



# Pentagram

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## SPECIAL EDITION

# JBM-HH commemorates 9/11, first on scene during Pentagon attack



JBM-HH Fire Department Lt. Michael Humphreys rings The fire and emergency service bell after the moment of silence to remember when the plane crashed into the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001 at 9:37 a.m. during the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall 9/11 commemoration held at the Headquarters Fire Station Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL KELLY



Retired Col. Christopher Essig, Fort Myer garrison commander Sept. 11, 2001, shares his story from that day during the Fort Myer 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony Tuesday.

By Abigail Kelly  
Pentagram Staff Writer

Soldiers, Marines, civilians, and community members gathered at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Headquarters Fire Station on Tuesday for a ceremony commemorating 9/11.

Seventeen years ago, on a Tuesday morning, two hijacked planes crashed into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Minutes later, a third plane hit the Pentagon, a short distance away from then Fort Myer.

Tuesday's ceremony not only honored the lives that were lost that day, but also honored how individuals on Fort Myer were among the first to respond.

"Sitting in the shadow of the Pentagon, Fort Myer and its personnel played a pivotal role on Sept. 11 and in the days and weeks that followed," said Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander Col. Kimberly Peoples said. "Our firefighters, police, military, and medical personnel joined Arlington County and

other first responders during the initial response and rescue at the Pentagon and were on hand for the recovery efforts as well."

Retired Col. Christopher Essig, Fort Myer's garrison commander on 9/11, reflected on his own experience that day. What he recalled the most is how people around him reacted quickly and started to spring into action on their own, and going where they were needed.

"I'd like to say I was up there shouting commands and being on the radio and everybody was waiting for me to tell them what to do," Essig said, "but our MPs responded, MPs were recalled, but more importantly, everybody saw what was going on and people were self-deploying, they were coming to the headquarters, coming to their place of duty even though they were off. Knowing full well that they were probably going to be needed, and knowing full well that they

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A firefighter sprays water to put out the fire after the Pentagon was attacked Sept. 11, 2001.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Fort Myer chaplain on 9/11 reflects on his duty in the aftermath

By Abigail Kelly  
Pentagram Staff Writer

On Sept. 11, 2001, now retired Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Frederick Robinson, the chaplain for Fort Myer at the time, was at his home in Chantilly, Virginia, about 24 miles away from the post. Since he worked Sundays, he took that Tuesday as his day off. As he watched the news of the two buildings of the World Trade Center get attacked, he got a call from a sergeant for an accountability check to determine if anyone was missing. When he saw that the Pentagon had been hit, he was in disbelief.

He knew he needed to go back

to work.

"I realized that I really ought to go in. Even though everyone was told to leave, I had some policemen waving at me yelling at me, 'why are you going into the city while everyone (is) coming out,'" he recalled. "But I knew that was my place of duty, and that as a chaplain I ought to go."

Robinson came from an Army Family. His father served most of his career on Fort Myer, and his brother went to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Robinson became an infantry officer after finishing ROTC at Virginia Tech. After three years, he went to seminary school and

became a chaplain.

"I loved ... the ministry and I felt a call to ministry," he said, "and I loved the military, the Army in particular."

Before that day, his duties as the installation chaplain were across the board. He would hold services, provide counseling, and supervise the post's religious services. In an article he wrote published by the Baptist General Conference in December 2001, he said he always tried to be ready for war if he was ever needed.

"On Sept. 11, a new kind of war came to me," he wrote.

see Chaplain, page 3

## Pentagon flag unfurled on 9/11



PHOTOS BY JIM DRESBACH

A flag team stands at attention following a dawn American flag remembrance unfurling at the Pentagon Tuesday morning. Seventeen years ago at 9:37 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001, a commercial airliner carrying 59 passengers crashed into the western side of the Pentagon killing 125 military and civilian personnel people inside the building.



American flag team member Nick Connelly stands at attention on the roof of the Pentagon following the flag unfurling Tuesday to remember those killed in the 9/11 attack in northern Virginia in 2001.

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For more weather forecasts and information, visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).



# Tournament honors 9/11 first responders

By Leah Rubalcaba  
Community Relations Officer

On the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon, a group of Arlington County leaders in 2002 founded The First Responders Cup, a two-day, girls' fast-pitch softball charity tournament — the proceeds of which would go to benefit 9/11 and military charities.

Jack Belcher, director of Arlington County's Department of Technology Services and one of the founders of the tournament, described the motivation for the event as a way “to celebrate the heroism of our fire, police and our military who served us so bravely in New York, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon on 9/11 and who continue to serve us around the world every day.”

Saturday marked the start of the 17th annual tournament, held at the Barcroft Sports Complex in Arlington.

Annually, the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall commander is invited to say a few remarks during the tournament's opening ceremony and to throw



PHOTOS BY GREG HUDSON, FIRST RESPONDERS CUP BOARD  
**JBM-HH Commander Col. Kimberly Peeples throws a pitch to Maddie Elias, of the Glory 16U team, at the Arlington County's 17th annual First Responders Cup girls' fast-pitch softball charity tournament held Saturday at the Barcroft Sports Complex. The JBM-HH commander annually participates in the opening ceremony of the tournament held to honor the first responders who served in New York, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon on 9/11.**

out the first pitch. This year was no different. While the ceremony had to be cancelled because of weather, game play still took place, and JBM-HH Commander Col. Kimberly Peeples made her way to the tournament to meet a very special player.

Peeples was supposed to have thrown the first pitch to Maddie Elias of the Glory 16U team. Elias had been sidelined over the summer due to an illness and Saturday was her first day back at play. She had been select-

ed to catch the first pitch of the tournament.

After Peeples had a chance to meet and talk to Elias and her parents, Peeples threw some practice balls that Elias caught.

According to Greg Hudson, a board member of the First Responders Cup Tournament, “meeting Col. Peeples and hearing her inspirational words was not only a highlight for her (Elias) and her parents, but for everyone who was able to witness this special moment.



**JBM-HH Commander Col. Kimberly Peeples congratulates Maddie Elias, of the Glory 16U team, at the Arlington County's 17th annual First Responders Cup girls' fast-pitch softball charity tournament held Saturday at the Barcroft Sports Complex to honor the first responders who served in New York, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon 9/11. The JBM-HH commander annually throws out the first pitch and Elias was the designated catcher.**

# DOD states initial casualty numbers of Pentagon attack



PHOTO BY PAUL HARING  
**Smoke billows from the west side of the Pentagon after a hijacked airliner crashed into the building Tuesday morning.**

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

*Editor's Note: This story ran in the Sept. 14, 2001 issue of the Pentagongram.*

The Department of Defense officials announced tentative numbers Thursday of those still unaccounted for in the aftermath of Tuesday's terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

Defense officials said 126 persons are still missing.

The number doesn't include the victims who were aboard the hijacked plane that slammed into the Pentagon.

The Army is missing 21 military, 47 civilian, and six contractor personnel. The Navy is missing 33

Sailors and nine civilians. Other defense agencies reported a total of 10 personnel still unaccounted.

Officials stressed the numbers are initial estimates “While the number is not expected to change significantly, this is only a preliminary initial estimate. Based on roster checks and other information,” a spokesperson said.

