

AutoMatters & More



Driverless, high-speed racing - INDY Autonomous Challenge. **Page 9**

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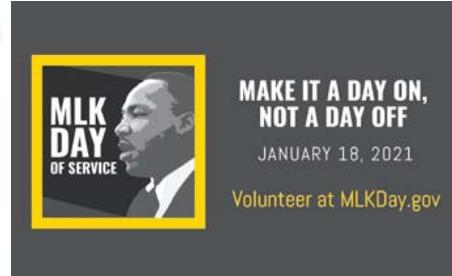
See page 10

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SIXTIETH YEAR NO. 38
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

CNO GILDAY RELEASES NAVIGATION PLAN 2021

NEW PLAN HIGHLIGHTS SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION SYMPOSIUM

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Gilday released his Navigation Plan to the Fleet during virtual remarks at the Surface Navy Association Symposium, Jan. 11.

"America is a maritime nation - our security and stability depend on the seas," Gilday said. "The U.S. Navy is America's away team, and alongside our allies and partners, we defend freedom, preserve economic prosperity, and keep the seas open and free. Today, we are engaged in a long-term competition. China and Russia are rapidly modernizing their militaries to challenge the international order that has benefited so many for so long. To defend our Nation and interests around the globe, we must be prepared to flawlessly execute our Navy's timeless roles of sea control and power projection. Joining with the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, we will generate decisive Integrated All-Domain Naval Power. There is no time to waste; our actions in this decade will set the maritime balance of power for the rest of the century."

This Navigation Plan nests under the recently-released Tri-Service Maritime Strategy and outlines how the U.S. Navy will grow its naval power to control the seas and project power across all domains, both now and in the



Cover art created for the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday's Navigation Plan (NAVPLAN) 2021. Navy graphic by MC1 Raymond D. Diaz III

future. It builds off the progress made under FRAGO and lays out what must be done this decade to deliver the naval power America needs to compete and win. This will be done by focusing on four key areas:

•Sailors: Develop a Seasoned Team of Naval Warriors

Objective: A dominant naval force that can outthink and outfight any adversary. Our Sailors

will remain the best trained and educated force in the world. We will cultivate a culture of warfighting excellence rooted in our core values.

• Readiness: Deliver a More Ready Fleet

Objective: A Navy that is manned, trained, and equipped to deploy forward and win in day-to-day competition, in crisis, and in conflict. We will

consistently deliver maintenance on-time and in full, refurbish our critical readiness infrastructure, master all-domain fleet operations, and exercise with like-minded navies to enhance our collective strength.

•Capabilities: Delivering a More Lethal, Better-Connected Fleet

Objective: A Navy capable of projecting synchronized lethal

and non-lethal effects across all domains. We will deploy the Naval Operational Architecture by the middle of this decade; an array of counter-C5ISR capabilities; weapons of increasing range and speed; and a directed-energy system capable of defeating anti-ship cruise missiles.

•Capacity: Deliver a Larger, Hybrid Fleet

Objective: A larger, hybrid fleet of manned and unmanned platforms - under, on, and above the sea - that meets the strategic and operational demands of our force. We will deliver the Columbia-class program on time; incorporate unmanned systems into the fleet; expand our undersea advantage, and field the platforms necessary for Distributed Maritime Operations.

"For 245 years, in both calm and rough waters, our Navy has stood the watch to protect the homeland, preserve freedom of the seas, and defend our way of life," Gilday said. "The decisions and investments we make this decade will set the maritime balance of power for the rest of this century. We can accept nothing less than success. I am counting on you to take in all lines and get us where we need to go - and to do so at a flank bell."

To read CNO's Navigation Plan in its entirety, refer to <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/display-pressreleases/Article/2467465/cno-releases-navigation-plan-2021/>.

Service members executing overseas orders must test negative for COVID-19 prior to flying

All Sailors and family members executing outside the continental United States (OCONUS) travel orders are required to have a negative Coronavirus test prior to travel, according to NAVADMIN 03/21 released Jan. 7, 2021.

Many countries are now requiring negative test results for service members before arrival. Testing is the responsibility of the service member, and they must determine their individual requirements based upon their destination location by referring to the Foreign Clearance Guide (FCG) and their airline's policy.

OCONUS travelers must have a negative viral COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) within 72 hours of embarkation. An antigen test may be used for testing prior to travel when a molecular test

see Test, page 4

ADAPTATION OF 'ASHLEY'S WAR' COMING TO BIG SCREEN

The movie adaptation of 'Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield,' is scheduled for the big screen, according to Universal Pictures.

Lesli Linka Glatter will direct Universal's Ashley's War, based on the bestseller written by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon.

The book tells the story of the creation by the U.S. Army Special Operations Command of a pilot program that allowed elite women Soldiers on the battlefield with Green Berets and

Army Rangers in Afghanistan in 2010. The unit, Cultural Support Team 2, brought together a hand-picked group of women from the Army, and that included 1st Lt. Ashley White, who would become the first CST member killed in action.

In August 2011, Lt. Ashley White Stumpf joined an entirely female Army cultural support team, or CST, that would soon deploy to Afghanistan into combat alongside various elite elements of the military's special operations community.



Lt. Ashley White Stumpf. Courtesy photo

As a member of the specialized CST-2, White's job, highly confidential and done during an era when women were barred

from combat arms professions, was to build and improve relationships with Afghan civilians, an especially pertinent role due to cultural limitations that prevented them from speaking with men who were not family members.

But going on the same missions as Green Berets, Army Rangers, and Navy SEALs meant the women of CST-2, while not under the umbrella of combat arms, were encountering the same type of intense risks as

their male counterparts.

On Oct. 22, 2011, while conducting a patrol of a compound in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province, an Army Ranger accompanied by White and other members of CST-2 stepped on an improvised explosive device that triggered a daisy chain of IEDs.

Ashley White died in the blast, the first member of CST-2 to be killed in combat. The Ohio native, just 24 at the time, would be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star.

In 2015, author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon brought Ashley's story to life in "Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield."

The story is now in development for the big screen, courtesy of a production team that includes Lesli Linka Glatter, Oscar-winner Reese Witherspoon, screenwriter Molly Smith Metzler ("Shameless," "Orange is the New Black"), and producer Bruna Papandrea ("Gone Girl").

Air Force secretary to resign prior to change in administration

by **Brian Ferguson, Stars and Stripes**

The Air Force will soon bid farewell to its 25th service secretary, who also served as the first civilian leader of the newly formed Space Force.

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett is slated to resign effective Jan. 19, a service spokeswoman told *Air Force Magazine*.

The departure by Barrett, who has served in her role since October 2019, will come the day before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

Barrett will be honored at a ceremony Jan. 14 in Wash-

ington, along with departing assistant secretaries Shon J. Manasco, John R. Roth, Thomas E. Ayres, William B. Roper Jr. and John W. Henderson.

The event at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling is scheduled to stream live on the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service website, beginning at 7 a.m., P.T.

Barrett, the fourth female Air Force secretary, was an early advocate for Space Force, which doesn't have its own service secretary.

"I believe we need the Space Force ... a domain-specific service to organize, train, and

equip space forces is overdue," Barrett said during her confirmation hearing in September 2019. "Most Americans use space before their first cup of coffee in the morning."

