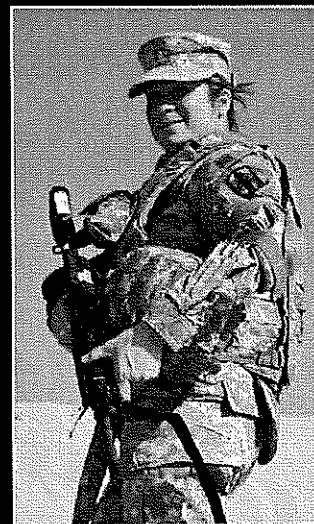
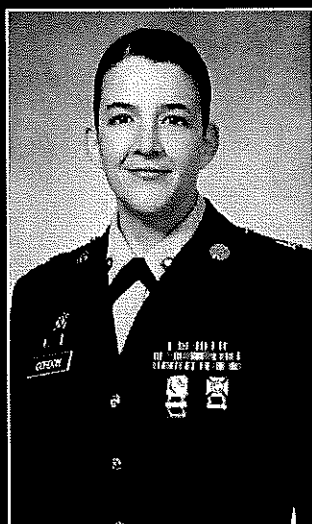
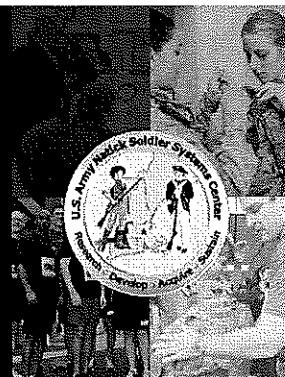


February 2019

NSSC This Month



The Women of Team Natick

Women Veterans Make Invaluable Contributions to Team Natick



Installation Management Command
Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Awards
First Place, 2017, PDF Publication



Publisher's Note

John Harlow
USAG Natick Public Affairs



February is in the books and there has been plenty of excitement around the Natick Soldier Systems Center.

On Feb. 12, there was a small fire in Building 5. Thankfully it was contained quickly. Five of our Garrison police officers were taken to the hospital, treated and released. We appreciate the great support by the Natick Police and Fire Departments. You can read more about the fire, response and fire prevention program inside.

The Garrison leadership has a new person on the team. Sean Lehane has moved on to become the Deputy Garrison Manager of USAG Garmish, Germany and Enoch Godbolt is the Acting Deputy Garrison Commander. Godbolt comes to Natick from Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall where he serves as the Director of Operations. If you see Enoch walking around post, give him a warm Team Natick welcome.

I would like to take a moment to let you know about our new teammate David Wedemeyer. He comes to us from the U.S.S. Constitution Museum in Boston. If you see David around post, please say hello.

If you have a story you want to share, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to sharing your story.



John Harlow
Chief of Public Affairs/Legislative Liaison
USAG Natick

NSSC This Month

NSSC

Senior Commander
Brig. Gen. Vincent F. Malone

Garrison Commander
Lt. Col. Bryan M. Martin

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj.
Michael R. Pintagro

Public Affairs Officer
John Harlow

Editor
K. Houston Waters

About this newsletter

NSSC This Month is a monthly newsletter covering NSSC news within the Army and commercial media.

NSSC This Month is maintained by the USAG Natick Public Affairs Office.

To subscribe to *NSSC This Month*, please contact Houston Waters at Kenneth.h.waters4.civ@mail.mil

Web: www.army.mil/natick

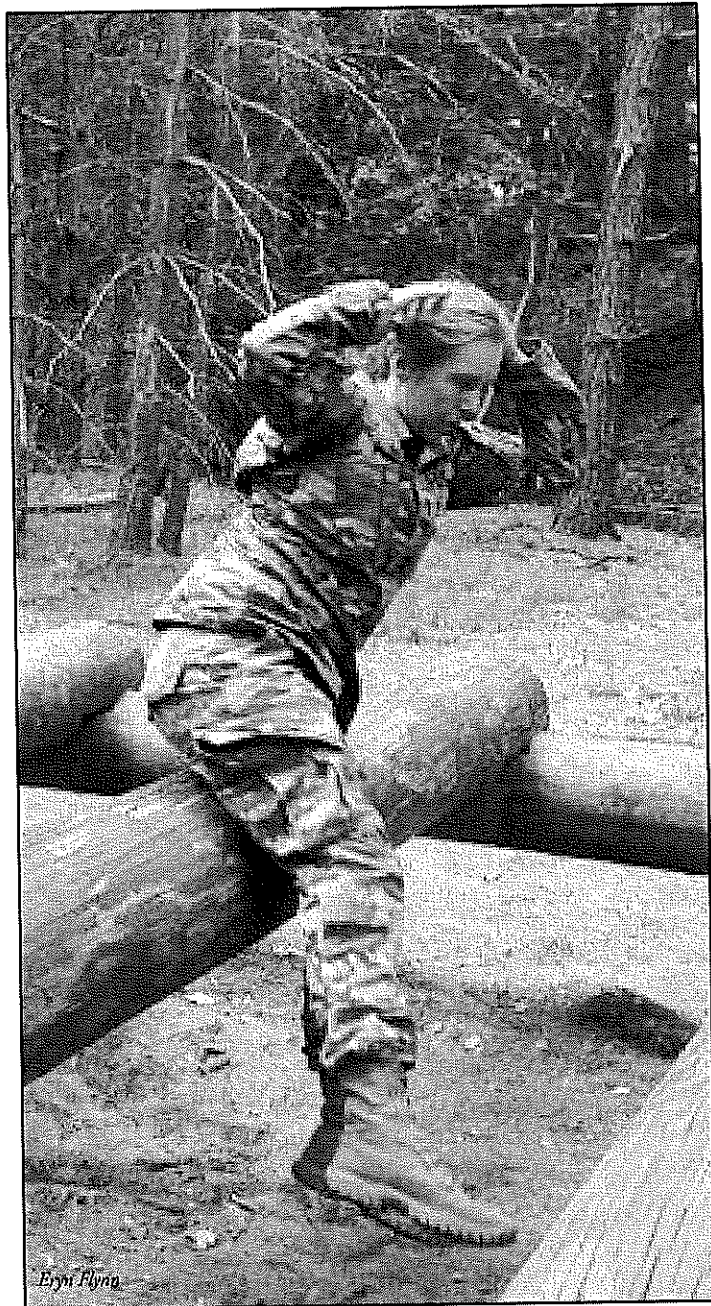
Cover story by John Harlow, USAG Natick Public Affairs. Photo by David Kamm, RDECOM Soldier Center.

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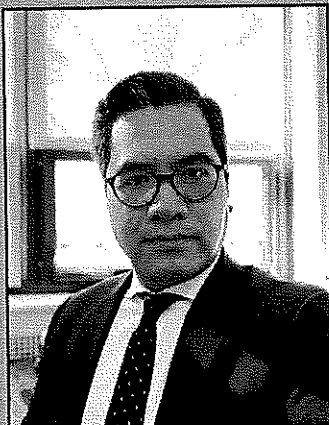
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USAG Natick News Briefs

Garrison Spotlight

David Wedemeyer, Public Affairs



USAG Natick would like to welcome David Wedemeyer! David comes to the public affairs office from the U.S.S. Constitution Museum where he built the institution's marketing and communications department over the course of three years. David's background is in journalism, media relations, branding strategy, and social media marketing. Welcome David!

Fond Farewells

Sean Lehane, Deputy Garrison Commander

USAG Natick would like to wish a fond farewell to Sean Lehane as he transitions to U.S. Army Garrison Bayaria - Garmisch. During his time in Natick, Sean served as Deputy Garrison Commander and Director of Plans, Mobilization, Training, and Security. He also served as Deputy Garrison Commander at Fort Devens. "Thank you to each and every one of you - I know that my success as the DGC was a direct result of your professionalism and dedication to the Soldiers, Families, and Civilians we support."



News Briefs

Army Benefits Center

The Army Benefits Center-Civilian's (ABC-C's) current application for providing employees access to their Federal benefits is the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS). We have been advised that EBIS will no longer be supported by the vendor, so Army must transition to a new benefits system called Government Retirement & Benefits (GRB) Incorporated. Transition for Army to the GRB Platform is currently anticipated to occur in the March 2019 timeframe. Transition to the GRB Platform will not only address the issue of the vendor no longer supporting the system, but will align the Army with other DoD agencies, such as Air Force, Navy, DLA, etc., who are already utilizing the GRB Platform.

GRB Platform Overview: Like EBIS, the GRB Platform is a web-based application that is designed to provide employees access to manage personal benefits and entitlements, as well as general information about government-wide benefits. While our understanding is that the GRB Platform will look slightly different than EBIS to the employee, it will have the same functionality as EBIS. It is expected that when fully operational, the GRB Platform will provide additional functionality not currently available in EBIS.

