

ARMY FLYER

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PHOTO BY AIR FORCE AIRMAN 1ST CLASS EMILY FARNSWORTH

Alaska Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Mikos, a UH-60 helicopter repairer assigned to the Bethel Army Aviation Facility, dresses as Santa for Operation Santa Claus in Napakiak, Alaska, Dec. 3. Operation Santa Claus is an annual event hosted by the Alaska National Guard and the Salvation Army. This partnership serves as a way for the military to care for isolated villages. Napakiak is a village in western Alaska with a population of around 350 people. Volunteers flew into the village to deliver gifts, school supplies, backpacks, ice cream and an opportunity to take a photo with Santa for the entire community.

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'HERE TO GET BETTER'

Leadership hosts housing town hall, vows continuous improvement

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Corvias officials held a housing town hall Nov. 25 at the post theater to hear from on-post residents.

Even though the assembled staff outnumbered residents to the tune of 20 to four, Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, interpreted the extremely low turnout as a positive statement on the state of housing on Fort Rucker.

"Judging by the few people that showed up tonight, we're doing pretty well," Francis said at the conclusion of the event. "We're always trying to get better, though, and improve upon the excellence that we've achieved. I appreciate all of you participating tonight. If you ever run across an issue, don't hesitate to bring it up to me, or to the garrison or Corvias leadership and staff. We'll certainly take a stab at getting it right."

At the start of the town hall, Francis set the tone for the event by emphasizing how seriously he and Army leadership takes the issue of quality housing for Soldiers and families.

"When you listen to Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville, he talks about how people are our No. 1 priority and underneath that priority he lists several things he wants to do," he said. "Housing is one of them, along with medical care, child development centers, education and spouse employment – these are all things that he is going after very hard. Thus, we are here tonight to handle one of those things, which is the state of our housing."

"We are truly here to get better," Francis continued. "We think we're already doing very well at Fort Rucker, but there is always room for improvement and hopefully you guys will give us something to work on here tonight."

The only comments received from residents were about a tree that poses a hazard with falling limbs, and a comment about replacing carpets in housing with linoleum flooring. Melissa Bryson, the Corvias operations director at Fort Rucker, said the tree would be looked at immediately and that Corvias intends to look into replacing carpet with plank flooring once current projects are complete.

She also spoke about ongoing renovations in Munson Heights, heating and air conditioning improvements to be made in Allen Heights homes starting in December, weatherproofing and energy upgrades starting in April, improvements to playgrounds and the completed project to remove trees deemed hazards.

"It's an incredibly exciting time," she said of all the improvement going on. "We are very excited about all of these projects and we look forward to seeing them thorough to the finish line."

Bryson also brought up the ongoing housing survey, which all residents should have received information on via email, encouraging all residents to complete it to let Corvias and Army leadership know what they are doing right and they need to improve on.

"It is really quick and easy," she said. "It only takes about five minutes to complete."

Corvias officials take a look at the anon-



Our housing team at Fort Rucker is extremely proactive and efficient. They always aim to do what is best for our residents – our Soldiers and their families.

- Col. Whitney B. Gardner
Fort Rucker garrison commander

ymous surveys as they come in, and Bryson said the early results are encouraging.

"The feedback that we've received has been very positive, and we've also received some constructive feedback, which is great because that gives us an opportunity to improve," she said.

While Fort Rucker is one of the top dogs in the Army in the percentage of residents having filled out the survey – third in the Army at 27 percent, according to Van Danford, chief of housing for the Directorate of Public Works – more feedback is needed to ensure housing residents' needs are met the way they should be.

"It's a good way for residents to voice their opinions," Danford said. "It's the only way that we know that we're doing the job that we're supposed to be doing, and that we're doing what the residents need us to be doing."

He added that while the surveys are anonymous, people can add their contact information and bring up issues they are experiencing at the end of the survey, and Corvias will contact them immediately to resolve the problem.

"We have a good partner in Corvias," Danford said. "They're working hard for the Soldiers and families."

The garrison commander, Col. Whitney B. Gardner, echoed those sentiments.

"Our housing team at Fort Rucker is extremely proactive and efficient. They always aim to do what is best for our residents – our Soldiers and their families," Gardner said. "They attack problems quickly when they crop up and take corrective actions, but the real difference maker is that they solve future problems. They take steps now that will help Soldiers and families of the future without impacting current residents."

"Our entire housing team is responsive to customers – they are never satisfied and always want to provide the best product that they can," he continued. "It is truly a relationship built on earned trust."

All housing residents should've received emails about the survey by now, Bryson said. If residents do not receive the email notification or have a different email account than listed with Corvias, they should contact CEL & Associates at ARMYHousingSurvey@cel-associates.com, and include Fort Rucker and their full address.

"We appreciate residents taking the time to complete this survey," she added. "Our on-site team is available to answer any additional questions and can be reached by calling 334-440-8988."