The Biden transition team hasn't announced its pick to

Army to lead new DOD strategy against drone attacks

by **Joseph Lacdan**

Editor's note: You can read this story in its entirety at <https://www.army.mil/>.

WASHINGTON - In the future, drones could threaten U.S. defense systems with a swarming capability that uses artificial intelligence while leveraging 5G connectivity, the director of

replace Barrett. The Air Force doesn't yet have a list of acting officials to fill the senior positions that will open, an Air Force spokeswoman told *Air Force Magazine*.

Service secretaries often change with presidential ad-

an Army-led joint office said Jan. 8.

To help combat against these increasing dangers presented by adversaries' small, unmanned aircraft systems, or sUAS, DoD unveiled a counter strategy during a media event Friday. The strategy calls for risk-based as-

ministrations. President Donald Trump nominated Heather Wilson as Air Force secretary soon after taking office in 2017.

Barrett replaced Wilson, who resigned in March 2019 to become president of the Univer-

assessments and viewing counter-sUAS defense from a joint perspective to rapidly track, defend and defeat drone attacks.

"We have to be able to keep pace with an ever-changing threat," said Maj. Gen. Sean Gainey, director of the Joint C-sUAS Office. "And to do that

sity of Texas at El Paso.

Barrett also served as a U.S. ambassador to Finland under the George W. Bush administration in 2008 and early 2009.

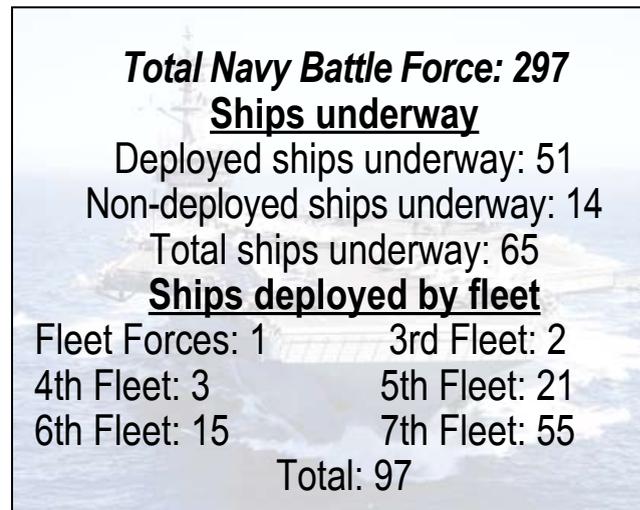
ferguson.brian@stripes.com
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we have to leverage things like rapid prototyping and middle-tier acquisition to be able to bring these components into our open-architecture system as we're seeing changes on the battlefield."

Small UAS capabilities provide U.S. adversaries with maneuverable assets capable of intelligence, reconnaissance and lethal attacks at a low cost for the enemy.

The DOD plans to counter the threat with rapid innovation, synchronization with materiel and non-materiel solutions, and by leveraging relationships with allied nations and partners.

As part of those efforts, the Joint C-sUAS Office, or JCO, with service support, is slated to host a low-collateral damage interceptor demonstration focused on technologies and systems during the first week of April.



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DoD office works to prevent trafficking in persons

A little known Defense Department office is working to ensure the fair treatment of workers by employees and contractors in countries all over the world.

The Combating Trafficking in Persons program management office is tasked with ensuring that U.S. taxpayer dollars do not contribute to trafficking in persons. As the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the world, the U.S. has long had a zero-tolerance policy regarding government employees and contractor personnel engaging in any form of trafficking in persons. In 2006, the DOD established the CTIP program management office with a dedicated program manager.

CTIP program managers in Afghanistan have helped thousands of workers since 2014. Recently, a worker wrote to express gratitude for the program manager's help collecting pay

that was owed him and fellow workers for time they spent in COVID-19 quarantine.

"I don't have enough words in my vocabulary to thank you appropriately. Money is important to all of us, but it will not last forever but the soothing feeling you get once you realize that you have been recognized and the justice has been served will last forever in our lives. Thank you so much for everything," he wrote.

The program manager said the incident - and outcome - are the reasons CTIP exists.

On any given day, the program manager might be updating policies and training requirements; answering inquiries from Congress, the DOD inspector general or the Government Accountability Office; and collaborating with other federal agencies in the fight against people trafficking.

In some ways, program managers deployed on overseas bases are ombudsmen for the thousands of workers employed by the U.S. government through private contractors or subcontractors. Their duties include:

- Performing audits of "other country nationals" to ensure adequate working and housing conditions.
- Training personnel about the laws, regulations and policies on trafficking in persons.
- Interviewing workers to ensure no force, fraud or coercion is taking place and that OCNs are being treated well and paid for their work.
- Troubleshooting worker problems.
- Providing information and training so that contractors understand not to purchase sex or engage in other forms of sex trafficking prohibited by the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

To deter trafficking in persons from taking place through DOD

contracts, the program manager must also gain the trust of the workers and develop a working relationship with contracting officers, contracting officer representatives, contractors, subcontractors and other relevant parties.

The self-assessment report on Combating Trafficking in Persons is issued annually by the department's components. The report documents details of violations of the federal laws, rules and regulations on trafficking in persons. Annual reporting helps contracting officers hold contractors and subcontractors accountable for abiding by federal acquisition regulations pertaining to combating trafficking in persons.

The CTIP program manager is working every day to help DOD personnel and government contractors and subcontractors fully comply with anti-trafficking laws and policies.

Army

◆Soldier dies in military vehicle accident in South Korea
◆Army tries (again) to protect Stryker: Rafael or Rheinmetall?

◆Army leader reveals Spc. Vanessa Guillen's entire chain of command at Fort Hood was fired



Navy

◆Navy kicks off Naval Community College pilot program for Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen

◆Unclear on unmanned: The Navy's plans for robot ships are on the rocks

◆Retired Naval Academy goat mascot Bill 33 has died

◆Navy issues posthumous Navy Cross to USS Indianapolis chaplain

Marine Corps

◆1,000 Marines arrive in Norway for cold-weather training

Air Force

◆Sex with subordinate, inappropriate relationships cost fired warfare center commander two stars

◆Air Force takes steps to ensure disciplinary action is impartial

◆New program to deploy generals as USAF, Space Force ambassadors

◆US intel community expands with Space Force unit

◆Nebraska bid to attract Space Command to Offutt Air Force Base includes \$107 million

◆Officials tour possible Space Command site at New Mexico's Kirtland Air Force Base

National Guard

◆Army head says National Guard may be allowed to carry guns in DC

◆National Guard activated for start of legislative session in Washington state

◆Elba native Wendy Johnson becomes Nebraska National Guard's first female two-star general

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Officials discuss COVID-19 vaccine deliveries, prioritization criteria

by David Vergun,
DOD News

There's been significant progress in getting the COVID-19 vaccines out to the states, said

Army Gen. Gustave F. Perna, the chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed.

Thus far, 25 million doses

of the Moderna and the Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech vaccines have been sent to 16,000 locations throughout the United States, he said.

Perna; Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Dr. Moncef Slaoui, chief advisor to OWS; and, Alex M. Azar II, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, briefed the news media Jan. 12 on OWS.

