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JBLM NORTHWEST

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REAGAN NATIONAL DEFENSE FORUM

The case for budget stability

Deputy defense secretary cautions about operating without a budget

BY JIM GARAMONE
Department of Defense
News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense Department has clear orders from President Donald Trump “to build a stronger military, take care of our men and women and excel in our business operations,” said Patrick Shanahan, deputy

defense secretary, Sunday. Shanahan was the closing speaker at the Reagan National Defense Forum in Simi Valley, Calif., and he spoke how the department is putting the president’s orders into effect.

The deputy secretary has been on the job for less than five

SEE BUDGET, 12A



Patrick Shanahan, right, deputy defense secretary, speaks with Barbara Starr, CNN Pentagon correspondent, at the Reagan National Defense Forum Sunday.

TECH. SGT. BRIGITTE BRANTLEY Department of Defense Photo

FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL

Survivor families remember the fallen

Families gather to decorate tree

BY RUTH KINGSLAND
Northwest Guardian

It’s been little more than a month since the tragic shooting death of 22-year-old Joint Base Lewis-McChord Soldier Pfc. Daquan Foster, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, outside a Tacoma nightclub on the early morning of Oct. 29.



Foster’s wife, Olivia Brown was with him at the time, and she received a gunshot wound to the hand as the couple ran from the two alleged gunmen who have since been arrested. Foster died at a hospital shortly after the shooting.

Finding healing and shared empathy was the goal of Brown and several of Foster’s family members, who are visiting from the family’s hometown of Yonkers, N.Y., as they participated in Survivor Outreach Services’ fourth annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Tree Decorating Potluck at Waller Hall Saturday.

“I came because I wanted to see other families going through

SEE FALLEN, 12A

JBLM TREE LIGHTING CEREMONIES

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT



SCOTT HANSEN Northwest Guardian

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Todd Husson and his son, Logan, 1, say hello to Santa at the annual JBLM Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony Nov. 30.

JBLM starts holiday season at annual tree lighting ceremonies

BY RUTH KINGSLAND
Northwest Guardian

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, as holiday trees are lit and wool scarves, caps and winter coats have become fashionable necessities.

Two tree lighting events on Joint Base Lewis-McChord last week gave a luster of Christmas, as well as an illumination from holiday lights, to objects below.

MORE INSIDE

Young patient helps light Madigan tree, 10A

The traditional Christmas and Menorah Lighting Ceremony at Madigan Army Medical Center Medical Mall Dec. 1 blended both Hanukkah and Christmas with carol singing for both holidays and words of wisdom from the Jewish holiday from Chaplain (Maj.) Henry Soussan, 201st Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade chaplain.

“We celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah together because the military likes to be inclusive and also because both celebrations begin on Dec. 24,” Soussan said. “Both holidays are similar because they are about bringing light into a dark world.”

On Lewis Main, the jazzy sounds of Christmas classics performed by a sextet of brass players from America’s 1 Corps Band lent a festive atmosphere to the annual Holiday Tree Lighting in front of Jensen Fitness Center Nov. 30.

SEE TREE, 12A



AT LEFT: Sgt. 1st Class Russell Hall, of the 4th Attack Reconnaissance Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, and his daughter, Victoria, 3, wait for Santa’s arrival during the annual JBLM Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony on Lewis Main Nov. 30.

BELOW: Service members and civilian staff members gather for the annual tree lighting ceremony at Madigan Army Medical Center Dec. 1.



SEXTORTION WARNING

Online dating scams target legitimate sites

United States Army
Criminal Investigation Command

QUANTICO, VA. — The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command’s Computer Crime Investigative Unit continues to caution people to be on the lookout for sextortion scams where criminals use legitimate online dating sites to make contact with potential victims and then attempt to blackmail them.

When using a legitimate online dating site, victims are more apt to provide personal information and or participate in online

SEE SCAMS, 12A

IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Photo

62nd Aerial Port Squadron members load cargo on the island of Martinique Oct. 9.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORT

62nd Aerial Port Airmen worked alongside servicemen and women from the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps to bring relief to the people of Dominica. See story, 3A

TREES FOR TROOPS



RUTH KINGSLAND Northwest Guardian

Service members unload donated Christmas trees outside the American Lake Conference Center Tuesday.

Donated Christmas trees arrive in time for holiday

BY RUTH KINGSLAND
Northwest Guardian

A double trailer FedEx truck arrived at American Lake Conference Center early Tuesday morning carrying 800 Christmas trees donated by farmers across the country as part of the annual Trees For Troops — a mission by the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation to help provide a joyous holiday celebration for the nation's service members.

Trees began arriving Nov. 29 at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, New York, and will continue to truck across the country throughout the week with deliveries Friday in Seattle, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

The Joint Base Lewis-McChord delivery was unloaded Tuesday morning by volunteer service members from across the installation, including Sgt. Miguel Mejia, 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

Mejia said it was important for him to help with the event even though he doesn't plan to receive a tree from Trees For Troops this year.

