

Troops facing financial uncertainty aided by AER

Fort Bragg community linked with millions of dollars in Army aid

By CURTIS STRATTON
PARAGLIDE

To retired Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason, the director of Army Emergency Relief (AER), financial stability is tantamount to battlefield preparedness.

“Financial readiness is about combat readiness,” Mason said. “If a Soldier is distracted with something in their lives, they’re not focused on their training or unit mission, and if we send them into combat, they’re a danger to their buddy to their left and their right because they’re distracted.”

He added, more than 50 percent of E-4s and below, 32 percent of noncommissioned officers and 22 percent of O-1 to O-3 officers have used predatory lending agencies at least once.

During his recent visit to Fort Bragg, he cited a recent AER survey: an average of 35 percent of all service members had taken payday loans with 300 to 500 percent annual percentage rates (APR), an issue which he said AER could help.

With a 76-year history of providing \$1.9 billion in assistance to over 4 million Soldiers, AER has given \$4 million to Fort Bragg, \$300,000 of that in grants. Mason listed key items in which Soldiers often require assistance, the first being car repair, followed by rent deposit, utilities, furniture, appliances, house repairs, disaster relief and passport and immigration fees. Most categories of eligible situations for aid are in the process of being expanded, with many Soldiers receiving 50 percent loans/50 percent grants.

Continue reading online at www.paraglide.net



Photos Sgt. 1st Class Mark Albright/SFAB PAO
Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, U.S. Army FORSCOM acting commanding general, hands off the SFAC unit colors to Brig. Gen. Mark H. Landes, SFAC commanding general, during the unit's activation ceremony Nov. 29.

SFAC, 2nd SFAB activates

SFAC PAO

The Security Force Assistance Command (SFAC) and the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) held a combined activation ceremony, Nov. 29.

The ceremony marked the beginning of the two new units charged with security force assistance. SFABs are specialized Army units whose core mission is to conduct training, advising, assisting, enabling and accompanying operations with allied and partner nations.

The SFAC is the division-level command element of the five active-duty SFABs and the 2nd SFAB is the second security force assistance brigade to be activated.

“Soldiers that join the SFABs are experienced, well-trained and mature leaders who have deployed many times,” said Brig. Gen. Mark H. Landes, SFAC commanding general. “These Soldiers are volunteering to deploy again somewhere in the world where they can affect change.”

Landes most recently served as the deputy commanding general for support for Fort Bliss, Texas and the 1st Armored Division, and Brig. Gen. Donn Hill, 2nd SFAB commander, most recently served as the G-3, -5 and -7 at the XVIII Airborne Corps. The 2nd SFAB is currently training in preparation to deploy this spring to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“The way we train, prepare and operate has to be deliberate because others are relying on us,” Landes said. “I have the utmost confidence that 2nd SFAB has

the right people in the right positions to be ready and effective.” Gen. Mark A. Milley, Army chief of staff, attended the ceremony and spoke about the SFABs unique mission.

“Their primary function is to advise, assist, enable and accompany indigenous conventional forces in combat operations and to secure themselves against their threats,” Milley said.

SFABs are the Army’s dedicated conventional organization for conducting security force assistance around the world. Each SFAB has a regional focus and its unique capabilities enable them to perform wherever they’re needed with minimal cultural and regional orientation.

Security force assistance has a long history and has always played a vital

role in the Army. Their operations aren’t as well-known as the large historical conventional military battles. The Army is full of security force assistance history ranging from training police in Bosnia to large scale operations in Vietnam and Iraq, all of which provided vital contributions to achieving our nation’s goals.

The U.S. Army has been advising partner forces for decades. The SFAC heritage can be traced back to Vietnam, the Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MAC-V) was established in 1962 with the purpose to control advisory and assistance effort in Vietnam. The MAC-V command relationship and mission with the Military Assistance Advisory Group is very similar to the relationship the SFAC has with the SFABs today, said Landes.



Brig. Gen. Mark H. Landes, SFAC commanding general, hands off the 2nd SFAB unit colors to Brig. Gen. Donn Hill, 2nd SFAB commander, during their activation ceremony Nov. 29.



Special Forces NCO awarded Soldier’s Medal

By JANICE BURTON
SWCS PAO

It’s 3:30 a.m. on a spring morning. You are on a mission to deliver a VIP to a designated locale. Up ahead, you see a vehicle in a ditch. Smoke is coming out of it, and you see tiny flickers of flames.

What do you do? Before you decide, add in the fact that you are carrying precious cargo — a family. Do you stop and help or do you continue on your way?

For Sgt. 1st Class Erik Kingsley, a Special Forces noncommissioned officer who was awarded the Soldier’s Medal by Maj. Gen. Kurt Sonntag on Thursday, there was only one answer. As he pulled off the road, he slammed breaks, he jolted his Family — his wife, his children and his brother-in-law — awake. Before he jumped out of the car, he told his wife to call 911. With his brother-in-law, a member of the U.S. Air Force on his heels, he ran down the embankment to the ditch where the car had come to rest. The ground around and under the car was on fire as the flames licked at the vehicle.

“I knew we had to get away from the car,” said Kingsley, who is assigned to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and serves as an operations sergeant for Company A, 4th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne).

See Hero —Page A3

NY firefighters bring gracious greetings to service members



Photo by Twana Atkinson/WAMC PAO
New York Nassau County firefighter visits Fort Bragg WTB and gives gifts during a wounded warrior appreciation event Dec. 6.

By TWANA ATKINSON
WAMC PAO

The New York Nassau County Firefighters drove hundreds of miles to show their appreciation for the injured Soldiers of Fort Bragg’s Womack Army Medical Center Dec. 6. About a dozen firefighters and emergency management specialists formed an organization called Operation Wounded Warrior to help give back to injured active-duty Soldiers.

“We started with the basic premise to bring some holiday cheer to those that were involved in military conflicts,” said Michael Kushner, vice chairman of the Nassau County

Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior.

This organization has been traveling to bring joy to wounded Soldiers at multiple military posts and bases for more than 15 years. “This project initially began because of the overwhelming support that we had from the Iraqi conflict,” Kushner said. “We received so many care packages that we decided to go around to the bases these Soldiers were deploying from and deliver them personally.” The all-volunteer organization conducts fundraisers throughout the year to deliver gifts of appreciation such as iPads, clothing and other personal electronic devices to

service members and their Families.

The appreciation tour consists of visits to wounded service members at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington D.C., Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

“We’re just a small representation of a lot of people back home that make this happen,” said Patricia Lugar, the NCWOPP plans coordinator.

Once the organization completed their appreciation tour, they travel hours to their hometown in New York and immediately start planning for the next year’s tour. The New York firefighters will return to Fort Bragg December 2019.

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NEXT YEAR

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- Jedi training camp at Throckmorton
- USO Single-Soldier holiday lunch



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www.paraglideonline.net



PARAGLIDE

Fort Bragg Voices

How do you keep comedy in your life?



"The way I keep comedy in my life is being a dad. Just going home and spending time with my three little ones. Just leaving the uniform behind and getting silly."
-Chaplain (Capt.) Davis Dodson, 82nd Abn. Div.



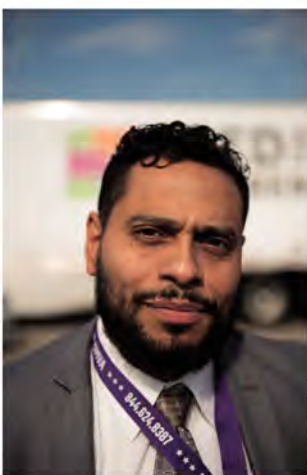
"Being a dad, my kids are a little older so keeping the comedy is very interesting. I keep it fun by just being me."
-Staff Sgt. Stan Yelverton, 3rd ESC



"I keep comedy in my life just by being myself."
-Pvt. 2 Kwenzi Stinson, 20 Engr. Bde.



"By being optimistic and making others smile is how I keep comedy in my life."
-Robert L. Johnson, Installation Coordinator for Military Affairs



"My family keeps the comedy in my life. With the bond we have and the laughter, they keep me smiling."
-Aria Aponte, Veterans Affairs



Remembering all who serve during the holidays

Defending freedom is a year round mission

This holiday season we take time to recognize the sacrifices of our dedicated Soldiers, civilians, and their Families, who carry the burden of safeguarding our freedoms. Whether serving in forward deployed locations across the world or protecting our Families at home, those who have answered the call tirelessly defend freedom while helping others secure their own stable future. In this season of joy, giving, and hope, we honor the selfless service of so many Americans.

The more than 90,000 Soldiers assigned to Fort Bragg and throughout the XVIII Airborne Corps have diverse heritages and backgrounds and celebrate many different holiday traditions. We are all ambassadors representing and fighting for ideals affirming life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. No matter your faith or beliefs, we are thankful this holiday season for the commitment of our Soldiers, civilians, and all of their Families.

Each of you is a valued member of this magnificent team and contributes to the greater good of our noble cause. While we take time to pause and enjoy the company of our Family and friends, keep in mind one another's safety over the holidays. Take the opportunity to reach out to fellow warriors who are celebrating the holidays on a battlefield far away from Family, friends, and home. Be thankful for the positive role we play in each other's lives and never pass up the chance to tell someone the positive impact they have on your life and our calling.

