

THURSDAY  
JANUARY 2, 2025



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## 2024 in review in photographs



Photos by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Then-Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Erika Rhine-Russell and Garrison Commander Col. Duane Mosier applaud Fort Leavenworth Military Youth of the Year Rayna Klutse March 18, 2024, at Harold Youth Center. Klutse placed runner-up at the state-level of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Military Youth of the Year Competition the next day in Topeka, Kansas.

Sgt. 1st Class Leyon Summerlin, special assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Army; Lt. Col. Zachary Griffiths, Harding Project director; and Ellen Toner, senior editorial manager, Association of the United States Army, listen to workshop participants' suggestions and questions during the plenary session of the Harding Project Workshop June 26, 2024, at the McHugh Training Center.



Retired 1st Sgt. Michael Jones leads a tour group through the grounds of the Old U.S. Disciplinary Barracks May 21, 2024, starting outside 12th Brick Grille.



Unified School District 207 students, staff and parents assembled on the football field render honors as the 17th annual USD 207 Freedom Walk begins with the posting of the colors by the Leavenworth High School Junior ROTC, the playing of the national anthem and the group recital of the Pledge of Allegiance Sept. 11, 2024, on Normandy Field.



Col. Michael Goodwin, Joint Effects Division chief, Mission Command Training Program, presents the flag from atop former missing-in-action 2nd Lt. John E. McLauchlen Jr.'s casket to the World War II pilot's nephew, Richard McLauchlen Jr., accompanied by his wife, Anita, during the reinterment ceremony July 8, 2024 at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Sgt. Gerald Leith III, 67th Military Police Detachment (Military Working Dog), Special Troops Battalion, works with MWD Zira, a Patrol Explosive Detector – Enhanced, during training Sept. 18, 2024, at the soccer fields by Sherman Army Airfield. In addition to earning the Top Dog distinction at the 2024 MWD Advanced Tracking Course conducted on Fort Leavenworth, Leith and Zira earned the Top Dog honor during their off-leash "enhanced" training in 2024 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The 2024 year in review in photographs continues on page A3.

# Messenger family earns AUSA volunteer military family of year

by Shannon Collins/Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Cooking 20 pounds of bacon, 15 dozen eggs, 680 cookies, coordinating child care and giving military families a chance to experience Army military basic training and what their soldier does on the job is just a typical day every 10 weeks for one Army family.

Lt. Col. Tony Messenger, 3rd Squadron commander, Second Security Force Assistance Brigade, Fort Liberty, North Carolina; his wife, Amy; and sons, Connor, age 18; Liam, age 16; Colin, age 14; and Keegan, age 12, earned the Association of the United States Army's Volunteer Family of the Year for their efforts when they were stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

The colonel was deployed to Africa, riding in the back of a truck in Senegal when his wife called him to tell him the news.

She told him they received a call from a retired general. He asked her if it was a prank and to send him the e-mail.

"I was surprised and humbled at the same time," Tony said. "We didn't expect it. We go from post to post, see where we can give back as a family and community and be value-added to the folks around us, both in the community and in our Army family."

"I made the general repeat himself three times. I felt bad. We were shocked," Amy said.

Before his current assignment, Tony commanded 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, at Fort Jackson. During his tenure, the Messengers revived the battalion's Soldier Family Readiness Group and began the 72-hour room initiative, which gives drill sergeants a chance to spend time with their families during one of the most critical and time-consuming periods of the training cycle, Tony said.

"The first 72 hours of every cycle is all hands-on deck," Amy said. "You're setting the tone with the civilians who are getting off the buses to become soldiers. It's stressful and tough for the families of the drill sergeants."

They joked that they've burned through an oven and a microwave in their home kitchen prepping for the 72-hour room initiative. Each cycle takes seven hours of prep time to cook and prepare everything. The Messengers spend their time and money on the event every cycle.

They also held a family day to give the drill sergeants' families a chance to repel down the tower or go through the confidence course, learning what the drill sergeants did each day.

"I couldn't climb the tall repel tower, but Connor did," Colin said. "I got to crawl in the mud and jump walls on the confidence course. I got to shoot a gun. It was really fun."

"It really helped the families connect, and it's fun to watch," Amy said.

Prep for the initiative is a family effort.

"The kids help us cook the breakfast and lunches and help make sure the kids are enter-

tained," she said.

The family also established a readiness and resiliency room and a meditation space, equipped with zero gravity chairs, massage chairs and white noise machines, that's used by about 150 drill sergeants every day. They also established a lactation room for new and expecting mothers in the unit.

The readiness and resiliency room is used by more than 150 soldiers, 75 family members and 36 children on a nine-week cycle. From 2021-2024, about 865 soldiers, 430 family members and 180 children benefited, which resulted in more quality time for the military families.

## Call to service

The family's call to service started at an early age for Tony and Amy.

Tony's mom served as nurse in the Red Cross in Virginia during the HIV epidemic in the 1980s leading HIV education in Prince William County.

Amy said her family went on mission trips every summer.

"We both grew up with volunteerism deep in our upbringing and just giving back to the community we live in," Amy said. "We instill that in our children. The boys volunteered at Fort Jackson and sought out volunteer opportunities."

While Connor was attending a public high school at Fort Jackson, he noticed the teachers at the school didn't understand the Army mission there and what the military students' lives were like.

The family worked with the military and school administrations to bring 130 teachers and staff members onto Fort Jackson to take them through the engagement skills trainer (a laser-based, indoor, multipurpose arms trainer), visit the museum and tour the post.

Connor and Liam helped establish a partnership with Richland Northeast High School in Columbia, South Carolina, that improved ties between Junior ROTC and Fort Jackson, and the family coordinated the first all-staff visit from the high school to the installation.

The Messengers initiated a JROTC family day, providing 40 families with the opportunity to meet and talk to more than 35 drill sergeants about serving in the Army, and coordinated a mentorship program between 30 drill sergeants and more than 50 at-risk teens from the high school.

"The moms who were worried about their kids joining the Army talked to spouses and family members about their Army experience," Amy said. "The kids went down the tower with their friends. It was a great day."

She said the boys continued to find volunteer opportunities at each of the Army posts they were assigned, helping bridge the gap between the community and the Army.

"I'm super proud of my kids for reaching out and seeing the needs of their community," she said. "We've volunteered everywhere we've been, but to see the boys initiate and engage, as a parent, I get a proud heart."



Submitted photo

**Lt. Col. Tony Messenger, 3rd Squadron commander, Second Security Force Assistance Brigade, Fort Liberty, North Carolina; his wife, Amy; and sons, Connor, age 18; Liam, age 16; Colin, age 14; and Keegan, age 12, earned the Association of the United States Army's 2024 Volunteer Family of the Year for their efforts when they were stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.**

"To say I'm proud of my kids is an understatement," Tony said.

"I love volunteering because it makes me feel good, and we spend time together as a family," Liam said. "We also get to help others who've helped us in the past and will probably help us in the future. I love it."

Liam said one of his favorite experiences was being the Easter Bunny during a party for military families.

"It was really exciting to see the happy little kids," Liam said. "I've never seen people with more joy in their eyes. I gave out so many hugs."

Colin said his favorite part is being the cookie tester.