No one has said how many remains have been removed from the wreckage, but officials have said remains recovered are being sent to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

After the remains have been formally identified, the families of those killed will be notified and DOD will release the names to the public, officials said.

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wanted to play a role in the operation to recover from this attack.”

Specifically, the Fort Myer fire department played a significant role in the operations on 9/11, as three firefighters were down at the Pentagon, seeing the plane crashing into the building.

“Two of our firefighters, Alan Wallace and Mark Skipper, were working next to the truck and had only seconds to run when they saw the airplane approaching,” explained Peeples. “The fire truck literally saved their lives, protecting them from the fire and flying debris that followed. They together with Dennis Young, a third firefighter on duty, began to assist people who were trying to escape the burning building.”

Chief C.T. Campbell, Fort Myer's fire chief on 9/11, said that besides those three firefighters, everyone was ready to respond when they were needed.

“That day out of 30 people with the exception of three, everybody was here,” he said. “So when the alarm came in, we were actually able to respond.”

Campbell also explained how even though as Fort Myer teamed up with local entities as time went on, it was the Fort Myer Fire Department firefighters who were first to put water on the fire and to start rescuing people out of the building. He said he was proud of how they were prepared, and how people were ready to serve.

“We were well-trained, well prepared, and unafraid to go out there and answer the call and be right there if they need us,” he said. “I am very proud of everyone who was here that day.”

Pentagram Staff Writer can be reached at akelly@dcmilitary.com.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL KELLY  
**JBM-HH Commander Col. Kimberly Peeples and Fort Myer Fire Chief Russell Miller lay a wreath during the 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony Tuesday at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Headquarters Fire Station.**



**Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Commander Col. Kimberly Peeples introduces retired Col. Christopher Essig and Chief C.T. Campbell who both served at Fort Myer Sept. 11, 2001, during the 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony at the fire station Tuesday.**



**Chief C.T. Campbell, who served at Fort Myer's fire chief Sept. 11, 2001, talks about how the Fort Myer's fire department were the first on the scene at the Pentagon during Tuesday's 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony in the headquarters fire station.**





PHOTO BY JIM GARMONE

## Folding flag

Soldiers from the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) unfold a flag outside a wedge of the Pentagon damaged by the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The flag would later be unfurled from the roof of the Pentagon to symbolize the country’s resolve and inner strength.

## CHAPLAIN

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### Ministry at “The Site”

Robinson will never forget his first view of the Pentagon’s damage. “It looked like a movie scene,” he recalled about seeing the result of the plane hitting the Pentagon. Chaplains from all the branches, as well as a few civilian ministers he stopped along the road to help, gathered. A higher-ranking officer organized a duty roster to have chaplains on the site 24/7. “I volunteered to be with the first eight-hour shift,” he said. Throughout the day and into the night, Robinson walked around areas to meet Soldiers who requested counseling. He talked with firemen and military personnel as they worked in areas that were still on fire. The next day, a tent was set up at the front of the rescue and recovery operations for chaplains to work from known as “the site.” One of the duties Robinson remembered in the first several days after the attack was that operations continued in the Pentagon. There were times they were evacuated and once evacuated, some were afraid of being there. “All of those Soldiers (were) out there, so we went out there to talk to them and many of them said that ‘they didn’t want to go back in the building,’” he said. “The stress level was extremely high, and they were fearful of being in the building again if anything happened again. So, a lot of it was just trying to talk them into going back and giving them assurance that things were OK and praying with them when they requested that.” The large part of the chaplains’ role following the several weeks after the attack was to help a part of the recovery operation. Starting that Thursday, Sept. 13, 2001, he stood with other chaplains as Soldiers began to bring bodies of those killed. He recalled a chaplain stationed at the door where they came out of the building, the refrigerator truck where the initial tagging, and at the final FBI point, where the chaplain read Scripture and prayed over

each one. “It was moving to see how these honored dead were cared for at every stop on their final journey,” he said. He remembered counseling those who were dealing directly with searching for people as part of the recovery process. “The people who were dealing directly with the body recovery ... they probably were going to have (post-traumatic stress disorder) after that, going in pulling out these bodies out, identifying everyone, and writing down descriptions of the body’s condition,” he said. “That was very stressful and trying to help them with what they were seeing, smelling, and all of that, they would talk to us about that. “Trying to help them get through that was probably the most difficult.” **Counseling a Community in Shock** Before returning to the site the day after the initial attack, Robinson sat at his computer in his office. After seeing a prayer for the nation penned by another influential protestant pastor, he decided to pen one to the Fort Myer community titled “Prayer for America.” He was surprised with the reaction his message received. “People had something to pray (when) they didn’t know what to pray before,” he said. Just as recovery operations went on for months, so did Robinson’s work for the Fort Myer community as they

tried to piece together what happened down the road. Attendance at Sunday chapel services increased, and more people sought counseling. “I talked to a couple of people who worked in the area where the plane crashed, but they had a dental appointment or something that took them away from their office, and their officemates were killed, and they were asking me ‘how come I am I still alive?’ and they are dealing with survivor’s guilt,” he explained. He doesn’t remember anything he said to the people who sought his help specifically, but he believes if someone asked for Scripture, he would direct them to Psalm 23 (verses 1-4) which said, “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” At a time of tragedy, and the days and weeks that followed, some tasks remained easier than others. “It takes a lot of skill and experience to know how to help people during their times of greatest need,” he said. “And you never know 100 percent whether you’ve said the right thing or not.” Still, he would do his best to comfort those and try to assure them in their time of need.

“I would just encourage people to dig into their faith, and into their walk with God,” he said. “That’s the times when you need to believe in him the most, because that is what gets you through those fears and anxieties.” **Always Remembering** In the summer of 2003, Robinson left Fort Myer to go to his final duty station in Germany. Over the years, he downplayed his role in his mind, not really speaking about it unless someone asked him because he didn’t think people would really be interested. “The people who really were significant were the ones actually there trying to help the people who survived it all — the wounded and burned people who were coming out in the hours following,” Robinson said. “I don’t see my role as being that dramatic. I was just helping people as a chaplain afterward. “I just downplay it because in the initial events, and I was just doing what all the other chaplains were doing in the months that followed. It was a memorable part of my career.” Seventeen years later, he still thinks about it. He also thinks that even though it may be fading in the memories of others, it should be something the country continues to think about. “I was thinking yeah overtime it is not as significant to people unless they were there, and they are thinking most of the new Soldiers that we’ve had, 9/11 was 17 years ago, so it is not, it is kind of fading away in the memories,” he said. “So, I am glad Fort Myer has chosen to have a commemoration and that people are still thinking about it and remembering what a significant event it really was particularly in that community there. “People ought to remember is that it could happen again and that we need to be strong in our faith as a nation.” He referred to Psalm 33 which he paraphrased as even with the strongest armies, it is still God who protects a country. “We need to pray for our country, our leaders and pray for our nation’s safety, and our spiritual health,” said Robinson. “(That is the) thing that our nation needs to remember every year.” *Pentagram StaffWriter Abigail Kelly can be reached at akelly@dcmilitary.com.*

“I would just encourage people to dig into their faith, and into their walk with God,” he said. “That’s the times when you need to believe in him the most, because that is what gets you through those fears and anxieties.”





