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Soldiers prepare to hook a pallet of equipment to the underside of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during sling-load training at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, in August.

PHOTO BY MAJ. ROBERT FELLINGHAM

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CG announces move to HPCON B, sets stage for return to school, work

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general moved the post to Health Protection Measure B Sept. 16 and also issued General Order 6 Sept. 15 in response to decreasing cases of COVID-19 in the area since late July.

The move to HPCON B sets the stage for students to begin in-class instruction at Parker Elementary School on post Oct. 1 and for teleworking employees to return to their offices beginning Sept. 29, Maj. Gen. David J. Francis said during a video posted on Facebook.

“First and foremost, on behalf of the USAACE command team, we want to thank each and every one of you for your continued sacrifice, resiliency and cooperation in supporting and adhering to the Fort Rucker COVID-19 guidelines that have been instrumental in keeping the Fort Rucker community safe,” Francis said. “Our people are our greatest strength, and our priorities remain, as they have from the start of this pandemic. No. 1, protect our people; No. 2, protect our critical mission at Fort Rucker; and No. 3, protect our community. Your efforts and cooperation have made it possible for us to move to the next stage in this fight.”

He added that officials continue to track pandemic conditions daily, and the control measures implemented in GO 5 have proven effective.

“Since late July, the COVID case rates in the counties in Alabama, Florida and Georgia that we are concerned about have seen an overall downward trajectory,” Francis said. “Likewise, the cases on Fort Rucker have also significantly declined.”

The decision to move to HPCON B is due to the fact that the local population and surrounding Fort Rucker area has experienced an

overall decrease of incidents of disease for the last six weeks – reflecting an average 48% decrease in cases per day, he added.

“The transition to HPCON Bravo allows us to do two things,” Francis said. “First, this decision allows the (Department of Defense Education Activity) school system to begin the process of preparing to open our elementary school to in-person schooling. DODEA expects this process to take about two weeks and we are expecting in-school learning to begin Oct. 1.

“DODEA also has a detailed plan to mitigate COVID-19, and to respond if there is a case of COVID-19 in the school,” he said. “Detailed procedures will be communicated to the parents over the next two weeks as they prepare to open.”

The second thing that the transition to HPCON B allows officials to do is bring the workforce that has been teleworking back to Fort Rucker, the commanding general said.

“We plan to reintegrate the workforce Sept. 29,” Francis said. “Supervisors will work with those that, with a doctor’s recommendation, have reasonable accommodation requirements as it relates to COVID-19. For questions about these circumstances, contact your supervisor.”

The general added that the decision to move to HPCON B does not mean that there is no risk for COVID-19 on Fort Rucker, but that the case rates in the local area and on Fort Rucker have been in steady decline, and that “we have learned how to safely operate and work in this environment.”

“Therefore, in order to make this transition to HPCON B, open our school and bring the workforce back safely, I am implementing General Order 6. The control measures remain consistent with General Order 5, but we have

Team, we are in this together. Our adherence to the procedures laid out in General Order 6 are critical for us to continue to adjust our control measures.

– Maj. Gen. David J. Francis

USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general

been able to change the following.”

- * The local travel restriction of 100 miles is now extended to 150 miles straight-line distance from Fort Rucker.

- * Movie theaters were off limits, but are no longer restricted.

- * All personnel are authorized to dine – indoors and outdoors – at restaurants on Fort Rucker, including Divots, Mother Rucker’s and Rucker Lanes.

However, indoor and outdoor dining at off-post restaurants remain prohibited to military personnel, Francis said, adding that he encourages civilian employees and contractors to do the same. Also, due to the high risks associated with certain facilities, military personnel are still prohibited from visiting bars, night clubs, dance clubs, spas, tattoo parlors, and seating areas inside and outside of restaurants, regardless of state policies.

The general also reminded people that the fundamental rules established in previous general orders that have helped to improve conditions on post remain in effect.

He said that people must:

- * Maintain six feet of separation from those who are not members of their immediate family;

- * Wear face coverings when separation cannot be maintained;

- * Adhere to the face covering policy in all

off-post, non-residential buildings and facilities, regardless of physical separation;

- * Apply diligent hygiene measures – hand washing and disinfecting high touch areas; and

“To ensure the health and safety of the Fort Rucker community, USAACE will continue to monitor state and local community health conditions, as well as our own policy changes,” Francis said. “We will continue to evaluate conditions to ease restrictions and open additional services as conditions permit.

