American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

The Native American is perhaps the most misunderstood cultures and civilizations that exist today. Much of what is known about their culture has been acquired from television westerns, which are more concerned with action than historical content. What images come to mind, when you hear the word Native American or Indian?

Many people do not realize why Native Americans are called Indians. The term is based on a misconception. Christopher Columbus coined the phrase because he thought he landed in the East Indies of Asia in 1492. Columbus did not realize that he had reached the Bahamas Islands. While sailing along the coasts of present-day Cuba and Haiti, he encountered villages of Arawakan-speaking people. Columbus called the island natives Los Indies, or "Indians" thus fastening that name on the population of all indigenous nations of the Western Hemisphere.

According to Tall Oak, a member of the



Narragansett tribe, "when the first European arrived, Columbus and his crew called us Indians, because of obvious reasons." He thought he was lost in India. Prior to Columbus arriving, we called ourselves Ninuog, or the people (human beings). So when the Pilgrims arrived here, we knew who we were, but we did not know who they were. So we called them Awaunaageesuck, or the strangers, because they were the people we did not know, but we knew each other and we were the human beings."

For years, American history books talked about the ancestors of modern day Native Americans as if they were all of one race, and often, as if they were all of one nation.

In reality, the 2017 U.S. Bureau of Census statistics show that Native Americans or Alaska Natives comprise only about two % of our population.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Native American Indians speak approximately 150 Native North American languages and currently have 574 federally recognized tribes and more than 100 state recognized tribes.

Native Americans have a long history of service and contributions to our country. They have provided exceptional support to our military while serving in every major conflict from the battlefields of the Revolutionary War to the front lines of today.

Native American Indians such as U.S. Army Soldier, Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., (Winnebago Indian) who distinguished himself during the Korea War and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism (Army base in South Korea is named after him — Camp Red Cloud); Sacagawea (Shoshone tribe) assisted the Lewis and Clark expedition as an interpreter during their successful Pacific Northwest journey; she is the first and only Native American Indian to have an image on United States currency (U.S. coin dollar).

The Code Talkers were an instrumental part of successfully transmitting secret messag-

es for the military during both World War I and II, moreover, the Choctaw and Cherokee tribes were utilized as Code Talkers during World War I, as well as the Navajo tribe Indians who were successful during World War II and the Korean War. The Code Talkers were able to encrypt and decrypt messages for the military without ever being exposed

Jim Thorpe (member of the Sac & Fox Nation) was the first Native American Indian to earn an Olympic medal during the Olympics, by winning two gold medals during the decathlon and pentathlon respectively of the 1912 Olympics and called in 1950 by the American Sports writers as the one of the greatest athletes of the first half of the 20th century.

Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee tribe) became the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1985. She worked several years as a leading advocate for the Cherokee people, improving the Cherokee nation's health care, education system and government. These are just a few of the numerous Native Americans who significantly contributed to our country.

The contributions Native Americans have made to our nation are immeasurable. From art to agriculture to science and the military, Americans have learned and benefited from the native peoples.

Eliminating barriers that constrain cultural, educational, economic and intellectual partnerships can help America's transition to a more diverse nation.

I can only hope that each and every one of us can take a few moments this month to learn and appreciate the numerous contributions and achievements Native Americans have made to our society. Let me also remind everyone that we all play a part in building a diverse society with concern for human values and principles. As the Native American Indian Heritage Month celebration continues, let us learn to see one another simply as people and remember that the more we learn about each other, the more knowledge we gain about ourselves.



# TRICARE Open Season, find out what it mean for you

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES  
BJACH PAO

FORT POLK, La. — TRICARE Open Season begins Monday and ends on Dec. 13. What does that mean for Soldiers, Families and retirees who live and work at Fort Polk?

Open season is an opportunity for active duty Family members, along with retirees and their Families to switch from TRICARE Prime to TRICARE Select and vice versa.

Outside of TRICARE open season, beneficiaries may only change plans when they experience a qualifying life event. A qualifying life event includes changes in sponsor status, Family composition, change of address, government-directed changes, death of sponsor and more — for a full list visit [www.tricare.mil/lifeevents](http://www.tricare.mil/lifeevents).

If you are eligible to take part in TRICARE open season ([www.tricare.mil/openseason](http://www.tricare.mil/openseason)) you have three choices:

1. Stay in your plan. If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health plan you don't have to take any action. You will continue in your current health plan through 2022 or as long as you are eligible.