"She makes like 680 cookies — that's 10 batches of cookie dough I get to taste," he said, laughing. "I get to give food to people, and I get to eat the food."

Colin also organizes the games for the children at the holiday events and volunteers at animal shelters.

## Military heritage

The call to service also has military roots for Tony and Amy.

Tony's paternal grandfather served in the Navy in World War II. His grandfather was injured and met Tony's grandmother in a hospital in Washington, D.C., where she was serving in the Coast Guard. His maternal grandfather served in the Army Air Corps. His maternal grandmother served in the Women's Army Air Corps, where she trained to fly B-29s. His dad served in the Air Force, and Tony joined the Army in 1998 as a soldier in military intelligence.

"I initially joined to pay for college and because of my family's history of service, but once I got in, I loved it," Tony said. "I love the Army; it becomes your family. I have a lot of friends I keep up with through the years. It's just a bond that doesn't break. I love it."

Amy's grandfather served in the Army in World War II, and her uncle served in the Army in Vietnam.

Tony and Amy met while they were both attending West Virginia

University. He had earned a Green to Gold scholarship. He commissioned in 2005.

"We met at a sports bar watching Monday night football," Amy said. "We had mutual friends who knew we both liked the same stuff."

## Military life

Tony has had more than a half dozen deployments, with tours to Iraq, Syria and Jordan. He started out as an infantry officer once he commissioned, and changed over to Special Forces after commanding an Infantry company.

He has shrapnel in his arm, leg and along his spine from an improvised explosive device during an Iraq deployment in 2007.

Because of the many moves and deployments, Amy said having her military family is vital.

"I fully support him in his career. I've made bonds with people who became my family," Amy said. "Our kids love it because they can go anywhere around the world. They have military friends who live everywhere."

She said having that community and spouse support during deployments, especially when she had to deal with moving household goods and four boys, has been priceless.

"We've moved 11 times," she said. "You have to have your 3 a.m. friend."

Keegan, their youngest son, is a special needs child with a rare genetic disorder. Amy said being in and out of the pediatric intensive care unit with Keegan while Tony was deployed, her support network helped her with her other sons.

"There's literally been times other spouses have come and gotten my kids off an exit ramp, so I could follow in an ambulance to the hospital," Amy said.

She said at one point, Colin had to get his tonsils out, Connor's appendix ruptured, and then Keegan was born, all within one week.

"We had three kids have surgery within seven days of each other," she said. "Keegan was flown to a hospital for special care,

and then at 10 months, he went back into the hospital for more than three months and 13 surgeries. Anthony was deployed at the time; he came home because Keegan's blood sugar was really low, and we almost lost him. He coded twice."

She said the outpouring of love and support they received from the soldier families was so much, they didn't have enough room for all the food.

"The outpouring of love, people taking our kids out, making sure our boys had birthday parties while we were in the hospital with Keegan, our Army family really came together," Amy said. "They threw Colin the biggest third birthday to make sure he knew he was loved."

Keegan has had 59 surgeries in 12 years. The Messengers said they couldn't take care of their family without the love and support from their military and civilian communities and the support from Tony's command.

"We are driven to pay it forward, all of that love and support," Amy said.

At every post, the Messengers participate in the Exceptional Family Member Program, bringing families together to make sure everyone gets what they need, connecting with other military families and having play dates so no one feels alone, Amy said.

Connor said the constant moves and military life is helping him with college.

"It's helped with resiliency and adapting to an environment," Connor said.

Connor earned an associate's degree in the culinary arts but loves military history.

Tony said taking care of military families enables readiness in soldiers.

"It enables our ability to do the things we're called to do as soldiers if our family unit is being taken care of," he said. "It's about the team beyond the guidon. Taking care of them enables the soldiers to focus on the mission and give 100 percent without worrying about their family in the rear."

## FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP

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# 2024 in review in photos (continued from Page A1)



Photos by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Guidon bearers Sgt. Daniel Hepburn, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Midwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility Battalion (Corrections), and Staff Sgt. Andrew Snyder, A Company, MWJRCF, lead participants from the starting point of the Army Corrections Brigade Wellness Program noncompetitive run-walk volkswalk May 8, 2024, at the Frontier Conference Center parking lot. About 200 ACB service members, civilians and family members participated in the event.



ABOVE: Volunteers Juniper Huggard and her mom, Selina Huggard, assist Frankie Valdez, spouse of Staff Sgt. Anthony Valdez, A Company, U.S. Disciplinary Barracks Battalion (Corrections), Army Corrections Brigade, start making selections from the racks of dresses available at the Operation Deploy Your Dress pop-up event for Army Corrections Brigade families preparing for the Military Police Ball Aug. 10, 2024, at the Resiliency Center. ODYD's grand opening was Sept. 14, 2024. LEFT: Cody Clark's brother Patrick Clark, parents Lori Clark and James Clark, Directorate of Public Works Chief of Operations Jerry Clark, Garrison Commander Col. Duane Mosier and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Erika Rhine-Russell unveil the new sign dedicating the Cody Clark Skate Park in memory of the DPW employee May 21, 2024, at the park behind the Post Theater.



From the shore, Henry Knudsvig, Natural Resources intern with the Student Conservation Association program, and Doug Krause, environmental protection specialist with the Directorate of Public Works, help pull a net across Smith Lake as Chris Name, DPW environmental protection specialist; retired Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lovell, Natural Resources intern working on a degree in wildlife, fish and conservation; and Andrew Talmage, DPW quality assurance specialist, maneuver it through the water to usher any remaining fish toward a collection point for removal and transfer to Merritt Lake June 14.



John Bruce, president of the Alexander/Madison Chapter - Greater Kansas City/Leavenworth Area 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association, provides guided tours of the Circle of Firsts in the Buffalo Soldier Commemorative Area as part of the Buffalo Soldiers Day observance July 26, 2024.



Members of the male and female Leavenworth High School JROTC Raider teams ride on a float to celebrate another national competition victory in the Leavenworth County Veterans Day Parade Nov. 11, 2024, in downtown Leavenworth. Raider team members marched with fellow JROTC cadets earlier in the parade and rushed back to the staging area to board the Raider float to go through the parade route again. The LHS JROTC Raider male and female teams both placed first in the Masters Division of the JROTC National Raider Challenge at the end of October 2024 in Fort Knox, Kentucky. LHS JROTC Raiders Elisabeth Howell and Katherine Schwennesen were named Ultimate Raiders and presented four-year scholarships for finishing first in the Ultimate Raider Challenge. LHS JROTC Raider teams have won at nationals the past several years.

*Editor's Note:* This is an abbreviated year in review. For a more comprehensive view of the year, visit <https://home.army.mil/leavenworth/about/news> to read and download issues of the *Fort Leavenworth Lamp*. The *Fort Leavenworth Lamp* newspaper celebrated its first anniversary in 2024 as a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation activity, after the long-time commercial enterprise contract ended in September 2023. E-mail [ftvlampeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ftvlampeditor@gmail.com) with story ideas, upcoming events and other information. Call 913-684-1702 or e-mail [mary.f.manago.naf@army.mil](mailto:mary.f.manago.naf@army.mil) to advertise and/or help sponsor future issues of the *Lamp*.