“Team, we are in this together,” the commanding general added. “Our adherence to the procedures laid out in General Order 6 are critical for us to continue to adjust our control measures. We will decide as a community, based on our performance, if we have the ability to maintain the relaxation of the measures that I introduced today.

“Each one of us is responsible for ourselves and each other to execute these procedures in a disciplined manner,” he said. “I know that we can do it and we are counting on each of you to do the right thing.

“I would also ask that we look out for each other and be there for each other as we move forward as a community,” Francis said. “Thank you for all that you’re doing – we’re very proud of our Aviation community – Above the Best.”

To read GO 6 in its entirety, visit <https://home.army.mil/rucker/index.php/go6>.

Housing duct work, HVAC replacement projects to improve quality of life

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Corvias Property Management is in the midst of a project that will completely replace all of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in the Allen Heights neighborhood and eventually increase the energy efficiency of homes throughout the post.

With an HVAC duct work replacement project more than halfway done in Allen Heights – 280 units are completed of the 550 homes in the neighborhood – and full-home renovations ongoing in Munson Heights, there are a lot of improvements going on and also on the horizon in Fort Rucker housing, according to Melissa Bryson, Corvias Fort Rucker operations director.

“These are very exciting times right now,” Bryson said. “We’re looking forward to seeing the completion of these projects and also excited about everything to come.”

One person also excited about the renovations, Col. Whitney B. Gardner, Fort Rucker garrison commander and housing resident, said the ongoing duct replacements and soon-to-be-started new HVAC system installations are all about prevention.

“With this area’s high humidity, outdated HVAC systems and faulty duct work can lead to serious moisture problems in our homes,” he said. “Corvias has come up with a smart, solid plan to fix an issue before it becomes a problem that could threaten Soldiers and families. It’s a solid investment – and one that will pay off sooner rather than later.”

Bryson said that condensation is a common problem with air conditioner ducts.

“It is typically caused by the temperature difference between the outside air and the air conditioning vent, improperly sealed air conditioning ducts and inadequate insulation around

ducts,” she said. “The duct replacement project, and upgraded heating and ventilation systems are addressing the condensation concerns we have seen at Fort Rucker.”

The entire duct system in the attic space is being replaced with modernized, energy efficient and well-insulated ducts, Bryson added.

“The addition of gable vents in the attic space allows better airflow that reduces the attic temperatures,” she said. “The upgrades improve the overall efficiency of the system, greatly reducing condensation.”

The new HVAC systems that will be installed have a higher Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio rating to help offer better efficiency, as well, Bryson said. “Additionally, modernized equipment allows for better regulation of humidity.”

To go along with the new HVAC systems, Allen Heights homes will also receive weather-proofing in the interiors by sealing wall cracks, window and door frames, and vents with polyurethane sealant; weather-stripping around doors; and door-sweeps at the bottom of doors, she said.

But even modern systems with higher efficiency ratings need proper care and operation by residents to ensure no problems arise in the homes, Bryson added.

“Thermostats should be set between 70 to 78 degrees, and windows and doors should be kept closed while the air conditioner is running,” she said. “Leaving windows or doors open while the air conditioner is running creates an environment prone to moisture accumulation.”

Air conditioning filters should be changed as needed – at a minimum every three months, Bryson said, adding that Corvias offers free fil-

ters as a part of its self-help program available to all residents.

“Maintenance concerns should be reported to Corvias without delay, so our team of professionally trained technicians can quickly address them,” she said. “Emergency maintenance is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week.”

Corvias is undertaking an additional project, forecast to start in mid-October, designed to increase the energy efficiency of all on-post homes, Bryson said.

The improvements include:

- * Replace all existing light bulbs with new LED bulbs;
- * Replace all existing thermostats with new smart thermostats;
- * Replace all existing kitchen and bath sink aerators with new water-efficient aerators;
- * Replace all existing showerheads with new water-efficient showerheads; and
- * Replace all existing toilets with new water-efficient toilets.

The result of all of these projects will provide residents with upgraded, modernized equipment that will significantly decrease maintenance concerns, Bryson said.

“These new products and systems will also positively impact residents’ comfort by creating an easy way to maintain a uniform desired temperature within the home with the new programmable thermostats and highly insulated ducts,” she added. “It will also lessen our overall impact on the environment by exceeding Energy Star-recommended ratings and reducing the consumption of utilities.”

