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Child Care

PCS Moves



"Committed to taking care of our people, and maintaining our readiness while modernizing our capabilities."

 HOUSING
 Image: Comparison of the compa

Quality of life matters BECAUSE:

By Brig. Gen. DAVID S. DOYLE JRTC and Fort Polk Commanding General **Col. SAMUEL P. SMITH JR.** Fort Polk Garrison Commander

From the Commanding General:

Thanks for taking the time to read this important message about our JRTC and Fort Polk "Quality of Life" program.

As you know, our Army exists to fight and win our Nation's wars. There is no other reason for our Army's service to the United States of America. All of the Army's component elements work together to serve that purpose.

At JRTC and Fort Polk, in order to accomplish that purpose, we need to focus on four priorities that will help the Army. I have directed our team to work in these specific areas -

•We need to take care of our people through the programs of leader development and talent management.

•We need to ensure our Combat Training Center infrastructure remains world-class.

•We absolutely must focus on the Fort Polk installation infrastructure that supports our deployable units, Families, and Quality of Life initiatives.

•And finally we must ensure that our on-post hospital, Bayne Jones Community Army Community Hospital, provides the highest standards in medical care.

I fully understand that our Quality of Life programs



DOYLE

plain what we are doing at JRTC and Fort Polk to apply resources and leadership to enhance our installation and Army-level Quality of Life efforts.

are critical to the success

of all four of our prior-

ities. The information

that follows will help ex-

Please see Quality, page 3



Practice your aim or compete to show your skills at the Fort Polk Shooting Range.

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JRTC and Fort Polk Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Commanding General Col. Samuel P. Smith Jr. Garrison Commander Johnny Bevers Deputy Garrison Commander

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The Guardian is published by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

The Guardian can be found on the JRTC and Fort Polk web site at **home.army.mil.polk** and the JRTC and Fort Polk Facebook page at **@JRTCandFortPolk**/. Guardian archives can also be found on the

JRTC and Fort Polk website. Links to the Guardian are also included in all-users emails to government email users and by request to non-military units. To be included on all-users messages email **kimberly.k.reischling.civ@mail.mil.** All editorial content of the Guardian

is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

For more information on Fort Polk units and happenings visit the following Facebook pages: @JRTCOperationsGrp, @ BayneJonesACH or @fortpolkmwr.

Quality

Continued from page 2

Thank you for everything that you do to support our JRTC and Fort Polk team.

From the Garrison Commander:

Quality of Life Matters BECAUSE:

Quality of Life as an initiative and a program is important because it directly impacts the Army's #1 Priority... Our People. The level, standard and measure of Quality of Life also drives three important organizational efforts that enable JRTC and Fort Polk to accomplish its mission. These efforts are recruitment, retention and readiness. Fort Polk is one of the Army's four specially designated "Quality of Life Installations" along with Fort Wainwright in Alaska, Fort Irwin in California, and Fort Hood in Texas. The Army prioritized Quality of Life funding at Fort Polk to support

- Family housing
- •Health care
- •Child care
- •Spouse employment

Soldier, Spouse and Children's Education
Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation activities

• Permanent Change of Station moves.

Our installation level leaders have taken personal ownership of each of these priorities to ensure their success and improve the well-being of our Fort Polk team. JRTC and Fort Polk leadership will host a Quality of Life Conference on 09 Feb 2022 to provide Fort Polk personnel and Families an update and opportunity to discuss QoL initiatives.

The JRTC and Fort Polk leadership met with GEN Daly, the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, who is responsible for ensuring the Army's Quality of Life initiative is executed properly. He visited Fort Polk this year to discuss Fort Polk infrastructure progress, challenges, opportunities and assess the plans for the future. This visit resulted in an additional allocation of assets to Fort Polk and helped us showcase what we are doing for our Soldiers and Families.

Community Center Engagement and Walking Town Hall:

The JRTC and Fort Polk Commanding General and I will now be hosting Family Housing Community Center Engagements beginning in January 2022 to supplement our Walking Town Hall events. These engagements will allow Soldiers, Families, and Civilians to attend monthly sessions with the installation leadership right at their neighborhood Community Center. We

plan to discuss issues and recommendations involving each housing community - roads, landscape, playgrounds. We will still conduct monthly Walking Town Halls, providing our



community members access to our installation leaders, tenant command teams, and DES, involving work orders and any concerns on housing.