# U.S. Army Year in Review

## Part 1: Army pays tribute to heroes



Courtesy photos

by Christopher Hurd/Army News Service

WASHINGTON — As the Army moves closer to its 250th birthday, the service and the Department of Defense took time in 2024 to honor heroes from throughout its storied history.

### Andrews' Raiders honored

President Joe Biden posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Civil War soldiers Pvt. Philip Gephart Shadrach and Pvt. George Davenport Wilson for their heroism and courage during the Great Locomotive Chase of 1862.

Each soldier's oldest living relative accepted the award on their behalf during a ceremony at the White House over the summer. Shadrach and Wilson were part of a group of 24 soldiers and civilians who became known as Andrews' Raiders.

In early April 1862, James J. Andrews, a Kentucky-born civilian spy, led the group on a mission to infiltrate the South and destroy the railway and communication lines that supported the Confederacy from Georgia to Tennessee.

The mission was ultimately unsuccessful, and the men were captured fol-

lowing the daring locomotive chase. Andrews and seven soldiers, including Shadrach and Wilson, were tried, convicted as spies, and then executed.

The remaining soldiers either escaped or were released as part of a prisoner exchange. They were all bestowed the Medal of Honor, a recognition that now includes their fellow raiders Shadrach and Wilson.

### Congress honors the 'Ghost Army'

Members of the secret World War II-era unit known as the Ghost Army received the Congressional Gold Medal on March 21 during a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The 1,100-man force carried out the special mission of deceiving the German military by impersonating other U.S. Army assets. They used inflatable tanks, sound trucks and fake radio transmissions to manipulate their adversaries, often operating close to the front lines.

The Army brought in painters, sound technicians, and actors to help the Ghost Army accomplish its mission. Their story was kept secret for decades until it was declassified in 1996.

Congress honored Ghost

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Army veterans from the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and 3133rd Signal Service Company for their significant contributions during the war. Since the American Revolution, Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

### D-Day 80th anniversary

Service members from across the Department of Defense gathered in Normandy, France over the summer to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces launched the largest air, land and sea military invasion in history.

The commemoration was filled with a full week of ceremonies to pay tribute to the heroes who fought to liberate Europe during World War II. Soldiers assigned to commands historically linked to D-Day participated in more than 100 events, including a parachute jump

from WWII-era C-47 planes.

U.S. senior officials and allied nation leaders also took part in the festivities.

"Eighty years later, we thank the young Americans who took the beaches, who helped liberate France, and who helped free this continent from Nazi tyranny," said Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III. "We thank every Allied warrior who fought for freedom on June 6, 1944. And we thank the American and Allied veterans who have rallied once more on the shores of Normandy."

The number of these heroes at D-Day anniversary events in Normandy each year is diminishing, but the admiration for their service and sacrifice endures.

### Sgt. Mitchell Stout's legacy

The Army renamed the Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense system this summer after Sgt. Mitchell W. Stout, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War.

Stout sacrificed his life protecting his fellow soldiers. He grabbed a grenade thrown into their bunker and ran for the exit. As he reached the door the grenade exploded, but by holding it close to his body, he was able to shield the other soldiers from the blast.

The Army plans to field 144 air defense systems to four battalions by the end of 2024 with an additional 18 systems for training, operational spares and testing. Incremental upgrades to the system will feature enhanced effects including directed energy, and improved missiles and ammunition.

### Newest armored fighting vehicle honors heroes

In April, the Army christened its newest armored fighting vehicle, the M10 Booker, after two decorated soldiers. The vehicle platform is named for Medal of Honor recipient Pvt. Robert D. Booker, who perished in World War II; and Distinguished Service Cross recip-

ient Staff Sgt. Stevon A. Booker, who died from injuries sustained in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Developed under an accelerated program, the M10 Booker boasts modern technologies for light infantry formations. The tank offers greater survivability, improved threat detection at longer ranges, and off-road maneuverability. Equipped with a 105mm cannon and other weaponry, it provides soldiers with powerful direct-fire capabilities.

"The Army is undertaking its most significant transformation in several decades to dominate in large-scale combat operations in a multidomain environment, and the M10 Booker is a crucial part of that transformation," said Doug Bush, the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology.

The first vehicles were delivered in February 2024 and will undergo extensive testing over the next two years, including firing drills, extreme weather simulations, and live-fire exercises. Following a successful operational test with the 82nd Airborne Division, the first M10 Booker company will be deployed in the summer of 2025.

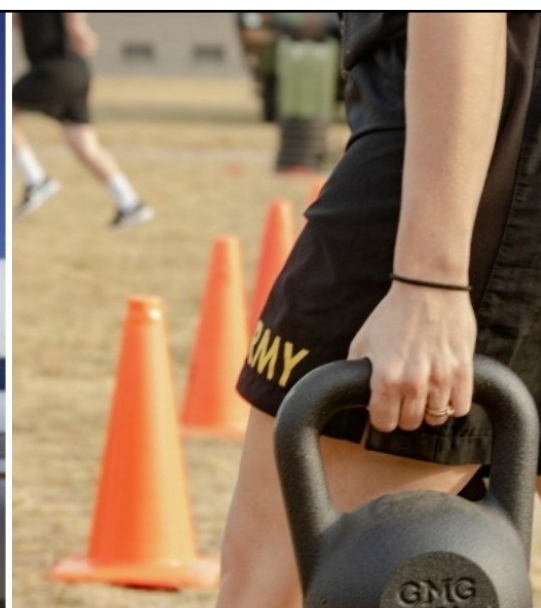
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# U.S. Army Year in Review

## Part 2: Army expands programs to improve quality of life for soldiers, families



Courtesy photos

by Jonathan Austin/Army News Service

The Army worked to continuously improve quality of life for soldiers and their families in 2024.

Changes included enhancing a program to reimburse military spouses for business expenses, connecting soldiers with holistic health teams, authorizing deployment pay, broadening professional writing opportunities and expanding child care access.

### Spouse assistance

The Army expanded support for military spouses by enhancing the reimbursement program for business costs and relicensing fees. The new directive permits reimbursement up to \$1,000 for business-related expenses in addition to the already authorized \$1,000 for relicensing fees resulting from a relocation.

Qualified relicensing costs cover exam fees, continuing education, certifications, business licenses, permits and registrations. For business owners, reimbursement is available for equipment relocation, new technology purchases, IT services and inspection fees.

Details on qualifying expenses and how to apply for

reimbursement are available on the Military One-Source portal at <https://myseco.militaryone-source.mil/portal/article/licensure-reimbursement-pcs-moves>.

### Child care

Military families with small children often struggle to find quality child care. The Army has partnered with Upwards, the largest child care network in the United States, to offer subsidized, flexible child care during Reserve or National Guard weekend drills, with plans to expand this service.

Upwards alerts Army families to available spaces through agreements with local community child care centers and family child care providers via a mobile phone app. Care is customized to the soldier's needs, accommodating unexpected schedule changes.

### Health and fitness

The Army announced in 2024 that it is expanding the number of Holistic Health and Fitness, or H2F, Performance Teams.

"You've got to be able to get to the fight, you've got to be able to win the fight, and you've got to be able to get home from the fight, and that's what H2F is about," said Gen. James

Mingus, the Army vice chief of staff. "We know that the return on investment, just from a financial perspective and the data that we have thus far, it's paying for itself."