Unlike the duct work project and Munson Heights renovations, work on the energy efficiency project will be conducted while residents are in their homes, Bryson said.

“We don’t have the exact schedule yet, but we will send out notifications to residents about

a week out to let them know we’ve scheduled their renovations,” she said. “We’ll probably complete 10-12 homes each week. There will be minimal inconvenience to residents – the upgrades should be completed very quickly. If for some reason the time we have people scheduled for isn’t a good time for them, we can certainly move on to another house and come back.”

It will be the same for the HVAC system replacements, Bryson added.

“All of those mechanical closets are on the exterior, so the vast majority of that work will be done outside, but we will also have someone go inside to work, as well,” she said. “The systems shouldn’t be off for more than four hours, as long as no issues arise. The timeframe for starting this project is perfect with the temperatures probably cooling off in October, so that should limit any discomfort inside the home for residents.”

Since the work done so far has been completed on vacant homes, feedback has been minimal, Bryson said. However, residents will once again receive a chance to let Army leadership and Corvias know what they think of Fort Rucker housing when the fall Army Housing Survey launches in October.

“We hope residents will take a few minutes to provide feedback, so we can continue making improvements that mean the most to them,” she said.

“Corvias genuinely cares about those we serve,” Bryson added. “We maintain a cohesive and collaborative partnership with Fort Rucker leadership and work through challenges together. We listen to resident feedback and act accordingly. We recognize that we still have a lot of work ahead of us, and we are committed to providing a positive housing experience.”

Residents can reach Corvias through the resident portal, by calling 334-440-8988 or by email at Rucker.Resident@Corvias.com.

Lyster opens new COVID Clinic

By Janice Erdlitz

Lyster Army Health Clinic Public Affairs Officer

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lyster Army Health Clinic has opened a specialized respiratory clinic to care for patients.

The new COVID Clinic located inside Lyster is isolated to avoid spreading the disease. A separate entrance ensures that patients remain distant from non-COVID-19 patients. The clinic is not a walk-in clinic and requires an appointment to be seen.

"The respiratory clinic was created to provide high-quality care for patients with upper respiratory symptoms that could be consistent with COVID-19, influenza, or other upper respiratory infections while preventing exposure to our other patients of these viruses," said Lt. Col. Kimberly Lochner, deputy commander for clinical services.

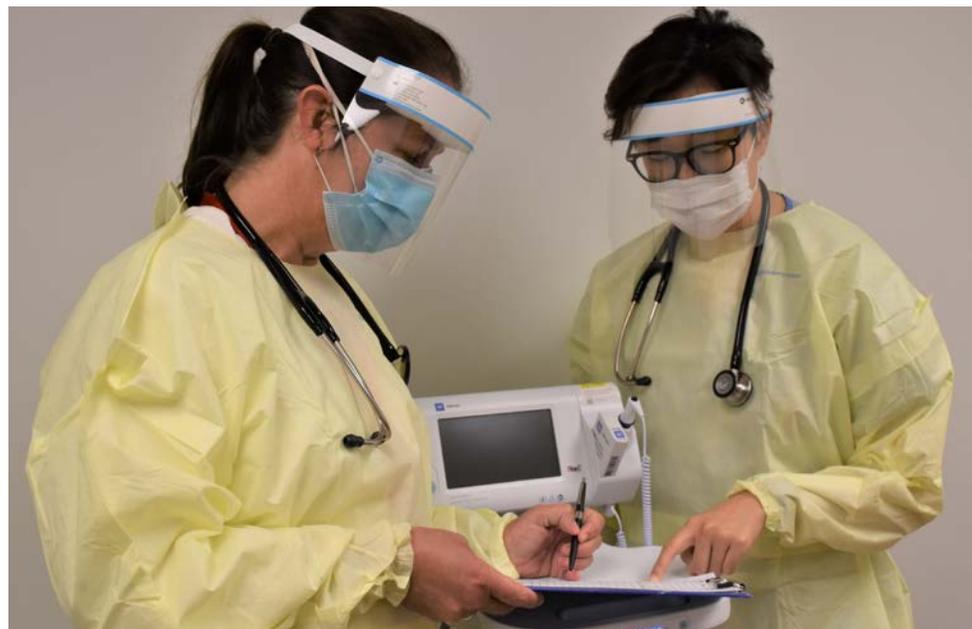
Patients should not bring children or other family members to their appointments unless they need assistance. Children under 14 require one parent or guardian to accompany them to the appointment. Those who

are elderly or need assistance communicating or ambulating should notify the team prior to arrival.

