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Greetings Griffon Team!

For this edition of The Griffon I decided to share a few of my thoughts about the importance of the mission we perform as a team, and how much our Army and our nation are depending on us to be ready – individually and collectively. I’ll discuss readiness in the context of current global threats, while also reflecting on the great Soldiers who came before us, as we recognize the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day invasion this year.

Readiness matters because we live in a world where global threats to security are widespread. Annually, the heads of our U.S. intelligence agencies testify in front of the Senate Intelligence Committee to discuss global threats to U.S. national security. This year’s testimony occurred on January 29th, and was followed a few days later, on February 6th, by testimony from the Director of National Intelligence, Dan Coats. The Annual Worldwide Threats briefing provided by DNI Coats is unclassified, and provides the American public with insights into the usually secret world of U.S. Intelligence. A few of the major points made this year included the following:

- China and Russia are more aligned than at any point since the mid-1950s, and the relationship is likely to strengthen in the coming year as some of their interests and threat perceptions converge.
- As China and Russia seek to expand their global influence, they are eroding once well-established security norms and increasing the risk of regional conflicts, particularly in the Middle East and East Asia.
- Sunni Violent Extremists Global jihadists threaten local and regional US interests. Some of these groups will remain intent on striking the US homeland. Prominent jihadist ideologues and media platforms continue to call for and justify efforts to attack the US homeland.
- ISIS very likely will continue to pursue external attacks from Iraq and Syria against regional and Western adversaries, including the United States.

As I read the Intelligence Community’s Assessment, I was struck by the number of threats to our national security which exist. It reinforces the necessity for our Army Reserve to be ready when called upon. For the Soldiers of the 108th Training Command, that means being ready to perform our mission to train recruits in Basic Combat Training, Advanced Individual Training, One Station Unit Training, and Reserve Officer Training programs. To be ready as a Team to perform this mission, we must first be personally ready – MOS-qualified, Drill Sergeant and Instructor qualified, medically ready, and physically fit. Our Families must be ready too – prepared for us to be mobilized and away from home for a period of time while we perform our mission. I ask you to take a few minutes and reflect on this. Are you ready? Have you done everything you can now to ensure your Family is ready too? Professionals prepare for contingencies; that’s who we are, and that’s what our country’s counting on us to do.

The publication of this Griffon edition will likely coincide with Memorial Day and the recognition ceremonies planned to honor all Veterans. This year is particularly significant, as it marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of Allied troops landing on five beaches in Normandy, on June 6, 1944. Operation D-Day was the largest seaborne invasion in history, and marked the start of the liberation of Western Europe. I know on this Memorial Day I’ll be thinking about those amazing World War II veterans, the fact they were ready when our nation needed them, and the hardships they endured. I’ll also be thinking about all of the brave men and women in uniform who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and the Gold Star Families to whom we owe a debt of gratitude which we can never adequately repay. I will also be thinking about each of you, remarkable Warrior-Citizens. Thank you for your selfless service.

To our Griffon Team Civilians, I sincerely appreciate your continued devoted commitment to our mission; to our Griffon Family Members, thank you for supporting your Soldier and making his or her service possible.

First in Training!
To coordinate news coverage, contact the 108th Training Command Public Affairs Office - 704-227-2829

Deadlines: Summer: June 3 2019  — Fall: August 26, 2019

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Cover: Out of darkness, light. As we move into the summer surge this is the image chosen to represent the 108th Training Command - our Drill Sergeants, our Instructors, and our Support Staff. Each of us has a role to fill, and each of us has a responsibility to bring light to our formations. Whether our job is to turn a civilian into a Soldier, a Cadet into a future leader, a junior officer into a General, or a Soldier into an NCO, we have a role to play in the future of the US Army, US Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. Take that responsibility seriously, give generously of your wisdom, skill and experience. Bring your light to our formations and to the Soldiers that you encounter in your training missions. We are: FIRST IN TRAINING, ARMY STRONG (US Army Reserve photo by Maj. Michelle Lunato).

Good things come in threes. For the 108th Training Command (IET), one of these good things is the Best Warrior Competition / Drill Sergeant of the Year development team of Sgt. 1st Class Charles Glass, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hunter and Sgt. 1st Class Justin McCarthy. Working together to create a competition that would send a “competitor” and not just a “participant” forward to represent the command at the U.S. Army Reserve Competition in June, these gentlemen have poured countless hours of time and energy into creating a truly challenging experience for our downrange Division Soldiers, NCOs and Drill Sergeants. Hear no excuses, see nothing as impossible, speak no secrets. Watch for the stories and photos from our epic competition in the Summer edition of the Griffon, coming to you in July! (U.S. Army Reserve Photo by Maj. Michelle Lunato, 98th Training Command PAO)
From the Command Chief Warrant Officer

By Chief Warrant Officer Edward Salazar
Command Chief Warrant Officer 108th Training Command (IET)

Warrant Officers. Warrant Officers are commissioned officers. Warrant Officers are technical experts. Warrant Officers are our best recruitment tool for recruiting Warrant Officers. With that said, Warrant Officers are part of the command and belong to the unit Commander. Commanders lead their command and warrant officers are an integral part of the command. Most Warrant Officers are recruited from enlisted Soldiers from within the command. No one knows the enlisted Soldiers better than the senior enlisted Soldiers of the command. As a team of Soldiers, we create a command and only by working together can we fill our ranks with qualified Soldiers. The Warrant Officer positions in the command are like any other position, they serve a purpose and require Soldiers to fulfill that purpose. Growing your warrant officers from within the command not only helps the Army’s Warrant Officer recruiting mission, but provides the command with a future Chief Warrant Officer that will provide the command with a myriad of expertise.

What qualifications are needed to become a Warrant Officer? Every Soldier starts out with everything they need to become a Warrant Officer, except for a few key ingredients. From the Warrant Officer Recruiting site (https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/current-and-prior-service/advance-your-career/warrant-officer.html) applicants for the Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) and Warrant Officer Flight Training (WOFT) program must:

- Have a high school diploma.
- Be at least 18 years old at the time of enlistment and not have passed their 53rd birthday at the time of selection (for aviators) or their 46th birthday for all other specialties. Age waivers are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Be a citizen of the United States.
- For WOFT Candidates only: Achieve a qualifying score on the Selection Instrument for Flight Training (SIFT). SIFT test results are valid indefinitely, as long as verifiable official records exist. No waivers are available for failure to meet the minimum SIFT score.
- Earn a General Technical score of 110 or higher on the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Have at least 12 months remaining on their enlistment contract.
- Meet the Army’s screening height and weight standards and pass the standard three-event Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) not more than six months before their application packet is boarded.
- Take a physical exam and meet entry medical fitness standards as determined by military medical authorities no more than 24 months prior to the date of application. Aviation applicants must also undergo a Class IA Flight Physical Examination and have results approved by Flight Surgeons at Fort Rucker, Alabama, prior to the selection board. The Flight Physical must be less than 18 months old.
- Additional Requirements for Technical Specialties
  - Must complete MOS training.
  - Must complete appropriate Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) Leadership Courses.
  - Must have documented proficiency in specialty area.
  - Must meet prerequisite standards for specialty area.

Becoming a Warrant Officer seems like an insurmountable task, and when a Soldier enlists in the Army, they only have completing basic training on their mind. However, many have taken up the challenge of the Warrant Officer cohort and are now Warrant Officers. For most Soldiers that yearn for more responsibility, more rank, more money, the Warrant Officer path may be for them. In my own experience, I wanted to be more to the military and the Warrant Officer seemed like a great way to show my worth to my commander and my fellow Marines (by the way I came to the Army Reserve from the United States Marine Corps, which had its own set of challenges). Now that I have reached Chief Warrant Officer-5, I can truly say that becoming an Army Warrant Officer is worth the time and energy it took to get here.

Do you want to have more responsibility? An enlisted Army Reserve Soldier already has a responsibility to the Army, their Commander and their fellow Soldiers. As a Warrant Officer you also have the responsibility to continually learn how to take your Military Occupational Specialty to the limit, and possibly provide new techniques to enhance that specialty. You will be provided with the opportunity to be the subject matter expert every time you do your Army job, and continue to be an expert at the common core tasks as well.

Have you seen an enlisted Soldier that always excels, the Soldier that raises a hand to volunteer, while others remain still? Right now, there is an enlisted Soldier with the potential to become a Warrant Officer that wants to be challenged. Both commanders and senior enlisted know where the vacant Warrant Officer positions are, and can tell which Soldiers have the potential to become a Warrant Officer. Granted, not all enlisted Soldiers that apply will make it through the Warrant Officer selection, and those selected will be challenged to their limits during the Warrant Officer Candidate School. I quote the Honorable Colin Powell (65th United States Secretary of State and 12th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), on achieving your goals, “A dream doesn’t become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.” As the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the 108th Training Command (IE), I work to identify, motivate, and mentor enlisted Soldiers to become Warrant Officer Candidates. Those new Warrant Officers in your ranks are my best advertisement for the vacant Warrant Officer positions in your commands.

First in Training!

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Why I Became a Drill Sergeant

Becoming a U.S. Army Reserve drill sergeant did not make me who I am. It is because of who I am that I became a drill sergeant.

The ability to wear an additional cloth on my right chest pocket nor the distinct headgear, led me to become a drill sergeant. It is the characteristics that I possess within, the same ones that led me to seek out the Reserve drill sergeant unit in my state. I am not the only one who has these characteristics and beliefs though. I know this because I have met and worked with many leaders who share the same passion and beliefs as I.

Soldiers want to better their leadership skills and train Soldiers so that the Army as a whole can be in a better position to accomplish any mission. One of my goals as a drill sergeant is to better assist those who serve in the Reserve Component by sharing what I have learned and experienced.

Many Reserve Soldiers are teachers Monday through Friday who tutor on the weekends, except for the one weekend when they are a company commander. They are chief executive officers Monday through Friday and a first sergeant for a group they may only see for one weekend a month. They are seasoned police sergeants and detectives who are specialists and sergeants responsible for Soldiers who are spread across multiple states. Many Soldiers, whether officer or enlisted, are in the Army Reserve because they are accomplishing a master’s or doctoral degree. They have just started a business or have been hired into their desired career that will support their family financially and is a reward for many years of dedication. Every Reserve Soldier must be able to time manage, take initiative, and be able to quickly evaluate and reevaluate a situation so they can properly prioritize needs and allocate time and effort towards getting the mission accomplished. This ability to balance and accomplish a lot in a small-time frame all while bringing civilian experience is the exact reason the Army Reserve so dynamic.

Through my civilian career, multiple deployments and various trainings, I have learned a great deal. Having more than one military occupational specialty has allowed me to view things from different angles and has exposed me to many different types of leadership. I have had a very exciting and purpose-filled military career. As a Reserve Soldier, I have been afforded many opportunities that are rare, even for my counterparts on Active Duty. I became determined to find a way to share my best practices and to help with Soldier development and unit efficiency. To do that, I was told that I should attend the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy.

A Drill Sergeant can motivate and train a large group of diverse trainees in a short amount of time. A Drill Sergeant can teach a majority of skills with very few resources. I realized that with the skills of a Drill Sergeant, I would be able to effectively work with any number of Soldiers to accomplish any task, all while promoting and reinforcing the standard. I was told that the Academy is where the standard is ingrained into a capable leader so that it can be properly instructed to anyone, no matter their previous experience or current skill level. That appealed to me because I wanted to help evaluate and teach the new incoming Soldiers and possess the knowledge to continue leading in the Army Reserve.

I searched for a drill sergeant in my state, asked for the requirements, then took the necessary steps to transfer into the unit and go to the Academy. Once I completed the Academy, I realized that everyone would see my patch and would expect the very leadership I sought to receive from the Academy. Though the cloth does not make me who I am, it does hold me accountable. No matter how many years pass from when I attended the Academy, that patch demonstrates that I was taught and evaluated on my ability to be a standard bearer. The patch announces, before I verbally present myself, that I was identified as a leader who has a strong foundation and an agile leadership style to effectively communicate, work with, direct, mentor, motivate, support, and teach as many as necessary in a short amount of time.

When a Reserve drill sergeant is done with their obligation, they have the option to continue working as a drill sergeant or return to their original career path. If they remain a drill sergeant, they will prepare Reserve drill sergeant candidates to be better prepared for the Academy and give them any additional leadership guidance as necessary. Remaining a drill sergeant also allows you to support and develop drill sergeant missions, the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition, and many other training opportunities. Returning to your career path means all of the leadership development that you gained as drill sergeants can be shared with others who haven’t been exposed to a drill sergeant since Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. The drill sergeant leaders at the Academy evaluate the leaders that are presented to them as top noncommissioned officers. They ensure that if you are going to present yourself as the standard, that you are indeed the standard. That you will always make the effort to do what is right and that being truthful is innate to you. They ensure that you are capable to teach and share knowledge that is accurate and effective. They want to make sure that no matter the amount of pressure, personal stress, fear, time constraint or limitation, that you will deliver the best that you can and that your best can surpass the standard. As a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier, you tend to have a very small window to interact with someone during duty hours, very little resources and equipment to work with and it is with a very diverse group of Soldiers. Having qualified as a drill sergeant and working with other drill sergeants has added to my leadership tool box. Becoming a drill sergeant did not make me who I am. It is because of who I am, that I became a drill sergeant.
Meet Your New Commanding General

Brig. Gen. Charles S. Sentell III

Charles S. Sentell III was born in July 1966 in Minden, LA. He received his commission in Infantry through ROTC and graduated as the Distinguished Military Graduate from Davidson College in North Carolina where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1989. Sentell graduated on the Commandant’s List from the Infantry Officer Basic Course and then completed Ranger School and the Pathfinder course at Fort Benning, GA. He served three years on active duty with the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC and was an Infantry Platoon Leader during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, where he earned his first Bronze Star Medal.

Leaving active duty in 1992, he attended law school at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. While in law school, he wrote an article that was published in the Louisiana Law Review and won the Flory Moot Trial oral argument competition. Sentell received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1995 graduating 5th in his class. In 1997 while serving as a law clerk for a Federal Judge, Sentell reentered the active Army Reserve by joining the 4013th Garrison Support Unit (GSU) in Bossier City, LA. He then attended the Transportation Officer Advanced Course at Fort Eustis, VA where he was the Distinguished Graduate of his class. In 1999, the Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN Eric Shinseki, presented Sentell with the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award at the Pentagon after Sentell successfully took command of an active duty company at Ft. Polk, LA.