PHOTO BY JIMMIE CUMMINGS

The Maneuver Center of Excellence Band from Fort Benning, Ga., performs at the CG's Holiday Concert Dec. 10 at the post theater.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Fort Rucker ushers in holidays with tree lighting, CG's concert

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker ushered in the holiday season with its annual tree lighting Dec. 5 at Howze Field and continued spreading the holiday spirit at the Commanding General's Holiday Concert Dec. 10 at the post theater.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, officially started the holiday season on post by lighting the Christmas tree with an assist from the three Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Christmas ornament contest

winners, and also CW5 Jonathan P. Koziol, chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian N. Hauke, Aviation Branch command sergeant major.

"We hope you all take the opportunity this holiday season to spend time with your families and all of those things that are most important to you to recharge yourselves spiritually and physically – take advantage of this special time of the year," Francis said at the ceremony. "It is truly important that we honor the service and sacrifice of not just all



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Kat DeVaney, Rhaegen McLean and Aubriauna Sweeting, winners of the DFMWR Christmas ornament contest, help Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, CW5 Jonathan P. Koziol, chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian N. Hauke, Aviation Branch command sergeant major, light the post's Christmas tree Dec. 5 at Howze Field as Mike Kozlowski, DFMWR, emcees.

Holidays *cont.*

of the Soldiers out there, but for our family members, too, who serve alongside us.”

He also reminded people to remain vigilant. “In the coming days and weeks, whether you’re traveling or staying here, please be safe. Happy holidays and merry Christmas!”

Five days later, the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band traveled from Fort Benning, Georgia, to take to the stage at the post theater to help Fort Rucker continue its holiday celebration, with William G. Kidd, deputy to the commanding general, serving as host.

“This is a very special time of the year

for everyone. For some, it’s the pageantry of all of the events, such as these; for others, it is a time to celebrate the beginning of Christianity and the road to redemption; and for all of us, it is an opportunity to gather together with family and friends to share in the joy and happiness of the season,” Kidd said.

He also thanked those in attendance for their support of Fort Rucker, and USAACE and its “important mission of generating aviators for the U.S. Army and for our country.”

Kidd also asked those in attendance to “take an opportunity to let Soldiers and

their families know how much you appreciate their service and sacrifice, whether it’s here in this auditorium, outside on Fort Rucker, or wherever you are, and thank them as they stand watch over our families, our freedoms and our way of life.

“I would also ask you during this time in the upcoming days and weeks as you travel, and gather with family and friends, please remember to take care of one another, stay safe and we wish you a very happy holiday season,” he said.

CG’S HOLIDAY MESSAGE

On behalf of Mr. Kidd, CSM Hauke and CW5 Koziol, I would like to wish the USAACE and Fort Rucker team the very best this holiday season, and a Merry Christmas.

How fortunate we are to live in this great Nation, and serve side by side with the very best Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians in our Army. You provide our Army the best trained and equipped Aviation force in the world, every day.

As you reflect on 2019, know that what you do matters. Your accomplishments ensure our national security, and enable this country to continue to be a beacon of hope to the world.

We could not accomplish these feats without our families. Take the time to spend quality time with family and friends, and let them know how important they are!

We also thank all of the communities and Veterans in the Wiregrass, true patriots that enable our critical mission though



selfless service.

As always, we keep our deployed Aviators and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Again, the USAACE command team wishes all of you a safe, happy holiday season and a Merry Christmas!

Above the Best!

MG Francis



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Santa Claus greets Soldiers and family members at the tree lighting ceremony.

NEED FOR SPEED

Speeding on post puts lives at risk

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

People fulfilling their need for speed while driving on post may find themselves in need of a pay raise to cover the resulting costs associated with getting a ticket on post.

And while the costs of the ticket, the processing fees and the inevitable increase in insurance premiums do add up, building the government's coffers isn't why Fort Rucker law enforcement officials are cracking down on speeders – it's to keep the community safe, said Marcel Dumais, Fort Rucker chief of police.

"The speed limits on post are set as they are for a reason," the police chief said. "It has to do with how the roads are on post -- it's for safety. We're just trying to keep the installation safe for everyone."

With so many children on the post, especially in the housing areas and around the schools, along with student formations, the numerous crosswalks and the general pedestrian traffic associated with a busy Army installation, drivers obeying the speed limit and keeping their attention on the road is vital to keeping the people of Fort Rucker safe – possibly saving a few seconds on a commute isn't worth putting people's lives at risk, Dumais said.

"Please pay particular attention in the housing areas," he added. "The children may not know any better, so when they're chasing a ball they may go running into the street after it. If we're obeying the 20 mph speed limits,



FILE PHOTO

it allows us that response zone, if you will, so we're not hitting children."

And another consideration are the roads on post – they're just not made for some of the speeds law enforcement officers are seeing

people doing, Dumais added.

"We don't have a highway on post, but we have seen some speeds on radar that are at those highway levels of speed," he said.