Fort Myer Engine 161 is shown after the Pentagon was attacked Sept. 11, 2001.

COURTESY PHOTOS

# Firefighter tells firsthand account of 9/11 Pentagon attack

By Alan Wallace  
Special to the Pentagongram

“Foam 61 to Fort Myer, we have had a commercial airliner crash into the west side of the Pentagon.”

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I was assigned to the heliport station at the Pentagon. I was assigned there the day before as well. I should have been assigned to the Pentagon Fire Station all that week. Fort Myer fire fighters were taking a weeklong class on air field firefighting, given at the classrooms Bldg. 219. Mark Skipper, Dennis Young, and I were the three crew members assigned to the Pentagon Fire Station on the morning of 9/11. We arrived there about 7:30 a.m. The fire station was new and we had only been using it since January or February of 2001. We also had a new crash truck assigned there, an Emergency One Titan 3000. It carried 1,500 gallons of water and 200 gallons of 3 percent foam. Our first helicopter flight was around 10 a.m. But we were expecting President George W. Bush to land in Marine One around noon, returning from Jacksonville, Florida. Needless to say, neither flight arrived at the Pentagon that day because of the terrorist attacks.

Mark, Dennis, and I had our turn-out gear either on the crash truck or in the station. About 8:30 a.m. I decided to pull the crash truck outside of the fire station and place it in a position more accessible to the heliport landing site. The truck was then parked perpendicular to the Pentagon with the rear of the truck 15-20 feet from the west wall of the Pentagon and the truck facing west, towards the heliport pad. The right side of the truck was approximately 30 feet from the fire station’s apparatus door opening.

About 9 a.m. Mark and Dennis were inside the fire station in the day room. Mark came out to tell me that an airplane had just crashed into the World Trade Center. I then got up and went into the day room to watch the television coverage from New York City. While we three were watching, a second aircraft struck the second tower. I think we watched the TV for about 10 minutes or so. I then went back outside. I was soon joined by Mark.



(Left) Alan Wallace puts out a fire after the Pentagon was attacked Sept. 11, 2001.

We both began to work around the crash truck and were talking about the events in New York. About 9:20 a.m. Chief Charlie Campbell called the Pentagon fire station to inform us of the attacks on the WTC in New York. He wanted to be sure we were aware of the WTC disaster and that it was definitely a terrorist attack. He wanted to be sure we were aware of everything going on around the fire station. He also said Washington D.C., could very well be a target and if that happened, our fire truck could be dispatched to an incident.

The last minute or two before the plane hit the Pentagon, Mark and I were working in the right rear compartment where the foam metering valves are located. Mark and I then walked toward the right front corner of the truck. We had walked past the right front corner of the crash truck (Foam 161) and were maybe 10-15 feet in front of the truck when I looked up toward my left side. I saw a large frame commercial airliner crossing Washington Boulevard heading toward the Pentagon. The plane had two big engines, appeared to be in level flight, and was only approximately 25 feet off the ground and only about 200 yards from our loca-

tion. I later said the plane approached the Pentagon at about a 45-degree angle, but later drawing showed it was closer to 60 degrees.

Many people think Mark and I watched the plane hit the building. We did not. We only saw it approach for an instant. I would estimate not longer than half a second. Others didn’t understand why we didn’t hear it sooner. We did not hear it until right after we saw it. I estimate that the plane hit the building only one ½-two seconds after we saw it. What I am saying is, immediately after we saw it, we heard the noise; the engines, I’m sure. I described that as a terrible noise – loud, scary, and horrible.

At the time we saw the plane I said, “Let’s go!” and Mark and I ran away from the area. I turned and ran to my right, going north. (I do not remember which way Mark went, since I did not see him until I crawled out from under the Ford van.)

As I recall, I had several clear thoughts and feelings as I was running: The noise from the engines from the airplane, awareness that now we are being attacked, planning to run until I catch on fire, and then maybe dive to the ground and then figure out what to do.

Hearing the sound of the

plane crashing into the Pentagon, which I later described as “crunch” sensation of a lot of pressure and feeling very, very hot, very quickly. We’re certainly not going to burn up!

Later that morning when I began to look at the distances of everything from the fire truck, I thought the plane hit the building 200 feet south of the front of the fire truck. I had only apparently run about 20 feet when the plane hit the building. I ran another 30 feet or so until I felt I was on fire. I thought I had done everything I could do for myself. I decided to get down below the fireball. So I dove face first to the blacktop. At this time, it just happened that I was right beside the left rear tire of the Ford van. (I presumed that the debris from the Pentagon and airplane was being propelled away from the impact site). I immediately crawled very quickly under the van for cover and safety.

At this time, I noticed a lot of heat and decided to crawl to the end of the van. Very soon the heat was unbearable and I decided to get out from under the van and get farther away from the impact site. It was then that I saw Mark Skipper to my left in the field 50-75 feet away. He was standing, looking back to the im-

pact site and seemed to be swinging his arms. I immediately ran over to him to ask if he was OK. He said he was, and then said, “I’m glad you saw the airplane!” I said, “Get your gear on — we have a lot of work to do; I’m going to the fire truck.”

It was probably at this time that I first noticed the damage to the Pentagon and the crash truck. A lot of smoke was in the sky above the Pentagon. The rear of the crash truck was on fire with a large blaze. But most noticeable was that everything around the fire truck on the ground was on fire. Also, the west side of the Pentagon was on fire, all the way from the first to the fifth (top) floor.

Dennis was attempting to use a fire extinguisher on the truck. Mark was removing some of the EMS equipment from the truck. At this time, we all probably thought the truck would be consumed by the damaging fire.

At this point, I went into the fire station through the open apparatus door area and attempted to get dressed in my turn-out gear (coat, pants, boots, and helmet). I noticed my boots and pants were covered with debris, with numerous wood, rock, and metal fragments filling



# Little known facts about aftermath of Pentagon attack revealed

By **Jim Dreasbach**  
**Pentagram Staff**  
**Writer**

*Editor’s Note: This story ran in the Pentagram issue published Sept. 9, 2011.*

Before the Sept. 11 terrorist crashes in New York City and the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA., Col. Christopher G. Essig’s stint as Fort Myer base commander was short in calendar days, but long in experience. As former Fort Myer military police battalion chief, Essig knew the base, the streets, and the buildings, but after receiving command of the installation during the summer of 2001, he was soon to be a part of an act of war that brought a base’s pride, emotion, and national devotion to the forefront.

Essig’s Sept. 11, 2001, started like most other American’s, as just an ordinary work morning, but by 9 a.m., a brilliantly sunny late summer Tuesday morning was evolving into America’s 21st century day of infamy.

“I was in the headquarters [Bldg. 59],” said Essig who is now retired and working as the chief in the operations and support division of the Department of the Army’s Inspector General’s office in the Pentagon. “The day started like a usual one. I was having a meeting with the CID (Criminal Investigation Division). Like many of the other stories you get, (the first we heard of the attacks) was the planes going into the World Trade Center, so my staff

came in and said ‘Sir, you need to turn on the television.’”

