131st FH welcomes command team

Hospital offers a ‘capability not found anywhere else’

By Marcy Sanchez

The 131st Field Hospital welcomed a new commander and senior enlisted adviser during a concurrent assumption of command and assumption of responsibility ceremony at the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum at Fort Bliss April 20.

The ceremony welcomed the field hospital’s first commander since the unit, previously the 31st Combat Support Hospital, reorganized and redesignated as the 131st Field Hospital, to center the mission commander and senior enlisted adviser of the 131st Field Hospital and we also grew the unit in the Army to convert to the force design.

The 131st Field Hospital is one story emerges, a 92 percent survival rate and a fighting force that fights knowing here, what he has provided the organization will be long lasting to get them ready to go to combat and secure our nation’s victory,” Nelson said.

“The 31st Combat Support Hospital became the 131st Field Hospital and we also grew the 528th Hospital, to center the mission commander and assume the mission command element that issues orders to field hospitals when needed,” said Col. Neil Nelson, commander, 528th Hospital Center. “The men and women of this field hospital offer a medical capability not found anywhere else in the world. From the combat medic to the field hospital, one story emerges, a 92 percent survival rate and a fighting force that fights knowing we stand ready to save lives and get them back in the fight.”

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Deon Maxwell assumed command, and Master Sgt. Alicia Persondek assumed responsibility as the senior enlisted adviser of the 131st Field Hospital, 528th Hospital Center, 1st Medical Brigade.

“In the short time that (Maxwell) has been here, what he has provided the organization will be long lasting to get them ready to go to combat and secure our nation’s victory,” Nelson said.

“It is truly my honor and privilege to join this team,” said Maxwell, a Houston native.

“With the current mission, learning to not only fully disassemble the engine, but how to properly put it together again after it has been repaired or overhauled was an eye-opening experience.”

The Soldiers spent almost two weeks at Anniston Army Depot, cross-training to gain additional knowledge of the M1 Abrams tank and M88 Recovery Vehicle.

“This was an in-depth look at what we work on,” Sanders said. “We are all tank mechanics.”

The Soldiers gained an overview of the depot’s overhaul process for the M1 and M88 from the Combat Vehicle Repair Facility through the turret and engine shops and to Final Operations at the test track.

“They were impressed by the depot’s efficiency and the level of experience of the workforce.”

“We have to train in other areas and wish they could have seen more.”

“If we could spend two weeks putting a turret back together, that would be awesome,” Chapman said.

Durin...
Summer safety and awareness

By Fernando Villalobos

Finally, the summer season is around the corner. It’s time for vacations, cookouts, family outings and travel. The summer season is filled with symbolism from the significance of the holidays, and the opportunities it offers to access large crowds at outdoor concerts, sporting events, festivals or other entertainment events. It can be easy to get distracted by all the fun going around us, but it is important we remain ready and alert at all times. This is especially true since some groups are intent on hurting innocent people, as demonstrated by events around the world that include violent attacks in crowded places. It's time for vacations, cook outs, family outings and travel.

One habit to practice at all times is to remain aware of your surroundings so you can detect suspicious activity or indicators as soon as possible. Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that could indicate terrorism or crime. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Unusual items or locations: A vehicle is parked in an odd location, a package or luggage is unattended, a window or door is open that is usually closed, or other out-of-the-ordinary situations.

- Illiciting activity: A person questions you, or what you saw.
- When you saw it.
- Where it occurred.
- Why it occurred.
- If there’s an emergency, call 911.

Reporting suspicious activity

To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. Describe specifically what you observed, including:
- What you saw.
- Where it occurred.
- Why it occurred.
- If there’s an emergency, call 911.

Individuals at a level beyond curiosity about a situation to conduct surveillance or to reject or edit all editorial submissions that do not conform to the usage standards. Ads must be written on the standard classified ad page is usually closed, or other out-of-the-ordinary situations.

- Observation and surveillance: Someone pays unusual attention to buildings or vehicles beyond a casual interest. This includes extended loitering without explanation, unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a building (e.g., with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting people and sketching floor plans.

- Some of these activities could be innocent – it’s up to law enforcement to determine whether the behavior warrants investigation. The activities above are not all-inclusive, but have been compiled based on studies of pre-operational events over several years. Bottom line is that if you see something, say something.

