

ARMY FLIER

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ARMY PHOTO

An A Company, 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment 'Eagle Assault' aircrew works with military working dogs and their handlers at Fort Campbell, Ky., in early April to help the working dogs get familiarized with the aircraft.

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164th Theater Airfield Operations Group NCO awarded Purple Heart

By Kelly Morris
USACE Public Affairs

A Fort Rucker NCO was awarded the nation's oldest military decoration during an awards presentation and reenlistment ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum April 13.

Staff. Sgt. David Vazquez, the Tactical Airspace Integration System facility chief for 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, was awarded the Purple Heart medal by Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commander, for wounds received during the Al-Shabaab attack on Magagoni Airfield, Manda Bay, Kenya, on Jan. 5, 2020.

Vazquez was awarded multiple decorations, and reenlisted during the ceremony.

Francis thanked attendees, including the family, and the members of 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group and 1-58th Avn. Regt. for supporting their own.

"It's truly an honor to award Staff Sgt. David Vazquez the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge, and the Army Commendation Medal with Combat Device today," Francis said. "His display of physical and moral courage, his embodiment of the warrior ethos – never to leave a fallen comrade – and his instinct in leadership under duress make it an absolute honor to recognize him today."

Joining the ceremony virtually were the families of the late Spc. Henry "Mitch" Mayfield Jr., also of 1-58th Avn. Regt., and Dustin Harrison, a Department of Defense contractor, who were both killed during the same attack at Manda Bay.

"The Mayfields know that they hold a special place in our hearts here at Fort Rucker and in the 164th (TAOG), as we drive down Mayfield Avenue every day. Your sacrifice will not be forgotten," Francis said.

On Jan. 5, 2020, Vazquez served as the landing zone safety officer for 1-58th Avn. Regt. at Magagoni Airfield. Just after 5 a.m., approximately 40 Al-Shabaab fighters launched an attack against U.S. forces at Manda Bay, beginning with a ground assault against personnel and aircraft on the airfield, with near simultaneous indirect fire on Camp Simba.

During the opening minutes of the attack, Vazquez's vehicle was hit by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire from approximately 50 feet away, killing Mayfield and injuring Vazquez. The enemy attacked and destroyed multiple aircraft on the airfield, also killing two Department of Defense contractors, Harrison and Bruce Triplett.

For nearly 14 hours Vazquez actively evaded direct fire and detection, until a deliberate counterattack by U.S. and Kenyan armed forces repelled the enemy fighters.

Francis, flanked by Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Wilson, Aviation Branch command sergeant major, and CW5 Michael L. Lewis Jr., chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch, presented the awards.

"Staff Sergeant Vazquez's courage, commitment and service to this nation are unquestioned," Francis said. "And today he steps forward again, in spite of his difficult combat experiences, and he's going to reenlist today in the United States Army, making a commitment not only to serving this great nation but to care for our sons and daughters as a noncommissioned officer, the backbone of our Army, and the backbone of Army aviation."

Francis administered the oath of enlistment as Vazquez committed to continue serving in the Army for four more years.



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

Staff. Sgt. David Vazquez, Tactical Airspace Integration System facility chief for 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, is awarded the Purple Heart medal by Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commander, for wounds received during the Al-Shabaab attack on Magagoni Airfield, Manda Bay, Kenya, on Jan. 5, 2020, during a ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum April 13.

Vazquez will serve at Fort Rucker, his duty station of choice, where he will continue to have an impact on the next generation.

Francis also presented Vazquez's wife Karla Benitez a certificate of appreciation for her dedication and service to the nation.

Vazquez thanked leaders and family for their attendance and support, including his siblings who flew in for the ceremony, family members who joined the ceremony virtually from Puerto Rico, as well as the Mayfield family, and the spouse of Harrison. He especially thanked his wife, Karla, and their children.

"Without you I would not have been able to get up from that hell that I went through,"

Vazquez said.

He also thanked his colleagues from the 1-58th Avn. Regt.

"I am in front of you receiving an award that is not only mine, but it also is to each and every one of us who deployed on Oct. 1, 2019, especially the Manda Bay crew," he said.

"That morning on January 5, 2020, we lost one of the most beloved Soldiers in the unit, Spc. Henry J. Mayfield Jr. Each and every one of us lost a friend that day and received a scar ... that will be with us for the rest of our lives. No matter how many times we fall, we will get up stronger and continue fighting until we achieve the victory," he said.

