



Fort Irwin community takes part in Wave of Light ceremony

Kimberly Hackbarth

Fort Irwin, Calif.

Staff from Weed Army Community Hospital and members of the Fort Irwin community lit flameless candles Oct. 14 during a Wave of Light ceremony in remembrance and recognition of infant and perinatal loss.

The annual ceremony brings awareness to infant and prenatal loss while providing families and loved ones an opportunity to remember those lost.

Capt. Tiffany Newcomb, chief of the Javier Villanueva Troop Medical Clinic and a Louisville, Ky., native, led the planning for the event.

“Experiences in my life and with my family and friends that went through miscarriage and having experience with fetal and infant loss, I just felt like this was something that I wanted to attend and support,” she said. “Being able to have the opportunity to make sure the event is planned and carried out is very meaningful and something that I’m passionate about.”

Newcomb said she first heard about the Wave of Light ceremony from Sgt. Vanessa Rodriguez, the Weed ACH schools noncommissioned officer.

Rodriguez, a Riverside, Calif., native, participated in the event last year as one of the

guest speakers and shared her story of loss.

“I think last year was so emotional for me and I spoke on so many feelings that I had suppressed for so long that it was just a releasing of that, so when I knew this was coming around, I was like I have to [volunteer again],” Rodriguez said. “I know what it did for me and I didn’t know that I needed that but I definitely did, and if one person can feel a little bit of that, that’s a total win for us.”

Newcomb said the expectation for the event is that it would be a safe space to remember loved ones and to recognize that infant and perinatal loss is something that happens more often than is talked about.

“There’s no timeline for the process (of grief), so whatever stage they’re at in their process... They’re definitely welcome,” Newcomb said. “Just know that there is a lot of support available and our event is annual, so any year they want to come back [they are welcome].”

Planning the event with Newcomb provided an additional outlet for Rodriguez, she said.

“Going through my own loss and a recent loss this year, [planning the event] affected me in a good way knowing that I’ll be able to set something up for other families,” Rodriguez said. “I’m so happy to have a team that’s will-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jose Concepcion / Weed Army Community Hospital

Capt. Tiffany Newcomb, chief of the Javier Villanueva Troop Medical Clinic and a Louisville, Ky. native, speaks during the Wave of Light ceremony Oct. 14 at Weed Army Community Hospital on Fort Irwin, California. Newcomb, a Louisville, Ky. native, led the planning for the event.

ing to go above and beyond for these families.”

Rodriguez said she hoped guests of the event take away the fact that sharing their grief is not negative.

“Their experiences are so important, and their feelings are so valid and that should be

shared,” she said.

Newcomb said she also had hopes for attendees.

“I just hope that they feel a sense of love and support and a community there with them to know that they’re not alone,” Newcomb said.

National Training Center urges driver safety on Fort Irwin Road

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — On Oct. 14, National Training Center and Fort Irwin safety officials placed a white cross at the scene of a fatal, single vehicle accident site to memorialize the driver involved.

The white cross represents the 57th fatality on Fort Irwin Road or Old Fort Irwin Road since the first one occurred Aug. 16, 1981.

It also represents the first vehicle fatality to have occurred since Sept. 3, 2017, which is the longest span of time Fort Irwin had gone without a vehicular fatality since 1981.

According to Dave Key, the NTC safety director, three recurring factors in Fort Irwin Road fatalities are speed, alcohol, and fatigue.

Speed is the single biggest factor in vehicle-related deaths on Fort Irwin Road and approximately 52% of the fatal traffic accidents that occurred on Fort Irwin Road and Old Fort Irwin Road are attributed to speeding, said Key.

“Speeding is dangerous’ may seem like an obvious message, but the fact of the matter is speeding is a habitual driver behavior,” Key said. “Most drivers understand that speeding is dangerous; most still speed.”

The posted speed limit on Fort Irwin Road is 65 mph, while Old Fort Irwin Road’s speed limit is 55 mph.

“A 50-mile drive at 75 mph versus 65 mph only saves about six minutes,” said Key. “Is that worth getting a ticket, or worse, losing your life?”

The second most common factor in Fort Irwin Road fatalities is alcohol with approximately 20% of the driving fatalities on Fort Irwin Road involving alcohol, Key said.

Every day, approximately 32 people die due to drunk



driving according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Statistics show that in 2020, 30% of all driving fatalities in the state of California involved alcohol.

The third most common factor in Fort Irwin Road fatalities is fatigue, Key said.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, approximately 6,400 people died annually in crashes involving drowsy driving.

The National Safety Council states that driving after going more than 20 hours without sleep is the equivalent of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08%.