Lochner continued to explain the process of how the clinic will operate and what to expect. "Patients will be checked in by phone and wait in their vehicle until ready to be seen to decrease exposure to other patients with similar symptoms. They should not go to the LAHC front entrance, but the respiratory clinic side entrance. All appointments will be face to face, with an evaluation of their acute symptoms. Testing will be performed within the clinic as indicated and they will receive any medications prescribed within the clinic."

Lyster is taking every precaution to safeguard the health and welfare of staff and beneficiaries. The new COVID Clinic is just one additional avenue to meet the needs of the community.

People who are experiencing COVID-



ARMY PHOTO

Lyster Army Health Clinic has opened a specialized respiratory clinic to care for patients in response to COVID-19. Mandy Kelley, NP-C, discusses patient care with Capt. Sunyoung Kim, MD, in the new COVID Clinic.

like symptoms should call the Lyster appointment line to schedule an appointment, 1-800-261-7193, or visit the Nurse Advice Line. The MHS Nurse Advice Line is available

24/7 by phone, web chat and video chat. Visit [MHSNurseAdvice.com](https://www.mhsnurseadvice.com) for web chat and video chat, or dial 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1.

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HONORING THE FALLEN

Fort Rucker remembers 9-11 during Tunnel to Towers Walk

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker honored the fallen of the 9-11 terrorist attacks during its Stephen Siller Memorial Tunnel to Towers Walk led by the Directorate of Public Safety Sept. 11.

Post leadership and DPS personnel led the walk on its almost 2 ½-mile route while Fort Rucker community members and first responders from local agencies joined in to help memorialize and honor the memories of those who gave their lives that day, according to Lt. Col. Phillip Lenz, DPS director.

“It’s a day that changed us as a nation,

changed what we do in the military and it changed what we do specifically as first responders,” Lenz said. “When you look at the sacrifices of Stephen Siller, the things he did, I think they speak to his sense of duty, his loyalty and really his dedication to the overall mission of his lifelong quest of saving people.

“Not everyone can do that, but I think that’s truly endemic of the overall culture of the first responder community – it’s what we do, it’s what we get paid to do and it’s something we’re incredibly passionate about,” he



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Post leadership and first responders took the lead during the Fort Rucker Fire Department 9-11 Stephen Siller Memorial Tunnel to Towers Walk Sept. 11 to honor not just the event’s namesake, but all of the fallen of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.



Event participants walk past the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Headquarters Building.

added.

DPS personnel passed out laminated tags on neck chains with photos of first responders who lost their lives that day for walk participants to wear during the event, according to Lonny Keen, Fort Rucker Fire Department chief.

“This event is good for our people, it’s good for everyone,” the chief said. “Usually we invite the public out here and we have a stair climb (in Bldg. 5700), but with the pandemic, we had to tone things down this year.”

But the toned down nature of the event did nothing to dull the edge of remembrance, Lenz said.

“Siller was the true embodiment of selfless service, bravery and duty to something greater than one’s self,” the director said. “This event is about many things, and although it’s called the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Walk, it’s not about one individual. The heroic acts of Stephen Siller represent the larger body of America’s first responders – police officers, security officers, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and, of course, we cannot forget our 9-1-1 dispatchers – and what we’re required to do each and every day.”

The event’s namesake, Siller, was a firefighter in Brooklyn who had just got off of his shift and was driving to meet his brothers for a game of golf when he got the call that a plane had hit the North Tower, according to Chris Quattlebaum, firefighter at Fire Station

No. 1 and one of the organizers of the annual event.

“On his way back to the towers, he was stopped at the tunnel,” the firefighter said during the ceremony. “He then ran with over 60 pounds of gear on his back to the World Trade Center – the last place Stephen was ever seen. Today, we walk approximately the same distance Stephen ran back to the towers and honor him and everyone else who lost their lives on that tragic day.”

While speaking to media at the event, Quattlebaum said the 19th anniversary of the attacks brought back memories of what he was doing that day and how it affected his future.

“I was in high school when it came over the news, and my life really changed that day,” he said. “At that time, I didn’t know what I was going to do, so I decided to join the military and become a firefighter.”

Lenz added that the event was about even more than memorializing the almost 3,000 people who perished in the attacks 19 years ago.

