

MARINES COME HOME!

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Holocaust survivor describes struggle for survival

BY MARISOL MACCHEYNE
AND DAVID ROGERS

Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division, Picatinny Detachment

Holocaust survivor Bella Miller of Wantage, New Jersey, remembers the intense pain she felt when she was at the notorious Auschwitz concentration during World War II and her captors tattooed a number on her forearm.

"You were not anymore a human being," Miller said, "you were a number and believe me that number will never leave my mind - A24977, that's what I was."

Miller related her experiences as guest speaker at the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day observance on May 2 at Picatinny Arsenal.

COMMENTARY

The Holocaust occurred during World War II. Remembrance Day is held to commemorate the genocide that resulted in the death of six million Jews and 11 million others by the German Nazi regime and its collaborators.

Miller's story began in a small town in eastern Poland in 1939 when she was 7 years old. Her family was quite prosperous at the time the Russians moved in, took away the family business, and began rounding up Jews and herding them into ghettos.

Rather than focus on the atrocities that were an everyday occurrence,



Bella Miller

Miller focused her story on the ingenuity and perseverance of her parents as they evaded their Russian invaders. Miller along with her parents, Egon and Serafina Friedler and her brother Edek, found respite in homes of local citizens who were willing to hide them.

Ultimately, the risks became too great and the family took to the woods where they hid out with other escapees in makeshift bunkers.

She wanted the audience to take note that this was during a time when there were no smart phones to rely on and no ability to quickly find out information, yet her parents were masterful at doing so.

Unfortunately, they were caught and shipped by a cattle car in a two-week trip through Hungary and Austria to Auschwitz, Poland.

"It was August, 1944, when they immediately took us off the train, sent men and women separately, and I never had time to say goodbye to my father and my brother. I never saw them again," Miller said.

Doctor Josef Mengele was at the concentration camp, directing people to one of two lines. Mengele was known for performing deadly human experiments on prisoners and was a member of the team of doctors who selected victims to be killed in the gas chambers. The doctor asked the age of the daughter. Her mother spoke up that she was 15. Thankfully, she was tall for her age and she and her mother were kept together.

After the liberation of the camp in January of 1945, Miller and her mother traveled to numerous camps for displaced persons.

She attributed her survival to her mother, who had enterprising abilities to find safe homes to hide in as well as teach Miller various skills.

She learned German, English, and math from people in the camps, which would serve her well later on. In 1949, they made their way to the United States.

She went from Boston to Tulsa and eventually to New York, where she met and married a former Soldier and raised a family in New Jersey.

While at Picatinny, Miller shared more of her remarkable story during lunch. "How do you stay so positive?" someone asked. Her response was "forgiveness and looking ahead."

As the last generation of Holocaust survivors fades, it is our responsibility to preserve their stories and share them with our children. Hopefully, they will share them with theirs, thus the atrocities will never be forgotten!

Fuchs named Senior Research Scientist for Insensitive Munitions

BY ED LOPEZ

Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

Brian E. Fuchs, whose work has involved the development of munitions that are less susceptible to accidental detonation, was appointed Senior Research Scientist for Insensitive Munitions at a June 10 ceremony at the Lindner Conference Center.

Insensitive munitions are munitions which reliably fulfill their performance, readiness and operational requirements.

But they also minimize the probability of inadvertent initiation and the severity of subsequent collateral damage to weapon platforms, logistic systems and personnel when subjected to unplanned stimuli. These stimuli include bullets, warheads, fires, and adjacent detonating munitions.

The intent of insensitive munitions is to prevent accidents that result in the loss of human life, cost of repairing and replacing material, and the effect on operational readiness and capability.

Fuchs was hired in 1983 by Dr. Pai Lu, a pioneer in Army Insensitive Munitions Technologies. Fuchs has performed his work for the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center at Picatinny Arsenal. He conducts research and development of military systems using energetic materials.

"I am extremely proud that my career has in many forms involved improving safety for the warfighter," Fuchs said at his appointment ceremony.

A senior research scientist would be classified as a non-executive, senior professional employee in professional and scientific positions, also known as "ST" jobs.

Fuchs has played leadership roles in a variety of

See FUCHS, Page 2



Brian Fuchs

CCDC Global Workshop held to synchronize international efforts

Army News Service

More than 100 personnel from across the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's worldwide footprint convened for a Global Workshop held at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, April 9-11.