We have over 3,600 houses on Fort Polk and the four community centers have remained the CG and my top prioritiy since we received

feedback from our residents in 2019. A new concept that we will implement in 2nd QTR 2022 in our housing communities includes the addition of Community Mayors. We will enable a resident of the community to serve as the representative of the community to engage regularly with the Garrison, Family Housing, and Corvias teams.

In addition, the CG will assign Brigade level commanders the responsibility to help supervise the

overall effort in each of our communities. Each Colonel will engage in a specific neighborhood area. This additional leadership participation, from our residents and the chain of command, People from the Fort Polk community attend the Pumpkin Spice Market to support Military Spouses Home Based Businesses.

will allow for a direct line of communication and increased accountability between myself and the Commanding General, and other senior leaders on this installation.

Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) System Comments!

We acknowledge that there are sometimes challenges with Quality of Life programs. We want your feedback if you have an idea or recognize a problem. If you would like to provide input to us, you can send your thoughts and ideas to the installation leadership through the ICE System. The CG and I have read over 1,300 ICE Comments submitted to us in the past year. We pay close attention to the ideas

3



SMITH



you provide to help improve Quality of Life programs on the installation. For example, you may have noticed that our Commissary has now opened seven days a week. This is a result of the comments received through the ICE system. Many of the ICE comments focus on the community's interest in fun activities to do on post. Because we want to tailor the activities to the interest of our Families, the feedback we receive is essential.

Overview of JRTC & Fort Polk Quality of Life Improvements:

The Army has committed over 600 million dollars of investments to Fort Polk since 2020. We have made great strides in Quality of Life programs with over 100 ongoing projects. These efforts include a \$92 million dollar investment in privatized housing, development and construction of three single Soldier barracks, expanded virtual health, telemedicine, building new child development center, reimbursing Army Spouses for employment exam and registration fees and a new interactive Army PCS move application to plan and schedule moves and file claims. In addition to the investment into Single-Soldier barracks, we formed a new partnership with AAFES and Boingo, enabling JRTC and Fort Polk to upgrade the barracks to 50 Mbps internet data service with an option to purchase up to 1 Gig fiber internet.

We are a leader in our education among other Army installations in math, reading and preparing high school seniors for college. Fort Polk schools rank #3 and #5 when compared to other Army installations. New initiatives for education include an \$8 million dollar grant in science, technology, engineering, art and math for our installation and schools, and an expanded virtual high school pilot program. Within the area of Spousal Employment, we've conducted Quarterly Hiring Fairs, resulting in the hire of 170 spouses, and we currently support 82 Spouse owned Home Based Businesses. The Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital has invested in our health care initiatives with the hiring of behavioral health and psychiatrist positions.

Fort Polk provides many different types of activities for all ages and we have invested resources to increase those opportunities. The Army has invested in Fort Polk and we have spent over five million dollars into upgrading and updating our Bowling Center, transitioning it into an area where you can have fun with your kids, Soldiers, and friends or relax in the Anvil Bar and Grill to eat, enjoy drinks, games, and watch NFL, UFC, or other sports. The 2.7 million dollar investment for an indoor playground, located in the Showboat Theater next to our SJA on Alabama Avenue, will also allow





our Fort Polk residents to beat the heat and enjoy fun indoor recreational activities with their families. You can expect these facilities to open in the middle of 2022.

Soon, the Fort Polk Quality of Life infrastructure will include a new bowling center, a new indoor playground, an upgraded 50 meter pool, new basketball courts around our barracks, a state of the art Teen Center, a brand new consolidated Child Development Center, 12 miles of newly paved roads, three new Green Sand Filtration Water Plants, a new North Fort Car wash and pet cleaning station, continued investment into our housing portfolio, demolition of aging WWII buildings, overhead sun screens at our Alligator Lake playground, renovated barracks, renovated motor pools, a five million dollar upgrade into our IHG on post hotel facilities, investment in our Toledo Bend Recreation Site, and new eateries such as Dunkin Donuts, a Baskin Robbins, a Slim Chickens, and a Texas Roadhouse. We will continue our investment in recycling initiatives through the Qualified Recycling Program. Last year we recycled 1,204 tons of material and earned \$571,841 to be invested back into programs on the installation.