Sentell then went to the 8th Battalion (TC), 95th DIV in Shreveport, LA where he served first as the Battalion S3 before assuming command as the Battalion Commander. After command, Sentell was selected to lead and mobilize another unit as commander of the 519th TC DET from Camp Pendleton, CA. Sentell earned his second Bronze Star during a one-year deployment to Iraq in 2004-2005 with the 519th TC DET as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon his return, he served as Executive Officer for the 2d Battalion, 579th REGT, 95th DIV in Arkadelphia, AR. He was then selected as the Brigade S5 for the 7th BDE, 95th DIV in Little Rock, AR. From April 2009 until July 2012, he was the Battalion Commander of the 2203rd Mobilization Support Battalion in Bossier City, LA. In 2013, Sentell received a Master’s Degree from the United States Army War College, where he was a resident student and member of the Army War College Eisenhower team. BG Sentell then served three years at USCENTCOM at MacDill AFB, FL in an IMA position as a joint logistics plans officer. After his tour at USCENTCOM, Sentell was sworn in as the Command Inspector General of the 75th Training Command headquartered in Houston, Texas. Prior to assuming command of the 95th Training Division (IET), BG Sentell was the brigade commander of the 97th Training Brigade (CGSOC) headquartered at Ft. Sheridan, IL.

BG Sentell’s awards include the Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), CIB, Ranger Tab, EIB, Senior Parachutist Badge and numerous mobilization awards. He has completed the Army ASEP-B course, the Inspector General School, the U.S. Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, the 90A logistian Support Operations Course, and is a graduate of the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (AJPME) course.

In his civilian capacity, BG Sentell is an elected Judge for the State of Louisiana and maintains a private law practice with his father at the Sentell Law Firm, LLC. Before being elected, BG Sentell was a prosecutor for the State of Louisiana for over 13 years where he prosecuted murder, rape, robbery, child molestation and other serious felony cases. In his 13 years as a prosecutor, Sentell holds the distinction of never losing a jury trial. He stays actively involved in his community. He is a past President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Minden Lion’s Club, and the Minden Medical Center. Sentell also serves on the Board of Directors of Citizens National Bank, which is a nationally chartered bank having almost one billion in assets. Sentell has been inducted into the LSU Law School Hall of Fame. BG Sentell is the proud father of two children, Samantha and Chase.
Meet Your New Command Sergeant Major

CSM Robert B. Potts

Command Sergeant Major Potts has served in various assignments stateside and overseas including 350th HR Company, Ft Sill, OK; 1/79 and 1/22 FA Ft Sill, OK; 1st BDE (Devil BDE) 1st INF DIV Ft. Riley KS; 1st BDE, 95th DIV HHC, Drill Sergeant Academy, Ft. Jackson, SC; 3/578 BCT CSM Norman, OK; 1st BDE CSM at Ft Sill, Ok, and currently Division CSM for the 95th DIV at Ft Sill, Ok.

His deployments include Guatemala and Panama for Task Force Moteugua, Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan, and Operation ROG 1 in the Republic of Georgia.

He has served in a variety of leadership positions throughout his career in the United States Army that include Platoon Sergeant, Senior Drill Sergeant, Senior Drill Sergeant Leader, BN Senior Operations NCO, HHC 1SG, Chief Instructor and Course Manager U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy; BDE Human Resources NCOIC, BDE Operations SGM, Battalion CSM.

Command Sergeant Major Potts' military education includes Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, Field Artillery Platoon Sergeant Course, Master Gunner Course, Army Postal Operations Course, Drill Sergeant School, First Sergeant Course, Unit Prevention Leader Course, Master Fitness Course, Combatives Level 1, 2 and 3, Combat Lifesaver Course, Counter Insurgency Course, Combat Leaders Course, CSM Development Course, Pre-Command Course (BDE and BN Level), Force Protection and various Anti-Terrorism Schools, Total Army Instructor Training Course, Small Group Instructor Course, Transition Team Course, Commanders Safety Course, Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education Course Level I and II. He is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeant Major Academy Class #41 and Self Structured Development Level 5. His civilian education includes Redlands Community College and OAEC Electrical Transmission and Distribution Engineering Course. His civilian employment is with CKenergy as a field engineer and works as a land specialist and realtor for Mossy Oak Properties.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (3rd award); Army Commendation Medal (5th award); Army Achievement Medal (7th award); Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (7th Award); Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Service Star device); Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with Bronze Service Star device); Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal (w/ M devise and hourglass); NCO Professional Development Ribbon (w/ #5 device); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Medal (2nd award); Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon; NATO (ISAF); German Schützenschnur (gold). He has also been awarded the Expert Marksmanship Badge, Combat Action Badge, and Drill Sergeant Badge.

Command Sergeant Major Potts currently resides in Fort Cobb, Oklahoma with his wife Lindsay and their son, Corbin.
A Star is Born

By Maj. Adrienne Bryant
HQ, 95th Training Division (IET)

FORT SILL, Okla. — In a drill hall full of friends, Family, and Soldiers, Col. Charles Sentell III was promoted to Brigadier General on Jan. 26 at Fort Sill, Okla., in a ceremony presided by the Commanding General of the 108th Training Command (Initial Entry Training), Maj. Gen. Kate Leahy.

Sentell, a Louisiana native, was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate in the Infantry Corps from Davidson College in North Carolina in 1989. Following his commissioning, Sentell served three years on active duty with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. During his assignment as a platoon leader, Sentell deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm earning his first Bronze Star Medal.

The success did not stop there. Upon leaving active duty, Sentell attended Law school at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, graduating fifth in his class in 1995.

While serving as a law clerk for a federal judge, Sentell continued his military career by joining the Army Reserve with the 4013th Garrison Support Unit in Bossier City, La., in 1997. Shortly after, he attended Transportation Officer Advanced Course at Fort Eutis, Va., where he was the Distinguished Graduate.

Sentell went on to fulfill many positions following his graduation. He also deployed to Iraq in 2004. Upon his return, he served as a battalion executive officer, and later as a brigade operations officer. In April 2009, Sentell was selected for battalion command of the 2203rd Mobilization Support Battalion in Bossier City, Louisiana.

In 2013, Sentell earned a Master's Degree from the United States Army War College where he was a resident student. Prior to his promotion, Sentell was the commander of the 97th Training Brigade, headquartered in Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

In his new rank of Brigadier General, Sentell assumes responsibilities of the 95th Training Division (IET) consists of three brigades and a division headquarters that are operationally focused and functionally organized to provide professional drill instructors to train active and reserve component Soldiers. The 95th TD (IET) also provides individual Soldiers to augment units deploying overseas and a special unit to assist in training Soldiers in the Afghan National Army.

“You were selected for this demanding and high priority position because of your proven track record of performance,” said...
SENTELL’S AWARDS

- Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC)
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC)
- Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC)
- Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC)
- Combat Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab
- Expert Infantryman Badge
- Senior Parachutist Badge
- Numerous mobilization awards.
- He has completed the Army Inspector General School, the U.S. Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, the 90A Logistician Support Operations Course, and is a graduate of the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (AJPME) course.

Leahy as she addressed Sentell and members of the audience.

Sentell had many friends and family members that travelled a great distance to see him get pinned. People that made the journey include his parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins from both sides of the family, an elected District Attorney, and the Clerk and Chief Deputy Clerk of the court where Sentell works.

“It really means a lot to me that my family and friends travelled so far to make this ceremony,” said Sentell “Each one of you has played a part in helping me to get here.”

The newly promoted general will have a busy time commanding one of the Army Reserve’s premier training divisions. He will have to juggle those demands with his is civilian occupation as an elected judge for the state of Louisiana and maintaining a private law practice with his father at the Sentell Law Firm, LLC.

“I am so blessed to also practice law with my father when I am not doing my judge duties and we make a great team,” said Sentell as he thanks his mom and dad for their attendance at his promotion ceremony.

Sentell also shared this promotion with his two children, Samantha and Chase.

Sentell’s awards include the Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), Combat Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Expert Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge and numerous mobilization awards. He has completed the Army Inspector General School, the U.S. Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, the 90A Logistician Support Operations Course, and is a graduate of the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (AJPME) course.

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Iroquois Warriors, are you ready? Command Teams, are your formations ready?

As you read this article, our Division is decisively engaged at Army Training Centers in both Fort Benning and Fort Jackson, conducting the expanded 22-week Infantry One Station Unit Training, Cavalry One Station Unit Training, enhanced Basic Combat Training (such as the Forge), Chaplain Basic Officer Leaders Course, Navy Individual Augmentee Combat Training, and preparing for Summer Surge and the Iroquois Challenge. As demanding as this all might seem, the Army is calling upon us to do more in Fiscal Year 20 (like the new Army Combat Fitness Test, expanded Cavalry One station Unit Training...). However, the only way we can respond to that call is by being ready. Over this quarter, I want you to focus on these areas of Combat and Soldier Readiness:

### Combat Readiness:

**Drill Sergeant Production:** This is the Division’s number one readiness priority and the key to our long term success. I need each and every Soldier, NCO, and Officer in this Division recruiting new viable Drill Sergeant Candidates for our formations.

**Leaders.** I need Command Teams focused their Drill Sergeant Candidates at battalion in-processing during their first Battle Training Assembly, and getting them scheduled for the Drill Sergeant Academy. If you are a Command Team with Drill Sergeant Candidates without a Drill Sergeant Academy date, assess them and get a date!

**Candidates.** If you are a Drill Sergeant Candidate without a Drill Sergeant Academy date, get with your first line leader, get assessed, and get a date!

**Training.** Our ability to execute our missions, recruit viable Drill Sergeant Candidates, and retain Drill Sergeants (Combat Readiness), relies on our ability to effectively plan, execute, and assess challenging, METL-based training OUTSIDE of our Reserve Centers. Commanders, get your units out of the buildings to conduct challenging training. I expect battalions to be conducting two Field Training Exercises a year. Units that conduct great training, attract and retain great Soldiers! No great war story began with, “When we were in the Reserve Center...”

### Soldier Readiness:

**Soldiers.** My expectation is that every Soldier in this Division from E1 to O7 is responsible for their individual Soldier Readiness, and that they are taking care of their individual Soldier readiness (i.e., medical, dental) outside of Battle Training Assemblies. The Army provides funding so you can get paid for taking care of your medical and dental readiness outside of Battle Training Assemblies.

**Leaders.** I expect Leaders at all echelons to be responsible for readiness of the Soldiers in their areas of responsibility, understand and utilize readiness information systems, and have processes in place to ensure that all of their Soldiers stay in compliance with Soldier Readiness Requirements (such as the Commander's Strength Management Module [CSMM]). Leaders, make sure your Soldiers understand that they can get paid for taking care of their medical and dental readiness outside of Battle Training Assemblies.

As Commander, I am responsible for the Division’s failures. All credit for its success goes to you. I work for you and my staff exists to support you. My most important responsibility is to ensure you have the guidance, tools, and resources you need to be ready. With that being said, I expect you to take care of your subordinates and their families, and always demonstrate professionalism. Hold your subordinates accountable for their actions and demonstrate the Army values 24/7. As CSM Coyle and I visit your units, I encourage you to ask us questions, let us know your concerns, and share your ideas. Together, with a combined focus, we will make sure the 98th Division is “ready.”

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Taste of the Future

By U.S. Army Reserve 1st Lt. Michael Martin, 3rd Brigade, 98th Training Division

Being an Army Reserve Drill Sergeant is a mission that is both challenging and rewarding. It is an opportunity to transform America’s youth into well-disciplined Soldiers, not only for the U.S. Army, but for our society as well. They must be experts in all aspects of Basic Combat Training, and be able to successfully mentor new Soldiers who lack knowledge of what is expected of them.

On January 5, 2019, both Echo and Alpha Companies of 2nd Battalion, 389th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 98th Training Division (Initial Entry Training), working with the Syracuse, New York Recruiting Company, had the opportunity to mentor and train future Soldiers on what they can expect from Basic Combat training. The training took place at the Army Reserve center in Mattydale, NY.

The Drill Sergeants were not only able to coach, mentor and train future Soldiers, but also had the chance to continue to mentor Drill Sergeant Candidates by allowing them to take charge of formations and use a real life mission to put into practice what they have been training on in their Drill Sergeant Candidate Program. The Drill Sergeants continued to mentor the candidates on best practices and techniques to mentor and train recruits before they themselves become Drill Sergeants.

Recruiters from the Syracuse Recruiting Company were able to use this opportunity to help better prepare future Soldiers for what their Drill Sergeants at Basic Combat Training will expect of them and what they can expect their day to day will be like. These opportunities help ease the nerves of many recruits as several of them have no understanding of the Army or Basic Combat Training, and only have the often misguided idea of what a Drill Sergeant will be like from Hollywood movies.

The day started with showing the future Soldiers how to properly conduct Physical Readiness Training by explaining, demonstrating, and then executing. Immediately following the physical training, future Soldiers experienced a full ‘shark attack,’ which essentially is when a batch of Drill Sergeants shout out numerous instructions to them simultaneously from many directions. This intense moment, intentionally creates stress and confusion that is designed to make the trainees pay attention to detail and learn to deal with their emotions and reactions from anxiety.

After the brief but full immersion into the life of a Private, classes were given to future Soldiers on topics such as map reading, basic rifle marksmanship, Army values, and drill and ceremony. Future Soldiers even got the opportunity to try out their first Meals Ready to Eat.

At the end of the training event, Alpha and Echo Company Drill Sergeants conducted an After Action Review with the future Soldiers with the goal of improving future training events. It was also an opportunity for Drill Sergeants to pass down their knowledge on how to be successful not only in the basic training, but as a Soldier in the United States Army.

The feedback from the future Soldiers at the end of the day was very positive. One of the most echoed improves was to begin with the shark attack as soon as they get off the bus at the Reserve Center.

At the end of training, leadership from all three companies deemed this training to be very successful and beneficial. The companies continue to work together to ensure these types of training events continue in the future. The Syracuse Recruiting Company believes these events carry significant value and have decided to make these events mandatory for all recruiters and future Soldiers to attend.
On to the World Cup and Pan Am Game Pistol Teams

By Michelle Lunato
98th Training Division (IET)
Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Sandra Uptagrafft, a truck driver with the 98th Training Division (Initial Entry Training), secured a spot on both the upcoming two World Cup and Pan American Game Teams for the Women’s 25m Pistol event after successfully competing in the 2019 USA Shooting Pistol Spring Selection at Fort Benning, Georgia March 27-30.