"The cadence of allocations, the cadence of orders, the cadence of picking and packing, the cadence of what's being shipped, has really become a remarkable feat for all of us, and the whole of America to be proud of," Perna said. "The result will be a safe and effective vaccine delivered to the American people."

OWS, in collaboration with pharmacies Walgreens and CVS have made significant progress in getting vaccines out to many of the 70,000 skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, he said.

In less than a month, 11,000 of those facilities have received the first dose of vaccines, he said, and 12,000 more are scheduled this week, with similar numbers for the weeks following.

Perna acknowledged the hard work of Moderna, Pfizer, distributor McKesson Corp., United Parcel Service, Inc. and FedEx Corp., who he said are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to deliver the vaccine in a timely manner.

Azar said that "we've seen substantial rises in American's confidence in these vaccines and interest in taking them."

Over the last several days, OWS has averaged around

700,000 reported vaccinations each day and OWS is on track to reach 1 million per day within about 10 days or less, he said. A total of 9 million first vaccinations have already been given.

By the end of next week, 95% of long-term care facilities will have had first dose vaccines administered, Azar added.

Azar said he's telling states to allow people 65 and older to now receive the vaccine, as well as those who are younger and who

have a comorbidity with medical documentation.

"We're expanding the groups getting vaccinated because state restrictions on eligibility have obstructed speed and accessibility of administration," he said.

"There was never a reason states needed to complete vaccinating all healthcare providers before opening vaccinations to older Americans and other vulnerable populations," he said.

Test continued from page 1

(such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or Abbott ID NOW) is not available. However, a molecular test is the preferred test prior to travel.

If the destination location requires a specific test, test timing, or test result format, travelers must follow the stricter requirement.

Once tested, service members must have their test results in hand with time left before expiration prior to arrival at the next destination.

Sailors or family members who test positive for COVID-19 while executing OCONUS orders must stop and execute the MyNavy Career Center (MNCC), where an agent will take appropriate action to notify the Sailor's detailer and Navy Passenger Transportation Office (NAVPTO). Sailors should com-

municate with their detailer and the NAVPTO to discuss orders modifications and future travel arrangements, if needed.

Travelers with valid proof of COVID-19 vaccination are currently not exempt from the testing requirement. Vaccinated travelers should only rely on molecular-based tests because they may be at higher risk of a false positive with an antigen test.

Service members and their families can get free testing at a military treatment facility (MTF), but tests must be scheduled prior to arrival and OCONUS orders are required. Test results will be delivered within 24 hours after testing.

In the Pacific area, the preferred military treatment facility is at Camp Pendleton. Contact the facility at (760) 685-3537. 24/7 testing available.

For more information see NAVADMIN 03/21, or contact the MNCC at 1-833-330-6622, e-mail - askmncc@navy.mil.

Pentagon authorizes National Guard troops to carry firearms in DC

by Corey Dickstein,
Stars and Stripes

At least some National Guard troops on duty in Washington, D.C., have been authorized to carry firearms for self-protection, officials said Jan. 13, as House lawmakers appeared poised to impeach President Donald Trump a second time following the deadly U.S. Capitol riot last week.

National Guard troops stationed in and around the Capitol have been approved to carry their service firearms, M4 carbines and M9 pistols, as law enforcement and Army officials fear the potential for further violence ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration next week, two defense officials confirmed. The hourslong siege of the Capitol on Jan. 6 by some supporters of President Donald Trump resulted in at least five deaths, including a Capitol police officer who was injured during the melee.

Some 6,200 Guard troops from at least six states and the D.C. National Guard were deployed to the nation's capital as of Wednesday. They had not previously been authorized to carry firearms or nonlethal weapons.

Hundreds of troops have been stationed in and around the Capitol, where 7-foot, nonscalable fencing has been erected around the entire building for protection. More National Guard forces, including troops from Illinois and Utah, were preparing to deploy to the city, where at least 10,000 National Guard troops were expected on duty by the weekend.

The Pentagon, after receiving requests from local and federal law enforcement in Washington, has authorized up to 15,000 N.G. troops activated for Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20.

The entire 1,100-member D.C. National Guard was activated Jan. 6, as the mob marched on the Capitol after listening to Trump speak near the White House. Some attacked and overran police, vandalized the building and briefly halted Congress' certification of Biden's Electoral College victory.

The defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy made the decision to arm troops around the Capitol. McCarthy has been working daily with federal and local law enforcement officials to determine the risk troops could face, the officials said. Both officials declined to say what led to the decision to arm some troops.

The decision came as House members were poised Wednesday to vote on a single impeachment article against Trump, charging him with "incitement of insurrection." The article cites Trump's repeated and unfounded claims of a fraudulent election and asserts he "willfully made statements that, in context, encouraged - and foreseeably resulted in - lawless action at the Capitol, such as: 'if you don't fight like hell you're not going to have a county anymore.'"

At least five Republican House lawmakers had announced by Wednesday their intention to vote

alongside Democrats to impeach Trump.

It also comes as military leaders denounced the violence last week.

In an extraordinary memorandum issued Tuesday to the entire military force, all eight members of Joint Chiefs of Staff including its chairman, Army Gen. Mark Milley, asserted the U.S. military will obey lawful orders from civilian leadership and "remains fully committed" to protecting and defending the Constitution. The memo also affirmed Biden would become commander-in-chief on Jan. 20.

"We witnessed actions inside the Capitol building that were inconsistent with the rule of law," the generals wrote in the one-page memorandum. "The rights of freedom of speech and assembly do not give anyone the right to resort to violence, sedition and insurrection."

The Army's top officials - McCarthy, Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston — sent another letter this week to their force, calling the Capitol siege a "violent riot" and an "attack on the U.S. Congress and our constitutional democracy."

Their letter warned soldiers must "do the right things the right way, whether they are in or out of uniform."

At least one active-duty Army officer is under investigation by her command for attending the rally Jan. 6 before the attack on the Capitol. Fort Bragg officials said Capt. Emily Rainey attended the rally, but they had not determined if she had broken any laws or Army regulations. She told *The Associated Press* that she did not enter the Capitol and had not violated any rules. Rainey had resigned her commission following a previous punishment, and she is scheduled to be discharged in April, officials said.

Some 70 individuals have been charged with crimes for their roles in the siege, FBI officials said Tuesday. They said they had opened more than 160 criminal cases and expected to charge hundreds of people for their involvement.

"To maintain the sacred trust of the American people, it is important that all of those who represent the Army, in any capacity, remain models of professionalism, character and integrity," the Army leaders wrote in their memo. "The Army is steadfast in its role to defend our nation, and our National Guard soldiers continue their mission to support local law enforcement security efforts."

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4 www.armedforcesdispatch.com THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

NAVY RESERVE MERITORIOUS ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

- TWO ANNUAL CYCLES
- MORE OPPORTUNITIES
- STREAMLINED

Graphic courtesy of Meritorious Advancement Program.

Meritorious Advancement Program updates for Navy Reserve Sailors

by Lt. Adam M Demeter

Commander, Navy Reserve Force (CNR) has released ALNAVRESFOR 001/21, announcing the latest changes and improvements to the Navy Reserve's Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP-R).