"I love Christmas — it's all about family, and I get to go home (Sacramento, Calif.) for Christmas," Mejia said.

About 10 members of 8-1 Cav., 2nd Bde. 2nd Inf. Div. helped out with the event, slinging trees off the truck and over

If you go

What: Trees For Troops

Where: American Lake Conference Center, 8085 NCO Beach Road, Lewis North

When: Saturday from 7 to 11 a.m.

their shoulders, then passing them down a line to be set up within a fenced off area in the conference center parking lot.

The trees will remain there until Saturday, from 7 to 11 a.m., when they will be given to service members E-5 and below. Two special trees went home with families Tuesday.

Specialist Eduardo Pena, 46th Aviation Support Battalion, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, and his wife, Sgt. Waldy Pena, 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, received the Army tree. Although his wife has been at JBLM for two years, Eduardo said he arrived seven months ago.

"We're really looking forward to our first real Christmas together," Waldy said.

The couple visited his family in Los Angeles last year but will stay home this year and Eduardo's 10-year-old daughter, Melanie will visit for the holidays.

"It's going to be a wonderful Christmas," Eduardo said.

The Air Force tree recipient is Airman 1st Class Ben Sanchez-Flores, 627th Force Support Squadron, who said he is looking forward to the holiday with his wife, Ashley, and their 5-year-old daughter, Anuha. Sanchez Flores is a local, having grown up in South Hill, an area of Puyallup. He's been in the Air Force for five months.

"Christmas is my favorite holiday," he said. "It brings family together."

Sanchez-Flores' parents, who now live in Toronto, will be visiting for the holidays. He said he likely would have bought a tree for their family celebration, but he wasn't sure when finances and time would have connected to make that happen.

"It would have been a while," he said. "So, this is great."

Tree growers across America have been providing free trees for service members for many years. In 2005, FedEx contacted the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, and a partnership was created that became Trees For Troops.

Since 2005, more than 191,000 free Christmas trees have been provided to military families through Trees For Troops. Thousands of trees are donated by farm families and the public. FedEx delivers these trees to more than 63 military bases in the U.S. and overseas, according to the ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org website.

LEWIS ARMY MUSEUM

Visitors enjoy 'A Great War Christmas'

Lewis Army Museum

The lobby of the Lewis Army Museum presented a cozy scene Saturday as the public arrived for "A Great War Christmas." The air was heavy with Christmas smells, part of a small scavenger hunt, and the tree was waiting to be decorated by visitors to the museum.

There were Camp Lewis coloring pages and paper crafts that appealed to young and old.

"I like the coloring, decorating and ornaments ... and the dune buggy," said Andrew Thiel, 4, when asked about his favorite part of the event.

Older visitors enjoyed Lewis Army Museum Director's Erik Flint's talks about the Christmas Truce of 1914. He spoke of the truce while standing in front of the massive fireplace at the museum.

When you add retired Soldiers talking with the visitors, it was a different way to combine education with entertainment.

"Getting to talk with retired Soldiers was the best, and a great learning experience," said Tyson Vessey, 12, of Graham Boy Scout Troop 621. "I also enjoyed hearing the old war stories from World War I."

Many of the younger visitors were interested to learn the significance of the plain cake donuts served at the event — that they were served to the troops by Salvation Army volunteers near the front lines of the war.

One of the museum visitors recalled that her father, a World War I veteran, was a huge fan of



HEIDI PIERSON Lewis Army Museum

Erik Flint, Lewis Army Museum director, gave three talks about the Christmas Truce of 1914 during the "A Great War Christmas" event at the museum Saturday.

the donuts and mentioned them fondly and often.

"Young people these days are often not aware that the treats we have easily available to us, were rare in the past," said Heidi Pierson, museum curator. "One of the points of the event was to show that reality. The odors in the scent scavenger hunt were chosen to highlight how special things like peppermint candy, cookies and cinnamon were in the past, even just 100 years ago."

This is the inaugural military family event; a similar family activity is expected to occur monthly at the museum, Flint said. It's a way to get visitors to see and experience some of the museum's 15,000 square feet of indoor exhibits — recently reno-

vated and reopened after a year-long rehab.

"We hope to continue having family friendly events at least every quarter," Flint said, "Each (event) will incorporate an educational aspect and a little something for everyone. Our next planned event will deal with military 'grossology' — for example, we'll ask the question 'What happens when all those people need to use the bathroom out in field?'"

The Lewis Army Museum is located at 4320 Main Street. Regular hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum is closed on holidays.

For more information on the upcoming events at the Lewis Army Museum, visit lewisarmy-museum.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

I Corps forces help kick off Yama Sakura 73 held in Sendai, Japan

Yama Sakura 73 kicked off with a ceremony to mark the 35th anniversary of the annual bilateral training exercise in Sendai, Japan, between service members from the U.S. military and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force Tuesday.