PURPLE HEART cont.

Vazquez said he loves to be a Soldier and being a mentor to the junior enlisted.

"I would like to pass all the acquired knowledge to the new Soldiers, let them know that if I, without knowing much English and with this accent, have been able to achieve many goals and get where I am, they can also achieve them, too," Vazquez said.

In the future, he wants to prepare Soldiers to understand that being in air traffic control doesn't mean they will not feel the heat of combat.

"I want to ... prepare them for any situation that arises," Vazquez said.

Going forward, his goal is to be a better husband, father and Soldier.

"I think that is the purpose for which God gave me a second chance that morning."



Vazquez raises his right hand to reenlist in the Army, with his wife Karla Benitez by his side, as Francis, administers the oath.



The U.S. Army has partnered with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to create the **Digital Garrison** mobile app. **Digital Garrison** is a one-stop information source for Army communities. The app puts real-time information into Soldiers', families', and civilians' hands and keeps military communities connected – a key part of readiness and resiliency.

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WORLD-CLASS TRAINING

USAACE unveils latest tool in combatting sexual assault, harassment

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, along with other leaders from the Aviation Branch, cut the ribbon to open up the USAACE Training Center in Bldg. 6902 April 8 that now hosts new and improved Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention training.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis said that the facility in the renovated building is the latest and greatest tool in the center's fight against sexual assault and harassment within the ranks.

"We all know that sexual assault and sexual harassment are an inside threat to our Army – we cannot allow it to stand," Francis said. "Part

of the way we get after that to the left of those incidents is through training – educating our Soldiers and educating everyone in the chain of command about how we intervene to prevent these things from occurring, and then if they do, how we appropriately respond to these incidents with the utmost care for the victims.

"As we look at the strategic challenges of our Army, SHARP incidents are one of those that erode trust – the trust our Soldiers have in leadership and in each other, the trust (the nation's) parents have in sending their kids to our all-volunteer force, and the trust that the American people, Congress and everyone else



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, cuts the ribbon on the Sexual Harassment/Assault Program USAACE Training Center building, Bldg. 6902, with the help of Sgt. 1st Class Philena Perdue, lead sexual assault response coordinator and 1st Aviation Brigade SARC; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Wilson, Aviation Branch command sergeant major; CW5 Michael L. Lewis Jr., chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch; and Shana C. Morris, USAACE SHARP program manager, April 8.



A Soldier leaves a message on the mural for survivors of sexual assault and harassment.

has in us," he added.

Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Wilson, Aviation Branch command sergeant major, said the facility is also an example of "the boss putting his money where his mouth is."

"We started talking about this when we first started conducting SHARP Knowledge Quest (training) over in the warrant officer training area," Wilson said, adding that using that facility was a temporary measure while many students were attending online training during the pandemic. "When the unit that owned that building needed it back as training increased later that year, the boss looked at me and said, 'No, we're not doing that – find a place to put

them.' So, we started looking."

The search led them to Bldg. 6209, which formerly housed the 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band until it deactivated in 2016.

"It was in terrible shape. I think this building was six months from being unusable forever – you can't let them sit, or they will deteriorate and then be unusable forever," Wilson said, adding that hard work by Shana Morris, SHARP program manager for USAACE and Fort Rucker; Sgt. 1st Class Philena Perdue, lead sexual assault response coordinator and 1st Aviation Brigade SARC; Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond P. Quitugua, Fort Rucker garrison command sergeant major; and the Directorate

SHARP cont.

of Public Works succeeded in creating a world-class training facility.

“Your Soldiers can come here and get out of an environment where they focus on work, and they can focus on this and this only – SHARP, which is plaguing our Army,” he added.

Francis and Wilson, on top of cutting the ribbon on the facility, also recognized Morris and Perdu for their efforts in making the new training center a reality.

“They found this space, they coordinated for it and it was no less than their blood, sweat and tears that went into this thing,” Francis said. “This is a place we can training our Soldiers and leaders to stop this plague that is still prevalent in our Army. It has to stop, and this is where we are going to start the process to stop it. My hat is off to these two leaders for their personal efforts in making this day come to reality.”

The general then awarded Perdue with an Army Commendation Medal and Morris a Civilian Service Commendation Medal.