The two-day course of fire pitted the Phenix City, Alabama, resident against some of the top pistol competitors, who were all vying for spots on the teams that would take them to the both upcoming World Cup Games in Beijing, China, and Munich, Germany, as well as the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru later this summer.

Uptagrafft not only made it into the 25m Pistol Finals both days, but won them, earning her vital points to make the coveted international pistol teams. For the Pan American Games, the Army Reserve Soldier placed second with 1158 points, just 1.5 points behind Alexis Lagan. For the two World Cup Games, Uptagrafft seized the top spot with 1166 points, just one point over Lagan who came in second.

The opportunity to compete in the three upcoming international competitions will give the Reserve Soldier the chance to earn the United States the essential quota, or ticket, to compete in the 25m Pistol event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

If successful, this would not be the Soldier’s first quota win though. In the 2011 Pan American Games, Uptagrafft earned the United States an Olympic quota in 25m Pistol and eventually earned herself a spot on Team USA for the 2012 Olympics where she competed in both 10m Air Pistol (placed 28th) and 25m Pistol (placed 28th).

At the recent Spring Selection’s 10m Pistol Matches, Uptagrafft just missed making the international teams when she placed fourth in the World Cup listing and third in the Pan American Game listing. (Only the top three and top two competitors, respectively, were invited to compete.)
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Finding Your Hedgehog

By Maj. Olga Vandergriff
Commander, 372nd MPAD

According to the book “From good to great,” by Jim Collins, that shiny pot of gold at the end of a rainbow! The rare combination of passion, skills and something that pays the bills? The happy middle is called a hedgehog concept, and is described as a balance that every working adult on the planet earth is attempting to achieve. Maj. Michelle Lunato has found her Hedgehog.

Lunato, a Reserve Public Affairs Officer with 98th Training Command and a DoD employee as a Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit has achieved a great success and satisfaction in her career, but her journey has taken her through winding paths and trails. A mundane job as a retail manager paid the bills, but did nothing to quench the passion she had for journalism, for photos, for telling others’ stories. Unfortunately, the creative outlet she craved didn’t pay the bills. She hated her job in retail, and at the more mature age of 29, Lunato took a leap of faith and joined the Army Reserve, adding photo and print journalist to her resume and opening up a world of opportunities to her.

Lunato describes her age and maturity as years of perspective. She laughed as she recounted the tough situations during her initial Army training. Drill sergeants nicknamed her “smiley” and the “old one” because of wisdom she brought to the table. But that did not dismay nor deter her.

“I didn’t know what I was capable of before I joined,” Lunato said. “It made me who I am today.”

Then an E4, Lunato deployed to Bosnia as a 2002 for a peacekeeping operation. The happy middle was a foot in the door and I reluctantly crawled through it, “said Lunato.

Between beginning her career as an enlisted Soldier, and two additional deployments (Iraq in 2005; Afghanistan in 2010) as an officer, Lunato is uniquely qualified on both sides of the Public Affairs profession. Although Lunato’s career in the U.S. Army Reserve took off, she still worked in retail on the civilian side. After years of applying, Lunato finally received Department of Defense job offer, but it was not in her preferred field of Public Affairs, it was a job editing Army training manuals. It wasn’t her dream, but it was a foot in the door.

Lunato spent six years editing manuals to pay the bills, and pursuing her passion on the weekends, but she was ready to pursue her passion again on the civilian side as well. She had stayed in touch with a coworker, Brenda Rolin, who was serving as a public affairs officer for the Army Marksmanship Unit and Rolin wanted to transfer back to an editorial job. It was a lateral transfer with both women receiving the jobs they dreamed about.

Mr. Time Hale, Deputy Chief of Digital Media for U.S. Army Reserve Command, has worked together with Lunato for about six years blending photo products and journalism to achieve and relay a comprehensive Army story. “She is one of our best officers,” Hale said.

Lunato doesn’t just stop there. While freelancing for her command at the 2018 U.S. Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition, she took the time to mentor and build up the PAO team assigned to the mission. “She mentored the whole MPAD, not just the tech (technical) part but also the operations and what she would do and how she would plan it,” said Capt. Joseph Bisso, an Operations Officer with 372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD).

“Her time in public affairs on the enlisted side opened doors to the other public affairs opportunities in the marksmanship unit, which in turn provided more opportunities in the civilian side,” Bisso added. “She’s a dream to work with,” enthused Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Litchfield, who was the Media Operations Center chief of the USARC BWC and is also assigned as 108th Training Command (IET) as a Public Affairs Chief.

“Maj. Lunato has a unique set of skills. She came in as enlisted so she knows how to get the photo, get the story, but she’s also got that officer side that allows her to understand the strategy and impact of everything we do,” explained Litchfield. “I value her as a member of my team and consider her a mentor for sure. I could not do my job at the 108th without her on my team.”

Lunato has achieved her dream and harnessed the elusive hedgehog. But that doesn’t stop her from sharing her passion with others. As a talented photographer and journalist and as a person with an amazing life story Lunato is bringing up the next generation of public affairs officers and enlisted alike.
Tucked behind Fort Jackson, S.C., the McCrady Training Center is home to a small group of 98th Training Division Drill Sergeants preparing Navy Sailors for combat. This is Task Force Marshall.

Designed to train U.S. Navy augmentees, the training at McCrady lasts a total of three weeks and is focused on the skills needed to survive in combat. Sailors are trained in basic marksmanship, first aid, land navigation, urban operations and finally convoy lanes and counter-IED operations.

Although the Navy personnel are new to Army tactics, this is not Basic Training, despite the presence of Drill Sergeants in the instructor roles.

“It’s different coming from BCT (Basic Combat Training) to Navy training. They’ve already had their Basic Training. … now we are just teaching them how to do it the Army way,” said Drill Sergeant (Staff Sgt.) James Griffin, 98th Training Division. “Most of them have never been on the ground, they’ve been on the ship or in an office.”

Training in accordance with Army doctrine, and preparing the Sailors to join the Army team involves some basic marksmanship requirements that are new to the augmentees.

“They have to qualify to continue with their mission,” explained Griffin. “A lot of them have never fired an M-4, never fired a 9mm. The only training they have is sitting on the 50-cal and pushing the button for a few minutes. We teach them weapons safety, how to break it down and clean it, that’s the biggest part, the weapons themselves and qualifying,” he concluded.

Although the Sailors are well versed with operations on the ship and conduct themselves with professionalism and discipline, they aren’t used to ground operations and the Army standards of ground movement, marching and formations.

“I think the Drill Sergeants bring to the table what needs to be brought to the table as far as a little bit of authority to instill in them the fact that they should be paying attention and listen.” — Drill Sergeant (Sgt.) John Bland, 98th Training Division.

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bring to the table what needs to be brought to the table as far as a little bit of authority to instill in them the fact that they should be paying attention and listen,” said Drill Sergeant (Sgt.) John Bland, 98th Training Division. “We keep their attention, we kind of keep them on edge a little bit and they are a little nervous when they are around us.”

Watching these Sailors progress from day one to the end of the mission is a favorite of Bland. “They go from not knowing anything Army to learning everything we teach them and 99 percent of them are just as good as any of the Army Soldiers,” Bland enthused. “The entire mission ends up being successful in the end, I am really impressed with them.”

1st Sgt. Johnny Briones, Bravo company, emphasized the goal of the TFM mission in preparing Sailors for overseas duty. “These are the fundamentals for these Sailors who are heading over for their missions,” Briones said. “This helps them out for ‘just in case’. Like anything when you go to theater, you never know what is going to happen.”

Arguably, Drill Sergeants are extremely qualified when it comes to training Soldiers. Here at TFM the mission benefits not only the Sailors being trained, but also the Soldiers doing the training. “Drill sergeants are very good at teaching Soldiers,” Briones explained. “They are used to being hard, being the example, being ‘in your face.’”

According to Briones, the Task Force Marshall mission is beneficial to his Drill Sergeants because this isn’t that type of mission. “Here they have to step back from the Drill Sergeant persona and teach,” Briones said. “It benefits them, they start teaching exactly what they learned at the Drill Sergeant Academy. They aren’t always going to be wearing that hat and they will have to be NCOs.”

Briones explained the Drill Sergeants are able to get valuable experience working with how different types of Soldiers learn and develop. It will help them with their teaching and mentoring as they transition from full-time Drill Sergeant duty back to the regular
Army Reserve formations.

But for now, the Drill Sergeants are here at TFM, and they excel at their mission. As subject matter experts, their sole purpose here is to train the fundamentals. Their mission isn’t to turn a Sailor into a Soldier, but to give them the basic skills in case something happens.

“Most of the Sailors are very excited to do this kind of training… they don’t get to handle weapons, they don’t get extra training on convoy missions, first aid, they don’t do a lot of that, it’s a completely new experience and we’ve gotten a lot of positive feedback,” explained Capt. Allison Callesen, Bravo company commander.

“A lot of people come up to us after the mission is over or the class is over and say ‘this is the best training I’ve ever received in the Navy or period,’” Callesen said. “I hope they take that back at tell the other Navy personnel they come in contact with that Army Drill Sergeants are really actually experts… legitimate experts.”
1st Battalion, 389th Promotions and Awards

Promotions and awards were the flavor of the day when the 1st Battalion, 389th Regiment gathered to recognize the hard work of some of their Soldiers and Drill Sergeants.

In a ceremony hosted by commander Lt. Col. Carlos Mendez, Pvt. 1st Class Christopher Colon was promoted to Spec., Spec. Joshwa Lopez was promoted to Sgt. and Sgt. Jose Colon and Sgt. Juan Almodovar Torres were promoted to Staff Sgt.

Rounding out these well-deserved promotions were Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Gonzalez Sanchez, and Sgt. 1st Class Luis F. Santiago Sanchez, who each were pinned with the diamond signifying their promotion to 1st Sgt.

Promotions were followed by recognition of new Drill Sergeants. Only the most qualified noncommissioned officers are chosen to attend the Drill Sergeant Academy, where they are coached, taught and mentored to assume the role of Drill Sergeant within the Initial Military Training environment.

Drill Sergeant Candidates receive top notch training from their Drill Sergeant Leaders at the Academy. Being a Drill Sergeant is one of the most demanding and difficult jobs in our Army, it is also one of the most rewarding.

Earning the iconic campaign hat and lauded for graduating from the Academy were Sgt. Efren Loyo Colon, Sgt. Elizer Rodriguez-Garcia, Sgt. Joshwa Lopez Irizarry (Honor Graduate), Sgt. Luis Quintana, Sgt. Matthew Rodriguez-Rivera and Sgt. Gabriel Agosto Rios.

As if promotions and Drill Sergeant recognition weren’t enough, the day finished with recognition for several Battalion Soldiers who went above and beyond, demonstrating meritorious service during the time of Hurricane Maria Humanitarian Relief efforts.

Sgt. Efrain Loyo, Staff Sgt. Jose Rivera Colon, Staff Sgt. Raphael Velez Lopez, Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Castillo, Sgt. 1st Class Juan A. Velez, and 1st Sgt. Carlos Gonzalez Sanchez were all presented with the Army Achievement Medal (AAM).

These Soldiers efforts contributed immeasurably to the overall success of the mission and their achievement and devotion to duty reflected great credit upon themselves, the 1st Battalion, 389th Regiment and the United States Army.
Soldiers of the 98th Training Division (Initial Entry Training), past and present, were honored during a plaque dedication ceremony at the War Memorial in Rochester, New York on January 5, 2019.

Gathered in the audience were community leaders, veterans from across the military services, alumni of the 98th Training Division (IET) and current U.S. Army Reserve Iroquois Warriors.

The 98th Training Division (IET), which started in 1918 as the 98th Infantry Division, was headquartered in Rochester in 1947 and remained there until its move to Fort Benning, Georgia in 2012. With so many years in New York, the 98th Division became an important part of the city, said James Smith, deputy mayor for the city of Rochester.

“We all know that the 98th Division holds a special place of honor in Rochester history and all of Upstate New York. And many of our community leaders are veterans of this division...so I am just very happy to be here.”

Smith then turned the podium over to Frank Puidokas, the President of the 391st Regimental Officers Association, which donated the bronze 98th Division plaque to the War Memorial.

“Thank you all for being here..."
190105-A-ZG886-104 - U.S. Army Reserve drill sergeants act as color guard during a plaque dedication ceremony for the 98th Training Division (Initial Entry Training) at the War Memorial in Rochester, New York on January 5, 2019. The drill sergeants brought in the Division Colors that will remain at the War Memorial, honoring their unit’s legacy.

today as we dedicate this bronze plaque to commemorate the 98th Division and its long-standing history and ties in the Rochester community, and the men and women who served honorably as part of the Iroquois Division,” said the retired command sergeant major who personally served a number of years in the 98th Division. “The 391st Regiment was one of the initial regiments of the 98th Division and its distinctive unit crest reflects its home base of Rochester.”

Puidokas then reflected on the Division’s years of rich history in New York, and told the audience that the New York ties didn’t disappear during its relocation to Georgia—they just got wider. “Although we are now separated by 1100 miles, the Rochester connection will continue. The building that the Division occupies at Fort Benning is dedicated in honor of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Elmer W. Heindl. A native Rochesterian, Chaplain Heindl served in several parishes here in Rochester. He is one of the most decorated chaplains of World War II, and served as the 98th Division Chaplain from 1959 to 1970. I believe the Chaplain continues to keep a watchful eye on the Soldiers of the Division,” explained Puidokas as he nodded over to the niece of Chaplain Heindl, Kathleen Nichols, who attended the ceremony as an honored guest. And that combination of past, present and future Soldiers is the reason and motivation behind the plaque, said Puidokas.

“This plaque is dedicated to all 98th Division Soldiers: the many thousands who have served as part of the Division from its initial organization in 1918 to those who are currently serving and to the future generations of Iroquois Soldiers.”

Honoring veterans is a regular community occurrence at the Rochester War Memorial. In fact, it has been happening in that very building for more than 150 years, said Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Norbert Rappl, who served as the commanding general of the 98th Training Division from 1982 to 1987 and also various other positions from 1968 to 1981. “A Memorial Day service has been conducted every year, in this atrium. In 2018, the City of Rochester conducted its 150th consecutive Memorial Day service.”