2. Enroll in a plan. If you are eligible for TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can enroll in a plan now.

3. Change plans. If you're already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime or Select option you can switch plans or from an individual to a family enrollment.

According to [health.mil](http://health.mil), TRICARE Prime is a managed care option available in prime service areas in the United States and beneficiaries are assigned a primary care manager who provides most of their care.

TRICARE Select is a self-managed, preferred provider network plan. TRICARE Select is a fee-for-service option that allows patients to get care from any TRICARE-authorized provider.

Peggy Sylvest, health system manager for Humana Military, supports managed care at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital. She said the basic difference between prime and select is flexibility and out of pocket costs.

"TRICARE Prime requires a referral from your primary care provider, Select does not but there are more out of pocket expenses," she said. "With Prime, patients stay at the military treatment facility for their primary care. With Select, a patient has more flexibility and can make selections from TRICARE-authorized providers in the community. Open season gives beneficiaries a choice"

"It is important for eligible beneficiaries to take a look at their options during open season based on their health care needs for next year," she said. "Thinking about what benefits you need and what you are willing to pay out of pocket will help you make the decision that

TRICARE®

OPEN SEASON

Nov. 8 – Dec. 13




**TRICARE Open Season is the annual period when you can enroll in or change health plans for the next year.**

### How do TRICARE Prime® and TRICARE Select® differ?

TRICARE Prime	TRICARE Select
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A health maintenance organization (or HMO)-style plan available if you live in a stateside Prime Service Area. TRICARE Prime Overseas is for active duty service members and their command-sponsored family members only</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A preferred provider organization (or PPO)-style plan available when living stateside or overseas</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get most of your care coordinated through your primary care manager</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manage your own health care and choose your own TRICARE-authorized providers</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Referrals required for specialty care and certain other services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Referrals not required for most services</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-authorization for some services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-authorization for some services</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No deductible applies. Copayments apply for beneficiaries, except active duty service members and their family members</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deductible, copayments, and cost-shares apply</li></ul>

For more information, visit [www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason](http://www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason)



is best for you."

Sylvest said it's important to do the research and make an informed decision about what plan works best.

TRICARE offers dental and vision depending on who you are, your age and your TRICARE Plan. During open season TRICARE beneficiaries may also be eligible for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, managed by the Office of Personnel Management. Eligibility depends on beneficiary status and requires enrollment in a TRICARE health plan. Visit [www.benefeds.com](http://www.benefeds.com) to check eligibility, compare FEDVIP plans and rates, enroll in a plan and more.

According to [health.mil](http://health.mil), retired service members and their Families using TRICARE Prime or Select are eligible for both the vision and dental plan. Active duty Family members are eligible for the vision plan only.

In addition to open season, Sylvest emphasized a change effective Dec. 15: Wal-Mart and Sam's Club pharmacies will no longer be in the TRICARE network.

"Beneficiaries using them for their prescriptions may want to start making decisions about where they want to transfer their prescriptions. Local pharmacies such as BJACH, Wal-

Please see **TRICARE**, page 11



MWR SHOOTING RANGE 23A PRESENTS

# TURKEY SHOOT

**DATE**  
NOV 13

**TIME**  
9:00-10:15 AM  
(contestant arrival for sign-in and rules briefing)  
10:30 AM  
(competition begins)

**LOCATION**  
MWR RANGE 23A

Contest entry fee \$30 (Includes contest entry, use of DFMWR rifles, ammunition and targets, plus contestants may use their personal firearms at the pistol and/or rifle range the day of the competition, after the event concludes)

Pre-registration requested by **\*Nov 11, 2021**  
Register online, at MWR Shooting Range or the BOSS office  
**\*\$40 day of event**

1 First, Second & Third high scorers will be awarded prizes!  
2  
3 Event is free and open to all DPMWR authorized patrons as spectators




## WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Fort Polk is currently considering making improvements to the Toledo Bend Recreational Cabins. ICF has been contracted to gather some preliminary information on the potential for these improvements, and as part of this review, we are gathering data from potential patrons.

This survey will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete and addresses your usage of recreational facilities, opinions about the existing facilities, and thoughts on new or improved facilities. Your responses are completely confidential.



For questions related to this survey, please contact Juan Carlos Batarse at [JuanCarlos.Batarse@icf.com](mailto:JuanCarlos.Batarse@icf.com)

## MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM MHS GENESIS

MHS GENESIS, the Department of Defense's new electronic health record is coming soon!