The workshop, hosted by the CCDC Global Technology Office, served as an opportunity to unify the command's expansive network of global personnel who maintain CCDC's international relationships.

According to Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone, CCDC's deputy commanding

general, the workshop was an important forum for establishing a shared vision for the command's international activities, and aligning these activities under the strategic priorities of Army Futures Command.

"Why did we bring people here from all corners of the world? To share ideas... We need to talk to you about what's going on broadly [across CCDC, AFC and the Army], but we also need to hear your thoughts," Malone said, addressing attendees. "We need you to share your deeper view, to share what's going on in

your area."

CCDC personnel maintain a presence in combatant commands, embassies and other offices in countries across the globe through its Forward Element and International Technology centers, Science and Technology Advisors, and countless international points of contact.

EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

Through this international presence, CCDC is able to tap into an expansive, global network of military, industry and academic partners, expanding its ability to discover, develop and deliver the capabilities U.S. warfighters will need to succeed on a future battlefield.

"We need to leave here with a clearer vision, the same vision," Malone said. "We want to leave here with a clear sense of purpose so you all go back out and know exactly what the Army needs you to do...so we'll never get surprised again on a future battlefield."

Working toward that shared vision, the three-day workshop included a variety of sessions focusing on Defense Department and Army strategy and priority



Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, addresses attendees at the command's Global Workshop at Picatinny Arsenal on April 9, 2019. Malone said the workshop was an important forum for establishing a shared vision for the command's international activities, and aligning these activities under the strategic priorities of Army Futures Command.

alignment; Army Futures Command; Modernization priority updates; and a series of break-out sessions. Attendees also learned about CCDC's Campaign Plan and its Global Strategy and Engagement Plan.

This year's event marked the first time two historically separate events-- one for International Technology personnel and another for Field Assistance in Science and Technology advisors-- were combined, in an effort

to promote collaboration and networking across the Global Technology Office, according to GTO Director Collier Slade.

Slade said the event received positive feedback from participants, who noted it was "a much needed opportunity to share information and to expand their networks."

"Combining the two events provides increased situational awareness of each other's activities and is

a critical step in better defining outputs and telling the international story," Slade said. "You can't leverage what you are not aware of."

Attendees said they found the event to be a valuable networking opportunity.

"A lot of times, even between us [the Forward Elements] we don't get to see each other and there's a lot of commonality, said Denisse Szmigiel, the CCDC-Americas deputy director.

FUCHS APPOINTMENT

continued from Page 1

boards and organizations focused on research on insensitive munitions, including for the U.S Army, Department of Defense and NATO.

In addition to his expertise in development of insensitive munitions, Fuchs is a leader in the rapidly growing field of research on explosive ink. His team leadership has resulted in the first qualified explosive ink.

Fuchs has earned 13 patents and has authored or co-authored more than 100 publications and reports.

He is a mechanical engineer who received a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He also attended the Stevens Institute of Technology and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Fuchs is an adjunct profession at the Stevens Institute of Technology and a faculty member of the Armament Graduate School at Picatinny Arsenal.

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THE PICATINNY VOICE

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S&T Networking Day highlights ongoing technology efforts

Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs

The annual Science & Technology Networking Day is an opportunity for personnel from the CCDC Armaments Center to highlight and exchange information supporting the Army Modernization Priorities.

Certificates were presented to the top three winners selected by judges for their presentations.

Pictured above, Eric Beckel displays the certificate for first place. Edward Cooke, who is not pictured, is the other member of the team. The presentation was on "APEX - High Performance Cast Cure Explosives."

John Hedderich, director of the Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center (CCDC AC), is shown alongside Beckel.

Also pictured are, from left, Paul Manz, chief scientist of the Joint Program Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition; Randy Rand, associate director, CCDC AC; Eric Kathe, mechanical engineer, Armament Technologies Division, Wa-



George Fischer of the Collaborative Innovation Lab demonstrates superconductors using liquid nitrogen and magnets as Picatinny Arsenal Commanding General Brig. Gen. Alfred Abramson looks on.

tervliet, N.Y.; Lt. Col. Dominic Tanglao, military deputy, CCDC AC; event host Mike George, director, Strategic Technology Investment Office; and Michael Taft, division director, U.S. Navy, Naval Surface War Center. They served as judges, with the exception of George.