Morris spoke, as well, saying she and her team of Perdue; Sgt. 1st Class Shane Pomerence, 110th Avn. Bde. SARC; and Sgt. 1st Class Skyler Thorson, 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group SARC, spent over a year and a half of work getting the facility ready.

“We are so excited,” she said. “With leadership support, we were able to really make this a world-class training facility for the SHARP program. The importance of this building is having all of your service members and civilians come through this building and apply their SHARP knowledge in an interactive way to really test it, so that we can be ready and ahead of the future to prevent any sort of sexual harassment or sexual assault.”

Morris also contrasted how training used to be conducted at Fort Rucker to how it will now be held thanks to the new facility.

“In the past, SHARP training was conducted at the units, typically by slides through



PowerPoint, or just conversations,” she said. “Now, we can have people really apply their SHARP knowledge in an interactive and productive way to better help Soldiers and civilian employees understand SHARP even better.”

This advanced training includes the scenario-based I Speak program.

“We have four scenarios where role playing takes place,” Morris said. “This is where we have the Soldiers and civilians apply their knowledge to really practice how to intervene, and step up in order to stop or prevent the incident from happening.

“Then we also have the Knowledge Quest, which is in the back of our training facility,”

she added. “These are rooms set up with clues and help test people’s SHARP knowledge – they identify clues to make their way through passages until it’s complete.

“Then they’ll come together at the end and go over some touchpoints and thoughts that will be able to help prepare them to actually apply their knowledge within their unit, or even in off-post situations. Anyone on Fort Rucker, Department of Army civilians can come with their unit, as well, and participate with their Soldiers. This really allows for more of a team environment in having that open dialogue because our civilians are also important in serving our Soldier population.”

The training does meet the annual SHARP training requirement for both Soldiers and civilian employees, Morris added.

“We look forward to everyone coming out and experiencing the SHARP training center,” she said. “When they come, we ask that they sign the mural and write a message to support a survivor of sexual harassment and sexual assault. We also ask that people be open minded when they come here, and they’ll leave more knowledgeable and more ready to interact and prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault.”

For more information on SHARP at Fort Rucker, or about the training available to units, call 255-9897.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Fort Rucker commits to battling abuse, neglect within community

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The Fort Rucker garrison commander and command sergeant major reaffirmed the post's commitment to preventing child abuse when they signed its Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation April 14 at Parker Elementary School.

Col. Robert J. Holcombe and Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond P. Quitugua Jr. put their signatures on the document after several musical performances by the school's Patriots Band.

Joy McCormick, Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program social worker, read the proclamation to gathered students and parents before the signing.

"Children are the future of our nation," she read. "It is our job to ensure that they grow up with a strong support system. Our MilKids are Priority 1. The aim of CAPM is to raise awareness of both the Department of Defense's and FAP's commitment to keeping military children safe through the prevention of abuse and neglect by highlighting the power of a safe, caring adult in the life of a child."

"Child abuse and neglect prevention is not a one-month assignment – it goes on every day of every year," she continued. "Every caring adult in the community plays a role in supporting the resilience of military children, including those impacted by trauma, abuse or neglect. Regardless of your role in the life of a MilKid, pledge to be a positive influence and help him or her through the harder days by learning what you can do to keep them growing safe and strong."

Holcombe spoke to the audience, as well, starting by congratulating the young musicians. "Good job Patriots!"

Child abuse is unacceptable anywhere it happens, he said, "but the fact that we celebrate Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child in the same month, that's not by accident."

"Our military kids are special. We in the military are used to moving from place to place, and we signed up for that and said send me wherever you need me to go – I'm happy to serve," Holcombe said. "But our family members didn't necessarily agree to that. Certainly, children born into the military never got a vote as to where they were going to move – from place to place, from school to school – having to make new friends every time. That puts a tremendous strain on our kids, and that's why our military kids are so special."

"When you talk about child abuse and neglect, it doesn't matter if you're in the military or not, but because we have that added stress placed on our military families, that presents an environment where it's possibly an increased potential for abuse and neglect," he said, adding that prevention is only half of it.

"We absolutely have to prevent it, but we also have to ensure that our kids are resilient so that they can weather the storms that life brings and they can continue to grow up to be strong adults," Holcombe said.