MEMORIAL continued on next Page

Day Service. Think about that for a moment,” urged the retired general. “For 150 years, since three years after the Civil War, in good times and bad, during years of war and peace, during years of economic prosperity and deep depression, people in this city kept alive the tradition of a Memorial Day observance during which veterans who died the previous years were remembered.”

However, with times changing and the Division relocating, Rappl cannot deny the challenge in keeping the Division’s once strong presence in the community alive.

So with the Division headquarters moving to Georgia, Puidokas said it is even more vital to preserve the heritage of the 98th Division in New York. But preservation is not only to remember those who have served but to ensure future generations get to know and honor them too. And to prove that point even more, the retired command sergeant major stated a well-known quote by George Washington.

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of early wars were treated and appreciated by our Nation.”

With that, the current commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Training Division took the podium to let the audience know that their dedication would not go in vain, and that the current Iroquois Warriors under his care would continue to answer the Nation’s needs, just like they have the past 100 years.

“To the members of the 98th Division Alumni Association, thank you for your unwavering support to the Soldiers, families and legacy of the 98th Division,” said Brig. Gen. Miles Davis.

“Rest assured, the legacy and the connection with this great city continues and will continue.”
Selflessly Serving

On October 13th, 2018, U.S. Army Reserve drill sergeants and Soldiers from Delta Troop, 2nd Battalion, 398th Cavalry Regiment (Armor), 98th Training Division (Initial Entry Training) located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee volunteered their time and took the initiative to clean up an overgrown cemetery (Worthington Cemetery) that is close to the Army Reserve Center in Oak Ridge. While conducting unit physical fitness, Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Mabe and Staff Sgt. William Satterfield noticed the overgrown cemetery located off of a popular hiking trail in the Oak Ridge Community. The drill sergeants and Soldiers of Delta Troop rose to the challenge and upheld one of the Army Core Values of Selfless Service by doing exceptional work for the Community of Oak Ridge, the 398th Calvary Squadron, the 98th Training Brigade, and the United States Army Reserves.
A bittersweet day in Puerto Rico, December 9, 2018 as the 1-389th Infantry realigned from the 98th Training Division (IET) to the 1st Mission Support Command. We look forward to our continued partnership with you and celebrating your successes on and off the trail.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Alexa M. Litchfield, 108th Training Command
Who inspired you? Who was that one influential person that offered to share their knowledge in order to increase your chances of success?

Recently, I read an article highlighted by ABC Columbia, regarding Army Generals hosting students for leader development. This article discussed the use of mentorship to develop the Army’s next generation of leaders. As a division we are one of the Army’s premier organizations in leader training. On the surface, this task sounds simple. However, we know that this mighty endeavor consists of more than just teaching Soldiers basic combat tasks and drills. It involves a far deeper commitment to excellence and relationships. To help with retention and fully develop the force we need to mentor. Mentorship is an investment, it is an opportunity to groom and grow our Soldiers towards their maximum potential as future leaders in the United States Army. It’s an amazing journey that begins early in any Soldier’s career and one that must be carried through until the end.

To help us better understand mentorship lets first look to Army Doctrine. Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP-22) defines mentorship as 7-67. Mentorship is the voluntary developmental relationship that exists between a person of greater experience and a person of lesser experience that is characterized by mutual trust and respect (AR 600-100). Mentorship is generally characterized by the following—

- Mentoring takes place when the mentor provides a less experienced leader with advice and counsel over time to help with professional and personal growth.
- The developing leader often initiates the relationship and seeks counsel from the mentor. The mentor takes the initiative to check on the well-being and development of that person.
- Mentorship affects personal development (maturity and interpersonal and communication skills) as well as professional development (technical, tactical, and career path knowledge).
- Mentorship helps the Army maintain a highly competent set of leaders.
- The strength of the mentoring relationship relies on mutual trust and respect. Protegés carefully consider assessment, feedback, and guidance; these become valuable for growth to occur. Mentorship is designed to assist leaders to accelerate their development of professional expertise, maturity, and conceptual and team-building skills. This concept takes into consideration that season leaders should/are passing along their expertise and knowledge to younger and emerging Soldiers. This transfer of professional knowledge from mentor to mentee increases the Soldiers chances of a successful career. It also increases their resiliency by being more informed about circumstances surrounding critical issues that may affect their lives and careers. This sharing of knowledge makes Soldiers more apt to handle stressful situations and forge favorable outcomes within their own God give capabilities and limitations. Also, effective mentoring empowers Soldiers, allows deeper understanding to look beyond the here and now and provides a sense of direction and hope toward the future. It lights a path of success and provides a sense of security during the great Army journey that they are not alone.

Moreover, mentorship also serves a retention tool to keep the best Soldiers in the force. Forearmed with knowledge, Soldiers have a greater understanding of career choice decisions and implications of those decisions. They are also more willing to continue on progressing in pursuit towards their maximum potential making them more apt to attend required professional military education and increasing their chances for promotion. This in the end, increases the strength of the Army while increasing our quality and fighting capability.

In conclusion I’d like to ask; “Are you mentoring others?” If not, I challenge you to take the lead on this very important endeavor. We need you and we need quality Soldiers. We need to continue to pass along our knowledge to the next generation in order to defend this great nation with the best and brightest. Mentoring is definitely worth the investment and the returns are phenomenal.

Timberwolf 6 out!
Commanding, 104th Training Division (L T)
By CSM William C. Phipps
would be present at all levels. It would fix itself, realistic training focusing on leadership, readiness. By what would it be? In my opinion, to give back some of that time, families, your careers and your personal lives. You know a lot of you, you sacrifice time away from your families, your careers and your friends. So how do we minimize the time away?

If we could focus on one thing to give back some of that time, what would it be? In my opinion, it would be leadership. By focusing on leadership, readiness would fix itself, realistic training would be achievable, mentorship and actual counseling would happen, and mission command would be present at all levels.

When we lose focus on our Soldiers and the mission, Soldiers go unpaid, realistic training doesn’t happen, suspenses aren’t met, and someone else has to pick up our slack. As leaders, we owe it to our Soldiers to be honest, nonbiased and clearly communicate our expectations. In our organization, a First Sergeant should know almost everything about our Soldiers we serve. At the least, we should know about their families, jobs, personal and professional challenges, required schools, evaluations (because we are doing our counseling), and APFT due dates. The things we should have in our Leader Books.

As I visit Soldiers, I see too often that isn’t the case; we have lost focus on the importance of leadership. I ask that every one of you at all levels take the time to get to know your Soldiers. Ask yourselves “are you positively impacting their lives?” Taking care of Soldiers is more than giving them what they want, it is holding them accountable for their actions or lack thereof. Accountability is crucial to the development and management of expectations. Leading by example shows our Soldiers what right looks like. Leading from the front is the standard. If you are not doing this, then why are you a leader? As hard as it may be, we have to be honest with ourselves.

We are undergoing many changes in the Army, a good example being the new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). I’ve heard complaints about the lack of equipment, how long it is going to take to conduct, and questions about why it is gender and age neutral. While change is uncomfortable and many time proves difficult for individuals to see the bigger picture, it is necessary. As Army Reserve Soldiers, the resources provided to us forces us to be more adaptive and creative than our Active Duty brothers and sisters when it comes to accomplishing the mission. Regardless of our lack of money, time, and equipment, the need to begin the new training is essential to giving our Soldiers a head start before the implementation of the changes go on record. Merely taking the initiative to research online or viewing the PowerPoint presentation that every Soldier in the 104th DIV should have received will make the change less painful. We must focus more on shifting the mindset of preparing for the new ACFT instead of trying to dodge the inevitable. Our proactivity will enable us all to be better prepared for the future when we are called to defend our nation, as the main idea behind the test is to save Soldiers lives on the battlefield.

Remaining focused on our responsibilities as Soldiers in the United States Army Reserve is our key to success. We have specific requirements that we have to meet to continue to serve, which is different from the many corporations you all belong to. While first-line leaders can assist and advise on individual responsibilities, the onus is on the individual. Are you doing the right thing every day when you wake up? Do you ask yourself if you are a role model for your family and Soldiers? Are you proud to serve your country and your Soldiers? I want to believe that everyone that reads this can say yes, but unfortunately, I have encountered both leaders and Soldiers, who display self-seeking and entitled behavior as if they Army “owes” them something. Remember the Army Value “Selfless Service”? This isn’t an easy task, it takes balance and establishing priorities of what work, what is important. As Army Reserve Soldiers, we have amongst us. I ask that all of you manage those Soldier’s talents and delegate downward to ease your workloads. Soldiers want to be busy and part of the team. Take time to thank and reward the Soldiers that go above and beyond. Encourage and motivate others to work together and not be afraid to ask for help when needed.

Allow leaders to make decisions based on your guidance. Create a positive work environment for your units to prosper. Don’t lose focus on why you’re a Soldier, a Leader, and a part of something bigger than yourself. Always remain humble and strive to be better every day. Finally, I want to personally thank all the families that sacrifice memories and time for their Soldier to serve in the United States Army Reserve. Our country is in a much better place because of it. Take care and hope to see you soon.

By CSM William C. Phipps
Commanding, 104th Training Division (LT)

Timberwolves, let me start with saying thank you for serving this great nation. Continue to live the Army Values in uniform as well as your personal life. You volunteered to defend this country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Think about that for a minute; you weren’t drafted, you signed up for this. That is our key to success. We have specific requirements that we should have in our Leader Books.

After six months in this position, I have seen some remarkable Soldiers in our formation. I have visited multiple units and had the opportunity to speak to a large number of Soldiers. I can say that I am incredibly proud of the group of professionals that we have amongst us. I ask that all of you manage those Soldier’s talents and delegate downward to ease your workloads. Soldiers want to be busy and part of the team. Take time to thank and reward the Soldiers that go above and beyond. Encourage and motivate others to work together and not be afraid to ask for help when needed.

Allow leaders to make decisions based on your guidance. Create a positive work environment for your units to prosper. Don’t lose focus on why you’re a Soldier, a Leader, and a part of something bigger than yourself. Always remain humble and strive to be better every day. Finally, I want to personally thank all the families that sacrifice memories and time for their Soldier to serve in the United States Army Reserve. Our country is in a much better place because of it. Take care and hope to see you soon.

Timberwolf 7
By Spec. Laurence Juarez
104th Training Division UPR and
Sgt. 1st Class Lisa M. Litchfield
108th Training Command PAO
US Army Reserve Photos by
Spec. Laurence Juarez

Air Assault School is a difficult, prestigious school and Drill Sergeants of C Co 2/397th are working to assist Soldiers in their bid for the coveted wings. The pre-Air Assault training course at Fort Knox, Ky., is a preparatory measure conducted to ready Soldiers for the upcoming 10-day school. Air Assault school is designed to prepare Soldiers for insertion, evacuation, and pathfinder missions that call for the use of multipurpose transportation and assault helicopters, the prep course anticipates that expectation.
Drill Sergeants, DS Candidates, and Soldiers are supporting individuals battalion wide in a prep course for air assault students.

With Air Assault school focused on the mastery of rappelling techniques and sling load procedures, skills that involve intense concentration and a commitment to safety and preparation, coordinators of the C Company 2/397th pre-course have tailored instruction of their pre-course to mirror the exact same settings and conditions that will be faced during the rigorous and demanding tests of the actual Air Assault school.

One of those tough events is the obstacle course. The obstacle course is designed to assess the upper body strength, agility, endurance, confidence, and ability to perform at heights without displaying fear or distress of a Soldier. These tests are critical in determining if Soldiers will be able to complete Air Assault School without becoming a safety risk to themselves, instructors, or other students.

Drill Sergeants also give Soldiers basic instruction on ground and aircraft rappelling procedures, followed by a strict inspection of all necessary equipment needed for the intense school. After all classes were completed, candidates participated in a rigorous 12 mile foot march. During Air Assault School, Soldiers must complete a 12-mile foot march in full gear plus a rucksack in less than three hours to obtain the coveted Air Assault badge.

With the expertise of some of the Army’s best trainers, and an insight into expectations, this pre-Air Assault training is a welcome preparatory measure assisting Soldiers across the formation in earning their wings.
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AMU Train the Trainer

By CPT Caitlin Mannion
Plans and Operations Officer, 2D BDE, 104th Division (LT)

Twenty-one Drill Sergeants and Instructors from 2nd BDE 104th Division (LT) participated in the “Train the Trainer” course at the Army Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, GA. The AMU spent 5 days training Drill Sergeants and Instructors on proper weapon qualification procedures. Soldiers were taught how to rationalize improving their sight picture, breathing and trigger squeeze. While Soldiers initially began the training with briefings and instruction, they were told that the best practice comes from range time and

Sgt. Michael Campbell, C-CO, 2-597th, was all too happy to hear that. “My favorite part was shooting from the further ranges and learning how to properly adjust shots,” Campbell said. “During this course, I was reminded of why we have the best job in the world. Where else can you work 8-5 and those hours be consisted of shooting 640 rounds?” he concluded.

According to those who attended the training, these types of events are critical to keeping our Drill Sergeants and Instructors at the top of their game and the training here will improve the instruction provided to the Cadets at Cadet Summer Training and United States Military Academy at West Point in 2019.
By 1LT Luke Strasser  
Chaplain Candidate  
104th TDV, 2nd BDE HHC

“In the unlikely event of a loss of cabin pressure…” Prior to takeoff on a flight, flight attendants prepare passengers for possible dangers, encouraging them to “make sure to fasten the oxygen mask on yourself before assisting a travel companion.” The message is that taking care of your own need for oxygen allows you to help someone else.

Leaders attending 2nd BDE Command Orientation Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, often find themselves on the front line of Soldier difficulties. Soldiers reach out to their leaders for help with financial issues, relationship concerns, and other life difficulties leaving leaders to bear the worry and concerns of their Soldiers.