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to 2019, be confident in your resolve to meet the challenges ahead and the collective work toward a brighter future for all of us. Your strength, persistence, and unwavering service through acts of generosity and love, both home and abroad are an inspiration to us all. You are part of the greatest force for good the world has ever known and we are exceedingly proud of your accomplishments, contributions, and commitment to Fort Bragg and the XVIII Airborne Corps.

It is our honor to serve with you. May God bless each of you and your Families throughout this holiday season and in the New Year.



Charles W. Albertson
Charles W. Albertson
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
Command Sergeant Major



Paul LaCamera
Paul LaCamera
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding General

*For The Past in 2019
I thank you for your service
& sacrifices.*

PARAGLIDE NEWSPAPER

THE DEC. 13, 2018 NEWSPAPER IS OUR LAST NEWSPAPER UNTIL JAN. 10, 2019!

PARAGLIDE



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"When I got to the car I could see that the driver was unconscious and still had his foot on the gas and the grass, branches and trees around the car were catching fire."

So Kingsley reached in and turned the ignition off, he pulled the man from the car and grabbed his keys, wallet and phone. Throwing the unconscious man over his shoulder, he started running up the bank, and found himself thrown to the ground as the car exploded. As ash rained down, Kingsley got back to his feet and checked the victim for injuries.

"When I saw his injuries were superficial from the air bag and the glass, I picked him back up and moved him further away," Kingsley said.

A short time later, the N.C. Highway Patrol and firemen arrived on the scene. Taking a look at Kingsley, they ran toward him to render aid.

"I was dirty and had his blood all over me," he recalled. "So I explained that I wasn't the driver and I pointed to the guy on the ground. The firemen started running to the car and I told them it was empty. They wanted to know how I knew, and I explained that I had got the man, his keys, his phone and wallet out of the car and no one else was there."

Kingsley, who by that time had done all he could told the officers he had to go. They wanted him to stay and fill out reports, but he told them he was on a mission: his brother-in-law needed to catch a plane to his duty station in Okinawa, Japan.

Having put the event behind him, Kingsley was surprised when he went to work the following Monday and his command team already knew about the incident. He was further surprised when he learned that they had put him in for the U.S. Army Soldier's Medal.

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces who, while serving with the Army,

distinguishes themselves by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. Per Army Regulation 600-8-22: The performance must have involved personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life and is not solely awarded on the basis of having saved a person's life.

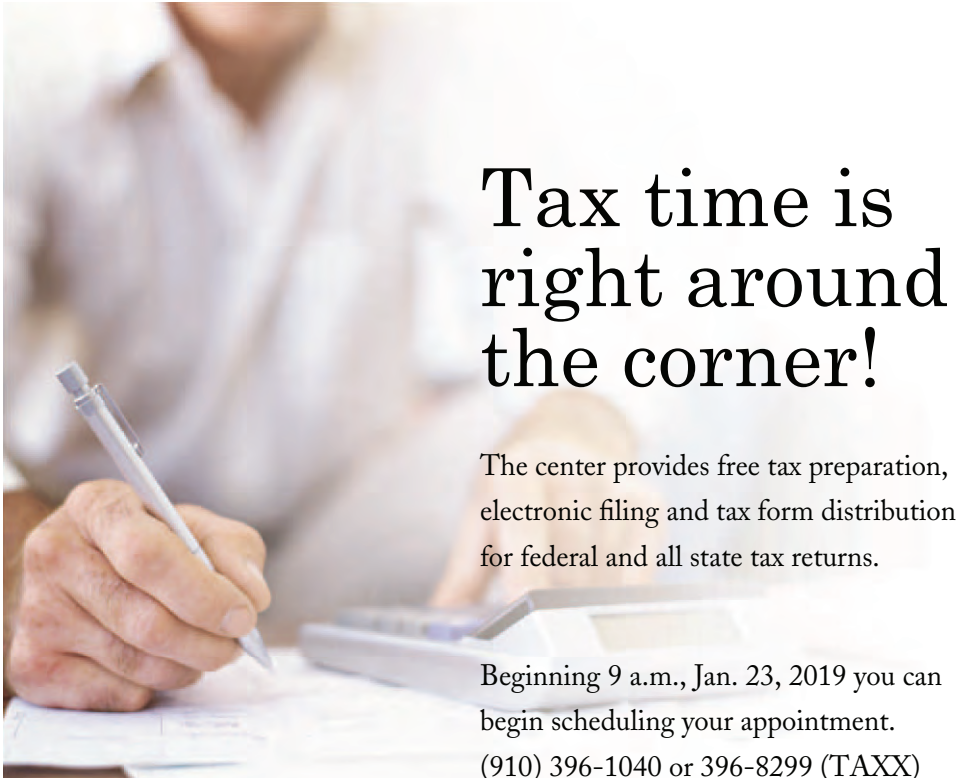
It was first awarded in 1927 to Pvt. John P. Martin, who while serving with the 56th Ordnance Company with thought of his own safety, drove a fire truck into an area which housed loaded bombs and shells that were in danger of blowing up. His heroic conduct was an inspiration to his fellow Soldiers, who rushed to join him in fighting the fire.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Kurt Sonntag, the commander of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School said, "People like Pvt. John P. Martin and like the man we are honoring today, Sgt. 1st Class Kingsley, know that serving in the United States Army is a profession. It's not just a job; it is a calling. One we pursue by serving the nation in an honorable manner. We follow this calling and profession to preserve the trust and confidence of the American people and our fellow Soldiers."

Sonntag went on to note Kingsley's actions embody the essential characteristics of the profession: trust, military expertise, honorable service and esprit de corps.

Kingsley was humble when it comes to receiving the award. He noted his training as a Green Beret had prepared him for moments like the accident, adding that his advanced training in mountaineering prepared him to rescue people in danger.

"I am really very humbled by this honor," he said. "I appreciate the support of my command for nominating me, and of my Family for being here today."



Tax time is right around the corner!

The center provides free tax preparation, electronic filing and tax form distribution for federal and all state tax returns.

Beginning 9 a.m., Jan. 23, 2019 you can begin scheduling your appointment.
(910) 396-1040 or 396-8299 (TAXX)

NEW LOCATION

Fort Bragg Tax Center

Building 2-1133, located at the corner of Macomb and Armistead streets, in the basement of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (entrance in the rear)

Officially opens 9 a.m., Jan. 24, 2019

Hours of operation:
Monday through Friday (closed Saturdays, Sundays and all holidays)
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Active-duty service members (including members of the Reserve and National Guard component on active duty orders for more than 29 days), Family members and retirees are encouraged to take advantage of the tax center.

Assistance is provided by appointment or on a walk-in basis. However, appointments are highly recommended. In order to have returns prepared, taxpayers must:

1. If a walk-in client, arrive at the Fort Bragg Tax Center no later than one hour prior to closing.
2. Bring W2 forms, which can be downloaded from the DFAS MyPay website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. A copy of an Leave and Earnings Statements cannot be used.
3. Bring military/dependent/retiree ID card.
4. If filing for another person or filing "married filing jointly" without a spouse present, bring a power of attorney and any tax forms the person received in the mail.
5. If wanting to receive an expedited refund via direct deposit, bring a canceled check.

The Fort Bragg Tax Center cannot prepare or file taxes without the necessary paperwork. This year, the tax center is not authorized to prepare any tax returns involving rental properties, business income or cancellation of debts. Those returns must be prepared by the taxpayer or a paid professional.



IN BRIEF

Email your briefs to paraglidebaragg@gmail.com

Notice of Estates

Death Notices:

Capt. Andrew P. Ross

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Capt. Andrew P. Ross, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joe Franklin, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 907-4259 or email: joe.w.franklin.mil@mail.mil.

Spc. Francesco Tisch

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Spc. Francesco Tisch, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Capt. Daniel Freeman, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (423) 519-4740 or email: daniel.freeman@socom.mil.

Master Sgt. Jeffrey M. Jacops

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Master Sgt. Jeffrey M. Jacops, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Maj. Dan Gershey, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 570-5237 or email: daniel.j.gershey.mil@mail.mil.

Pfc. Logan T. Jackson

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Pfc. Logan T. Jackson, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Capt. Yonia Vazquez, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 907-8929 or email: yonia.vazquez.mil@mail.mil.

Spc. Aaron E. Mastrorio

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Spc. Aaron E. Mastrorio, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st Lt. David J. Wright, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (915) 799-7618 or email: david.j.wright36.mil@mail.mil.

Sgt. Joel Goyco

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Sgt. Joel Goyco, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st Lt. Michael Teixeira, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 261-8806 or email: michael.j.teixeira.mil@mail.mil.

Sgt. Alan Decker

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Sgt. Alan Decker, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st Lt. Kyle Johnson, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 396-6515 or email: kyle.j.johnson74.mil@mail.mil.