The colonel added that the Army has gone to great lengths to ensure its individual com-

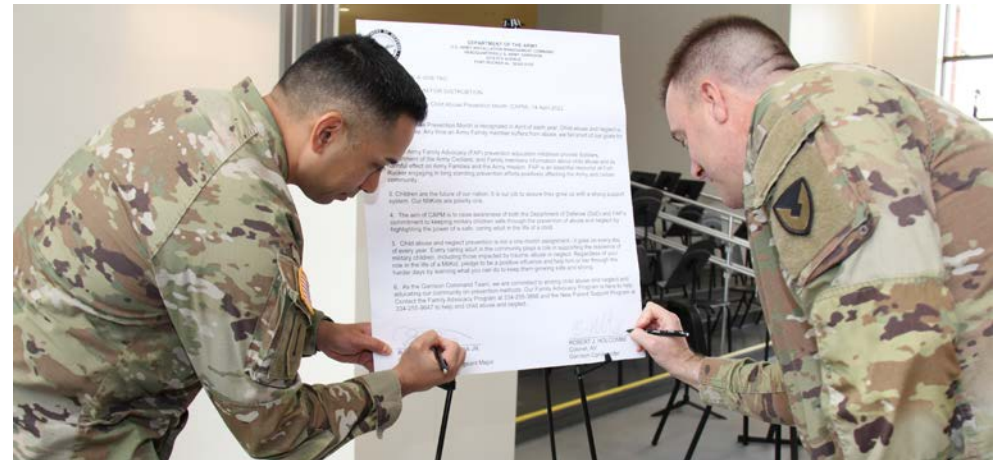


PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Col. Robert J. Holcombe, Fort Rucker garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond P. Quitugua Jr., garrison command sergeant major, sign the Fort Rucker Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation at Parker Elementary School April 14.

munities have the resources they need to battle abuse and neglect.

"One of the things I'm sure you've heard many times from the Army does is the People First focus on management," he continued. "Sometimes I see military members roll their eyes when the commissary is out of certain foods, or the hours of the pool get cut, and they say, 'Yeah, right, people first – they say it but don't mean it!'"

"I would say, look at the FAP program. Look at the fact that we start helping families from Day 1 with our new parent support program – helping young couples who are not sure where to start, not sure how to do this – the FAP team helps take care of our young families and their newborns. And that team continues through all of the ages of childhood, and also helps people with their marriages – they're there to help our families where it matters, where it counts."

"We have an amazing team here," he added. "I would say that if you run into anyone who has questions or are who struggling, send them

to FAP. You don't have to wait until something goes wrong. FAP is there to help with that at that prevention piece – they're there to help all along the way."

The colonel also shared that he and his siblings also all grew up as "military brats."

"We were all stronger for it, and you all will be, too," he said. "We recognize how difficult it is to grow up in the military – it really is a unique way to grow up. We thank servicemembers for what they do for our nation and for their service, but you guys are an important part of that – we couldn't do what we do without the support from our children and our families. I want to tell you all how proud we are of all of you – you probably don't hear it enough."

The Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting events throughout the month to help raise awareness on child abuse prevention. For more information, visit <https://rucker.armymwr.com/>, or call the family advocacy program at 255-3898 or the new parent support program at 255-9647.

POWERING UP

Fort Rucker installs 1st electric vehicle charging station

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker installed its first electric vehicle charging station recently in the Bldg. 5700 parking lot across Novosel Street.

The Level 2, dual-port charger made its first charge April 7, said Alana Klosky, Directorate of Public Works installation energy manager, adding that the service is available for military and privately owned vehicles through the ChargePoint app.

“We are very excited to offer our military, employees, friends and families a place to charge their electric vehicles. This is the first of many Fort Rucker plans to install around the installation,” she said. “Before, we were not able to offer this service to those who needed it. We are already receiving positive feedback regarding the charger, and this helps us when planning the locations of additional chargers.”

“Since this is the only charger available on Fort Rucker, we expect the demand to be high, so we want to regulate parking in these spaces if not charging,” Klosky said, adding that the rates for the service are \$1 an hour while charging

and \$2 an hour after a one-hour grace period upon completion of charging.

Fort Rucker partnered with Alabama Power to bring the charge to the post, and it’s a safe bet that more chargers will be needed in the not-so-distant future, Klosky added.