Find additional information at: http://www.myarmynosource.com/familyprogramsservices/watc

Stay ready. Stay alert.

The Fort Bliss Airmen at the AER assumed the Army's mission of providing financial assistance to widows/widowers and orphans of deceased regular Army personnel immediately after the Army began to deploy in smaller, modular designs, including the unit's Stryker Commando Fighting Vehicles, in Afghanistan in 2010. The Fort Bliss Airmen demonstrated combatant maneuvers to their Filipino counterparts May 9.


Continue from Page 1A

“We have much to accomplish in a very short time, but I’m confident the Soldiers I have observed over the past few weeks can make it happen.”

According to the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, the new design of the field hospital allows for mission-specific detachments to deploy in smaller, modular designs, easing some logistical complications previously encountered by combat support hospitals. The redesign allows field hospitals to be customizable and scalable resources.

“Over the past few months we’ve all been preparing for this event and all the events that culminate today,” said,Persondek. Sen. Nelson, who previously served as the 312th CSH’s chief ward master, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to lead the entiled Soldiers of the newly redesignated unit.

“The hospital has a long history of great leadership, I will continue that history,” said Persondek.

The 131 Field Hospital has a long and storied history providing Level III medical care to troops in combat zones beginning in 1938 when the unit was constituted as the 315th Surgical Hospital. The unit was later redesignated as a Portable Surgical Hospital, Mobile Army Surgical Hospital and as a Combat Support Hospital.

The Ironsides Museum at Fort Bliss April 20.

(Right) Master Sgt. Alicia Persondek, right, senior commander at the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum Center, delivers the ceremonial welcoming Maxwell as the unit’s first commander at the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum April 20.

(Back) Lt. Col. Dean Massey, former commander, Fort Bliss Hospital, addresses audience members during an assumption of command and responsibility ceremony following Maxwell as the unit’s first commander at the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum April 20.

(Front) Maxton MacDonald, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Danny Day, Fort Bliss, address the audience during the ceremonial welcoming Maxwell as the unit’s first commander at the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum April 20.

Continued from Page 1A

Photos by Marcy Sanchez/Anniston Army Depot

Jennifer Bacchus/Anniston Army Depot

Photos by Marcy Sanchez
Training is the oil that keeps the engine of our Army running

Albuquerque Army Reserve unit mobilizes to Fort Bliss  6A

UNIT NEWS

Albuquerque Army Reserve unit mobilizes to Fort Bliss

Unit Briefs

Basic Leader Course: The Basic Leader Course, Class 06-18, graduation ceremony will be at 10 a.m. May 24 in Soldier Hall, Bldg. 2, Sheridan Road.

Unit Book Kits: Are you part of a unit going into the field or deploying soon? If so, you can stop by the Mickelsen Community Library and pick up book kits for free. 588-1902

Flags Across America Memorial Day: El Paso Flags Across America will hold a Memorial Day ceremony at 4 p.m. May 28 at the Old Glory Memorial, 9520 Gateway N. Blvd., El Paso. The ceremony will honor all the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. 491-7726 or 494-1956

Mortgage help: FirstLight Federal Credit Union will have loan originators on site from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at Suite D-123 at Freedom Crossing to prequalify people. If you are active duty, a Texas veteran, spouse of active duty or a veteran, learn how you can qualify for zero down on a new home. RSVP required at 500-9190.

ALBUQUERQUE ARMY RESERVE UNIT

Air Assault

Class 004-18

Photos by Wendy Brown

Fort Bliss Garrison Public Affairs

1 Pfc. Caroline Reardon, front, prepares to rappel from the nearly 40-foot-high tower at the Fort Bliss Air Assault Obstacle Course Monday. Fort Bliss Air Assault Class 004-18 began May 1 and concluded Wednesday with 182 graduates.

2 Staff Sgt. Soulivong Thipthavong, assigned to the Iron Training Detachment, marks the helmet of a student to show he is proficient on the 15-foot slant wall during Fort Bliss Air Assault School Class 004-18 training at Fort Bliss Friday. Soldiers assigned to the ITD run the school.

3 Capt. Anthony Moreno prepares to rappel from the Fort Bliss Air Assault Obstacle Course tower Monday.

4 Staff Sgt. Chad Hume, assigned to the Iron Training Detachment, demonstrates how cadre will inspect Soldiers during Fort Bliss Air Assault School Class 004-18 training at Fort Bliss Friday.