Spc. Trei Thweatt

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Spc. Trei Thweatt, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st Lt. Lucas O'Keefe, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (540) 746-1233 or email: lucas.a.okeeffe.mil@mail.mil.

Staff Sgt. Preston B. Hancock

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Staff Sgt. Preston B. Hancock, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 2nd Lt. Eduardo Morales-Rodriguez, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 432-4065 or email: eduardo.morales-rodriguez@socom.mil.

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Chadwick

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Sgt. 1st Class Paul Chadwick, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st Lt. Aaron Sronce, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 432-8825 or email: aaron.sronce@socom.mil.

Lt. Col. Paul V. Jacobson

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Lt. Col. Paul V. Jacobson, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Capt. Yonia Vazquez, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (910) 907-8929 or email: yonia.vazquez.mil@mail.mil.

Spc. Dustin J. Duncan

This notice serves as an advisory for all those in possession of the property of Spc. Dustin J. Duncan, as well as to persons to whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Capt. Glenn Meyer, summary court martial officer, with all inquiries at (520) 909-5306 or email: glenn.m.meyer.mil@mail.mil.

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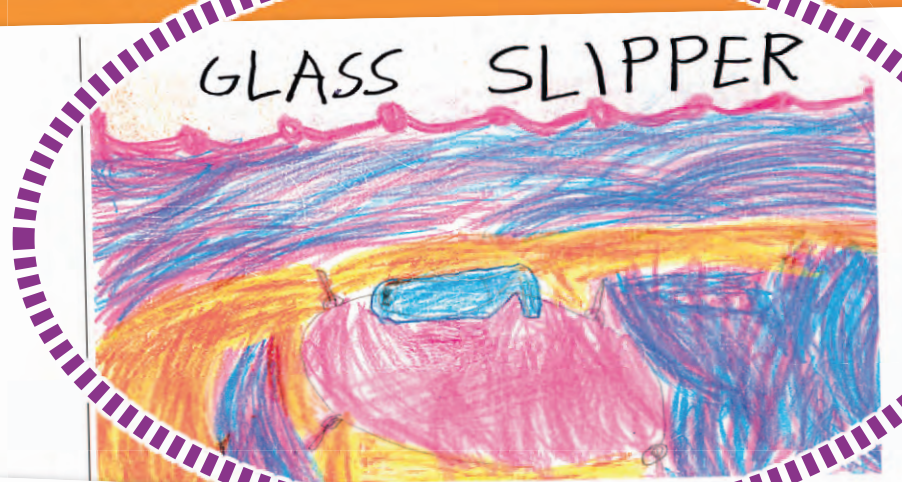
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Hey Parents!

Want to see your
kid's art here?



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



Up in the Sky

Pretty, Powerful Clouds

Have you been watching the clouds this summer? In some areas of the country, people use clouds to help predict threatening weather. But clouds can also be beautiful and fun to study.

Clouds play an important part in our environment, affecting temperatures and carrying moisture that will fall to Earth. They can be dangerous when they form storms such as tornadoes.

What:



A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that comes down from a thunderstorm toward the ground. This is a 1999 tornado in Oklahoma City, where more deadly tornadoes touched down this year. Watching the clouds can help

Children are invited to send in their drawings for a chance to be published on the Mini Page!

All art should be in color on unlined paper and include the artist's name, age and school on the back of the drawing. *

Send art to:

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Fayetteville, NC 28302
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*Because of the number of drawings submitted all cannot be published. Drawings cannot be returned.

Field artillery paratroopers rival in event

Best of the Best Competition showcases skills, readiness

By SGT. GIN-SOPHIE DE BELLOTTE
82ND ABN. DIV. PAO

More than 120 82nd Airborne Division field artillery paratroopers competed in the annual Best of the Best Competition Dec. 3 to 6.

The competition, which is open to field artillery Soldiers, showcased the skills and readiness of the battalions and paratroopers.

“The 2018 82nd Abn. Div. Artillery Best of the Best Competition is our annual field artillery Super Bowl,” said Sgt. Maj. Gregory Seymour, the Division Artillery (DIVARTY) operations sergeant major.

The three field artillery battalions within the 82nd Abn. Div. represented their respective brigade combat teams. The teams consisted of competitors from the different

artillery jobs or military occupational specialties (MOS).

There were cannon crew members, fire control specialists, radar operators and forward observers, also known as “fisters.”

The competitors were tested mentally and physically on their proficiency to perform military tasks through written exams, a physical fitness test, a live-fire exercise, an airborne operation and a 12-mile foot march to determine bragging rights of the Best of the Best.

“This competition covers everything in our MOS,” said Sgt. 1st Class Domanic Thatcher, an evaluator during the competition. “It allows us to demonstrate what being all-around is about, so that no matter what’s thrown at us we can accomplish the mission and task at hand.”

The competition is set up to include activities the competitors are not used to doing on a day-to-day basis.

Additionally, Thatcher said this competition allows for competitors to improve on what they lack in skills.

“The Best of the Best Competition covered fire missions we’re not used to shooting, and that allowed majority to see that what we currently do isn’t the only thing there is,” he said.

According to 1st Lt. Jonathan Macias, a

competitor and platoon leader assigned to Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 319th Abn. Field Artillery Regiment (AFAR), 2nd Brigade Combat Team, there’s always something to learn even during a competition.

“I’m pretty versed in the fire direction center (FDC) and during the competition I got to hear a couple things that made me think of something new,” Macias said.

The FDC receives target data from fisters and packages this information for artillery fires missions. The FDC also helps ensure synergistic effects happen on a battlefield.

The categories within the competition were broken down into team and individual events.

Cannon crew-member teams competed for the best big three, best M119A3 howitzer section and best M777 howitzer.

Fire control specialist teams competed for best FDC. The forward observers competed for best fister and the radar operators best radar section.

The individual award events were fastest 12-mile foot march time and the Iron Warrior Award for the highest Army physical fitness test score.

Battery A, 2nd Bn., 319th AFAR, 2nd BCT won the best big three and best M119A3 howitzer section.

Battery A, 1st Bn., 319th AFAR, 3rd BCT took the honors as the best FDC and best fister.

The best M777 howitzer was Battery C, 3-319th AFAR, 1st BCT. The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Bn., 319th AFAR, 1st BCT won the best radar section.

Staff Sgt. Core Pierce, assigned to Battery A, 2nd Bn., 319th AFAR, 2nd BCT won the fastest 12-mile foot march by coming in at an hour and 58 minutes, and Sgt. Charles Jacobucci from HHB, 1st Bn., 319th AFAR, 3rd BCT earned the Iron Warrior award.



Graphic Illustration by Bryan K. Reed/Paraglide

82nd Abn. Div. paratroopers briskly move across Sicily Drop Zone after conducting an airborne operation as part of the DIVARTY Best of the Best Competition event Dec. 5. The competitors then moved to a follow-on mission to an open range where they established firing capability and conducted direct fire mode.



Photos by Sgt. Gin-Sophie De Bellotte/82nd Abn. Div. PAO

1st Lt. Jonathan Macias accepts the award for best big three on behalf of his Best of the Best team Dec. 6. The Best of the Best Competition is an annual event that tests Soldiers on their proficiency skills and military tasks. Macias is assigned to Battery A, 2nd Bn., 319th AFAR, 2nd BCT.



82nd Abn. Div. paratroopers fire an artillery round from a M777 A2 howitzer as part of the direct-fire event in the DIVARTY Best of the Best Competition Dec. 5. This event tests the competitors ability to integrate their capabilities to provide lethal fires.



Spc. Davis Williams, a centaur operator assigned to 2nd Bn., 319th AFAR, 2nd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div., plots a howitzer’s and observer’s locations during the competition. The task allowed the operator to get a depiction of where everything is on the ground.

Members of Patriot Foundation tour Fort Bragg

By JELIA HEPNER
PARAGLIDE

Corporate leaders of the Patriot Foundation had the opportunity to get a glimpse of military life Dec. 6.

Members received a tour of Fort Bragg that included different activities including meeting Gold Star Family members and observing paratroopers equipment on Pike Field.

“It means a lot when we Soldiers get a chance to show people some of the equipment we operate with,” said Capt. Marco Sulsunti, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Participants were able to learn about and familiarize themselves with military equipment including heavy weapons, ground mobility vehicles and UAS Raven (unmanned aircraft system). They were also able to enjoy lunch and visit the Joint Special Operations Command memorial wall as part of the tour.

The Patriot Foundation is an all-volunteer nonprofit that provides college scholarships to children of servicemen and women who have been killed, wounded or injured in the Global War on Terrorism. From 2012 through 2017, the organization has donated \$3 million to assist Soldiers’ Families.

The Patriot Foundation has also



Photos by Lewis Perkins/Paraglide

Corporate leaders of the Patriot Foundation learned about various paratrooper equipment including a M777 howitzer on Pike Field Dec. 6.

provided approximately of 1,600 college scholarships.

“I love doing these tours each year,” said Chuck Deleot, president and chairman of the Patriot Foundation board. “I have so much

respect for these Soldiers. They are the reason why this organization exists.”

For more information about the Patriot Foundation, visit <http://patriotfoundation.com>.