Second place went to Frank Campo, Shri Singh, Vincent Alessio. The project was "Waterjet Green Machining for Large Caliber Penetrators & Weapons Systems Parts."

Third place was awarded to the Risk Management Office. Team members are Sybil Lusardi, and Greg Maier-Moreau.

JUDGING DIFFICULT AMID STRONG COMPETITION

"I have been a judge here now for a couple of years, and this is the best year yet," said Manz. "It was difficult to arrive at a conclusion because every one of you is doing great work for the warfighter."

Hedderich told the event participants to look at their work as "the gift that keeps on giving" because it could still be applied by Soldiers many years down the road, and make the difference in saving lives or completing the mission.

"Just remember that your work is really critically important, it's really great work that you do," Heddrich said. "And I'm very proud of it, and you ought to be proud of it, too, because you're making an impact."

UNDERLYING ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

In remarks after the event, George said that some of the work on display may not be receiving notice in the media, but were nonetheless critical building blocks for technologies that may be receiving greater attention.

"Oftentimes, those underlying technologies are not really recognized at the surface level, and how they change the operational outcomes," he said.

George said these "underlying enablers" play a key role in advancing Army modernization priorities, or serve as some of the building blocks for what those programs are all about.



Team members from the second place team display their certificates. From left, Shri Singh, Frank Campo, and Vincent Alessio. Their presentation was on "Waterjet Green Machining for Large Caliber Penetrators & Weapon System Parts."



The Risk Management Office from CCDC AC took third place honors at the event. Pictured above, from left, Malgorzata (Margaret) Kouretas, Health Physicist, and April Kuryluk, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist.



World Day for Cultural Diversity

On May 23, Picatinny Arsenal observed the 6th Annual World Day for Cultural Diversity at the Linder Conference Center.

Every day, the engineers, scientists and support personnel at Picatinny are working to ensure that our warfighter has the latest and most innovative technologies available to accomplish their mission.

That work is primarily done by working in teams. The strength of our teams is found in the diversity of backgrounds of its members.

Whether it be diversity of disciplines, cultures, or skills sets—this diversity helps to ensure that the teams are the best possible to accomplish our mission.



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In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, instead of printing the report, your water quality report can be viewed online at: www.amwater.com/ccr/picatinnyarsenal.pdf.

For a paper copy, please print one directly from our website or contact American Water Picatinny Arsenal at 862-397-5990.



QUALITY. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.

Pacific Pathways 2.0 to bolster presence in the theater

Army News Service

HONOLULU -- More Soldiers will be forward deployed longer in the Indo-Pacific region next year, as part of a new Pacific Pathways effort to allow units to build stronger partnerships and readiness.

Called Pacific Pathways 2.0, the program will place units in partner nations for up to six months at a time, much longer than the previous weeks-long exercises.

Soldiers recently tested the new strategy by staying four months in Thailand, Philippines and Palau.

Launched in 2014, Pathways is a U.S. Army Pacific-led initiative that has units conduct several stops in the region and train with foreign militaries during an expeditionary-style deployment.

The extended presence of units in the theater will provide the Indo-Pacific Command commander options for contingencies, such as humanitarian assistance or even conflict.

"What we were doing originally was just going to countries for exercise purposes," said Lt. Gen. Gary Volesky, commander of I Corps. "Pathways 2.0, starting next year, we're going to put U.S. forces in the Pacific



U.S. and Thai soldiers conduct urban operations training in Phitsanulok, Thailand, on Feb. 13, 2019.

for 10 months of the year."

In Pathways, units are using a hub-and-spoke approach during deployments to increase visibility in the region. Countries next year will include Thailand, Philippines and Australia.

"We're looking at three real hubs where we would go to the countries that have more

capacity and then spoke off of those," Volesky said, May 21, at the Land Forces Pacific Symposium, hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

The new construct also deploys a two-star command and control node in the hub nation, in which a commander can quickly plug into and assist in a contingency operation.

"It's not so much an exercise for the division headquarters as it is a mission," said Maj. Gen. Ronald Clark, commander of the 25th Infantry Division.

Based in the Philippines at the time, the node provided a redundant capability so Clark's headquarters could train in a division-level live fire exercise in Hawaii in April.

"We're able to do that while we're exercising Pathways," he said. "So, if something had happened in the Philippines or elsewhere, we could have unplugged and jumped right into that C2 node."