In order to thank leaders for their support of Soldiers and to encourage self-care, the 2nd BDE UMT organized a prayer breakfast around the theme of Foundation Work. The event, held January 29, attended by more than 50 leaders throughout the brigade, featured a Chick Fil A breakfast, an opportunity to connect with one another, and encouragement from 108th Command Chaplain, CH (COL) Dubinin. Leaders were reminded that by working of their own foundations - their spiritual, physical, relationship, emotional, and financial needs - they could better support and encourage the Soldiers in their command.
Leaders attending 2nd BDE Command Orientation Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, often find themselves on the front line of Soldier difficulties. Soldiers reach out to their leaders for help with financial issues, relationship concerns, and other life difficulties leaving leaders to bear the worry and concerns of their Soldiers.
The Griffon Association enjoyed another successful year. In 2018, we again lived up to our motto of ‘Be a Patriot, Help a Soldier;’ by providing targeted donations, financial grants and scholarships to qualified recipients. Giving back to Soldiers, their families and Veterans is really a continuation of the oath we took to serve many years ago. Some of our successes included the following:

**Scholarships**
We were very pleased to see scholarships applicants from units across the entire 108th Training Command. Due to the high quality of scholarship applicants, the board agreed to award $7,000 in educational scholarships to 8 extremely worthy applicants. This included three $1,000 scholarships and five $800 scholarships.

**Picnic**
In May 2018, around 20 Griffon Association members and guests gathered for the annual picnic held at Latta Plantation in Huntersville, NC. The group enjoyed a huge barbecue lunch with all the trimmings and attended a WWII reenactment around the old historic Revolutionary era Latta Plantation house. The get together was very enjoyable walk down memory lane and all had a great time.

**Golf Tournament**
In September, over 60 golfers joined us at Pine Island Country Club for the 8th Annual Golf Tournament which successfully raised $12,824.49. This was considered a great success as it surpassed our previous year fundraising by $2,000. Special thanks go out to Knight Publishing for their amazing support as well as our sponsors and Association Members whose efforts made the difference.

For those of you who participated in 2018, we thank you and look forward to seeing you again in 2019.

**Membership**
Membership held steady during 2018. The Association currently has 194 members which includes 136 Life Members, 56 Annual members and 2 Honorary Members. While everyone appreciates the work we do, efforts to increase membership has been challenged due to constraints that restrict Commanders and leaders from promoting membership in non-profit organizations to their direct subordinates. We have also seen some losses as members have relocated and not updated their mailing addresses.

Membership is our life blood and is vital if we are to continue to support our Soldiers and their families into the future. We ask for your help to personally commit to reach out to at least 2 former and current members of the 108th Training Command and share the membership application that is attached. This could more than double our membership.

Annual memberships are only $100.00 and Life Memberships are only $108.00.

**Soldier and Veteran Support**
Targeted donations totaling $4,750 were made to support organizations that assist Soldiers and Veterans to include Purple Heart Homes, the Charlotte USO, Veterans Restoration Quarters, Statesville American Legion Post 65 and the Freedom & Hope Foundation. While we did not receive any requests in 2018 for financial hardship grants from Soldiers or Veterans injured in line of duty, we maintained adequate reserves to meet any such demand.

**Looking forward to 2019**
**The 9th Annual Golf Tournament** is scheduled for the 30th of September, 2019. For any golfers, who have not been able to attend in the past, we invite you to join us and encourage you to bring a team this year. We are also always in need of help from non-golfers for registration etc. More information is available on our website https://www.108thgriffonassoc.com/.

**The Annual Picnic** will be held in October 2019. A possible location includes Kings Mountain, NC. Information regarding the final location and date and how to sign up will be shared soon. We hope you will join us for some great food and an opportunity to connect with other Griffon Members and friends.

**Breakfast on Veterans Day** — join us as a guest for breakfast at the Carolinas Freedom Foundation’s Freedom Breakfast in Charlotte on November 7th, 2019. For more information, email Skip McCartney at skip@shelby.net.

**Charlotte Veterans Day Parade** — join the parade on November 9th, 2019 and March with other Griffon Members and COL (Retired) Tom Phlegar as he leads the parade with his leggings and tri-corner hat, while playing his drums with the Revolutionary War Color Guard. For more information, email Skip McCartney at skip@shelby.net.

In closing, I would like to personally thank you and assure you that your support makes the difference.

Hooah!!

Charles E. McCartney, Jr. MG, USA, Retired President

“Be A Patriot – Help A Soldier”

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**THE 108TH GRIFFON ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO THE**

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**Sept. 30, 2019**

Pine Island Country Club, Charlotte, NC

The 108th Griffon Association is sponsoring the event and wants to invite you to participate or become a sponsor for this worthwhile endeavor.

**Proceeds are to be used to:**

- Provide educational scholarships for Army Reserve Soldiers and members of their families
- To promote family readiness and provide assistance to deployed Army Reserve Soldiers’ families
- Provide assistance to Soldiers injured in action through existing charitable organizations and projects.

The 108th Griffon Association is a North Carolina non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation made up of past and present members of the 108th Training Command, a two-star Army Reserve Command with headquarters in Charlotte, NC and subordinate units spread across the US, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

For more information on the tournament, or to be a sponsor, contact The Griffon and ask for Sherry Brooks at 866-761-1247.
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Homeschooling Travels With You

By Nicole McGhee

As a military wife, some of the words I have come to dread are “Honey, I’ve got orders.” Orders mean that chaos is imminent. You suddenly notice all of the clutter that has accumulated over the years and you are determined to clear it out before the packing process begins. Additionally, there are appointments to make, movers to schedule, and the seemingly endless tasks of clearing and out-processing. Don’t forget the research. Where is the new duty station? Is on-post housing nice? Is it big enough? Is there a wait list? Where are the commissary and the exchange?

However, there is one aspect of our life that does not send me into a tailspin when we are trying to move: school. Homeschooling travels with us. I don’t need to know where the school is located or what new classroom will be home for one of my sons. For us, school is already at home, wherever that may be for us. When I hear we are moving, though, there is some homeschooling research that does take place. I need to know the homeschooling laws in the state in which we will be residing. In the past, if the laws were more stringent, I would start applying them prior to moving, just to get a handle on things.

The movers come, pack up all of our household goods, and the journey to our new home begins. Because we are a homeschooling family, school takes to the road with us. We also have the ability to start integrating ourselves into the community, using libraries, community centers, and other resources.

Eventually, the furniture arrives. We learn about each new state we cross into and the way the landscape changes the further on we drive. We learn just how far we can be tested with a vehicle full of kids and pets and toys just as we arrive at a new military installation.

To say setting up our household in a new place is hectic is an understatement. With so much going on, finding our way back to a school schedule can be difficult. Fortunately, over the last few years, we’ve opted for an online curriculum. As soon as the Internet is set up in our new home, school is ready. Being able to continue on with lessons, even if on a lighter schedule than usual, is one way that we all begin finding a new rhythm in our home.

Eventually, the furniture arrives. I start to remember how to get to the store and I have located the nearest clinic. The kids have picked out the best playground and we have met a few neighbors. This new duty station is starting to feel more like home. In our new routine, we can start integrating more into our school day. Maybe I finally add in the art curriculum that looked neat a few weeks ago or find that really neat spelling website that I bookmarked before we left our old house. Now, I feel like we’re finally settling in and finding our new comfortable groove.

Homeschooling as a military family doesn’t have to be scary or difficult. It can be an amazing and rewarding experience for you and your children. By looking into laws and regulations to ensure compliance and finding a curriculum that works for your family, homeschooling can bring your family together in ways that you might not have imagined. My son’s love of building bricks has turned into a passion for all five of us. An extra-curricular activity for my oldest turned into an activity in which the whole family participates.

We also have the ability to check out the surrounding area at each new post. For us, a new history or children’s museum, science center, or zoo is as exciting as finding out the local roller skating rink offers a bi-weekly afternoon homeschool skate. Also, you can often find a military museum at your new installation and learn about the history of the post and of the military. Plus, planes, trucks, and boats appeal to children of all ages. At one point, we lived near Washington D.C. The excitement of taking the kids to see the Declaration of Independence after a history lesson on the topic was one of the most rewarding homeschool experiences we had that year.

On-post homeschool co-ops are becoming more and more popular, as well. Having that resource nearby is a great asset to any homeschool family and particularly new homeschooling families. In the past, there hasn’t been a homeschool co-op available to us on-post. A little research into the surrounding community turned up a great co-op available nearby. Sometimes, all it takes is a little online browsing or asking around to find out about incredible learning opportunities for homeschooling families.

As a military family who has chosen to homeschool our children, we are often faced with many different challenges. Sometimes, we deal with moving or a deployment. Other times, the struggle is finding a curriculum that works for our family or finding homeschool resources nearby. Regardless of the issue, we’ve chosen to be a military family (time and time again) and continue to stay the course as a homeschooling family. It can be difficult but it has definitely been worth it. If you need it, help is available. All you need to do is ask.

Nicole McGhee has been an Army Wife for the last 11 years, and homeschools her children using Time4Learning’s online education program.
Live Every Day Like a Soldier

By Chad Storlie

The challenge soldiers face every day is how to make an impact when there is so much to be done, there is not enough time or resources to accomplish everything, and the environment to accomplish the missions is changing, dangerous, and unknown. These challenges of peril, time constraints, and change are not unlike what we face daily in all our lives regardless of age, occupation, socioeconomic status, and geography.

Soldiers have determined how to mitigate these daily challenges by running towards the danger, solving problems, leading others, and responding positively to change. There are six attributes that we can take from soldiers and incorporate into our daily lives that focus on action, awareness, performance, and leadership to make our lives better.

1. Exercise

Exercise is anything that challenges you, gets your heart rate up, makes you sweat, focuses your intensity, and makes you look forward to doing it the next day. Exercise is walking the dog, doing pullups on the monkey bars, or working out at the gym. Exercise is first in your day because once it’s done, you take the feeling of accomplishment and enthusiasm with you throughout the day. Soldiers always use the morning to exercise.

2. Lead

Leading both yourself and others is the next most important task of the day. At work, at school, in your family, and throughout life, every person is a leader even if they do not have an “official” team assigned. A leader looks to organize to the most important tasks. A leader takes care of others while still accomplishing the mission. A leader sets the example for others and chooses the “right” action even when no one is looking. Society and business need more leaders that “act” as leaders as opposed to the multitude that “appear” as leaders. Great soldiers, no matter their role, always lead.

3. Confront

Confrontation is a strong word but a vital and powerful focus for daily tasks. Confrontation is saying “No!” to the continuation of major problems and stepping in boldly to solve those problems. Soldiers constantly seek to find and to solve the most pressing problems that are reducing the effectiveness of the team and impinging on mission accomplishment. Confrontation is vital for an effective day because you must seek to identify problems, test and create solutions, and then implement the solutions. Great soldiers use an initiative based mindset to seek, to confront and to solve problems.

4. Respond

Plans, schedules, and well-meaning charts never work out 100% - that is the nature of the world. Soldiers are unsurprised by changing conditions and seek to respond proactively and with initiative to surprises, competitor actions, and new information. As with confrontation, a focus on response makes you a leader and a contributor because you are responding to changes and threats. Waiting idly by for instructions, or worse, ignoring the threat are actions that cause missions to fail. Changes happen and the best plans go awry. Great soldiers seek to respond immediately and effectively to changes.

5. Teach

Soldiers are teachers and great soldiers are incredible teachers. Teaching is a commitment to making the future better and a commitment to helping the younger generation be better than yourself. Soldiers know that injury, promotion, and orders may take them from a leadership position at any moment. Therefore, the best way to prepare soldiers and the team is to teach and train everyone to learn new skills, be better leaders, and be ready to move up into a more important role. Few leaders in any organization realize the importance of teaching. Soldiers know that teaching is a core foundation of being a great soldier.

6. Improve

A simple daily commitment to get better at just one thing is the foundation of an improvement ethos. Look around any US Army base and what do you see? Soldiers running, mechanics fixing vehicles, sergeants teaching units of soldiers how to shoot better, and soldiers in a classroom learning about different cultures. A US Army base is literally as focused as a college campus on understanding and improvement. Great soldiers know that they are never done with their skills. Great soldiers always improve.

Do the best you can and do the best you can every day to live your life as a soldier. Soldiers know that somedays are better than others, but each day offers the opportunity to be an even better soldier, a better leader, and a better servant leader to the country.

Chad Storlie is the author of two books: (1) Combat Leader to Corporate Leader and (2) Battlefield to Business Success. Storlie’s brand message is that organizations and individuals need to translate and apply military skills to business because they immediately produce results and are cost effective. He is a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel with 20 plus years of active and Reserve service in Infantry, Special Forces, and joint headquarters units.

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Islandology is Your Guide to Island Life on the Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel

In Southwest Florida, Islandology is always within reach. It’s our way of life. You won’t find high-rises and big crowds, you’ll find endless white-sand beaches, lush wilderness and exotic wildlife. Islandology is about being comfortable with your surroundings and enjoying all the simple pleasures that come with a day at the beach or a night under the stars. Before your family makes the trip, make a few plans. For there are many ways to experience our way of life. Whether it’s chartering a fishing boat, going on a shelling tour or kayaking through shaded mangroves, life on the water is essential to Islandology. The warm Gulf of Mexico makes for a nonstop day of island hopping or an eventful day on the beach. Those same waters also bring the perfect souvenirs — seashells. Sanibel Island is known as the shelling capital of the world, thanks to the hundreds of shells that wash ashore every day. With so many different kinds and colors to collect.

Nature is a large part of Islandology, too. Hundreds of uninhabited islands dot our coast, each with their own ecosystems and wildlife just waiting to be discovered. The J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge is home to hundreds of species of exotic birds and sea life, all viewable from your vehicle on the four-mile Wildlife Drive. Or follow the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve boardwalk. This 1.2-mile elevated trail is a great way to explore Florida’s wetlands without getting your feet wet.

Aside from nature, Southwest Florida has a unique blend of family fun and island living that defines Islandology. For a healthy break from the outdoors, open your mind to the IMAG History and Science Center in Fort Myers. This interactive museum has plenty of kid-friendly exhibits to inspire the next generation of scientists. For another deep dive, Sun Splash Family Waterpark in Cape Coral lets you cool off during quality time with the fam. Dozens of water slides, a children’s play pool and lazy river help you squeeze every drop out of vacation. And for a swashbuckling experience where you play a starring role, try Salty Sam’s Pirate Cruise on Fort Myers Beach. Step aboard a 65-foot replica Spanish galleon for this comedy adventure that includes live cannons, a mutiny against the captain, games and plenty of nautical nonsense.

With so many ways to explore Islandology on The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel, it’s worth staying awhile to do it right. Whether you choose a vacation rental or traditional accommodations like a hotel or resort, you’ll find a variety of lodging options to suit any budget. And it’s all close to Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW). The island vacation of your dreams is here, in a destination that’s just a short drive from Miami, Orlando and Tampa.