Fort Rucker has a speed level of 30 in most

areas of the post, but the limit decreases to 20 mph in the housing areas and 10 mph in parking lots. The speed limit increases to 40 mph on the long stretches of outer roads to places like the Ozark and Enterprise gates,

SPEED *cont.*

Dumais said.

"We've seen speeds in excess of 70-75 mph (on those roads)," the police chief said. "And we do get quite a few 20 overs on the installation also. Where that becomes a problem is our road network is not built for those types of speed, so there is a hazard associated with that."

He added that some people's lead feet feel

tempted to take over on these long stretches, but those roads are narrow, the trees come up close to the roadways and curbs are sometimes very close to the driving areas.

"We're concerned about that because if there ever is an accident associated with those speeds it could be catastrophic," Dumais said. "We've been extremely lucky that we have not had any real serious accidents

where there was loss of life. Most accidents on installation are in the parking lots or in the cantonment area on the surface streets where speeds are slow and impacts are minimal – there's property damage, but very rarely are there injuries. Again, for people, their vehicles, their insurance – everything is going to be impacted by that. And even a small amount of damage on a vehicle these

days you're probably talking \$1,500-\$2,000 cost to fix something minor."

Even though law enforcement is increasing its efforts to nab lawbreakers on the roads lately, it doesn't necessarily mean there's an epidemic of speeding on post, the chief said. "There's always speeding on Fort Rucker, or if you look at local municipalities there's a certain amount of speeding that happens every day," he said. "I don't think we've seen a spike in speeding on the installation, there's just a consistent amount of speeding, but we are trying to get after it with some of our radar ops on installation – we need people to slow down."

On top of slowing down, Dumais reminds people not to use radar detectors on post, as it is against Department of Defense policy and people will be ticketed for using the devices.

He also reminds people to keep an eye out for wildlife. "As the weather cools off, deer are more likely to be moving around -- we normally see an increase in deer strikes in December and January."

But his main warning is for those looking to fulfill that need for speed.

"I really recommend they don't do that," he said. "We are the enforcement arm, we're going to be out there running radar and we're doing a lot of random radar operations on the installation to try to slow people down. There are a lot of potential sensors out there on the installation and I would just ask you to obey the rules."

"A traffic law is just like an Army standard," Dumais added. "There are standards for a reason, and there are laws that we have to follow as far as traffic laws are concerned for public safety. I ask people to just adhere to those."

SPEEDING ON POST? IT CAN COST YOU.

Soldiers and civilians alike face steep fines if caught speeding on post. If found guilty of speeding, drivers face a **\$35** court fee and additional fines, including:

11-15 MPH OVER: \$125
16-20 MPH OVER: \$150
21-25 MPH OVER: \$175

Traffic points are also assessed for each offense, and a person's driving privileges could be suspended if enough points are accumulated during a 12-month period.

SLOW DOWN. STAY SAFE.



‘IT’S BEEN A GOOD DAY’

Family legacy of service takes on special meaning for Army flight school grad

By Kelly Morris

USAACE Public Affairs

Sitting on the beach in Puerto Rico only a few years ago, Warrant Officer Fernando Torrent was talking with his father about his options for the future, when they saw a UH-72 helicopter of the Puerto Rico National Guard flying nearby.

His father, now-retired Col. Fernando L. Torrent, who shares a family namesake, encouraged his son to don the uniform and become part of a family legacy as he and other members of the Torrent family had done.

Pointing to the helicopter in the sky above them, he said to his son, “Just do that. Fly helicopters.”

For Warrant Officer Torrent, at the time it was hard to comprehend a future as an aviator in the U.S. Army.

But soon he decided to pursue the Army’s Warrant Officer Flight Training Program, known as “Street to Seat,” and on Nov. 21, his father proudly pinned the Aviation wings on the newest member of the family to raise his right hand to serve – when he graduated flight school as a Black Hawk pilot during a ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

As family and friends gathered around their respective graduates that day to congratulate them, the Torrent family celebrated their own, with hugs and smiles to mark this milestone accomplishment.

But there was even more to come for the Torrent family that day.

A second ceremony followed, honoring a



PHOTOS BY KELLY MORRIS

Torrent family members pose for a group photo on the day of W01 Fernando Torrent’s graduation from flight school. On the same day, awards were presented to the Torrent family for the service of Pfc. Fernando Torrent who served with the 65th Infantry Regt. and was killed in action in Korea. Pictured left to right are: W01 Fernando Torrent, retired Maj. Francisco L. Torrent, Francisco Torrent and retired Col. Fernando L. Torrent.

legacy of service that reached back across six decades, and around to the other side of the world.

Warrant Officer Torrent’s great uncle, Pfc. Fernando Torrent, was a Puerto Rican Soldier who fought with the 65th Infantry Regiment and was killed in action from wounds suffered from small arms fire in

Korea in March 1951.

As an 18-year-old Puerto Rican, Private Torrent made the “life-changing decision to join the military and serve his country,” retired Colonel Torrent said.

