

ARMY FLIER

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U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. MATT HECHT

Air Force Special Warfare Airmen with the New Jersey Air National Guard's 227th Air Support Operations Squadron recover after fast roping from an Army UH-60M Black Hawk with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion during training on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 14.

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Army, TRADOC invest in improving Fort Rucker infrastructure

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The Army and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command are making significant investments in Fort Rucker to make it an even better and safer place to live, work, train and play.

With \$20 million already slated in the home of Army Aviation's sustainment, restoration and modernization budget, TRADOC recently added another \$20 million, according to Joseph Wyka, Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Works director.

"We've had the biggest award this year of construction projects that we've had in recent memory," Wyka said, adding that essentially doubling the post's budget makes for exciting times as far as construction goes at Fort Rucker. "We're starting to see Army investment on a larger scale, which is great, and it's important that we seize that opportunity and use that money in the best ways that we can."

While the additional funds won't result in new facilities or buildings being built, it will go to much-needed infrastructure improvements, he added.

"Like any Army installation, we have aging infrastructure," Wyka said. "Some of our buildings date back to the 1960s and 70s, and even some buildings back to the 40s, so they require a constant investment. This investment brings many of these buildings up to current code and addresses life, health and safety issues. Overall, this investment will allow us to provide better support to ongoing training here."

The investment will be used to improve heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in facilities; improve fire prevention and sprinkler systems; improve electrical systems redundancy; airfield repaving; and improve



PHOTO BY HOLLY STERLING

CH-47 Chinooks sit on Fort Rucker's Knox Army Heliport flightline. Repaving airfields is one of the infrastructure improvements made possible by recent funding.

reliability across the footprint, he said.

"The allocation of the funds are aligned with the commanding general's (Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general) direction for investment – what he sees as our most pressing needs across Fort Rucker," Wyka added. "They also line up with independent Army assessments of our infrastructure – they dovetail very nicely. We had a team that came down over the last year, an independent team of architects and engineers, and they inspected all of our facilities. Their findings were very much in line with what we observed as our needs: fire prevention systems, HVAC, plumbing and electric."

"What we've seen in some of our remote

airfields, when they lose power or lose water from storms, they need that redundant infrastructure – generators for electricity and backup power for wells," he said. "We want to have that in place, so they can continue to train. These projects this year and over the next several years are going to address that redundancy."

The bulk of the work will be accomplished over the next 12-18 months, Wyka added. "Some of the longer term projects, like airfield pavement, might stretch into two years. People can expect to see a lot of work going on in the next 12-18 months."

Along with the new SRM projects, work continues in on-post housing in the Allen Heights and Munson Heights neighbor-

hoods, on the new East Beach Lake Lodge at Lake Tholocco, and the new Army Aviation Training Support Facility near the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, he said. In addition, Yano Hall is expected to get a new roof in November, and other work will be going on around post, such as road work and parking lot striping, just to name a few.

"It's an exciting time at Fort Rucker – being able to double our construction program means better infrastructure for everyone to use," Wyka said. "The Corps of Engineers Mobile District supports us, and they've indicated they'll probably be hiring new personnel to keep up with the new projects. This is the biggest program they've seen here in at least a decade."

New furnishings improve barracks living at Fort Rucker

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker is in the midst of making a major furniture upgrade to its barracks facilities to make life a little more comfortable for the Soldiers living in them.

While many of the barracks buildings on post are in dire need of being replaced, the Fort Rucker team is fully committed to doing everything it can to make Soldiers comfortable in their homes, according to Col. Whitney B. Gardner, garrison commander.

“We are the Army’s home, and it’s our mission to do everything we can to provide quality living quarters for our Soldiers, whether they are serving here as permanent party or they are here for training,” Gardner said. “This is just another of our efforts to make Fort Rucker a great place for Soldiers to live, work, train and play.”

That effort, over the past three years, has resulted in the replacement of furniture in all 14 permanent party buildings and seven of the barracks for temporary residents, according to Conny Earley, Directorate of Public Works Housing Division. The improvements include new beds, mattresses, three-drawer chests, two-drawer night stands, table desks, chairs and lamps in living quarters.

Along with that, two buildings of day-room furniture have been replaced, which includes sofas, chairs, lamps, tables and chairs, and televisions, she said, adding that one building also received new washers and dryers, and micro-fridge combinations.

“We will continue to program replacements for the rest as we go,” she said, adding that 11 training barracks are yet to be refurbished.



A look at the new furniture in one of the barracks rooms.

nished. “Some of the old pieces of furniture we removed were big and cumbersome – they took up a lot of space. Since the Army has gone to metal furniture, the product quality has greatly improved.”

So far, resident reviews have been positive, she added.

“Soldiers are loving the new beds – they are more comfortable than the older ones,” she said. “We’re always thinking of ways to improve our barracks. We also have a military construction project to build a new Advanced Individual Training Complex, which will allow us to repurpose the old complex and do away with the oldest buildings.”

That project is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2027, but Joseph Wyka, DPW director, added that local leadership asked the Army to move it up to FY 2023 because of the dire need at Fort Rucker, but no decision has been made.