Members of the Patriot Foundation stopped by Pike Field to observe a military equipment demonstration during a tour of Bragg.

722nd, 767th EOD companies hosts maroon beret donning ceremony



Capt. Matt Webber, commander of the 722nd Ord. Co., 192nd Ord. Bn. (EOD), stands in front of the company after donning the maroon beret during a Dec. 6 ceremony at the Sicily Drop Zone.

Photos by Spc. Javon Spence/U.S. Army

By Capt. Garrett Baker

101st ABN. DIV. (AIR ASSAULT) PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Two Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) companies, the 722nd and 767th both with the 192nd Ordnance Battalion (EOD), 52nd Ordnance Group (EOD), held a beret donning ceremony following an airborne training exercise Dec. 6.

"We are hosting a simple ceremony that has a lot of meaning to the unit and to our Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Matthew Kuhns, commander, 192nd Ord. Bn. (EOD), 52nd Ord. Grp. (EOD). "Soldiers of these two companies will don, or put on, the maroon beret, identifying them as airborne companies."

Kuhns said both companies have been supporting the airborne mission for more than two years and the Army has approved both the 767th and 722nd ordnance companies the distinctive headgear identifying them as paratroopers. This ceremony acknowledged the airborne capability of the EOD companies and in a true first for conventional Army EOD Soldiers as they became "paratrooper EOD techs."

The maroon beret is designated for airborne units to identify their unique capability of parachuting from an aircraft to immediately arrive at any battlefield worldwide. It was officially first introduced in 1942 by Maj. Gen. Frederick Browning, commander of the British 1st Airborne Division. Browning authorized a U.S. battalion, the 509th, to don the maroon beret.

Airborne units are all volunteer units. These Soldiers have now become three-time volunteers: the first, volunteering to join the Army; then to volunteer to become an EOD technician and finally to become a paratrooper. Donning the coveted maroon beret is a symbolic action of this service and dedication to duty.



Soldiers from the 722nd and 767th ordnance companies, 192nd Ord. Bn. (EOD), don the maroon beret during a Dec. 6 ceremony at the Sicily Drop Zone. Wearing the maroon beret identifies the EOD technicians as airborne Soldiers, which is a true first for conventional Army EOD soldiers.

From the Archives

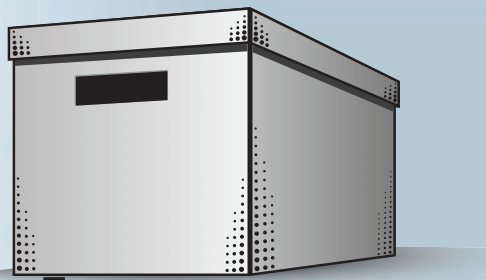


Photo by Spc. Eric Guzman/22nd MPAD



Photo by U.S. Army Center of Military History

Above: Members of the 82nd Abn. Div. prepare the boxes of food and toys provided by the Ladies Club of Fort Bragg for distribution to needy families for Christmas Dec. 12, 1963.

Left: Santa and Mrs. Claus make a grand entrance on their sleigh, a UH-60 Black Hawk, as they land on Sicily Drop Zone Dec. 10, 2011 during the annual Operation Toy Drop. The Family-friendly event was attended by spouses, children and friends. The viewing area was the drop zone and many gathered to watch their loved ones earn their set of international airborne wings.

264th CSSB participates in new fitness test pilot program



Photos by Staff Sgt. Terrance Payton/3rd ESC

Soldiers assigned to the 264th CSSB Bn., 3rd ESC, perform hand-release push-ups during the new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) Dec. 7.

By STAFF SGT. TERRANCE PAYTON
3RD ESC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Soldiers assigned to the 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) participated in the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) Pilot Program, Dec. 4 through 7 at Fort Bragg. The U.S. Army Physical Fitness School Mobile Training Team (MTT) from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, came to Bragg to train Soldiers on how to properly conduct and evaluate the ACFT.

"All of the training from the MTT was great," said Sgt. Anthony Nestor, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 264th CSSB. "I would have to say the best part was learning how to grade the ACFT. With the current APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test), any NCO can be a grader."

With the ACFT, every grader must be certified in order to grade the ACFT as this ensures a more accurate view into a

service member's physical capabilities.

"It's difficult to just release a manual that may have some degree of speculation and misunderstanding, so the MTT is the way to actually launch a proper product (ACFT)," said Capt. Marshall McCloud, ACFT MTT officer in charge.

The ACFT, which is scheduled to replace the old test no later than October 2020, consists of six events: three maximum repetition deadlift, standing power throw, hand-release push-up, sprint-drag-carry, leg tuck, and a two-mile run.

"The toughest part of the ACFT was the sprint-drag-carry, because your legs just want to give up," said Sgt. Brianna Billy, 8th Ordnance Company, 264th CSSB. "Dragging the sled 25 meters down and back, then carrying two 40-pound kettle bells is an additional 80 pounds that you're not used to carrying."

"The ACFT is a test that better gauges a service member's physical capabilities," said Nestor. "The reason being, the current Army Physical Fitness Test only gauges push-ups, sit-ups, and the two-mile run,

while comparatively the ACFT's events are all combat focused and directly relate to things a service member would face in a combat environment."

McCloud said students who have taken the ACFT have said that it is easier to pass, which is not the goal.

"That's what the students are echoing," he said. "However, there's six events and when performed in sequence it is a really good indicator of your overall combat fitness and effectiveness."

The entire ACFT will be conducted with a continuous clock and must be completed within 50 minutes. The specific grading approach and standards will be determined based on data collected from the field test. The ACFT provides the Army with an evidence-based test that will help leaders determine the Soldier's overall combat readiness when it comes to physical fitness.

"The test is physically demanding, but it is not impossible," said Billy. "I didn't think that I was going to pass it, but I did. It lets you know that you are a lot stronger than what you think you are, but at the

same time it taught me that I am not as physically fit as I want to be."

Unlike the current Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), the ACFT doesn't have standards based on the age and the sex of the Soldier taking the test. The standards are based on the requirements of a Soldier's Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). Scoring for the new test consists of 100 points for each event for a maximum of 600. Minimum scores, however, may change depending on a Soldier's MOS.

McCloud said, "The new ACFT is both age and gender neutral. So no longer will we consider or really unfairly separate people based on gender and age. Instead we are saying we're all Soldiers and we're all expected to perform at a certain level."

"You don't have to be in combat to see the benefits of the ACFT," said McCloud. "You see it every day in the motorpool, on a flight line, in the office, everywhere that we work or do business. Soldiers are enjoying the test. If you haven't taken the ACFT, take it. It gets very exciting."



A Soldier assigned to the 264th CSSB Bn., 3rd ESC, attempts the standing power throw during the ACFT. The Soldiers participated in the ACFT pilot program in order to properly conduct and evaluate the test prior to it going into effect October 2020.

83rd Civil Affairs Battalion conducts Rockfish exercise

By 1ST LT. JOSHUA HAMMOND
16TH MP BDE. PAO

The Soldiers and senior leaders from the 83rd Civil Affairs Battalion (CA Bn.) conducted their semi-annual validation exercise Operation Rockfish from Oct. 26 to Nov. 7. The fifth iteration of the exercise took place not only on Fort Bragg, but also across seven counties throughout North Carolina.

The on- and off-post training allowed Lt. Col. Gerald Nunziato, commander of 83rd CA Bn., to validate Civil Affairs Teams (CATs) and certify company Civil Military Operation Center's (CMOCs) tactical and technical capabilities for future deployments. The battalion achieved this through tactical, reality-based scenarios as well as immersion in free-flowing and unscripted Realistic Military Training (RMT) environments.

"Operation Rockfish provides deploying CATs and CMOCs an opportunity to train and operate in an environment similar to the areas they will deploy to within the five Geographic Combatant Commands (GCCs)," said Maj. John D. Hunter, executive officer, 83rd CA Bn. "The recent impacts of Hurricanes

Florence and Michael within North Carolina provided our Soldiers an opportunity to assess areas important to state and local emergency managers."

Hunter said Operation Rockfish provided Soldiers the chance to engage with government officials at all levels and to replicate the missions they will encounter while deployed.

The validation exercise was executed in two phases. Phase I focused on 72 hours of individual and collective validation on tactical tasks. The first 48 hours was comprised of dismounted patrols where teams encountered tactical reality-based scenarios. These scenarios ranged from battle drills such as reacting to an ambush to conducting a media interview. The final 24 hours consisted of a communications equipment round-robin and stress-shoot competition.

In Phase II, the CATs and four CMOCs partnered with seven North Carolina county emergency management departments and the University of North Carolina-Charlotte (UNCC) Emergency Management Center to assess response capacity for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief events. The CATs joined these officials to address problem sets ranging from identifying

the cause of flooding in remote waterways to assessing and redesigning the UNCC student and faculty evacuation plans. This phase enabled the battalion to replicate the complex and dynamic conditions that are unique to CATs during deployment.

"Civil Affairs teams deploy to a variety of global locations to help solve ambiguous and complex problems in rapidly changing environments," said Maj.

Jeffrey J. Chenard, commander of Company A, 83rd CA Bn.