GOING LIVE AT BAYNE-JONES ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

★ MARCH 2022 ★

For more information visit [health.mil/mhsgenesis](http://health.mil/mhsgenesis) or [bayne-jones.tricare.mil](http://bayne-jones.tricare.mil)

**MHS GENESIS** the new EHR is *Coming Soon!*



# TRICARE

Continued from page 10

greens and CVS are all options in our area, as well as Express Scripts mail order option," she said. "Pharmacy usage has nothing to do with open season, but it's important for beneficiaries to know and start planning for this big change as well."

**Editor's note:** The first annual TRICARE Open Season occurred in 2018, giving ben-

eficiaries an opportunity to enroll in or make changes to their health plans without experiencing a TRICARE qualifying life event.

To make changes during open season visit the beneficiary web enrollment website at [www.tricare.mil/bwe](http://www.tricare.mil/bwe) or go directly to <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/> and clicking on manage health benefits.



## OPEN SEASON

Mark your calendar!



TRICARE and Federal Benefits Open Season for enrollment or changes is:



**Nov. 8 – Dec. 13**

I'm a/an...	I want to change my TRICARE Health Care Plan	I Want to Enroll in a FEDVIP Vision Plan	I Want to Enroll in a FEDVIP Dental Plan
 <p>Active Duty Service Member</p>	While on active duty, you can only be TRICARE Prime®/TRICARE Prime Remote.	<b>You don't qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan.</b> You'll continue to get care as you do now.	<b>You don't qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan.</b> You'll continue to get care as you do now.
 <p>Active Duty Family Member</p>	You can enroll in or change plans during the <b>TRICARE Open Season</b> .	<b>You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan.</b> You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	<b>You don't qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan.</b> You can purchase dental coverage through the TRICARE Dental Program. Visit <a href="http://www.tricare.mil/tdp">www.tricare.mil/tdp</a> .
 <p>Reserve Component Member or Family Member enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve</p>	<b>Not applicable.</b> This doesn't apply to TRICARE Reserve Select® (TRS) or TRICARE Retired Reserve® (TRR).  You can enroll year round in TRR/TRS if your eligibility is in good standing.	<b>You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan.</b> You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	<b>You don't qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan.</b> You can get your dental care through the TRICARE Dental Program. Visit <a href="http://www.tricare.mil/tdp">www.tricare.mil/tdp</a> .
 <p>Retired Service Member or Family Member</p>	You can enroll in or change plans during the <b>TRICARE Open Season</b> .	<b>You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan.</b> You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	<b>You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan.</b> You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.
 <p>Retired Service Member or Family Member using TRICARE For Life</p>	<b>Not applicable.</b> TRICARE Open Season doesn't apply to TRICARE For Life.	<b>You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP vision plan.</b> You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.	<b>You qualify to purchase a FEDVIP dental plan.</b> You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season.

For more information, visit [www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason](http://www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason)







**Snowflake Festival 2021**

December 3 | 4 - 9 p.m. | Main Post Exchange  
 Tree Lighting at 5:30 p.m.  
 Santa arrives at 5:45 p.m.  
 Ice Skating  
 Inflatables  
 Facepainting & more!

**Sponsors:** CHRISTUS Health, 100.1's COUNTRY 100.1, GEICO, PAPA JOHN'S, BENIT, SWB, CORVIAS, K&R FURNITURE, Barksdale Federal Credit Union, USAA, HARLEY-DAVIDSON, AEBN, AIRBORNE, MWR, BBQ SALUTE.



## Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) Program

### How are we doing?

Tell us by scanning the QR code with your smart phone or tablet to leave us an ICE comment.



We are committed to providing the best Customer Service. Please answer "were you satisfied with your overall experience?" If you request a response we will contact you within three working days.