“We have a training population that changes over very frequently,” Wyka said. “Those Soldiers have an incredibly demanding training schedule, so they are in and out of their rooms very frequently. That puts a high demand on the furniture, so this is exciting for us to get to replace this much furniture.”

“The Army spends a lot of time researching, developing and improving barracks furniture, so this latest installation will be the best furniture that the Army has to offer to our Soldiers,” he added. “The barracks buildings may be outdated, but at least we can make the interiors nice.”

“At end of the day, when Soldiers are training 16-18 hours maybe, and they go home to their barracks, at least they will have a good bunk to sleep on, and they have a cabinet and a wardrobe that works,” Wyka said. “I think it contributes a lot to their quality of life and ability to train effectively.”



Contractors deliver new furniture to one of the barracks on post.

ARMY PHOTOS

NEVER FORGOTTEN

Fort Rucker honors fallen, veterans of Battle of Mogadishu

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker hosted several events Oct. 3-9 to honor the fallen and veterans of Task Force Ranger and their efforts in Somalia in 1993.

The events included a memorial 5k at the Beaver Lake Trail Oct. 3, unit physical training Oct. 5-8, a unit team PT competition Oct. 9 and a memorial ceremony in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Oct. 9 that featured two veterans of the task force as guest speakers.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general offered comments at the

memorial ceremony, starting off by congratulating the Soldiers from B Company, 1-145th Aviation Regiment who won the unit PT competition that morning, but who could not be at the ceremony because they had to go off to flight training, he said.

“So, we will recognize them separately, but I wanted to give them a shout out – you are the example of what right looks like,” Francis said before introducing the two guest speakers, retired CW3 Perry Alliman, who flew UH-60 Black Hawks for Task Force Ranger,



Retired CW3 Perry Alliman, former UH-60 Black Hawk pilot who took part in Operation Gothic Serpent, speaks at the Battle of Mogadishu Day of Remembrance ceremony.

PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES



Retired Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Hulst, former Ranger who took part in Operation Gothic Serpent, speaks at the Battle of Mogadishu Day of Remembrance ceremony Oct. 9 at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum held to honor the fallen and veterans of the battle that took place Oct. 3, 1993, in Somalia.

and retired Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Hulst, who was a Ranger ground chalk leader involved in the Battle of Mogadishu.

Alliman didn't take part in the Battle of Mogadishu because he was in a Black Hawk down scenario more than a week prior to the Oct. 3-4 events that immortalized the phrase.

The retired Aviator said he was conducting a show-of-force mission the night of Sept. 25, 1993, when he and his fellow Soldiers came under mortar fire while refueling at the task force's airfield. After moving away from where the mortar fire was landing, he flew out to look for the enemy combatants in the surrounding area.

“We flew around in the area for about 30 minutes, but we could not find any militia, so we started to head back to airfield,” he said. “We could see the airfield, we were about five minutes from home and getting ready to go to bed, but little did we know all hell was about to break loose.”

As pilot CW3 Dale Shrader took the aircraft over some three-story buildings at about 100 feet off the ground, “we were under over-cast sky with about a 70% illumination, and

a man came on the roof with an RPG, took a shot, and he hit us in the cabin area of the aircraft,” Alliman explained.

“A fireball exploded in the aircraft, rolled over both me and Dale, and the guys in the back were on fire,” he continued. “The aircraft did a diving right turn ... we crashed at an intersection and slid into a building. We couldn't have landed any better, but we hit pretty hard and the right strut collapsed.”

The explosion and crash killed three Soldiers in the back of the aircraft, but Shrader and Alliman survived. Shrader pulled the severely injured Alliman into a nearby alley, and held off two Somali militia members armed with AK-47s with his 9mm handgun for about two hours, the speaker recounted.

When Shrader had used up all five of Soldiers' magazines, he made his way over to Alliman, saying “Perry, John 3:16, John 3:16,” the speaker added. “I asked him years later, ‘Dale, why didn't you just say the verse?’ He said, ‘I was so scared, I couldn't remember it.’

“And we were – we were terrified,” Alliman said. “We were out of bullets, we had one knife – I never even put a knife on my vest because

Mogadishu *cont.*

I figured if I had to pull a knife in Somalia, I was in big trouble anyway."

Alliman said the two prayed together, expecting the end to come at any moment, but then a voice cried out to them, "American boys! Come!"

"We had no choice but to trust him," he said, adding that it was a man who led them to a nearby United Arab Emirates unit who evacuated the two Soldiers to safety.

"When Jesus talks about the Lord's Prayer, he talks about forgiving those who've harmed us," Alliman said, "I've heard a lot of people lately, leaders even, who said they could never

forgive that person for whatever they did. I've got to tell you, learning to forgive is the best thing you can do for yourself and your family.

"It's not easy, but it's worth the price," he added. "The Mayo Clinic has done some research on this and if you want to have no anxiety, good heart health, all the things that keep you healthy revolve around not holding a grudge and being angry at people. That doesn't mean we don't do our job, but we don't have to hold hate in our hearts afterwards.

Alliman added that when people find themselves in a situation similar to the one he found himself in that day, to trust in their

faith and also to "trust in your nation that they will come and rescue you."