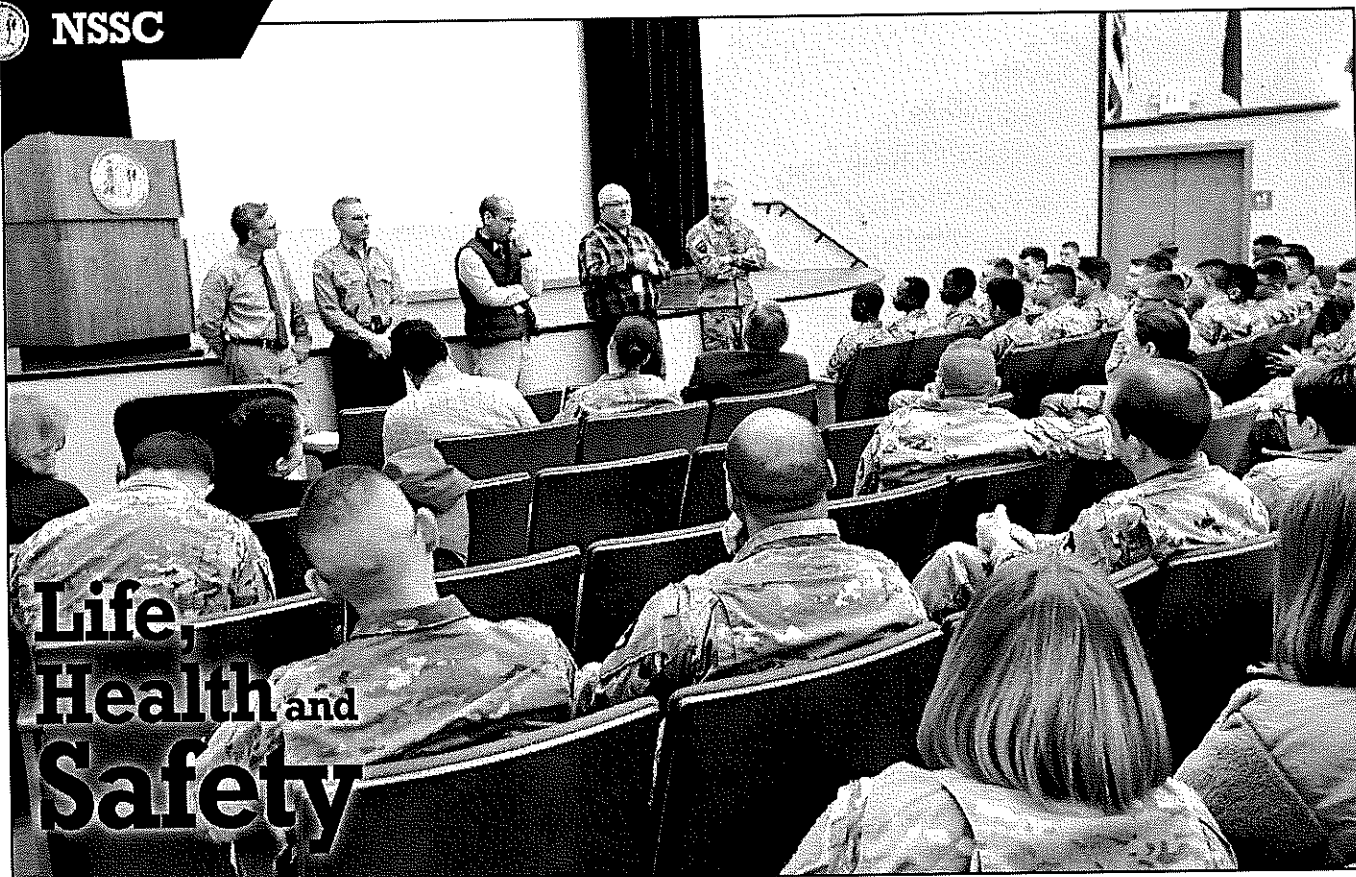
The GRB Platform provides employees with the ability to complete their benefits elections, obtain and/or request retirement estimates, complete and print the documentation for the retirement application, review current benefits coverage, obtain various informational videos, fact sheets, electronic forms, calculators, and links to external websites to aid in making important benefits decisions.

In the GRB Platform, retirement estimate requests can be submitted. Retirement applications can also be completed in the GRB Platform but must be printed, signed, and mailed to the ABC-C.

How to Access the GRB Platform: The GRB Platform will provide single sign-on functionality using a common access card (CAC). There will no longer be a password requirement. Once employees have logged into the GRB Platform, there will be a new user video available to assist employees in transitioning to this new application.

Any information employees have entered into EBIS will not transfer to the new GRB Platform (i.e. TSP balances, pre-filled retirement application documentation via eRetirement, employee-generated estimates, etc).

Prior to the GRB Platform rollout, there will be an informational campaign so employees will be aware of the new application's functionality and how to access the information contained within the system.

**NSSC**

NSSC Senior Commander Talks Housing in Town Hall

By David Wedemeyer, USAG Natick Public Affairs/Natick, Mass.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone, Senior Commander of the Natick Soldier Systems Center, supported by installation health, safety, and housing experts, held a candid discussion with Soldiers, residents, and staff to answer questions and address housing concerns across the military Feb. 22 at the NSSC's Hunter Auditorium.

"When it comes to life, health, and safety concerns from our people, Army leadership listens," said Malone, who also serves as Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command. "It's important to have these discussions because it affects our readiness. We need to find the problems, fix the problems, and make sure the correct mechanisms are in place so these problems don't happen again."

In advance of the town hall, Malone performed an inspection of the installation's Soldier-occupied barracks and the NSSC's housing areas – vacant pending the construction of new housing. Joined by housing, fire, and public works officials, Malone stated that no life, health, and safety issues were observed at the barracks or housing areas.

Malone, who assumed the role of Senior Commander at Natick on Jan. 5, 2018, said his predecessors set the stage for key improvements, "I'm deeply proud of this installation's previous leaders for taking care of issues so that I can stand here today and tell you that Natick is in a good place."

(above) Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone addresses attendees during a town hall discussion regarding housing concerns, supported by NSSC officials (L-R) Deputy Chief of the Department of Public Works Jason Gove, Fire Chief John Mauro, environmental engineer Rich Valcourt, and industrial hygienist John Ciesla. (U.S. Army photo by K. Houston Waters, NSSC Public Affairs)



(right) Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone, NSSC Senior Command and Jason Gove, Deputy Chief of NSSC Department of Public Works. (U.S. Army photo by David Wedemeyer, NSSC Public Affairs)



1st Sgt. Sean Caruso briefs Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone on barracks living conditions. (U.S. Army photo by David Wedemeyer, NSSC Public Affairs)

Malone also addressed NSSC personnel who live at nearby Hanscom Air Force Base. Though NSSC plays no role in the management of Hanscom housing, the Senior Commander expressed concern and willingness to serve as an advocate for NSSC personnel and families residing there.

"Just because you choose to live in Army Family Housing doesn't

mean you abdicate or give up your right to safe living conditions," he said. "That is a right you have so you should absolutely voice your concerns to your chain of command and trust that they will get it done."

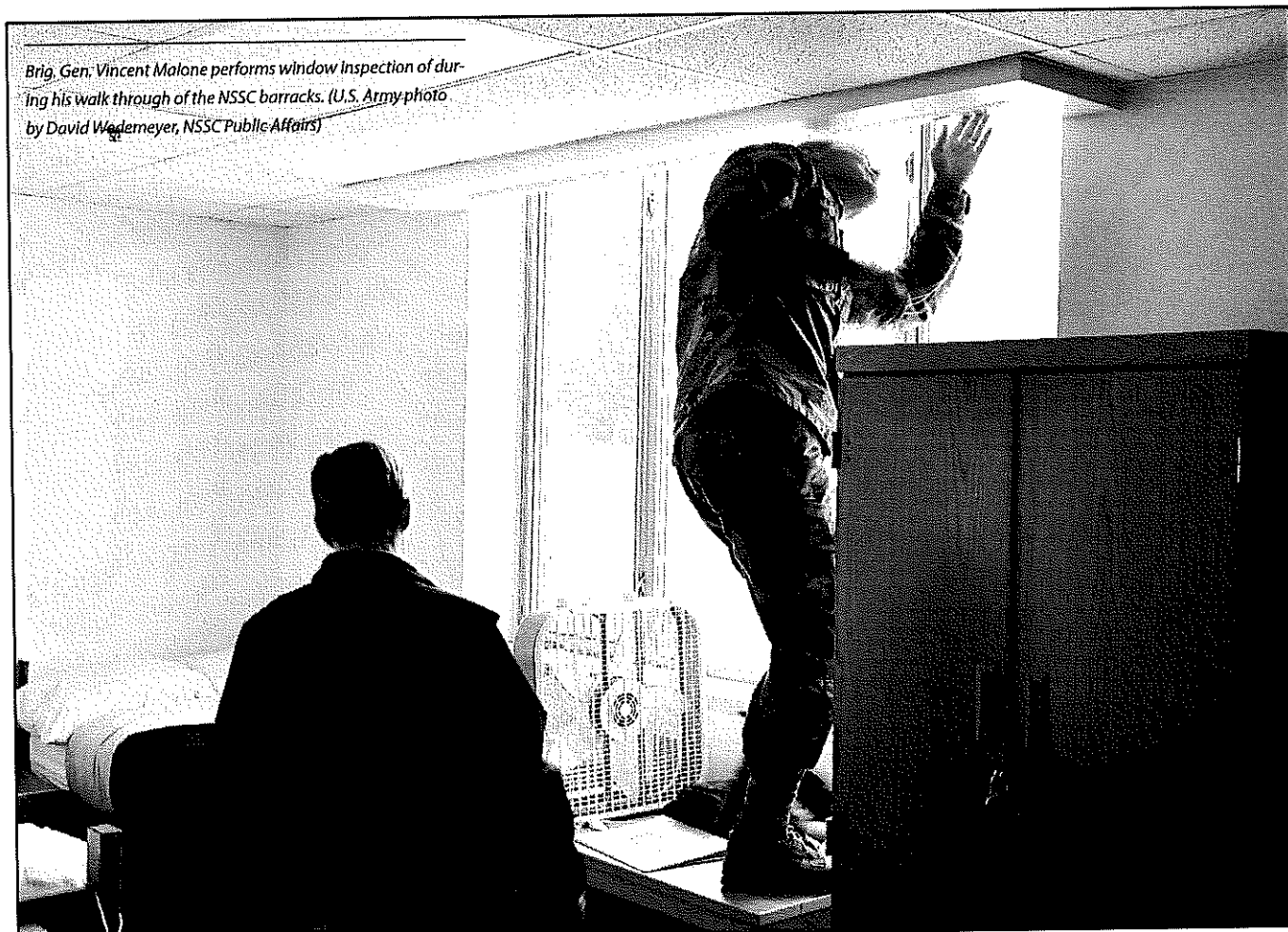
Participants said they emerged from the event better informed and confident in their leaders.

"Having (Brig. Gen.) Malone there was a great opportunity," said Pvt. Jessie Berlinger, a Human Research Volunteer at the NSSC. "He explained it well. The town hall helped to show privates and specialists about what we need to pay attention to—leaks, places water may go, our living areas."