**Paint N Sip: Create your own SNOWMAN WELCOME PORCH LEANER (4x16")**

**Friday, November 12**  
**6:30 - 9 p.m.**  
**Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg 922**  
**1685 Bell Richard Ave**

**Class Fee: \$60 (includes all supplies & instructions)**  
**Ages +18, IDs Required**  
**Registration open until Wednesday, November 10**  
**Register at Arts & Crafts Center or call (337) 531-1980**  
**Payment due at time of registration**

**\*Cancellations prior to Nov. 10 will be refunded\***  
**No refunds given for no-shows/cancellations after Nov 10**  
**(Alcoholic beverages for purchase)**

**Sponsors:** AIRBORNE, MWR, BBQ SALUTE.



**HOME BASED BUSINESS EVENT**

## PUMPKIN SPICE MARKET

START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING  
 WITH TWO FULL DAYS OF  
 MILITARY SPOUSE OWNED HOME  
 BASED BUSINESSES

**NOVEMBER 13-14**  
**0900-1500**  
**MAIN ACS CENTER BLDG 920**



# Celebrating 95 years of community holiday tradition

## NATCHITOCHES CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

NATCHITOCHES, La. — The Natchitoches Christmas Festival began 95 years ago as an act of charity and thankfulness — a gift to the community that continues today.

The Christmas Festival tradition began in 1927 when employees of the City of Natchitoches' utility department decided to give their customers a Christmas present. They erected an eight foot star made of white lights and placed it downtown so everyone could see and enjoy the wonders, not only of the season, but also of electricity.

Over the years, new electrical displays were added and in 1936, local businessmen added fireworks for the community to enjoy. This was the start of something big — the beginning of one of the nation's oldest and most spectacular community-based Christmas celebrations — the Natchitoches Christmas Festival.

Named "The Best Public Holiday Light Display," by USA Today 10 Best in 2020, the Natchitoches Christmas Festival celebrates its 95th year in 2021.

That means this year will be better than ever with 110 lighted set piece displays along Cane River Lake.

The themes for the displays are indicative of the season, and are also determined by world events. During World War II, a large "V" for victory was included. The giant American Flag, which anchors the northern end of the displays, was built as a tribute to the men and women of Desert Storm and all other veterans. In addition to the set pieces, the city is covered with more than 350,000 colored lights.

Professional pyrotechnic companies have long since replaced the businessmen who purchased and fired the first fireworks show. Their small show has grown into the premier fireworks pyrotechnic event in Louisiana. The number of shows has also increased from the festival weekend to include every Saturday from when the lights are turned on in mid-November through December 18, and this year will include two special shows on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

Each weekend during the Natchitoches Christmas season features something fun and exciting for the whole family — Nov. 20 through Jan. 6.

Opening day, Nov. 20, is also called "Turn on the Holidays," and features the annual holiday shopping open house. The locally owned and operated businesses, shops and restaurants located in Natchitoches' downtown (National Landmark Historic District) showcase their holiday items, stay open later, and offer specials throughout the day. The day concludes with live entertainment on the riverbank stage, the countdown to turn on the lights and fireworks.



BRAD FERGUSON

"That moment when you are counting down to zero and the lights are turned on and the fireworks erupt," said Kelli West, Director of Marketing & Communications for the Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau, "there is absolutely nothing as magical as that very moment."

There are no admission costs to the riverbank area Sunday through Friday to view the lights and enjoy food vendors. A \$10 armband will be required for access to the riverbank area on Saturdays from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18. Armbands can be pre-purchased at [Natchitoches-Christmas.com](http://Natchitoches-Christmas.com) or at the ticket booths on those Saturdays.

•Nov. 27 features the Fleur de Lis Christmas Craft Mall at the Natchitoches Events Center and the family favorite — Cookies with Santa. Live music and fireworks will cap the day.

•Dec. 4 is the 95th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival. Enjoy the day-long event filled with music, entertainment, a parade, arts and crafts, and fireworks. Mistletoe Marketplace, an annual arts and crafts market, will take place beside City Bank and Trust from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The annual Festival of Lights Parade begins at 1 p.m. with Grand Marshal Scott Innes, the voice of Scooby-Doo, and the Mystery Machine. There will be live entertainment on the riverbank stage throughout the day with the grand fireworks show at 6 p.m.

•Dec. 11 features Cookies with Santa, a lighted boat parade, entertainment and fireworks. Additional events taking place throughout

the holiday season include the annual Christmas Tour of Homes, the Light the Way 5K, Northwestern State University's annual Christmas Gala production, Santa Claus House, Lessons and Carols performances and more.

For more Christmas magic, step into a magical winter wonderland as Dark Woods Adventure Park transforms for Christmas In The Park, with more than eight acres of enchanting, lighted walkways and more than 250,000 LED lights and displays that bring the woods to life.

The 128 foot lighted footbridge, along with snowflakes and a canopy of twinkling ice lights, will let you explore the beauty of nature like you've never seen it. Get your picture with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, the "Frozen" princess and her reindeer at the Kringle Outpost.