The other speaker, Hulst, spoke a little about what it was like on the ground during the battle as a Ranger team leader, the tragedy of losing friends in battle and living with it, and also about his love for Army Aviation, despite never being an Aviator.

"I look up to you every single day because you are the ones who get us in there and get us out under all conditions – no matter what it is, gunfire, RPGs, explosions, it doesn't matter. You are going in because you're coming to get us," he said. "We work together as a team.

"I enjoy living here in Alabama," Hulst continued. "Every time I hear you guys flying over, that's a good feeling to me. I just love the sound of helicopters. I was an 18 Bravo. Not an easy task to fly Rangers, Delta guys, special forces, SEALs whoever into combat we have one thing in mind to defeat the enemy.

"We train to stay conditioned, we train to fight and we train to win," he added. "The United States of America will never fall."

The event concluded with a roll call and bell ring for names of fallen of the battle, a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps."



trick-or-treat

SATURDAY, OCT. 31 6-8 PM
IN ALL RESIDENTIAL AREAS ON POST

Participants must follow all provisions of General Order Number 6. Residents will turn on their porch lights to signal participation.

Additional COVID-19 protective control measures:

- Avoid trick or treating in large, non-family groups.
- Front porches are off-limits for trick or treaters.
- Participating residents will give commercially and individually wrapped treats by pouring them on a table or flat surface in the driveway.
- Participating residents will not put out common-access bowls or containers filled with candy.
- Children will select candy from the table and place in their own treat bag.
- Residents must not place candy or drop candy into children's treat bags.
- Trick or treaters must not enter any residences.
- Residential haunted houses are not authorized.

Happy Halloween!



SLOW DOWN

IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS!

Below the text are silhouettes of a dog, a person walking, and a person running.

At the bottom right are two circular logos.

SEEKING VERSATILITY

Museum collection features V-22 Osprey ancestor – Vertiplane

Army Flier
Staff Report

Long before the V-22 Osprey took on the challenge of vertical flight, another aircraft attempted to defy gravity by combining the versatility of a helicopter with the speed of an airplane.

The only Ryan VZ-3 Vertiplane in the world made the U.S. Army Aviation Museum's showroom its home in 2018 and, if it looks a little odd, that's because it was designed for more than just conventional flight, according to Bob Barlow, former Aviator and U.S. Army Aviation Museum volunteer.

The Vertiplane was designed to fill the need for a versatile aircraft that could fill the needs of an ever-changing battlefield, said Barlow.

"They felt that ground warfare was evolving, and were thinking more about speed and mobility on the battlefield, and ways to get that," he said. "The helicopter was great, but this concept was in line with the same quest for the versatility of a helicopter but the speed of an airplane."

The single-seat Vertiplane was built as a technology demonstrator in 1957 and took its

first flight Dec. 29, 1958.

Although the name of the aircraft implies that it's a vertical-lift aircraft, the plane could only in fact achieve short take-off lift, which it could accomplish with about a 20-foot rollout, said Barlow, and did so by employing deflected slipstream technology.

The aircraft itself looks mostly like a standard airplane, aside from its shorter wing span and tips that point directly downward, but when the pilot wished to engage near-vertical lift, he or she could do so by using the controls to deploy double-slotted flaps that would move downward to almost a 90-degree angle to create channel that forced the airflow from the propellers downward.

"When they were ready for takeoff and had the engines going, the flaps would come down and be presented to the slipstream," said Barlow. "The slipstream from the propeller would hit these flaps, be deflected downward and would create a cushion of air to allow the aircraft to lift off (nearly) vertically, and likewise when it



FILE PHOTO

The U.S. Army Aviation Museum is home to the only Ryan VZ-3 Vertiplane in existence.

was landing."

Once the pilot was at a stable altitude and airspeed, the flaps would retract and fully became an airplane, he added.

Another notable feature of the aircraft is its high tail wing and rudder, which was designed that way to keep it out of the turbulence created by the deflected slipstream system. The aircraft also employed a stabilizer that utilized exhaust air, almost like vectored thrust, out of the rear of the aircraft to give the pilot more control over the aircraft, especially in pitch and yaw, said Barlow.

The Army did a total of 21 test flights with the Vertiplane before handing it off to NASA for further testing. Although the concept was good, it was not without its problems.

"What they found out was that it was very good at short take offs. It could get off the ground in something less than 30 feet, but the problem was, when the aircraft was at very low speed or at a hover, you have this propeller pushing its slipstream against its slotted back, and what that did as the air hit that, it would hit the ground and come back around and get re-ingested by the propellers, which caused sort of a feedback loop," said Barlow. "That caused the propeller to lose authority and the aircraft

would nose down. It was never so severe that it was liable to cause a crash -- the pilot was able to arrest that motion -- but it was something they couldn't solve and there was no way around it. It was an inconvenience and it was one that would limit further development."

Although only one Vertiplane was ever built, Barlow said that aircraft like it add to the body of knowledge that leads to further development of aircraft like the Harrier or the Osprey.