Conclusion:

Having the proper equipment and training is as important to Quality of Life as housing, childcare and FMWR. We have to spend money in all of these areas so our responsibility to the Army and to you is to properly balance these priorities. Putting People First is the Army's #1 priority and the Quality of Life portfolio supports this priority. We've shared just a few of the changes we are making to Fort Polk; the truly important part of this communication is that you should understand that the Quality of Life program is exceptionally important to the JRTC and Fort Polk leadership.

Bend Army Recre-

ation Site cabin.

The Army has acknowledged our installation as a Quality of Life priority and the CG and I, along with the entire JRTC and Fort Polk team will continue to work diligently to ensure that the needs of our community is met to standard.

For additional information on JRTC & Fort Polk Quality of Life please visit these video's and links:

MWR Quality of Life videos: <u>https://</u> www.facebook.com/fortpolkmwr/videos/5255207254496011

FB video on housing: <u>https://www.</u> <u>facebook.com/JRTCandFortPolk/vid-</u> <u>eos/3005686606330951</u>

Army Quality of Life Website: <u>https://www.</u> army.mil/qualityoflife/

New North Fort car wash adds to Fort Polk's quality of life

By ANGIE THORNE

Public Affairs and Communications

FORT POLK, La. — Progress is moving right along on Fort Polk's North Fort Car Wash.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility took place April 29. Fort Polk leadership and distinguished guests attended the event, another quality of life initiative on the installation. The car wash is an Installation Management command headquarters directed nonappropriated fund major construction project worth \$4,100,000. The contract was awarded to Tarver Land Management, LLC.

The building will include a touch free drivethrough car wash, a four bay self-service facility to include a large bay to accommodate boats and recreational vehicles, six vacuum drying bays and a pet washing station. Bays will be outfitted with credit card machines.

Jarred Tarver, CEO of Tarver Land Management LLC, said he and his team are always proud to help improve the lives of Soldiers and Families at Fort Polk.







Quality of life improvements come to fruition in many ways



There are many outdoor activities that improve quality of life



Warrior Lanes construction under way, making strides toward finished facility



Opportunities to stay fit are important part of quality of life

By ANGIE THORNE Public Affairs and Communications

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Bardell said the outdoor fitness area was just one of the many quality of life projects that will be completed in the coming months including the 50-meter pool, indoor playground, bowling facility, Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers Recreation Center and more.

"We have concentrated on projects geared to everyone from children to adults to make sure that our Soldiers and Family members have a wide variety of recreational opportunities to stay physically fit and have fun," he said.





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Housing is key to quality of life for Fort Polk community

PAO

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk residents have seen many improvements to the installation's housing as Corvias has completed both Out Year Development Plan Phase I and II.

Wil Motta, Corvias operations director, said work on ODP1, a \$50 million project that comprised both Dogwood and Maple Terrace housing areas, was delayed after Mother Nature put a kink in the plans by throwing two hurricanes, a tropical storm and an ice storm at Fort Polk in 2019.

During ODP 1, there was \$50 million available, and the decision was made to do a lot of exterior work," he said. "The Dogwood project involved exterior painting of buildings, removing and repairing fascia, overlay of roofs and rain gutters. It was a large-scale project. We also did 3.5 miles of road in the area of North Fort."

Work in Dogwood Terrace included 526 roof repairs, 402 buildings painted, and 402 buildings received trim and rain gutters, Motta said. In Maple Terrace, exterior renovations included work of roofs, paint trim and gutters. Roofs and painting are completed (620) homes and 436 homes received trim and gutter.

"The roof overlays extended the lives of the

existing roofs and prevent roof leak issues, which means fewer ceilings and we'd have to repair due to water intrusion," he said.

The second phase of the same project, ODP 2, involved Maple Terrace renovations, Motta said, and invests \$77 million into Fort Polk's Family housing portfolio. That phase has also been completed, well before its estimated finish date of March 2022. ODP 2 included additional hurricane repairs, 1,372 roof replacements, exterior renovations of 1,058 homes, 149 geothermal upgrades, demolition of 46 homes on Norris Loop and 185 medium interior repairs. A number of homes were also converted — two-bedroom homes into 44 four- or five-bedroom homes. Geothermal upgrades now are complete among all Fort Polk Family housing (3,661 homes.). "As a result, about \$1 million will be saved annually for energy and operational cost avoidance. These savings are reinvested into Fort Polk housing capital, home and roadway improvements."