The morning network and cable news shows were broadcasting live video feeds from lower Manhattan Island where New York City’s horizon was being filled with fireballs, concrete soot, and smoke. A pair of commercial airline suicide crashes into the WTC twin towers had done massive damage, but looming on Arlington’s horizon was its own catastrophe.

“One tower had been hit, and we actually got to see the other tower hit (on television),” Essig remembered. “That’s about the time when we thought something was wrong. Then it seemed like not too long after that, we had the explosion down at the Pentagon which we heard and felt. It initially shook everybody up. Everyone was wondering what was going on. After that, the garrison pretty much went into reaction mode. We just started working.”

The multi-tiered reaction and endeavor to save lives and fight the Pentagon fire started immediately.

Essig recalled that key personnel were located throughout the Arlington vicinity to assist in fire-fighting and search and rescue recoveries. Fittingly the Fort Myer Fire Department was training for a scenario which would soon become reality while three base firemen manned the Pentagon’s heliport station.

“I can’t say enough about the fire department.

They are an interesting bunch of guys by any standard,” the former commander said with pride. “We had three firemen (Alan Wallace, Mark Skipper, and Dennis Young) down at the (Pentagon) site that day. Chief (C.T.) Campbell had the entire fire department up here training. Interestingly, they were training on air crashes. God bless him, C.T. was sharp enough because he heard the same thing we heard (on the news). Everybody, because of the wonders of television, pretty much knew what was happening in New York. He made a call down to the site between the attacks in New York and the actual attack at the Pentagon. He basically told those guys down there to keep their eyeballs peeled. Fortunately that call happened minutes before the plane arrived. Shortly after that call, the guys saw the plane coming right at them.”

Immediately following the Pentagon attack, Essig said that the base went to Threat Con Delta (the highest alert) and a crisis management team was assembled to handle the emergency.

“After that, we literally became the reception center and the intervening staging base for operations at the Pentagon,” said Essig. “The Community Center was established as the joint operations center which is where all the backup (institutions) worked like the FBI and FEMA.

From Fort Myer, a supply convoy of blankets,

food, water, and machinery would initially be staged at the installation to aid first responders and rescue teams. The installation also readied for the deployment of all 3,000 Soldiers and support corps that would call Fort Myer home during the recovery mission. Soldiers, chemical engineers, and artillery personnel were to take ranks in Fort Myer barracks, and a rush job was underway to prepared make-shift living quarters with cots and upgraded bathroom facilities.

“The next phase of the operation was all of the troops who were being activated and called in to come to Fort Myer. We had to put them someplace,” Essig remembered. “Fort Myer is not terribly big and we were rather fortunate because most of the barracks that were recently demolished were vacant at that period of time. What we ended up having to do is roll into these building and completely try to clean and paint and do the amount of work necessary to bring these support facilities up to speed.”

Deployed units who were working 12-16 hour shifts at the Pentagon crash site slept, ate, showered, mediated, and prayed at Fort Myer. To the servicemember, Essig recalled, all were appreciative of a roof over their heads, a cot to sleep, food, and a shower.

Day three into the rescue recovery, Essig visited the Pentagon crash site—even after 10 years, he can describe his trip down the hill vividly.

“I made a particular point not (to go down there),” Essig said of the timing of his visit. “There was a great tendency to march to the sound of the guns, and some of my guys did, rightfully so. My job was back here (at Fort Myer) to make sure that the garrison was working. I went down there at night and that was probably the most profound experience for me during the whole event. Seeing the Pentagon at night with damage and it was all lit up by spotlights, it was almost surreal. It seemed to me like a movie set. At that point, it was a 24/7 operation; it never stopped.”

In the ten years removed from the Pentagon attack, Essig noted that the base has physically changed. That fall of 2001, areas of Fort Myer now associated with innocence and leisure were being used to catalog the tragedy and combat terrorism.

“Where the Thrift Shop is now was the joint property effects depot,” Essig said. “All the stuff that was found at the site that wasn’t evidentiary in nature was shipped up here – coins, stuff in the office, any personal items. Everything that went up there was cataloged, pictured, cleaned, and some effort was made to determine who owned those things.

“I don’t recall the dates when it took place, but there was a camouflage-netted radar facility where the Child Development Center is now. There was a firing battery at Fort McNair. A lot of

people didn’t know that,” Essig revealed.

Afraid to omit any individual or group or team who significantly contributed at Fort Myer end of the rescue recovery, Essig did note that chaplains at both Fort Myer and Arlington National Cemetery played important roles as did Public Works director John Russo, who self-deployed himself to the Pentagon moments after the crash.

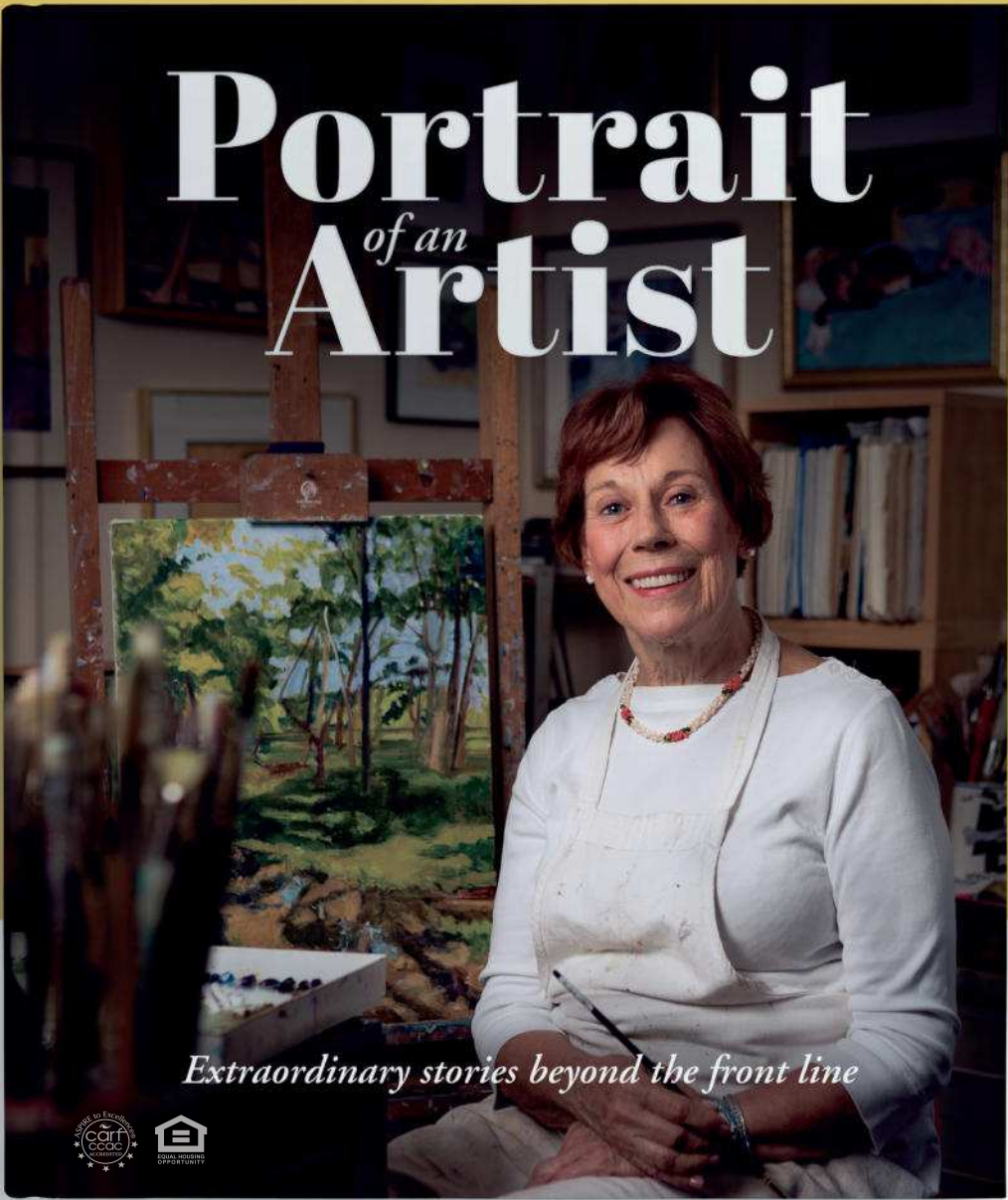
“With the exception of the fire department, John Russo was one of the few guys who actually went to the scene initially,” Essig said. “He dispatched himself immediately from his office. He assessed the scene and made arrangements to bring some other engineer equipment down like a bucket loader and back hoe. He did some work to support the fire department and the medical personnel.”