The Puerto Rican regiment Private Torrent served with was a famous Hispanic unit and the sole unit from the Korean War

to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. The “Borinqueneers,” (from the Tiano name of the island of Puerto Rico), are renowned for their pioneering military service, devotion to duty and their acts of valor since the unit’s creation in 1920.

When the Chinese attacked U.S. forces in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir in 1950,

FAMILY *cont.*

the regiment assisted with Task Force Dog, the withdrawal of the 1st Marine Division from the beachhead, so they could be evacuated from northeastern Korea.

In 1951, the unit participated in Operation Thunderbolt, which was a reconnaissance in force; and Operation Exploitation, an exploitation to the Han River. The unit advanced to an area just south of Seoul when they were ordered to seize multiple hills held by the Chinese. The assault began on Jan. 31 and by Feb. 2, with the objective within reach, two battalions fixed bayonets and charged the enemy position, forcing out the communist soldiers. It is credited as the last battalion-sized bayonet charge in U.S. history.

Noting their gallantry, Gen. Douglas MacArthur wrote that the Soldiers of the 65th Infantry provided “daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory, their invincible loyalty to the United States ... and I am indeed proud to have them under my command.”

Retired Colonel Torrent explained how Private Torrent personified the Army Values.

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but moving forward regardless,” he said.

His uncle volunteered out of a conviction that “something had to be done,” retired Colonel Torrent explained.

“I think he did it out of a sense of patriotism, and also to be with his buddies. Because it was the right thing to do at that time, the call to arms--very similar to World War I and World War II, especially World War II. A lot of people did it on 9/11. People felt, ‘hey, I have to join, I have to do something,’” he said.

After Private Torrent was killed in action, the family never received his service medals, so when Colonel Torrent retired from the Army, he devoted time to track down infor-

mation about the uncle he never met.

The Human Resources Command and the National Personnel Records Center were able to access the decades-old service records, and the awards were shipped to the family in 2017. Then when Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico that year as a deadly Category 5 hurricane, any planning for ceremonial recognition had to be put on hold.

The opportunity for posthumous presentation to the family of the Purple Heart, Gold Star pin and Congressional Gold Medal finally came, with Warrant Officer Torrent’s graduation from flight school. All the family would be together at Fort Rucker, including Private Torrent’s brother, Francisco Torrent, who received the award.

Presenting the awards was Col. Chad Chasteen, chief of staff for the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, who commended not only Private Torrent’s service, but also the commitment and resilience of the Army family.

“Today, we honored the heroism of Private First Class Fernando Torrent, who is gone but not forgotten, and hopefully provided some closure to a deserving military family with a long history of service to our great nation.

“I consider myself very fortunate to play a small role in the presentation of the Purple Heart, the oldest decoration in our military, to the brother of a Soldier that made the ultimate sacrifice nearly seven decades ago during the Korean Conflict. I will never forget the look of pride on Mr. Francisco Torrent’s face as he proudly received the Purple Heart on behalf of his long lost brother’s bravery,” Chasteen said.

The patriotic family welcomed the long-awaited recognition.

“Service means everything to us,” said retired Colonel Torrent. “The blanket of free-



Retired Col. Fernando Torrent embraces his son, Warrant Officer Fernando Torrent, after the ceremonial pinning of his son's Aviation wings during the flight school graduation ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Nov. 21.

dom we enjoy here in our land is provided by the military. If there is any way we can support it, we will find a way to do that. Our way is joining the military and being part of it.”

The family expressed their gratitude on a doubly special day.

“We will always be very appreciative and always be indebted to Leigh Ann Dukes and Colonel Chasteen and the Aviation Center of Excellence leadership for what they have done for us,” said retired Colonel Torrent.

Reflecting on the family tradition of service, he said it was an honor to be named after his uncle, and to pass that name to his

own son.

For Warrant Officer Torrent, with his flight school graduation diploma in hand and anticipating an upcoming assignment at Fort Bliss, Texas, the day’s events could be summed up in one word.

“Pride,” he said. “Just coming into this knowing I’m following a family legacy, it fills me with pride at this moment. I had a few tears in my eyes just imagining that I had someone with my name – I have someone who actually died in a conflict. It’s just very emotional. It’s been a great day.”



'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Student ambassadors at Edmund W. Rucker Elementary (Primary Campus) pose with food the entire student body collected from Oct. 1 to Nov. 20 for donation to local foodbanks. The school held an assembly Nov. 22 where the ambassadors presented the food to representatives from Daleville First United Methodist Church and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Enterprise. Students placed 10 items in each bag, giving them a lesson in counting by 10s while giving back to the community. Pre-kindergarten students decorated the brown bags.



The Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety Department of the Army Security Guards section donated food to the Coffee County Association of Service Agencies to benefit area foodbanks Nov. 26. This is the 10th straight year that the security guards have donated food to local Wiregrass charities. Lt. Col. Phillip Lenz, DPS director, said the donation by the security guards, the Gatekeepers of Fort Rucker, shows their hearts are in the right place as they give back to the community after giving so much of themselves each and every day to keep the community safe.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE

FOR DEC. 13-DEC. 28

Friday, Dec. 13

The Good Liar (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Playing with Fire (PG) 2 p.m.
1917 (R) *Free admission -- studio appreciation screening -- tickets available at exchange food court, seating opens up to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to show time 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 15

Playing with Fire (PG) 1 p.m.
Harriet (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Last Christmas (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 20

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13) 4 p.m.
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker - 3D (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker - 3D (PG-13) 4 p.m.
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 22

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13) 1 p.m.
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 26

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 27

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker - 3D (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 28

Last Christmas (PG-13) 4 p.m.
21 Bridges (R) 7 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$6 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARDHOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.

'WE MUST GET THIS RIGHT'

Surgeon general reaffirms promise of quality care during DHA transfer

By **Brandon O'Connor**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The military's top health officials testified before Congress Dec. 5 on the ongoing transfer of healthcare systems to the Defense Health Agency.

In October 2018, the Army, Navy and Air Force started the process to transfer the administration and management of their military medical treatment facilities to DHA.

Phase II of that transition was completed this fall with roughly half of the MTFs in the continental U.S. now under the DHA. All other hospitals and clinics, including those overseas, will follow suit by 2021.

"We all share a common commitment to ensuring our Military Health System is manned, organized, trained and equipped to meet the needs of our services and the joint force," Lt. Gen. Scott Dingle told lawmakers.

Dingle, who was sworn in as the Army's surgeon general in September, represents over 130,000 Soldiers and civilians in Army Medicine.

Dingle and other military surgeons general joined defense health officials on Capitol Hill to testify before the House Armed Service Committee's subcommittee on military personnel.

In his testimony, Dingle said the transfer has been transparent and the Army continues to offer high quality and safe healthcare to Soldiers, their families and retirees.

"As we reform and reorganize, we are committed to providing ready and respon-

sive health services and force health protection," he said.

Since coming into his new position, Dingle said he established five priorities -- ready, reformed, reorganized, responsive and relevant -- that will serve as guidelines during the transition.

He vowed the Army Medicine force will be ready to deploy, fight and win when called upon; be reformed in accordance with the law; reorganized to support Army modernization; responsive to the demands of multi-domain operations; and relevant to the rapid changes in modern warfare.

Informed decisions, he added, will also be made as the Army realigns almost 7,000 military medical billets to fill modernization requirements in its operating force.

A four-year plan is now in place for these reductions, with only unoccupied billets being removed this fiscal year to minimize impacts on access to care, officials have said.

"The Army is continually assessing the risks with changes to medical end strength," Dingle said. "Personnel changes currently under review are a necessary part of our modernization and our force shaping."

About 18,000 uniformed medical billets across the Defense Department are slated to be affected throughout the transition.

"[We're] better organizing and integrating our direct care system to form a true unified medical enterprise that can improve



PHOTO BY MARCY SANCHEZ

Col. Adrienne Ari, an optometrist at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, performs an eye examination Sept. 19.

our effectiveness and efficiency," said Thomas McCaffery, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The changes, he said, are necessary to improve the readiness of medical personnel as well as combat forces who may one day face near-peer threats in contested areas.

"In order to advance these goals, we believe the Military Health System, like the rest of the Department of Defense, must adapt and change in order to carry out our mission in an ever-evolving security environment," he said.

Previous joint efforts to medical care have often seen success on the battlefield, such as historically high survival rates for combat wounds and low rates of disease and non-battle injuries, said Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, director of DHA.

"These successes reflect processes in which joint solutions contributed to these outcomes," he told lawmakers.

Today, the DHA has a broad range of

combat support responsibilities. These include managing the Armed Services Blood Program, Joint Trauma System, public health, armed forces medical examiners, medical logistics, health information technology, and more, he said.

The agency also oversees MHS Genesis, a new electronic health record that provides upgraded, secure technology for patients to manage their health information. And further, it is enhancing TRICARE services for all beneficiaries.

"The DHA was established to strengthen our health system in both the deployed settings and in the fixed healthcare facilities around the world," Place said.

As it deals with people's health, Dingle said that Army Medicine will ensure a smooth transition of its operations to DHA.

"For the service and sacrifice of our Soldiers and their families, we must get this right," he said. "This is our solemn obligation to our nation."

GO ARMY - BEAT NAVY!

Army-Navy uniform tells story of Army Division

By **Brandon O'Connor**
Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- When the players on the Army West Point football team take the field, they do so for more than themselves.

They represent the U.S. Military Academy and the generations of graduates who make up the Long Gray Line. They play for the U.S. Army and those who have fought and died protecting America. And each week during the season, they play for a particular division of the Army and the Soldiers currently serving and who have served in it.

For most of the regular season, the division is honored by a patch on the back of the players' helmets. But for the past three years during the Army-Navy Game, the Black Knights have honored one of the Army's divisions by wearing an entire uniform telling the division's story.