"It gave us a bit more perspective about what is expected of us — what to look out for and how to instruct the new incoming guys about barracks upkeep and work orders," added Staff Sgt. Carlos R. Velazquez, a squad leader with the largest Soldier Detachment on the NSSC. "It helped us prepare for room inspections. It helped us learn more about preventative measures and cleanliness. It also showed us that the leadership cares and that they're listening to us."

NSSC residents and personnel are reminded that the Department of Public Works is the point of contact for facilities work orders and they will respond to and address all requests in a timely manner. Contact DPW at 508-233-5220 for all service and repair needs. Contact 508-233-6300 for emergencies.

Hanscom residents who have immediate concerns should contact Straight Talk at 781-225-1380 or Hanscom.StraightTalk@us.af.mil.



Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone performs window inspection of during his walk through of the NSSC barracks. (U.S. Army photo by David Wedemeyer, NSSC Public Affairs)



NSSC

Fire Prevention

Building Blaze Sheds Light on NSSC Fire Safety

By USAG Natick Public Affairs/Natick, Mass.

John Mauro, fire inspector, U.S. Army Garrison Natick, believes that fire prevention is everyone's responsibility. That lesson was reinforced the evening of Feb. 12 when a small fire broke out in Building 5 of the Natick Soldier Systems Center.

"It looks like a component overheated and ignited the interior of the humidifier," said Mauro. "It climbed up a wall, lit some of the plastic and PVC pipe on fire and that dropped into a box of filters and other material which then ignited."

A quick response and a properly functioning sprinkler system minimized the damage.

The fire inspector aims to use the lesson as a teaching tool, bringing renewed energy and attention to installation fire-prevention efforts and thereby diminishing the likelihood of similar incidents in the future.

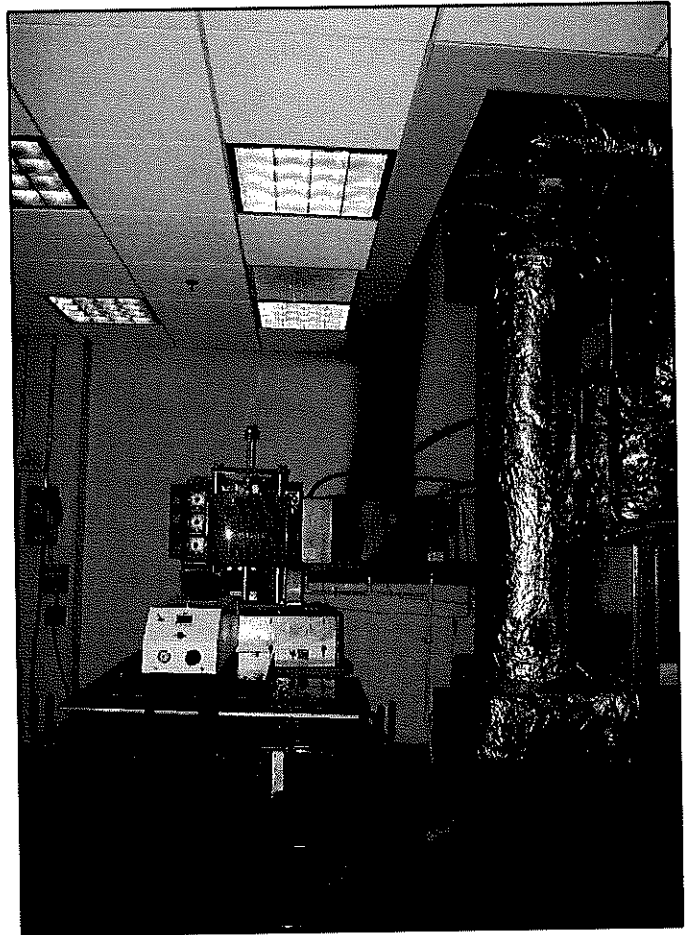
Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone, the NSSC senior commander, and Lt. Col. Bryan Martin, the USAG-Natick garrison commander, anticipated the renewed emphasis on fire safety, directing a series of thorough inspections and empowering Mauro to implement control measures across the installation in early winter.

"Installation and garrison leadership are working on a complete fire and life safety analysis of the buildings," said Mauro. "The National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code is accepted by the Army and we are expected to follow this code. We are going to look all sorts of issues ranging from fire safety to egress. Investigating the different construction throughout the years and its impact on the safety of the buildings."

Mauro believes fire prevention begins with educating the workforce about potential hazards.

"Fire prevention is a lot about educating people," he said. "We need to work with the people here at Natick to prevent fires from happening."

"For example, we have to tell them that you can't have the trash barrel in the hallway because of this risk," he added. "You can't have egg crate foam on the walls to deaden the sound because it is highly flammable. Fire prevention is about education and the more buy in we



This photo shows damage caused by the February 12 fire in Building 5 of Natick Soldier Systems Center (NSSC). (U.S. Army photo by John Harlow, USAG Natick Public Affairs).

get, the less risk of fire on the installation."

Mauro said fire prevention is more than meeting quarterly to conduct training; it means meeting one-on-one and explaining issues so they are understood and any potential hazards remedied.

Mauro expects additional fire inspections to continue throughout 2019 and encourages the NSSC workforce to remain vigilant and flexible. The cooperation and diligence will ultimately improve safety and regulatory compliance across the NSSC.

If you have any questions about the fire prevention, or would like to know what you can do to enhance the safety of your work-space, contact John Mauro at (508) 233-4325 or john.d.mauro.civ@mail.mil



You can also visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's fire prevention website at <https://safety.army.mil/ON-DUTY/Military-Operations-and-Training/Fire-Prevention> for great tips and advice.



NSSC

Black Migrations

Team Natick Celebrates Black History

By David Wedemeyer, USAG Natick Public Affairs/Natick, Mass.

Soldiers, Family members, and personnel celebrated National African American History Month during an observance hosted by Integrated Logistics Support Center (ILSC) on Feb. 20 at the Natick Soldier Systems Center (NSSC).

This year's theme, "Black Migrations," highlighted the challenges and successes of African Americans from the agricultural South to centers of industry across the United States—especially the migrations that occurred during the twentieth century which reshaped the country's demographic landscape. During this time, African Americans have emerged from discrimination and hardship to inspire confidence and courage in people of all backgrounds.

The event's keynote speaker, Chief Master Sgt. Henry Hayes, Command Chief for the 66th Air Base Group and Hanscom Air Force Base, strayed from tradition lines of thought and history lessons. Hayes, whose father served as an Army drill sergeant, instead drew inspiration from a magazine he read during a flight to Ohio.

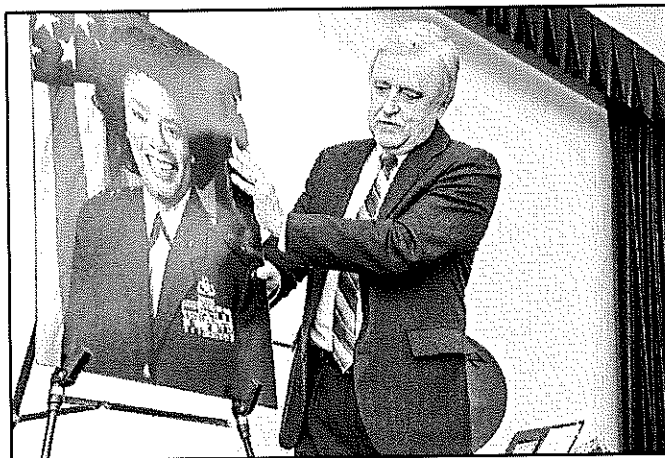
"Behind the tray table is the seat pocket and what I see peeking out is the inflight magazine titled American Way and it got me thinking about the strength of Americans and the way we have gone," said Hayes who continued to find inspiration from articles throughout the magazine. "Blisters and Beauty' . . . if you endure the blisters you can get to the beauty . . . 'Chasing Adventure in the Grand Canyon' . . . chasing the adventure of next, new, different . . . 'Wrestling with Success' . . . overcoming opposition . . . 'Destinations' . . . where are you going? Where are you trying to go? We're all trying to get somewhere better.

"While looking at any page in this magazine I found something that is applicable to migration. But how do we honor each other and deal with history and heritage and come together as one? Everyone wants the same thing and everyone deserves it.

"Everyone deserves to be DROPKICKed," exclaimed Hayes as he referenced an acronym meant to guide people on how to treat others.



The observance included entertainment from the Bedford High School dance troupe "G-Squad." (U.S. Army photo by Dave Kamm, CCDC Soldier Center).



Joseph Cooper, ILSC Director, recalled the service of the late Maj. Gen. Marcelite J. Harris saying that "she may not have been a celebrity, but she was a rock star in our business, in our family."

"Everybody deserves Dignity, Respect, Opportunity, Praise, Knowledge, Integrity, Calculative engagement, and simple Kindness."

Attendees were treated to a step dance performance from G-Squad, Bedford High School's dance troupe, including members Janie and Janae, daughters of Staff Sgt. Jamar Daniels from U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM). The entertainment continued with musicians David Fuller and Rollins Ross performing an uplifting repertoire that ran the gamut of artists, from The Temptations to Bruno Mars.

Joseph Cooper, Director of ILSC and retired Army Lt. Col., brought the observance to a close and reminisced on the inspiring service and trailblazing career of the late Maj. Gen. Marcelite J. Harris, who as the first black woman to serve as a major general in the U.S. military. "She may not have been a celebrity, but she was a rock star in our business, in our family."

Cooper added, "She and I were very similar, both determined. If anyone were to bring up the difference in race I would say the only difference in color would be that she wore Air Force blue and I wore Army green."

The results of the NSSC food drive, held annually in conjunction with Black History Month, were announced. During the four weeks of the food drive 97 boxes and 42 bags of non-perishable food items were collected.

Anthony Lee from the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center (CCDC) shared a collective appreciation, "Thank you to the volunteers and (Black History Month Program Committee) members who organized this effort, the leaders who set the example and encouraged their teams and employees, and all the participants who made this food charity drive a success. You all represent Team Natick at its finest."



Talking About Mental Health

Team Natick Hosts Innovative Mental Health Training

By K. Houston Waters, USAG Natick Public Affairs/Natick, Mass.