As for the garrison as a whole, Essig praised base employees who performed magnificently on Sept. 11, 2001 and during the times of support after the attacks.

“People who needed to be here were here, and they stayed as long as they needed to stay. In the early stages, everybody wanted to be a part of the recovery effort. Were people scared? No. They were emotional and they showed a great deal of pride and poured a great amount of sweat.”

Essig’s outgoing change of command at Fort Myer took place in 2004, and he retired from the military in 2009.

INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING



Norma Lasher found her love for art overseas during one of her more than 35 family moves while her husband, Wendall Lasher was serving in the United States Air Force. Those journeys inspire much of the beautiful artwork that fills her apartment and now graces our halls. Hers is but one chapter in our amazing collection of patriots and heroes.

We invite you to experience a connection that can be found through the common bond of service to country.



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To learn more about this extraordinary story visit [falconslanding.org/artist](https://falconslanding.org/artist).



# Chaplain’s Corner: A season for remembering

By Chap. (Col.)  
Steven L. Berry  
JFHQ-NCR and MDW  
Command Chaplain

*Editor’s Note: This story ran in the Pentagongram Sept. 9, 2011.*

It seems that, for much of my life, the fall of the year has come to me as a season of reflection; remembering events and experiences that have shaped my life. With east, my mind’s eye can visualize memories of fall season past: the sights and smells of the hardwood and pine in my boyhood home in East Texas, the wonderful aromas in my grandmother’s kitchen, my marriage to my lovely wife

and birth of my children, to name a few. To be sure, these are memories that are pleasant and enduring.

But, because life is as it is, not all memories are pleasant ones. Some because they are so horrific and cannot be forgotten. It is with great clarity that I remember where I was and what I was doing on Sept. 11, 2001. Probably so do you. On that day, our lives and entire world in which we lived seemed forever changed.

A decade has passed since that tragic day when America was stricken by the terrorist attacks on our homeland. Ten years. Yet, I dare say that in our collective

national memory and in the very personal memories of those whose loved ones were killed in those attacks, it surely seems as though these things happened only yesterday. The raw images of the devastation that lay in the wake of those terrible events of 9/11 remain as vivid reminders of the destructive power of hate, of the paralyzing effect of fear and uncertainty and of the fragile and transient nature of life. A world, a nation, a people, individual lives forever changed. What are we to do? To whom shall we turn?

Psalms 46:10 encourages our dependence upon the

providence of God in the midst of our most painful times. “Be still and know that I am God,” it says. “I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.”

Though there be hatred, fear, uncertainty, ruin, and injustice in the world, this Psalm teaches me that God remains, that he sees and knows those events that shake our lives to the core. The Psalmist indicates that, with a single word, God can — and one day will — turn the darkness into light and bring peace to what once may have seemed like an enduring struggle. Because God is our ever-present ref-

uge, we can be still, indeed. One day even the raging nations will be quiet and will stand still before God.

In these days, as we remember our countrymen and our allies whose lives were snatched from them on that September morning 10 years ago, let us remember them lovingly and with renewed appreciation of our own opportunities to share in their lives.

And may that remembrance give rise to hope in our hearts; hope that will not disappoint; hope that looks forward to the day when God will set the world aright and make all things new.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
Aerial view of the Pentagon after the E Ring collapsed Sept. 11, 2001.

## Pentagon attack hits close to home for Myer military

By Spc. Jennifer Lilly  
Pentagram Staff  
Writer

*Editor’s Note: This story originally ran in the Sept. 21, 2001 issue of the Pentagongram.*

“They blew up the Pentagon. They blew up the Pentagon,” are words I yelled into my cellphone as I drove down Route 1 last Tuesday and saw an explosion.

I was listening to the radio about the World Trade Center when the plane hit the Pentagon at 9:43 a.m.

My first thought was the terrorist would hit the Pentagon twice like they had the World Trade Center in New York. This sent a fear through my body I had never felt before and don’t wish on anyone — except those responsible.

I was sure the second blow would be the side I was on because it was the opposite side of the first attack.

After calling everyone I knew at Fort Myer and having nobody answer the phone, I finally reached my boyfriend who said that by my screams, he thought I was dying.

I wasn’t. I was lucky. Granted, I was not in the building, and honestly, I don’t personally know anyone who was injured or killed in the travesty, but, like every American, it had a great impact on me.

Nothing can prepare someone for a tragedy like the one at the Pentagon or the World Trade Center.

All day Tuesday and Wednesday when I would hear songs like “God Bless America,” and “The Star Spangled Banner,” I would tell myself over and over again, “Do not cry. You are a soldier. You have to stay Strong.”

People I know tell stories of being sent to the Pentagon for recovery missions and being tasked out to “notify the next of kin.” These are things that take a strong-willed and good-hearted person.

After everything — the children crying for their mothers, the sisters crying for their brothers — the hardest part that I have encountered was the first night I went home.

Around 11:30 p.m., Sept. 11, I walked into my building on Fort Myer where I lived for over a year. Signs were hung on the door saying, “Report to the front desk.”

The non-uniformed sailor at the desk asked me to find my name on the roster for the building and make a check by it. It was at that moment that someone came from behind and said, “They are trying to find out who is coming home tonight and who isn’t.”

Like so many patriots across the world, I am still waiting for those

soldiers, sailors, and civilians who are missing to eventually make a “check” by their name.

Whether in California or New York, the terrorist attacks hit home for everyone.

As a soldier, I have had many late nights trying to determine where I, and so many of my friends, will be in the next couple of months.


As a soldier, I try to be courageous because I know that the American people are relying on their military to get them through the rough times.

As a soldier, I have tried to be strong for the Americans who rest peacefully at night because they know that they have the strongest military in the world protecting their home.