“The need for EV chargers is expected to grow substantially over the next few years. Executive Order 14057 targets all light-duty, non-tactical vehicle acquisitions be zero-emission vehicles by 2027,” she said, adding that there is a Department of Defense draft “Zero-Emission Vehicle Implementation Guide” to help successfully transition all government-owned vehicles to a ZEV fleet. “The Army directive regarding ZEV NTVs is in the final stages of publication. This directive will encourage innovation and partnership in acquisition of electric vehicle support equipment, performance standards for EV and EVSE acquisitions, and the tools needed to plan and support the transition.”

DPW is developing its long-range EV



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

The electric vehicle charging station in front of Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center. Only vehicles receiving the service are allowed to park in the two spaces next to the charger.

charging plan, Klosky said. “Part of the development process includes estimating the amount of EVs on post currently and following guidance the government provides for future EV acquisitions. I am able to track the usage that the charger is providing, and since there are currently no electric GOVs, I know that every car charging is a privately owned vehicle. This is beneficial in determining the demand of electric POVs on post.”

Many factors went into deciding where to place the government-owned charger.

“Two factors that were weighed heavily were where the existing infrastructure was already in place to help minimize cost, and where the most use would be based off of facility use and location,” Klosky said. “Bldg. 5700 was decided on because of the existing infrastructure, and it being a central location for military, employees and visitors.”

TRADOC emergency manager visits Fort Rucker

By Kelly Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

With hurricane season quickly approaching, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's current operations emergency manager, Jerome Wise, visited the home of Army Aviation to gather information and better understand how the installation conducts emergency management locally March 29-30.

The 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30, and with the Fort Rucker team already focusing on preparedness, Wise felt the timing was ideal for a visit.

Wise said he spent more than a decade in New Orleans and understands the devastation hurricanes like Katrina can cause.

"The last two hurricane seasons were pretty active within the Gulf Coast area," he said.

His goal was to see how Fort Rucker manages and oversees their plan to protect its people and the critical aviation assets.

"It's important for me to understand the centers of excellence and how they do their protection requirements and emergency management requirements," Wise said. "Based on that I'll be able to bring back a good report for our senior leadership at TRADOC."

Wise said part of his job at TRADOC headquarters is tracking any incidents (which he referred to as hazards), and providing information to senior leaders in a timely manner.

"They've got to make the decision but I've got to provide the best information to them so they can make that right decision," he said.

Wise emphasized the importance of protecting the mission, as emergency managers,

so the units can focus on their task at hand of training aviation professionals, with minimal impacts.

"If at any time that mission is disrupted, meaning dealing with hurricanes or any type of events that might hinder operations, that's going to slow the training of those personnel and slows down the mission, and obviously it impacts the Army mission as well," he said.

"Having those emergency preparedness plans in place to protect that is key to the strategic value and mission of the United States Army," he said.

The visit included an orientation flight in a Black Hawk helicopter to see the scope and scale of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence mission, a hurricane condition briefing, and discussions with key USAACE and Fort Rucker personnel.

The enormity of the unique Aviation Center training mission needs to be seen firsthand to be understood: it reaches out beyond the five base fields, 15 stage fields, tactical training sites, and test site in the Wiregrass, according to Cory Greenawalt, USAACE's force protection officer and emergency management coordinator.

"We fly as far as Tennessee, as far south as Florida, we go to Louisiana sometimes, out to Georgia to the coast. We cover a large area," Greenawalt said.

"Our five base fields here at Fort Rucker are classrooms. They're not like any other classroom in the (other) centers of excellence. I've got a 7-mile perimeter around Cairns airfield, and Cairns airfield itself is a classroom.... It's a very unique situation here at Rucker. The more TRADOC understands



PHOTO BY 2ND LT. MICHAEL NEEDHAM

Jerome Wise, current operations emergency manager for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, receives a guided aerial tour of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, with Paul Meissner, USAACE air traffic and airspace officer, and Johnny Rosado, Fort Rucker installation emergency manager March 29.

about our situation, the better they can help us with those resources," Greenawalt said.

Johnny Rosado, Fort Rucker installation emergency manager, said communication is key to preparing for potential hazards, whether it is by phone, the internet, or using video conferencing platforms.

He constantly works with tenant units, state and local emergency responders and emergency managers, to provide a common operating picture.

"My job is to constantly talk to them,

gather information, make sure that we're getting the latest and greatest information to the general so he can make decisions in a timely manner, and constantly doing that throughout the entire process until an 'all clear' or until the crisis or training event is completed," Rosado said.

The team also keeps Installation Management Command and Training and Doctrine Command informed.