Training is an essential part of everyday life in the Army. For Soldiers in the field, understanding their equipment, and how to operate during the heat of battle, could be the difference between life and death. Though physically and mentally demanding, this type of rigorous training is highly regarded as a necessary and vital part being a Soldier.

Off the field of battle, Army Soldiers and civilians face battles of a more personal nature. Unfortunately, because of stigma, and other factors, training on these issues may not generate the same level of enthusiasm. For years, drug, alcohol, and suicide prevention coordinators have struggled to generate passion for mental health related training topics.

The Department of the Army recognized this issue, and accordingly, has given garrisons the flexibility to adapt training methods to better suit target audiences. Leaders at U.S. Army Garrison Natick (USAG) have taken this directive and established a creative and innovative new approach to training the workforce.

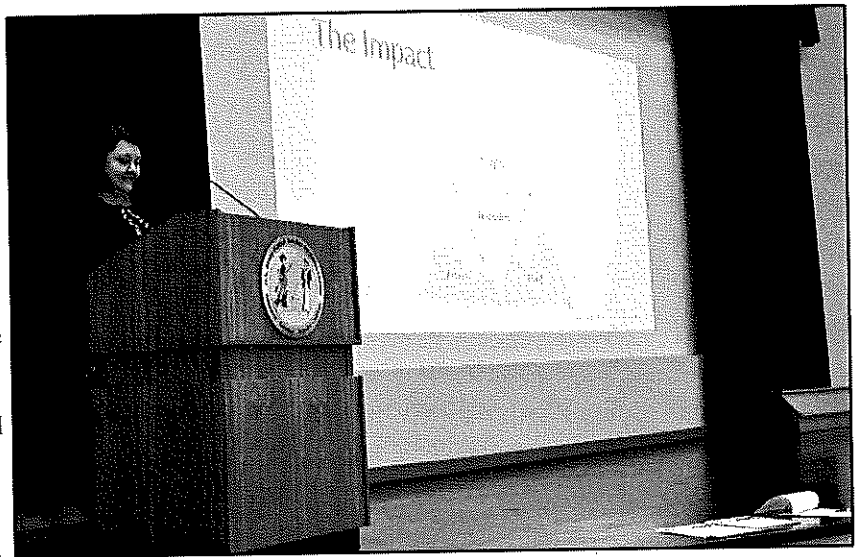
"What we've decided to do is look at the whole picture," said Kari Sharpe, director of Human Resources, USAG Natick. "We can talk about suicide every year. We can talk about drug and alcohol every year. What is too much? Why you shouldn't use drugs. We can talk about suicide statistics. But what's at the bottom of these behaviors? What is at the underlying root of these issues and why aren't we talking about them?"

Sharpe believes the contract with the U.S. Army Garrison Employee Assistance Program (ESPYR) to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that focuses on addressing the root causes of substance abuse, with a focus on mental health, is the answer.

"Being able to talk about mental health and understanding how it impacts all of us is incredibly important," said Sharpe. "We all can have problems in our lives, whether they be depressive episodes, anything. We have family members impacted by mental health. So let's talk about mental health. That's really where this topic came up. If you're required to go to live training on the subject every year, let's make it something a little different, a little more interesting. Let's talk about the bigger issues associated with suicide and substance abuse — like mental health," said Sharpe.

Sharpe believes this new training is important for two reasons: it meets the Army's annual "personal readiness" training requirements (formally suicide prevention and alcohol and substance abuse prevention training), and even more importantly, the training tackles topics affecting everyone.

"Every single person is impacted by mental health concerns during



Meg Price, a licensed mental health counselor, provides mental health training to Department of the Army civilian employees at Natick Soldier Systems Center (NSSC). (Photo Credit: K. Houston Waters)

their lifetime," said Sharpe. "Even when we as individuals are mentally healthy, we have children, parents, siblings, friends, co-workers and more who also may struggle with mental health at some point. Our ability to understand mental health matters, and support that is available, makes it easier to help ourselves and support others we care about when needed."

"It's all about minimizing suffering," said Meg Price, a licensed mental health counselor. "One in four adults experience mental health issues, and suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States."

Price's training to the garrison was focused on assisting the workforce in understanding mental health concerns, both personally and professionally, and how best to assist and respond to those in distress. The training provided managers and employees with the necessary resources.

"One of the best things we can do to address growing suicide and substance abuse rates is to talk openly about mental health," said Sharpe. "It is time to eliminate the stigma of reaching out for help, and encourage those in our lives to do the same."

If you, or anyone you know is suffering, there are many great resources available. For example:

National Alliance on Mental Illness: www.nami.org

National Institute of Mental Health: www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml

Job Accommodation Network (JAN): <https://askjan.org>

Mental Health America: www.mentalhealthamerica.net

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255



Meet your Chaplain

Team Natick Welcomes Maj. Andrew Shriver

By Maj. Andrew Shriver, CCDC Soldier Center/Natick, Mass.

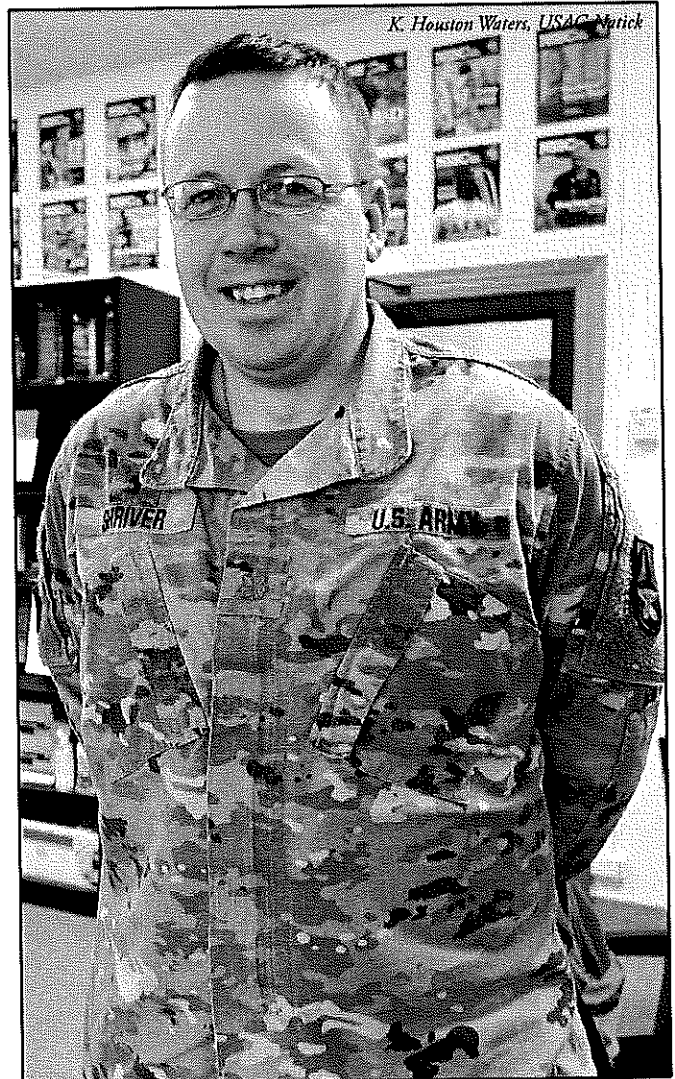
When I was ten years old, I was living on Elmendorf AFB near Anchorage, Alaska. My elementary school was three blocks from the runway and one day as I was walking to school during lunch a T-33 aircraft crashed just short of the runway in a huge ball of flame. Later, I learned that the pilot was the father of a friend. Remember making a card during social studies and drawing waterfall during an autumn day with orange and red flames trees. Halfway down the waterfall a phoenix nest was perched on a rocky outcropping, I wrote at the bottom of the card, "Though the waters may road, the peace of God will always be with you."

As I walked to the house of my friend, I saw two officers come out of the house and they slowly walked away. I went up to the door of the house and saw my friend's mother through the window sitting in a chair. She saw me and motioned for me to come into the house. I opened the door and walked over to her with the card with the waterfall and phoenix nest on it. As she looked at it, she began to cry and gave me a big hug.

Many years passed and after working as a ballroom dances instructor, a guide for an outward bound hiking program, college student services administrator, staff analyst in International Health for DHHS, and a hospital Chaplain in Oregon and Virginia, that widow encouraged me to be a military Chaplain. And in 2006, I went to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and asked a wounded LTC if he would swear me into the U.S. Army surrounded by a dozen Soldiers missing arms and legs in a physical therapy lab with their family members.

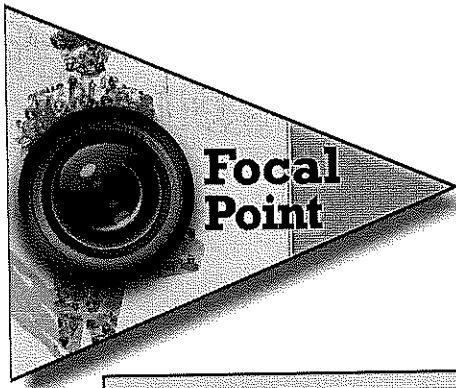
As a young Reserve Chaplain serving the 2290th U.S. Army Hospital at WRAMC, I was able to pass a rigorous test put on by the Old Guard and WMD Chaplains in order to perform funerals in Arlington National Cemetery. I volunteered without pay and conducted five to six funerals every weekday.

Several months passed, and after a five funeral day, I was about to head home when a call came down that a retired Chaplain needed some assistance in one of the family rooms. I put my things down and went up to offer my help. As I entered the family room, I noticed that the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff and the Army Chief of Staff were among the DV's in the room. The retired Chaplain came up to me and explain that he was getting older in years and would not be able to march from Patton Circle to the graveside (about a mile distance) and would I be able to do that for him. I gladly accepted to help in this way, and then asked the retired Chaplain what advice he would give to a new Chaplain who was about to head to Chaplain Officer Basic Course in three weeks' time. The retired Chaplain looked surprised at first but then thought about the question and then answered by saying, "When I went to CHOBC, I found there were Chaplains there who were better counselors than I was and others who were better preachers than I was and others who were better administrators than I was. So I decided that I would be the very best at caring Soldiers and their Families and



that is what I did my whole career. I thanked him and moved on Patton Circle.