H2F Performance Teams are interdisciplinary subject-matter experts who provide injury prevention and human performance optimization at the brigade-level. They include physical therapists, dietitians, occupational therapists, athletic trainers, strength and conditioning coaches and cognitive performance specialists.

Units participating with an H2F team see fewer musculoskeletal injuries, a quicker return to duty, higher ACFT scores, lower substance abuse profiles, and more soldiers qualifying expert on rifle marksmanship.

### Operational deployment pay

Soldiers on approved operational deployments now earn \$240 per month under the operational deployment pay program ap-

proved in 2024.

The change, effective Oct. 1, 2024, authorized E-1 to O-6 soldiers to receive special duty pay in recognition of the greater-than-normal rigors of operational deployments.

"The Army is dedicated to ensuring that the sacrifices made by our soldiers and their families are appropriately rewarded. Operational deployment pay represents a significant advancement in this effort," said Dr. Agnes Gereben Schaefer, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The regulation that governs the pay is Department of Defense Instruction 1340.26, Assignment and Special Duty Pay.

Soldiers in combat zone tax exclusion status pay no tax on the ODP, but it is taxable for soldiers serving outside such locations, said Dr. Robert Steinrauf, Plans and Resources director, deputy chief of staff G-1.

### Using writing to win

The Harding Project, a

grassroots effort to renew professional writing in the Army's journals, was endorsed in 2024 by the Army chief of staff. (See next week's *Fort Leavenworth Lamp* for a Harding Project update.)

"We need to ensure there is shared understanding and shared sense of purpose in how we expand emphasis on professional writing and written communication skills," said Gregg Thompson, deputy to the commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center.

Free of Common Access Card controls or classifications, the Army's professional journals connect leaders to help win our nation's wars. Writings can impact policy, share lessons that improve the Army, or influence broader Army debates.

The first group of Harding Fellows were selected in 2024. Handpicked by their branch leadership, the 11 junior officers are the first uniformed editors for the Army's branch journals in

almost two decades.

The Harding Fellowship has been codified as an official Army Broadening Opportunity. The second cohort of fellows will attend graduate school and then report to their branch's center of excellence to start their assignment as their journal's editor-in-chief.

Muddy Boots, <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/NCO-Journal/Muddy-Boots/>, articles written by nominative command sergeants major, also launched in 2024. These articles share the experiences, including insights and ideas of these senior NCOs.

The first article, "Combat Doesn't Care: How Ready Are You?" was written by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael R. Weimer and published Oct. 24, 2024. Other Muddy Boots articles include "NCOs Enable Continuous Transformation" written by Command Sgt. Maj. Brian A. Hester from Army Futures Command, and "The Crucial Role NCOs Play in Strengthening the Army Profession" written by Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond S. Harris from Training and Doctrine Command.

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# U.S. Army Year in Review

## Part 3: Soldiers played crucial role informing modernization needs



Courtesy photos

by Joe Laccan/Army News Service

The Army's continuous transformation efforts in 2024 centered on the service's network of systems.

Army leaders have turned to soldiers to give comprehensive feedback on how to improve its systems and command-and-control communications.

### Year of change for 101st

The soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, have played a pivotal role in executing the Army's modernization concept, "transforming in contact," developed by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy A. George.

Troops at the division's command post now operate network structure that the service once assigned to the brigade level.

Soldiers used the first Integrated Tactical Network aerial toolkit during Operation Lethal Eagle in April 2024 and during a Joint Rotation Training Center in January 2024.

During Lethal Eagle, sol-

diers engaged in long-range, large-scale, air assault operations or L2A2. During the exercise, 101st members used the toolkit to communicate with dismounted soldiers to augment command and control during the simulated assaults.

In August 2024, 101st soldiers used advanced aerial tier and command-and-control technology, providing commanders with more communication with 80 aircraft flying from Fort Campbell to Fort Johnson, Louisiana.

### 'War is changing'

The leader of Army Futures Command, Gen. James Rainey, published the first of a series of articles in Military Review, beginning in August 2024 detailing the "transforming in contact" initiative and how the Army faces the most change in traditional warfare since World War II.

Rainey said technology evolves at a rapid pace and said the Army needs to quickly evolve technologies before they become obsolete. The commander added that the Army must change

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and evolve with the technology through doctrine, training and policy.

He said that the Army should document requirements for specific battlefield capabilities rather than individual pieces of technology and work with Congress on the Army's fiscal flexibility.

Rainey said the Army needs to acquire useful technology, such as artificial intelligence, quicker instead of waiting for future capabilities to develop.

He encouraged putting the latest warfighting technologies into Army formations to encourage needed transformations, including the implementation of next-generation combat vehicles, robotics and the latest command-and-control equipment.

He cited human-machine integration as a capability that reduces risk to soldier safety and allows

soldiers to focus on decision-making tasks that require humans.

### Project Convergence expands its scope

The Army's annual series of modernization experiments, Project Convergence, continued to evolve in 2024, expanding its scope and scale.

From Feb. 23 to March 20, more than 4,000 participants, including members of partner nations from Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand, took part in Project Convergence Capstone 4 in the western United States. The Air Force, Marines and Navy also contributed PC-C4, which experimented with more than 200 technologies.

PC-C4 saw the Army, partner nations and other military branches successfully integrate sensors and

fires without wasting unnecessary munitions.

The Army hosts Project Convergence annually to inform the integration of new technologies and capabilities to gauge the effectiveness of weapons and defense systems.

### Project Convergence expands to Europe, Pacific

To gain a better understanding of the needs of geographic combatant commands, the service executed more series of experiments in Project Convergence Europe and Project Convergence Pacific in 2024. The Army performed the tests in the context of near-peer regional adversaries, noting the geographic and regional obstacles.

PC Europe focused on the Joint Warfighting Assessment as part of the Avenger Triad Exercise from

Sept. 10-19, 2024. During the computer-assisted, command post exercise, the Army focused on improving force readiness, acquiring soldier feedback on modernization solutions, integrating and evaluating multi-domain operations concepts and assessing joint and multi-national interoperability.

In June 2024, PC Pacific joined the multi-national exercise Valiant Shield 24 at locations in South Korea, Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam, Japan and Washington state. U.S. Indo-Pacific Command led the field training exercise with troops from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard and partner nations.

Army Futures Command, headquartered at Austin, Texas, conducts 60-70 experiments annually, including Project Convergence Europe and Project Convergence Pacific with new technologies to augment readiness and the capabilities of Army formations.

### 5 P's OF COLD WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

**PROTECT PETS**  
Bring outdoors pets inside or provide them with a warm shelter.

**PROTECT PEOPLE**  
Dress in warm layers, wear a hat, and gloves. Check on your neighbors and those in need.

**PROTECT PIPES**  
Insulate pipes & allow faucets to drip slowly to prevent them from freezing & bursting.

**PROTECT PLANTS**  
Cover cold-sensitive plants to protect them from dangerous temperatures.

**PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY**  
Use safe heating sources indoors. Keep combustibles away from heat sources. Test smoke & carbon monoxide alarms.