The I Corps' campaign plan for Pathways also includes area of operations specific to certain formations. For instance, the 25th ID is AO Lightning and 7th ID is AO Bayonet.

"We'll have habitual relationships with the same countries and the same series of exercises," Clark said.

The longer presence allows units to train in countries rarely engaged by the Army. About 200 Soldiers from I Corps, for example, trained in Palau in April for the first time in 37 years.

"As we start to build more visibility in the region for a longer term, I think that's going to help get after it," Volesky said.

While the region is mostly water, leaders said Pathways still plays a critical role in the region where seven of the 10 largest armies in the world are located.

About 106,000 Soldiers are assigned or allocated to USARPAC and each year the command conducts around 200 engagements with 34 countries.

"Although we consider this is a joint theater, the land component is absolutely important and paramount for our allies and partners," Clark said, adding the Army needs to remain engaged with them. "Make no mistake about it, relationships matter. Because it's too late to build relationships at the start of a crisis."



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HOMWOOD SUITES
BY HILTON

Marines receive enthusiastic welcome after deployment

Approximately 160 U.S. Marines from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, returned to Picatinny Arsenal on May 11 after they had served for six months in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

While serving as security forces for Task Force Southwest 19.1, Golf Company and members of the Afghanistan Army repelled a significant and well-planned attack by 10-25 enemy fighters on March 1-3.

The Marines of Golf Company all returned safely.

Escorted by dozens of police and fire vehicles from numerous nearby municipalities, the Marines arrived at Picatinny with lights,

horns and sirens to see hundreds of cheering family members.

The Marines exited from their buses and formed up by platoons, where shortly thereafter they were released for reunions with family, friends and supporters.

The Rockaway Township chief of police then read a proclamation from the township that honored the Marine company members for their service.

Photos include those of Cpl. Nick Williams meeting his 6-month old son, Benjamin, for the first time along with Ben's mom, Samantha. Samantha's dad, Zolton Sagi, is waving a Marine flag in another photo.





Soldiers learn cutting-edge features on first shipment of JLTVs

Army News Service

FORT STEWART, Ga. -- While being trained on the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Sowards had a simple but effective way to test the vehicle's innovative suspension.

He grabbed a cup, filled it with water and placed it in one of the cup holders found inside the Army's newest tactical vehicle.

He then drove it along an uneven tank trail. When the test drive ended, the outcome surprised him.

"I hit the bumps going about 35 to 40 mph back through there," he said, "and I didn't even spill one drop."

The JLTV, which is intended to replace many of the Army's Humvees, is equipped with the TAK-4 intelligent independent suspension system that allows it to maneuver quickly over rough terrain.

For 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, that kind of mobility can help these new vehicles operate with its fleet of M1 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

"The ability for a Humvee to keep up with a tank, you might think it's easy," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Leimer, the brigade's senior enlisted leader. "But the terrain a tank can cover and the terrain a Bradley can cover is not the terrain a Humvee can cover."

SOLDIER TESTED

In January, the armored brigade began to train operators

and maintainers on the first shipment of JLTVs a few months after its nine-month rotation on the Korean Peninsula.

The unit is set to receive about 350 JLTVs, which Soldiers will then use in the California desert as part of a National Training Center rotation early next year before an upcoming deployment.

The initial contract awarded in 2015 calls for the production of nearly 17,000 JLTVs at a cost of about \$250,000 each, excluding add-on armor and other kits.

Currently JLTVs have two- and four-seater variants and four mission package configurations: general purpose, heavy guns carrier, close combat weapons carrier and a utility vehicle.

Future plans are to procure over 49,000 JLTVs for the Army and about 9,000 for the Marine Corps by the mid-2030s, as part of a joint acquisition effort.

That production schedule was shortened from the early 2040s after both services were able to obtain a vehicle with more capability at a lower cost through competitive prototyping -- a nearly \$6 billion reduction in planned costs.

"We took several years off and saved cost at the same time, which is pretty impressive for a program," said Col. Shane Fullmer, project manager for the JLTV.

UNIQUE FEATURES

The JLTV offers many creature comforts not typically seen in other tactical vehicles.

Besides its smooth ride and cup holders, those comforts include extra legroom, electronic mirrors, map reading lights and climate control for the rear seats. Indentations in the seats also allow for added comfort for those wearing personal water carriers on their backs.