The changes align MAP-R seasons with the Navy-wide advancement exam (NWAE) cycles, effectively doubling the advancement opportunity for Sailors and further supporting the intent of MAP-R to select and reward the right Sailors for possible advancement.

MAP-R is a Navy Reserve program to meritoriously advance eligible personnel in paygrades E-5 and below to the next higher paygrade. The program is intended to give commanding officers the opportunity to recognize their best Sailors by nominating them for advancement when they are ready for the next level of responsibility.

"We've refined and improved the program to further empower command triads the ability to recognize their most talented Sailors through immediate ad-

vancement," said Master Chief Kimberly Cedar, Reserve Force command career counselor. "We've eliminated several manual administrative processes by automatically verifying candidate eligibility and correctly routing the nomination submissions."

Beginning in season one of calendar year (CY) 2021 (March 1, 2021 – April 30, 2021), MAP-R will utilize a new automated system in the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) to track the process from beginning to end. Commands will no longer be required to manually calculate eligibility, submit nominations, and track their paper trail. Instead, the updated MAP-R system will manage nomination opportunities, determine eligibility, and adjudicate the Sailors approved for advancement in a centralized location.

The MAP-R initiative aligns with the Navy Reserve's overall efforts to modernize its administrative processes throughout the Force. Similar to MAP-R, new systems are regularly being released to automate pay processes, orders processing, personnel data, and more.

Prior to this announcement, ALNAVRESFOR 029/20 directed commands and units to set up their MAP-R user roles by February 1, 2021 in preparation for the first advancement season of CY-21. Reserve Component Commands (RCC) and Immediate Supervisors in Command (ISIC) must designate an RCC Approver or ISIC Approver, to include account access in order to support subordinate unit MAP-R nominations as delineated in the MAP-R hierarchy structure in NSIPS.

Language Enabled Airman Program accepting cadet applications

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. - The Air Force's Language Enabled Airman Program is now accepting cadet applications through March 5.

LEAP is a career-spanning program aimed to sustain and improve Airmen's language and cultural capabilities. Managed by the Air Force Culture and Language Center, the program seeks to develop cross-culturally competent leaders who can meet Air Force global mission requirements.

To become a LEAP scholar, Airmen must demonstrate some level of proficiency in a foreign language specified on the Air Force Strategic Language List, receive endorsement from their detachment commander for AFROTC or air officer commanding for U.S. Air Force Academy, and compete via a board process. Selection to LEAP is based on applicants' academic history and job performance, existing language proficiency, and Air Force language requirements.

Academy applicants must submit applications through the Language Enabled Airman Develop-

ment Resource at <https://leader.sso.cce.af.mil>. Applicants that need to create or update their AU Portal account will be redirected to the AU Portal upon initial attempt to access the site.

Applicants who do not have a CAC may download a PDF of the application from the AFCLC website at <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/Language-Studies/>. To safeguard personal identifying information, Air Force ROTC applicants should provide their complete application package to a detachment staff or cadre member for submission via encrypted e-mail to afclc.language@us.af.mil.

Participants in LEAP are required to complete online eMentor language courses and attend periodic language immersions known as Language Intensive Training Events.

As of January 2021, there are more than 3,200 scholars in LEAP. For more information on dates and eligibility requirements, please visit <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/Language-Studies/> or send email to afclc.language@us.af.mil.

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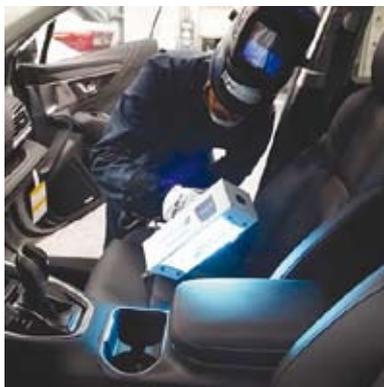
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Building transition boosts qualified recycle program

SAN DIEGO - Commander, Navy Region Southwest's building transition from the Broadway Complex into its new headquarters spawned heavy recycling efforts throughout the past year.

The command has been preparing for the building transition by recycling furniture, metal, and appliances through a variety of Navy Qualified Recycle Programs (QRP) led by CNRSW's Strategy and Future Shore Integrated Requirements Department.

A QRP is a program that collects and sells eligible scrap materials, such as paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, scrap metal, and brass. Sales proceeds are used to cover the costs directly at-

tributable to operating expenses of the program. After the costs are recovered, up to 50 percent of the remaining proceeds can be used for pollution reduction and similar projects at the installation or region, and any remaining proceeds can be transferred to the nonappropriated morale, welfare, and recreation account.

Team from NAVFAC earns energy award

SAN DIEGO - Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest Energy Team was recently selected 2020 Federal Energy and Water Management Award by the Department of Energy's energy management program. "I'm pleased to announce that your team has won this award," said Leslie Nicholls of DOE. "This distinguished honor recognizes outstanding contributions in energy and water efficiency, resilience, and technology achievements; distributed energy; cyber security; and fleet management from within the federal government. Doug Macurda, James McKechnie, Rea Estrella, Pamela Frank, and members of the NAVFAC Southwest Public Works Energy Team were recognized in the Contracting category.

"Ensuring that we can reuse and recycle as many items as possible is an essential part of the building transition," said Esperanza Delatorre, CNRSW's Director of Strategy and Future Shore Integrated Requirements. "We have a responsibility to the American public, the Navy and our tenant commands to ensure assets are reused, distributed and

waste is kept to a minimum."

More than 13,000 pieces of furniture, equipment and supplies items were redistributed, to commands throughout Navy Region Southwest for reuse. These items, if purchased new, are valued at more than \$3 million.

Commands interested in acquiring furniture and equipment were able to browse for items of interest online utilizing the Online Navy Reuse program website and pick them up at their convenience.

During eight purge events and 13 metal recycling events CNRSW collected and recycled 245,946 pounds of metal totaling an additional profit of \$6,785 for the command recycling program. Appliances such as microwaves, refrigerators and more were also recycled during four pickup events. This resulted in collecting more than 75 appliances for recycling, helping reduce landfill space and disposed of approximately 11,700 e-waste items.

"The entire staff played a part in making the building transition and recycling programs a success," said Delatorre. "We are proud of the support we were able to provide commands in providing needed equipment throughout the metro area and Navy Region Southwest."

In his first address as commodore, Kleinschnittger said he was honored to be a part of the EODGRU-1 team and thanked Rojas for his commitment as commodore over the past two years.

"I give you my word that I'll do everything I can to lead and care for the people at EODGRU-1 for you," said Kleinschnittger.

EODGRU-1 oversees the manning, training and equipping of EOD Mobile Units 1, 3, 5 and 11, along with mining, salvage and expeditionary support.

"None of us achieve success in isolation, and the successes EODGRU-1 enjoyed over the past two years has been the result of our mutual cooperation, collaboration and respect for one another," said Rojas.

Rojas also used his remarks to honor the Navy EOD operators who have fallen in the line of duty.

"The names listed on the memorial behind me is a sobering reminder of the cost of freedom we enjoy in our great country," said Rojas, who is transferring to Bahrain to lead Commander, Task Force (CTF) 52.

EODGRU-1 welcomes aboard new skipper

by Lt. John Mike

CORONADO - Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 1 welcomed its newest leader during a change-of-command ceremony here Jan. 12.

Capt. Ken Kleinschnittger relieved Capt. Oscar Rojas in front of essential personnel and a virtual crowd of family, friends and service members watching on social media.

Rojas said the opportunity to serve as EODGRU-1's commodore is the highlight of his career and was made possible by the efforts of all its personnel.

EPA gets brief on San Clemente Island operations

SAN DIEGO - EPA's regional administrator for the Pacific Southwest and staff visited San Clemente Island Jan. 5. The group learned how compliance can be achieved in an expeditionary environment while maintaining mission readiness.



Tommy Niday (left), waste water treatment plant's lead water operator on SCI, and John Busterud of the Environmental Protection Agency 9 tour the waste water treatment plant. Courtesy photo.

Navy staff helped explain the island operations, training, and innovative compliance and conservation efforts in managing an island 70 miles off the California coast.

Naval Base Coronado staff at San Clemente Island hosted John Busterud and Charles Munoz. The visit was related to the new Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement (FFCA) signed in November of last year. The agreement brings SCI's Waste Water Treatment Plant to full compliance with current federal regulations. The group toured both the wastewater treatment plant and the power plant to better understand island operations.

"By visiting San Clemente Island, we were able to better understand the challenges the Navy faces daily," said Busterud. "We're very glad to be working together to improve compliance, and we are thankful to the Navy for being a cooperative federal partner."

"SCI is a very important asset because it's the Navy's only remaining live-fire ship-to-shore and air-to-ground range," said Capt. John DePree, commanding officer of Naval Base Coronado. "It's the cornerstone of the tactical training ranges that supports Southern California operations for the largest concentration of naval forces in the world. Equally important to us is our environmental stewardship of the island. The Navy manages waste disposal and a conservation program managing 21 listed species, in addition to caring for over 7,000 archaeological sites."

This week's snapshots



CORONADO
Jan. 5, 2020

Seaman Glenn Clark, attached to Amphibious Construction Battalion 1, spray cleans the deck and deck fittings of alightage system craft in preparation for the Board of Inspection and Survey. Navy photo by MC2 Storm Henry



NAS NORTH ISLAND
Jan. 7, 2021

Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, commander of Naval Surface Force/Pacific Fleet, receives a COVID-19 vaccine as part of the Operation Warp Speed national initiative to accelerate the development, production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Photo by MC2 Kevin Leitner



USS MAKIN ISLAND
Jan. 6, 2021

Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Donovan Chin raises a motor from a varnish tank. The Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit are conducting operations in the 6th Fleet area. Navy photo by MC2 Kristopher S. Haley



MCAS MIRAMAR
Jan. 7, 2021

Sailors assigned to Maritime Expeditionary Security Group 1 fold a flag during military funeral honors for QMC (Ret.) James Wilson II, a former MESHG 1 force navigator, at Miramar National Cemetery. Photo by Chief Boatswain's Nelson Doromal Jr.



USS JOHN FINN
Dec. 30, 2020

Petty Officer 2nd Class Elizabeth Larson applies lubricant to a pitot tube on an MH-60R Sea Hawk aboard John Finn, on deployment with the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group conducting routine operations in the Third Fleet area of operations. Navy photo by MC3 Jason Waite



USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Jan. 5, 2021

Sailors inspect a propeller on an E-2C Hawkeye. The Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group is on deployment to the 7th Fleet area of operations. Navy photo by MC2 Zachary Wheeler

The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by
Lisa
Smith
Molinari

I dug my slippered heels into our shag carpet and bore deeper into my lime-green vinyl bean bag chair, thoroughly terrified but unable to avert my widened eyes from our console television. The riveting hypnosis scene from the 1975 television movie "The UFO Incident" starring James Earl Jones was imprinting itself permanently into my impressionable eleven-year-old brain.

The memory still gives me the willies, 43 years later.

The movie depicted the real-life story of Betty and Barney Hill, an average New Hampshire couple who, while driving home from a holiday in Niagara falls on a dark lonely road, claimed to have been briefly abducted, then medically examined, by aliens. In the hypnosis scene, Barney (played by Jones) cries out as he recalls horrifying details buried by traumatic amnesia.

Some researchers hypothesize that stories of alien abductions like Betty and Barney Hill's gained traction in the 1980s due to media coverage of new reproductive technologies and controversial human experimentation. Others believe that reports of UFO sightings and alien encounters, which began in the 1950s, were simply "cultural mass hysteria" brought on by fear of Cold War nuclear destruction.

Like others of my generation, I remember conspiracy theories about UFOs crashing in Roswell, New

Are we on the cusp of another UFO craze?

Mexico and alien autopsies at Area 51. At the movie theater, I saw "Star Wars," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "Alien," and "E.T. the Extraterrestrial." I said "Nanu-nanu" like Robin Williams' alien character in "Mork and Mindy." I watched "The Jetsons" after school, and giggled when little green Gazoo appeared on "The Flintstones." I nibbled Pillsbury Space Food Sticks and slurped Tang because that's what astronauts did.

When you consider our cultural influences, it's no wonder we were alien-obsessed back then. But, will recent developments in science and technology reconstitute media attention and public suspicions about intelligent life beyond Earth? Are we on the cusp of another UFO craze?

This month, Harvard's long-time Astronomy Department Chair, Avi Loeb, publishes his new book Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth, in which he hypothesizes that an interstellar object named Oumuamua which passed through our solar system in 2017 was actually a hunk of alien equipment.

Last month, it was reported that astronomers from the Breakthrough Listen Project, which attempts to detect stray or intentional alien broadcasts, discovered a narrow beam of intriguing radio waves (BLC1) coming from the direction of Proxima Centauri, the nearest star to the Sun. The transmission, which was picked up by the Parkes Telescope in Australia, is the first beam NOT believed to originate from human-made interference or natural sources. In other words, astronomers believe it may have come from intelligent life.

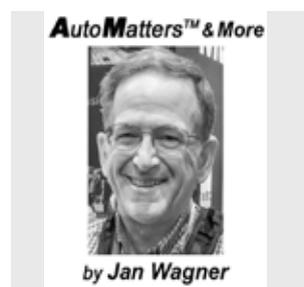
To complicate matters, new tech-

nologies will put more flying objects that could be confused as UFOs into the sky. The United States military currently operates more than 11,000 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS or "drones") in support of domestic training events and overseas contingency missions. Military drones — performing secret surveillance/reconnaissance, situational awareness, weapons delivery, and battle damage assessment — range in size from the hand-held RQ-11B Raven to the largest 32,000 pound RQ/MQ-4 Global Hawk/Triton, and fly training missions in specially designated U.S. airspace.

Also, the commercial drone industry has limited approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to develop drone fleets to expedite deliveries of small packages to consumers. Commercial drones fly between 200-400 feet overhead and are equipped with anti-collision lights at night. This rapidly growing industry currently has 1.7 million registered drones and 203,000 FAA-certified remote pilots.

With so many flying objects in our airspace and new scientific evidence supporting intelligent life beyond Earth, how are average citizens supposed to know whether the lights they see in the sky are aliens coming to abduct them or just a flying package of K-cups from Amazon?