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LENDER

# U.S. Army Year in Review

## Part 4: Army strengthens alliances with partners, bolsters interoperability



Courtesy photos

By Shannon Collins, Army News Service

As the Army prepares for large-scale, multi-domain combat on the future battlefield, the service widened the scope and scale of exercises with partner nations in 2024.

The Army continued to make a difference in global security this year by initiating and maintaining strong alliances and partnerships while continuously transforming for adaptability, flexibility and lethality. From using the high mobility artillery rocket systems in Tunisia to helping the Philippines to integrate C-17s, this year's exercises integrated many firsts as the Army continues to technologically innovate as it tests its interoperability across the multinational domains.

### African Lion 2024

African Lion 24, or AL24, U.S. Africa Command's premier, annual combined joint exercise conducted by U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa, or SETAF-AF, ran from April 19 to May 31 across Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia, with more than 8,100 participants from 27 nations and NATO contingents.

"This exercise has grown over the years since 2004, not only in the number of multinational service members we train with but also in the scope of the training, which has expanded beyond just security," said Gen. Michael Langley, commander of United States Africa Command.

Training and cooperation occurred across the country, and in all military domains linking the full U.S. Joint/Total Force. It included a command post exercise with delegates from 17 participating nations; special operations exercise, air and maritime exercises,

a unique HIMARS rapid insertion from a U.S. Marine unit, and a Humanitarian Civic Assistance exercise that directly provided medical aid to nearly 10,000 civilians.

For the first time, high mobility artillery rocket systems, or HIMARS, provided by 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Texas National Guard was used during the exercise. HIMARS repeatedly fired upon high-value targets.

### Defender Europe

For the first time, the United States conducted a major logistical operation with Sweden as ongoing rail gauge operations occurred in the Arctic Circle's High North Region May 2-4. Held in conjunction with Immediate Response 24, the operations were part of the larger DEFENDER 24 series of exercises.

While the United States has previously conducted military exercises with Sweden, this was the first major logistical exercise since Sweden officially joined NATO March 7.

Just over one month after joining the NATO Alliance, the Swedish Armed Forces hosted U.S. military units based in Germany, including the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division, the 16th Sustainment Brigade, and the 627th Transportation Detachment along with The Norwegian Armed Forces and Finnish Defense Forces to conduct rail gauge operations that demonstrate interoperability in the High North.

The rail gauge refers to the distance between two rails on a railway track and is essential for ensuring trains' compatibility and seamless movement. Swift Response, the largest multi-

national U.S. Army European airborne exercise held annually in Europe, began in Sweden with a joint forcible entry, or airborne operation, where nearly 800 service members from the United States, Hungary, Italy, Spain and Sweden participated in a parachute drop at Hagshult Wartime Air Base May 7.

Swift Response, a component of the larger DEFENDER 24 exercise, was a dynamic U.S. Army Europe and Africa-led training exercise focused on allied airborne forces' ability to quickly and effectively respond to crises as an interoperable, multi-national team.

The exercise integrated six near-simultaneous JFEs, into Estonia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Sweden. Additional exercise locations included the use of intermediate staging bases in Hungary and Italy.

Saber Strike 24, a multinational NATO exercise spanning most of April, demonstrated the capability and interoperability of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, V Corps and NATO allied forces through increasingly complex training events in Bemowo Piskie Training Ground, Poland.

### Salaknib 2024

The Army made history when the 1st Multi-Domain Task Force from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, successfully deployed the Mid-Range Capability, or MRC missile system to Luzon, Philippines, as part of Salaknib 2024.

The Army deployed the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center

Exportable to Fort Magsaysay, Luzon, in June as part of Exercise Salaknib. This deployment was a significant milestone that helped the Armed Forces of the Philippines establish Combat Readiness Training Area locations within the country.

This year, the Philippines' JPMRC rotation combined with the Philippines Army's Training and Doctrine Command, the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division and 196th Infantry Brigade from Hawaii to execute the first rotation in the Philippines to provide realistic training in the Indo-Pacific.

Soldiers gained valuable experience operating in a jungle environment while strengthening the Philippine Army and its commitment to the region, said Gen. Charles Flynn, then-commander of U.S. Army Pacific.

### Southern Fenix 2024

U.S., Chilean and Argentinian soldiers commemorated the completion of the multinational exercise Southern Fenix, or SF24, which focused on enhancing interoperability for multi-domain operations between partner nations at Campo Militar Pozo Almonte, in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile, Sept. 6.

The exercise featured the first deployment of the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, to the U.S. Southern Command area of operations, in conjunction with combined airborne operations, reception, staging, onward movement, and integration, and a com-

bined field training exercise culminating in two live-fire exercises, one with maneuver, and one with HIMARS rocket artillery forces.

The 11th Airborne Division, based out of Fort Richardson, Alaska, rapidly deployed and executed a combined night jump infiltration alongside Chilean paratroopers on an objective in the Tarapacá desert. After securing the objective, the paratroopers conducted a field training exercise and a live fire squad tactical exercise. The paratrooper's integration with Chilean partners enhanced interoperability and combat for both armies.

Another vital participant in the exercise, the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade from Fort Moore, Georgia, played a key role in advising, assisting and training the Chilean army throughout the exercise by bridging gaps and improving interoperability throughout the exercise. The SFAB conducted multiple classes for the Chilean Army and constructed templates leveraging their technical expertise to promote force modernization throughout the Chilean Army operational and planning process.

### Orient Shield 24

Soldiers from U.S. Army Japan, the 1st Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment and 11th Airborne Division of Fort Wainwright, Alaska, took part in the longstanding exercise Orient Shield, which held its opening ceremony July 18 at Camp Imazu, Japan.

Orient Shield is the largest U.S. Army and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force,

or JGSDF, bilateral field training exercise executed annually in various locations throughout Japan to enhance interoperability and test and refine multi-domain and cross-domain operations.

In addition to taking part in exercises that focused on the areas of bilateral planning, coordination and interoperability, including testing HIMARS and performing operations with the UH-60 Black Hawk, the cooperation between U.S. and Japanese forces helps to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific region, Army leaders said.

### Allied Spirit 24

Allied Spirit 24 was a large-scale U.S. Army exercise that strengthened deterrence initiatives by testing interoperability between more than 6,500 participants from NATO Allies and partners. Force-on-force operations ran March 9-17. The exercise was hosted by the 7th Army Training Command at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany, as part of the U.S. Department of Defense's Large-Scale, Global Exercise 2024.

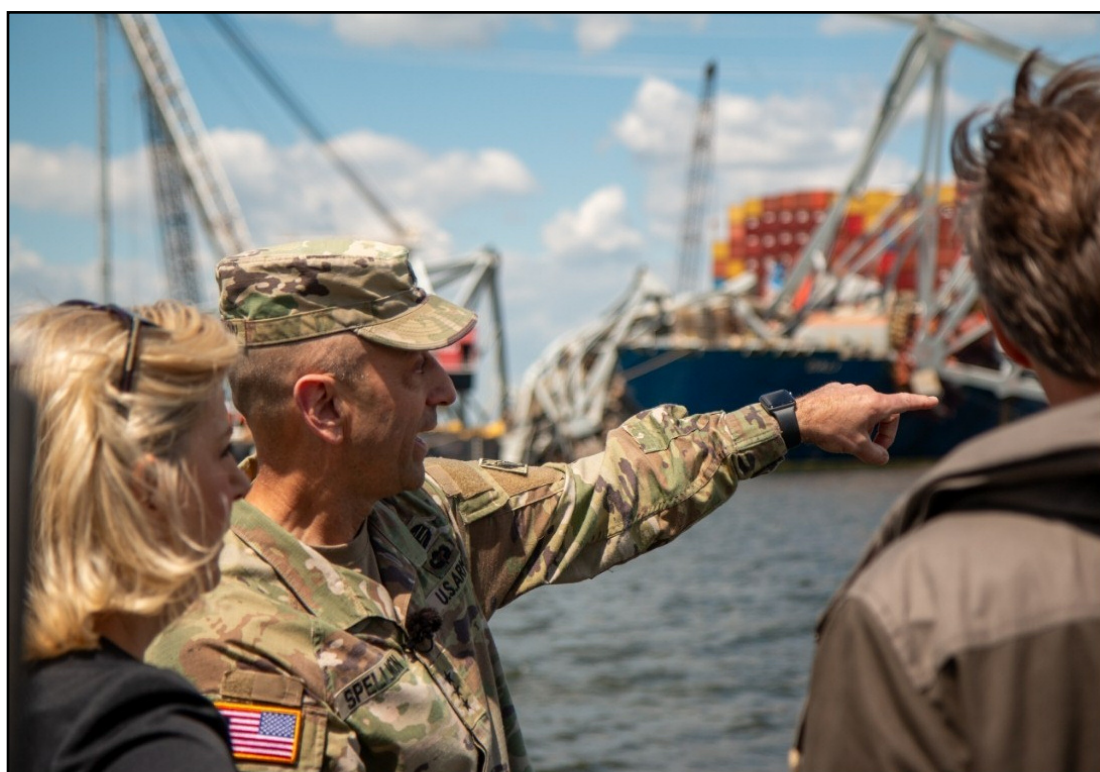
"Very rarely at a U.S. Army combat training center do we have a training audience that's 80 percent NATO Allies and 20 percent U.S. soldiers," said 7ATC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Steven Carpenter. "The Bundeswehr (German Army) is an exceedingly professional force."

The units were run through tactical tasks in an intense crucible of a competitive event on the Hohenfels Training Area, which contains more than 60 square miles of hilly terrain, around 1,000 structures, 200 miles of road and numerous cross-country trails.

## 2024 IN REVIEW

# U.S. Army Year in Review

## Part 5: Army responds to disasters



Courtesy photos

by Jonathan Austin/Army News Service

From a major bridge collapse to hurricanes and wildfires, active Army, Guard and Reserve soldiers were essential in helping American communities in 2024.

### Baltimore bridge collapse

The Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, activated its emergency operations center March 26 after a container ship hit and collapsed the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which spanned the Patapsco River. An estimated 50,000 tons of concrete and steel fell into the river.

The corps brought specialists in engineering, construction, contracting and operations as the process of clearing the debris began along the Fort McHenry Channel to restore safe navigation in and out of the Port of Baltimore.

Waterway debris management was led by Corps of Engineers debris removal

vessel Reynolds, while hydrographic and topographic surveying took place on Catlett, a 61-foot survey vessel. Survey vessels from the corps' Philadelphia District provided support, and the port was reopened in only 78 days.

### Hurricanes and tropical storms

Joint Task Force - North Carolina brought military relief to those affected across the Tar Heel State after Tropical Storm Helene hit Sept. 26. The Department of Defense, through U.S. Northern Command and in support of FEMA, provided lifesaving assistance throughout the region that was devastated by historic flooding and high winds.

XVIII Airborne Corps, from Ft. Liberty, North Carolina, was busy clearing routes, providing humanitarian aid and delivering lifesaving assistance across western North Carolina. More than 500 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Di-

## 2024 IN REVIEW

vision, from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, assisted in storm relief efforts.

National Guard units responded to flood scenes across western North Carolina and in bordering states, while the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Liberty provided soldiers and seven CH-47 Chinook helicopters for heavy lift missions and humanitarian aid delivery.

Soldiers worked in heavily hit Buncombe County, North Carolina, to distribute supplies, conduct search-and-rescue operations and recovery efforts, clear roadways, move debris, and fulfill local needs.

With flooding and blocked roadways, residents around Waynesville, North Carolina, found it difficult to get to distribution sites for food and other essential

items.

In response, the National Guard partnered with Haywood County Health and Human Services to take resources to residents' front doors.

Soldiers with the North Carolina National Guard's 113th Sustainment Brigade from Asheboro, North Carolina, loaded supplies — including bags of dog food — into a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle and drove into stranded neighborhoods around Waynesville, where they went house to house, knocking on doors to identify needs and offer resources.

Not long after, dozens of New York Army National Guard soldiers helped the Florida National Guard Oct. 9-15 in response to Hurricane Milton. Soldiers

cleared debris and set up fuel and emergency supply distribution sites in Parrish and Bradenton, Florida.

"Everyone wanted to come down here and get to work and help out wherever they could, and it was really great seeing that motivation," said 1st Lt. Ivelisse Velazquez, a personnel officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, from Niagara Falls, New York, who led the team.

The Corps of Engineers also sent data collection teams into flooded communities to document details that will help hydraulic engineers understand the impacts of Helene to enhance future flood risk resiliency in affected communities.

### Fighting wildfire

In September, 80 soldiers

from the California National Guard were assigned to work on the ground fighting the Line Fire near San Bernardino.

A military police company was tasked to support the county sheriff with traffic control points in evacuated areas, while six military aircraft took part in aerial firefighting operations.

Members of the guard also underwent intensive training to learn how to best fight fires on the ground.

Col. Larry Doane, chief of current operations at the National Guard Bureau, said the unique nature of the guard is the underpinning for a locally led, locally driven response supported by the entire nation.

"In my years of doing this, that's the special sauce that I think really brings the National Guard to the fore in these responses, and the thing that our citizens really come to rely upon on their toughest days," he said.



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Once registered, we will contact you and have you come in for a training with a team member.

After you train, you shadow two shifts. Then you are ready to help shelter pets!

Watch the **Fort Leavenworth Stray Facility** Facebook page for training events!

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Children under 18 can help, but they must be accompanied by an adult the entire shift.

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# U.S. Army Year in Review

## Part 6: Soldiers excel at national level, world stage, in space



Courtesy photos

by Shannon Collins and Joe Lacdan, Army News Service

In 2024, soldiers took to the world stage, competing at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Paralympics and at the 2024 Miss Universe Pageant. A soldier won the title of Miss USA for the first time, while two Army astronauts received prestigious honors in Pentagon ceremonies. And once again the Army's top soldiers vied to be named best in the Army at the 2024 Best Squad Competition.

### Top Soldiers, Best Squad

A week of strenuous competition, sleep deprivation and ruck marches at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, culminated with the Army naming its top soldiers at the Best Squad Competition, announced during the Association of the U.S. Army's Annual exposition and Meeting.

In October, the Army selected Spc. Mason Breunig, from Fort Shafter, Hawaii, the 2024 Soldier of the Year, among some of the Army's most fit, elite soldiers, including Army Rangers.

Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Haynes, a medic from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, took NCO of the Year honors, after serving as a mentor and leader for his U.S. Army Medical Command squad.

"My whole focus this entire time was taking care of my soldiers, making sure that they were prepared for the next event, that they were mentally focused," Haynes said.

Breunig's team from U.S. Army Pacific Command, Fort Shafter, earned Best Squad of the Year honors at the annual Best Squad Competition.

During the contest, which took place from Sept. 29-Oct. 14, 12 of the most disciplined, highly trained teams from across the Army spent the first week of the competition in the field. That included a 12-mile ruck march, 18-mile ruck march, battle drills, and field warrior skills tests that evaluated technical and tactical proficiency. Then the competition's top four finishers traveled to Washington, D.C., for a board-style review with service leaders.

## 2024 IN REVIEW

Each squad consisted of a squad leader in the rank of a sergeant first class or staff sergeant, a team leader in the rank of sergeant or corporal, and three squad members ranked specialist or below.

In addition to evaluating squads on the Army Combat Fitness Test, the competition also challenged soldier discipline and endurance during ruck marches where competitors had to carry 50-pound ruck sacks. Competitors donned hazmat suits, performed life-saving skills and took part in weapons competition.

"(The competition) taught me so much about myself," said Sgt. Luke Burton, a US-ARPAC squad member from the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. "I think it taught all of us a lot about ourselves — how much we're willing to push ourselves — where that line is and how to cross it."

### Going for Gold

U.S. paralympic swimmer Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks, the most decorated athlete in the Army World Class Athlete Program history, earned more medals to add to her storied Paralympic resume.

Marks won silver in the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke, 200-meter individual medley, mixed 4X50-meter freestyle relay and mixed 4X50-meter medley relay in her disability category at the games.

The soldier-athlete was also chosen by Team USA to be the co-flag bearer at Stade de France, along with wheelchair basketball athlete Paul Schulte, during the 2024 Paralympics.

Capt. Sammy Sullivan claimed her first Olympic bronze medal in Paris in July with the U.S. Rugby Sevens team's third-place win over Australia. Sullivan, a former All-

American rugby player at West Point, also competed on the All-Army women's rugby team before earning a spot on the U.S. national rugby sevens team and joining WCAP. The U.S. Military Academy graduate and engineer officer, stationed at Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center, California, competed on the U.S. national team. During the Paris games, she scored tries in decisive wins against Japan (36-7) and Brazil (24-5).

Staff Sgt. Leonard Korir, a motor transport operator and soldier-athlete in WCAP, ran track and field in the Paris Olympics and earned a bronze medal in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials in Orlando in April. He is ranked 68th in the world.

Sgt. Anthony Rotich, a chemical equipment repairman assigned to WCAP, achieved the Olympic Standard in the 3,000-meter steeplechase event and ranked number one in the men's division in the U.S. His first mile time was 4:21 with an overall finish of eight minutes 13:74 seconds in Monaco, France. The Olympic qualification standard time for Paris in his event is eight minutes, 15 seconds.

### Out of this world success

Maj. Kate Rubins, an Army astronaut, set a new milestone when she became the first Army reservist to receive the U.S. Army Basic Aviation Badge with the astronaut device and the Basic Space Badge in a ceremony at the Pentagon Nov. 21.

Rubins, who has been on two space missions, has logged the fourth-most hours in space by a female astronaut.

NASA selected Rubins as an astronaut in 2009. In 2016, Rubins became the first person to sequence DNA in space. Rubins said that she decided that she wanted to apply for a commission while still aboard the In-

ternational Space Station during her second space expedition in 2021.

Rubins commissioned into the Army as an Army Medical Service Corps officer Nov. 2, 2021, joining the 75th Innovation Command under Army Futures Command.

Col. Frank Rubio received the Army Astronaut Device in March. The award is given to Army personnel who complete at least one operational mission in space. He is only the third active-duty soldier authorized to wear the device, which was placed on his senior aviator badge.

Rubio, who attended West Point, flew more than 600 combat flight hours during deployments to Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. He applied to NASA and was selected for the 2017 astronaut candidate class.

He and his crew launched to the International Space Station Sept. 21, 2022. They studied cardiovascular health in space, explored 3D tissue printing and worked on several other projects.

After spending more than a year in space and logging more than 157 million miles, the three men finally returned to earth Sept. 27, 2023. Rubio became the new record holder for the longest spaceflight for an American astronaut, something he said was not an individual achievement.

### Crowning Achievement

Second Lt. Alma Cooper, an intelligence officer, won the Miss USA pageant in August, becoming the first active-duty Army officer to win the title.

Earning Miss Michigan USA earlier in the year solidified her spot in the Miss USA pageant. She started preparing in January and won a local contest before competing at the state competition in April.

The West Point graduate is now in her final year of her master's degree program in the Stanford Nutrition Studies Research Group at Stanford University, where she earned the Knight-Hennessy Scholarship. She said she hopes to apply her training in data science during her career as a military intelligence officer.

THURSDAY  
JANUARY 2, 2025



# LAMP

Post Notes

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## ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE



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DECEMBER

Resiliency Center, 600 Thomas Ave, Building 198 \*\*\*ACS is closed for lunch from 1130-12:30pm daily\*\*

ACS WILL BE CLOSED JAN 1 & JAN 20

### RELOCATION READINESS PROGRAM

#### In-Processing Brief

Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00am

#### OCONUS Levy Brief

Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00am

#### Hearts Apart Bowling for Families of Deployed Service Members

Jan. 4, 12:00-2:00pm  
Strike Zone Bowling Center  
\*Registration Required

#### Lending Closet

Are you In/Out-Processing and need essentials? ACS has short-term basic items to help you get by.

- kitchenware
- cookware
- small appliances



### EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM

#### Federal Employment

Jan. 15, 12:00-2:00pm

#### Interview Skills & Professionalism

Jan. 22, 12:00-2:00pm

Visit us on FB @Fort Leavenworth ERP for job postings.

### FINANCIAL READINESS PROGRAM

#### Debt Management Workshop

Jan. 14, 3 - 4pm

#### Thrift Savings Plan Workshop

Jan. 28, 3 - 4pm

### EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM (EFMP)

\*Registration Required for EFMP events

#### EFMP Recreational Bowling for EFMP Families

Jan 4, 12:00-2:00pm  
Strike Zone Bowling Center

#### EFMP Sensory Story Time

Jan 21, 9:30-10:30am  
CARL Library

### ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF (AER)

provides emergency assistance to active duty service members, their families, and retired service members.

For emergency financial assistance during normal duty hours, call the ACS main line, and after hours, weekend or holiday, call the American Red Cross Call Center at 1-877-272- 7337.

Command & Troop training is also available upon request.



### SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

provides long-term support to surviving Families of fallen Soldiers. Our goal is to reassure survivors that they remain valued members of the Army Family. Follow us@ <https://www.facebook.com/FortLeavenworthSurvivorOutreachServices/>



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## FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM



Mon- Fri 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with limited hours Thur 1-4:00 p.m. | 913-684-HELP (4357) / 2800

DECEMBER

Resiliency Center, 600 Thomas Ave, Building 198 \*\*\*ACS is closed for lunch from 1130-12:30pm daily\*\*

ACS WILL BE CLOSED JAN 1 & JAN 20

### NEW PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

There will be **no NPSP events** Jan 1-2

\*\*Call 913-297-3212/ 9704 to register for all NPSP classes & events.

**Toddler Time** Wednesdays, 9:00am Resiliency Center Playroom

**Story Time** Wednesdays, 10:00am Resiliency Center, Room 157

**Play Morning** Thursdays, 9:00-10:00 am & 10:00-11:00 am Resiliency Center, Playroom

**Childbirth Class** Jan. 6,13 & 27, 5:00-7:00pm Resiliency Center, Room 157

**Dad's Night Out** Jan. 22, 6:00-8:00pm Restaurant TBD

**Mom's Night Out** Jan 29, 6:00-8:00pm Restaurant TBD



Goodbye  
2024  
hello  
2025

### FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

\*\*Registration Required for all FAP events. Classes at Resiliency Center, Room 145

#### Co-Parenting Workshop

Jan. 6,13 & 27  
12:00 - 1:00pm  
\*\*virtual options available\*\*

#### Anger Management 8 Week Session

Jan. 9,16, 23 & 30  
1:30 - 3:00pm

#### 5 Love Languages (Couples)

Jan. 29, 1:00 - 2:30pm

#### Positive Parenting Series

Jan. 10,17, 24 & 31,  
1:30-3:00pm  
\*\*via Microsoft Teams\*\*

#### Stress Management Class

Jan. 16,11:30am - 1:00pm

#### Crocheting Club

Jan. 31, 1:00-3:00pm



CALL ACS TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES TODAY! ALL EVENTS LISTED ARE FREE!

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# DECEMBER 2024



**Winter Camp Information:**

Mon-Fri  
0600-1630  
Closed on  
Christmas Day  
and New Year's  
Day

Breakfast  
Lunch and  
Snack will be  
served.

Cost:  
Weekly fee  
based on  
income or  
\$35 a day.  
Must have a  
minimum of 8  
youth enrolled  
in camp per  
week or camp  
will be  
cancelled that  
week.

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Center  
45 Biddle Blvd

Lucinda Gray  
Front Desk  
913-684-5118

Michelle Eastburn  
Director:  
913-684-5115

Aileen Lane  
Assistant Director  
913-684-5126

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				<b>20 NON-SCHOOL DAY ICE SKATING Crown Center @ 1200 \$20</b>
<b>23 Winter Camp</b> Christmas Shopping & Movie	<b>24 Winter Camp</b> Activities at the Youth Center	<b>25 CLOSED</b>  Merry Christmas!	<b>26 Winter Camp</b> The Rush Funplex	<b>27 Winter Camp</b> Indoor Swimming
<b>30 Winter Camp</b> Sealife and Lego Discovery Center	<b>31 Winter Camp</b> Activities at the Youth Center			

# JANUARY 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		<b>1 CLOSED</b>  Happy New Year!	<b>2 Winter Camp</b> Union Station	<b>3 Winter Camp</b> Activities at the Youth Center Bowling
<b>6 NON-SCHOOL DAY</b> Sky Zone @ 1200 \$20				

# January



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Closed</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Understanding the New TRICARE Contract Region Changes Starting on Jan. 1, 2025



### What You Need To Do

**West Region Contractor Change**

- Confirm your information in DEERS
- If you pay enrollment or premium payments by credit card or bank transfer, you will need to transfer your payment information by Dec. 31, 2024
- Check if your providers are in the TriWest network starting Nov. 2, 2024

**Six States Shifting to West Region**

- Confirm your information in DEERS
- If you pay enrollment or premium payments by credit card or bank transfer, you will need to transfer your payment information by Dec. 31, 2024
- Check if your providers are in the TriWest network starting Nov. 2, 2024

**East Region Contractor**

- Confirm your information in DEERS

## January & February

### Workshops

#### Watercolor

\$30 per workshop

**Watercolor (Basic Techniques)**  
Tuesday, Jan 21  
11am - 1pm

**Watercolor (Landscapes)**  
Tuesday, Feb 18  
6pm - 8pm

**Watercolor (Color Theory)**  
Tuesday, Jan 28  
11am - 1pm

**Watercolor (Florals)**  
Tuesday, Feb 25  
6pm - 8pm

**Watercolor (Valentine Cards)**  
Tuesday, Feb 4  
11am - 1pm



scan for more info

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**Multi-Craft Room**  
Come use our provided supplies to craft with the whole family!

**Painting Studio**  
Provided watercolor and acrylic supplies to create your own masterpiece.

**Framing Studio**  
Must take Intro to Framing before using DIY Framing Studio.

**Pottery Studio (Coming Soon!)**

## Modern Calligraphy

#### Basics

\$20 per class

Tuesday  
Jan 21  
6:30pm - 8pm

#### Intermediate

\$20 per class

Tuesday  
Jan 28  
6:30pm - 8pm

#### Special Projects

##### Valentine Cards

Tuesday  
Feb 4  
6:30pm - 8pm



## Reoccurring Classes

MUST PRE-REGISTER

### Intro to Framing

\$40 per class

Every 2nd Thurs & 4th Sat of the month  
10am - 2pm

### Paint & Sip

\$35 per session

Every 2nd Friday of the month  
6pm - 8pm

Must be 21 years or older.  
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Come see what's new at the Studio!

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## January & February

### Workshops

#### Acrylic

\$35 per class

**Acrylic Pour**  
Wednesday, Jan 29  
11am - 1pm

**Acrylic Pour**  
Wednesday, Feb 26  
11am - 1pm



#### Framing

\$40 per class

**Intro to Framing**  
\*Must pre-register\*

Thursdays  
Jan 9, Feb 13  
10am - 2pm

Saturdays  
Jan 25, Feb 22  
10am - 2pm

Call now to register!  
913-684-3373

#### Crafts

\$30 per class

**Valentine Wreath**  
Thursday, Jan 30  
11am - 1pm

**Macrame Plant Holder**  
Friday, Feb 28  
11am - 1pm



#### Paint & Sip

\$35

Must be 21 years or older.  
BYOB



**Dragons**  
Friday  
January 10  
6pm - 8pm

**Couples Koi Fish**  
Friday, February 14  
6pm - 8pm



Cost includes all supplies!

## Kids Arts & Crafts

#### Messy Art

\$12 per class  
(ages 7+)

Thursday, Jan 16  
11am - 12pm

Thursday, Feb 6  
11am - 12pm

Thursday, Feb 20  
11am - 12pm

**Color Me Happy (Parent & Toddler)**  
\$10 per class

Thursday, Jan 9  
10:30am - 11:30am

Thursday, Jan 23  
10:30am - 11:30am

Thursday, Feb 13  
10:30am - 11:30am

Thursday, Feb 27  
10:30am - 11:30am

#### Art History

\$15 per class  
(ages 7+)

**Popcorn & Pollock**  
Wednesday, Jan 22  
1pm - 3pm

Thursday, Jan 23  
4pm - 6pm

**Muffins & Michelangelo**  
Wednesday, Feb 19  
1pm - 3pm  
Thursday, Feb 20  
4pm - 6pm



Come see what's new at the Studio!

leavenworth.armymwr.com