"Although the Osprey is a different aircraft and a different concept, it needs to pay homage to these early pioneers because it showed them what was possible. They took the best of several concepts and combined it into one that works," he said. "The bottom line is that this was a technology they tried to keep in concept with what they envisioned the battlefield of the future would be. They needed speed, mobility and flexibility, and this was another way to try to get that."

The museum is open to visit Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information about the museum, visit <http://www.armyaviationmuseum.org/>.

Although the Osprey is a different aircraft and a different concept, it needs to pay homage to these early pioneers because it showed them what was possible.

– Bob Barlow
Former Army Aviator and museum volunteer

Chief of Staff of the Army: 'The time is now' to transform the Army

By Thomas Brading
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – Not only are people the Army's No. 1 priority but, according to its top officer, they will also play a critical role in transforming the Army as it moves into the future.

"The time is now to transform how we take care of our people, our doctrine, our organizations, our training, our equipment, and how we compete around the world," Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville said Oct. 14 during the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition.

It was McConville's second time speaking at the meeting's Eisenhower presentation. However, unlike previous years, there was no large in-person turnout. Also, no high-tech weapons or vehicles on display nearby.

Instead of flocking to the nation's capital and brushing shoulders in the packed hallways of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the annual meeting went virtual to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

In his recorded remarks, the Army's chief of staff took the opportunity to address modernization and readiness efforts, while primarily focusing on the force's new top priority -- its people.

'PEOPLE FIRST'

McConville has put "people first" since day one. On his first day as the 40th chief of staff of the Army last year, the four-star general vowed people would be his No. 1 priority. Not just Soldiers, but also their families, Army civilians, and Soldiers for Life.

During last year's Eisenhower Luncheon, McConville discussed the Army's various talent management upgrades, like how officers are selected for promotions, and announced one of his signature initiatives -- the Army

People Strategy. A year later, officials are still building onto those initiatives.

For McConville, "people first" is more than a tagline, "it's a philosophy," he said. "When we take care of our people and treat each other with dignity and respect, we will have a much stronger, and more committed Army.

"It's always [been] people first," he said. "People are our greatest strength and most important weapons system."

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

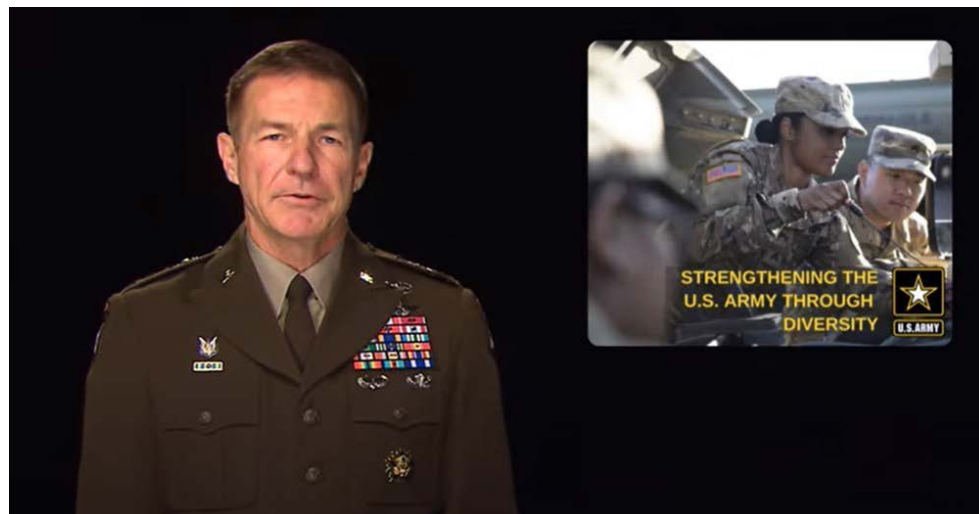
McConville's address came a day after Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy announced an action plan to prioritize the Army's people and their teams.

"Just as we did with readiness, we must invest in people," McCarthy said during the meeting's opening ceremony Tuesday. "The time is now."

Now with people as the Army's top priority, McConville said the Army will "deliver on our readiness and modernization priorities. When we care about people, we get them in the right jobs at the right time, [and] that is how we win."

To do that, the Army "must be ready -- ready tonight and ready in the future," McConville said. "No Soldier or unit will ever be sent into combat that's not highly trained, disciplined, fit, and ready."

The Army is at its highest rate of readiness, he touted, and it's "because of the hard work of our people." This accomplishment has lent a hand during a transformational time in the Army, as the service shifts from nearly two decades of investing resources into counter-insurgency operations to beefing up its arsenal against near-peer adversaries.



SCREENSHOT IMAGE

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville delivers remarks during the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition Oct. 14.

For years, other major players on the world's stage, like China and Russia, have "aggressively invested in modernized technology and weapons systems" of their own, which has challenged America's overmatch globally, he said.

As a result, "the time has come for transformational change to build the Army we need for the future, [because] winning matters. When the nation calls on the Army, we don't go to participate. We don't go to try hard, we go to win. There is no second place or honorable mention in combat."