“That was a day that for all of us will forever live in infamy,” Lenz said. “The reality of this event is about the undying American spirit, the patriotism, and the unity and coming together for a common cause – and, let’s be honest, that is something right now that America could use a lot of. Today, we do this for those who died on that tragic day and the surviving families of these true heroes.”

TEAMWORK

Colony of bats vacates fitness center, focus moves to prevention

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The bat colony that took up residence in the Fort Rucker Fitness Center on Andrews Avenue in early July has left the building.

Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Works and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials said the Brazilian free-tailed bats left in mid-August once their fledgling pups were able to fly.

“We have cleared the bats from all gym areas and the gym is now again in full service,” said Joseph Wyka, Directorate of Public Works director. “DPW installed approved bat exclusion devices Aug. 21. These devices allowed any stray bats to exit the building and denied them entry back inside in a humane way.”

DPW then retained the services of a professional remediation company that conducted multiple inspections of the facility Aug. 24-28, he added.

“They did not observe any remaining bats and did not locate any traces of bat droppings in any accessible areas,” Wyka said. “They

then conducted a thorough cleaning and (Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation) staff aired out the gym using large ventilation fans for a week.”

A joint task force from DPW, MWR and Lyster Army Health Clinic also re-inspected the gym and issued a final safe bill of health to allow people to use the locker rooms and racquetball courts once again, he added.

Fort Rucker’s response to the unwanted visitors was the very definition of teamwork, and taking care of Soldiers and families, according to Evy Bludsworth, DFMWR director.

“My definition of teamwork is everyone working together to achieve the best results. Fort Rucker saw teamwork in action when the bats made a temporary home at the fitness center,” she said. “DPW, the USDA, Lyster Preventive Medicine, the garrison safety office and MWR all worked together to protect the bats while finding a solution to support our patrons’ fitness program.”



PHOTO BY NICK HRISTOV

Tadarida brasiliensis emerging from Carlsbad Caverns, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, N.M.



PHOTO BY RON GROVES

A Brazilian (or Mexican) free-tailed bat in flight.

She added that the team met numerous times throughout the squatters’ time in the building to ensure all safety measures were in place for patrons and staff while maintaining requirements to protect the bats.

“We are delighted to say our cardio room is now back in operation at the fitness center,” Bludsworth said. “Although the equipment was moved into the main gym for patrons to utilize, the space was limited. The MWR staff did an exceptional job in taking care of our patrons during the bat visitation, but we are delighted our visitors have left and are now at their new vacation home.”

She described MWR’s partnership with DPW in working through the bat situation as “exceptional.”

“They responded to each and every concern we identified, sealed off needed areas to allow patrons to continue to work out, installed exclusion devices at the appropriate time and brought a team in to clean up the area the bats were in,” Bludsworth said. “We

are thankful to all members of the team who helped to resolve the situation and grateful for the positive results.”

While the bats are gone and the cleanup is complete, there is still work to do to try to prevent this decades-old problem from coming home to roost again next year, Wyka said.

“We’ve already begun inspecting and sealing any small places in the gym where bats might try to access the facility next season,” he said, adding that this is easier said than done. “A bat can enter a building through a crevice as small as a quarter. Over the last 30 years, bats have from time to time roosted in the fitness center, simulator buildings and other taller buildings with dark conditioned space.

“We’re looking in to the option of constructing a bat house in the adjacent area that might convince bats to roost there instead of our tall buildings,” Wyka said. “While they are good neighbors and help keep the mosquitos down, we want them to not be quite so neighborly in our critical buildings in the future.”

President awards Medal of Honor to Army Ranger for hostage rescue

By Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Sgt. Maj. Thomas “Patrick” Payne received the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony Friday for helping liberate over 70 hostages from an ISIS prison compound in Iraq five years ago.

President Donald Trump draped the nation’s highest military award around Payne’s neck during a ceremony on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks – a day that compelled Payne to enlist.

As news of the attacks spread throughout the world, Payne sat in his high school classroom listening to his teacher.

“His teacher solemnly told the students that their generation had a fight to win,” President Donald Trump said. “In that moment, Pat was called to action. He knew that his country needed him.”

Ten months later, Payne, of Batesburg-Leesville and Lugoff, South Carolina, shipped off to basic training. Since then, he has deployed 17 times to combat zones as a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment and in various positions with the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

In 2010, he was wounded by a grenade blast in Afghanistan, but later recovered and went on to win the Army’s Best Ranger Competition in 2012.