"Utilizing CATs throughout North Carolina gives them free flowing, real-world problem sets similar to those they encounter while deployed. It affords an opportunity for our Soldiers to work with several county government agencies where they provide value to the county by assisting with emergency management planning."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Bayne/83rd CA Bn.

A civil affairs team evacuates a "wounded" teammate to a helicopter landing zone in a training environment on Fort Bragg during Operation Rockfish from Oct. 26 to Nov. 7.

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The Fayetteville Observer
RISING STAR

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The Fayetteville Observer
40 UNDER 40

FayObserver.com/40under40
Deadline for submissions is Jan. 15. Nominations accepted from Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Robeson, Sampson or Scotland Counties.



PARAGLIDE

Telling the Fort Bragg Story™



THE PARAGLIDE

Thursday, April 14, 2016



Jump, fall, land

Paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, conduct a joint forcible entry operation during the brigade's Murgate event on Fort Bragg, April 5. The 2nd BCT, 82nd Air Div, hosted the event to familiarize its officers and senior noncommissioned officers with the legacy of airborne forces, sharpen their source tasks and combat skills, and strengthen unit esprit de corps through a series of tasks designed to challenge the participants mentally and physically.



Annual Iron Mike Car Show coming to Fort Bragg

To enter a car, the automobile must be a 1969 model or earlier, and the owner must have either a military-issued identification card, or be able to obtain a visitor's pass to the

Fostering mentorship

Forum helps junior warrant officers learn from senior leadership

These senior officers help provide insight into officership and strengthen leadership development.

President Fort Bragg Silver Chapter U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association and Silver Chapter secretary started looking for a way to bridge the gap between junior and senior warrant officers. Last month, they played a landmark forum to give junior warrant officers the opportunity to meet with senior leadership in a stress-free environment. Not in front of a promotion board, but in a one-on-one conversation. There was no specific agenda, instead, the forum opened the door for questions on civilian school-

Visit **paraglideonline.net** on your desktop, tablet, or mobile device

Festival of lights

Installation Jewish community celebrates Hanukkah with special blessings, menorah lighting, traditional songs, lots of latkes

By SUET LEE-GROWNEY
PARAGLIDE

Corvias
FOUNDATION

Applications for 2019 Corvias scholarships now open

CORVIAS

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. — Corvias Foundation, a private foundation and the charitable arm of Corvias, announced (Dec. 4) applications for 2019 educational scholarships are now available.

The foundation is committed to supporting military Families in the pursuit of higher education and has awarded nearly \$8 million in scholarships to children and spouses of active-duty service members since 2006. Each year the foundation awards 10 scholarships up to \$50,000 to high-school seniors and 20 \$5,000 scholarships to military spouses.

“Each year we are excited to welcome new members to our foundation family,” said Maria Montalvo, Corvias Foundation executive director. “We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of our scholar’s journeys by doing whatever we can to provide a strong support network in addition to funds to help our recipients achieve their dreams.”

Applications for the scholarships for high-school seniors must be submitted by Feb. 14, 2019. These scholarships will be awarded to students with plans of attending a four-year university or college. These scholarships are awarded in the amount of up to \$50,000 per person. They are available to children of active-duty service members stationed at Forts Meade, Bragg, Polk, Rucker, Riley and Sill; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Edwards Air Force Base, Eglon Air Force Base, Eielson Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, McConnell Air Force Base and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

See Corvias Page C3



Photos by Lewis Perkins/Paraglide

Various Fort Bragg units and organizations gather at the All American Chapel for the annual Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony Dec. 4. The celebration was a commemoration of the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 200 B.C.

“For me this ceremony is very meaningful,” he said. “This is to promote diversity, pluralism, coexistence (and) mutual respect.”

Of all the events that occurred during the program, it was the airborne demonstration by FBJC kids and youth club that stole the show, specifically the performance by Boris Ben-Tzion Izak, 4. Boris is one of Izak’s sons.

Boris’ helmet was too large for him to see out of, his pack was so big it went past his knees and though he was the smallest in the line-up of paratrooper actors, he stood out the most with his crowd engaging performance.

“He is a ‘movie,’” Izak said describing his son. “I told him he can’t (participate) because he’s not old enough and he was like ‘What do you mean? I’m a big boy.’”

The audience laughed and cheered for the kids, particularly Boris.

The evening ended with the singing of “Jerusalem of Gold” and a meal of traditional Jewish dessert and latkes.

Top left: Shlomo Amram, husband of Capt. Naama Aviv, DENTAC, holds his youngest daughter Maya, 1, while they await for the start of the installation Hanukkah celebration. The event was hosted by the Fort Bragg Jewish Community (FBJC).

Left: The FBJC kids and youth club perform an airborne demonstration during the annual celebration. Following the demonstration was the menorah lighting, singing of traditional songs and a dinner.



USO of NC throws annual Breakfast with Santa for 57 Fort Bragg Families

By SUET LEE-GROWNEY
PARAGLIDE

Kids got up from their seats to sing their little hearts out, twirl, dance and hold hands with members from the USO Show Troupe quartet as the musical team entertained Fort Bragg Families during the eighth annual Breakfast with Santa celebration Dec. 9.

“This is our biggest dance party yet,” said Renee Lane, Sandhills area director, USO of North Carolina, to the crowd after the performance ended.

The event, held at the Iron Mike Conference Center, brought 190 Family members together for an early celebration of the holiday season. Families had the opportunity to enter multiple drawings for prizes, be entertained by the USO Show Troupe and be treated to an American breakfast for free.

“The biggest surprise of all, of course, is seeing Santa and Mrs. Santa Claus today,” Lane said.

The annual event was open to junior enlisted Families ranks E-5 and below with children ages 2 to 10. Those eligible to attend must have never attended a USO Breakfast with Santa celebration before to ensure fairness.

“Our younger enlisted Families would have to pay a lot of money in order to attend an event like this,” Lane said. “The group with the most children and the youngest children, we want to give them a way to celebrate the holidays with their Family ... we have seen over 3,000 Family members in the eight years that we’ve done this.”

Among the first-timers that morning was a Family of four dressed in shades of deep holiday reds. Jasmine Dos Santos, Army spouse, brought her three daughters Adriana, 7; Amelia, 5, and Olivia, 1; to the free breakfast. Her husband, like many Soldiers, was away for duty. Dos Santos said she enjoys attending events put on by the USO because she likes the feeling of community the organization fosters.

“I just thought it would be something fun to do while



daddy’s away,” she said. “I think (the event) is something that brings the whole community together. It’s important for the kids to get out and understand that life continues.”

Just when Dos Santos was about to talk more about how much she “loves all the events the USO does,” a woman holding a baby sitting at a neighboring table got Dos Santos’



Photos by Lewis Perkins/Paraglide

Above: Santa Claus and Mrs. Clause read “Twas the Night Before Christmas” to all the children who attended the USO Breakfast with Santa at the Iron Mike Conference Center Dec. 8. The free holiday celebration was open to Families of Soldiers ranking E-5 and below.

Left: Karley Willocks, center, one of the USO Show Troupe performers sing and dance with the children who attended the annual celebration. A hundred and ninety people from 57 Fort Bragg Families attended the event.

attention to give her her raffle ticket. The woman had already won something and in the giving spirit of the holidays, let someone else have a chance to win a Dunkin’ Donuts gift basket. In this case, it was the Dos Santos Family.

Dos Santos got up to claim the prize and when she sat back down, she said that generous sentiment from a stranger made her feel good and it is part of why she liked coming to these events.

“I feel appreciated, and it’s special to my girls too,” she said. “It’s like everybody comes together. You just feel welcomed. The USO and the Families who attend the events always show that they care and you have that support.”

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

EVENTS AROUND POST & THE STATE

THIS WEEKEND

NORMAN BROWN'S JOYOUS HOLIDAY CONCERT:

When: Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Seabrook Auditorium, Fayetteville State University
Cost: \$20 to \$75
 Grammy award-winning guitarist Norman Brown is coming to Fayetteville. He is bringing musical cheer to families with his holiday musical, starring singer-songwriter Bobby Caldwell and featuring saxophonist, composer and jazzist Marion Meadows.

HOLIDAY MARKET:

When: Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Sports USA
Cost: Free
 This free event at Sports USA is open to everyone. There will be crafts, specialty items, art and more available for purchase. Applications are available online at www.bragg.armymwr.com.

MESSIAH SING - ORATORIO SINGERS:

When: Saturday, 5 to 8 p.m.
Where: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Cost: Free
 Join the Cumberland Oratorio Singers as they present their traditional holiday concert, featuring holiday favorites and their annual Messiah sing-along. More details can be found on www.facebook.com/events/212352569605406/.

BRUNCH WITH GUNNY CLAUS:

When: Sunday, 9 a.m.
Where: Tallman Street, Jacksonville
Cost: Registration required
 Join us for our annual Brunch with Gunny Claus the Marine Corps Santa. Open to children of active duty, Reserve and National Guard service members ages 2 to 10 years old, must present valid ID card day of event. There will be a story time, food, games, crafts and a visit with Gunny Claus. Reserve your space now. If you have questions please call Amy at (910) 455-3411 or aleuschke@uso-nc.org. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brunch-with-gunny-clause-tickets-52231176856>.