After the funeral was over the retired Chaplain came up to me and thanked me for assisting and moved on. Nearby he Army Chief of Staff, General Schoomaker, called over to me and asked, "Do you know who that retired Chaplain is?" I replied that I had no idea and only knew he was a retired Chaplain. GEN Schoomaker then replied with a laugh "That was Chaplain Zimmerman, former Army Chief of Chaplains." As the Generals moved on toward their vehicles to go back to the Pentagon nearby, I reflected on what Chaplain Zimmerman had told me about what was important in being an Army Chaplain.



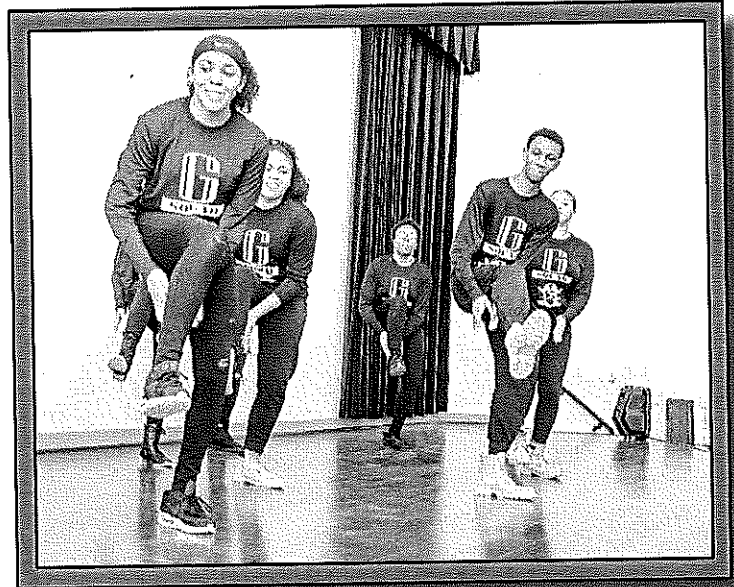
Black History Month

Hunter Auditorium

Wed., Feb. 20



Chief Master Sgt. Henry Hayes, Command Chief for the 66th Air Base Group and Hanscom Air Force Base, was the keynote speaker of the event. (U.S. Army photo by Dave Kamm, CCDC Soldier Center).



The G-Squad, Bedford High School's dance troupe, was also in attendance. Members include Janie and Janae, daughters of Staff Sgt. Jamar Daniels from U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM). (U.S. Army photo by Dave Kamm, CCDC Soldier Center).



The Black History Month Program Committee poses for a photo following the inspiring event (U.S. Army photo by Dave Kamm, CCDC Soldier Center).



Entertainment for the event included musicians David Fuller (drums) and Rollins Ross (keyboard). (U.S. Army photo by Dave Kamm, CCDC Soldier Center).



IMCOM



Installation Management Command to Realign Under Army Materiel Command

By Army News Service/Washington D.C.

The Installation Management Command will realign as a major subordinate command under the Army Materiel Command by March 1 in an effort to enhance readiness across Army installations, officials announced Friday.

"The Army is implementing aggressive reforms to free-up resources for readiness and modernization efforts and to improve overall efficiency," said Brig. Gen. Omar Jones, the Army's chief of public affairs.

Headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, IMCOM was created in 2002 to integrate and deliver base support to enable readiness for a globally-responsive Army.

IMCOM's 50,000-strong workforce will remain at their current locations, and no positions will be physically relocated or eliminated during the transition, officials said.

If a review later determines certain positions should be relocated or eliminated, no changes will occur until the incumbent either decides to leave the organization or is properly reassigned, they added.

AMC, a four-star command, currently performs installation support for depots, ammunition plants and other facilities. It provides service functions from management of installation power-projection platforms to installation contracting services.

The upcoming realignment will consolidate base operations and other similar support functions as well as leverage existing Army expertise in logistics, sustainment and services, officials said.

The move is one of several ongoing management and headquarters reforms to ensure the Army is efficient and prioritizes resources to readiness and modernization -- the service's top priorities.

Last summer, for instance, the Army stood up the Army Futures Command to combine efforts on tackling modernization. The new four-star command represented the most significant Army reorganization effort since 1973.

Then in December, AFC took command of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, which was renamed the Futures and Concepts Center that is tasked to study and prepare the Army for future warfare.

Last month the Army's Research, Development and Engineering Command, or RDECOM, came under Futures Command and was renamed Combat Capabilities Development Command.

In the latest transition, IMCOM directorates will initially remain functionally aligned with their supported Army commands and Army service component commands.

AMC and IMCOM leadership will then conduct an assessment to

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ensure all IMCOM directorates are best aligned to effectively support senior commanders, officials said.

Realignment under one command, along with continued oversight by the Army secretary, will also increase advocacy within the Army for installation requirements.

"This transition establishes unity of command and effort on our installations, improves the readiness of our Soldiers and formations, and strengthens the well-being of our Soldiers, civilians, and Families," Jones said.



NSRDEC



NSRDEC, now the CCDC Soldier Center, Has a New Name and a Bright Future

By Jane Benson, CCDC Soldier Center/Natick, Mass.

The U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, or NSRDEC, located in Natick, Mass., became the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center, or CCDC Soldier Center, on February 3.

The CCDC Soldier Center is part of the Army Futures Command, or AFC. The Army Futures Command is part of the Army's modernization effort and is committed to Soldier readiness.

AFC will work to get Soldiers what they need as quickly as possible. The command will focus on using the very best available expertise and on creating a climate that encourages and accelerates technology innovation and exploration.

As part of the Army Futures Command, the CCDC Soldier Center will continue to be the Soldier's RDEC, ensuring dominance through superior scientific and engineering expertise and innovation. The center will continue to expand its commitment to its mission areas, including Soldier Performance Optimization, Soldier Protection and Survivability, Simulation and Training Technology, Expeditionary Maneuver Support, DOD Combat Feeding and Aerial Delivery.

The CCDC Soldier Center will build upon the extensive collaborations with industry and academia that it established as NSRDEC. The Soldier Center's collaborators include Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the University of Massachusetts -- Lowell -- to just name a few.

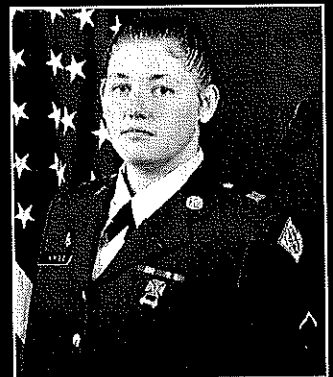
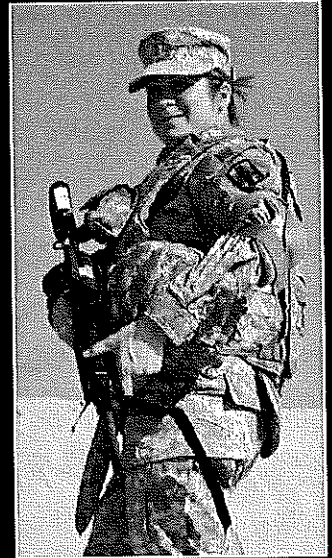
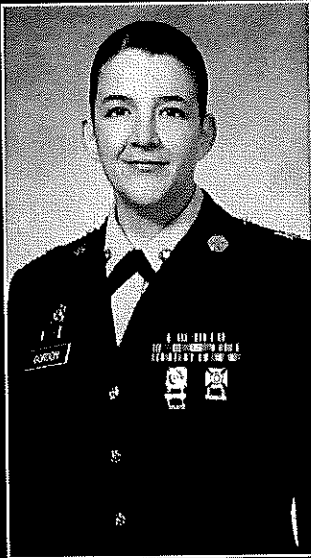
As the Soldier's RDEC, the CCDC Soldier Center will build upon existing initiatives that underscore the center's commitment to Soldier performance and lethality and will continue to rely on Soldier input to provide the modern warfighter with the very best that technology has to offer.



NSRDEC

The Women of Team Natick

Women Veterans Make Invaluable Contributions to Team Natick



Women veterans make important contributions to several different organizations that are located at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Massachusetts. In recognition of Women's History Month coming up in March, and in honor of all women who have served in our nation's military, this article profiles just a few of Team Natick's female veterans.

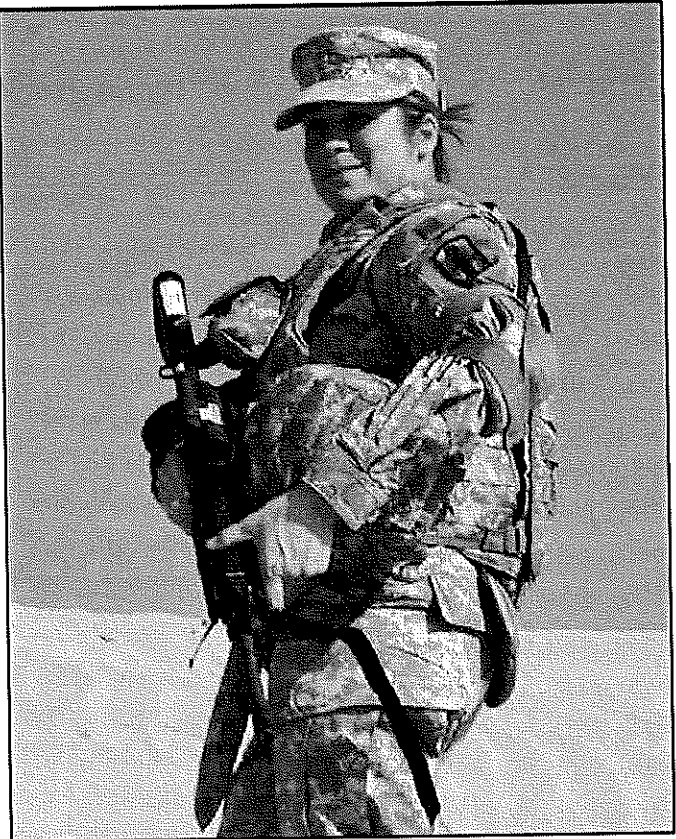
NELIA DIAS

Nelia Dias is an auditor in the Office of the Chief of Staff at the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center, or the CCDC Soldier Center.