While deployed again, Payne was part of a joint task force that assisted Iraqi security forces in raiding the ISIS prison near Hawija in northern Iraq on Oct. 22, 2015.

“The team soon received horrifying intelligence that the terrorists were planning to massacre their captives and bury them in freshly-dug graves,” Trump said. “Pat and his teammates raced into action.”

During the nighttime operation, Payne, now 36, risked his life amid heavy enemy

gunfire and suicide-vest detonations to save the hostages, many of whom were captured members of Iraqi security forces.

After being infilled by CH-47 Chinook helicopters, Payne and members of the task force climbed over a wall into the prison compound. Payne, an assistant team leader at the time, helped lead his team as it cleared one of the two buildings known to house hostages.

Once inside the building after light resistance from the enemy, Payne’s team used bolt cutters to pierce through the locks of a prison door, freeing nearly 40 hostages.

Payne and others then heard an urgent call for help over the radio from other task force members engaged in an intense fire-fight at the second building.

“Pat turned to one of his fellow Soldiers and said, ‘let’s get into the fight,’” Trump said.

Payne and his team maneuvered about 30 yards to the heavily-fortified building, which was partially on fire.

Once there, he and others scaled a ladder onto the roof of the one-story building as a sustained rate of enemy machine-gun fire shot out from below. From a vantage point on the roof, they engaged the enemy with hand grenades and small arms fire.

At that point, enemy fighters began to detonate their suicide vests, causing the roof to shake. Payne and others then moved off the roof to an initial breach point on the ground level.

“Pat and his fellow Rangers fought through the fire, the bullets and the deadly blasts,” Trump said.

With barricaded enemies firing rounds toward him, Payne entered the structure to open another fortified door. After he man-



PHOTO BY SPC. ZACHERY PERKINS

President Donald Trump awards the Medal of Honor to Sgt. Maj. Thomas 'Patrick' Payne at the White House, Washington, D.C., Sept. 11.

aged to cut the first lock, he had to run out due to the heavy smoke and handed off the bolt cutters to an Iraqi partner. After the partner came out for fresh air, Payne took the tool again to sheer off the last lock and kick open the door.

“He ran right back into that raging blaze,” Trump said. “He sliced the final lock and released the rest of the hostages as the building began to collapse.”

Still being engaged by the enemy, Payne and others escorted about 30 more hostages out of the burning building.

With disregard for his own safety, Payne then reentered the building two more times to ensure every hostage was out. One of those times he had to forcibly remove one of the hostages who had been too frightened to move during the chaotic scene.

“He was the last man to leave,” Trump said. “He wouldn’t leave, no matter what they said, no matter who ordered him to do it. He was the last one out.”

“It was one of the largest and most daring rescue missions in American history,” he added. “You truly went above and beyond the call of duty.”

The mission left one U.S. Soldier, Master Sgt. Josh Wheeler, and at least 20 insurgents dead.

“Pat would be the first to remind us that he was not alone that day,” Trump said.

The president then honored Wheeler’s wife, Ashley, who was in attendance.

“Our nation endures because fearless warriors, like Josh, are willing to lay down their lives for our freedom,” Trump said. “Our children can grow up in peace because Josh had the courage to face down evil. Our debt to him and to you is everlasting.”

For his actions that day, Payne was initially awarded the Army’s second-highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross, which was later upgraded to a Medal of Honor.

Payne currently serves as an instructor at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command where he trains “the next generation of American warriors,” Trump said.

“Today, he joins the immortal company of our most revered American heroes,” he said. “Pat, you personify the motto, ‘Rangers lead the way,’ and you inspire us all.”



Chief of staff asks force to fight against harmful behaviors

By Devon Suits
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville asked all Army personnel Wednesday to unite as a cohesive team and step in to prevent suicide, racism and sexual harassment/assault among the ranks.

Negative behaviors continually harm the force by breaking the Army's trust with the American people, McConville said during the Virtual Maneuver Warfighter Conference.

As the embodiment of diversity in the U.S., Soldiers must continue to set the example and help others. Coalescing to combat against these harmful behaviors ties into the Army's core philosophy of "people first and winning matters," McConville said.

"If we have an Army that is a cohesive team, where everyone treats everyone with respect and takes care of each other ... everything else will follow," he said.

"And I would argue that if everyone treats others with respect," he added, it would eliminate sexual assault/harassment and racism throughout the force.

In addition to stopping malicious acts, Soldiers should also step in to support anyone harboring thoughts of suicide, he said.