Similar to a touchscreen computer found in a newer car, a driver's smart display unit on the center console monitors the vehicle's fluids, filters, tire air pressure and even has a rearview camera.

Routine preventive maintenance checks and services, or PMCS, will still be as important as ever, the sergeant major noted.

"Whatever that brain in the center of the vehicle tells you it can check," Leimer said, "we still need to ensure Soldiers are getting out of the vehicle and lifting the hood and making sure they're not cutting corners."

The smart display, though, could make it easier for a



Soldiers with 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team take part in operator training for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle at Fort Stewart, Georgia, earlier this year. The JLTV is designed to replace many of the service's Humvees. Future plans are to procure over 49,000 JLTVs for the Army and about 9,000 for the Marine Corps by the mid-2030s, as part of a joint acquisition effort.

mechanic when specific fault codes pop up on the screen as part of its self-diagnosis capability.

Sgt. Louis Accardi, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the brigade's 10th Engineer Battalion, said while the display will not replace the PMCS technical manual, it could help pinpoint a possible issue.

"It's going to make my job and my Soldiers' jobs a lot faster," he said, "so we can focus on those trucks that need a little bit more care than hopefully the JLTV would need."

Another unique feature is the electronic adjustable height suspension, which can lower the vehicle to 8 inches from its exhaust to the ground for transport purposes. The vehicle can also be raised up to 30 inches when driven over difficult terrain, such as a waterway crossing.

Accardi, who recently finished a two-week master maintainer's course for the JLTV, recalled how difficult it can be to transport vehicles on vessels.

"The dock, waves moving, low overhang can all affect how things are loaded or unloaded," he said. "The fact it can adjust its height is amazing. That will help make a big difference."

Due to its lighter weight than most tactical vehicles, the JLTV can even be sling loaded by a CH-47 Chinook, unlike a similar vehicle, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle, or M-ATV.

The suspension system can also lower or raise the JLTV on one end, giving Soldiers another option in combat.

Sowards, a cavalry scout with 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, said his unit could possibly benefit from that feature.

During a reconnaissance mission, for instance, the vehicle could be hidden behind a berm and then elevated on one or both sides to allow the gunner to see over.

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Picatinny celebrates Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month was celebrated on May 20 at the Choices food court, and featured selections from the themed lunch. The celebration also included demonstrations of Henna Tattoos, and table tennis competition at the Forge.



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Gold Star families support each other through it all

Army News Service

CHICAGO -- For many, Memorial Day means spending time with family barbecuing. For Gold Star Families it means honoring their fallen Soldier. Gary Patriquin attends the Gold Star Breakfast and Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony and Parade every year to remember his son.

“He was well revered by the Iraqi people. Sheik Sattar’s tribe adopted him into their family and gave him the name ‘waasam’, which means warrior,” Gary said. “He was an introvert (and) notorious for thinking outside the box.” Gary’s son, Army Civil Affairs Capt. Travis Patriquin lost his life December of 2006 in Ramadi, Iraq, when his Humvee hit and detonated a roadside bomb.

After finding out Travis was killed, Gary recalled his hardest moment, a phone call. He wondered, how to tell his sick mother in the hospital. He was afraid of the consequences. Instead he called his sister, but his mom answered. His mom sensed something amiss and asked, “what’s wrong, you can tell me!” Relief flooded through him. He told her what happened. The next question she asked, “What do we do next?” Next ... he went into overdrive putting his emotions on the shelf. He planned all the funeral arrangements. It wasn’t until his cat whom he had forever died on January 6, 2007 that he lost it. He could no longer bottle up his emotions. He spent the next six months grieving and trying to comprehend how much his life changed.

In the spring of 2007, Jim Frazier, the Northern Illinois Coordinator for Survivor Outreach Services, U.S. Army

contractor, reached out to Gary to invite him to the Gold Star Breakfast. Gary hesitantly decided to go with his family. The silence was deafening when he walked into the breakfast. But before he could turn around to walk out, Frazier introduced himself.

“Hi, my name is Jim Frazier, I’d like to welcome you to our club, the club you didn’t want to join, (and) you can’t get out of it.”

At that moment Gary realized, “he’s right, I didn’t want to join it, but I’m in. I’d better learn to accept it.”

