

Weed ACH bids farewell to CSM during relinquishment of responsibility, retirement ceremonies

Story and photos by Kimberly Hackbarth

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – From joining the Army in 2002 as a 33-year-old private to becoming the command sergeant major of the Army's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design platinum hospital, Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Burnard insists, "I was never supposed to make it this far."

He shared the same sentiment in back-to-back ceremonies when Burnard relinquished responsibility of Weed Army Community Hospital to 1st Sgt. Rosalina Browning and then retired July 20, here.

Burnard, a Fullerton, California, native, said he joined the Army because of 9/11 and his brother, who also served in the military.

"I thought, if I don't [join the Army] now, I'll regret it for the rest of my life," Burnard recalled.

Before he left for basic combat training, Burnard saw a glimpse of what the Army was about when a recruiter ran with him every weekend for three months in order to help Burnard get in shape for basic combat training.

"In my mind, that's what the Army was," Burnard said. "He showed me what the Army was by taking care of people."

Throughout his career, Burnard took advantage of any opportunity he could to become a better Soldier, he said.

At his first assignment with 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) on Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Burnard immediately deployed and later became the Soldier of the year for his unit



Photo by Kimberly Hackbarth

Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Burnard (right), outgoing hospital command sergeant major, receives his certificate of retirement from Col. Michael Story, hospital commander, during a retirement ceremony at Weed ACH, on Fort Irwin, California, July 20, 2023. Burnard retired after 21 years of service to the U.S. Army.

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Tate assumes responsibility of National Training Center, Fort Irwin



Command Sgt. Maj. Carvet Tate assumed responsibility of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin July 24, during a ceremony on Fort Irwin, California.

Tate previously served as the command sergeant major for 316th Cavalry Brigade at the Maneuver

Center of Excellence at Fort Moore, Georgia.

"You're lucky if you can be a leader here in this organization, so I'm glad I was selected for that," Tate said. "I don't take that call sign, Lead 7, lightly at all."

Community

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Photo by Kimberly Hackbarth

Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Burnard, outgoing hospital command sergeant major, addresses the audience during a relinquishment of responsibility ceremony at Weed Army Community Hospital on Fort Irwin, California, July 20, 2023. Burnard relinquished responsibility of Weed ACH to 1st Sgt. Rosalina Browning.



Photo by Kimberly Hackbarth

Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Burnard, outgoing hospital command sergeant major, passes the Weed Army Community Hospital colors to Col. Michael Story, hospital commander, during a relinquishment of responsibility ceremony at Weed ACH, on Fort Irwin, California, July 20, 2023. Burnard relinquished responsibility of Weed Army Community Hospital to 1st Sgt. Rosalina Browning.

as a 35-year-old specialist, he said.

He went on to attend numerous military schools, including some where he was the only combat medic in attendance, such as the joint firepower course, he said.

"I'm not better, I'm not smarter, I'm not faster, I'm not bigger, I'm not any of that," Burnard said. "I'm determined."

Burnard also took advantage of civilian education opportunities during his time in the Army.

When he joined the Army, Burnard had no college credits, and now he has four degrees, he said.

Burnard said the Army changed him as a person.

"It took the Army to show me that it's your people that make you succeed," Burnard said. "Teach your people to succeed, and you have to succeed."

Col. Michael Story, the Weed ACH commander, worked alongside Burnard since Story took command in July 2022, only six months after Burnard assumed responsibility of the hospital.

"You will find no one more passionate about operational medicine than Command Sgt. Maj. Burnard and what a journey it's been," Story said during the retirement ceremony. "Throughout his journey, what Command Sgt. Maj. Burnard understood is that true, authentic leadership is about servanthood."

One of the things Burnard is proudest of is never saying "no" if a qualified Soldier who had their supervisor's approval wanted to go to a school, since many people join the Army because they want to be better than they

were, he said.

"One of the things I ask of my Soldiers is I don't need you to be the best, I just need you better than yesterday," Burnard said. "You prove that by giving them opportunities [and] there's nothing like seeing a Soldier realize who they really are in the military under your guidance."

Burnard said one of his philosophies throughout his military career included training your replacement.

"It's our job to teach junior level people how to be senior level people," he said. "If we aren't training them to be us, then there's not going to be an us, and you'll get what you get."

Burnard said he pushed the philosophy that he was going to teach his Soldiers everything he knew to get them to where he

was and then help them further themselves.