The National Training Center Safety Department recommends drivers heed the following tips below to help ensure their safety on the road:

- Always wear a seatbelt while driving. Eighty-three percent of vehicle occupants ejected from vehicles were killed. Seat belts are the single most effective safety device in preventing serious injuries and reducing fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. According to the NHTSA, more than 15,000 lives are saved each year due to seat belt use by drivers and passengers

- Check your vehicle. Check that brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, heater, and exhaust system are in top condition. Check tires for proper inflation. Temperatures below freezing can lower air pressure. Approximately 535 fatalities and 23,000 collisions per year are attributed to tire failure.

- Keep your gas tank full. It may be necessary to change routes or turn back during a storm. There is also an increased potential for traffic delays due to weather or accidents.

- Check the weather. Make checking the weather forecast and road conditions a part of your daily routine during the winter. Anything from extreme heat to high winds can have an adverse effect on your driving capabilities.

- Avoid driving at night. Nighttime conditions (midnight-6 a.m.) are the deadliest time to travel. Limit driving at night if possible and remember to take frequent rest breaks. Nationally, the deadliest three-hour period for traffic accidents was Saturday from midnight-3 a.m., followed by 6-9 p.m.

“It’s always a very sad moment heading out to memorialize these crash sites,” said Key. “I always try to learn as much about these mishaps as I can in hopes that it will prevent further fatality mishaps. Every time I put a cross up, I hope it’s the last one.”

News

JPMRC Rotation 23-01 begins in Hawaii

The 25th Infantry Division and Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center held an opening ceremony for the JPMRC rotation 23-01, Oct. 20, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The combat training center rotation runs through Nov. 10, providing realistic training designed to build readiness and enhance interoperability throughout the Indo-Pacific region. The 25th ID, alongside units from Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines will experience all-domain training challenges in conditions that realistically mimic the operational environment they may experience in crisis or conflict.

“Over the next three weeks, we will sweat together, bust through gulches together, learn together, fight the enemy together and win together,” said Col. Graham White, Commander of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Supported by the National Training Center and the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center, JPMRC rotations provide realistic training opportunities that portray peer and near-peer threats for regional CTC rotations in Hawaii, Alaska, and an exportable capability throughout the Indo-Pacific. While principally an Army training center focused on building readiness in the 25th Infantry Division, this year’s training also involves Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps organizations, assets and training.

“Our mission over the next three weeks is to provide a world-class training exercise — a crucible experience — in terrain and operational conditions that replicate the conditions that we expect in combat in this theater,” said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey VanAntwerp, Deputy Commanding General — Operations, 25th Infantry Division. “We’re going to do that by stressing every warfighting function.”

With a total of 12 countries observing the exercise and 3 participating units, JPMRC 23-01 serves as the region’s premier CTC that strengthens defense relationships, fosters multinational interoperability, increases U.S. readiness, and reinforces the unified regional landpower



network that supports a free and open Indo-Pacific.

“JPMRC rotation 23-01 will include more than 6,000 Soldiers from across the 25th Infantry Division and more than 350 Soldiers from three participating units from Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, and 12 observer nations (Australia, French Caledonia, Bangladesh, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand), said Maj. Gen. Joe Ryan, Commanding General of 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Hawaii senior commander. “The U.S. Army in the Pacific and these Armies from across the region are all a part of a landpower network—a network that also includes the Marine Corps and Special Operations Forces. The landpower network is a key component in the security architecture that helps keep the Indo-Pacific region safe, free, and open, because it protects national sovereignty—something that’s very important to each of our Allies and Partners. The interoperability and close relationships we build while training together within the landpower network is a key advantage in competition and, if necessary, in conflict.”

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Chaplain's Corner



Luke 17:11-19 The Ten Lepers

One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks.

And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

The 10 men in this story had their lives entirely changed. They went from being despised wretches who had to beg for food to men who now might once again mingle with society. The gift Jesus Christ gave them would define the rest of their lives just as their leprosy had done until that point. Yet only one thought to return to thank the One who healed him.

All that we have is essentially borrowed

from God. All that we count as our own is from Him. Every advantage we have gained here are thanks to faculties He gave us on an Earth He created. What is more, God did not even withhold His own son from us, but gave His Son as a sacrifice for sin on our behalf. Jesus noticed the gratitude of the one leper and the absent-mindedness of the nine. Consider how gratitude or the lack thereof impacts you—when we give to someone who takes our giving for granted, we may feel a loss, but when we give to someone who appreciates what we do for them, we want to give more.