5 Staff Sgt. Levon Morehead does a Hollywood rappel from the tower at the Fort Bliss Air Assault Obstacle Course Monday.

FORT BLISS BUGLE • May 17, 2018 • 3A
ALL AMERICAN HOLIDAY SALE!

2017 WRANGLER 2DR
STK# 28058

2017 WRANGLER 4DR
STK# 28058

2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS
STK# 35170

2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT
STK# 28178

YOUR CHOICE! $289/MONTH
T28178, C8181, C8033, 84 PMTS OF $289 AT 3.99% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS
STK# 25022, 3.6L V-6, 8 SPD, UCONNECT THEATER

YOUR CHOICE! $249/MONTH
STK# 25035, 2019, 72 PAYMENTS OF $249 AT 3.99% APR, WITH 25% DOWN.

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE!

START BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!

STOP BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!

2018 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB
STK# 28058. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.09% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 RAM 1500 SLT QUAD CAB
STK# 28059. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.00% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS
STK# 35170

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS
STK# 25022, 3.6L V-6, 8 SPD, UCONNECT THEATER

YOUR CHOICE! $249/MONTH
STK# 25035, 2019, 72 PAYMENTS OF $249 AT 3.99% APR, WITH 25% DOWN.

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE!

START BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!

2018 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB
STK# 28058. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.09% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 RAM 1500 SLT QUAD CAB
STK# 28059. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.00% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS
STK# 35170

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS
STK# 25022, 3.6L V-6, 8 SPD, UCONNECT THEATER

YOUR CHOICE! $249/MONTH
STK# 25035, 2019, 72 PAYMENTS OF $249 AT 3.99% APR, WITH 25% DOWN.

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE!

START BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!

2018 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB
STK# 28058. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.09% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 RAM 1500 SLT QUAD CAB
STK# 28059. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.00% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS
STK# 35170

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS
STK# 25022, 3.6L V-6, 8 SPD, UCONNECT THEATER

YOUR CHOICE! $249/MONTH
STK# 25035, 2019, 72 PAYMENTS OF $249 AT 3.99% APR, WITH 25% DOWN.

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE!

START BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!

2018 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB
STK# 28058. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.09% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 RAM 1500 SLT QUAD CAB
STK# 28059. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.00% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS
STK# 35170

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS
STK# 25022, 3.6L V-6, 8 SPD, UCONNECT THEATER

YOUR CHOICE! $249/MONTH
STK# 25035, 2019, 72 PAYMENTS OF $249 AT 3.99% APR, WITH 25% DOWN.

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE!

START BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!

2018 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB
STK# 28058. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.09% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 RAM 1500 SLT QUAD CAB
STK# 28059. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.00% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS
STK# 35170

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS
STK# 25022, 3.6L V-6, 8 SPD, UCONNECT THEATER

YOUR CHOICE! $249/MONTH
STK# 25035, 2019, 72 PAYMENTS OF $249 AT 3.99% APR, WITH 25% DOWN.

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE!

START BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!

2018 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB
STK# 28058. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.09% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 RAM 1500 SLT QUAD CAB
STK# 28059. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.00% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS
STK# 35170

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS
STK# 25022, 3.6L V-6, 8 SPD, UCONNECT THEATER

YOUR CHOICE! $249/MONTH
STK# 25035, 2019, 72 PAYMENTS OF $249 AT 3.99% APR, WITH 25% DOWN.

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE!

START BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!

2018 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB
STK# 28058. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.09% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 RAM 1500 SLT QUAD CAB
STK# 28059. 84 PMTS OF $329 AT 4.00% APR. 25% DOWN.

2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS
STK# 35170

2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS
STK# 25022, 3.6L V-6, 8 SPD, UCONNECT THEATER

YOUR CHOICE! $249/MONTH
STK# 25035, 2019, 72 PAYMENTS OF $249 AT 3.99% APR, WITH 25% DOWN.

THE ALL NEW 2019 CHEROKEE IS HERE!

START BY AND SEE THE ALL NEW DEMON!
Indian activist and civil rights leader Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Few phrases describe the noble profession of nursing any better.