I am a soldier. I am strong. I am courageous. I consider it an honor to serve beside those who are spending their days at these crash sites and experiencing things that they will have nightmares about for the rest of their lives.


I consider it an honor to shed tears for my fellow comrades who have given their lives to protect the nation which we all love and the freedom we take for granted.

Today, 10 days after the “Attack on America” I know they won’t be checking in with us, but they have made the ultimate “check” for our country.



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### FIRSTHAND from page 4

the boots. One of my elastic suspenders was on fire, which I stamped out (or so I thought). When I was considering how best to empty the debris from my boots, I heard a voice back outside saying, “We need help here.” I think it was at this time that Dennis, Mark, and I began to assemble at the first floor windows of the Pentagon (behind the crash truck).

We were directly up against the Pentagon building, which was on fire with smoke pouring heavily from all the windows. The ground was burning all around us. A magnolia tree was burning, which gave a strange sensation of flaming “things” floating in the air — I later realized they were magnolia leaves. There were several times the heat was so intense that I thought my pants were on fire. It

was especially difficult to breathe because of the smoke and fumes. These conditions definitely limited how long we could assist in the rescue.

I do remember helping three men carry an unconscious man all the way out to the guardrail beside Washington Boulevard. While carrying him, I noticed the 4-inch fire hose from our Fort Myer Rescue Engine No. 161. That meant our fellow fire fighters were on the scene. This was a relief because after I called them on the radio, I was certain it would be difficult for them to get to the Pentagon because of the traffic. But I learned later that Rescue Engine No. 161, Rescue Engine No. 162 and the assistant chief did not have difficulty getting to the Pentagon.

By now I feeling the effects of exhaustion from the frantic pace and severe shortness of breath from the lack of air at the impact

site where we had assisted victims. Our injuries were primarily second-degree burns on our necks and forearms. In addition, Mark had a laceration on his hand, Dennis had a sprained ankle and I had left shoulder pain. (Note: Mark, Dennis and I were only wearing T-shirts, work trousers, and boots or heavy shoes at the time of the attack).

I was grateful — and am now amazed — that my injuries were minor. The burns on my forearms and neck healed quickly. My shoulder pain persisted and ultimately required surgery in November 2001. The surgery went well and the surgeon and I were pleased with my recovery from it.

I returned back to work in February 2002, glad to have a good job. I am very proud of Dennis, Mark and myself. I am so grateful that none of our fire fighters were seriously injured or killed.



# ANC dedicates new Millennium site

## First in-ground burials, street-naming ceremony part of ceremony

By Jim Dresbach  
Pentagram Staff  
Writer

The 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Caisson Platoon, members of The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own”, and Old Guard officers played key roles in the Sept. 6 Arlington National Cemetery Millennium section dedication.

In tandem, a pair of caissons rode to the site’s Section 81 bringing the remains of two unknown Civil War Soldiers for the first in-ground burials at the new addition. The Millennium site is located behind Arlington House and Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall’s Old Post Chapel and borders the cemetery’s Section 1 and JBM-HH’s McNair Road.

The caissons were accompanied by the U.S. Army Ceremonial Band, and members of The Old Guard Firing Party. “(The) ceremony was unique as it was the first time in recent history that two caisson elements have ridden in tandem,” said The Old Guard Director of Public Affairs Maj. Stephen C. Von Jett. “The mission required increased rehearsals and planning, but the end result was absolutely stunning and so moving. Dual funerals are relatively common, spouses are often interred together, but to see both teams cresting the hill really brought home the significance of this event. It was truly an honor to be a part of laying these two Civil War unknowns to rest.”

The 27-acre expansion will offer 27,282 interment spaces either above or below ground. The site features new roadways, seven turf-covered sections for in-ground burials, four new columbarium courts, two committal shelters, and a perimeter wall columbarium bordering McNair Road with space for cremated remains. The project began construction in 2014, and land parcels used for the creation of the new addition came from the National Park Service



A tandem detail by The 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Caisson Platoon brings the remains of two Civil War Union unknown Soldiers to Arlington National Cemetery’s new Millennium addition Sept. 6. The pair of Soldiers were the first in-ground burials to occur at the site during the day’s dedication.

and Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. “This is a hugely important project for Arlington National Cemetery,” said the cemetery’s Deputy Chief of Engineering David Fedroff. “Anytime we get to increase our burial capacity and the opportunity to serve veterans for the future is an extremely proud time for the cemetery. Without this project, we estimate the cemetery would run out of first-burial opportunities around 2033-2034. With this expansion, we believe those first-burial opportunities will extend out to the early 2040s.” With the site bordering McNair Road and the joint base’s bus lot, the engineers and planners of the new site told media members a conscience effort was made to buffer the cemetery and base with foliage. “Certainly, we thought about that during the design,” Fedroff said of keeping the Millennium site serene and secluded for surviving Families. “There are even trees planted along the niche wall (near McNair Road) that are softening and breaking up (the landscape).” Close to 1,000 trees were planted, and 16,000 bushes, shrubs, and flowers are now a part of the Millennium

landscape. The names of the new roadways were also introduced to the public. The roads were dedicated for members of the United States Coast Guard and Marines. Ida Lewis is the first female to have an Arlington National Cemetery Street named after her. She was a member of the U.S. Lighthouse Service, which would become part of the Coast Guard. She saved a dozen people from drowning in Rhode Island waters during the 19th century. U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan W. Gifford was killed in action in Afghanistan

June 29, 2012. A Navy Cross medal recipient, Gifford is the first U.S. Marine to be honored with a street name in Arlington National Cemetery. Gifford is buried in Arlington’s Section 60. Former Army National Military Cemeteries Executive Director Kathryn Condon and

Secretary of the Army Mark Esper unveiled the new street marker displaying the names of Lewis and Gifford. The burial of the Civil War Union Soldiers closed the event with prayers by U.S. Air Force Rabbi (Maj.) Steven Rein, U.S. Navy Chaplain (Cmdr.) John Carter, and U.S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew Whitehead and remarks from Army National Military Cemeteries Executive Director Karen Durham-Aguilera. “Lastly today, we will lay to final rest two American patriots,” Durham-Aguilera said. “These two Union Soldiers whose date and time has obscured their identities will now lay near others who served and fell in that conflict.” Several inurnments took place in columbarium 11 during the summer, but the burial of the two Civil War Union Unknown Soldiers found on the Manassas battlefield were the first official burials in the new addition. *Pentagram Staff Writer Jim Dresbach can be reached at [jdresbach@dcmilitary.com](mailto:jdresbach@dcmilitary.com).*

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# IMCOM welcomes new commanding general

By Susan A. Merkner  
U.S. Army Installation Management Command  
Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Becker took command of United States Army Installation Management Command in ceremonies Sept. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Becker was promoted to lieutenant general immediately before the ceremony by Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. Becker replaces Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl, who had served IMCOM since November 2015. During Becker's promotion ceremony, Milley said the new IMCOM commander was talented and humble, a man who "is not afraid to speak truth to power. We want servant-leaders in our generals."

