



ON TARGET: USAR MARKSMEN HAVE STRONG SHOWING AT FORSCOM COMPETITION

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FREEZE FRAME

U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard Soldiers run onto the Gatesville High School football field, while carrying the colors of every branch of the military, before a game in Gatesville, Texas, Oct. 21. The Soldiers were part of the pre-game festivities during Military Appreciation Night at the school located just outside of Fort Hood.

Photo by Staff Sgt. **DALTON SMITH**
316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)







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COVER: Sgt. Joseph Hall, with the 310th Psychological Operations Company and the U.S. Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Program, engages targets on the third day of the U.S. Army Forces Command

Weapons Marksmanship Competition Nov. 9, 2016, at Fort Bragg, N.C. **ABOVE:** Spent shell casings pile up during the Lumber Cut event. (Photos by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)



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DEC. 2016/JAN. 2017 VOL. 5, No. 9/10

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF HEADQUARTERS,
U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, FORT BRAGG, N.C.

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Taking a knee on social media

EDITOR'S NOTE: This month we are featuring a commentary by Capt. Chad Nixon, a U.S. Army Reserve Command media relations officer in the Public Affairs Office, on the trappings of social media. In recent months, virtually all social media platforms have erupted into an unsocial dialogue between friends and those who troll the internet to spread social discord. In this season of peace and harmony, let us be mindful the words we use on social media may come back and bite us when we least expect it.

Timothy L. Hale
 Editor

I am just curious, who decided that social media would become a breeding ground of irrational opinion that discourages rhetoric and kills off debate? A bold statement I admit, and maybe I exaggerate in my claims. I do realize not all social media is opinion based; it still leaves room for Kardashian updates and the hottest gossip on the weekly love interest of Taylor Swift. (OMG, she is like, so AWESOME!)

For me, social media is a job requirement and does have advantages. As a Public Affairs Officer for the Army Reserve, I can click a button and use this vast medium of communication to spread information to troops and family members, instantaneously. PAO professionals are not the only ones benefiting from social media; Uncle Sam loves it too. Not just for the communication aspect, but because it cheap, and by cheap, I mean free. Uncle Sam himself was unavailable to comment on the subject, so just like social media, I will use my opinion and speak for him.

See **KNEE** Pg. 26

CORRECTION - In the Nov. 2016 issue, we misspelled the name of the writer from G-34 on the Unmanned Aerial Systems article on page 23. It should be Jonathan Letarde. We sincerely apologize for the error.



Capt. Chad Nixon
 USARC Media Relations



ON TARGET: USAR MARKSMEN HAVE STRONG PERFORMANCE AT FORSCOM MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITION

Story & photos by TIMOTHY L. HALE
U.S. Army Reserve Command

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NIGHT FIRE. Sgt. 1st Class Joel Micholick, with the 9th Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve Careers Division, and the U.S. Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Program, engages targets during a night fire event on the second day of the U.S. Army Forces Command Weapons Marksmanship Competition Nov. 8, 2016, at Fort Bragg, N.C. The four-day FORSCOM competition features marksmen from the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, and the National Guard in events for the M9 pistol, the M4A1 rifle and the M249 SAW, or Squad Automatic Weapon, to recognize Soldiers who are beyond expert marksmen. The multi-tiered events challenge the competitors' ability to accurately and quickly engage targets in a variety of conditions and environments.



USAR Marksmen have strong showing at FORSCOM competition



Story & photos by TIMOTHY L. HALE
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Four [U.S. Army Reserve](#) marksmen were among the 48 competing at [U.S. Army Forces Command's \(FORSCOM\)](#) second annual marksmanship competition, Nov. 8-10.

Master Sgt. Robert Mango, with the [9th Mission Support Command](#); Sgt. 1st Class Joel Micholick, with the [9th Battalion, Army Reserve Careers Division](#); Sgt. Joseph Hall, with the [310th Psychological Operations Company \(Airborne\)](#), and Staff Sgt. Thomas Walsh, with 744th Engineer Company, [321st Engineer Battalion, 416th Theater Engineer Command](#), represented the U.S. Army Reserve in the competition.

Mango and Hall finished second in the Expert category using the M9 pistol and M4 rifle, respectively, while Micholick and Walsh, finished second and third, respectively, in the M249 squad automatic weapon (SAW)



and M9 Novice categories. Mango, Micholick, and Hall are all members of the [U.S. Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Program](#) while Walsh is hoping to make the team.

The competition also featured marksmen from the active Army and the Army National Guard. Events for the M9, M4, and M249, were designed to recognize Soldiers who are beyond expert marksmen. The multi-tiered events challenged the competitors' ability to accurately and quickly engage targets in a variety of conditions and environments.