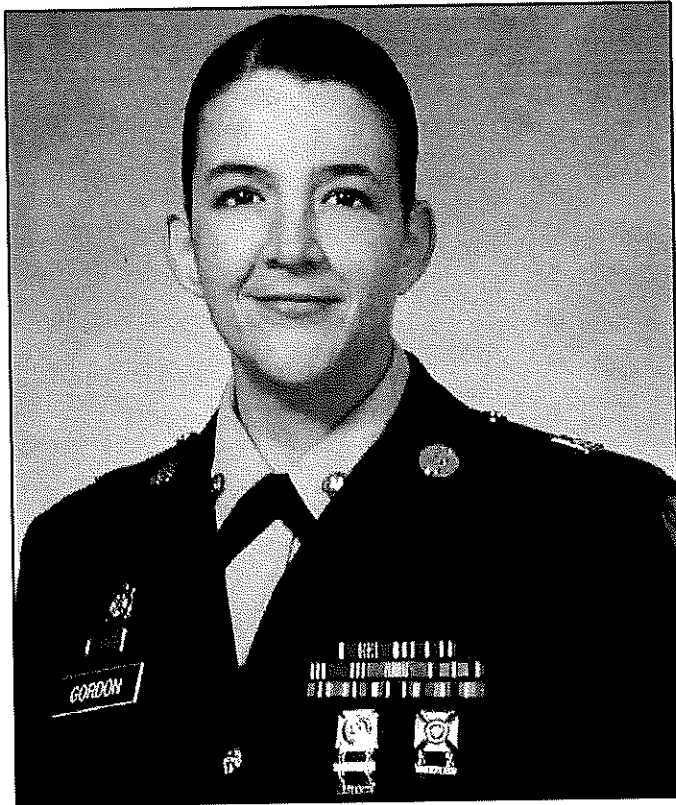
"I enlisted when I was 17 years old, not yet a citizen of the United States, but I knew serving in the military was something I was meant for," said Dias. "I had a short break in service, but the day before war was declared with Iraq in 2003, I reenlisted. Since then, I have been deployed three times: Iraq (Oct 2004-January 2006), Kuwait (September 2010-September 2011), and Guantanamo Bay (April 2017-March 2018). In total, I've served for 18 years -- half of those spent as enlisted and half as a commissioned officer -- and proudly still serving."

Dias is an adept problem-solver, a skill she brings to her roles as both an officer in the Army and as an auditor for the CCDC Soldier Center.

"As an officer in the Army, we never bring a problem to our commander without having a viable solution," said Dias. "This solution is usually one that offers better efficiency or effectiveness to the prob-



(above) Nelia Dias is an auditor in the Office of the Chief of Staff at the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center and is still proudly serving as an officer in the U.S. Army. She is one of the Soldier Center's many female veterans who bring invaluable skills and insight to the organization. Dias is pictured here during her deployment to Kuwait. (Personal photo)



Laurie Gordon works as a human resource specialist (Military) in the U.S. Army Institute of Environmental Medicine located at the Natick Soldier Systems Center. Gordon (pictured here during her military service) is one of many female veterans working in USARIEM who are making important contributions to the warfighter. (Personal photo)

lem."

Dias explained that auditing plays an important role in an organization.

"Auditing adds value and insight. I provide information to improve performance, financial management, operational efficiency and cost reductions, as well as facilitate decision making and contribute to accountability," said Dias. "Auditing is a means of assisting management in improving its operations, not just identifying problems or weaknesses."

Dias is proud to know that her work benefits the warfighter.

"If what I do affects the Soldiers positively, then there's no better feeling," said Dias.

LAURIE GORDON

Laurie Gordon works as a human resource specialist (Military) in the U.S. Army Institute of Environmental Medicine located at the Natick Soldier Systems Center. She is one of many female veterans working in USARIEM who are making important contributions to the warfighter and Team Natick.

Gordon is responsible for executing all military HR programs, Personnel Readiness, Accountability and Strength Reporting. She also performs essential personnel service-record updates and reviews, evaluations, awards and orders. She prepares all finance documents



Alyssa Carter is a program advisory specialist (human resources) in the U.S. Army Institute of Environmental Medicine, or USARIEM. She is proud to support an institute that's main goals are to help improve and study health and performance of service members. Carter (pictured here in Kuwait) is one of the many women veterans making important contributions to USARIEM and Team Natick. (Personal photo)

related to pay.

Gordon believes her experience as a veteran helps her in her current job.

"I did not have the same job when I was serving, but being a veteran you know what a Soldier needs," said Gordon.

She is proud to be in a position that helps the warfighter.

"The easiest way to put a Soldier's mind at ease is to make sure their pay and personnel records are correct," said Gordon. "It's what I do on a daily basis. For me Soldiers come first, whether you're in my unit or not. If I can help, I will."

ALYSSA CARTER

Alyssa Carter is a program advisory specialist (human resources) in the U.S. Army Institute of Environmental Medicine, or USARIEM. Carter is one of the many women veterans making important contributions to USARIEM and Team Natick.

As the program advisory specialist, Carter works to establish the best result for each Request for Personnel Action, or RPA, and is responsible for initiating all RPA's within the institute. She also provides operational services in the areas of recruitment/ placement, separation, position description classification, performance management, benefits, employee and labor relations, and employee development and training -- to name just a few of her many duties.

Carter believes her military experience helps her to do her current job.

"I enlisted in the Army as a human resource specialist," said Carter.

"Having this background, I began working at USARIEM already having a sound understanding of policies and procedures, rank and organizational structures, and much more."

All of these skills are needed when interpreting central methodology or processing various personnel actions within the federal government.

"After nearly a decade in the Army, I walked away with the knowledge of basic management principles and concepts of typical administrative and operational support positions," Carter continued. "I became more efficient at performing a full range of tasks including non-routine administrative functions in support of government management and office operations. Aside from the technical aspect, it also taught me responsibility and how to prioritize in stressful situations. My experiences have made me more aware of the necessities and conditions of service members in and out of the field. Undoubtedly, having served in my MOS set me up for the opportunity for federal employment in the administrative field."

Carter is proud to support an institute that's main goals are to help improve and study the health and performance of service members.

"I like to think I play a positive role in the morale of our employees by working with the personnel behind the amazing science, who diligently work to improve the quality of the warfighter," said Carter. "They dedicate their careers to developing and advancing various products or techniques for the military and all who serve. As a HR rep, I am allowed the opportunity of serving the federal civilian employees of USARIEM by means of better maximizing their career capabilities which in-turn strengthens our organization and its mission."

DEBI DAWSON

Debi Dawson's career has been based on her unyielding dedication to



Debi Dawson is the deputy director, G-9, Strategic Engagements and Communications at the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center, and one of the organization's many female veterans whose military experience helps them make an invaluable contribution to the organization. Dawson is pictured here during her Army Days participating in an NCO (Noncommissioned Officer) Competition. (Photo Credit: Personal photo)

the warfighter.

Dawson is currently the deputy director, G-9, Strategic Engagements and Communications at the CCDC Soldier Center. Dawson was previously the deputy director of Strategic Communications at Program Executive Office Soldier, or PEO Soldier. She is one of the many female veterans making important contributions to Team Natick.

Dawson retired from the military after serving more than 15 years.

"I retired from the office of John Hamre, the Deputy Secretary of Defense," said Dawson. "It was an incredible experience."

She currently feels right at home working for an organization dedicated to the warfighter, and she is literally coming home. Dawson was born and raised in Natick, Massachusetts.

"It's all about the Soldier," said Dawson. "It's all about making sure that the Soldier has the best kit -- including helmet, body armor, and other equipment -- so that he or she comes home alive."

One of most impactful aspects of her job is helping with personal protective equipment returns, or PPE returns.

"Doing this job, I've been out and about and have traveled the world," said Dawson. "But one of the most rewarding things that I have done is support PPE returns. I would present a Soldier with the body armor or helmet that protected him or her from actual rounds."

Meeting the families of these Soldiers was a poignant experience.

"Knowing that the equipment saved their lives and meeting their families was incredibly moving," said Dawson. "Hearing a mom and dad, or a husband or wife, thank you for doing what you do is a very emotional and rewarding experience."

VANNESSA JOSEY



Vanessa Josey wears many hats, and she wears all of them well.

Josey was serving as a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Army Garrison Natick, or USAG Natick, when she, as an U.S. Army Reserve Soldier, was activated to active duty with the XVIII Airborne Corps.

She was deployed as a public affairs noncommissioned officer. Her current job title is Joint Operations Center PA watch chief.

Josey is committed to serving her country in both a civilian and military capacity and notes that good team

Vanessa Josey was serving as a public affairs specialist in the USAG Natick Public Affairs Office when she, as a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier, was activated to active duty and was deployed. Josey, pictured here, is currently serving as a Joint Operations Center PA Watch Chief. Her colleagues at Natick are proud of her service and eagerly await her return. (Personal photo)



(below) No obstacle is too great for Eryn Flynn. Flynn (pictured here, far right) is an Army veteran and a captain in the Army Reserve who currently works as an equipment specialist/analyst on the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center's Soldier Squad Interface Team. The team works as an important conduit and connection between Soldiers and the scientists and engineers who develop their equipment. (Personal photo)

dynamics are essential.

"I find that when I am in my civilian position, it is very much like being with my Soldiers in my unit or being deployed," said Josey. "We have a bond and a way of getting to the point of what we are doing pretty quickly -- leaving a lot of time to actually do the job at hand. It's as if we already know and understand that we have all been there. We have had to do the job under extreme duress. It takes a lot to get any of us in an uproar."

Josey is known for her professionalism and sense of humor.

"Each and every day, I walk into work and I am happy," said Josey. "I don't even consider it work. It's not a job. It's something I love to do."

The folks at Natick are proud of Josey and eagerly await her return to USAG Natick.

ERYN FLYNN

Eryn Flynn has a "can do it" attitude and a "conduit" attitude.