As for me, I won't be looking for flying saucers, because I'll be too busy binging the next alien-themed television series on Netflix, making trips to the nearest Planetarium, and rereading Stephen Hawking's A Brief History of Time. Who knows, maybe Pillsbury will bring back Space Food Sticks?



by Jan Wagner

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES 2021) isn't in Las Vegas this year, due to COVID-19. Instead, it's an online show. While that makes covering it quite different from being there to cover it in person, there are advantages, and there's plenty to cover - all from the comfort of my own home.

A CES press conference revealed the official race car that will be raced in the Indy Autonomous Challenge (IAC), a race on Oct. 23, 2021 for autonomous, high-speed, open wheel racecars at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Why have a race? "There's a fundamental connection between innovations on the racetrack and real-world improvements on the highway," said IMS President J. Douglas Boles. "With the launch of the Indy Autonomous Challenge, IMS continues to embrace its historic role as a catalyst for the next generation of vehicle technologies in motorsports competition and wider consumer platforms."

Promoting STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), students from 37 universities from 11 countries on four continents around the world have registered to create artificial intelligence software, program and race the Dallara IL-15 racecars for prize money totaling \$1.5 million. "The algorithms will complete all actions normally performed by a driver." Foueteen states will be represented. Several of the universities will

Driverless, high-speed racing - INDY Autonomous Challenge

collaborate with each other. The IAC is co-organized by Energy Systems Network and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Building upon the autonomous technology successes of the 2005 DARPA Grand Challenge, goals of the Indy Autonomous Challenge are to advance the safety and performance of fully autonomous vehicle technology and driver-assistance systems, to accelerate their commercialization, and to increase public awareness about the technology. Sebastian Thrun, who led the winning DARPA team, is serving as a key advisor to the IAC.

The challenges that the teams will face are enormous, due in part to the extreme operating environment of the race. Each race car will have to interact closely with, and correctly respond to, unpredictable actions of the other cars on track. Racing each other at speeds up to 200mph, their reactions and race strategies will need to be split-second to avoid collisions, while driving aggressively to win. It should be very exciting to watch the cars racing head-to-head.

Prior to the race the students are participating remotely, via live-stream conferencing, in a series of hackathons and workshops which began last May. The simulation platform, provided to all registered teams, is being created by Ansys (a global leader in engineering simulation software). That platform is based upon Ansys' "VRXPERIENCE Driving Simulator, powered by SCANer, that's embedded around the IMS track and in the modified Dallara IL-15 vehicle models." Ansys SCADE software development suites will "allow the teams to develop and test their autonomous vehicle software in a virtual environment. Ansys will

train the students to use the simulation solutions, provide numerous self-help resources, and "implement and execute the simulation race, scheduled for May 2021."

The electric Dallara IL-15 racecars will be modified with hardware and controls by Clemson University Deep Orange 12 students, to enable automation, determine "the sensor types and locations to provide the vehicle with computer vision at high speeds," and "determine the appropriate powertrain to provide the sustained power levels required for racing at high speeds and generate the electrical power needed for onboard computing and sensing systems." Aptiv, known for its collaboration with Lyft, the rideshare company, on a fleet of autonomous BMWs in Las Vegas (see AutoMatters & More #530 at https://drivetribec.com/p/self-driving-autonomous-vehicle-LzJsYj8uQe-jHM4pa7ERDg?i_id=BYJyrcjTiiNhmVZu4tg), "will provide radar technologies for the IAC's vehicles."

Track practice days are planned to be held at Indianapolis in June, September and October, 2021, with final race qualification scheduled for Oct. 21-22.

The race distance will be 50 miles around the historic 2.5-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway on October 23. The teams of students will be able to monitor the condition of their racecars via telemetry, and to disable them and bring them to a controlled stop if necessary.

To see additional photos, visit www.drivetribec.com, click on the magnifying glass, select "POSTS" and enter "AutoMatters & More #674" in their search bar. Send your comments to AutoMatters@gmail.com.

Veterans News

National veterans groups plan to purge members found guilty in Capitol attack

WE'RE SADDENED THAT ANY VETERAN WOULD DESECRATE OUR NATION'S CAPITAL AND WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INITIATE THE REMOVAL OF ANY DAV MEMBER FOUND GUILTY OF COMMITTING ILLEGAL ACTS AGAINST OUR NATION," SAID BUTCH WHITEHEAD, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF DAV.

by Nikki Wentling,
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - Multiple veterans and service members are being investigated for their roles in the mob takeover of the U.S. Capitol building last Wednesday, and at least two national veterans organizations want to ensure they're not on their membership lists.

Disabled American Veterans, which has 1 million members nationwide, condemned the riots Saturday and announced its intent to remove any members found guilty in the attack. Supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol, resulting in five deaths.

"[W]e are saddened that any veteran would desecrate our nation's capital and will take immediate action to initiate the removal of any DAV member found guilty of committing illegal acts against our nation," said Butch Whitehead, national commander of DAV. "Such behavior is a disgrace to our national values and must not be tolerated."

AMVETS, which has 250,000 members, decided to do the same. Any member who engaged in violence at the Capitol on Wednesday will be expelled from the organization by their

local post, said Joe Chenelly, executive director of AMVETS.

So far, neither group has identified members who were part of the attacks.

Each time they hear of a veteran identified as a participant in

FRA's military and veteran benefits survey

The Fleet Reserve Association is conducting a survey to determine which military and veteran's benefits are most important to active duty and Reserve personnel, retirees, veterans and their families. The survey is available online, and asks you to rate a variety of benefits and quality-of-life programs associated with your service to our nation.

The FRA is asking current and former military personnel and their spouses to share opinions about the programs they value most. The responses and comments will provide important reference information when FRA testifies before Congress or meet one-on-one with lawmakers and their staff.

The results are shared with elected officials on Capitol Hill, key committee staff, and leaders within the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs to ensure these crucial decision-makers understand your enlisted sea service perspective.

San Diego County Veterans Service Offices		
<p>Chula Vista (Central) M-F: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. 180 Otay Lakes Rd. Phone: (877) 618-6534</p>	<p>La Mesa Adult Center Fri., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 8450 La Mesa Blvd. Phone: (858) 527-5822</p>	<p>Rancho on Wed. months 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. County Library Phone: (760) 788-5270</p>
<p>Escondido M-F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 649 W. Mission Ave. Phone: (760) 740-5572</p>	<p>Mission Valley Thurs. & Fri. appointments only 8808 Rio San Diego Phone: (858) 694-3222</p>	<p>El Cajon 201 E. Douglas 2nd & 4th Mon. monthly Phone: (619) 588-3718</p>
<p>Fallbrook 2nd Fri. & 4th Wed. monthly 135 S. Mission Road Phone: (760) 723-7570</p>	<p>Oceanside VA Clinic M-F: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1300 Rancho Del Oro Dr. Phone: (760) 643-2049</p>	<p>Julian County Library Thurs. (by appt. only) Phone: (760) 765-0370</p>

For a complete list of SD County offices, go to <https://www.davva.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVSO-Location.aspx>.

The Justice Department announced Sunday the arrest of Larry Rendall Brock Jr., an Air Force veteran who was seen wearing a helmet and tactical vest and brandishing zip tie handcuffs during the siege. He was arrested in Texas and charged with knowingly entering a restricted building without lawful authority.