The new uniform tradition started with a design telling the story of the 82nd Airborne Division. So far, the 10th Mountain Division and 1st Infantry Division have also been honored.

This year, Army will take the field in honor of the 1st Cavalry Division and tell the story of the Soldiers' role in the Vietnam War as America's first airmobility division.

The 1st Cav's role as the honored division was kept secret until the uniform was unveiled Dec. 5 in front of the assembled Corps of Cadets, but the process of designing the uniform for the game each year is an 18-month collaboration between Nike and



PHOTOS BY DANNY WILD, USA TODAY

This year, Army will take the field in honor of the 1st Cavalry Division and tell the story of the Soldiers' role in the Vietnam War as America's first airmobility division.

West Point's Department of History.

The cycle of divisions is decided three to four years in advance by West Point's Athletic Department, and each design process starts about a year and a half out from the game. This year's uniform hasn't been unveiled yet, but most of the work is already done on 2020's uniform and the process for 2021 will start to ramp up in the near future.

After the division is selected, step one of the process is determining the timeline that will be honored. For the 82nd Airborne it

was World War II and for the 1st Infantry Division they highlighted World War I for the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice.

Then, Nike's designer in partnership with the USMA history department starts doing research and crafting the story the uniform will tell.

"It is almost like a method actor preparing for a role," Kristy Lauzonis, senior graphic designer for Nike college football uniforms, said. "I just go as deep as human-

ly possible with the research. I order books, read everything I can under the sun and then that is when I start hitting the history department back with all kinds of crazy questions."

With help from the Department of History, Lauzonis goes through photos and artifacts of the unit from the chosen timeline and starts working to craft a uniform that will authentically tell the story of the unit. Some elements are predetermined by NCAA rules such as whether the uniform is light or dark depending on if Army is home or away, but

NEW UNIFORM *cont.*

everything from colors of elements to fonts are built from scratch in order to make them historically accurate.

On the first uniform, the flag on the players' shoulder may have looked backward to a casual observer, but it was placed the way it was worn in World War II. On the 10th Mountain Uniform, the popular Pando Commando logo wasn't something created by Nike, but was instead a little used logo found during the research process. On last year's uniforms, the Black Lions were to tell the story of the 28th Infantry Regiment and the first major combat for American forces in World War I.

"I think one of the great things about being authentic to history is you will have those moments like where you've done something where it is 100% authentic and people aren't aware of it," Lauzonis said. "That is that bonus element where everyone is saying the flag is backward and we are able to say it pre-existed flag code and this is exactly how it was worn on the uniform and we purposely did it that way. It is not just a company woops we flipped the flag the wrong way. We are never going to do that."

Throughout the entire process, the USMA history department is fact checking elements on the uniform and making sure they accurately represent the division's history and the timeline being depicted. That includes checking colors such as the red used in last year's Big Red One on the helmet and making sure each insignia used is authentic and historically accurate.

"We provide historical context and then of course, the Nike designers are amazing," Steve Waddell, an assistant professor in the Department of History, said. "They've got to kind of translate a historical idea concept to actually make it work on a real uniform and have the color contrasts and everything work



In 2017 Army represented the 10th Mountain Division with its Army-Navy uniform.

CADET HENRY GUERRA

... I'm a World War II historian and we did the 82nd Airborne for the first one. It's just exciting that they're tying the sport of football to military history and military history is always popular."

Along with assisting in the uniform design, the USMA history department helps tell the story of the uniform and the division through the athletic department's microsite, which is created as part of the unveil each year.

There the elements of the uniform are explained, and the story of the division is told in detail.

"The Army's business is people," Capt. Alexander Humes, an instructor in the Department of History, said. "That's why it's also important to tell the story of this unit and the people that were part of this unit and to take this as an opportunity to do that. This presents the Army a great opportunity in something as highly visible as the Army-Navy Game to be able to tell its story to the American public."

This year's uniform pulls elements from the 1st Cav's Vietnam War era uniforms and the pants were designed to resemble the motif of the UH-1 "Hueys" the Soldiers flew

during the war.

"I hope that for the folks that are in or have a relationship to the unit, that they feel like their story is being told authentically," Lauzonis said of her goal when designing the uniform each year. "That they feel like they now have something they can wear with pride and that we've done right by them with the storytelling."

The annual rivalry game against the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis will take place Dec. 14 in Philadelphia.



FROM DFMWR



Visit Fort Rucker Army Community Service on Facebook for a calendar of our activities!

SWGC HOLIDAY SALE

The Silver Wings Golf Course holiday sale runs through Dec. 24. Select any in-stock item for purchase. When you are ready to checkout, pick a stocking from the tree for a special holiday discount to be applied to your purchase.

The sale does not include demo club purchases, range tokens, or club repair or grip replacement services, all Ping golf equipment, clearance sale items or special orders.