"We have to connect with people. We have to connect squad leaders to their Soldiers ... [and] to their families, especially with COVID-19 and social distancing where we are seeing Soldiers become isolated," he said.

"We are seeing some Soldiers that don't have a support system," he added. "I need [the Army's] help on that. We have to push this down to the lowest level."

The philosophy of winning matters connects to readiness and lethality, said Gen. Michael Garrett, commander of U.S. Army Forces Command.

The Army will need its "tanks to be able to acquire, engage, and move on to the next target faster than the adversary," Garrett said. "Our field artillery crews will need to be excellent in their actions to deliver accurate and timely fires."

The foundation of lethality starts with each Soldier, Garrett emphasized.

"Our investment in [each Soldier] and our care of him or her is what drives them to be everything that we need ... [and] be successful," said Garrett, as he reinforced the chief of staff's desire for a cohesive team.

It is up to every leader to set the example and provide proper training to ensure

If we have an Army that is a cohesive team, where everyone treats everyone with respect and takes care of each other ... everything else will follow.

- Gen. James C. McConville
Army Chief of Staff



SCREENSHOT IMAGE

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville speaks during the Virtual Maneuver Warfighter Conference Sept. 9.

each Soldier feels empowered to intervene when necessary, Garrett added. Equally, each Soldier should take the time to learn more about their coworkers and connect on a deeper level.

GREAT POWER COMPETITION

In his remarks, McConville also mentioned the Army has shifted its focus from counter-insurgency operations to an era of great power competition against a near-peer threat like China and Russia.

Part of the Army's refinement efforts are tied to the improvement of doctrine. The force is currently evaluating its Multi-Domain Operations construct, which envisions the way the Army will fight across the land, sea, air, cyber, and space domains.

"Great power competition does not mean great power conflict," said McConville, adding that the Army continues to modernize the force to remain competitive in a multi-domain battlespace.

Along with MDO, the force is also provid-

ing input to the Joint All Domain Command and Control concept. The concept will allow the Army to group all command and control information under a non-linear product to bolster sensor and shooter capabilities.

In addition to improved doctrine, the Army is reevaluating the way it engages with a near-peer competitor using a Multi-Domain Task Force capability.

"We're in the process of experimenting and designing this organization," he said. The MDTF will "operate below the level of armed conflict and be in a position to deter, or fight and win" if called upon to support.

The MDTF will be capable of providing long-range precision effects, support intelligence or information operations, and provide aid to Army cyber and space capabilities.

Long-range effects could penetrate a competitor's air and missile defense systems or other critical systems to help degrade an adversary's anti-access and area-denial capabilities, he said.

TRADOC promotes leader development with new virtual program

By Sarah Hauck

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. – The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command is committed to recruiting and building the most lethal and ready force the nation needs to win its wars. This requires a dedication to professional and leader development facilitated through a variety of platforms.

TRADOC has developed a new virtual program to help educate the workforce on the Army Profession, develop people of character, drive cultural change and promote inclusion. The format of the Leader Professional Development Program will enable conversational dialogue between leaders, Soldiers and Civilians across the Army.

The first introductory webinar will air 11-11:30 a.m. Sept. 25 on the TRADOC Facebook Page, and will be co-hosted by TRADOC's command team of Gen. Paul E. Funk II and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel T. Hendrex. In this broadcast, they will be discussing the purpose and importance behind this outreach effort.

After the introductory broadcast, the LPDs will be delivered monthly in a one-hour brown bag format to facilitate shared learning, leader engagement, and team building. A schedule for broadcasts will be published quarterly.

The series will feature subject matter experts discussing a variety of topics. LPDs are designed to be conversational to help enable open dialog on tough topics.

"Sessions planned will cover contemporary topics of importance and interest such as advancement of suicide, sexual harassment and (sexual) assault prevention efforts; ethical leadership; civil-military relations; and leader-follower relationships," said Sean Oatmeyer, TRADOC Training and Leader Development

Directorate. "Bottom line - each topic selected will ultimately serve to educate and engage the workforce on the profession."

The virtual format will allow important professional and leader development discussions to reach a wider audience, Oatmeyer said. LPDs will cover topics such as:

- How diversity of backgrounds, experiences, values, and talents improves collaboration, creativity, innovation, motivation, decision making, and work environment, and helps the Army maintain a competitive advantage in the quest for talent;
- How diversity, equality and inclusive leadership support mission readiness; and
- Benefits of individuals building trust, valuing differences, treating diverse individuals equitably, understanding their potential biases, and creating shared understanding through open, two-way communication.