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Schroeder, the FORSCOM command sergeant major, said that while this is a competition to see who is the best in the Army, ultimately this event will



TOP SHOTS. Master Sgt. Robert Mango, opposite page top, with the 9th Mission Support Command and the U.S. Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Program, engages targets on the second day of the 2016 U.S. Army Forces Command Weapons Marksmanship Competition, Nov. 8. Sgt. Joseph Hall, opposite page bottom, with the 310th Psychological Operation Company and the U.S. Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Program, makes a final adjustment on his M4 rifle. Mango, this page top, engages moving targets and then looks on, bottom, as other competitors go through the course of fire.

COVER STORY: FORSCOM MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITION



hopefully inspire individuals, and thereby their units, to become better with this basic Soldier skill – the ability to shoot and engage targets with lethal force.

“There is nothing more fundamental than being able to engage and destroy our enemies on the battlefield,” Schroeder said. “We do that with our weapons systems and it’s important to build these competencies in our leaders.”

Schroeder said this competition is different from others in that this event tests combat marksmanship – the ability to adapt and overcome a particular situation while still putting lethal rounds downrange.

“We want to test combat marksmanship,” he said. “We want to get troopers operating in the same conditions that they would be operating in combat.

“Competitions drive the way we train. So we want to take these Soldiers and have them go back to their unit leadership and tell them what they did here and we want them to drive their training to get better at these competitions, which will make us better in combat. That’s really what this is

MOVING TARGETS. Staff Sgt. Thomas Walsh, with the 744th Engineer Company, 321st Engineer Battalion, draws his M9 pistol then engages moving targets from a seated position in the novice category on the third day of the U.S. Army Forces Command Weapons Marksmanship Competition Nov. 9. Walsh hopes his performance in this competition and previous competitions this year, earns him a place on the U.S. Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Program team.



all about; improving individual and unit proficiency and that will help us in the future.”

All four U.S. Army Reserve marksmen recognize the importance of individual and unit readiness.

They served in the active Army before moving into the U.S. Army Reserve and three; Mango, Micholick, and Hall; all previously served in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit based at Fort Benning, Georgia. They all said there was a good combination of traditional and combat marksmanship events to challenge their skills and abilities.

“(This competition) is trying to introduce marksmanship down at a unit level,” Mango said. “So it can’t flood the newer shooters with all brand new things that’s going to be foreign to them. So a lot of it was what you would expect a Soldier to have – from the holster and running to find cover – the things that the Army teaches you. But it just wasn’t black on white (paper target) bulls-eye type shooting. It really sped up (the competition) and that’s a good thing.”

Hall said he enjoyed the competition, especially all of the more unique events.

“The competition was great with all the different scenarios – the stress shoots, the alleyways, everything,” Hall said. “It challenged us in every different style of shooting – stuff that you would see in combat to actual marksmanship. There were just so many different aspects of it; it was just a great time.”

Hall said the biggest take-away for him was to share what he learned when he returns to his unit to include shooting under pressure and time constraints.

“All the different scenarios – you can run through those with any Soldier out there,” Hall said. He added that this competition was more about the combat shooting than precision shooting.

“This teaches you a quick response in how to take your target down,” he said.

For Walsh, a former infantry Soldier and drill sergeant on active duty, now a U.S. Army Reserve combat engineer, said competitive shooting has made him a better Soldier and he is able to share those experiences with his fellow Soldiers.

“It’s nice for me as a prior 11-Bravo (infantry) to go into these units and say, ‘Hey, let’s take a step back and get back to the basics and become shooters again.’”

Soldiers need range time in order to become individually better which benefits the entire unit, Walsh said.

“Each Soldier needs to be good on all the weapon systems not just their assigned weapon,” he said. “My junior enlisted Soldiers should be able to shoot a pistol and all the squad guns plus his M4 (rifle).”

Soldiers interested in joining the U.S. Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Program, are encouraged to find out more online at <https://armyreservemarksman.info> or on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/USARCMP>. 🇺🇸



USAR MARKSMEN. Sgt. Joseph Hall, Staff Sgt. Thomas Walsh, Sgt. 1st Class Joel Micholick, and Master Sgt. Robert Mango, competed in the 2016 U.S. Army Forces Command Marksmanship Competition, Nov. 7-10. Hall, Micholick, and Mango are members of the U.S. Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Program. Walsh is hoping this competition earns him a place on the team.

LEADING OFF: HURRICANE MATTHEW SUPPORT





U.S. Army Reserve assists sheriff's office after Hurricane Matthew

Story & photos by **TIMOTHY L. HALE**
U.S. Army Reserve Command

KINSTON, N.C. – As Hurricane Matthew churned towards North Carolina on Oct. 8, the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office was ready for any weather-related situation he would bring their way. Or so they thought.

Unfortunately, torrential rain inundated the area causing the Neuse River to crest its banks.

The Neuse River snakes its way into downtown Kinston to a point less than half a mile from the Lenoir County Courthouse. Rising water overwhelmed downtown streets and the city sewer system flooding the basement of the courthouse where the sheriff's office is housed.

This was the third time the courthouse has flooded after the Neuse overflowed its banks – first in 1996 from Hurricane Fran (23 feet, 9 feet above flood stage), and in 1999 from Hurricane Floyd (27 feet, 13 feet above flood stage). The flooding from Hurricane Matthew surpassed both of those earlier marks.

Sheriff Ronnie Ingram knew something had to be done.

"It really set us back, there was a lot of flash flooding and we are in a state of disarray right now," Ingram said. "We pumped water out of here for four or five days. We had water and feces out in the hallway covering everything. The water levels got so high (in the city) that everything started backing up. The smell was overwhelming. The last time I looked, there was 2-feet of water in the elevator shaft and it's out of service now."

In the basement, the sheriff's office housed their patrol and civil divisions. Ingram knew he had to continue day-to-day operations but he couldn't do it in the courthouse basement.

"What I'm looking for is a permanent fix. I'm looking to pull up stakes and work somewhere else. If it was a one time thing (that would be different) but if you get settled back in and we have another

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT. Sheriff Ronnie Ingram surveys the damage at the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office in the basement of the courthouse, Nov. 2, 2016, in Kinston, N.C. Hurricane Matthew flooded a large portion of downtown Kinston to include the courthouse basement causing the sheriff's office to look for dry ground to continue their operations. They reached out to the 81st Regional Support Command who had a former Army Reserve Center at the Kinston airport. Through the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, U.S. Army Reserve Defense Support of Civil Authorities and Immediate Response Authority, the sheriff's office was able to use the facility to continue to serve the citizens of Lenoir County.

LEADING OFF: HURRICANE MATTHEW SUPPORT



A WET MESS. Damaged offices at the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office in the basement of the courthouse in Kinston, N.C. Pumps had to be brought in to remove the water and feces that flooded the basement. There was at least 2-feet of water in the elevator shaft. After the water was removed, sheetrock was cut off the walls to prevent mold and mildew from taking over the office spaces.



hurricane we'll go through the same thing all over again," Ingram said.

That more permanent fix might just be in a former U.S. Army Reserve Center located at the town's airport.

The center, which was underutilized, was a good place for the sheriff and his staff to temporarily continue their day-to-day operations pending U.S. Army Reserve and Department of the Army approval.

Jan Haigler, the 81st Regional Support Command director of plans and training at Fort Jackson, S.C., said the sheriff's office submitted a request to use the center.

"We were able to allow them to occupy the building under Stafford Act (Disaster and Emergency Act), which the U.S. Army Reserve has to cover about the first 72-hours of a disaster," Haigler. "We're allowed to do that based on preventing loss of life, human suffering, or mitigating great property damage. It was determined by the U.S. Army Reserve Homeland Operations Division that this would qualify as mitigating great property damage."

The request for use of the facility was extended,

Haigler said, in order to allow the processing of paperwork for a long-term agreement. That agreement was staffed and signed at the Army Reserve Installation Management Directorates at Fort Bragg, N.C. and Fort Belvoir, Virginia, then approved by the Department of the Army.

"It has to go to the Department of the Army for approval because this is a law enforcement agency and under posse comitatus and other ancillary parts of that we can't grant that approval, it's held at DA-level," Haigler said. "That process will be expedited because this is a major disaster declaration area."

Haigler said this community partnership is an important milestone for the U.S. Army Reserve.

"The American public sees a uniform and wonders why we are not helping," she said. "They are used to seeing the National Guard in the communities. Well, the U.S. Army Reserve is in the communities as well. This gives us a chance to showcase what we can do (to help our neighbors). Under the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) and Immediate Response Authority we're allowed to do this and become a real community partner." 🇺🇸



TEMPORARY HOME. The Lenoir County Sheriff's office is using the former U.S. Army Reserve Center in Kinston, N.C., after Hurricane Matthew flooded the courthouse basement in early October.



LEADING OFF: OPERATION TOY DROP



Strengthening allied partnerships, building readiness one toy at a time

Story by Sgt. CHRISTINA DION
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – With a name like Operation Toy Drop, one may not realize the mission is more than donating toys to needy children. In reality, the exercise is a U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) (USACAPOC(A)) and U.S. Army Reserve annual collective airborne training exercise that strengthens teamwork and relationships between allied-partner jumpmasters and paratroopers.

Jumpmasters and paratroopers from Botswana, Canada, The Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Singapore and the United States came together to share airborne operation knowledge and experience Dec. 5 through Dec. 16, at Pope Army Airfield, Luzon drop zone, and Camp Mackall Army Airfield.

“The big keyword here is interoperability, and that’s exactly what it is,” said Canadian Warrant Officer Mike Dwyer, a jumpmaster with the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Center and second-time OTD participant. “We

ALL THE WAY - U.S. and foreign paratroopers jump from a C-17 during Operation Toy Drop XIX Dec., 10 at Luzon drop zone at Camp Mackall, N.C. During OTD U.S. paratroopers have the chance to train with jumpmasters from other nations, learn about their training tactics, and expand their experience through working with partner nations. (Photo by Spc. Tynisha L. Daniel/319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

get to compare our drills. Make our drills efficient. Make ourselves better paratroopers. That’s what we are here to do and it’s working wonders. This is a tremendous opportunity for us as jumpmasters.”

“Not every nation has the plethora of jumpmasters that we have,” said 1st Sgt. Benjamin Smith, a jumpmaster and company first sergeant with B Co., 5th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group. “I work with the German team and they have one airborne brigade out of the entire German army. In the United States Army, we have an airborne division; we have airborne units in special operations; we have civil affairs brigades that are all airborne as well. We have more airborne capabilities than they do.”

Although the United States has more capabilities, Smith said he and his teams have learned from their partners as well. This translates into real-world operations, which is vital, he said.

Whether in Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan or many other operations globally, in training or on real-world missions, Smith said the environments are all multinational joint operations. We are always with our partner nations. Because of exercises such as OTD, Smith said if he sees the Botswanans, Dutch, and Germans downrange,

he’s more comfortable because he’s worked with them before and they know each other’s tactics, drills and procedures.

“(During OTD) we get to sit with our partner nation and our allies. We are on the same sheet of music. We are all jumpmasters. We have all volunteered for airborne school. We jumped and made the requirements to graduate from jumpmaster school. We are all proficient in our craft. Now we get to share our experiences with our allied jumpmasters and build that cohesion between units,” Smith said.

Training is not limited to the jumpmasters, though.

“It’s a great collective training event,” said Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Ammerman, USACAPOC(A) commanding general. “What you don’t see is the operations. It allows us to exercise our TOC (tactical operations center), exercise logistics, administrative, transportation pieces. We actually have about a dozen other units participating to support an effort like this. When you figure we have 4,200 jumpers, that’s quite a significant logistic and operational requirement to coordinate that stuff. And so, it allows us to practice our individual and collective tasks. It’s a great way to generate readiness.”

Volunteerism: Never too young to serve

Story by Contributing Writer

A day off from school or a holiday break can provide students with a chance to decompress and rejuvenate. Imagine, though, if it was also an opportunity to spend time with friends, help out the community, build life skills and gain leadership experience.

[U.S. Army Reserve Child](#)

[Youth Services \(CYS\)](#) provides exactly that type of opportunity. Through CYS, Army Reserve Youth can participate in a variety of volunteer activities within their military or local communities that are challenging, rewarding, educational and fun. Examples include initiating canned food

drives for the local food bank; setting up, serving food and cleaning up at a unit Family Day; helping younger children with homework and supervising group games during a Youth Enrichment Program (YEP); or participating in a community service project as part of CYS' Youth Leadership,



VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP: A service member and teen-youth volunteer help with the beautification of a local beach. Child-Youth Services volunteering programs provide an opportunity for young adults in the geographically disbursed U.S. Army Reserve community to give back and foster a relationship with the Soldiers who serve and the communities where they live.

Education and Development (YLEAD) training.

A Win-Win Proposition

For Army Reserve teens, the benefits are numerous. Volunteerism is an important way for young people to develop knowledge, empathy and life skills while bringing about positive change within their community. It can also help develop valuable leadership skills and confidence as they prepare for college and success in the workforce.

“Through CYS, I’ve learned when to take charge and when to fall back,” said Khortney Hamlin former 108th Teen Council Member. “I’ve learned to have confidence in myself and to use that confidence when speaking, whether it’s to one person or an entire room, no matter how much it may terrify me.”

Colleges and employers look for well-rounded candidates with dedication, and that dedication shines through clearly on an application that is filled with volunteer activities. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, volunteering is associated with a 27 percent higher chance of employment.

CYS gives volunteers plenty of freedom to choose to work with organizations that cater to their unique interests, which makes participation much more enjoyable and much more meaningful. Youth can also volunteer with activities related to potential career fields to gain real-life experience and build friendships with others who have similar interests.

From an Army Reserve Youth Volunteer, “the most fun” is the phrase she uses to describe her YLEAD experience on a local river cleanup project. “You were with all the new friends you made,” she said. “I got a sort of pride knowing that I helped the community. It was 100 percent different than what I expected, and it was an experience that I will always remember and be glad I didn’t stay home.”

Statistics show that youth who volunteer just one hour or more a week are 50 percent less likely to abuse alcohol, drugs or cigarettes, become pregnant or engage in other destructive behavior.

There are more than 1.2 billion young people in the world today and the Army Reserve has approximately 37,000 youth, ages 13 to 18 years old. They are key agents for military culture and community social change and for providing the energy, creative ideas and determination needed to lead innovation and reform. Along with the

academic and personal benefits, getting youth involved provides real benefits for the Army Reserve and larger community.

Youth volunteers are a critical component to filling the unmet needs of command/unit or community-based organizations that support military Families. Youth who volunteer within the Army Reserve Family Programs or CYS gain a greater appreciation for their parent’s or guardian’s service and the Army Reserve culture, as well as a strong atmosphere to connect with other Army Reserve youth and network informally with Army Reserve and local leaders.

“I love learning leadership skills and doing community service with people who are passionate about the same things,” said Naomi Diaz, an Army Reserve Teen Panel member. “I have always enjoyed being a part of changing the lives of youth and, specifically, military youth.”

Creative Service

So, how do adults get more reluctant youth to volunteer? Make it fun. There are several ways to do that. Families or a self-starting young person can gather friends, siblings, Family members, co-workers or classmates and make an event of it. Many youth thrive on competition, so creating a contest around volunteering is a useful way to garner interest and also helps ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in our youth. Families and youth can also create volunteer activities. Statistics show that when youth are able to tailor volunteerism to their specific interests, they are more likely to persist in their volunteering activities. This could be as simple as putting together a flag football game amongst friends or organizing (and even participating in) a concert to raise awareness for a worthy cause. Being creative and innovative is the most effective way to make volunteering fun and meaningful to youth, and there is no limit to the possibilities.

Volunteering isn’t just about personal career development. It’s about working with others to accomplish greater things, improve the lives of others and create healthy, sustainable communities.

We are providing training for youth volunteers in February, March, June, July and August, for more information on how to become a Youth Statutory Volunteer within the Army Reserve, please visit arfp.org/CYS.php or call 1-844-ONE-FAMY. 🇺🇸



ONE FAMILY, ONE GOAL - Key guest and attendees pose for a group picture following the close of the Family Programs open discussion round table event, designed to enhance the Total Army Family Network. Leading the discussion, which hosted a number of military spouses, Family members, and Soldiers, were the spouses of all three Army components. Hollyanne Milley, spouse of General Mark A. Milley, 39th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Julie Luckey, spouse of Lieutenant General Charles D. Luckey, Chief of Army Reserve, and Danette Hayes, spouse of Maj. Gen. Richard J. Hayes Jr., Adjutant General, Illinois National Guard.

Soldiers are Soldiers, Families are Families no matter in which component they serve

Story & photos by Contributing Writer

DARIEN, III. – A Soldier is a Soldier, whether a member of the active duty force, Army Reserve, or National Guard. Every Soldier adds to the Total Force.

Behind every Soldier stands a ready and resilient Army Family.

As the nation recognized November as Military Family Appreciation Month, Parkhurst Army Reserve Center, headquarters of the 416th Theater Engineer Command, served as the meeting place for an U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard Family Programs led roundtable discussion, designed to build ready and resilient Army Families.

Leading the discussion, which hosted a number of military spouses, Family members, and Soldiers, were the spouses of all three Army components.

Hollyanne Milley, spouse of General Mark A. Milley, 39th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Julie Luckey, spouse of Lieutenant General Charles D. Luckey, Chief of Army Reserve, and Danette Hayes, spouse of Maj. Gen. Richard J. Hayes Jr., Adjutant General, Illinois National Guard, joined to hear from other Army Families in an effort to enhance the Total Army Family Network.

“We do need to keep our families connected. This is something that we weren’t always aware of, so we want to hear from you, ideas that you have, so we can build those bonds a little better and connect people,” Mrs. Milley said.

The event attracted Army Family members from all across the state, representing Soldiers from the

active duty component, reserve and National Guard. With them, they brought their concerns, their ideas, and the opportunity to learn more about building a stronger connection.

“As a civilian you have your support group in your town, but as a military member you need that support group here,” said Amanda Seibert, spouse of an Illinois National Guard Soldier. “I grew up a military brat, so I grew up on a military base, then we moved here and there is not a military base close and I wanted that military Family and that military connection, so I think it’s very important.”

“I’m thrilled we are all here. What we want to accomplish is building this type of community,” Luckey said. “We are one, and there is power in numbers.”

An important goal of the event was the education of different programs offered by the National Guard and by the U.S. Army Reserve, as it pertains to Family readiness initiatives. Hayes presented an introduction to many of the programs that have been working well for the Illinois National Guard, and LeeAnne Quashie, 416th Family Programs Director, discussed many of the programs which have proven effective with the 416th.

“It’s really important to communicate and get those communication skills stronger, letting people know about the resources that are out there,” David Fatano, Internal Review Auditor, 416th. “Most of the time we know it’s out there, but don’t know the full extent of the resources.”

Following the information presentation on resources and programs, Mrs. Milley began the open discussion with all those in attendance. The topics ranged from self-identifying as a military member in regards to employment, to reimbursement, healthcare, and the struggles faced during deployments.

“We need to hear your voices so we can get the information to the chief and the vice,” Mrs. Milley said. “I encourage you to build relationships with each other, learn from each other. There are a lot of great ideas and different ways that people do connect, so we can build those relationships.”

The participants took advantage of the opportunity, sharing their personal stories, discussing ideas and possible solutions. In the midst of it all, Mrs. Milley, Mrs. Luckey, Mrs. Hayes, and other key spouses in attendance, vigorously took down notes.

“It was great that they could come and hear all of our voices because it shows that their husbands, in the top military positions, are really involved with the lower level people and what’s going on in the community. It’s great that they are taking our input and valuing what we have to say,” Seibert said.

“I think my voice was heard. It was nice to hear that my issues were a lot of the same issues the other spouses were having,” Seibert added.

Marcia Irwin, spouse of Maj. Gen. Lewis G. Irwin, 416th commanding general, navigated much of the flow during the entire roundtable event. As the discussion, which could have lasted the entire day, came to a close, Mrs. Irwin provided a final platform for the guest spouses to share a parting thought.

“I think we all know along with the choice our spouses made to be in the service, there have been a lot of personal sacrifices and decisions that had to make along the way and it’s not easy, and we thank you for that,” Mrs. Milley said. “I applaud you for doing the great things with your Family so they (Soldiers) can focus on the mission.”

“You’re your best advocate, stay true to yourself and don’t let the military define you, but at the same time we are a Family, so build on each other’s strength,” Mrs. Hayes added.

The event sparked dialogue and a sense of unity throughout the different Army components, and the Families that represent them, adding to the Total Army Family Network, creating a sense of hope.

“I feel really hopeful for the future” Mrs. Irwin said. 🇺🇸



HEARING FROM SPOUSES - Mrs. Julie Luckey, left, and Mrs. Hollyanne Milley, engage Family members during an open discussion.

Fighting the Cybersecurity battle

Story by JEREMY BENCHLEY
U.S. Army Reserve Command G-6

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - Unless you've been living in an analog, off-the-grid world for the past few years, you more than likely know that threats to our personal and professional cybersecurity are around us every day. Many of us cannot go one day without being on a computer, using a cell phone or tablet, getting cash from an ATM, or swiping our debit cards to make a purchase.

Kim Register currently serves as the [U.S. Army Reserve Command's](#) Chief of the Cybersecurity Plans and Management Division (CPMD) at the command headquarters.

In October, Register hosted two National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) Expositions at Fort Bragg and at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

"It's an opportunity to get out and talk to the field and gauge where the cybersecurity awareness is for the organization, as well as other people and directorates that are outside of the Informational Technology (IT) department G6," Register said.

The expositions included training videos,

pamphlets, a Cybersecurity knowledge challenge and survey.

"It's an opportunity to really understand how important cyber security is not only in their home life but also for work," she said.

Results of the challenge were used by the Register's staff to gauge the cybersecurity awareness knowledge of military, civilians, and vendor partners.

"I thought the quiz was really good. It included some information that I really should know, so if I was unsure, it made me think about reviewing that part of cybersecurity again," said Maj. Patricia Cruz, a retirement services officer at the USARC headquarters.

Participants honed their cyber awareness training based on the results of the test. Personnel can find additional training material on the USARC/G-6 SharePoint site.

"We have a dedicated cybersecurity staff at Fort Bragg and please, if you have a question or you're not sure (about cybersecurity), call us we'll guide you in the right direction," Register said. 🇺🇸



EVALUTE AND ASSESS: Army civilians take a cybersecurity quiz during a Cybersecurity Expo hosted by the U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command headquarters, Oct. 3, at Fort Bragg, N.C. The expo was held to increase awareness of cybersecurity threats and how they impact day-to-day Army operations. (Photo by Timothy L. Hale/U.S. Army Reserve Command)



A Christmas experiment in giving

By CHAPLAIN (COL.) STEPHEN G. CRUYS
USARC Deputy Command Chaplain

As we approach the Christmas season, those of us in the Christian faith remember the amazing gift God gave to humanity in His Son.

The story is found in the gospels of the New Testament and summarized best in the scripture passage of John 3:16. "For God so loved the world He gave His one and only Son."

God's sacrificial gift was the means for bringing humanity into a closer relationship with Him. The thing that continues to amaze me in the Christmas story is God's unpredictability in giving. The Jewish people expected an earthly king with all the trappings of royalty, but God sent a baby born in a barn in Bethlehem to a peasant couple. God chose to reveal His gift to Gentile astronomers (better known as wise men) and blue-collar workers (the shepherds) rather than religious experts. In that act God gave the greatest gift in humility and surprise.

The challenge I have is carrying my appreciation for this gift throughout the holiday season.

Christmas music is already playing on the radio a week before Thanksgiving. With all the parties and social engagements, gift shopping, added financial stress and activities, my thoughts are pulled far from remembering the gift that started it all. In talking with others I know I am not alone.

A holiday experiment may be in order this year. An experiment that just may help regain, or gain, understanding into what gift-giving is all about. In a spirit of humility and surprise, try giving a gift this year to someone most unlikely to expect or deserve a gift.

Maybe it's something that can be purchased for a co-worker in need, time donated in listening to a hurting teenager, mending a relationship broken for years, or buying a cup of coffee for the person behind you at local coffee shop.

Pause for a moment from reading this article and ask God to help you understand to whom He would have us give a gift in humility and surprise, in His spirit of giving.

This has nothing to do with who deserves the gift. This is all about stepping out in faith. After all, He is still the same God of giving and surprise today that He was the day He gave the greatest gift of all!

This year I am going to partner with God in giving and when I do I am praying that God will draw my thoughts back throughout this Christmas season to the gift that started it all, and I'm inviting you to join me in this experiment.

May you have a blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year remembering God's gift of humility and service. 🌟

FORSCOM/USARC Christian Bible Study

**U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command
hosts a weekly Christian Bible study.**

**Studies are held each Tuesday,
starting at 11:30 a.m., Room 1901 near the USARC G-4.**

Please come and share a time of fellowship and worship with us.

**"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that
the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."**

Second Timothy 3:16-17

USARC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



FORT BRAGG, N.C. - LTG Charles D. Luckey, (above) Chief of the U.S. Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, flipped the switch to light the USARC Christmas Tree during the annual holiday open house at the command headquarters, Dec. 9.

In addition to Christmas carols and food buffets on every floor, the annual cubicle holiday decorating contest was kicked up a couple of rungs on the candy cane ladder.

Winners of the annual cubicle decorating contest were: Chief Warrant Officer 5 Pamela Null, USARC G-4, in third place; Chief Warrant Officer 5 William Kail, USARC Aviation Directorate; in second place; and Edelmiro Fonseca, USARC G-38 Resource Management; in first place. The USARC G-38 combined their efforts to visualize the 12 Days of Christmas theme (some of the cubicles pictured opposite page, top). Even Santa Claus took time out of his busy schedule to visit the headquarters. 🎅



TAKING A KNEE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Continued from Pg. 5



KNEE

from Pg. 5

My motivation for this article originated from an argument, now life lesson I participated in on social media. I was using my personal social media account and a friend of a friend posted an opinion stating that the “majority rule should decide to what charities an individual is allowed to donate money to.” Therefore, I quickly responded, “one of the many things that makes our country great is that we are free to put our hard-earned, post-taxed money where we like and that is an awesome example of freedom.” (#AMERICA!)

Silly me, I thought that would be the end of it. He gave an opinion, and then I politely gave mine in return. Without warning and like a flash his internet tough guy kicked in and his anger went from zero to 60, real quick. There was no data or research to back up his broad claims and no respect for debate. His final attempt at victory was by calling me a “bully” and stating I spread “hate culture”, ultimately having no value as a person. Completely shocked, I asked myself, what caused all of his anger? A simple disagreement with an opinion?

For me, this was my first online battle, and my last. The Army has policies in place and does not condone negative online behavior. I know my behavior was far from questionable, but I decided to play it safe and save all my anger for when I retire, grow a beard and yell at children to get off my lawn.

Now more than ever we see irrational opinion on social media. Recently a 3rd string quarterback for a professional football team took a knee during the National Anthem.

His purpose for kneeling was to bring attention to social and racial issues throughout the country. Now, professional football and the National Anthem are two things Americans love and respect. This immediately caused a massive uproar in the online community. I can respect that, but what I do not respect is all the irrational opinions that go along with it.

The first response from the masses was to boycott the team and football organization. I completely agree; if you do not agree with something, you have

the right not to support. However, be cognizant in the way you garner support. One popular method to sway opinion was to use emotion toward veterans, stating that if you do not stand you are disrespecting service men and women throughout history.

With this method, I do have an issue. Maybe I missed the memo, but I do not remember receiving an invitation to a meeting where all veterans gave a collective opinion about the subject and elected a spokesperson. Most of the Soldiers I serve with neither agree with or against kneeling during the National Anthem, but are proud to serve a country dedicated to protecting the individual rights of Americans.

For all the social media warriors sharing opinion about veterans and football, I have to ask you, how did you support veterans before this event made news? Do you donate time, money or resources to the cause? Do you provide information and education to help prevent an estimated 20 veterans from committing suicide daily?

If you answer no to these questions, maybe it is time you do some individual soul searching, conduct a personal assessment, and ask yourself, what really matters to me? It is easy to blast out various opinions on subjects, but I believe donation of individual time and resources to create change is a true sign of concern and empathy toward an individual or organization.

I believe we need to focus on the word “social” in social media and respect the opinions of others when posting online. Consider doing more than just preaching to your current group of friends, and use this platform as a call to action and focus energy toward real change.

So next time you get on social media and become angered about the latest media headlines, ask yourself, does the way I live my life really compare to the anger I am feeling? Could this time be spent creating change and raising awareness to help humanity and inspire others?

Only food for thought during this holiday season, but remember, this is just my opinion. 🌍

U.S. Army Reserve Soldier makes his way to the silver screen

By SGT. RUSSELL TOOF
99th Regional Support Command

NEW YORK - Earlier this year, Sgt. Rodney Roldan, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier, endured a heated confrontation with white supremacists, one of whom happened to be an undercover FBI agent.

Just a normal day when you're a Hollywood actor - but not so normal when you're in the Army.

Roldan had a small part in this year's film "Imperium" starring Daniel Radcliffe, who is most well-known for playing the role of Harry Potter in the now-famous movie franchise.

"Working with Daniel Radcliffe was a really great experience. He was not only very professional, but also very friendly and a great person to converse with," said Roldan. "During the filming of the scene where he says racial slurs at me and we get into an argument, he would apologize to me after every take."

Roldan, who lives in New York, is a Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist with the 361st Press Camp Headquarters stationed at Fort Totten in Queens, New York.

He became a public affairs specialist after beginning his military career as an electrician's mate in the Navy and has been deployed four times.

BUDDING ACTOR - Sgt. Rodney Roldan, portraying an EMT for an episode of "Nurse Jackie," is a U.S. Army Reserve Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist who is acquiring a list of acting credits in both television and the silver screen. Roldan, who previously served in the Navy, is featured in the upcoming movie "Imperium" with well-know actor, Daniel Radcliffe, from the "Harry Potter" film series. (Photo courtesy of Rodney Roldan)

Roldan started acting on his last year of active duty in the Navy in 2004. He became a member of Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists after landing a co-starring role on the WB show "One Tree Hill." Some of his other acting credits include the critically-acclaimed HBO show "The Wire" and the 2011 series "A Gifted Man" which starred Patrick Wilson.

He is currently attending the two-year conservatory program at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City.

"Acting, as well as being in the service, are two things that I have a passion for I would love to act for the rest of my life because after a certain point I need to retire from the Army," he said.

"Something that I have been told over the years is that directors would appreciate service members in film and television because of their discipline," he said "The military has taught me to never quit and not look at failures as the ending of something, but as a learning lesson so that you rise up and succeed the second time around. This is the mentality you need in this career field." 🇺🇸





SOLDIER/ACTOR - Roldan, top left, edits video during Exercise Anakonda 2016 in Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland, earlier this year. Roldan's military experience has helped him land roles such as operating room technician, top right, and a Navy sailor, middle right, in the movie "American Warships" which starred Mario Van Peebles. Roldan, standing right, is pictured with the U.S. Army Reserve and U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs team during Exercise Anakonda 2016 in Poland. (Photos courtesy of Rodney Roldan)

**Wishing
everyone in the
USARC Family
Happy
Holidays
and a
Wonderful
New Year**

from  **The
DOUBLE EAGLE**
"Twice the Citizen! Army Strong!"