Rosado said the installation normally begins its readiness check a few months in

TRADOC cont.

advance of hurricane season. With multiple threats of severe weather in the area in recent weeks, they have been frequently on alert, gathering and providing information to senior leaders to make decisions about the workforce, the training and the aircraft.

During Wise's visit, the Fort Rucker team was actively monitoring an approaching storm that brought high wind gusts and resulted in downed trees in the area.

The team typically starts monitoring the weather 120 hours out, and at 96 hours out they start talking with the senior leader, Rosado said.

Rosado said visits from higher headquarters can help close communication gaps.

"It really puts it in perspective, not just with the aircraft that we have ... and how they're used, but also infrastructure and the personnel that are working there. As we go

into hurricane season, it allows him to get a perspective on how we are constantly monitoring the weather and getting that information to the leadership, especially the tenant units on what they need to do to safeguard those folks and the aircraft," Rosado said.

Wise lauded the Fort Rucker team for their level of preparedness, and he said the time to know how the installation reacts in an emergency is before an incident occurs.

"You can't prepare for an incident when it's happening. You have to prepare prior to. And that's why it's always good to have exercises, and it's good for me to come up here prior to hurricane season, because we're going to be pretty busy," Wise said. "It's good that Mr. Rosado and his team are able to provide a good overview for (Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general) and the team."

children's fest

Fort Rucker hosted its Children's Fest April 9 that was highlighted by the egg hunt for different ages. The total crowd estimate was about 3,000 for the day.

*photos by
Jimmie Cummings*



Army marches forward with Army Service Week

By **Marenda Figgs**
Army News Service

FORT KNOX, Ky. — U.S. Army Recruiting Command launched a new nationwide Army Service Week campaign April 18 to highlight Future Soldiers who have made the decision to serve and inspire others to consider a career in the U.S. Army.

The two-week awareness and recruiting campaign runs through April 29 and will feature about 40 mass enlistment ceremonies in communities across the country.

“We need the nation to see the value a career in the Army offers young adults today,” said Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen, who leads the Army recruiting efforts. “Many people today just don’t understand the benefits we provide and the wide variety of career paths Soldiers can choose.”

Army Service Week aims to address the current awareness challenge using events and social media to reconnect with communities and provide information about career opportunities, current recruiting incentives and employment benefits.

With careers ranging from the well-known infantry and Special Forces roles to positions in information technology and medicine, the Army provides training and education to ensure each Soldier is successful in their chosen career field and more marketable when they transition out of the service.

The intent of Army Service Week is to encourage young adults to visit their local recruiting offices to have a discussion and see if the Army is a fit for their future plans.

The Army has announced a variety of incentives recently to stand out in the current labor market.

“We are in a competition for talent, and we know young people have a lot of options right now,” Vereen said. “We need to have incentives and benefits that will make serving an attractive option when compared to other public and private sector opportunities.”

In January, the Army announced an all-time-high bonus maximum of \$50,000 for certain critical occupations.

The service has also worked to provide predictability by giving thousands of recruits the ability to select their first duty station, including popular locations like Hawaii, Colorado and Germany.

Another current incentive is a two-year enlistment, which offers an option for individuals who aren’t prepared to make a long-term commitment of four or six years right away.

Recruiters across the country will also use Army Service Week to highlight information about current vacancies and the key benefits of service, including technical training, 30 days of paid vacation, health care, money for college classes and certifications, and family support programs.

“We’re in a challenging recruiting environment,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John Foley, senior enlisted leader for U.S. Army Recruiting Command. “All we are asking for is a conversation. The Army isn’t for every-



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one, but we find that many people change their minds about service when they spend some time with a Soldier and truly under-

stand what it’s like to be on our team.”

For more information about careers and benefits in the U.S. Army, visit [GoArmy.com](https://www.goarmy.com).

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

More than a hundred Fort Rucker Soldiers from units across the post held signs and waved pompoms to honor and show appreciation for students arriving at Parker Elementary School for the school day April 19. The event was part of the Month of the Military Child events happening around post this month. For more information on events, visit <https://rucker.armymwr.com/>.



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

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The PAO staff reserves the right to edit submissions selected for publication. For more information about the "Army Flier," call (334) 255-1239.

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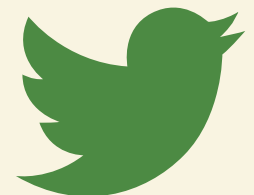
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