Flynn is an Army veteran and a captain in the Army Reserve who currently works as an equipment specialist/analyst on the CCDC Soldier Center's Soldier Squad Interface Team. The team works as an important conduit and connection between Soldiers and the scientists and engineers who develop their equipment.

Her military experience makes her a perfect fit for a team that has established strong relationships with several Army units. The team facilitates and enables communication and interaction between Army researchers and Soldiers, helping to ensure the equipment researchers are developing will meet Soldier needs.

Members of the team, all of whom are veterans, are adept at gathering crucial data and administering surveys to help researchers develop the best equipment in the world. The team works closely with members of the Soldier Center's Consumer Research Team who develop the surveys. The team serves as a bridge for researchers across DOD, academia, and industry who are seeking much needed Soldier input and participation.

"I am still currently serving as an Army reservist, a logistics officer,"

said Flynn. "My military experience in operations and the knowledge I obtained from actually using the gear is something I can bring to my job and to the units."

Scott Germain, team leader for the Squad Interface Team, is himself a seasoned Army veteran. Germain retired as a Sergeant Major after serving for 25 years, including 4 years in the Infantry and just over 20 years in Special Operations.

Germain believes Flynn's experience and insight as a veteran makes her a valuable addition to "a team that establishes collaborative partnerships with operational units that enable the opportunity for Army scientists, engineers, partners and stakeholders to observe, participate, assess, evaluate and develop material and non-material solutions for combatant commanders."

"There is simply no substitute for operational Army experience given the relationship-based nature of our mission," said Germain. "To be a Soldier Squad Interface Team member means you are very familiar with the structure, organization and culture of the Army at large."

"We provide the accurate, unbiased, un-skewed data that both sides need," said Flynn. "The units have incredibly busy schedules, but because they know and trust us, they are aware of how much Soldier input is valued and needed. They are an integral part of the process in equipment and product development. The bottom line is all about getting Soldiers the best equipment possible to suit their mission and make them safer and more effective in today's multi-domain battlefield."

Flynn is the team's only woman and she believes that male or female, "a Soldier is a Soldier is a Soldier." However, having a woman on the team can add a better understanding of the specific equipment needs of female Soldiers.

"Having a woman on the team provides us with a greater understanding as to what challenges female Soldiers are facing while allowing the female Soldiers being evaluated the opportunity to speak with a team member who may better relate to those challenges," said Germain.

ALISON SPURR

Alison Spurr, a management analyst in the USAG Natick, enlisted in the Marine Corps during a time when very few career fields were available to women.

"Back in the day, there were very few jobs that were open to women enlisting in the USMC," said Spurr. "The most common were in the secretarial or food service fields."

After boot camp, Spurr was sent to Camp Lejeune to receive specialized training to become a baker. She was then stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Tustin in Tustin, California.

"I later found out that the ratio of males to females was something like 100:1, and the ratio of cooks to bakers was about 15:1," said Spurr.

There were only two people who had completed baker training where she was stationed.

"There were only two of us at our chow hall to make six or seven different items for 3,000 to 6,000 hungry Marines a day," said Spurr. "Baking for that many was a real challenge, though it was rewarding to see how much they enjoyed the baked goods and desserts that we made from scratch. While many may think that baking wasn't an important job in the military, I know that we contributed to the morale of the Marines who were serving so far from home -- especially when



Alison Spurr, a management analyst in the Natick Garrison, was a true pioneer. Spurr, pictured here, served in the Marines during a time when most women served in the secretarial or food service fields. She is one of the Natick Garrison's female veterans who bring invaluable skills and insight to the organization. (Personal photo)

apple pie or chocolate chip cookies were on the menu. It was a lot of hard work and extremely long hours, but I really enjoyed most of it."

Her military experience helped make her the person she is today.

"My time in the military greatly improved my empathy for other people, and I can really identify with some of the unique feelings and challenges that members of the military and their families may be going through," said Spurr.

She's proud to currently be part of the Army civilian workforce.

"Being an Army civilian gives me a lot of pride and personal satisfaction in knowing that whatever work I do, though it may not support a Soldier directly, it very likely plays a part in enabling someone who does," said Spurr.

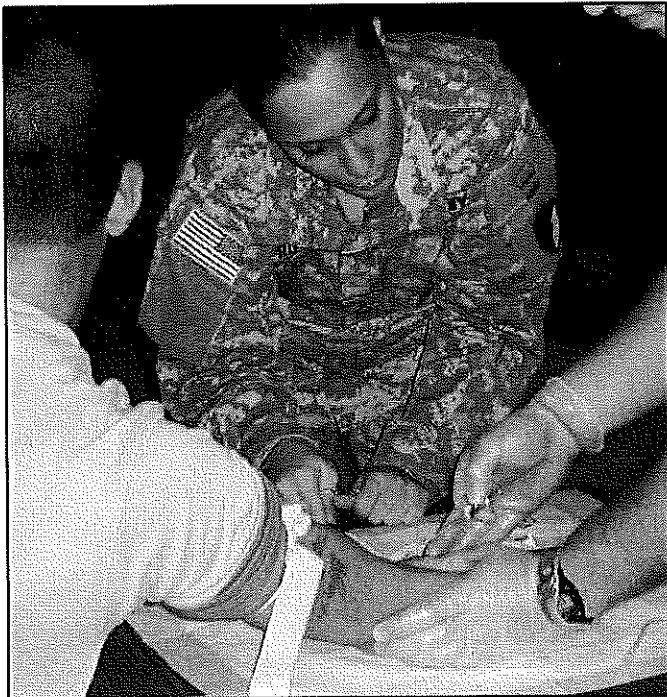
SARAH ROSS

Sarah Ross is one of many female veterans working in the CCDC Soldier Center.

Ross is the human research volunteer program manager at the Soldier Center and a veteran noncommissioned officer. She was also a medic assigned to Headquarters Research and Development Detachment, or HRDD, when she was a Soldier 10 years ago.

Being a former Soldier makes Ross a perfect fit for a job that involves research benefiting the Soldier and a great deal of interaction with Soldiers.

"It is such a privilege to me to be able to interact with our Soldiers like I do," said Ross. "Getting to tell our story to Soldiers new to the Army and their leaders to get their buy in for participation to support what we do for them . . . It really is incredible, and I am grateful for



Sarah Ross is one of many female veterans working in the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center. She is the human research volunteer program manager at the Soldier Center and a veteran noncommissioned officer. Ross, pictured here in her medic days, was also a medic assigned to Headquarters Research and Development Detachment, or HRDD, when she was a Soldier 10 years ago. (Personal photo)

the opportunity to get to know all of these selfless Soldiers and form friendships while supporting the research that is needed for them."

CRYSTAL HARRY

Crystal Harry's career continues to fly high.

Harry is a management analyst in the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office in the USAG Natick, and she has been in the Air Force for 15 years.

She served active duty and then joined the reserve, where she continues to serve as an E-8, senior master sergeant. Her first job was as a command and control technician within the Command Post, and she is now the chief of Force Development at the Westover Air Reserve Base.



Harry's military experience makes her an important part of the Natick team.

"I believe the biggest benefit my military service has given me are skill sets," said Harry.

"Not only did I learn job skills but also management and organization skills, and throughout my service the military has helped me to continuously develop those skills, making me

effective in the civilian workforce. Specifically here at Natick, my joint military service has helped me to understand the Army mission and work towards that goal."

Harry is proud to be part of an organization dedicated to the warfighter.

"For me it is fulfilling and it adds intrinsic value to my job," said Harry. "Being a veteran and a veteran's spouse, helping others who serve is very important to me -- so having a full-time job that contributes in any way to the warfighter means a lot."

ELIZABETH KAFEL

Elizabeth Kafel is an attorney in the CCDC Soldier Center's Office of the Chief Counsel.

Kafel served for four years of active duty with the Army. She then switched to the Air Force Reserve and is currently still serving. She was a direct commissionee after law school into the USA Judge Advocate General, or JAG, Corps. She served mostly in Korea and Virginia.

After a short break in service, she joined the United States Air Force Reserve JAG Corps and is currently stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, Arizona.

"My military service exposes me to the direct needs of the warfighter because I know that what we do at CCDC Soldier Center personally impacts both me and my fellow battle buddies/wingman," said Kafel. "I am confident in the field knowing that there are hard-working folks at Natick from shelters, feeding, uniforms, and more that are supporting the warfighter and enhancing our experience at home and abroad. This perspective helps me do my job as a contracts attorney with a sense of purpose to procure and field products and services necessary for those in uniform to do their jobs safely and effectively."

ERICA GOTTBERG

Erica Gottberg is a paralegal specialist in the Office of the Chief Counsel at the CCDC Soldier Center.

She served in the military as a paralegal specialist noncommissioned officer. She also served for 11 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina with 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum.

(left) Crystal Harry is a management analyst in the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office in the USAG Natick, and she has been in the Air Force for 15 years. She serves in the Air Force as an E-8, senior master sergeant. Harry is one of the many women veterans making an invaluable contribution to Team Natick. Harry (pictured here) looks right at home in the cockpit of a C-5, the largest aircraft in the Air Force. (Personal photo)

(right) Erica Gottberg is a paralegal specialist in the Office of the Chief Counsel at the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center. Gottberg was a paralegal specialist noncommissioned officer. She also served for 11 years in the U.S. Army Reserves. (Personal photo)





another female veteran making an important contribution to TEAM Natick.

MCKENZIE D. CROWELL

McKenzie D. Crowell is an item Manager in the Soldier-Product Support Integration Directorate, U.S. Army Tank-automotive & Armaments Command, Integrated Logistics Support Center's QMS Readiness Branch.

Crowell enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in 2009 as a signal support systems specialist and was primarily responsible for working with battlefield signal support systems and terminal devices.

Since then she has continued to have an impressive Army career, including serving in Bahrain and Afghanistan, and is still going strong.

In April of 2018, she was selected as a warrant officer candidate and is currently awaiting to attend school in early May 2019.

"I plan to continue my military career for many years to come and am eternally grateful for the friendships, knowledge, and opportunities it has bestowed on me," said Crowell.