Also under investigation is Capt. Emily Rainey, a psychological operations officer based out of Fort Bragg, N.C. The Army is investigating her for leading a group to the rally in Washington.

Two people who died in the attack were identified as veterans. Ashli Babbitt, an Air Force veteran who participated in the riots, was shot and killed in the Capitol. Before the attack, she used her social media to express her support for Trump and echo baseless conspiracy theories.

A Capitol Police officer, Brian Sicknick, died from injuries sustained while responding to the attack. Sicknick was an Air National Guard veteran with multiple overseas deployments. Capitol Police said he was hurt "while physically engaging with protestors."

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9	8	2	4	3	7	5	6	1
7	3	6	9	1	5	8	4	2
8	7	1	5	4	6	2	3	9
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2	4	5	7	3	6	1	5	8
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5	1	3	8	7	4	9	2	6
6	2	7	3	5	9	1	8	4

HHS, DOD purchase additional doses of Regeneron's antibody therapeutic to treat patients with mild to moderate COVID-19

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Defense (DOD) announced Jan. 12, the purchase of 1.25 million additional treatment courses of Regeneron's investigational monoclonal antibody therapeutic, a combination of casirivimab and imdevimab, to be delivered in the first half of 2021 to treat non-hospitalized, high-risk COVID-19 patients. This latest agreement brings the total supply of casirivimab and imdevimab purchased by HHS and DOD to over 1.5 million treatment courses.

Under the agreement announced in July to meet Operation Warp Speed goals, Regeneron is in the process of delivering the first approximately 300,000 doses of casirivimab and imdevimab. Following Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), HHS began allocating these doses November 23 to state and territorial health departments which, in turn, direct which healthcare facilities receive the infusion drug. An HHS treatment locator is now available showing where antibody therapeutics have been delivered.

"With COVID-19 cases continuing to rise, treating people with mild or moderate infections can help prevent hospitalizations, which will reduce the burden on healthcare systems," said HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec, M.D. "To ensure equitable and efficient distribution, we will continue coordinating with state and territorial health departments to get these additional therapeutics into the hands of healthcare providers quickly, with a focus on areas of the country currently hardest hit by the pandemic."

Allocations to state and territorial health departments are based proportionally on confirmed COVID-19 cases in each state and territory over the previous seven days, based on data that hospitals and state health departments enter into the HHS Protect data collection platform. To date, the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) has allocated more than 127,700 treatment courses of the therapeutic.

These government-purchased doses are available at no cost to patients, although healthcare facilities could charge for administering the medicine – as is customary with such government-purchased products.

Regeneron's therapeutic treatment received an EUA from the FDA on November 21, 2020, for use in treating high-risk, non-hospitalized patients with mild or moderate confirmed cases of COVID-19. Regeneron developed the treatment, a combination of two monoclonal antibodies called casirivimab and imdevimab, with preclinical and clinical development funded in part through a long-standing partnership with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). Regeneron previously used its same proprietary technology to develop a novel triple monoclonal antibody treatment for Ebola, which in 2020 became the first FDA-approved treatment for Zaire ebolavirus.

Antibodies are a component of the human immune system. Monoclonal antibodies developed by Regeneron are made outside of the body by a single clone of cells or a cell line producing identical antibody molecules, and then delivered to patients via infusion or injection. The antibodies bind to certain proteins of a virus, reducing the ability of the virus to infect human cells.

To find out how much of the therapeutic treatment has been allocated to specific states, territories and jurisdictions, visit the allocation dashboard at https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/investigation-MCM/cas_imd/Pages/allocation.aspx. This dashboard will be updated after each allocation while the U.S. government is engaged in the allocation and distribution process.

Cleveland National Forest starts prescribed burning in SD county

SAN DIEGO, Calif.— The Cleveland National Forest will conduct prescribed burning from January to May 2021, if weather and fuel moisture conditions permit. The objectives of the projects are to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to people and communi-

ties, create conditions which offer a safer and more effective wildfire response, foster more resilient ecosystems, and minimize the effects of large wildfires on the landscape.

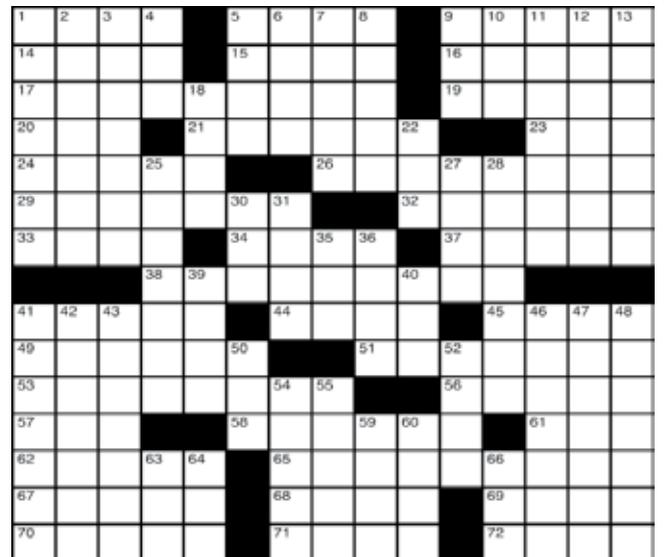
When implementing these proj-

Across

- 1 Incite
- 5 Modern "methinks"
- 9 Pink flowers in a van Gogh still life
- 14 Water-diverting feature
- 15 It's not optional
- 16 Brigham Young University city
- 17 "Bargain on the last day of Oktoberfest?"
- 19 Urdu for "palace"
- 20 Blunder
- 21 Barbarian in Dante's Seventh Circle
- 23 Butterfield of "Ender's Game"
- 24 Cartomancy deck
- 26 "Singer Damone, vis-à-vis actor Morrow"
- 29 Starfleet school
- 32 Record holder
- 33 Ship
- 34 Accessories for a Red Hat Society lunch
- 37 Bond and Bourne
- 38 "Snoopy's specialist?"
- 41 Scratching post material
- 44 Jai ___
- 45 Its first version was egg-shaped
- 49 Spotted cat
- 51 Argentina's "City of Diagonals"
- 53 "One who'll talk your ear off about osso buco and saltimbocca?"
- 56 Norse group that fought the Vanir
- 57 Hypotheticals
- 58 Part of AC/DC
- 61 Minn. neighbor
- 62 A-listers
- 65 Basic auto maintenance, and how each answer to a starred clue was created
- 67 "Who's on First?" catcher
- 68 Composer Sibelius
- 69 While away
- 70 Note next to a red F, maybe
- 71 ___Navy game
- 72 Downfall of many kings?