Approximately 1,600 U.S. service members, led by I Corps from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, as well as 4,600 Japanese soldiers, led by the Northeastern Army, will participate in this year's exercise.

"The critical objective for this exercise is to continue to strengthen the solid United States/Japan alliance," said Lt. Gen. Gary Volesky, I Corps commanding general. "As a combined joint task force, we have an opportunity to improve our interoperability through shared understanding. Our commitment to each other is enduring, and I believe this will clearly show through the exercise."

The two-week training event is the premier joint, bilateral command post exercise for the two nations. The purpose of the exercise is to exchange ideas, techniques, military experience and exercise capabilities in the defense of Japan.

Done mostly through computer-based simulations, Japan and U.S. forces practice bilateral staff activities to respond to an armed attack on Japan.

This exercise is being carried out under a training scenario where a hypothetical opposing force will launch an offensive aggression to invade Japan.

Although this is Volesky's first time at Camp Sendai and as the commander for this exercise, he said he considers this bilateral exercise one of the cornerstones of continued security in the region.

"Our participation in Yama Sakura, as well as other exercises including Rising Thunder, Orient Shield and Keen Edge, enables our Army and Japan Ground Self Defense Force to build upon our great partnership to enhance combat readiness and interoperability while strengthening our relationships," Volesky said.

— JOINT PLANNING SUPPORT ELEMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

High-speed train testing ongoing, regular routes could start Dec. 18

LAKEWOOD — Final testing of the Point Defiance Bypass railroad tracks that run through Joint Base Lewis-McChord continues through Dec. 17.

Trains will travel in both directions and most will pass through between 6:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. However, delays in schedules make it important to stay alert and expect trains at any time, day or night.

Drivers and pedestrians should use extreme caution whenever near the railroad tracks, obeying all signals, pavement markings, and gates to ensure they are not in the path of an oncoming train.

- Do not walk on or near the tracks.
- Do not stop your vehicle on the railroad tracks while waiting for traffic.
- Obey all signals at all times — both pedestrians and drivers.
- Wait for crossing arms to go up and lights to stop flashing before entering a crossing.

If the tests prove successful, this train route will be permanently used by 14 daily passenger trains traveling nearly 80 mph beginning Dec. 18.

— WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JBLM civilian hall of fame, service award nominations accepted now

Every year or two, units and agencies across base nominate a civilian member of the Puget Sound community to be considered for the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Hall of Fame Lt. Gen. Bill Harrison Service Award.

Units across JBLM are invited to submit nominations by March 30 to be considered for the 2016 hall of fame award.

Established in 2003, the hall of fame program recognizes one community member annually who has contributed to the community as a civilian for three or more years, and who through their efforts, made an exceptional impact on our service members, military families or the JBLM community.

The impact can be based on long-term support or short-term actions that have made a difference. The hall of fame is named for retired Lt. Gen. William Harrison. Harrison served as the commander of I Corps from 1987 to 1989 and he became the first mayor of the city of Lakewood in 1995. He is known throughout the JBLM communities for his high standards, dedication and commitment to making his community a better place for all.

Hall of fame nominations can be submitted to the JBLM Garrison Public Affairs Office. Nominations will be reviewed and rank-ordered independently by three senior representatives from the Joint Base Garrison HQs, I Corps and 62nd Airlift Wing, respectively.

The hall of fame point of contact for nominations is John Norgren. For more information, contact Norgren at 253-967-0168 or john.r.norgren.civ@mail.mil.

— JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I CORPS COURTS-MARTIAL

U.S. V. PVT. CARDENAS, 555TH ENG. BDE.

On Nov. 9, Pvt. Pedro Cardenas, 555th Engineer Brigade, was convicted of wrongful distribution of oxycodone, wrongful distribution of cocaine, wrongful distribution of ecstasy, wrongful use of cocaine, desertion and flight from apprehension. Cardenas was sentenced to be confined for 390 days and to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge.

U.S. V. SPECIALIST

On Nov. 9, a specialist was acquitted of wrongful sexual contact and providing a false official statement. All rights and privileges have been restored.

U.S. V. PFC. SIFRE, 2-75 RNGR.

On Nov. 29, Pfc. Michael Sifre, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, was convicted of solicitation to rape a child and indecent language. Sifre was sentenced to be reduced to private (E-1), to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 14 months and to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge.

All articles are violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. I Corps and 7th Infantry Division are committed to preventing sexual harassment and sexual assault. Leaders at every level of the chain of command have an obligation to safeguard service members through prevention, education, investigation, victim advocacy, and, when appropriate, prosecution. One hundred percent of unrestricted reports of sexual assault and all reports of sexual harassment will be properly investigated and appropriately acted upon by the command.