For more information, call 255-0089.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Dec. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon at The Landing. Enjoy the Military Family Special for only \$32.99, which admits two adults and up to two children, ages 12 and under.

Individual pricing is \$12.99 for ages 13 and older, \$6.99 for ages 3-12, and free for ages 2 and under. Reservations are highly recommended.

For more information, call 255-0769.

TREES FOR TROOPS

Fed EX Corp. and the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation are joining forces again for a special delivery to America's service members and their families with the Trees for Troops program.

Here at Fort Rucker trees will be given to the first 150 Soldiers or family members in line with a valid military ID – active duty or family member.

Trees will be given out at the arts and crafts Center Dec. 14 starting at 8 a.m. until the trees are gone on a first-come, first-served basis.

There will be BOSS Soldiers on site to help with loading, but they will not be able

to deliver trees directly to your home. Please bring straps or ropes to secure trees to your vehicle for transport.

The Merry Mile run is also being held at the center Dec. 14, so there may be some traffic delays along Ruf Avenue.

Trees will be located in the back parking and loading dock area of the center. You can enter the area from behind the post exchange area to avoid Ruf during the road closure for the run.

For more information, call 255-1749.

SPIN CHALLENGE

The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will host a spin challenge Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m.

The two-hour fitness challenge is open to all authorized PFC patrons for \$3.50, or people can use their class card. There will be door prizes and refreshments at each challenge.

For more information, call 255-3794.

MAD SCIENTIST WORKSHOP

The Center Library would like to encourage future innovators, educators and leaders with its holiday-themed Mad Scientist Workshop scheduled for Dec. 19 from 4-5 p.m.

The event will explore the world of color-coding with the help of Ozobot robots. Participants will design codes to help Santa's robot elves navigate mazes and decorate the workshop.

The program is open to ages 7-12. Registration is limited to the first 15 participants. All supplies will be provided.

The event is open to authorized patrons and will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

For more information or to register, visit the library or call 255-3885.

QUILTS OF VALOR

The arts and crafts center will host quilting workshops conducted by the Quilts of Valor Foundation Dec. 20.

Participants will piece together quilts under the instruction of experienced Quilts of Valor quilters. Finished quilts will be presented to wounded warriors as a show of honor and comfort. Any skill level can participate as various tasks of the quilting process will be needed. The free workshops are open to the public, ages 16 and over. People should register for the workshop at least two days prior to the event. If you cannot attend the entire workshop, you can still participate.

For more information or to register for the free workshop, call 255-9020.

CHRISTMAS HAM SHOOT

Silver Wings Golf Course will host its Ham Shoot Dec. 21 with tee times from 7-9 a.m. Cost is \$20 per player plus carts and green fees if applicable. Stableford Tournament Format USGA Handicap or Weekend Dogfight points will be used. Ham and gift certificates will be awarded as prizes. Registration deadline is Dec. 21 at 9 a.m. The event is open to the public.

For more information, call 255-0089.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host its holiday workshop Dec. 23-27. Youth are invited to visit and have fun with holiday activities such as gingerbread house making, cooking, decorating, caroling, games, crafts and more.

For more information, call 255-2271.

UGLY SWEATER BOWLING PARTY

Rucker Lanes will host its Christmas Eve Ugly Sweater Bowling Party Dec. 24 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. where people get two games of bowling and shoe rental for \$5 when they wear an ugly sweater.

For more information, call 255-9503.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BOWLING PARTY

Rucker Lanes will host its Pin-Down Countdown New Year's Eve Bowling Party Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per lane for up to five guests that includes shoe rental; 90 minutes of unlimited bowling; a 14-inch, one-topping pizza; and bottomless fountain sodas. Add additional time for \$15 per hour, per lane. Reservations are strongly recommended.

For more information, call 255-9503.

FORT RUCKER BIG BUCK CONTEST

Outdoor recreation continues its Big Buck Contest through Feb. 10. Participants must be registered before harvesting their buck and the buck must be harvested on Fort Rucker to qualify. Fort Rucker requires that individuals ages 16 and older have an Alabama State Hunting License, a Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit – available at isportsman.net – and a Hunter Education Card. Entry fee is \$25 per person and open to the public.

For more information and to register, call 255-4305.

LITERARY LEAGUE

The Center Library's book club for adults is back with a new name and a new attitude – the Literary League. The club will meet the third Tuesday of every month from 5-6 p.m. for an evening devoted to the appreciation

of literature. Enjoy good books, intelligent discussion and light refreshments. The club is for people ages 18 and up.

For more information, visit the Center Library or call 255-3885.

YOUTH SPORTS SOCCER REGISTRATION

Youth sports spring soccer registration runs through Jan. 15. All interested participants must have a current sports physical and a valid child and youth services registration.

Children must meet the age requirements by Nov. 30, 2019.