LOOKING BACK ON THE PAST YEAR

It's been a long year since his first Eisenhower address. In that time, the Army has "faced significant challenges around the world and at home," McConville said, referring to conflicts in the Middle East and responding to COVID-19, natural disasters, and civil unrest.

Earlier this year, he said some 3,500 Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne

Division displayed a high level of readiness after completing a no-notice deployment to Iraq to protect U.S. forces and an American embassy.

Moving forward, the Army has a "unique opportunity" to plan for the future, McConville said. "Our nation's competitors are more determined than ever to exert their will. That's why the time is now to build the Army we need for the future. These are challenging times, but the great thing about challenging times is the opportunity to transform."

Even amid the coronavirus pandemic, readiness efforts continue, he said. Right now, there are roughly 180,000 Soldiers in over 140 countries defending the United States.

"I am incredibly proud of our Army," he said. "The performance of our National Guard, [Army] Reserve, and our active-duty forces this year has been phenomenal."

Army senior leaders discuss housing reform, quality of life initiatives

By Devon Suits
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- Safe and affordable housing remains a top quality of life initiative, as the Army looks to improve its neighborhoods and oversight over privatized housing companies, senior leaders said Oct. 15.

Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy and Gen. Edward M. Daly, head of Army Materiel Command, met with private housing companies and financial backers to increase funding for privatized housing Oct. 14.

They agreed to finance an additional \$2.8 billion toward housing over the next five years, McCarthy said during this year's Association of the U.S. Army senior leader family forum.

"We are putting a tremendous amount of investment capital back into the [Army] to recapitalize about 18,000 homes and build 3,800 new ones," he said. "This substantial capital increase is going to help us make fundamental changes to [installations] around the country and at locations overseas."

Along with increased funding for homes, leaders are working to improve Army barracks by investing close to \$9 billion over the next decade, starting with a \$780 million influx of funding this year, McCarthy said.

"We want to make sure we have quality barracks, and we are putting billions of dollars into those facilities to make sure that we have that quality," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville. "It is going to take some time, but we are committed to making that happen."

The Army has also empowered its installation commanders to hold contracting companies responsible, in addition to hiring more than 100 additional staff members at installation management offices throughout the force, McCarthy said.

"Over the past 18 months, we have vastly improved our management and communica-

tion with the [privatized housing companies]," McCarthy said.

A mobile app is now in the works to help residents submit and track housing work orders, officials said. The force is also continuing to provide regular home inspections for safety hazards, such as mold, asbestos, peeling lead paint, and other potential hazards.

"We will continue to listen to make changes that ease the stressors and burdens to our Soldiers and their families," McCarthy added. "We owe it to the families and our service members to do much more."

McCarthy also approved historic housing maintenance changes, which will allow for the effective repair and renovation of over 3,200 homes built from 1919 to 1940. Workers can now use modern materials to revitalize these facilities, improving safety and reducing costs.

"We have energy and wind at our backs right now, but we still have a long haul in front of us," McCarthy said.

Taking care of families, Soldiers

Beyond investments in housing, all leaders should make a concerted effort to know each of their Soldiers and their families, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston.

"Army families are the bedrock of our institution," McCarthy said. "This year, especially, they have demonstrated their resiliency."

All three senior leaders said they were thankful for the support and care Army families provided, especially the National Guard and Reserve families that helped support their Soldiers during COVID-19 efforts.

The Army has asked a lot from its junior leaders over the past 19 years, Grinston added. With the increased workload, it has become increasingly difficult to find additional time to support their subordinates' needs.



PHOTO BY SGT. JAMES HARVEY

Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy, center, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville, left, and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston speak during the 2020 AUSA family forum in the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., Oct. 15.

"These are difficult times and leaders need to think through how we are taking care of our families during this COVID-19 environment," McConville said. "We have single [and] dual working parents. We need to take a hard look at how we are supporting our Soldiers."

Looking ahead, the Army is driven to build a cohesive team around a Soldier -- comprised of a leader, family, and friends -- to provide them continuous assistance, McConville said. The Army chief considers this to be a "golden triangle" of support.

"If a family is having a problem, they can then go to that leader for help," he said. "That leader might not be expected to solve the problem, but they need to ... know who to get help from."

Additionally, U.S. Army Forces Command has instituted a program to allow leaders time to meet with their troops, Grinston said. This also gives them a chance to check in on housing, barracks, child development centers, and other facilities to support their team better.

McCarthy said the Army has increased child care staffing by 7% and added more than 5,000 childcare spaces in the past fiscal year. The force plans to build nine more CDCs over the next five years.

Taking care of families also includes spouse employment. Leaders have expanded the non-appropriated fund employee program under the new Civilian Employment Assignment Tool, or CEAT, to help spouses maintain their careers as they move to a new installation, McCarthy said.

Suppose a position is available at the gaining installation. In that case, certain NAF employees can request a transfer to another post at the same grade, pay level, and employment category under the CEAT program, officials said.

"We have also increased the licensing reimbursement to \$1,000, to include exam registration fees," McCarthy said. "We need the skills spouses can [provide], and we need to ... lessen the costs incurred by moving."

Overall, the performance and resiliency by all Soldiers and families in the past year has been extraordinary, McCarthy said.

"We heard you last year, and we have put a lot of activity in place. But activity is interesting -- results are compelling," McCarthy added. "The stress on this institution is unprecedented, and we will do everything we can to give you the quality of life you deserve and reduce stress wherever possible."

SMA talks 'This is My Squad' with company-level leaders

By Thomas Brading
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. -- As the Army's top enlisted Soldier, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston has worked to build stronger unit cohesion throughout the force by pushing his signature initiative "This is My Squad."

Since being sworn in last August, the Army's 16th SMA has traveled the globe to meet with Soldiers and help them learn about the educational and technical tools needed to become better leaders.

No issue has been off the table. He's spoken about the positive facets of being a Soldier, how to improve individual readiness like preparing for the Army's new fitness test, or ways to prevent sexual assault and suicide within the ranks.

The TIMS campaign was designed to replicate strong, cohesive teams often found in Special Forces units, he said last October. A year later, TIMS is being implemented at all echelons of the Army, is consonant with Grinston's vision for a more cohesive force, and even entered the virtual realm with a mobile app on the way.

It seemed fitting that TIMS was again part of the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition on Thursday. Grinston's virtual event, however, didn't focus on his insight. Instead, the spotlight shifted to company-level leaders implementing the approach, how it's evolved in the past year, and where it's going.

TIMS AT THE COMPANY LEVEL

So "how does the company-level enable TIMS?" the SMA asked, during the split-screen webinar. First up was Master Sgt. Jonathan Wilcox, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Headquarters and

Headquarters Battery (Rear), 75th Field Artillery Brigade, who oversees more than a hundred teammates.

"Our role is to influence and empower sergeants and staff sergeants," Wilcox said, sharing a camera with his officer counterpart, Capt. Daniel Dickey, the battery's commander.

Company-level leaders should "challenge them [and] learn more about their Soldiers, and have a shared and daily interaction with their Soldiers," Wilcox continued, as the SMA nodded.

Another responsibility for company leaders is to "create a positive influence and example for sergeants and staff sergeants," Dickey added. "We do this by building within their team. Not only will we take care of them, but it teaches them to take care of their Soldiers."

But the Army isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. The panel, much like the entire force, was from all backgrounds. Just below Wilcox and Dickey's screen was 1st Sgt. Hector Puente, a first sergeant for C Company, 2nd Battalion, 330th Engineer Regiment. There, he is not responsible for any junior-enlisted Soldiers, just squad-level NCOs -- including 12 drill sergeants.

Puente's role is to "empower drill sergeants with the tools and capabilities they need" to accomplish their mission, he said. In other words, he teaches them how to rely on each other, since they are all peers, and how to take ownership within their squads.

First Sgt. Nathan Brookshire, assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), agreed with Puente. "Our role in TIMS is empowering squad leaders through the mission command

philosophy," he said.

Instead of micro-managing junior NCOs, Brookshire gives them responsibilities and creative control over certain tasks. For example, he recently had Soldiers develop physical fitness training programs with little oversight. "It gives the squad leaders ownership of their training, and builds cohesiveness as a squad."

BUILDING SQUAD LEADERS

Education is the key to developing young leaders, Puente said. "We want Soldiers to be educationally sound, [even] in a COVID-19 environment when a lot of classes are canceled."

Recently, Puente said he witnessed a chain-reaction of Soldiers enrolling into schools after being inspired by someone who recently graduated.

"By developing our staff sergeants as a company command team, that can drive a culture of winning within the company," said Capt. Douglas Rohde, commander of B Co., 1st Bn. in The Old Guard.

Developing squad leaders is "directly tied to the successes or failures of our company," he added. "[Junior NCOs] make decisions every day -- in garrison or in other units in combat -- that can have a direct impact on the company and the mission."

Rohde, who oversees memorial affairs at Arlington National Cemetery, said his junior NCOs are often the senior-ranking officials at military funerals. It's those leaders, he said, who perform at the highest level possible. Their skills are enabled by trust, but also being given the tools to perform.

INVESTING TIME TO SAVE IT

Nobody has a greater influence on young Soldiers than squad leaders, said Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Irion, a U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory detachment NCOIC. "[Junior NCOs] are the people who Soldiers

see all the time, and will have the most influence on them," which can be good and bad.

By investing in squad-level leaders, like with online schooling and safety courses, company leaders can give NCOs what they need to develop their Soldiers, Irion said.

However, those tactics only go so far. Progress and development can also come by encouraging troops "to get out of their comfort zone," said Capt. Kenneth Danos, a USAARL detachment commander, adding he recently pushed his Soldiers to try-out for the Best Warrior Competition.

Even if they didn't win, he said, the experience helped develop them.

Regardless of which question the SMA asked or who answered, one thing was clear: developing squad leaders is vital to the success of the Army. But there is no one school, award, or a single experience that accomplishes this, Irion said.

To truly develop leaders, "you have to give them tasks and let them be leaders," Irion said. "Let them make mistakes, and let them know when it's OK to make mistakes."

"Because that just makes us human," he added. "And it makes us better moving forward."