Crowell believes her extensive logistics experience obtained over the course of her career have prepared her well for her current position.

"I believe my logistics background has significantly assisted me when I on boarded this past June," said Crowell. "Having worked on staff in several high commands OCONUS in real-world operations, I am used to working in a high stress, high operation tempo environment and can effectively execute my missions on time and to a respectable standard. In my experience of working with civilians while in uniform, I have found that there can sometimes be a knowledge or communication gap between the two entities. Now in my position as a currently serving reservist, I believe I offer a fresh perspective and am able to liaison effectively with our uniformed customers."

She is proud to serve the warfighter.

"I am very proud to know what I do benefits the warfighter," said Crowell. "I have always felt a great sense of pride when I'm in uniform, and now I am able to feel that just as strongly when I go to my civilian job."

NICOLE BERNIER

Nicole Bernier is a contract specialist in the Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Natick Contract Division, or NCD.

Bernier served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2002 to 2006. She believes that understanding military culture helps her in her current position.

In addition, she was also deployed to Iraq with 167th Combat Support Brigade and 1st Infantry Division and was called up to serve homeland security after 9/11.

Gottberg is yet

She is proud of her service and remains dedicated to serving the warfighter.

"Every contract NCD awards supports the warfighter, whether directly or indirectly," said Bernier.

SHARON KOMOLA-EVANS

Sharon Komola-Evans is a secretary in the Expeditionary Protection Branch in the Expeditionary Maneuver Support Directorate at the CCDC Soldier Center.

Komola-Evans served in the Army as a radio and communications security (COMSEC) repairer. She later transitioned to the Army Reserve and was honorably discharged in 2002.

She believes that her military service helps her in her current job.

In the Army, she worked in the European Theatre Command Center Radio Room, where she "interacted with several other U.S. military branches, as well as specific components of the Army on a regular basis, overcoming our differences in rank and branch in order to work jointly on a mission until successful completion."

Her Army background has helped her to have confidence and enhanced her work ethic.

"Here at the CCDC Soldier Center, we interact across different directorates, sometimes involving other military branches and my background of doing so helps me perform with confidence," said Komola-Evans. "Working at the European Theatre Command Center Radio Room also had me interacting with several high-ranking officers, which goes a long way when dealing with high-ranking members of both our military and the civilian workforce, with a little more ease. My work ethic definitely has been enhanced by my service in the Army, as has my attention to detail and desire to successfully complete all tasks effectively and efficiently -- which contributes to and helps to ensure mission success. I believe that being a Soldier has definitely helped me do my job here at CCDC Soldier Center."

Komola-Evans is proud to work at a place committed to serving the warfighter.

"It feels amazing to know that what I do benefits today's warfighter," said Komola-Evans. "I really enjoyed serving my country in the Army, and now I can continue to do so, albeit on the civilian side, until I retire. I take great pride in my role here at CCDC."

YOLANDA SPENCE

At the end of the day, installation security is all-important. Yolanda Spence, a female veteran who works in Security for the USAG Natick, helps keep the installation safe and secure.

Spence spent eleven years in the U.S. Army serving her country and continues to be dedicated to her country in her current civilian position.

We are indebted to all the men and women who have served our great country. This article shared the stories of just a few women veterans in honor of Women's History Month coming up in March. We thank them for their continued contributions to our country.





Perkins Speaks in D.C.

CCDC Soldier Center Employee Speaks at Black Engineer of the Year Awards

By Jane Benson, CCDC Soldier Center/Natick, Mass.

Anita Perkins, the technical lead for the Army Combat Boot Improvement effort, addressed students at this year's Black Engineer of the Year Awards – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Conference held in Washington, D.C., on February 7 to 9.

The BEYA STEM conference includes seminars, workshops, and career fairs, and creates an environment conducive to mentoring and networking. The event also aims to educate attendees about possible STEM career paths.

The Department of the Army sought out Perkins to speak at a BEYA STEM seminar focusing on helping students prepare for job interviews. Perkins educated students about the importance of networking and helped them hone their interview skills through exercises where students had the chance to act as both interviewer and interviewee and then receive feedback.

Perkins, a footwear research engineer in the Soldier Protection and Survivability Directorate at the Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center, has a long history with BEYA. When she was a student at Tennessee State University, she attended BEYA and served as the student coordinator for her school, helping students who wished to attend the conference to do so.

After graduation, she attended the BEYA conference and was hired by the CCDC Soldier Center (then the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center). She returned to BEYA last year to facilitate student interviews and provide guidance.

Perkins felt honored to have been asked to speak at this year's event.

"The conference is a great opportunity to give back to young people," said Perkins.

Perkins recounted how one student in particular came up to her the day after the seminar and told her how her tips had already helped him land a job.

"I felt so grateful that I had the opportunity to come and interact and help students," said Perkins. "The conference is a great opportunity to develop networking skills. So many opportunities come through networking. The networking skills help you not only when you are looking for a job but after you get one."

Perkins has a talent for connecting not only with students but also with young Soldiers. Her warm, engaging, caring, and outgoing personality, combined with her technical



Anita Perkins, the technical lead for the Army Combat Boot Improvement effort and a footwear research engineer at the CCDC Soldier Center, addressed students at this year's Black Engineer of the Year Awards – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Conference held recently in Washington, D.C. Perkins – who is pictured here at the conference with Major General Cedric T. Wins, commanding general of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command – believes the conference is a great opportunity to give back to young people. Perkins herself was hired by the CCDC Soldier Center (formerly NSRDEC) at a BEYA event. (U.S. Army photo by Conrad Johnson, CCDC)

expertise, are an asset when she is seeking all-important feedback from Soldiers. Soldier feedback is key to providing Soldiers with the very best equipment possible. Properly fitting boots tailored to specific conditions and operations play a key role in Soldier readiness and lethality.

"The face-to-face interaction with Soldiers is an important part of my job," said Perkins. "Making sure that they have what they need to focus on their jobs and perform their best is very rewarding."

National Medal of Honor Day



A bugler from The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own) plays Taps during a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, Va., Mar. 23, 2012. The wreath was laid to mark National Medal of Honor Day. National Medal of Honor Day is observed yearly on March 25. On March 25, 1863 six U.S. service members became the first service members to be presented the Medal of Honor. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Devin Kornaus)

March 25, 2019



"FOR THE VETS" *by* **"THE VETS"**

Meat on the Stick Fundraiser

Proceeds to benefit Veterans Yearly Programs

Coffee Socials

Saturday April 6, 2019

1 to 5pm

VFW 82 Ingell St. Taunton, MA

Rain or Shine /Pit and Inside Hall will be Open

Live Entertainment

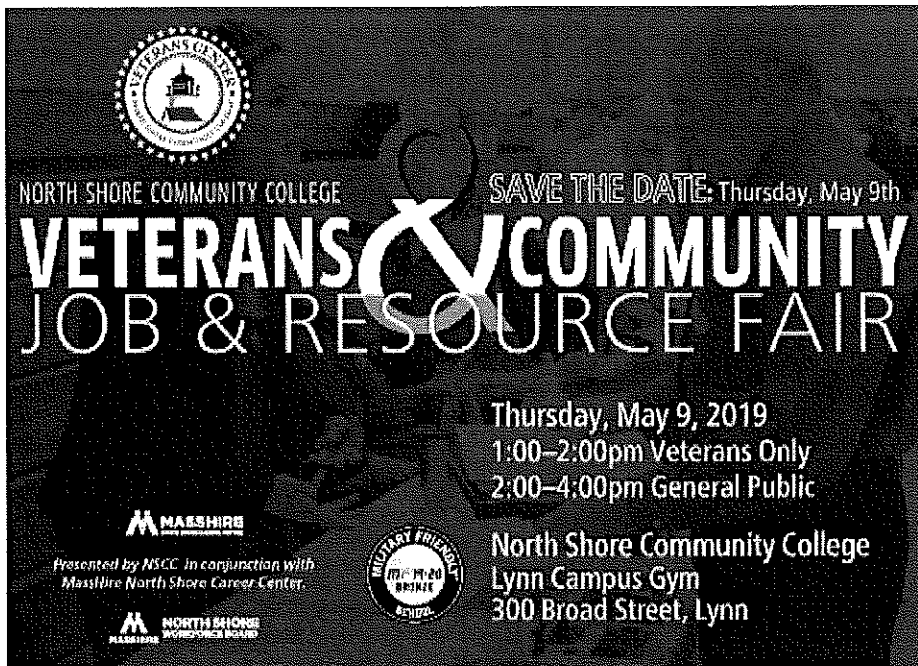
by


Sean Medeiros

***Raffles 50/50 Any donations for the
raffle table would be appreciated***

Donation \$20.00

**For tickets: Call Tom at 508-326-3220
or purchased at VFW Bar**

A black and white poster for a Veterans & Community Job & Resource Fair. The background features a faint image of a person in a military uniform. The poster includes several logos and text elements.


VETERANS CENTER
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE


SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, May 9th


VETERANS & COMMUNITY

JOB & RESOURCE FAIR

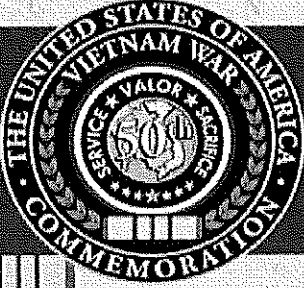
Thursday, May 9, 2019
1:00–2:00pm Veterans Only
2:00–4:00pm General Public

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Welcome Home



VA Boston Healthcare System
invites you to join the nation
in recognizing the service of our
Vietnam Veterans at our

National Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony

March 28, 2019 – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Please join us in honoring our Vietnam Veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families and all who served with a pinning ceremony, fellowship and refreshments.

Doors Open at 11 a.m.

**Jamaica Plain Campus,
VA Boston Healthcare System
150 S. Huntington Ave
Jamaica Plain, MA
Basement Conference Room**

Vietnam Veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or elsewhere in support of operations between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975 will be recognized individually. If you know of Vietnam Veterans we haven't met, please bring them! All Veterans and their families as well as members of the area's communities are invited.

www.vietnamwar50th.com



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs