

EASY AS 1, 2, 3 – LENDING HANGAR SEEKS TO REDUCE STRESS, COSTS OF MOVING – SEE PAGE 8

ARMY FLYER

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PHOTO BY SGT. JAKE COX

U.S. and Moroccan forces conduct a high value target capture exercise during African Lion 2021. African Lion is U.S. Africa Command's largest, premier, joint, annual exercise hosted by Morocco, Tunisia and Senegal.

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Fort Rucker hosts Aviation Industry Days

By Kelly Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence hosted its annual Aviation Industry Days event to provide industry representatives a chance to hear from aviation enterprise leaders and foster innovative idea sharing July 20-22.

With social distancing and other COVID-19 mitigation measures in place, this year's event brought in more than 400 attendees and over 50 vendor exhibits at The Landing, and included a two-day lineup of guest speakers featuring Army aviation enterprise leaders at the post theater.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, welcomed participants and provided an Aviation Branch update.



Todd

"It's absolutely phenomenal bringing in our industry partners with our government partners again, to help communicate our thinking about the future and the assistance and partnership we need as a team moving forward as we modernize the Army and Army aviation into the future. This is an important couple of days here," Francis said.

"We have not been static during COVID. We are moving out on all fronts across the board," he said.

Francis spoke about preparing Army aviation to transition from 20 years of counter-insurgency operations to large scale combat operations of the future, as well as progress that has been made not only with materiel solutions, but also across areas like doctrine, training, facilities and policy, and leader development.

"The leaders that we are developing today are the ones that are going to lead us into the future, and we can't train the same way we've done for the last 20 years," he said.

"We know that we're going to be operating in very different environments with different leadership attributes that are going to be required, and different technical competencies. As we train those leaders, we're changing that in anticipation of the receipt of Future Vertical Lift and all of its capabilities so that we're prepared to employ those things in a higher threat environment," Francis explained.

Francis said Army aviation will adapt to new constraints in the future operating environment.

"Gone are the days when we're going to have a combat aviation brigade sitting on an



PHOTOS BY KELLY MORRIS

Francis

airfield, because the signature is simply too large," he said.

Army aviation will be required to operate from areas of relative sanctuary in dispersed locations, and converge effects at the time and place of their choosing to present multiple dilemmas to adversaries.

Army aviation must be able to sustain and maintain aircraft at remote locations in the future.

"We won't be able to do the hub and spoke thing that we've been doing for the last 20 years, where we had an aircraft come into a phase window, we fly it back to a hub, do the phase and send it back out. We will not have that ability. The maintenance free operating periods that we have between major maintenance events is going to be absolutely critical to our success in the future," he said.

Francis also said Fort Rucker is producing record numbers of aviators again, which

is critical for the future of the branch and the Army.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Todd, deputy commanding general, Acquisition and Systems Management at Army Futures Command, encouraged attendees to think about how Army aviation connects into the bigger picture of the Army's six modernization priorities.

"The question would be, how are you integrating aviation with ground? How are you integrating it in those long range fires, with the network, with air and missile defense, and the Soldier as a system in and of itself?" he said.

He explained the need for the joint and multinational force in the future to rapidly converge effects across all domains. The Army's Project Convergence looks to answer this, with a focus on emerging technologies in a contested future environment.

"Don't think (of) network always connected, always on, always transmitting, always receiving. Absolutely not, it's very much the opposite," he said.

Todd also emphasized the importance of getting technology in the hands of Soldiers in keeping with the rate of innovation.

The Army must raise the next generation of leaders that can expect to be modernized while they're in command, he said.

Maj. Gen. Walter T. Rugen, director of Army Futures Command's Future Vertical Lift Cross Functional Team, in his remarks spotlighted the Future Vertical Lift ecosystem in large scale combat operations, with an emphasis on simulations and modeling in a recent exercise.

The Experimental Demonstration Gateway Exercise (Edge 21), conducted at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, in May, pro-

INDUSTRY DAYS cont.

vided a Soldier touchpoint to test the FVL ecosystem and get emerging technologies in the hands of Soldiers to show how the Army and Joint force will fight in the Indo-Pacific theater in the future.

Rugen commended efforts across the aviation enterprise, and lauded the requirements and concepts from Fort Rucker's experts that were proven in the model, he said.

"When you hear the (Army Chief of Staff) talk about speed, range, transformational and decision dominance, that's really truly what we demonstrated out at Edge 21, in the physical and digital space, and I would also argue in the electromagnetic space to achieve decision dominance," he said.

Guest speakers for the event also included Brig. Gen. Robert Barrie, program execu-

tive officer for Army aviation, and Brig. Gen. Clair Gill, director of Army aviation at the Army Pentagon, as well as aviation sustainment, survivability systems, and capability development experts, including Army capability managers teamed with program managers for updates on attack and lift platforms and Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Throughout the event, participants had opportunities to peruse industry booths and displays, and ask questions and pitch ideas to leaders and subject matter experts.

Col. Joshua Higgins, director of Army Future Command's Capability Development and Integration Directorate, based at Fort Rucker, commended the team effort across the aviation enterprise, Fort Rucker, and the Wiregrass community that made the event

possible.

"I just appreciate the great support for us to be able to do something like this safely. I think everyone will walk out of here with a far better understanding of the aviation modernization efforts, and the priorities of the branch, and understand better what we've done over the last 18 months during COVID," Higgins said.

A critical part of that team is the industry partnerships that help solve the technology challenges aviation faces, today and into the future.

"These are our industry partners – we need them, and they need us," Higgins said. "And at the end of the day, it's all about providing the best capability to the Soldiers that we support, and defending our nation."

“ *The leaders that we are developing today are the ones that are going to lead us into the future, and we can't train the same way we've done for the last 20 years.* ”

– Maj. Gen. David J. Francis
USACE and Fort Rucker commanding general



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

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166 COMBINED YEARS OF SERVICE

5 Soldiers, 1 civilian retire at quarterly ceremony

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

With a combined 166 years of service to the nation, five Soldiers and one civilian retired during the Fort Rucker Quarterly Retirement Ceremony July 30 in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

Col. Marcus A. Gengler, director of the Aviation Enablers Requirements Determination Directorate, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, hosted the event and was assisted by Sgt. Maj. Derrick Quackenbush, sergeant major of Aviation Combat Development and Integration Directorate, USAACE.

Short write-ups on each retiree follow.

CW5 CHRISTOPHER L. HAYNES

Haynes, department head for the Joint, Interagency and Multinational Operations Department at the U.S. Army Warrant

Officer Career College, entered military service in 1989 in the Marines as an ammunition technician. He joined the Army in 1997 and was selected for warrant officer training in 2002.

He served three combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was issuing ammunition and explosives during his multiple combat tours to the warfighters defending freedom in the U.S. Central Command region.

He and his spouse, Paige, have three children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

CW4 DONALD K. PROCTER

Procter, tactical operations officer and instructor pilot with the 110th Aviation Brigade, entered military service in 1983 in



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Procter and guests.

the Navy as a jet mechanic. He transferred to the National Guard in 1987 and commissioned as a second lieutenant. He attended flight school in 1989. After 9-11, he resigned his commission and attended AH-64 Apache training as a warrant officer one.

He served multiple combat tours in support of operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

He said the highlight of his career was when he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for exceptional heroism involving aerial flight while serving as an AH-64D gunner in support of an Italian and Afghan special forces combat assault, and search and seizure operation in 2010 in Afghanistan.

CW3 KENNETH S. HAY

Hay, standardization pilot for A Company, 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment, entered military service in 2001 as a multi-systems transmission operator. In 2009, he was selected for Army Warrant Officer Flight Training. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

He said the highlight of his career was being an air assault instructor pilot with the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade.

He and his spouse, Goodnite, have three children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

CW3 CHRISTOPHER J. HEINIGER

Heiniger, instructor pilot course section leader with F Co., 1-212th Avn. Regt., entered military service in 1998 as a military police Soldier. He was selected for Army Warrant Officer Flight Training in 2010.

He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

He said the highlight of his career was serving as an air assault flight lead in Afghanistan.

He and his spouse, Angelica, have two children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

MASTER SGT. MARIO E. CEA

Cea, first sergeant for A Co., 1-145th Avn. Regt., entered military service in 2000 as an infantryman and later reenlisted as an AH-64D attack helicopter repairer. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

He said the highlight of his career was marrying his beautiful wife, Carolina, and having a wonderful son. They plan to reside in Enterprise.



Haynes and guests.

RETIREES cont.

CAROLYN D. JEMISON

Jemison, security specialist with the Fort Rucker garrison, entered military service in 1989 as a commissary employee at Camp Pendleton, California.

She said the highlight of her career was achieving supervisor status at the Security

and Intelligence Division at Herlong, California.

She and her husband, William Taylor, have been married for 43 years. They have three children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild. They plan to reside in Munford.



Cea and guests.



Jemison and guests.



Hay and guests.



Heiniger and guests.

Lyster Army Health Clinic changes pharmacy park and pick-up process

By Janice Erdlitz

Lyster Army Health Clinic Public Affairs

Lyster Army Health Clinic recently announced a change to its pharmacy park and pick-up process.

Beneficiaries can now park and walk up to the building to pick up their medications in the pharmacy park and pick-up area. Previously, beneficiaries would remain in their vehicles and a staff member would come directly to them.

The new process allows beneficiaries improved opportunities to ask questions regarding their medications when needed.

If you arrive too early and your medications are not ready for pick-up, a team member at the window will take your phone number and you will be asked to return to your vehicle to wait.

Once your medication is ready, you will receive a phone call to return inside for pick up.

“For now, pharmacy team members will be onsite guiding beneficiaries as we implement this new process,” explained Dr. LaToya Lynn, pharmacy chief.

The new process in the park and pick-up

area:

- * Beneficiaries picking up medications should pull in the pharmacy park and pick-up parking lot via Dustoff Street;

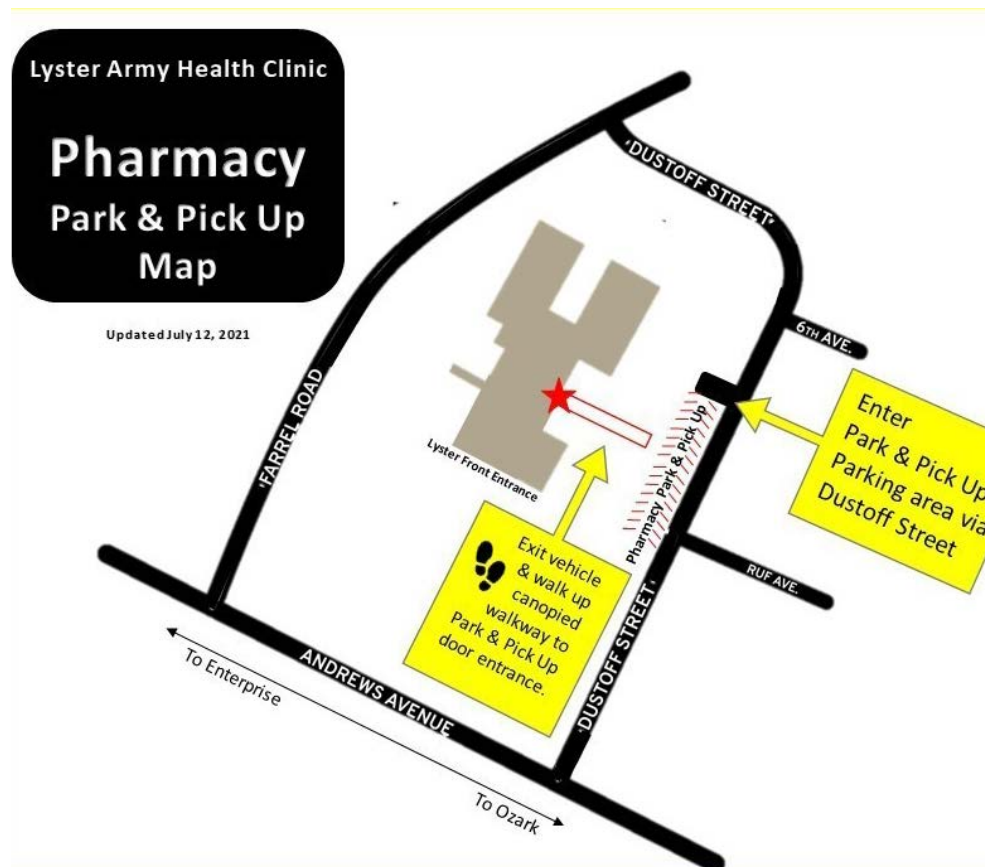
- * park and exit their vehicles; and

- * walk up the canopied walkway in the park and pick-up area to the pharmacy pick-up located inside of the clinic.

All other processes will remain the same, including mandatory call-in for refill prescriptions, as well as completion of drop-off forms for electronic or manually faxed prescriptions or for prescriptions requiring a hard copy. People with same-day appointments seen within Lyster should continue to utilize the pharmacy inside the clinic.

Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations, masks are still required inside of health care facilities regardless of vaccination status. You will be required to wear a mask at all times while receiving services at Lyster Army Health Clinic and the pharmacy.

Learn more at <https://lyster.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Pharmacy>.



'NEVER GIVE UP'

Inspirational speaker brings message of resiliency to Fort Rucker

By Kelly Morris
USACE Public Affairs

When Justin "J.P." Lane's vehicle was hit by an IED while on a route clearance mission in Afghanistan in 2011, it wasn't the first time.

But this time, the 9-line call for MedEvac support was for him, and the speedy arrival of a Black Hawk helicopter on the scene was lifesaving.

"I'm living, walking proof that your job is more important than sometimes you may even think," the decorated veteran and double amputee said to Army aviation professionals at Fort Rucker July 20.

"When someone's in that situation — they're blown up, they're losing blood and their situation is quite traumatic — the best



PHOTO BY LT. COL. ANDY THAGGARD

Justin 'J.P.' Lane conducts physical readiness training with Soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, July 20. Lane toured Fort Rucker as part of an Army-wide Holistic Outreach and Engagement Campaign.

part about it is the fact that you guys are on your toes, in the (aircraft) getting there to that hot spot, and getting us back safe," he said.

"What you all do is extremely important for speed and efficiency and for keeping people alive, and I am very grateful," he said.

Lane said his Army journey began back in eighth grade, when he watched on television in his language arts classroom at school as the twin towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001. He wanted to make sure an attack like that never happened again.

When he was old enough to join, he asked a recruiter to sign him up for the most dangerous job they could give him. In 2008 he enlisted to become a combat engineer.

He deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, and on two occasions his vehicle was hit by an IED. The vehicle was badly damaged but he and his team were safe.

That's when complacency can set in, and people can think they're invincible, he said.

July 2, 2011, Lane volunteered to clear the

most dangerous route at the time, on what was supposed to be his day off. That day, they drove their RG-31 mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle over an IED that exploded. Lane was severely wounded — more than 26 injuries including the loss of both his legs.

Lane showed photos of the blast's damage to the vehicle, including the 4-inch thick glass windshield that was shattered when his head hit it, causing a traumatic brain injury.

Lane kept a sense of humor as he described the extent of his injuries.

"They had to cut me open down my perfectly chiseled abs, open me up and go in and fix everything," he said.

His physical body was forever changed that day, but not his strong will.

When doctors told him he would never walk with prosthetics because of the nature of his injuries, he was determined to prove them wrong, and he did.

They told him he would not be able to speak properly, and as a musician it was dev-



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

Decorated combat veteran and motivational speaker J.P. Lane sits in the cockpit of a UH-60 Black Hawk at Lowe Army Heliport with CW3 John Cornelius, an aviator from the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, during a tour of Fort Rucker July 19.

RESILIENCY cont.

astating to hear he would never sing again because of damage to his vocal cords. But today he is a guest speaker, and part of his presentation is singing and playing guitar.

Looking back on that day, Lane could focus on the minuses, but what he sees are the miracles. If one leg hadn't been severed in the blast that day, he would have died. In that sense, he feels grateful for the amputation because it saved him.

The MedEvac crew was a godsend – they were able to keep him stable and quickly transport him to the help he needed at the hospital.

He was told he died twice on the operating table, so the fact that he is alive is a miracle.

The doctors were not sure if Lane would awake from the coma; and if he did, it was questionable as to what his brain function would be. The miracles continued the day he woke up, and his father passed him a note with the words, "Can you read this?" When Lane looked at the note and nodded his head, "Yes," his family in the room were moved to tears.

By telling his story, Lane encourages others to "never give up" — if he can make it through dark times, so can they.

He described the four "pillars" of holistic health and fitness that keep the Army's people strong: physical, mental, social and spiritual.

Before the incident, Lane bench pressed 180 lbs. Now, he bench presses over 300, and participates in physical training with Soldiers as travels around to various installations. In fact, it was his continued commitment to fitness that brought him to one of his greatest blessings, his spouse Crystal, whom he met at a gym.

His mental toughness is evident in his

"never surrender" attitude, and how he overcame thoughts of suicide multiple times by replacing those with thoughts of purpose.

"I've been through war, I've been through hell and back, lost my legs and more, but ... I want to live the best life I possibly can," he said.

The Purple Heart recipient said he presses forward rather than taking the easy route of giving up. Believing God wasn't finished with him yet, Lane said his faith has served as an anchor for him. His love for creating and performing music is an expression of his spiritual resiliency.

The familiar Army expression, "I've got your six" is something brothers and sisters in arms demonstrate not just in the good times but more so on each other's worst day on the planet, Lane said.

"I was at my worst point, and my battle buddies spent their hard-earned money and flew in from different states across the nation just to spend an afternoon with me," he said. "That's leadership. That's family."

Just as Soldiers do not fight alone on battlefields, Lane encouraged Soldiers to fight the "war within" together, because support from fellow Soldiers can help save a life.

"We're a family and that's how we should be doing it every single day no matter what," he said.

"Giving them that little bit of time, encouraging them to keep pushing through the fight, and (knowing) that you're going to be there through it all — you don't know what that can do for them," he said.

Lane's message is all about being an overcomer in life. In fact, with a smile on his face he has a few choice words for the adversity that entered his life that day in Afghanistan: "Nice try."

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EASY AS 1, 2, 3

Lending Hangar helps reduce stress, costs of moving

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Tight budgets can make duty station transitions stressful, but the Army Community Service Lending Hangar provides relief for Soldiers and families on the move.

The Lending Hangar, located in Rm. 177 of Bldg. 5700, offers basic household items to inbound and outbound Soldiers and family members, Department of the Army civilian employees and certain contractors during permanent change of station moves and, on an emergency basis, temporary duty assignments to Fort Rucker, according to Doug Schwab, relocation readiness program manager at ACS.

“Our goal is to support Soldiers and family members when they arrive or depart,” Schwab said. “So, if their household items aren’t here, we can help give them comfort. And there’s the monetary savings, as well – they don’t have to buy paper plates, plastic silverware or other household items while they’re waiting for theirs. They can borrow our items and save that money, and it also helps prevent them from having to go out to eat – dining out with a big family can get pretty expensive.”

And while the Lending Hangar may not be able to provide Soldiers and family members all of the comforts of home, it can

provide temporary respite from being in one place while all of their stuff is in another, he added.

Items available at the Lending Hangar have changed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Schwab said, so people interested in the facility’s services should call to check if items are available or not.

“We have the essentials to help families so they’re not trying to stay in a hotel while they’re still paying rent somewhere else,” he said. “And when they’re leaving, the benefit is they can ship their household goods from here early to help reduce the wait time at their new duty station – it’s better to be uncomfortable in a place you know than to be uncomfortable in a place you’ve never been to before.”

And it really is as easy as one, two, three.

1. Visit the Lending Hangar Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

2. Fill out a pre-made hand receipt with basic information like: name, unit, address, etc.

3. Grab what you need.

“When they come in, I put a bucket out for them – a big tote they can take with them, so they don’t have to try to balance all of



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Doug Schwab, Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program manager, inventories items at the Lending Hangar.

those dishes out to their car,” he said. “I tell them what’s on each shelf, and as they pick things off of the shelves, I’m checking them off. When they’re done, they look over the hand receipt, sign it, and I put a copy of it in their bucket.”

People can even drive to the dock after they’ve gathered their items, back up to the dock, put the items in their car and drive away, Schwab added.

“There’s no time limit – I don’t care how long it takes them, as long as they’re happy,”

he said.

And with that stress relief and cost savings, they should be happy. Based on his calculations over the past three years, Schwab estimates the Lending Hangar saves its patrons in the neighborhood of \$100,000 a year.

To benefit from the Lending Hangar, no appointment is necessary. Just show up during its hours of operation and Schwab will be at the ready to provide the help.

For more information on the Lending Hangar, call 255-3161 or 255-2887.

Army senior leaders: Sexual assault prevention starts on Day 1

By Thomas Brading
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – While leaders continue to expect a lot from their Soldiers, the Army should get “back to the basics of taking care of our people,” the Army secretary said July 27 during an event for the Resiliency Program Improvement Forum.

“As our great Army undertakes a fundamental strategic shift, from 20 years of counterterrorism operations to competing effectively against and deterring conflict with China and Russia, we’re also grappling with a host of harmful behaviors that are hurting our people,” said Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth during the event.

Wormuth and other Army leaders spoke to members from across the SHARP program on the importance of prevention efforts in the fight against those behaviors.

“Whether it’s sexual assault/harassment, suicides, substance abuse, or other behavioral health challenges, the last 20 years have placed a lot of strain on our Army,” she continued.

“Army leaders must address these issues by changing the culture within their units while focusing on building cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined and fit,” said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville.

This comes amid changes already made by the Army, like the ongoing restructuring of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, the Army secretary said.

“We’re in the process now of evaluating candidates to lead CID,” Wormuth said. “We will move soon to hire more civilian investigators to build out our investigative capabilities” under suggestions outlined in a Defense Department report published earlier this month.

To achieve this, Army leaders are working with top Pentagon officials on ways to imple-

ment the recommendations in four priority areas of change: accountability; prevention; climate and culture; and victim care and support.

All of the recommendations are expected to be implemented, “either in whole or in part,” said James Helis, director of the Army Resilience Directorate.

Many of those changes will be part of long-term efforts meant to build a prevention workforce to develop better practices over the next five years, Helis said.

The Army also plans to conduct more in-depth research into the challenges of sexual assault/harassment. Previous research studies “have helped us better identify the problem,” Helis said.

In addition, the Army looks to hire individuals to pursue accountability for victims of sexual assault/harassment, Wormuth said.

“Some changes we’re already making in the Army is because of the Fort Hood [Independent Review Committee] report,” Wormuth said, adding that the report released in December has become a model for some of the new recommendations across the DOD.

This is one example of how the Army has tried to “get ahead of command climate issues at some installations,” she said.

LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Even with changes announced or being developed, “sometimes there may not be enough resources or time,” Wormuth said. “A common theme I’ve heard in my visits to installations is that it’s not that our leaders don’t care about our Soldiers, it’s that they don’t have enough time.”

During her visits, the secretary has received feedback from Soldiers. One common thread, she said, was that many Army leaders



PHOTO BY SPC. JACOB WARD

Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth during a July 19 visit to Fort Bragg, N.C.

get too caught up in training and maintaining readiness and they lose sight of knowing their Soldiers.

McConville said he expects all commanders and sergeants to know their troops. Not only that, “know their families, connect with them. Everyone should have a buddy, because when people are going through hard times they need someone to be there with them.”

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

The role of leaders is only one aspect of the Golden Triangle, an initiative created by McConville. The idea of it, he explained, is to ensure all Soldiers have their leaders, families, and friends around them for support as the Army builds more cohesive teams.

Each role, whether it be leadership, battle buddies, or family, is one point of the triangle that supports an individual Soldier.

“We need to make sure leaders are connect-

ed to Soldiers, and Soldiers are connected to their families, and those families are also connected to our leaders,” Wormuth said.

This comes down to “connecting with our Soldiers,” McConville said. “We have people come in the Army that we have to connect to. We have to teach junior leaders and sergeant majors – how do you connect to your Soldiers?”

It’s more than sending a text, “it’s getting to the caring part,” McConville said.

LESSONS FROM AROUND THE ARMY

Wormuth opened up about her trip to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. During it, she met with the 82nd Airborne Division and was struck by how Maj. Gen. Chris Donahue, the commanding general, discussed caring for his Soldiers.

“[Donahue] talked about having two moral responsibilities,” she said. “The first is preparing paratroopers and families to ensure we can fight, win and survive in combat. The second

LEADERS cont.

is caring for the group, like they are our own family, extending that beyond the 82nd to the entire Army.”

This outlook, according to the secretary, is effectively the essence of what type of command climate is needed at every Army installation around the world.

But while leaders like Donahue play an important role in prevention, so do individuals at all levels. “We need upstanders, not bystanders,” she said.

“There are no innocent bystanders,” she continued, quoting Donahue. “We do not tolerate evils, whether perpetrated by an enemy force or another member of our team, regardless of rank or experience.”

Another stop Wormuth recently made was to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, the Army’s largest center for basic combat training, where last week she witnessed new trainees arrive.

The trainees learned about the SHARP program and how to prevent sexual assault during the earliest stages of training, because “inculcating Army values and an Army culture that puts people first starts on day one,” she said.

Across the country, a similar mission happened at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston also visited with trainees.

During his trip, Grinston said he sat in during a class that discussed preventing abusive sexual contact. The classroom was filled with recruits at the very beginning of their training. These initial days used to be when most cases of inappropriate contact were reported.

However, the Army has recently changed the timeframe of the course. It used to be taught roughly two weeks into training. Today it’s taught in the reception phase.

Before the change, “[BCT leaders] had about 30 cases per month involving abusive sexual content. They did the training and it went down to three,” Grinston said.



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MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM: COVID-19 vaccine benefits still outweigh the risks

By Janet A. Aker

Military Health Systems Communications

Only a small fraction of people in the military community have experienced breakthrough infections after receiving a COVID-19 vaccination - and none of them have died, according to Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald Place, Defense Health Agency Director.

Place revealed new data about breakthrough infections among people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at a July 20 virtual town hall for DHA employees.

Place explained that the evidence shows how effective the vaccine has been and he encouraged all service members and others to get fully vaccinated.

"The fact of the matter is the efficacy is very good," Place said. "From a safety perspective, for those of us who are [fully] vaccinated, it is exceptionally uncommon for us to need hospitalization."

More than 2 million people in the Military Health System have received full COVID-19 vaccinations, Place said. Of that number, about 1,600 people have been infected with the novel coronavirus.

"How many of those have had to be hospitalized? Less than 50," he told nearly 2,000 employee town hall participants. "There have been no deaths among that hospitalized group."

Yet despite strong evidence of the vaccine's safety and efficacy, significant portions of the military and civilian populations remain hesitant to get the shot.

For those who remain skeptical, Place

encouraged them to: "Have a true, meaningful conversation with somebody you trust or some buddies that you trust."

He suggested also talking to "your health care team, those family members that you trust and other members of the DHA that you may trust."

Place also shared his thoughts on the potential impact the unvaccinated population can have on their broader community.

"I'm just concerned that there are a number of us who, for whatever reason, believe the best course of action is to not be vaccinated."

"I get it for the 19 year olds or the 16 year olds, the 24 year olds - 'I'm Superman. No bugs are going to beat me,'" he said.

"The answer to me then is the butterfly effect. How can we break that cycle" whereby an unvaccinated military service member may be asymptomatic, or minimally symptomatic, but spreads COVID-19 to family members and barracks mates, who then may spread the virus to others, sometimes with deadly consequences.

Echoing the motto of the San Antonio Market, Place said "it's not too late to vaccinate," because the pandemic is still with us.

He noted the uptick in COVID-19 cases across the country in recent weeks, largely driven by the Delta variant that spreads more easily than the variants which spread last year.

"No matter what metric you look at, it's



PHOTO BY MAJ. ROBERT FELLINGHAM

A Soldier from the 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment is vaccinated May 7 while in Bulgaria for exercise Swift Response.

worse. We thought we were in a good place based on [vaccination rates against] the variants that were in society at the time."

However, "this [Delta] variant is different. That means the vaccination level needs to go up," he said.

Discussing herd immunity, Place said: "It's not about 70%" of the armed services being [partially] vaccinated. He indicated that with our still somewhat limited understanding of this coronavirus, "to me the only number I can really be comfortable with is 100% [fully vaccinated]."

As of July 16, the Pentagon reported that 70% of military personnel have received at

least one dose of one of the three COVID-19 vaccines, and 62% of service members are fully vaccinated.

In a same-day video, Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III stated that the military is being vaccinated with doses of the three vaccines "as fast as we can receive them."

"All the available vaccines have been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for a simple reason: They are safe, and they are effective," Austin said in the video. "I got my shots, and I hope you will, too."

Army addressing PCS-related issues as a top priority

By Susan A. Merkner

U.S. Army Installation Management Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – The Army is addressing service members' PCS issues this summer with a newly created crisis action team that meets daily.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, military families are facing challenges created by national shortages of moving trucks and drivers. From April 1-Sept. 30, a period Army leaders call the "summer surge," more than 54,000 people will move from one duty station to another.

In response, leaders with the U.S. Army Materiel Command and its major subordinate command, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, have created a PCS Moves CAT. Similar action was taken two years ago when Army leaders tackled on-base housing problems.

"People are the Army's number one priority, and the Army will do everything in its power to facilitate PCS moves for our families," said Lt. Gen. Doug Gabram, IMCOM commanding general.

On July 19, Maj. Gen. Omar J. Jones IV, IMCOM deputy commanding general, began directing the IMCOM daily meetings, which will integrate directly with the AMC PCS Moves CAT and other commands around the Army to focus support toward garrison commanders. In turn, it is garrison

commanders who integrate all Army services on their installation to help smooth the way for successful PCS moves to and from their location.

The teams are tasked with providing continuous and accurate PCS status data points throughout the Army, and delivering proactive responses to PCS issues to ensure problems are rapidly identified and solved.

"Moving is a stressful time for any family. The Army is working to alleviate as much of the uncertainty as possible by providing tools and advice to make PCS moves more convenient, predictable and user friendly," Gabram said.

"As we work this concept of reporting, we will learn and get better," he said. "We have put the spotlights on the gaps in the seams, and now we're in attack mode."

Resources

Earlier this year, the Army upgraded its PCS policies and launched new digital products to help make moving easier for Soldiers and Families.

Changes include paying 100% of personally procured moves, providing orders 120 days in advance, and making it easier to make a claim. The Army also is holding moving companies accountable and requiring background checks and in-person inspectors.

Soldiers and Families can download free

apps to assist with the PCS process: Digital Garrison, Army PCS Move, and PCS My POV.

A hotline was established to provide further assistance: 833-MIL-MOVE (833-645-6683).



OLYMPIC GOLD

Army marksman brings home 1st medal for U.S. armed forces

By **Brittany Nelson**
Army News Service

TOKYO – 1st Lt. Amber English set a new Olympic record when she secured the gold medal in women's skeet July 26 at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games.

"I just feel numb right now, this has been a long time coming," said English moments after she was awarded her gold medal at her Olympic debut. "I feel sheer relief."

To even make it into the final round of the top six athletes, the five-time World Cup

medalist competed in two days of qualification rounds, where she hit 121 of 125 targets.

Once in the finals, the Colorado Springs, Colorado, native shot 56 out of 60 targets, which set a new Olympic Finals Record. And by medaling, this Soldier became the second woman in American history to win Olympic gold in skeet.

English, an Army Reservist, is a member of two elite teams, the U.S. Army World



PHOTO BY BRITTANY NELSON

Class Athlete Program and the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. She spoke about winning while representing both Team USA and the Army.

"It is a big honor," said English. "There is a

big sense of patriotism to know when your flag is up during the ceremony. There are a lot of people cheering us on, especially those in the Army."

During the final round of competition, shooters were eliminated one by one until it was just English and Diana Bacosi of Italy.

"There was never a moment where I knew I 'had it in the bag,'" said English. "It went all the way to the last station. I knew going through the last pass I had to hit at least two to tie or three to win."

English joined the Army in 2016 when she said she needed a big change in her life.

"It was a great decision," said English. "The Army has had so many resources to help us prepare for this."

After her win, English sat down with NBC's "Today" show that has a studio set up in Tokyo for the Games.

To keep up with the rest of the Soldiers' events and results, follow @USArmyWCAP and @USAMUSoldiers on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

To learn more about WCAP, visit www.armywcap.com.

To learn more about USAMU, visit www.goarmy.com/events/army-marksmanship-unit.



PHOTO BY MAJ. NATHANIEL GARCIA

DOD prioritizes military spouse input, launches 2021 Active Duty Spouse Survey

By Department of Defense
Press Release

The Department of Defense announced July 28 the launch of its long-running biennial Active Duty Spouse Survey.

For the first time, every active-duty spouse will have an opportunity to provide feedback about their military life experience. DOD encourages all active-duty spouses to participate in this survey.

"We are committed to taking care of our military spouses, and these surveys will allow us to engage in deeper dialogue with them and help us prioritize solutions that meet their most pressing needs," said Deputy

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy Patricia "Patty" Montes Barron. "We're proud of the progress we have made on important spouse issues, especially around stress, relationship support and employment. We know there is more to do, and these survey results will help guide our next steps."

The Active Duty Spouse Survey provides the DOD with a barometer on how to adjust family policy and programs in the coming years, gathering data on issues, such as military benefits, financial stability, spouse em-

ployment, child care, and the overall health and well-being of spouses, children and families.

"Our surveys can create meaningful change for military families, and each one has highlighted important trends," said Director of the Center for Retention and Readiness in the Office of People Analytics Dr. Paul Rosenfeld. "For example, the 2019 survey brought attention to the increasing lengths of time for spouses to find a job after a permanent change of station move, which led to adjustments to spouse licensure and other programs. Hearing the voice of all military spouses is critical for gaining the insight the DOD needs to deliver on its priority to help military families thrive."

While some spouses will be randomly selected for the scientifically sampled survey, this year the department is also offering an opportunity to all active-duty spouses to provide their feedback on key issues, challenges, and concerns.

Spouses can visit the Department of Defense Office of People Analytics survey portal at <https://dodsurveys.mil/> to complete the short survey.

For important information about the military community, including the most recent survey results, infographics, research reports, and demographic profiles, visit Military OneSource at <https://www.military-onesource.mil/data-research-and-statistics/>.

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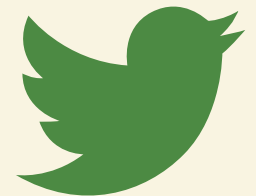
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