To start planning your trip, visit FortMyers-Sanibel.com.
Islandology is our way of life. It’s seeing every sunset as a reminder to slow down. It’s a change of pace you didn’t know you needed. It’s looking back on today, knowing you can do it all again tomorrow.

Plan your trip at FortMyers-Sanibel.com
The Alabama Gulf Coast’s expansive, sugar-white beaches and sparkling water are reason enough for a summer getaway, but with all the activities new to the area this summer, you might want to stay an extra day.

Signature Experiences on Alabama’s beaches

In collaboration with Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Tourism, several area businesses have developed unique experiences you don’t want to miss.

At Gulf State Park, naturalists now host a free Guided Pier Walk where you’ll learn about the pier, marine wildlife and the park’s conservation efforts. Their Angler Academy is a hands-on introduction to saltwater fishing. This free activity includes instruction and all the necessary gear, and is fun for all ages.

Participants in the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo’s Animal Enrichment Program create an enrichment item that they then share with the animals. It’s a great learning opportunity for young and old alike, and a thrill to watch as the animals examine and explore your creation. The zoo’s existing Animal Encounters have been revamped for a more engaging encounter.

Hop aboard a tandem kayak for Wild Native Tour’s guided, three-hour Dolphins and Wildlife Kayak Tour. Explore the peaceful and scenic back bays in search of native wildlife, including playful dolphins.

At Orange Beach Concierge’s Chef’s Table, guests enjoy a multi-course meal of locally-sourced produce, seafood and meats. Chef David Pan presents each course personally.

Learn the how and why of conservation efforts at The Lodge at Gulf State Park during their Ecotourism and Sustainability Tour. See how this remarkable property is designed to protect the environment through conservation, green building practices and recycling.

Craft your own bath, body or home product at High Cotton Bath Company’s Bath Boldly experience. Made from all-natural, paraben-free products, your creation is a one-of-a-kind souvenir of your trip.

Two additional Signature Experiences will launch this fall: LuLu’s Gumbo Love Cooking and Mixology Class, and Fort Morgan’s Civil War-themed escape room, Espionage at Mobile Point.

More New Activities

Meet and swim with a mermaid on an unforgettable two-hour Mermaid Cruise with Caribe Marina and Watersports.

Four new snorkeling reefs provide opportunities for underwater exploration. Two are located near Gulf State Park’s beach pavilion, one is at Alabama Point, and the fourth is at Romar Beach.

Scuba divers will want to explore the New Venture, a 250-foot long former research vessel, sunk in 2018 about 20 miles off the coast of Orange Beach.

Choose to travel to a distant destination, fight off alien invasions, tour a historic landmark, or join in a game at Waterville USA’s Cyberville Virtual Reality Center.

Round out your next trip with one of these new activities and attractions. Learn more about the Signature Experiences and all there is to see and do at GulfShores.com/things-to-do.

Your Next Vacation Just Got a Little More Interesting
Find Your Blue Ridge Mountain Adventure in Hendersonville, North Carolina

The Blue Ridge Mountain town of Hendersonville, North Carolina, combines Southern hospitality, a vibrant downtown, thriving arts scene and outdoor recreation to create one of the most welcoming destinations in the Southeastern United States.

Hendersonville has a unique location on a mountain plateau surrounded by Blue Ridge Mountains, with the Great Smoky Mountains off in the distances. The surrounding peaks create beautiful vistas, while hundreds of acres of old-growth forest provide a natural playground.

Must-do Things in Hendersonville

Visitors love the downtown area. Main Street’s extra wide sidewalks, brick planters, lush landscaping and sitting benches give it a park-like feel. There are blocks of shops, boutiques, galleries, restaurants and pubs. Downtown is home to an aquarium, history museum, children’s science museum, a gem mine and the Appalachian Pinball Museum, where visitors pay an admission fee and play vintage pinball machines and arcade games for hours.

Jump Off Rock, only 15 minutes from downtown Hendersonville, is one of the most easily accessible overlooks in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The peak rises to 3,100 feet in elevation and allows visitors to peer into four states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

A few minutes south of town is the historic village of Flat Rock that was first settled in the 1800s as a cool summer escape for wealthy residents of the Southern flatlands. Many came from Charleston, South Carolina, and the homes they established are beautiful. One of those homes, Connemara, was bought in the 1900s by America’s “poet of the people” Carl Sandburg. Sandburg wrote a third of his life’s work while living at Connemara and when he died in the 1960s, his wife donated it to the National Park Service. It is open seven days week for tours.

Right across the street from the Carl Sandburg Home is the Flat Rock Playhouse, the Official State Theatre of North Carolina. Often called “Little Broadway in the Mountains,” the playhouse offers well-known musical plays, as well as concerts, 10 months out of the year.

Get Outdoors

This beautiful region is home to DuPont State Recreational Forest, a state-maintained recreation area of more than 10,000 acres and approximately 90 miles of trails. There are three famous waterfalls in DuPont Forest and all three can be accessed from the same trail. There are also places for hiking, mountain biking, trout fishing, horseback riding and picnics. People love to cool off with a swim in the natural pool just below Hooker Falls.

Closer in to Hendersonville is Holmes Educational State Forest, a learning forest that focuses on educating people about forestry and trees. One of the most popular activities at Holmes Forest is the Talking Trees Trail, an easy trail to walk that has “talking” trees. Push a button, and the tree will tell you all about that particular kind of species.

For more adventurous souls, The Gorge Zipline is one of the steepest, fastest zipline tours in America. A total of 11 ziplines spanning 1.25 miles plunge into the Green River Gorge with sweeping views of undisturbed mountains on all sides.

Follow the Hendersonville Cheers! Trail

The Cheers! Trail takes visitors to 15 producers of craft beverages in and around Hendersonville. There are nine breweries, three wineries, two cideries and one meadery. Outdoor music in the downtown area is available Friday nights via the Music on Main concert series. These concerts feature regional bands in a variety of genres and are free to attend every Friday from June 7 through Aug. 25. Rhythm & Brews is another outdoor concert series that takes place on Main Street the third Thursday of the month from May through September.

Hendersonville’s status as the leading producer of apples in North Carolina is celebrated with the North Carolina Apple Festival on Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30-Sept. 2. The downtown area is closed off as hundreds of thousands of people attend this celebration of the apple. Vendors sell all types of apple products, as well as other foods and traditional arts and crafts from the Blue Ridge Mountains. Activities include carnival rides, concerts, visits to the orchards and the King Apple Parade on Monday.

Where to Stay

The downtown area offers a wonderful collection of well-appointed bed-and-breakfast inns. Rental cabins, vacation homes and downtown lofts are popular spots to spend a night or two, while several new name-brand hotels have opened in the last two years. Call 800-828-4244 or visit www.VisitHendersonvilleNC.org.
Summer in the Lowcountry
A Guide to the Summer Season in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Just east of Charleston along the South Carolina coastline, you’ll find the lively and charming town of Mount Pleasant. Founded in 1680, this Lowcountry town is minutes away from Historic Charleston and only a short bike ride to some of the area’s finest beaches. Here, the landscape is painted as much by its cool, summer breezes as it is by the people and businesses that inhabit it. Whether you’re looking for a weekend respite, an adventurous getaway, or simply a quick bite, there’s something for everyone in Mount Pleasant.

Get Outside!
With mild winters and idyllic summers, Mount Pleasant is a city best enjoyed outdoors. Grab a bike, kayak, paddleboard, or even just your favorite pair of running shoes, and get out and explore the more than half a dozen parks Mount Pleasant has to offer.

Called the crown jewel of Mount Pleasant, Memorial Waterfront Park is more than just your average park. Located under the grand entryway to the town at the base of the Ravenel Bridge, this park has a lush lawn perfect for family picnics, a nautical-themed playground, and soft-serve ice cream at the River Watch Cafe. At the River Watch Cafe, enjoy beautiful views of the Charleston Harbor and the Mount Pleasant Pier, a 1,250-foot-long pier where you can sit and swing a while, or try your hand at fishing. While you’re there, get a feel for the local culture at the Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Pavilion, War Memorial, and Visitor Center.

Those seeking a bit of adventure can head to Palmetto Island County Park, a 943-acre expanse with nature trails, winding creeks, sand volleyball courts, and playgrounds galore. No need to spend the day on foot — kayaks, bikes, and pedal boats are available daily for rental. Cool down at Splash Island Waterpark (open seasonally), and then check out the views from the 50-foot observation tower.

If it’s beach time you’re after, you need not travel far: A five-minute drive will take you to the Isle of Palms or Sullivan’s Island, two nearby beach towns perfect for a seaside sojourn. The waterfront views continue at Shem Creek, a working creek known for the many restaurants, pelicans, and shrimp boats that call it home. Here, visitors can take advantage of kayaking or paddling expeditions provided by Coastal Expeditions and Nature Adventure Outfitters.

Let’s Eat!
Beyond frequent dolphin sightings, Shem Creek also offers visitors a look at its many fishing boats, which have been supplying the town’s restaurants and farmers markets with local, wild-caught shrimp and crab for decades. Seafood is a must in Mount Pleasant and can be enjoyed at live music hangouts like The Rusty Rudder and The Southern Bar and Grill. But the culinary options don’t stop there: newcomer Grace and Grit is a favorite for their grit flights and SOL Southwest Kitchen and Tequila Bar is frequented for its lineup of masterful margaritas. Beer enthusiasts are in good company at locally beloved breweries Westbrook Brewing, Two Blokes Brewery, and Ghost Monkey Brewery.

Those seeking less of a buzz and more of a sugar remedy need look no further than the town’s Historic Old Village, where Pitt Street Pharmacy has been serving up sensational milkshakes and malts since 1937. More history exists just outside the drug store’s doors, where a series of stately 19th century homes adorn the neighborhood. Fans of the movie, “The Notebook,” might recognize the Old Village as one of the settings for the movie’s fictional town, Seabrook.

Where Past Meets Present
More of Mount Pleasant’s deep-rooted history can be discovered at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, the state’s number one heritage attraction and the fourth largest naval museum in the country. Here, you’ll find the USS Yorktown, a decommissioned World War II vessel which has become a landmark fixture on the Charleston Harbor since its relocation to Patriots Point in 1975.

On the other end of town rests Boone Hall Plantation, one of America’s oldest working plantations whose history can be dated back to its founding in 1681. Easily recognized for the moss-draped oaks that line the three-quarter mile drive up to the house, NBC Daytime television dubbed this natural corridor “a must-see stop on any trip to Charleston, S.C.” The historic property is now a destination for weddings and special events year-round, from autumn’s Taste of Charleston to January’s Lowcountry Oyster Festival, the world’s largest oyster festival.

A haven for foodies, fish enthusiasts, and history fanatics alike, Mount Pleasant offers visitors a place to call home, even if just for the weekend.

For more ways to experience Mount Pleasant, visit ExperienceMountPleasant.com.
Have you ever visited a place where you immediately felt welcome and just knew that you would come back again and again? The County of Kent, on Maryland’s Upper Eastern Shore, is that place, and is less than a two-hour drive from Philadelphia or Washington D.C.

The peaceful vistas, farms, vineyards and open space reminds us of a time past and where hustle and bustle are nowhere to be found. Enjoy the serenity and beauty, but be ready to have fun, for this quaint countryside is host to hundreds of events. Combine an event with attractions, recreational activities, local fresh foods, natural history, shopping, musical and theatrical performances, and you have the perfect escape in the historic towns of Chestertown, Rock Hall, Galena, Millington, Betterton, Kennedyville, and Georgetown.

Enjoy this 209 miles of shoreline scenic peninsula. Located directly on the Chesapeake Bay, Rock Hall has more than a dozen marinas, and trams that make it easy to get around town. The renovated Chestertown Marina and waterfront is host to a visitor center among a ship’s store, showers for slip holders and transient boaters. The Sassafras Harbor hosts a restaurant, an inn, marinas, and stunning sunsets. Anglers, look no further, for almost two dozen fishing captains are geared up and ready to set you on course to great fishing.

Passionate Paddlers will love the convenience of 30 public landings and the abundance of calm rivers and creeks. Kayak tours and rentals can be found in Chestertown or Rock Hall, or join one of Sultana’s themed guided tours.

For the Love of Nature, Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, nestled along the Chesapeake Bay and Chester River, has seven unique hiking trails. Turners Creek and the Sassafras River Natural Resources Management Area has three miles of shoreline and 143-acres of woodlands, wetlands and agriculture fields.

Views from the Beaches. In Rock Hall at Ferry Park beachgoers can enjoy the charming strip of beach, complete with a quaint...
Find the coveted Texan experience in Mesquite, Texas. Just 15 minutes east of Downtown Dallas, bring the family and reunite with old friends where real authentic Texas culture is thriving. Declared the ‘Rodeo Capital of Texas’, Mesquite has held on to the traditions of rodeo and BBQ at the Mesquite Championship Rodeo in the air-conditioned Mesquite Arena. This world-famous rodeo has been thrilling visitors since 1958.

Just like the sport of rodeo, the arena has evolved into a top-notch concert facility hosting thousands for acts like the Charlie Daniels Band, the Temptations, and Keith Sweat. As it has transformed into a premier venue and as rodeo season approaches in June, the Mesquite Championship Rodeo is thrilled to have Mark Chestnutt kick off the season with a performance on June 1 and Clay Walker ending another thrilling season as the finale performer on Aug. 24.

Along with the rodeo, take advantage of the multitude of entertainment options found in Mesquite. Head to the adrenaline pumping Devil’s Bowl Speedway for the fastest boxcars at the Southwest’s most famous dirt track. Purchase a pit pass to watch the race in the center of the unique, D-shaped track and take great pictures inside the cars. Get in the driver’s seat and press the gas to race go-carts at Celebration Station. Play the ultimate mind games in the escape rooms of XcapeDFW Adventures. Enjoy shopping at Town East Mall with close to 200 stores and a food court to satisfy any taste or head to Downtown Mesquite to show some local love to Mesquite’s unique shops and eateries.