Cost is \$25 for youth ages 3-4 and \$45

for youth ages 5-14 years. Additional children will receive a percentage discount to be determined at parent central services during registration. Practices will begin on or about Jan. 20, and the season will begin Feb. 17 and end March 21. There will be a parents meeting Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. in the youth center gym, located on Seventh Avenue. Coaches are needed for the league. If interested, call 255-2254 or 255-0950. To register children for the league, visit parent central services or use Webtrac.

For more information, call 255-2254 or 255-9105.

COFFEE AND FRIENDS

Do you need help understanding military life? Are you new to Fort Rucker, or just looking to make some new friends? Join us for Coffee and Friends hosted by ACS at the Bowden Terrace Community Center from 9-11 a.m. the first Friday of every month.

For more information, call 255-3898.

NEW YEAR'S DANCE PARTY

The youth center will host its New Year's Dance Party Jan. 4. The event will feature dancing, food, games, prizes and more. For more information, call 255-2260.

MAKER FAIRE GRAND OPENING

Calling all crafters, scientists, hobbyists, tinkerers, artists, engineers, and designers. Join the Center Library in a family-friendly showcase of invention and creativity during its MakerSpace grand opening Jan. 7 from 3:30-5 p.m.

Maybe you're interested in exploring programming with a Raspberry Pi, or perhaps you're more interested in scrapbooking a raspberry pie recipe – the MakerSpace will have something for everyone.

For more information, visit the Center Library or call 255-3885.



Breakfast with Santa
8 am–Noon | December 14
Join The Landing for Breakfast with Santa!

Breakfast includes:

- Pancakes • Bacon
- Eggs • Fruits & more!

\$12.99 ages 13+
\$6.99 ages 3 – 12
FREE ages 2 & under

\$32.99 Military Family Special
(two adults and up to two children ages 12 and under)

Reservations are highly recommended!
THE LANDING
Bldg. 113, Novosel Street (334) 255-0769

Fort Rucker MWR
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rucker.armymwr.com



Merry MILE 5K Fun Run
December 14 • 9 am
Arts & Crafts Center
Bldg. 9205 located on Ruf Ave.

Race Day registration will be from 7:30 - 8:45 am.
This event is **FREE** and open to the public! Children will receive a medal from Santa at the finish line!

Christmas Spirit Contest: Don't forget to wear your most festive Christmas attire for our most Christmas spirit contest. Judging begins at 8:30 am at the customer service tent.

Awards Categories: Most Festive Adult, Child, Family, and Furry Friend
Hot Chocolate will be provided.

SPONSORED BY: Academy Sports + Outdoors, MITCHELL AUTOMOTIVE

Sponsorship does not imply Army or DoD endorsement.

PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER
Bldg. 4605, Andrews Ave. (334) 255-2296 / 1951
Bldg. 5900, Skychief St. (334) 255-3794

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rucker.armymwr.com



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NEWS IN BRIEF

GATE CLOSURES

Faulkner and Newton gates will be closed Dec. 20 to Jan. 2. They will resume normal operating hours Jan. 3.

CORVIAS SCHOLARSHIPS

Corvias Foundation recently began accepting 2020 scholarship applications from military spouses and children of active-duty service members.

The application process for the military dependent student scholarship will close Feb. 14, while the military spouse scholarship application process will close May 8. Both scholarship programs offer financial support for eligible applicants pursuing higher education degrees.

The military-dependent student recipients will each receive a four-year college scholarship of up to \$50,000. The military

spouse scholarships will be awarded to 20 individuals who will each receive an award of \$5,000.

These funds can be used for any need that will help the recipients complete their degree, such as tuition, childcare or gas for transportation.

Individuals who are interested in applying can visit corviasfoundation.org/apply-now/ to review eligibility criteria and access the application.

RETIREE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Fort Rucker Installation Retiree Council meets the first Thursday of each month in The Landing at 11:30 a.m. The meeting is an open forum and all retirees are invited to attend.

Retirees are also encouraged to apply for one of the open positions on the council.

For more information, call 255-9124.

SIREN TEST

The Installation Operations Center conducts a test of the emergency mass notification system the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m.

At that time people will hear the siren over the giant voice. No actions are required.

THRIFT SHOP

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The thrift shop needs people's unwanted items.

People can drop off donations at any time in the shed behind the shop (former Armed Forces Bank building) located in front of the theater next door to the bowling alley. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 255-9595.

CORVIAS SERVICE REQUESTS

There are three ways people can submit Corvias service requests. For the fastest and easiest way to submit a service request, and the best way to reach Corvias directly in case of an emergency or urgent matter, call the Corvias dedicated service request line at (334) 230-5128 or (844) 947-4399, operated 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays-Fridays.

People can also submit service requests online at <https://fortruckercorvias.resident-portal.com>, or people can visit their local community center and speak with a Corvias team member in person.

If you're unsatisfied with any part of your experience with Corvias, send an email to CustomerService.Rucker@corvias.com or call (401) 228-2800.

ARMY FLIER

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Fort Rucker Commanding General

Col. Whitney B. Gardner
Fort Rucker Garrison Commander

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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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