"And the new converted units will not only provide more space for future residents, but more housing options for larger families, said Motta.

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

"We had 2,652 roofs that had damage of some sort," he said. "Half of those roofs had significant damage. The decision was made by Corvias and the local command that any roof determined by insurance adjustors to need just partial repairs, we would do 100 percent repair.

Motta said part of ODP2 involved the demolition of the homes on Norris Loop in Palmetto.

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

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

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

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

"We're always going to do our absolute best for our residents," Motta said.



Improving quality of life, from education to Soldier barracks



On a tour of the Child Development Center, bldg 744, and the future home of Fort Polk's DoD STAR-BASE program, Tiffany Koch, Fort Polk's school liaison officer, points out areas in a classroom that will be demolished to make the area one large centralized classroom for students to gather in and work on projects. DoD STARBASE is a premier educational program where students participate in challenging "hands-on, minds-on" activities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).



After the Education Summit, held Nov. 3, participants took a group photo in front of the Warrior Center







Present, future quality of life issues are Fort Polk focus







Green Sand Filtration System: Operational by Feb 22

MWR Initiatives:

- The Forge Bar Grill (Phase II) FY22, 2Q
- MWR Car Wash and Pet Cleaning Station
 - North Fort FY22, 2Q
 - South Fort FY22, 2Q .
- Family Entertainment Center (Play Town and Café) FY22, 2Q
- Renovate Bowling Center FY22, 2Q
- Name Brand Casual Dining (Texas Road House) FY23, 1Q

AAFES Initiatives:

- Starbucks renovation FY22, 2Q
- Mini Mall renovation FY22, 2Q
- Slim Chickens FY22, 2Q
- Baskin Robbins / Dunkin Donuts FY22, 3Q
- Main Store Reset (new fixtures, revitalization) FY23, 2Q













SLIM CHICKENS

Demolished 162K square feet of space of deteriorated buildings

Secured \$5M to renovate the IHG

AIRBORNE

- Facility improvements underway:
 - Cantonment Road Repairs
 - North Fort Fire Station Addition
 - Pre-Positioned Fleet Inspection Stations
 - North Fort Car Wash
 - Renovate eight Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Barracks
 - Renovate six Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facilities
- Consolidated Child Development Center: \$30M/338 child capacity
- Two additional barracks: \$112M/ 450 spaces
- Housing Improvements:
 - Modifications/ upgrades to 64% of housing's infrastructure
 - Out-year Development Plan (ODP) 1: \$15.9M. Includes:
 - three miles of roads
 - 1,200 roof replacements
 - exterior work to over 1,200 homes
 - ODP 2: \$77M. Includes:
 - exterior work to over 1,000 homes
 - road repairs
 - 98 gabled carports
 - conversion of 88 2br homes into 44 4br/5br homes
 - \$3M to cover and re-surface seven basketball courts



FY22, \$55M

Cantonment Road Repairs \$16M FY22-25







Information Systems Facility (IFS) (NEC) FY22, \$25M



Education:

- DoDEA expanded Virtual High School
- 2022 DoD STARBASE
- Behavioral Health MOA with Vernon Parish School Board
- **Recreational Programs:**
 - \$10M investment in MWR infrastructure and equipment
 - MWR Projects initiated in FY21 come online in FY22
 - Family Entertainment Center
 - **Bowling Center**
 - 50M pool
 - MWR Car Wash and Pet Cleaning Station
 - Five MWR NAF Major Constructions Projects totaling \$91.9M
 - Alligator Lake RV Park
 - Aquatic Recreation Center
 - Community Activity Center
 - Mini Golf and Go Kart
 - Recreational Checkout Center
- Eateries:
 - Texas Roadhouse
 - Improved quality/ inventory of products at the Commissary
- Other:
 - North Fort Green sand filtration system Operational Nov 2022



Family Entertainment Center FY21. \$2.6M



Aquatic Recreation Center FY23, \$18M



Warrior Lanes Bowling Center FY21, \$5M



50 Meter Pool, Summer FY22, \$6.43M



Name Brand Casual Dining FY22 2nd QTR, \$5.5M



RV Park Expansion FY23, \$4.1M





\$63M Under construction



JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK QUALITY OF LIFE PRIMRITES



Housing

Health Care





Spouse Employment

PCS Moves

How Are We Doing? Scan the QR code with your phone or tablet and leave us an ICE comment.