It may be no coincidence then that several Soldiers who used to work for him are currently command sergeants major or in the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.

"The fact that there are that many who are still in the Army and ... positively influencing the rest of the Army," Burnard said. "I just think you can't ask for better than that."

Story spoke about Burnard's influence during Burnard's retirement ceremony.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Burnard, you have absolutely made a difference in the lives of many because of your commitment to serve others and you've influenced generations of Soldiers and family," Story said.

Burnard plans to retire to Florida with his wife, Kim, and spend time with his grandchildren.

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Community Block Party



Fort Irwin and the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate hosted a Community Block Party at Jack Rabbit Park on Fort Irwin, California, July 29, 2023. Entertainment included bounce houses, waterslides, a dunk tank, car show, and informational booths.

Community

RSS gives back to Fort Irwin community during OPN Gratitude

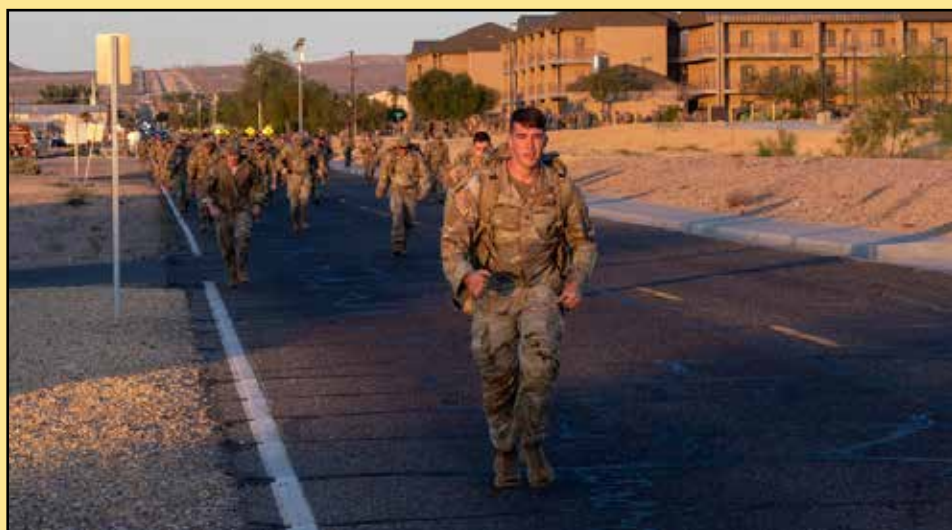


Courtesy photos

Soldiers and families with Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, conducted Operation Gratitude which focused on cleaning up local community playgrounds and recreational areas, the Blackhorse Horse stables and Wickam Memorial Park on Fort Irwin, California, July 20, 2023.

More Photos on pg 6

11th ACR Soldiers earn German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge



Photos by 11th ACR Public Affairs Office

Soldiers with 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse) vied to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badges on Fort Irwin, California, July 25-28, 2023. Soldiers participated in tasks including a marksmanship test, fitness test, 100-meter swim and a ruck march in order to earn the badge.

More Photos on pg 7

Community

Photos From pg 4



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- F48 Carrillo, Steven
- F08 Tuon, Samet

Date: July 28th, 2023 Signed NOVA STORAGE

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Photos From pg 5



August Calendar



AUGUST 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
 6	7	1	2 - TAP Job Fair	3 - SVUSD First Day of School - USAG Chambers Meeting	4 	5 - CUB Scouts Day Camp - Intramural Beach Volleyball Tournament	
13	14	8	9 - Sunset in the Park	10 - Parent ED Class BLDG 21 - MCSC Super Sign-Up	11 Box Tour 	12	
BSRT Event (Single)							
BSRT Event (Single)	20	21	22 - Blood Drive (Sandy Basin)	23 - Newcomer Spouse Orientation	24	25 	19 MWR Top Golf
27	28	29  Town Hall	30 Woman's Equality Day Senior Leader Orientation	31			

National Training Center and Fort Irwin Highlights

- TAP Job Fair 02 AUG
- SVUSD First Day of School 03 AUG
- Box Tour 11 AUG
- ERP Job Fair 15 AUG
- Newcomer Spouse Orientation 23 AUG
- USAG Town Hall 29 AUG
- Woman's Equality Day 30 AUG






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Contact Us Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation • P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Human Resource Department at (670) 234-8950 Ext. 3583/3404

For additional list of opportunities, visit: www.chcc.health/jobopportunities.php

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