At the end of the event, Grinston asked the panel what the Army could do to help. As he had hoped for, there was no shortage of candid dialogue. Issues such as more incentives or squad leaders being able to take time off to learn about their Soldiers were suggested.

"My goal is to make you all the coaches and the mentors," Grinston said. "When I think of [TIMS], the leaders are in the middle, and I'll have 50,000 [leaders] because all of our first sergeants and platoon sergeants are trained in that skill."

SecDef discusses new technologies designed to give warfighters advantage

By David Vergun
Defense.gov

WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper spoke Oct. 15 about Army modernization efforts that harness new technologies that will benefit the warfighter. His remarks were given during the Association of the United States Army's annual meeting.

"Today, emerging technologies are expanding the geometry of the battlefield and transforming how we think about, prepare and plan for war," he said.

The reason for this transformation, he said, is because near-peer rivals China and Russia are seeking to erode America's long-standing military advantages through cutting edge military innovation such as precision long-range fires, anti-access area denial systems, or A2AD, and other asymmetric capabilities designed to counter U.S. strengths.

"In space, Moscow and Beijing have weaponized a once-peaceful domain with killer satellites, directed energy weapons and more in an effort to seize the high ground and chip away at our military edge," he said.

They also exploit cyberspace as a means to undermine U.S. advantages without confronting the Defense Department's conventional strengths, he added.

To remain ahead of these threats, the department must harness new technologies, Esper continued.

In the last several years, the Army has "ruthlessly redirected time, money and manpower to its highest priorities," he said, noting hypersonic weapons are at the top of that list of priorities.

"As our competitors develop long-range fires to inhibit our freedom of maneuver, we're increasing our investments in hypersonics over the next five years, so we can ramp up testing and develop these capabilities to the warfighter

as quickly as possible," he said.

In March, the Army and Navy reached an important milestone by jointly launching a successful test of a hypersonics glide body, he noted. The plan is to integrate this technology into an Army battery by 2023.

At the same time, the Army is investing in the interim maneuver, short-range air-defense platform to provide soldiers with 360-degree protection from unmanned aircraft systems and other low-altitude aerial threats, he said.

This system will most likely be integrated into four battalions in Europe in 2023, he added.

To bolster the department's advantage in the land domain, the armored multi-purpose vehicle, the replacement for the Vietnam-era M113 armored personnel carrier, is currently rolling off the production line, he added, and it is being integrated into the armored brigade combat team.

These and other technologies and developments are building combat credible capabilities, allowing the DOD to target A2AD complexes and enable joint maneuvers across all domains, thanks in large part to industry partners who have persevered during the COVID-19 pandemic and kept supply chains open and delivery of systems on time, he mentioned.

Army Futures Command has been instrumental in helping to develop emerging technologies across all domains, Esper said.

The command recently conducted a live-fire simulation of unmanned to unmanned teaming with drones and satellites relaying target coordinates with ground artillery and artificial intelligence-enabled weapons systems, he said.

Another AFC initiative, Esper said, is Project Convergence 2021. As the name sug-



PHOTO BY LISA FERDINANDO

Esper

gests, it is a multiplatform initiative being developed to merge joint force capabilities and keep pace with technological change in order to help the maneuver force operate more efficiently across the land, air, sea, space and cyberspace domains. He added that allies and partners will be included in this effort.

He also added that "Project Convergence will play an integral role in the department's development of Joint All-Domain Command and Control, which will modernize how the military fights."

The defense secretary then explained the importance of working with allies and partners by providing some examples.

In 2018, the Army stood up the Multi-Domain Task Force to synchronize modernization efforts of joint assets with partners in the Indo-Pacific region, he said. Next year, its efforts will be centered in Europe.

In Europe, Stryker units will increasingly deploy in continuous rotations in the eastern-most edge of Europe, he said.

Plans are also underway to rotate the lead element of the Army's new V Corps into Poland, once agreements are finalized, he noted.

The Army is strengthening alliances and partnerships, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, where it is also expanding training exercises that enhance interoperability, he said.

This year, the Army is stationing a company-sized Stryker vehicle training set in Thailand to support the Royal Thai Army as they build their own Stryker program, he said. The Army also plans to expand its International Military Education and Training Program and increase military school slots in support of their Stryker program.

Worldwide, the Army and the other services are employing a concept known as dynamic force employment, he said.

"The Army applied this to build rapid-power projection through dispersed, prepositioned equipment. This has enabled the department to become more nimble and less predictable and better capable of rapidly shifting to combat operations as needed," he said.

All of these efforts prepare the department "for the high-end fight that we hope we must never have but must be prepared to win," Esper concluded.





An exterior shot of the National Museum of the United States Army.

PHOTO BY DUANE LEMPKE

National Museum of the U.S. Army to open Veterans Day 2020

U.S. Army
Press Release

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army plans to open the National Museum of the United States Army on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. Building construction and exhibit installations are now complete, and the museum is ready to open its doors to the public for the first time.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army, located on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will be the first and only museum to tell the entire history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775.

“The U.S. Army and the American Soldier forged the birth of our nation,” said Secretary of the Army, Ryan D. McCarthy. “The National Army Museum will be a place for

members of the total Army family to gather and share their stories, while also creating an opportunity for visitors to connect with our nation’s history through the eyes and voices of individual Soldiers.”