At the change of command ceremony, Milley praised IMCOM and its employees, thanking them for generating Army readiness by supporting Soldiers, their Families, and civilians. "Readiness is much more than manning, equipping and training," he said. "Soldiers can't focus exclusively on their combat mission if they think their Family is in lousy housing, or has inadequate medical care, or unsafe schools for their children." Of the Army's 1.1 million Soldiers, 60 percent are married and most have at least two children, Milley said. Under Dahl's leadership, IMCOM reduced 1,000 positions "which allowed us to



The IMCOM guidon changes hands during the change of command Sept. 5.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMCOM

apply those resources to build an (Security Force Assistance Brigade) which is in Afghanistan today," Milley said. "Every base and installation is important, both in CONUS and overseas. Every single Soldier in the Army passes through IMCOM at some point, and IMCOM is responsible for the readiness of today's Army." Dahl was the first commanding general of IMCOM who was not dual-hatted as the Army's assistant chief of staff for Installation Management. During his remarks at the ceremony, Dahl thanked the command's 50,000 employees for their role in providing continuity in the

Army's 75 installations. Despite budget cuts and doubling down on multiple jobs, IMCOM employees are dedicated professionals who keep the day-to-day operations going, providing facilities, utilities, security, and recreational opportunities, he said. "IMCOM provides platforms for readiness, so our Soldiers are fit, trained, and ready for combat," said Dahl, who will be retiring from active service later this month. Becker thanked family and friends for their support, and said Dahl built a great team at IMCOM. "IMCOM touches the lives of every Soldier, civilian, and their Family members in the

Army," Becker said. "What you do every day is truly impressive. I appreciate all you do to keep the Army strong." The change of command ceremony Sept. 5 included music by the 1st Armored Division Army Band, the national anthem sung by Sgt. First Class Charmakeitha M. Smith of IMCOM, and an invocation by IMCOM Command Chaplain (Col.) Yvonne Hudson. IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Melissa A. Judkins participated in the guidon exchange ceremony with the three generals. The traditional presentation of flowers was held to honor the outgoing and incoming commanding generals' wives, retired Lt.

Col. Celia FlorCruz and Sherri Becker, respectively. Prior to taking command of IMCOM, Becker was chief, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, U.S. Central Command, Iraq. He was commander of the Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. He previously served as the commanding general, U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He has had several joint assignments and has served in Iraq and Korea, as well as at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and Fort Lewis, Washington. Becker's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (second award), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He has earned the Combat Action Badge, Parachutist and Air Assault identification badges, and is Ranger qualified. Becker was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery upon graduating from the University of California at Davis in 1986 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. He also holds a master's degree in political science from Auburn University.

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# Be prepared for the worst in upcoming distasters

By Compiled by  
Abigail Kelly

September is National Preparedness Month, a campaign from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As Hurricane Florence comes towards the East Coast and possibly have an impact on the National Capital Region, FEMA and Ready Army encourages individuals to be prepared for possible disasters.

The Ready Army campaign encourages people to be informed, make a plan, build a kit, and get involved.

According to the Ready Army website, people should listen to local mass warning notifications for possible danger and to act when that time occurs.

“Stay tuned into what Florence is doing, and check on your neighbors now. Have a plan,” stated MaryAnn Tierney, FEMA Region III regional administrator in a statement. “Everyone, especially those who are at greatest risk of being impacted by this storm, should start preparing now by seeing what they may need in an emergency and preparing for any possible impacts from Florence. Be the help in your neighborhood to ensure that everyone is taking action to prepare, including at risk populations.”

FEMA suggests downloading their app, listening to the local radio, and signing up for Wireless Emergency Alerts.

Families should also make a plan for different situations, and know how to get in contact with one another and what roles people would have. Ready Army said thinking of the “five Ws” (who, what, when, where, and why) will help deter-

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Hurricanes aren't just a coastal problem—high winds, tornadoes, and flooding can cause impacts hundreds of miles inland. Here's what you can do to get ready now:



### KNOW YOUR ZONE

Get familiar with your evacuation routes and practice them with your family. Check with your local emergency management office for information about your zone.

### KNOW WHAT TO DO

Think about the actions you should take before a hurricane makes landfall, such as filling your gas tank and shuttering your windows. Visit [ready.gov/hurricanes](https://ready.gov/hurricanes) for more tips.





GRAPHIC COURTESY OF FEMA

mine a plan for Families to remain safe.

In addition to making a family plan, Families should also build a kit to include items that may be needed in case of an emergency. Ready Army suggests that there should be enough to last three days. Some of the items that the website suggests includes:

- Water — at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days
- Food — nonperishable food for at least three

days. Consider items that do not require cooking and will maintain freshness for several months such as canned food, energy bars, freeze dried foods, and dehydrated foods.

- Formula and diapers for infants
- Food, water, other supplies, and documents for pets
- Manual can opener
- Flashlight, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

battery-powered weather radio, battery-powered cellphone charger, and extra batteries

- First aid kit and prescription medications
- Sanitation supplies such as moist towelettes, disinfectant, and garbage bags
- Important documents in watertight packaging — personal, financial, and insurance
- Local maps and command reporting information

- Five-gallon bucket with plastic bags for use as a portable toilet
- Cash in small denominations

Finally, besides preparing their own Families, individuals should help prepare their communities. FEMA suggests people check with their local officials for what resources and plans there are in place as well as check on their neighbors.

*Pentagram StaffWriter Abigail Kelly can be reached at [akelly@dcmilitary.com](mailto:akelly@dcmilitary.com).*

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## COMING SOON!



# News Notes

## New chapel service

A new monthly nondenominational service is being held from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. This service will meet Wednesdays, monthly at the Fort Myer Community Center.  
For more information, contact the chaplain’s office at (703) 696-3535.

## Reading mentor, lunch buddies’ program

Active duty service members have an opportunity to volunteer in a mentorship capacity for elementary school students at Long Branch Elementary School through Marine Corps Community Services. Service members are invited to either read with students or be a lunch buddy.  
The program occurs two Tuesdays each month, based on the volunteer’s schedule. The reading mentoring program occurs from 2 to 2:45 p.m. and the lunch buddies’ program is from noon to 1:10 p.m. for fourth- and fifth-grade students. There is an opportunity to come earlier around 11 a.m. to serve as a lunch buddy for other grades.  
Those interested in volunteering should contact MCCS school liaison officer, Amy Fishman at amy.fishman@usmc-mccs.org.

## Redskins’ tickets available

The JBM-HH Ticket Office still has tickets for the season opener of the Washington Redskins versus Indianapolis Colts Sunday. Tickets are sold in pairs only, Cost per pair \$270 per pair. Seats are in section 129 lower level end zone. Tickets can be purchased over the phone by calling (703)696-3470 or in person at the JBM-HH Community Center.

## Tricare Online Patient Portal

The Tricare Online Patient Portal allows individuals to safely and securely access their medical information, make appointments, request prescription refills and test results, and connect then with Relay Health secure messaging and the Nurse Advice Line. Sign up today, by visiting www.tricareonline.com.

## Integrated Referral Management and Appointment Center

If an individual has an appointment, question about a referral, or military health care provider, he or she can call the Integrated Referral Management Appointment Center at (855) 227-6331.

## Relay Health Secure Messaging

Tricare Prime enrollees at Andrew Rader U.S. Army Health Clinic can message their provider team to request test results, prescription refills, and exchange documents. Stop by the front desk to sign up.