Every year since 9/11, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Loop Alliance host the Gold Star Family Breakfast in the Walnut Room at Macy’s before the Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony and Parade. Before breakfast each family receives an envelope of gift cards and tickets from the Chicago Loop Alliance to go to Chicago attractions during their weekend as they honor their family members.

“We try to provide a welcoming environment for the Gold Star Families, which come in from all over the state of Illinois,” said Charles Nash, a member of the board of directors for the Chicago Loop Alliance. “It’s honoring the Gold Star Families and getting to know those families through this event and to reunite and support these families all year long.”

The survivors themselves support each other through the Gold Star Families of Illinois. Frazier, Tom Yarber, Jerry Terondo, Gary Patriquin and Bill Harris started the Facebook group in 2011. Together they formed a group that’s not just for the families but friends who have lost their loved one in any of the wars, said Gary.

“As a group we get together and do things. We can’t change what happened and we know that, but we can be supportive of each other,” Gary said.

Forge offers free gym nights during July

Every Wednesday in July, from 5-6:30p.m., join the Forge staff for Open Volleyball.

All members of the Picatinny Community (over age 12) are welcome. Please stop by the Forge front desk the night of the event for a free pass.

For more information, please contact Forge Fitness at 973-724-6215 or email steven.j.padula.naf@mail.mil.



Gary Patriquin, a Gold Star Family Member, remembers his son at Chicago Memorial Day Parade on May 25. The Gold Star Families Float honors fallen soldiers of Illinois.

We help each other heal; we share where we are in the journey. And more importantly, each member shares how they made it through the hard parts, Frazier said. The Gold Star Families of Illinois also partners with Survivor Outreach Services of Illinois, which aids them with long-term emotional, logistical, and benefits such as the educational ones the soldier’s children receive. They also connect the Gold Star Families of Illinois group with other non-profit organizations that host events for the Gold Star Families, Frazier said.

“I like to remember the ones who were left behind, I’ve tried very hard to keep the focus on that,” Frazier said. “But (also) to remember why we have Memorial Day and to honor those who have died in service.”

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If employees need to have their employment verified by a loan officer or other organizations, the employee must initiate employment verification through the DCPDS MyBiz+ portal.

At the MyBiz+ site, there is a section called “Key Services,” below which there is a linked called “Request Employment Verification.” Click on the link and follow the instructions provided.

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Joint hypersonic weapon tests to start next year

Army News Service

HONOLULU -- The first joint flight test of a future hypersonic weapon will take place next year, followed by tests every six months until the weapon is fielded by fiscal year 2023, the chief of Army's hypersonic program said recently.

Under the joint venture, the Army is responsible for producing the weapon's common glide body, which will also be used by the Air Force and Navy.

In fiscal 2022, Soldiers are expected to fire a hypersonic glide body from a transporter erector launcher, said Lt. Gen. Neil Thurgood, director of the Army's new Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, which includes the hypersonic project office.

"It is the first shoot ever off of the transporter erector launcher," he said May 23 at the Land Forces Pacific Symposium, hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army. "It will be done by Soldiers."

Prior to that test, the system will be fielded to a unit without the live rounds for training purposes in late fiscal 2021.

Soldiers will practice command and control of the system as well as loading and offloading canisters, similar to those on Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, systems.

"The reason we're going to do that is because we need them to start training," he said. "So when we get to the first (live round) shot a year later, they'll actually know what it looks like."

The Army plans to field the system to a battery. That unit, which Thurgood said could include a part of the Multi-Domain Task Force that is currently being piloted and headed by a field artillery brigade, will receive four launchers with two rounds each.

The launchers, which are about 30 feet long, will be transported by four heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks, or HEMTTs, and trailers.

"That is what we're fielding," he said. "That is the outcome of an experimental prototype unit with residual combat capability."

The command and control system will be the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System 7.0, which is now available to artillerymen.

"We're using a kit we have because the Soldiers know how to use it already and there's already a school set up to use that," he said.

With near-peer competitors developing their own hypersonic capabilities, the Army plans to counter them with about \$1.2 billion on experimental prototyping through fiscal 2024.

Thurgood's office officially received the glide body mission in March.

"We've been in a full-out sprint since then and I personally just love it," he said. "I think it's very exciting."

The glide body program is currently at the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.

"My job is to transition out of the labs into a commercial



industry base," the general said, "and we're on the path to do that right now."

His office brings together scientists and acquisition experts to expedite its programs, which also include directed energy and space technologies.



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