The museum’s Experiential Learning Center will provide visitors of all ages a unique opportunity to participate in hands-on, educational and team-building activities in the areas of geography, science, technology, engineering and math.

“The museum is stunning, and it is an honor to present this history in a way that shows the connection between the American Soldier, the U.S. Army and the nation,” said the museum’s director, Ms. Tammy E. Call.

The museum will open with enhanced health and safety measures for visitors. Free, timed-entry tickets are required to manage

visitor capacity and provide an optimal experience to visitors.

“We have worked hard to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors, and we are excited to open the doors of this long-awaited national museum,” added Call.

The museum is a joint effort between the U.S. Army and the Army Historical Foundation, a non-profit organization. The AHF constructed the building through private funds, and the U.S. Army provided the infrastructure, roads, utilities and exhibit work that transformed the building into a museum. The Army owns and operates the museum, and the AHF manages retail, catering and special events.

“The Army is people. They are our greatest strength and our most important weapon system,” said the Chief of Staff of the Army,

Gen. James C. McConville. “The National Museum of the United States Army is designed to tell the compelling and heroic stories of our people and take visitors on an exciting journey through the history of the U.S. Army as told through the American Soldiers’ point of view.”

The opening will be preceded by a small ceremony that will be livestreamed to encourage people around the world to participate in this historic moment. A link to the livestream will be posted on the museum’s website and social channels as soon as it’s available. For more information, please visit <http://www.theNMUSA.org>.

To view a video of the National Museum of the U.S. Army, please visit https://youtu.be/3MLNA_bf2EE for a three-minute video.



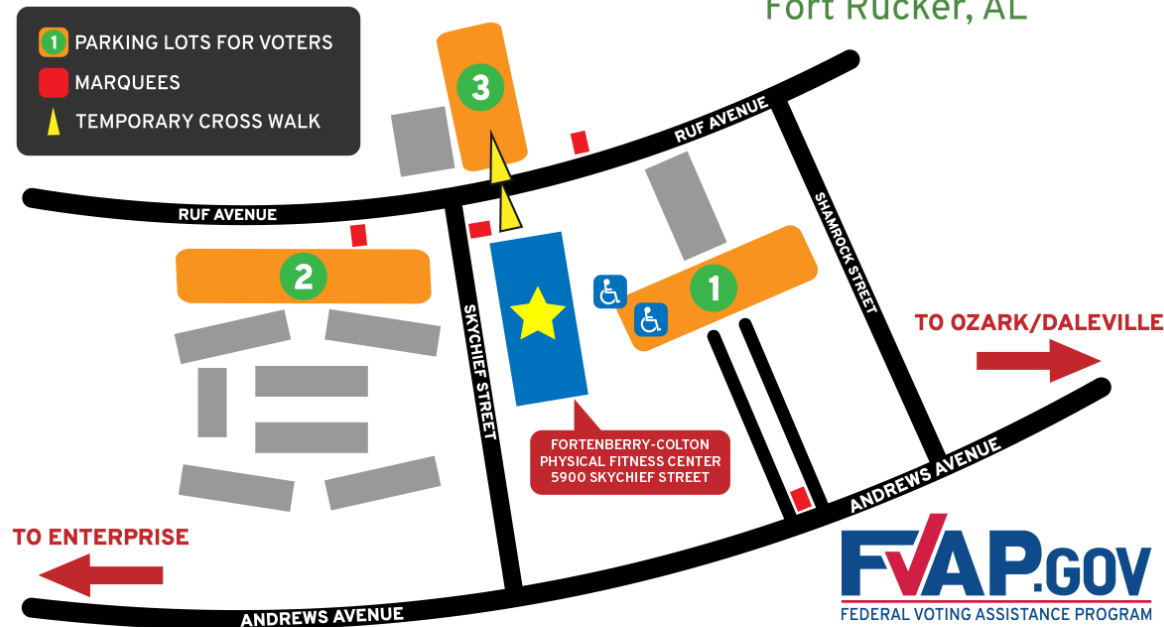
POLLING/VOTING PLACE CHANGE

The polling/voting place previously located at Bowden Terrace Community Center is closed for the Nov. 3 general election. This change affects Alabama state residents whose voting residence is an address on Fort Rucker:

POLLING/VOTING PLACE
BOWDEN TERRACE
COMMUNITY CENTER
CLOSED

POLLING/VOTING PLACE
FORTENBERRY-COLTON
PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER
OPEN

5900 Skychief Street
Fort Rucker, AL



Need assistance? Contact the Installation Voting Assistance Office
by email at usarmy.rucker.usag.mbx.voting-office@mail.mil





ARMY PHOTO

TAKING THE OATH

William G. Kidd, deputy to the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, administers the first in-person oath of office at Fort Rucker since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The Fort Rucker Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has been in-processing new civilian employees virtually during the pandemic. With some exceptions for those coming in from over 150 miles away, the CPAC is now able to provide in-person customer service for new employee information and questions, according to CPAC officials.

ARMY FLIER

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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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