Down

- 1 Old Iberian coins
- 2 Grind
- 3 Exceeded, as a budget
- 4 Agnus ___
- 5 MIT center?: Abbr.
- 6 Substantial content
- 7 Sun: Pref.
- 8 The "O" in football's OBJ
- 9 Tach readout
- 10 60 minuti
- 11 "Me too"
- 12 Hard to follow
- 13 Says "There, there," say
- 18 Silver of FiveThirtyEight
- 22 Spots
- 25 Eccentric
- 27 "What ___ can I do?"
- 28 Snake, for one
- 30 MIT Sloan deg.
- 31 Class with mats
- 35 Entirely
- 36 Authenticating symbol
- 39 North Carolina university
- 40 Through
- 41 Khrushchev and Gorbachev
- 42 Baffin Bay hazard
- 43 Coastal region
- 46 Like some lodges
- 47 Goose-pimply
- 48 Price-fixing groups
- 50 "Chopped" host Allen
- 52 Way to go
- 54 Spanish red wine
- 55 Less rainy, as a climate
- 59 Oater actor Jack
- 60 Harlem sch.
- 63 Bagpiper's hat
- 64 London ___: Ferris wheel
- 66 Letters in an APB



Roy's Sudoku

	2	7		5				
5								6
	9		1				5	
	4	9		8		6		5
			2		1			
8		1		4		2	3	
	3				5		4	
9								1
				2		3	9	

Decreasing cervical cancer – one HPV vaccine at a time

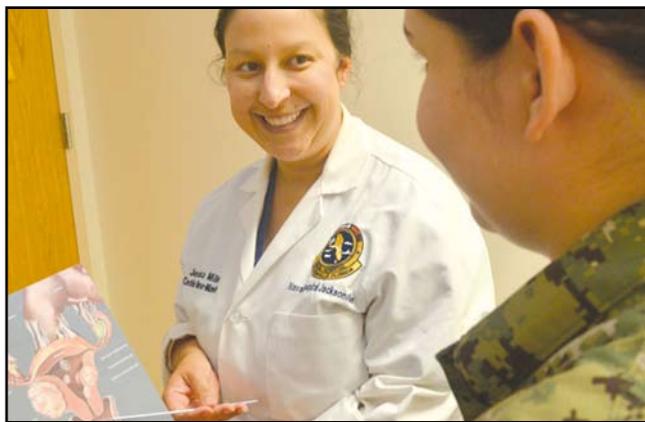
by Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

Cervical cancer was once one of the most common causes of cancer death for American women, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS).

With increased use of the Pap test, the cervical cancer death rate has dropped significantly. However, approximately 13,800 new cases of invasive cervical cancer are diagnosed annually, and more than 4,000 women die from the disease each year, numbers from the ACS indicate.

Cervical cancer affects the uterine cervix, a part of the uterus, which can create problems with infertility and blockage of the urinary and bowel tracts. Early detection and prevention methods are key to help women fight and prevent this form of cancer.

According to the Director of Gynecologic Oncology at Walter Reed National Military Medical



Navy Lt. Jessica Miller, a nurse at Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Obstetrics/Gynecology Clinic, discusses cervical cancer screenings with a patient. Starting at age 21, women should get a Pap test every three years. After turning 30, women have a choice - get a Pap test every three years, or get a Pap and human papillomavirus (HPV) test every five years. Photo by Jacob Sippel, Naval Hospital Jacksonville.

Center, Air Force Col. (Dr.) Yovanni Casablanca, early stages of cervical cancer could display no symptoms, which is why regular visits with an OB/GYN

are important. "Usually the way we know something is going on is that the cervical pap tests are abnormal," Casablanca said.

While cervical cancer is usually seen in women in their 30s, 40s and after menopause, there are preventative measures a woman can take to reduce their risk.

"There are over 60 different strains of HPV, but only certain types, high risk types, are associated with cervical and other cancers," said Casablanca, about the cancer causing Human Papillomavirus. "I tell my patients

that HPV is a 'part of life,' it is very common and everyone who has had skin-to-skin contact with another human has likely been exposed to some strain of HPV. Folks who are exposed to higher risk strains, smoke, or have immunosuppression might be susceptible to the consequences of HPV."

Casablanca encourages both men and women to get the HPV vaccine in early puberty, before sexual activity begins. The vaccine is highly effective in creating immunity to most of the high-risk strains of HPV. Infection to HPV can be increased through tobacco use, multiple sexual partners, and early onset of sexual activity.

"Any age, race, and ethnicity can get cervical cancer, and it only takes one partner to expose you to HPV," explained Casablanca.

Treatment for cervical cancer can involve invasive surgeries, which a portion of the cervix is removed. For women who don't wish to retain fertility, they may sometimes opt for a hysterectomy, removal of the uterus. Like most cancers, in a more advanced phase, chemotherapy and radiation treatments are used.

For more information about cervical cancer, refer to the National Cancer Institute at <https://www.cancer.gov/>



SAN DIEGO (Jan. 8, 2021) – Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Shane Miller, assigned to Fleet Surgical Team 9, prepares COVID-19 vaccine at the Naval Base San Diego fitness center as part of Operation Warp Speed. Operation Warp Speed is a national initiative to accelerate the development, production, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Julio Rivera.

COVID-19 vaccination clinic opens at Petco Park as county seeks more vaccinators

by José A. Álvarez
The County's first-of-its-kind COVID-19 Vaccination Super Station opened Jan. 11 at Petco Park, where about 3,500 health care professionals were scheduled to get their first dose of the vaccine in their vehicles.

The operation is the result of a partnership between the County, UC San Diego Health, San Diego Padres and the City of San Diego to help vaccinate thousands of the 500,000 people in Phase 1A of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

The Vaccination Super Station is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week for health care workers who have made

an appointment online at www.VaccinationSuperStationSD.com. By Jan. 15, the site is expected to be administering about 5,000 COVID-19 doses per day.

Seeking Volunteer Vaccinators

The County is looking for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical professional staff to be COVID-19 vaccinators when more doses of the vaccine arrive in the region. The volunteers will be part of the County Health and Human Services Agency's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), established in 2002 to assist during disasters and public health emergencies. To learn more search San Diego Medical Reserve Corps online.

Gorilla troop at the SD Zoo Safari Park test positive for COVID-19

Members of the Gorilla Troop at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. On Wednesday, January 6, two of the gorillas began coughing. Given current circumstances, San Diego Zoo Global initiated the process of testing fecal samples from the gorillas for SARS-CoV-2 through the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System (CA HFS). On January 8, the preliminary tests detected the presence of the virus in the gorilla troop. The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the positive results on Monday, January 11.

The test results confirm the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in some of the gorillas and does not definitively rule out the presence of the virus in other members of the troop.

"Aside from some congestion and coughing, the gorillas are doing well," said Lisa Peterson, executive director, San Diego Zoo Safari Park. "The troop remains quarantined together and are eating and drinking. We are hopeful for a full recovery."

It is suspected the gorillas acquired the infection from an asymptomatic staff member, despite following all recommended precautions including COVID-19 safety protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and San Diego County Public Health as well as wearing PPE when near the gorillas. Research studies have verified that some non-human primates are susceptible to infection with SARS-CoV-2, but this is the first known instance of natural transmission to great apes and it is unknown if they will have any serious reaction.

SD vaccination super station opens

The County's first-of-its-kind COVID-19 vaccination super station launched Monday morning, Jan. 11, at Petco Park. 2,500 Tier 1 health care providers will receive the vaccine today without ever leaving their vehicles. The operation was just an idea last week, until the County, UC San Diego Health, San Diego Padres and the City of San Diego teamed up to make it a reality. The goal is to be administering 5,000 vaccinations a day by Friday, Jan 15.



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