## Nurse Advice Line

The Nurse Advice Line, available at no cost to beneficiaries, helps callers make informed decisions about self-care at home or when to see a health care provider, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please call (800) 874-2273.

## Patient Navigator Program

For individuals new to the National Capital Region with questions about medical services, there are services available. The members of the Patient Family Advisory Council have graciously volunteered to help individuals with their extensive knowledge of the Military Health System.  
For more information, please call (703) 696-7933.

## JBM-HH basketball tryouts

Tryouts are being held for the JBM-HH men’s varsity basketball team. A valid CAC is needed to be on the team. Tryout dates are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Henderson Hall gym; Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Fort Myer gym; and Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fort Myer gym.

## Food-To-Go

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall now has a curbside food pick-up service originating from Fort Myer’s Patton Hall.  
This service is called “Food-To-Go” and is the newest Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program. The concept is to provide convenient, first-class meals right to the patron’s car door, which will be prepared in the Patton Hall

kitchen.  
For more information or to place an order, call (703) 524-0200.

## The US Army Blues at VCU Wednesday

The Virginia Commonwealth University Jazz Studies program will host the U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble in a performance at VCU’s Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

## The US Army Blues at SAAM Take 5 Jazz Concert Series

Relax and “Take 5” Sept. 20 at 5 p.m. with free, live jazz in the Kogod Courtyard at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. The 1930s were the golden age of the American popular song. This concert with the Night and Day Quintet focuses on the music of George and Ira Gershwin, Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart, and Cole Porter. The warmth, wit, and swing of these tunesmiths make for an unforgettable evening featuring works from Great American Songbook.

## The US Army Blues Swamp Romp at Kennedy Center

Save the date. The U.S. Army Blues Swamp Romp is scheduled to provide a free performance at the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage at 6 p.m. Sept. 22.

## Zembiec Pool open

The Zembiec Pool is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Welcome aboard orientation

The next two Henderson Hall orientations are scheduled for Friday and Sept. 21 from 8 to 11 a.m. in Henderson Hall Bldg. 29, room 105. Welcome aboard orientation is to inform new individuals of all programs and benefits available to them in the National Capital Region. Set Aside Program, Child Care Subsidy programs, Mass Transit Benefits, Single Marine Program, Marine Corps Exchange, Tricare, lifelong learning, and more.  
For more information, call (703) 696-9197 or visit www.mccshh.com.

## Salute to Sunset Concert Series

Enjoy performances by bands from the nation’s armed forces, including The United States Army Band, at National Harbor this summer. The free shows take place on the National Harbor Plaza stage every Saturday night, through Sept. 23.

## FLEP available for eligible officers

Interested in joining the Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps? Eligible officers may apply for the 2018 Army Funded Legal Education Program board until Nov. 1. If selected, officers will attend a civilian law school beginning in the fall 2019 and serve as a judge advocate after they successfully complete law school and are admitted to practice law in a U.S. state.  
Commissioned officers in the ranks of second lieutenant and captain, who have two to six years of active federal service as of Sept. 1, 2019, are encouraged to apply and be considered for acceptance. Interested officers can find detailed FLEP eligibility criteria and application procedures in Army MILPER Message 18-081, and in AR 27-1, Chapter 10. Additionally, the “Army FLEP” Facebook group is a venue to ask questions and share information with past, present, and prospective FLEP judge advocates.  
For more information, contact, Lt. Col. Andrew Atkins, deputy staff judge advocate, Military District of Washington, by email at andrew.r.atkins.mil@mail.mil.

## Civilian leave assist

JBM-HH Central Issue Facility employee Elbert Jones, has been approved to receive leave under the Volunteer Leave Program. A medical emergency has caused him to exhaust his leave. Department of the Army civilian employees who would like to donate annual leave are asked to fill out form OPM630a, “Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Volunteer Leave Transfer Program (Within Agency),” at www.opm.gov/forms/pdf\_fill/opm630a.pdf.  
For federal government civilian employees outside the Department of the Army who would

like to donate annual leave, please complete OPM 630b, “Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (Outside Agency),” at www.opm.gov/forms/pdf\_fill/opm630b.pdf.  
For those who wish to donate, please be sure to populate the form with Jones’ name specifically. Send completed form to Michael King at michael.k.king.civ@mail.mil or David Fertig at david.b.fertig2.civ@mail.mil.

## Weekly Bible study

The JFHQ-NCR/MDW Chaplains Office hosts a weekly Bible study Mondays from noon to 1 p.m. The Bible study takes place in the JFHQ-NCR/MDW Command Chaplain’s Conference room inside the Bldg. 48 annex on Fort McNair.  
Lunch will be provided. All NCR service members, DOD civilians, and military dependent who are interested are welcome to attend.  
For more information, contact Spc. Darrell Lipscomb at (760) 403-9716 or darrell.lipscomb.mil@mail.mil.

## EEO training rescheduled

EEO training has been rescheduled to Sept. 25 at the Fort Myer Community Center. The training session for employees will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. for supervisors and managers.  
The Sept. 25 offering will be the last EEO Workforce Training for fiscal year 2018.

## Toastmasters seeks members

The Pentagon Legacy Toastmasters is seeking new individuals to join. Toastmasters helps individuals with public speaking. Oprah Winfrey was once a member of the group.  
Toastmasters holds weekly meetings every Tuesday from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. in the Pentagon, bottom floor behind the food court. Individuals need to enter through the Visitor’s Center and can be unaccompanied with a CAC or call a member to be escorted in.  
For more information, contact Toastmasters’ President Yvonne Hay at (973) 757-3609, Carl Sabath by email at carl.e.sabath.civ@mail.mil or Vice President of Public Relations Jina Noeth by calling (571) 320-9659 or by email at jina1037@aol.com.

## Prostate cancer support group meetings at Fort Belvoir

The prostate cancer support group meets at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital the second Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be Thursday from 1 to 2 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Urology Clinic, Sunrise Pavilion, second floor. Spouses/partners are invited. Military ID is required for installation access. For those without a military ID, arrive at the gate one hour prior to meeting to complete paperwork for base access.  
For more information, contact Jane Hudak at (301) 319-2918 or jane.l.hudak.ctr@mail.mil.

## Prostate cancer support group meetings at Walter Reed

The prostate cancer support group meets at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be Sept. 20 from 1 to 2 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in America Building, River Conference Room, third floor. Spouses/partners are invited. Military ID is required for base access to Walter Reed. For those without a military ID, call the Prostate Center at (301) 319-2900 at least four business days prior to event for access.  
For more information, contact Jane Hudak at (301) 319-2918 or jane.l.hudak.ctr@mail.mil.

## Chapel providing opportunities

The Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Memorial Chapel has available opportunities in the following communities: Catholic, Protestant, and Gospel. These are paid positions.  
For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Pedro Reyes by calling (703) 696-7672 or by email at pedro.n.reyes.mil@mail.mil.

## Notification of death

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Sgt. Aaron Schwitters, U.S. Army Garrison Headquarters Battalion, must contact Capt. Jonathon Bruister, the summary-court officer for the Soldier. Schwitters passed away Aug. 23.



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