FAYETTEVILLE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA WINTER CONCERT:

When: Sunday, 4 p.m.
Where: Huff Concert Hall, Methodist University
Cost: \$10.28 to \$26.17
 Students of the Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra program, under the direction of Dr. Larry Wells, perform their winter concert, showcasing the music they worked on over the semester. More details can be found on <http://www.fayettevillesymphony.org/youth-orchestra>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANDY CANE HIKE:

When: Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Cape Fear Botanical Garden
Cost: Included with Garden membership or door admission
 Take a hike through Fayetteville's famous Cape Fear Botanical Garden and search for candy canes Santa's elves have hidden.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP:

When: Wednesday, 11 a.m.
Where: Cumberland County Library - West Regional Branch
Cost: Free
 Enter into Santa's workshop, listen to stories about the upcoming holidays from all around the world and finally meet the big guy himself. Open to all ages, and presented by Debbie Jordan.

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN STORY TIME:

When: Dec. 21, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Where: Cumberland County Headquarters Library
Cost: Free
 Perfect for children ages 3 to 5, join the hour-long story time for holiday entertainment.

CHILLAX FOR TEENS - FUN FRIDAY:

When: Dec. 21, 1:40 to 5:40 p.m.
Where: Cumberland County Library - East Regional Branch Library meeting room
Cost: Free
 Tabletop, classic board or video games, teens can enjoy an afternoon of fun and games. Ideal for grades 6 to 12.

SANTA'S REINDEER SPECIAL:

When: Dec. 24, 1 to 5 p.m.
Where: Dragon Lanes
Cost: \$1 each for games, shoe rentals, 16 oz. sodas and hot dogs
 This special is open to the public with a waiting list that limits games to three per person. For more information, contact (910) 907-2695.

IT'S A MYSTERY BOOK CLUB - 'TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING' BY C.C. BENISON:

When: Dec. 27, 3:30 p.m.
Where: Cumberland County Library, Hope Mills Branch
Cost: Free
 This adult book club features the story of Father Tom Christmas — recent widower and now-single father.

24TH ANNUAL KWANZAA CELEBRATION:

When: Dec. 28, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Cary Arts Center
Cost: Free
 The Cary Kwanzaa is a communal, cultural celebration that honors African-American people and their heritage.

RECURRING EVENTS

FAYETTEVILLE "OVER THERE" CENTENNIAL OF WWI:

When: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum
Cost: Free
 The Fayetteville Area Transportation and Local History Museum opened its newest exhibit, "Fayetteville 'Over There' - Centennial of World War I."

BRAINS AND BREWS WEEKLY TRIVIA:

When: Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
Where: Mash House Brewing Company
Cost: Free
 Brains and Brews trivia. Trivia topics are general, but once a month there will be a special theme night.

COME SEE THE TRAINS:

When: Every third Saturday, noon
Where: Fascinate-U Children's Museum
Cost: Free exhibit, paid admission for playing with trains. Discover the amazing world of trains from the Cape Fear Railroaders Association. They will showcase their model trains on the third floor, suitable for children of all ages.

KIDS WINTER BOWLING BREAK:

When: Daily (Dec. 21 through 30), 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Dragon Lanes and Airborne Lanes
Cost: \$5 for two games of bowling, shoe rental, a hot dog and soda. Additional games are \$1.50. Come on out to Fort Bragg's bowling lanes this holiday season for a great deal on games for the littles.

BREWERY TOUR:

When: Sundays, 4 to 5 p.m.
Where: Dirtbag Ales Brewery and Taproom, Hope Mills
Cost: Free to attend
 Join the head brewer for an informative tour of the brewery at Dirtbag Ales Brewery and Taproom in Hope Mills. No reservation is required.

CITY MARKET AT THE MUSEUM:

When: Mondays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: City Market at the Museum
Cost: Free to attend
 The City Market at the Museum is a farmers' and crafters' market in the heart of downtown Fayetteville.

UFC - EVERY FIGHT, EVERY MONTH:

When: Twice monthly (Dec. 29 at 8 p.m.)
Where: Sports USA
Cost: Free
 Come watch the pay-per-view fight show. Snack and beverages are available for purchase.

WTB holds Strong Bonds event

By MASTER SGT. DUANE M. BROWN
WTB



Courtesy photo/WTB

Capt. Linda Murtala, the chaplain of Fort Bragg's WTB, leads a Family Strong Bonds event focusing on "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families" Dec. 1 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

throughout the WTB. This training generated lots of two-way communication among participants. It also helped identify things we need to do to strengthen our bonds toward the persons we care about and for."

Attendees had a lot to take away from the resilience training workshop.

"Those in attendance seem truly enthusiastic about applying the lessons they have learned to their everyday lives," Murtala said.

"This has been an eye-opening experience," said Staff Sgt. Ken Reed, team sergeant, Company B, 98th Civil Affairs Battalion. "We have a lot of love in our Family, and our success has always seemed to be automatic. Now that I have been enlightened, for lack of a better term, it is clear that we instinctively have been

applying these seven habits without even knowing. Now that we are aware, our Family can only get stronger."

The training for Soldiers and Family members included an informal introduction of those in attendance, an outline to achieve training objective and hands-on participation by attendees to promote self-actualization, said Murtala.

The WTB's mission is to provide Fort Bragg the medical capability to facilitate Soldiers on the return to the path of duty or prepare transitioning Soldiers from citizen-Soldier to citizen. The chaplains come side-by-side with the commander to ensure this is possible by providing training that tailors to the needs of the Soldiers and Families, while building stronger Families and a cohesive team.

Holiday worship times

CATHOLIC CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, DEC. 24, 4:30 p.m.
Children's Pageant at All American Chapel
5 p.m.
Mass at All American Chapel

11:30 p.m.
Christmas Choir at All American Chapel
Midnight
Midnight Mass at All American Chapel

TUESDAY, DEC. 25, 9 a.m.
Mass at All American Chapel

11:30 p.m.
Mass at Main Post Chapel

1:30 p.m.
Mass at Pope Chapel (Bilingual)

Point of contact:
Mrs. Christine Ahrens
(910) 354-0969

CATHOLIC NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE:

TUESDAY, JAN. 1, 9 p.m.
Mass at All American Chapel
Noon
Mass at Pope Chapel

PROTESTANT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 6 p.m.
Celebration of the Carols at JFK Memorial Chapel

MONDAY, DEC. 24, 7 p.m.
Protestant Christmas Eve Service at Main Post Chapel

WICCAN

SATURDAY, DEC. 15, noon
Yule at Outdoor Worship Area behind McKellar's Lodge

Photos with Santa Paws for the howlidays



Photos by Jeannene Matthews

Above: Cain, a German shepherd puppy owned by Sara Engler, military Family member, plants a kiss on Santa at the third annual Santa Paws photoshoot at the Fort Bragg Veterinary Center (VETCEN) Monday. The holiday photo opportunity is free and open to all pets to the Fort Bragg community. Santa was at VETCEN from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Left: Santa holds a pose with Darlene, fur baby of military Family member Sara Kelly, for a picture during the Santa Paws photoshoot Monday.



Soldiers try beer goggles at National Impaired Driving Prevention Month information fair



Photos by Lewis Perkins/Paraglide

Above: Lt. Col. Brian Saulsberry, USARC G4, tries to walk the straight line while wearing the beer goggles at the National Impaired Driving Prevention Month event at the Soldier Support Center (SSC) Dec. 12.

Below: Various types of goggles to simulate different kinds of impaired driving lay on the information booth during the ASAP's drunk and drugged awareness event at the SSC.



Corvias

From Page A1

A total of 10 applicants will be selected to receive a scholarship. All scholarship applicants will be notified of their award status by the end of April.

Applications for the spouse scholarships must be submitted by May 9, 2019. These \$5,000 scholarships are awarded to spouses of active-duty service members stationed at the same areas as high-school senior applicants.

Applicants must be pursuing a degree from an accredited community, technical or four-year college or university and may be in any stage of the educational process. Corvias Foundation will select 20 recipients and all applicants will be notified of their award status by the end of July.

"At the time I received it, the Corvias scholarship made a tremendous impact in my life," said, Anne Case-Halferty, a spouse from Fort Polk who was a scholarship recipient in 2007. "That scholarship enabled me to double-down on my studies and engage in activities that allowed

me to develop strong leadership skills and experiences. In turn, I was able to earn the grades and skills I needed that would enable me — so many years later — to gain acceptance into law school and finally pursue that dream. I will never forget the generosity of the Corvias Foundation and the significant impact it made on my life — an impact that continues so many years later."

Families do not have to reside in on-post/base housing to be eligible for scholarships. Eligible service members stationed at the 13 Army and Air Force installations mentioned above can serve in any branch of the military.

Scholarship applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by the due date in order to be considered. Selected recipients may begin using their scholarship funds in the fall of 2019.

Applications are available now at corvias-foundation.org.

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Army beats Navy Cadets revel in rivalry

By **JOE LACDAN**
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

PHILADELPHIA—Despite being his fourth time seeing it, the annual Army-Navy game did not lose any significance for U.S. Military Academy (USMA) West Point Cadet Jack Ray Kesti as he cheered from the stands in the frigid temperatures at Lincoln Financial Field Dec. 8.

The rivalry has become an annual tradition in the Kesti household. Kesti, who hails from nearby Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, also had his parents and girlfriend cheering for the USMA “Black Knights” from the stands. Kesti’s younger brother Sam, a freshman, also attends the USMA and was at the game.

“Seeing people in your class and seeing them do well on the football field is a really cool feeling,” Kesti said.

Cadet Hope Moseley, a freshman, attended her first game, in which the Black Knights upended Navy 17-10 and held off a late Midshipmen surge. It was the No. 22 Black Knights’ third straight win over their rival.

Army improved to 10-2 and will play Houston Cougars in the Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 22. If Army gets 11 wins this year, it will be its best season since 1958 when it went undefeated with one tie and finished third in the country.

Moseley said the buildup to the contest had been mounting all week. Cadets hung banners in the student barracks, played flag football games and burned a boat in anticipation of Saturday’s game.

“It’s a great experience of tradition,” said Moseley, a native of Belton, Texas. “Even though it’s a rivalry, it shows how strong our bond is to our country.”

Moseley said she was inspired to apply to the academy by her cousin, Maj. Andrea Baker, a West Point graduate stationed in San Diego.

President Donald Trump officiated the coin toss and briefly visited the sidelines of both teams. During the first half, Gen. James McConville, the Army’s vice chief of staff, enlisted 21 Army recruits in a special ceremony. McConville, who graduated West Point’s Class of 1981, said he has attended “quite a few” Army-Navy rivalry games during his career and that the contest’s significance cannot be overstated.

“It’s America’s game,” McConville said. “Why it’s special is because of the extraordinary young men and women who represent the best of America and they are here today.”

Sporting black and red uniforms in honor of the 1st Infantry Division and its efforts during World War I, Army stormed to a 10-0 lead. After turnovers by both teams, Navy scored on a late drive midway in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to 10-7. Army junior quarterback Kelvin Hopkins then scored on a 1-yard sneak for the go-ahead score with a minute and 28 seconds left in the game.

Cadet Jay Demmy, a sophomore center on the Army rugby team, said the friendships he has formed with fellow athletes on the Black Knights football team makes the contest even more meaningful.



Photos by Sean Kimmons/ARNEWS

Army football players jump into the stands to celebrate with fellow cadets after the Army-Navy game in Philadelphia, Dec. 8. Army won 17-10 for its third straight win over its archrival.

“There’s so much history behind this game and so much passion that to me, it’s awesome to be a part of it,” said Demmy, who hopes to branch infantry after graduation. “Playing a sport here ... rugby, coming to the football games and seeing all the guys I know — all the brothers I’m going to be fighting with in the near future on the field and off the field is nice.”

The game takes on a larger significance, making the contest meaningful for so many nationwide, Demmy said.

Many cadets have friends attending the U.S. Naval Academy. Kesti attended high school with Midshipman Joe Ellis and the two engaged in friendly trash talking and texting each other during the game.

The annual prisoner exchange, in which students from both service academies attend a semester on the opposite campuses, further extends the bond between the two schools.

“I think (the game) is

about camaraderie and coming together,” Moseley said, “And knowing that even though you can have a friendly competition, in the end, we’re all fighting the same fight for the people of America.”

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey, clad in his Army Greens uniform, said all Soldiers can embrace the history and pageantry of the game, which was attended by celebrities such as actor Mark Wahlberg and former Dallas Cowboys and Navy graduate Roger Staubach.

“This is a long-standing history of rivalry between two of the finest schools in America,” Dailey said. “When we’re on the battlefield, we’re all friends. But one day out of the year we come together for good camaraderie, good fun, but it is a true test of will for us and the Navy.”

“This is the quintessential American football game right here, Army-Navy. It doesn’t get better than this.”

After the game, Army junior running-back Rashaad

Bolton proposed to his girlfriend on the field.

Although Navy has struggled to a 3-10 record this season, Bolton said the Midshipmen were still a formidable foe.

“Navy’s a well-coached team,” Bolton said. “We just fought. Our coaches did a great job preparing us these three weeks.”

Army coach Jeff Monken, who improved to 43-30 during his five seasons at Army, has credited the West Point student section with providing a much-needed boost to the players. There has been a resurgence of the Army football team, which has gone 20-5 since ending Navy’s 14-game winning streak in 2016.

“When the football team’s playing well I feel like it brings our school together more, because you get that unity and you get fired up,” Demmy said. “Coach Monken preaches that we’re the 12th man on the field. Having that good student section, having that uproar brings fire to the people on the field.”

ESPORTS: Army seeks Soldiers for online gaming team

By **MICHELLE DEGUZMAN-WATSON**
SPECIAL TO THE PARAGLIDE

FORT KNOX, Ky. — U.S. Army Recruiting Command is seeking current Soldiers to become part of the new U.S. Army esports team.

This team is being developed to compete at the local, regional and national level on behalf of the U.S. Army. The team members will build awareness of skills that can be used as professional Soldiers and use their gaming knowledge to be more relatable to youth.

“If we are going to be successful in recruiting, then we need to be where young people are — and they are operating

in the digital world,” said Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, commanding general for U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC). “There are already thousands of current Soldiers who are competitive online gamers. Now we are giving them a chance to use their talents to help us relate to and connect with other young gamers. They will have the ability to start a dialogue about what it is like to serve in our Army and see if they are interested in joining.”



Photo by U.S. Army

The complete initiative has been in development since September.

The complete initiative has been in development since September. All active-duty and Army Reserve Soldiers are eligible to apply. Soldiers selected to the team will be assigned to the Marketing and Engagement Brigade at Fort Knox for three years and will involve constant competitive training, recruiting engagements and interaction with the public on a daily basis.

The team members will not complete the full Army Recruiter Course, but will serve as liaisons between the American public and recruiters throughout the nation.

USAREC is planning to include a variety of games that will give the players on the team the highest level of competition and exposure to raise awareness about Army opportunities.

The team is expected to begin competing on behalf of the U.S. Army by summer 2019.

Interested Soldiers should visit https://recruiting.army.mil/army_esports/ to learn how to compete for a spot on the team.

CHRISTMAS ON ICE

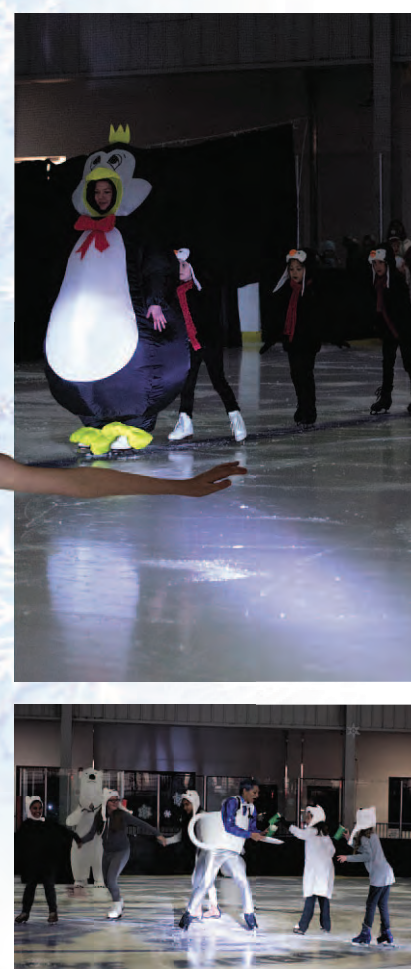


Photos by Lewis Perkins/Paraglide

The Airborne Ice Skating Team (AIST) held their annual Christmas show, Dec. 8, at Cleveland Ice Rink at Fort Bragg. The show, called “Snow” featured skaters and coaches from AIST, AIST’s Learn to Skate program and the Cape Fear Youth Hockey Association. “Snow” tells the story of a little lost snowflake, Felicity, who encounters polar bears, penguins, reindeer and Santa as she searches for her snowflake friends. Around 40 skaters participated in the annual event, with Memphis Nolen, 8, playing the part of Felicity.

AIST offers opportunities for those interested in learning to skate throughout the year. The AIST performance team has performed at Fayetteville Marksmen games and won first place at the 49th Annual Robert Unger ISI Competition in Knoxville, Tennessee in May of this year.

If you are interested in learning how to skate, please contact the director of AIST, Kelda Nolen at keldanolen@gmail.com.





Graphic Illustration by Bryan K. Reed

Ryan's Reindeer Run:

The 13th annual Ryan's Reindeer 5K Run will take place **Friday from 5 to 8 p.m.** The 5K run/walk starts and ends at the Medical Arts parking lot entrance on **Hay Street in downtown Fayetteville.** The race immediately goes up Haymount Hill and passes through the Haymount area neighborhood. Timing is provided. Prizes are awarded in various categories. Festive costumes are encouraged.

All under 13 participants receive a finisher's medal. A team trophy is presented to the group with the largest number of participants. There are two entry categories: individual and family. Family entrants are not eligible for the individual awards. Pets on leash are allowed but must be controlled at all times. This is a wonderful way to kick off the holidays with your family. Trophies are reindeer-themed.

Suggly Sweater 5K and Fun Run:

The fifth annual Suggly Sweater 5K will be held at Sugg Farm Park located at **Grigsby Avenue, Holly Springs.** Come dressed in your favorite ugly sweater. All proceeds from the race go to The Meg's Smile Foundation. The 5K event will be officially chipped and timed by Tar River Timing Company. The event is **Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Cozy Toes:

Fit and Able is proud to bring back the Cozy Toes race **Saturday** at its new home hosted by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol as a part of their mission to improve the quality of life in our community. Join us at Cozy Toes help support the 200 Club of Wake County and to learn more about the Department of Public Safety and how it serves you and your family. While you are there, have a great race and enjoy the festivities. Runners will start and finish at the N.C. State Highway Patrol Training Center and have the opportunity to run on the N.C. Highway Patrol Driving Track. There is no speed limit on the track so go as fast as you can. The race will start at **10 a.m.** at the location of **3318 Garner Road, Raleigh.**

Carolina Beach State Park Half Marathon and 5K:

Carolina Beach State Park Half Marathon will take place **Dec. 29** starting at **8 a.m.** The location will be **1010 State Park Road, Carolina Beach.** The 5K is a grassroots, locally owned and operated race. With 13.1- and 3.1-mile courses, all levels of speed and ability are allotted an opportunity to race in one of the most unique settings in North Carolina. With a rolling pine laced single track along the coast, participants have tons of interesting terrain to take-in while they put out max effort for unique prizes.

Last Mile:

Families who end the old year focusing on fitness will begin the New Year building on that healthy mission. Pursuing a healthy lifestyle is not a short-lived New Year's resolution, but a way of life that you carry from year to year. Join Fit and Able to run out the old year together. The race will take place **Dec. 30** at **Lake Crabtree County Park, 1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville.** Check in will be from **8:30 to 9:15 a.m.** and the race will begin at **9:30 a.m.**



Post flag football champs



Contributed photo

JSOC is the 2018 Fort Bragg Post Flag Football Champions. The team defeated 3rd Bn., 4th ADA. Regt. Dec. 7 at Hedrick Stadium.

Bigger stakes: the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy



The Stratton
Commentary

BY CURTIS STRATTON
PARAGLIDE

The stakes for the Army-Navy game were set high with a promotional video displaying Army's new uniform this year, set in the trenches of World War I alongside the 1st Infantry Division.

In an exciting game, watched by President Donald Trump and members of his Cabinet, the Black Knights overcame the Midshipmen for a third straight year with a final score of 17-10. More than that, Army captured the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for a second straight year — a feat not seen since Navy won in 2012 and 2013.

However, you may ask: what is the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy? Enter, stage right: the Air Force Falcons from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our friends from the sky are not about to let

themselves be forgotten. This trophy, first awarded by President Richard Nixon in 1972, is given to the winner of the triad of Army-Navy, Navy-Air Force and Air Force-Army football games.

The idea came from Gen. George B. Simler, a former Air Force Academy athletic director. As it stands, the Air Force has 20 trophy wins, Navy 15 and Army eight — after Saturday's win. Army's win continues their hold on the trophy. However, a loss would have meant the sharing of the trophy between them and Air Force — a shared trophy having occurred only five times in history.

This battle for trophy supremacy is not only unique to the three service academies — given that the Coast Guard and Merchant Marine academies are Division III schools, and too small to play their Division I compatriots — but also among the few annual college football trophies awarded to tri-school rivalries.

Despite the coveted Commander-in-Chief's Trophy being the ultimate prize, the crown jewel of the series between the three schools is undoubtedly Army versus Navy. The heritage of Cadets and Midshipmen battling it out beginning in 1890 boosts this prestige, as well as the fact that 10 sitting presidents

have watched the games in-person.

The trophy remains the coup de grace, the trophy to end all trophies for West Point, Annapolis and the Academy. Ultimately, the greatest honor is the three academies coming together for some friendly rivalry, playing some good ball and strengthening that bond between future officers of the armed forces.

Just like with the Turkey Bowl here on Fort Bragg a few weeks back, you root for your side but ultimately recognize the shared victory's role in building further respect. Or, you can just go with the old expression: Go Army!



Bull-Riding on the Farm:

Each **Sunday**, Shady Acres Rodeo, a self-sustaining farm, hosts a bull-riding event. Bring your friends and family out to enjoy watching some bull riding (or take your own turn on a bull). **Event times fluctuate from week to week.** Call ahead at (919) 669-6820 or visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/ShadyAcresRodeo/](https://www.facebook.com/ShadyAcresRodeo/) for times.

Ambition Boxing Academy:

Ambition Boxing Academy and Ambition Athletics offers a unique approach to training. Coach Khalil combines fundamental performance through boxing. Classes offered are for youth and adults. Adult classes are **Monday through Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m.** Youth classes are **6 to 7 p.m.** For more information contact (910) 987-0671.

Yoga and Beer with Robin:

Enjoy yoga and then drink beer. Pinky Pig will be coming through to serve up some great barbecue. Come to the bar and enjoy any number of delicious post-yoga beers **Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon at Hugger Mugger Brewing in Sanford.**

Shag Dance Lessons:

Learn to shag dance and have fun while exercising, no partner necessary. **Lessons are the first four Mondays of each month at the Elks Lodge** and are \$10 a night or \$30 a month. Classes are 45 minutes. **Beginners class begins at 6:45 p.m.; intermediate class at 7:30 p.m.** Call (910) 323-2526 for more information.

Tai Chi for Health:

Practice this flowing Eastern

exercise with instructor Rich Martin while overlooking the garden **every Tuesday at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** Tai Chi is best practiced in loose, comfortable clothing. Dress for the weather. Bring a water bottle. All levels and walk-ins are available. Admission is \$17 for non-garden members, \$15 for garden members.

Yoga in the Garden:

Cape Fear Botanical Garden and the YMCA of the Sandhills have partnered together for Yoga in the Garden. Grab a yoga mat and rejuvenate at a yoga session in the Orangerie at the **Cape Fear Botanical Garden from 6 to 7 p.m. every Wednesday.** Improve flexibility, build strength, ease tension and relax through posture and breathing techniques for beginners and experts alike.

Bring a yoga mat, a water bottle and an open mind to enjoy this all-levels class.

Pre-registration is required. Call (910) 486-0221, ext. 36 or stop by the garden to register. Free for CFBG members and YMCA of the Sandhills members; \$5 for guests.

Ice and Inline Skating:

The Cleland Ice and Inline Skating Rinks facility offers year-round skating, not only as a form of exercise, but as an affordable and constructive family leisure activity. It is the only ice rink within a 60-mile radius that provides year-round ice skating.

This facility has a comprehensive ice skating program, to include open skating, group and private lessons, figure skating clubs, parties (schools, units, and special interest groups), and private rink rental. This facility is easily accessible for

both military and civilian patrons. Six 30-minute classes are held once per week, on **Mondays** for six weeks. Visit <https://bragg.armymwr.com/programs/cleland-ice-and-inline-skating-rink> for more information or call (910) 396-5127.

Aqua Spin:

Tired of a normal spin class? If the answer is "yes," then join us for aqua spin. Classes take place at the **Tolson indoor pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.**

Hatha Yoga:

This focuses on the breath (pranayama) and yoga poses. This class will be a gentle yoga. Slow and great for beginners or students who prefer a more relaxed style. Poses are held longer. This class is held at **Hercules and Towle Courts Physical Fitness centers.** Classes vary, check MWR website www.bragg.armymwr.com for schedule.

Sculpted:

For that lean, toned look with fast results sculpted is a total body strength and conditioning workout combining the benefits of traditional weight training and great music. The original barbell workout. This class is offered at **Hercules Physical Fitness Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m.**

Boot Camp:

Interval training, alternating various body sculpting moves and aerobic exercises on the step, with barbells, bands or weights. This class is offered **twice a month at Hercules Physical Fitness Center.** Check the MWR website www.bragg.armymwr.com for schedule.

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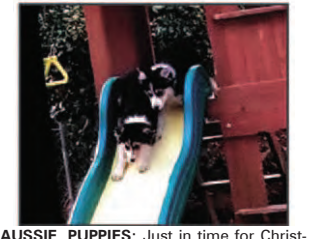
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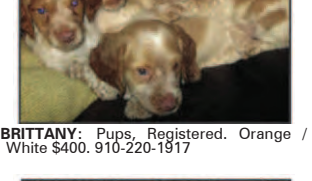
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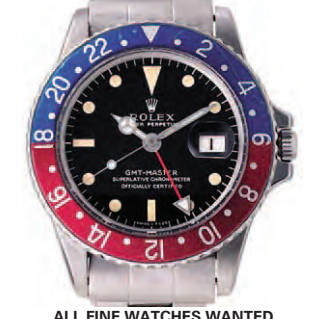


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