Natchitoches is a proud partner in Louisiana's Holiday Trail of Lights which is comprised of eight festive cities — Shreveport-Bossier, Minden, Monroe-West Monroe, Natchitoches and Alexandria/Pineville — located along Interstates 20 and 49. The eight cities offer a road trip experience bridging holiday events and happenings in the cities for visitors.

For more information, visit the Christmas Festival website at [www.natchitocheschristmas.com](http://www.natchitocheschristmas.com) or call the Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800.259.1714. For more information about Natchitoches, accommodations, restaurants and things to do, visit Natchitoches online at [www.natchitoches.com](http://www.natchitoches.com).



# FORT POLK TRICK OR TREATS

Fort Polk Families were out in force during the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Warrior Hills Golf Course Trick or Treat event held Oct. 29 from 4-6 p.m. Kids and parents dressed in costumes from scary to adorable and everything in between as they gathered candy and had some fun. The next night, Oct. 30, was Halloween trick or treating in Fort Polk neighborhoods.



Please see Treat, page 15



# Treat

Continued from page 14





# BASKETBALL

**Registration: Oct. 15 - Dec. 10**  
**Season runs Jan. 08 - Mar. 05**

## Parent meeting/ Skills assessment

**Dec. 08 or 10**  
**@ Bldg. 2070**

**5:30 p.m. for Peewee**  
**Ages 3 - 4 (Peewee): \$25**  
**6 p.m. for ages 5 & up**  
**Ages 5 -18: \$50**

Spectators must wear masks at all times when in gym

**Must be registered with CYS & have a current Sports Physical.**  
**VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED. For more information call 337-531-6004**



## Registration

**Oct. 15 - Jan. 07**

## Season runs

**Jan. 29 - Mar. 12**

**Ages 3-4: \$25**  
**(PeeWee)**

**Ages 5- 14: \$50**

## Parent meeting and Skills Assessment

**Dec. 07 or 09**  
**or Jan. 06**

**5:30 p.m. for PeeWee**  
**6 p.m. ages 5 & up**  
**at Perez Field**

**Must be registered with CYS & have a current Sports Physical.**  
**VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED. For more information all 337-531-6004**

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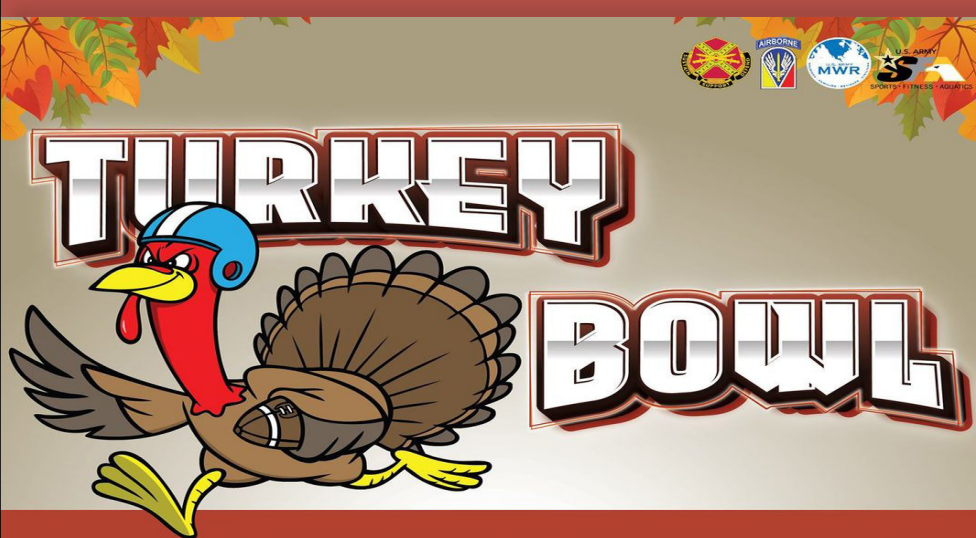


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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 9 A.M.**  
**HEADQUARTERS FIELD**  
**BN-LEVEL FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**

**Come out and watch Fort Polk Battalions battle it out on the gridiron to see who has the best flag football team around!**

- Event is free and open to all members of the Fort Polk Community: Soldiers, Families, DOD Civilians, and Retirees
- Enjoy yard games, food, and other activities while supporting your unit!

**For more information call 337-531-7669**