Gratitude goes beyond just a reciprocity to the giver, however. It transforms the heart of the one giving thanks as well. When

we live with gratitude in our hearts, we become happier, more satisfied, and more fulfilled. While cynicism and complaining are often watchwords and universal pastimes among us in the Army, these can become a vicious cycle of discontent where we become blind to the blessings that are before us. Gratitude will not resolve all of the world's ills, but it will give us greater contentment as we navigate life's challenges.

- What am I thankful for?
- Who can I thank for what they have done for me?
- What has God given me that I may be taking for granted?

May God bless you with eyes to see your blessings and the fruits of gratitude.

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Halloween



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U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) awards Silver Valley Unified School District \$2,000,000 literacy grant

Silver Valley Unified School District has been awarded a \$2,000,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). Silver Valley Unified School District's grant is called F.L.A.R.E.: Fostering Literacy and Reading Excellence. Located in a remote area in California's Mojave Desert, SVUSD serves 74.7% military-connected students from Fort Irwin National Training Center and the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

Since COVID's disruptions to education, SVUSD educator observations and student

performance data confirm that literacy is the area students most need intensive support. Literacy is foundational to all academic areas. Through this project, SVUSD will address TK-12th grade student needs and measurably increase their literacy skills over the five-year grant.

"We could not be more excited for this incredible opportunity for our students and our community! As we continue to recover from the COVID pandemic, this grant brings the resources we need to help our students improve their literacy across

all subjects. We are grateful to DoDEA for their on-going support of our students and community," said Jesse M Najera, Superintendent.

The grant will support TK-12th grade students and includes resources to instructional aides, New iPads TK-K, Multimedia libraries, Family Book Bags and Interactive journals, Library and Classroom Books

Strategies include: Professional learning, Project-based learning, Extra-curricular activities, E-reader access, Family engagement DoDEA's Education Partnership and

Resources division strives to ensure all military-connected K-12 students have access to quality educational opportunities through engagement in partnerships with school districts and professional organizations. The division provides school personnel and stakeholders with evidence-based resources and supports to increase understanding and awareness related to the unique challenges faced by military-connected students and families. Learn more about the DoDEA Grants at dodeagrants.org

NOVEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 • BOSS: Goldstone Tour	3	4 	5 • BOSS: Big Bear • AAFES Fall / Winter Fashion Show
6	7	8	9 • BOSS: Salsa and Bachata Class	10 • Spouse Orientation • MCSC Bingo Mixer	11 • BOSS: Top Golf Event Thunder LP • Federal Holiday 	12 • BOSS: Wolf Sanctuary (Lucerne Valley) • Holiday Craft Fair (Sandy Basin)
13 	14	15 • Town Hall • Education Fair • ERP Monthly Hiring Fair	16 Blood Drive (Sandy Basin & WACH) • BOSS: Movie • Education Workshop	17 • Military Family Appreciation Dinner (EPI Center)	18 • MEDDAC Ball (Sandy Basin) 	19 • Fort Irwin Power Outage
20	21	22	23	24 Federal Holiday FFAM Thanksgiving Yorba Linda 	25 	26
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; width: 80%;"> 19-27 November: Opportunity Leave / SVUSD Fall Break </div>						
27	28	29	30		Karaoke Every Friday Night 2000-2300 hrs. SHOCKWAVE	COSMIC BOWLING Every Saturday Night 1830-2230 hrs. Desert Winds

National Training Center and Fort Irwin Highlights

- Spouse Orientation: 10 NOV
- MCSC Bingo Mixer: 10 NOV
- Veterans Day / Federal Holiday: 11 NOV
- Thanksgiving Day: 24 NOV

- Fort Irwin Power Outage: 19 NOV
- Opportunity Leave / SVUSD Fall Break: 19-27 NOV
- AAFES Gift Wrapping: 25 NOV-24 DEC
- Great American Short Course SBC Fairgrounds: 12-13 NOV

SCAN QR CODE TO ACCESS Community Calendar

Community**POST WIDE
POWER OUTAGE**

November 19th

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALES****Business & Professional Code Section 21700-21707**

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The items to be sold are generally described as follows: Furniture, clothing, tools and or other household items stored by the following persons.

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E02 Braxton, Alice
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Date: October 19th, 2022 Signed NOVA STORAGE

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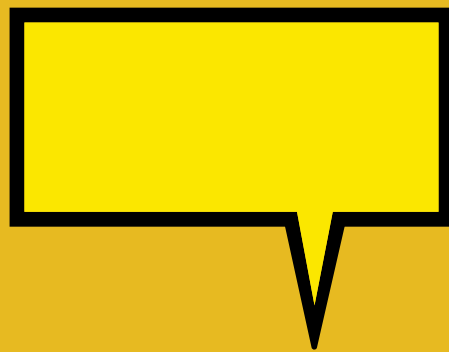
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