"We must foster a culture that is built on trust that not only accepts, but harnesses the experiences, cultures, characteristics and backgrounds each Soldier and Civilian brings to the Army," Funk said.

Participation in the LPD is encouraged at all levels as "trusted Army professionals, leaders, Soldiers and Civilians must increase their expertise through lifelong learning and professional development.

"The Army Profession defines the essence of what it means to be a Soldier or an Army Civilian," he said. "Whether you wear a suit or uniform, you are part of the Army Profession and it is our responsibility to uphold the sacred trust of the American population by living out the characteristics of our chosen profession in everything we do, every day, in every setting."

TRADOC COMMANDER
GENERAL PAUL E. FUNK II

TRADOC CSM
DANIEL T. HENDREX

TRADOC LEADER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (LPD) PROGRAM

Victory Starts Here!

TRADOC
LEADER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
INTRODUCTORY WEBINAR
LIVE 11:00HRS 25 SEPT 2020

WATCH LIVE ON THE TRADOC FACEBOOK PAGE
FUNK'S FUNDAMENTAL #38: TRAINING IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION.

Army Uniform Board votes on proposed changes, including female-specific uniform elements

By Zack Kevit
Army G-4

WASHINGTON – On June 25th, members of the 151st Army Uniform Board met to discuss and vote on recommended changes to the clothing bag.

Topics approved by the AUB are put forth to the chief of staff of the Army for final decision.

General decision criteria was guided by AUB Chairman Lt. Gen. Duane Gamble, deputy chief of staff G-4, when he noted that “while evaluating these topics, we must look for low-cost, high-quality options for the force.”

Further supporting Gamble’s guidance, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston emphasized the importance of value when weighing any decisions to approve or disapprove. “Any cost increase must be supported by performance data,” he said.

The AUB’s recommended approvals to the CSA include:

- Type II OCP Combat Cloth Face Covering (CCFC) as standard issue in the clothing bag,
- authorizing the Improved Hot Weather Combat Uniform – Female in the clothing bag and as an optional uniform,
- developing the Maternity Army Physical Fitness Uniform for immediate user evaluation,
- planning a phased transition from the current Hot Weather Combat Boot to the Improved Hot Weather Combat Boot,

- conducting a study on adding the Army Combat Glove to Military Occupational Specialty-specific clothing bags, all Soldier’s clothing bags, or maintain it at Rapid Fielding Initiative Issue only,

- issuing Black Athletic Socks to initial entry Soldiers instead of providing a cash allowance to buy the socks from the AAFES Troop Store,

- perform research and development for material solutions to improve the quality and functionality of athletic bras for initial entry Soldiers and for the Rapid Fielding Initiative supporting deploying Soldiers.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville approved all of the AUB recommendations Aug. 28. Program Executive Office-Soldier will implement changes and authorizations to the clothing bag in accordance with manufacturing and contract timelines. Studies for the Maternity APFU, the army combat glove, and the athletic bra are forthcoming and will be evaluated at future AUBs.

The AUB is the Army’s only forum to address the changing requirements of Soldiers’ uniforms and accessory items. Every Soldier can contribute to the Uniform Board process by providing his or her recommendation to his or her unit’s sergeant major.

Moving? Cleaning out the garage? Whenever you’re taking out the trash, be sure to dispose of excess items, bulk refuse and hazardous household materials the proper way!



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PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

INSTRUCTORS OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to the Instructors of the Quarter for 4th Quarter FY20! Each quarter academic instructors, instructor pilots and noncommissioned officer flight instructors from the USAACE community are nominated by their supervisors for the honor of competing for Instructor of the Quarter. They are evaluated on quality of instruction, quality of materials developed and used, and quality of their presentation. The NCO Academic Instructor of the Quarter is SSG Charles C. Burton, NCOA - Fort Rucker. The Officer Flight Instructor of the Quarter is CW3 Kenneth S. Hay, 110th AVN BDE. The NCO Flight Instructor of the Quarter is SSG Christopher A. Whitehead, 110th AVN BDE. The Civilian Instructor Pilot of the Quarter is Randolph A. Welch, 110th AVN BDE. Not pictured is Civilian Academic Instructor of the Quarter Sammy L. Burton, 128th AVN BDE. Well done!

ARMY FLIER

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