Mesquite is a welcoming and active community with events every month such as the popular Summer Sizzle that is on June 8 from 4-10:30 p.m. at Paschall Park, one of Mesquite’s most popular green spaces. This annual festival is an excellent time for families to enjoy live music, food trucks, children’s activities, a mud volleyball tournament and more. It will all end with a fireworks show set to music. Entrance into the park is free, but some activities will have a fee. Make sure to mark your calendars with Mesquite’s other fun events this summer including Movies in the Park on June 21, Doggie Splash Day on Aug. 10, and the Dive-In Movie on Aug. 16. Also during the summer, enjoy time at the Mesquite Arts Center with a great rotation of local artists in the gallery and performances by the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra and Mesquite Arts Theater.

A weekend away would not be complete without great food. From savory barbecue to traditional Tex-Mex favorites, Mesquite elevates and diversifies Texas flavor. Find unique options such as Caribbean, Greek, and South American flavors in some of the local Mesquite gems. Be sure to check out our list of Zagat-rated eateries and our newest restaurant, the Porch Swing that offers a modern take on southern comfort food complete with fresh pies every day.

Mesquite is the prime place to bring family and friends together for reunions. Picturesque City Lake Park encompasses 20 acres and covered picnic pavilions right next to a serene lake. Plan the perfect reunion with plenty of

See MESQUITE REUNIONS Pg. 50
Chattanooga — Civil War, Distilleries and Music Galore!

Chattanooga is a gateway to Tennessee and is nestled along the banks of the beautiful Tennessee River and surrounded by the spectacular scenic beauty of Lookout Mountain and the Cumberland Plateau. You will enjoy a newly revitalized riverfront city, first class attractions, great Southern hospitality, rich Civil War history, outdoor adventures and locally owned restaurants & cafes, a thriving music scene with plenty of annual festivals and events that offer year-round fun.

We are located right off of Interstates I-24; I-59 and I-75. You can park your car downtown and check out the free Electric Shuttle or grab a Bike Share Bike and ride over to the NorthShore.

History Buffs?
You will love our rich Civil War history. It’s explained in detail when you start your visit on Lookout Mountain at the Battles for Chattanooga Museum presentation taking you back to November 1863. www.battlesforchattanooga.com

Don’t miss the 13’ x 30’ painting done by an eye-witness to the “Battle Above the Clouds” located in the National Park Service Visitors Center next door to the Battles Museum. Then, stroll over to Point Park Battlefield just across the street. The view of the river and downtown is not to be missed. (Small fee charged for Point Park for ages 16 and up) www.nps.gov/chch

Speaking of historic Lookout Mountain, you’ll also find a few other things to do such as, riding the steepest Incline Railway in the world to checking out the new $20 million dollar renovation at Ruby Falls and then, going underground to see a 145’ waterfall. Take a break and have lunch at the Big Rock Grille or dine with a view at the See Seven States Café then, enjoy a leisure walk through the award-winning gardens at Rock City Gardens. www.lookoutmountain.com

Next take a short drive down to the Chickamauga Battlefield in Fort Oglethorpe to see the movie presentation of “Death Knell of the Confederacy” at the Chickamauga NPS Visitor’s Center as well as the Fuller Gun Collection. Then, head out to tour the oldest and largest National Military Park in the USA. Many military leadership classes have made the pilgrimage to the Chickamauga Chattanooga National Military Park to study the many generals and battles fought here during the Civil War. This first military park was established by Congress in 1889.

Outdoor Lover?
Then don’t miss our great outdoor adventures like kayaking, paddle-boarding or canoeing right in downtown. You are only a 15 minute drive to hiking trails, mountain biking or rock climbing indoors and out. www.outdoorchattanooga.com

If you love MUSIC then check out our 4-Day Riverbend Music Festival with four nights of great See CHATTANOOGA Pg. 50
Chattanooga

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acts each year in late May/early June. This year’s Lineup May 29–June 1, 2019 is Weezer; Lionel Richie, Keith Urban and Macklemore with tickets ranging from $70-$80. Check out the full schedule at www.RiverbendFestival.com.

Want Something More Intimate?
Check out the new Station Street Entertainment District next door to the Choo Choo Complex. Start with a tour of the Songbirds Guitar Museum with one of the largest and most rare collections in the world then, check their schedule for concerts in the new Songbirds North or South Halls. https://events.songbirds.rocks/ You can even grab an artesian cocktail or local craft beer at STIR Restaurant, Terminal Brewhouse, or the Backstage Bar and walk “the district”.

Love to Dance?
Enjoy line-dancing at Westbound Bar or hang out at Regan’s Place dancing the night away to 80’s and 90’s music. Interested in TN Whiskey? Just walk across the street and take a tour & tasting at Chattanooga Whiskey Company’s distillery or try the new vodka distillery at Gate 11 Distillery’s tour and tasting located at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Complex.

Here are a few other great things not to miss: the Tennessee Aquarium, the world’s largest fresh-water aquarium and IMAX 3D theater; enjoy an evening at a Chattanooga Lookouts AA baseball game on Hawk Hill downtown or a late night Chattanooga Ghost Tour. Or take a dinner cruise on the Southern Belle Riverboat or splash down the next morning in a Chattanooga Duck, a WWII amphibious military vehicle for a fun river ride to remember.

We guarantee to provide you and your family with a vacation that you will talk about for years to come. Whatever thrills you – we think you will find it in Chattanooga Tennessee. Come see this place we call home – Chattanooga!

For more information check our website at www.ChattanoogaFun.com or email Shelda Spencer Rees at ssrees@chattanoogacvb.com. Interested in a Military Reunion City? Contact Jeannie Tatum, our reunion specialist at jeanniet@chattanoogacvb.com.

For a few glorious weeks, autumn crowns the Smoky Mountains with spectacular color. This year, travel the backroads and follow the rivers for the best fall views of all your own. When you’ve never seen the Smokies look more beautiful, you know you’re in Sevierville. Four Smokies start here.

Mesquite Reunions
Cont’d from page 48

space for games and activities. After a packed day exploring Mesquite and making memories, rest your head at one of our five premier hotels. TownePlace Suites, Courtyard, and Fairfield Inn are the three Marriott properties that happily call Mesquite home along with the Holiday Inn Express and the Hampton Inn and Suites connected to the Mesquite Convention Center and a short walk from the Mesquite Arena. These fabulous hotels come with various, luxury amenities and are pet-friendly, so feel free to bring the furriest family member on your vacation.

Mesquite offers a welcoming community and entertainment, dining and lodging options for an affordable price. We encourage you to check out VisitMesquiteTX.com for more information on how to plan your trip.

“One of the Eleven Most Impressive Waterfalls in the U.S.” - TripAdvisor
Clarksville, Tennessee Honors Veterans with 5 Day Celebration in September

Clarksville, Tenn. is a community that appreciates veterans. The city borders the Fort Campbell Army Post, so appreciating military service is simply the way of life for both residents and businesses. Beyond the ingrained respect, the community publicly honors its heroes with an annual five-day Welcome Home Veterans Celebration. This year, during September 18-22, the community will host multiple activities to celebrate and honor veterans.

New activities on tap for 2019 include:
• 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit, a tribute to all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. The memorial provides interactive education, including artifacts such as steel beams from the towers, documentary videos, and recordings of first responder radio transmissions. Interactive guided tours are carried out by FDNY firefighters who provide firsthand accounts of the day and its aftermath.
• Traveling Korean War Memorial, consists of 19 soldiers walking through a Korean rice paddy and three soldiers off to the side setting up a campfire.

Returning Activities for the Celebration Week include:
• Lee Greenwood Concert. Enjoy this American music legend in a free outdoor concert.
• American Traveling Tribute Wall is an 80-percent scale version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC and contains every name that is etched on the original monument.
• Field of Honor - Veterans Tribute flag display is part of a nationally recognized community program that demonstrates the strength and unity of Americans
• A Wreath Laying and Massing of the Colors will take place at the Wall.

See all exhibits and the Lee Greenwood concert at Beachaven Vineyards and Winery, 1100 Dunlop Lane.

Keep up to date with all activities, register for events online, or explore hotel packages at welcomehomeveteranscelebration.com or contact Frances Manzitto by email at frances@visitclarksvilletn.com or phone at 931-245-4345.

AARP is the premier sponsor for all event activities. Clarksville is located 40 miles northwest of Nashville near the Tennessee/Kentucky border on I-24.
As if the unseasonably warm temperatures, budding trees, and blooming flowers weren’t enough, a sure sign that spring is coming is the start of Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad’s 2019 season.

Located in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, Potomac Eagle is less than three hours from Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Washington, DC. Close enough for a day trip, yet far enough away to escape the hustle and bustle of the everyday.

Your journey begins at Wappocomo Station, situated next to a charming homestead and a sprawling view of the mountains. Enjoy the sounds of vintage diesels as they lead you through beautiful pastures and farms dating back to the 1700s. As you wind along the South Branch of the Potomac River, you’ll enter a visually striking gorge known as the Trough. One of the most scenic spots along the South Branch, the Trough is home to American bald eagles.

Bald eagles need clean water and tall, mature trees for suitable habitat. The South Branch provides the perfect home. Plus, the Trough, the six-mile-long, steep, narrow canyon that the South Branch flows through, limits access to this area. This isolation is the most important need for bald eagles to thrive.

Mature bald eagles are easy to spot with their distinctive white head and tail feathers and yellow beak and feet. Juveniles have mottled-brown tail, head, and body feathers with some white in the wing linings while their talons and bill are yellow. Although eagles are spotted on over 90% of excursions, May and June are the best times to see the young eaglets.

While bald eagles are the main attraction for most passengers, Potomac Eagle offers something for everyone! A favorite way to view the scenery and those majestic eagles is a ride in one of our observation cars. One has a roof but large open windows; guests can ride here anytime during the trip. The other observation car is the gondola. It is completely open with no roof. Passengers can ride there while traveling through the Trough.

Potomac Eagle offers two classes of service with unique passenger cars. Step back in time and ride in a 1920s passenger coach. Open a window and enjoy the breeze as the train travels along the South Branch. Or treat yourself to Club, which includes meal service aboard a 1950s lounge car.

Excursions include narration about the railroad, local history, and things to do in the area. Romney is in Hampshire County, the oldest county in West Virginia, established in 1754. The 52.4-mile line runs through three counties—from Green Spring to Petersburg—and is an original Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line, over 100 years old. When West Virginia purchased the line in 1978, it became the first state to own and operate its own freight service. Potomac Eagle began scenic excursions in 1991.

Special events this season include Father’s Day, and Veteran’s Day Trough Trips. On these trips, moms, dads, and veterans (respectively) ride free in Coach with a paid adult or senior ticket. These tickets must be purchased by phone.

For full schedule, fares, and reservations, visit potomaceagle.com or call 304-424-0736.
World of Speed Motorsports Museum

World of Speed Motorsports Museum celebrates its fourth anniversary this April and while the museum pulls in visitors from across the state and country, as well as from around the globe, the majority of the United States still doesn’t know much about the Museum, located just outside of Portland, Oregon.

“The reaction to first time guests is pure awe,” says the museum’s Executive Director Dave Pearson. “Once people come in and see everything we’re doing, they realize we are much more than a car museum.”

World of Speed opened in April 2015 and is the only museum in the Pacific Northwest that showcases cars, motorcycles, and hydroplanes. The Museum opens several new feature exhibits each year, along with a host of other vehicles that are continually changing to offer guests something new every time they visit. “We work hard to keep things fresh and exciting,” says Curator Ron Huegli. “Sometimes we can get a special car for just a few weeks, in between car shows or races. They don’t fit into a feature exhibit, but they showcase a different part of motorsports or motorsports history and have a story that needs to be told.”

Pearson says the Museum is committed to creating exhibits of national importance or relevance, and in March they opened Mario Andretti: Racing Royalty, a look back at the five-decade career of America’s most successful race driver. “We worked closely with Mario and his family to create this exhibit and have some exclusive video we shot with them early this year that help make this exhibit something special,” says Pearson. Some of the cars include Mario’s first race car, a reproduction of the 1949 Hudson he built with twin brother Aldo, and the rare 1967 Ford GT40 Mk IV that Mario won the 12 Hours of Sebring endurance race with.

The other feature exhibit on display is Harley-Davidson: America’s Motorcycle which celebrates the iconic company’s role in American culture. Highlights of the exhibit include a bike from the popular TV show Sons of Anarchy and a world-recording breaking landspeed bike from Steve Dorn.

But the Museum is much more than just cars and motorcycles. The Automotive Learning Center is home to two high-tech classrooms and an educational automotive shop with 11 bays. As part of World of Speed’s commitment to Career and Technical Education, the Museum hosts nine different high schools for automotive classes each week during the school year. This year, the program added an advanced class for second-year students which has been a big hit.

The summer months at World of Speed are filled with week-long camps for kids in grades K-12. These racing-inspired STEAM-focused camps include Racing 101 and 201, where campers race go-karts at nearby Pat’s Acres and take a spin on the three racecar simulators in the Museum.

The Start Line Kids Club is filled with interactive educational games and activities that engage children at multiple development levels, but the Super Service Center is a favorite for many kids. It’s a kid-sized, two-sided model car that replicated the experience of an actual auto repair shop, including changing tires and checking the oil.

The World of Speed Motorsports Museum is located at 27490 SW 95th Ave. in Wilsonville, and is open Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check the website for more information at http://www.worldofspeed.org/ or call at 503-563-6444.

Go Off-Road in ATV-Friendly West Virginia!

Hatfield-McCoy Trails

If you own a full-size off-road vehicle and are looking for a challenge, you'll find it on the Hatfield-McCoy Bearwallow Trail. Bearwallow is located just outside of the ATV-friendly town of Logan, West Virginia - with easy access to food, lodging, fuel and real down-home hospitality.

Bearwallow is one of the most popular trails on the world-renowned Hatfield-McCoy Trail System and is the only trail in the system open to ORVs. Of course ATVs, UTVs and off-road motorcycles are also welcome. Bearwallow is a mix of easy-riding tracks with scenic vistas and the trail system's most demanding, expert-level runs. All Hatfield-McCoy Trails are open 365 days a year from sunrise until sunset.

Paid for by the Logan County Development Authority.
sunsets. Betterton Beach, known for its nettle-free swimming, has 500 feet of boardwalk, a picnic pavilion atop a bay view bluff, bath houses, picnic tables, a beach volleyball court, a fishing jetty, and a public pier.