In a testament to dedication to Army Medicine’s mission of readiness and patient care, 1st Lt. Mary Zekan and Jonathan Serna were recognized as William Beaumont Army Medical Center’s Light the Way award honorees, an award recognizing nurses who exemplify outstanding patient care, and the spirit and passion of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

Serna, a staff nurse at WBAMC’s Inpatient Surgical Ward, and Zekan, head nurse at WBAMC’s Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, are the second set of recipients of the quarterly award. Staff or patients can nominate recipients and a committee of nurses and hospital staff selects the recipients depending on the impact of recipients’ actions.

“I like giving patients the ability to be empowered to make their own health care decisions,” said Zekan, 27, a native of Charleston, West Virginia. “I’m really interested in wellness coaching and helping patients feel like they are in control of their own health.”

Zekan, who holds a national board certification in holistic nursing, was commissioned in 2014 and decided on a nursing career afterward. The decision, she said, came naturally since her father is a surgeon, mom is a nurse and she has one brother in medical school.

“It’s in my blood,” Zekan said.

A lineage of medical professionals also runs in Serna’s family, whose father and mother are nurses.

“When I was growing up I didn’t want to be a nurse. I didn’t want to be like mom and dad,” said Serna, 25, a native of El Paso. “It was weird, as I was growing up I wanted to get out of (El Paso) and leave but then (later) I wanted to stay closer to home and family.”

After graduating from high school, Serna became a nursing assistant before becoming a licensed vocational nurse. After becoming more engaged in patient care, Serna went on to become a registered nurse.

“When I first became an LVN I thought I was content with that. As I continued (working), I knew I could make more of a difference as an RN. As I finished (school) I realized I could continue making more of a difference,” said Serna, whose next goal is to become a family nurse practitioner.

“It’s very rewarding, it puts your life into perspective. You come in and take care of people that are sick and it makes you realize other problems you may have haven’t as bad as you’re making them out to be.”

Zekan, who previously worked at WBAMC’s Medical Ward, was nominated for the recognition for extraordinary contributions. Her nomination details how she spends countless hours catching up on nursing and medical research, searching for better ways to care for our patients and has an infectious passion for people, which motivates doctors, nurses and other support staff to be a beacon of light during a not-so-pleasant experience.

“I like (working in the Medical Ward) because patients are genuinely ill and staying for prolonged periods of time. You get to spend more time with them, build a relationship and learn their personalities,” said Zekan. “I hope I have an impact, patients tell me that I do. I’ve even had some come back to thank me.”

Zekan, whose military commitment is coming to an end this summer, plans to continue her career in medicine as a hospice nurse practitioner.

“All the little stuff you learn in school starts making more sense as you evolve, increase education and increase your practice,” said Serna. “Half the battle is just caring, if you care then you’re doing your job. That’s what we’re here for is to take care of people.”

WBAMC nurses recognized for compassion, dedication to patient care

By Marcy Sanchez
WBAMC Public Affairs

Photos by Marcy Sanchez / WBAMC Public Affairs
Albuquerque Army Reserve unit mobilizes to Fort Bliss

By Lt. Col. Angela Wallace
Army Reserve Medical Command

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – America’s Army Reserve has called the 7251st Medical Support Unit out of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to active duty in support of Soldier Readiness Processing operations at Fort Bliss, a Mobilization Force Generation Installation.

Army and community leaders recognized the 7251st MSU, an Army Reserve Medical Command unit with nearly 75 Soldiers, alongside their families during a departure ceremony at the Phillips Center April 22.

Though it is a continental U.S. mission, David Campbell, the city of Albuquerque planning department director, emphasized its importance and the pride the community has in the unit and its Soldiers.

“The important work that you will do at Fort Bliss is essential to our national defense. Please know that you leave with a grateful community, and that Mayor (Tim) Keller and our city is proud of you and the work that you do and the work you are about to do,” Campbell said.

Mobilization Force Generation Installations play a critical role in ensuring that a significant portion of the Army’s force is able to be medically screened, prepared and moved quickly to mission locations around the world, in some cases within days or weeks.

ARMEDCOM is fully responsible for providing the medical units needed for Soldier Readiness Processing and Troop Medical Clinic operations at Mobilization Force Generation Installations throughout the United States, and maintains an enduring medical SRP and TMC mission at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss.

The mission requires long hours and steadfast commitment to the Soldiers these medical units support. Lt. Col. William Mitchell, deputy commander for Western Medical Area Readiness Support Group, encouraged both the Soldiers and the families to be mindful of that mission and how it may keep Soldiers from having a more active role with their families from afar.

“Understand that these Soldiers, even though they are close, they are doing very important work and they are being tasked way beyond a standard eight-hour day. I would tell families to work with their Soldiers and learn their operational tempo. I would tell the Soldiers to be aware of the special needs that your family has when you aren’t there,” Mitchell said.

But Lt. Col. Steven Ross, 7251st MSU commander, said they have been preparing for the last year and they are ready to take on the mission.

“We were notified of this mission about one year ago, and what we are doing down in Fort Bliss is making sure that every National Guardsman and every Army Reserve Soldier, as well as every civilian, is medically prepared to assume their missions no matter where that mission is located,” said Ross, who began his military career 42 years ago at Fort Bliss and is eager to complete his final mission where it all began.

“I can’t think of a greater group of people to help finish my career than those here with the 7251st MSU. They have the drive, the determination and the expertise to successfully complete this mission, and I have the greatest confidence in each and every one of them,” concluded Ross.

The 7251st MSU is replacing ARMEDCOM’s 7218th MSU out of Louisville, Kentucky.
WASHINGTON — Two relatively new initiatives are cutting costs and reducing the time it takes to get new equipment into the hands of warriors, said Army logisticians.

The initiatives are the Defense Innovation Unit – Experimental, a mechanism for executing prototype contracts quickly, and additive manufacturing, a process that uses 3-D printers to produce metal parts that are traditionally machined on mills and lathes or forged.

The logisticians spoke Friday at an Association of the United States Army "Sustainment" Hot Topic event at the Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia.

Additive manufacturing

The Army is expanding its additive manufacturing capabilities, said Lt. Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, G-4.

"It makes no sense to produce spare parts 8,000 miles away from where the Soldiers need them if we can print them on the battlefield," he said.

The Army is serious about this endeavor and it is establishing an Additive Manufacturing Center of Excellence at Rock Island, Illinois, to advance this technology, he said.

William F. Moore, assistant G-4, added that Army depots are ramping up additive manufacturing and by this summer, tactical machine shops will use this process as well.

Richard Martukanitz, Ph.D., head of the Laser Fusion Section at Associated Research Laboratory at Penn State University, said his lab is supporting big increases in Department of Defense requests for additive manufacturing, in partnership with industry.

For the Army, he said his lab has produced an M1A1 Abrams tank turret, a process that normally requires a giant lathe and a lot of time. Also, his lab, working with Army researchers at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, last year produced most of the components for a 40 mm grenade launcher.

DIUx

Col. David Robinson, Army service lead and military director of Defense Innovation Unit – Experimental, said his command will have a "significant presence" with Army Futures Command when it is stood up later this year, because of its nontraditional approach to moving things quickly through the pipeline.

A recent DIUx Army prototype contract involved upgrades for Bradley Fighting Vehicles that will soon be delivered to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, Robinson said, adding that he foresees more Army usage of DIUx in the future.

Instead of taking years to move from problem identification to prototype and contract closure, DIUx bypasses the traditional contracting process to get that timeline down to an average of 60 to 90 days, and sometimes less than 30, he said.

DIUx uses what is called Commercial Solutions Openings, a special type of Other Transaction Authority, authorized by Congress, that can identify commercial technologies that require little-to-no modification to apply to a DOD mission need, he said.

Very little seed money for a project is used by DIUx, he continued. Most of the cost is born by industry, which often includes non-defense industries or start-ups.

The way these industries generate revenue to support a DOD project is through the use of venture capitalists, he explained. Once the VCs know DOD is serious about a project, they put funding into it. If commercial applications exist as well, it makes items much less expensive.

Although only 30 months old, DIUx has already executed some 65 prototype contracts across DOD and the intelligence community, using companies located in 45 states, Robinson said.

The thrust of DIUx falls into five portfolios, he said: artificial intelligence, autonomy, human systems, space and information technology.

In discussing DIUx, Robinson noted that about 16 percent of VC funding comes from Chinese sources and that percentage has been growing over the years. China is considered a military competitor.

About 25 percent of science, technology, engineering and mathematics educated college students in the U.S. are Chinese foreign nationals who will return to China with all that knowledge when their studies are concluded, he said.