Foodies will Love the local markets and restaurants brimming with fresh produce and meats, and straight-from-the-water seafood. The award-winning Chestertown Farmers and Artisans market begins every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. in Fountain Park. Nestled just outside of the town of Kennedyville is Crow Winery. This award-winning winery is also a vineyard, working farm, and Farm Stay B&B. Cassinelli Distilling and Bad Alfred’s, located in Downtown Chestertown, offers visitors a close up as vodka, gin and brandy are made, and then the tastings begin—directly from the stills. Continue your wine and spirits tour at Casa Carmen Wine Bar, also in Downtown Chestertown.

History buffs. Located on the banks of the Chester River, Chestertown has the second largest collection of 18th and 19th century structures in the state of Maryland. Washington College, located in Chestertown and founded in 1782, is the tenth oldest college in the Nation. George Washington personally gave use of his name and a founding gift of 50 guineas.

A Traditionally Friendly Shopping Experience awaits you in the quaint towns of Kent County. From the whimsical shops and antique stores of Rock Hall and Galena to boutique stores and art galleries in Chestertown, you will find one-of-a-kind gifts, sprinkled with old fashion friendly service.

Body and Mind. Here visitors seeking relaxation and physical and spiritual renewal will find a wide variety of practitioners (more than 30) who together create a dynamic focal point for a holistic, healthy vacation experience. There is something about the quiet of country that lends itself to a great night’s sleep. Many of the accommodations, ranging from luxury inns and bed and breakfasts to an award-winning campground, and everything in between, feature amenities like swimming pools, stand up paddle boards or kayaks, bicycles, and more. Many welcome your 4-legged family as well.

Please visit www.kentcounty.com, and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at visitkentcounty.

Upcoming Events
- First Fridays in Downtown Chestertown
- 2nd Saturdays Chestertown
- Chestertown Tea Party
  May 24 through 26; throughout Downtown
  chestertownteaparty.org
- Rock Hall Spring Triathlon
  June 1 & 2; Rock Hall Landing Marina
  kineticmultisports.com
- National Music Festival
  June 2-15; Throughout Kent County
  nationalmusic.us
- Rock Hall Rockfish Tournament
  June 7th & 8th; Rock Hall Bulkhead
- 48th Antique Fly-In
  June 8; Massey Aerodrome & Air Museum
  masseyaero.org
- Music in The Park: Chestertown
  June 6-Aug. 31 - Every other Saturday
- 34th Bay to Bay Bicycle Ride
  June 23; Begins at Betterton Fire Company
  racehead.com
- Waterman’s Day
  June 30; Rock Hall Harbor
- 4th of July in Kent County
  July 4; Great Oak Marina Fireworks
  July 3; Rock Hall Fireworks
  July 4; Rock Hall Parade
  July 4; Chestertown Fireworks
- Kent County Fair
  July 19, 20 & 21; 4-H Park, Tolchester Beach Rd.
  racehead.com

For more information and a complete list of events, visit kentcounty.com/events.
You stand tall and dedicate your life to serving our country. No doubt you’d want the same dedication and pride from the university you choose to attend.

Designated a “Top Ten Military Friendly School” since 2009 for its online programs, Ball State University has several degree options that cater to your military career and in fields related to your current skills and training — from information technology to nursing to law enforcement and more.

What Makes Us So Military Friendly?

For starters, you have the opportunity to qualify for college-level studies pursued during your military service. Additionally, we’re certified for the GI Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program, both providing financial aid for veterans, spouses, and dependents and waive the application fee for active service military personnel.

Ball State’s Veteran’s Affairs staff consists of veterans who have been in the same spot as you. They are dedicated to helping fellow military members — active and veteran — achieve their educational goals. Our Veteran’s Affairs provides advice, guidance, advocacy and outreach services to veterans, reservists, guardsmen and family members who use veterans’ benefits.

How Online Education Compares

Ball State was among the nation’s first universities to offer online-only classes in the 1990s and was also the first higher education institution in the country to earn Learner Support Program Certification for its online programs, a recognition given by Quality Matters (QM), a leading quality assurance organization for online education. This certification tells you, the student, that we provide all the critical student and academic services needed for learner success.

The same professors who teach on our main campus also teach online classes, ensuring the same rigorous academic experience for all of their students. These professors not only have a true commitment to the success of their students, but they are also active in their fields, committed to research and developing best practices to further online education.

And while you might not interact face-to-face with classmates, you will connect through the latest in collaborative technology. Best of all, you’ll be learning from nationally recognized and accredited programs all on your own time. There are no set “classroom sessions.” You log in wherever and whenever your time allows, just as long as you complete required assignments when they are due.

Why a Ball State Degree?

A Ball State degree prepares you to be future leaders and innovators. Degree programs focus on practical experience and skills, in addition to research and bookwork, that you can apply immediately to your job — giving you an instant edge and payoff.

And just like our “Military Friendly” ranking, our online bachelor and graduate programs consistently rank among the best in the nation, according to “U.S. News and World Report.” Choose to earn a college diploma that will give you confidence in the marketplace of jobs and excel in your next career. Learn more at bsu.edu/online/Griffon.
Open Doors to a Fullfilling Career at DMU

It's no news that earning a master's degree can open more doors and new windows in your career. It may be more years of school and it may be more expensive than the four-year undergrad degree. But in today's competitive market, it can be the difference between a promotion and falling behind.

For our veterans and service members in the military, a master's degree rounds them out as some of the most desired prospects for hiring managers. Many of our service members develop great skill sets that are heavily valued and in high demand in both the armed forces and the private sectors.

Military officials are also encouraging recruits to pursue higher degrees to help complement those soft skills, and most colleges and universities have scholarship and financial aid resources specifically for veterans and military students. Most branches of the military also offer service members tuition assistance toward their undergrad degrees while on active duty. In doing so, military members are able to preserve more benefits through the GI Bill, which they can then put toward a graduate degree.

"My supervisor in the Coast Guard really encouraged it," said Noelle Kitenko, a lieutenant in the Coast Guard Reserves in Portsmouth, VA. Ltn. Kitenko earned her bachelor's degree through the Coast Guard Academy and graduated from Divine Mercy University’s (DMU) Master's in Psychology online program this past December. "I was already interested in psychology and behavior," she said, "but Divine Mercy University’s Catholic philosophy and worldview on psychology made it especially attractive and, for me, the GI Bill was able to cover tuition and costs."

"A master's in any concentration is great," she continued, "and it's definitely helpful putting you in a position for promotion. It shows that you have an aptitude for learning and finding ways to improve. With the Coast Guard, the master's degree helps put me in position to be promoted to Lt. Commander."

"Continued learning doesn’t only keep us abreast in the fields of work or study," said Staff Sgt. William Johnston, a first-year student in DMU’s APA-Accredited Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology program. Johnston served in the Army for over 10 years, with deployments in Iraq and Kuwait, and had attained the rank of Staff Sergeant before leaving the force.

"It also aids in personal and professional growth," he continued. "I decided to continue my education after separating from the Army, in part due to my long-held desire to serve others. I feel called to serve others by providing therapy to those most in need; therefore, I must gain the necessary education and license to become a psychologist. However, perhaps even more importantly, continued education often has a secondary effect of fostering development in topics such as diversity, morality, and ethics, which is beneficial as a citizen and diplomat while serving in the military abroad."

For Staff Sgt. Garrett Boyer, another student in DMU’s Psy.D. program, education was high on the list of things he needed to do in order to rise in the military. "On day one of basic training, he said, "one of our drill sergeants said 'If you want to advance in the Army, there are three things you can do: first, show up at the place, at the right time, wearing the right uniform every day; second, score really well on your physical training test; and third get education under your belt.'"

— Staff Sgt. Garrett Boyer

On day one of basic training one of our drill sergeants said ‘If you want to advance in the Army, there are three things you can do: first, show up at the place, at the right time, wearing the right uniform every day; second, score really well on your physical training test; and third get education under your belt.’

— Staff Sgt. Garrett Boyer

"That's in large part because of my degree in psychology," he said. "I'm going in as a medical service officer, specifically to help soldiers and their families as a psychologist." Whether you're a veteran looking to change careers, on active duty planning your future or working in the private sector, earning a master's degree or higher will not only help make the transition easier, but will also open doors to new possibilities and opportunities to lead a more fulfilling career.

For these service members, Divine Mercy University opened the right doors for their future. DMU is a nonprofit graduate university that offers online master's degrees in Psychology and Clinical Mental Health Counseling, as well as a Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology on campus. The university supports all military veterans and service members and does everything within its power to help continue their education and accelerate their future, including offering a 10 percent scholarship discount to all active military and veteran applicants. All degrees are approved for Veteran Educational Benefits and benefits through the GI Bill and the Yellow Ribbon Education Enhancement Program.

You can find more information about DMU by visiting their website at https://enrol.divinemercy.edu/.
Master’s of Science in Psychology (online)

The online masters of science in psychology degree provides professional competency in psychology sciences while developing an integrative understanding of the Catholic-Christian understanding of the human person. Be in charge of a degree that gives you flexibility to work and have family time.

Master’s in Counseling in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

The hybrid online and in person residency degree helps students acquire the necessary counseling knowledge and skills needed to educate and practice in the core dispositions established by industry standards. State of the art technology is used for both asynchronous (traditional online learning) with significant use of video taping of various clinical and professional skills to be reviewed by peers and faculty, and synchronous learning where students will have virtual face-to-face interactions in their learning process.

Are you ready to advance your career with a master’s degree? Call 703 - 416 1441

All degree programs offered at Divine Mercy University have been approved for Veterans Educational Benefits, GI Bill Funding Eligibility, and Yellow Ribbon G.I. Bill Education Enhancement Program.

Last year we awarded over $1 MILLION in scholarships and grants!

Learn how you can receive up to 30% off tuition! Call (703) 416-8300 use code MILIT30 enroll.divinemercy.edu
How Art and Design School Could Be Your Next Step

Transitioning from military to civilian life is not an easy process, especially when it comes to shifting professional industries. Former members of the military with an interest in art and design careers may find it particularly challenging since the two roles seem worlds apart.

However, the disciplined training that soldiers receive in the military often translates well even to corporate or creative fields. After all, it requires the same dedication and focus to build a career out of their newly earned degrees and skill sets, whether as a start-up entrepreneur, a freelancer, or a traditional employee at an established company.

From Military Career to College Student

Crucial to making a successful shift is undergoing a different kind of learning and training. Academy of Art University welcomes military students with a passion to succeed in a new career by providing the necessary assistance, so they may leave with skills they need to excel in their chosen field.

What helps make this possible, apart from a wide array of solid course options, are the numerous, comprehensive resources and reliable support system made easily accessible for our veterans.

The Academy also provides prospective students with information on Military Scholarships, Military Tuition Assistance, Veterans GI Benefits, and more to make the transition much smoother.

Why Choose the Academy of Art University?

Located in San Francisco, the Academy of Art University has been equipping students for creative careers for more than 90 years. From the days of pad and pencil to the current digital revolution, the Academy has always been on the forefront of innovation in the programs it offers its students. Its current offerings include more than 40 creative areas of study that have deeply influenced the artists and designers of the early 21st century. Alumni achievements are broad and include such feats as winning Emmy awards to creating commercial advertisements for the Super Bowl.

California’s Academy of Art University has earned the distinction of one of the leading art schools in the United States. The following are three ways in which the Academy creates a supportive learning environment that inspires the launching of successful careers.

- Experienced Instructors. The Academy’s stringent hiring standards mean that students benefit from the experience of instructors with years of experience in their fields. Many of whom still work in them in addition to teaching. Job coaches and mentors are also available to students.
- Modern Facilities and Equipment. The Academy of Art University provides students with access to the newest and highest performing technologies of art schools across the United States. This equipment military students can look forward to using include green screens, robotic labs, teleprompters and anchor desks consistent with industry standards, metal shops, voiceover studios, soundstages, MAC and PC high-end workstations, and much more.

Innovation in Curriculum. With its constant focus on upcoming technology, the Academy often implements new technologies into its programs long before other schools. Augmented reality, drone flying, and virtual reality are just three recent examples used in their degree programs.

Meet John K. Moeslein, Former Marine and Current Movie Actor

John K. Moeslein, a 2013 graduate of the School of Motion Picture and Television, could not have imagined he would ever have a part in a Hollywood movie when he was a member of the United States Marines. However, that became a reality for Moeslein in late 2018 with the release of the movie Blindsiding.

At just 22 years old, Moeslein joined the Marines after feeling a deep conviction to serve the country after the devastating terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. After completing two tours of duty in Iraq, Moeslein enrolled at Ohio State University unsure of the direction of his future. He states that it wasn’t until more than two years into the program that he questioned what he was doing.

This sense of uncertainty led Moeslein on a four-month drive across the country that ultimately landed him in San Francisco. The drive gave him clarity that he wanted to pursue acting as his next career, but he felt overwhelmed with the idea of living in Hollywood. He found the Academy of Art University through Google and enrolled shortly after. As a veteran, Moeslein took advantage of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill to help him pay for his arts education.

Veteran Support Offered by the Academy of Art University

The Academy of Art University offers two primary sources of support for active and retired members of the military. These include:

- Veteran Support: The Academy welcomes all military members who wish to use the G.I. Bill® to help pay for their schooling. The benefits available through this program depend on each student’s status with the Veteran’s Administration (VA). The Academy’s associate director of financial aid, Kenneth Ortiz, states that most students use the portion of the benefits entitled Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits. The Academy of Art University also participates in other veteran financial aid programs such as the Yellow Ribbon Program. This program provides funds for expenses not covered by the G.I. Bill®. As a participating school, the Academy covers half of the eligible student’s fees and tuition to match the amount paid by the VA. The Academy imposes no limits on its Yellow Ribbon Program, which means that any student veteran will receive what he or she is eligible for with the VA.

Veterans Resources: The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) located at 79 Montgomery Street, is available to all veterans. It provides resources outside of education such as the ability to enroll for healthcare or obtain an identification card through the VA.

The VRC offers numerous workstations for students and a lounge and vending area to study or socialize with fellow veteran students. The Academy often implements new technologies into its programs long before other schools. Augmented reality, drone flying, and virtual reality are just three recent examples used in their degree programs.

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THINK YOU’VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES?
Get a jump start on your education at Academy of Art University. Study onsite or online.

“Do everything you can to make sure that your toolbox has everything in it that you think it’s going to need, and when you think you have everything, go and look for more.” —Daryn LaBier, MFA, Army Veteran

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