

UNITED STATES MILITARY ENTRANCE PROCESSING COMMAND

Messenger

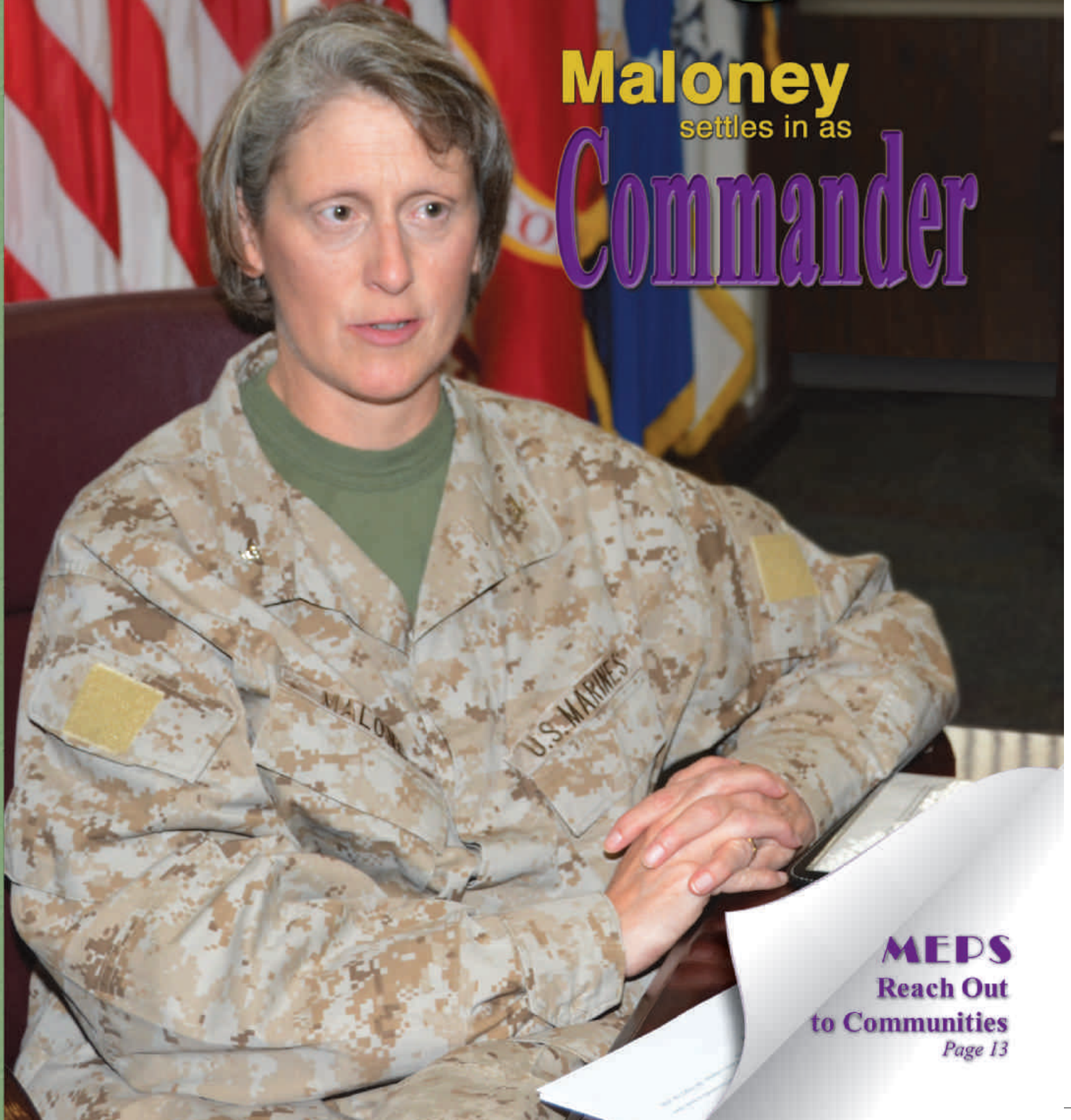
SHARING INFORMATION TO REACH A VISION

VOL. 36, NO. 1

Maloney

settles in as

Commander



MEPS
Reach Out
to Communities
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Messenger

Sharing information to reach a vision

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Testing their mettle
Members of the Indianapolis MEPS took part in the Mud and Mettle Run sponsored by the Indiana National Guard. The obstacle-filled 5-kilometer run was held to raise awareness to prevent suicides. See Page 20.

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U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command

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Commander

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Commander's Commentary



Col. Kathy J. Maloney

Placing mission first and people always, one of the tenets of my command philosophy, is an on-going challenge to leaders at all levels in the chain of command. A challenge, may I say at nearly the one-year mark of my command of USMEPCOM, that is being met admirably throughout the organization. I'm proud of our record of success in this area.

In order for us all to grow and learn together, we need to communicate up and down the chain of command. Each member of our organization has a unique perspective, a unique voice, and deserves to be heard.

The Unit Climate Assessment results provide USMEPCOM commanders at all levels with an effective tool with which to obtain

feedback from organization members, gauge leadership successes, and target areas for improvement. Its conclusions must be absorbed and acted upon on a year-round basis.

That said, I'd like to announce that, effective June 1, 2014, the new Defense Equal Opportunity Climate Survey replaced our Unit Climate Assessment tool.

The new survey will be administered at each MEPS 60 days after a new commander takes command, again 12 months after the initial survey, and annually thereafter until a new commander takes the reins. Headquarters surveys will be conducted annually.

The new survey produces a more comprehensive report than the previous Unit Climate Assessment. Shortening the window of initial administration from 90 to 60 days will provide the incoming commander with a more timely snapshot of the organizational climate, with feedback, with which to more quickly implement positive improvements.

The Defense Equal Opportunity Climate Survey consists of 95 standard questions, an additional 10 demographic questions and up to 10 locally-developed questions added by the commander.

The new survey will provide

USMEPCOM leadership at all levels with improved, more insightful feedback about what is going well within their organization and what needs improvement. Better feedback should lead to better decision-making.

I expect our leaders to implement the recommendations and action plans you are given when you receive the results of the surveys. It will show your coworkers you care, and it is the right thing to do.

I also expect leaders to have an "open door policy." People need to know they can come to you with their concerns in real time, not only at survey time.

As I said at the beginning, mission and people are complimentary, not competing priorities. A positive, productive work environment that allows each member to grow to their full potential is always the goal. Each member of our team deserves the best possible leadership. Please take advantage of your opportunity to improve USMEPCOM when you are asked to take part in a Climate Survey. We cannot fix problems or share good ideas if we don't know what they are.

Your leaders need your input to improve the command and perhaps contribute to your well-being by addressing concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KJ Maloney".

**Kathy J. Maloney
Colonel, USMC
Commanding**

Maloney adapts, overcomes learning curve

By Skip Wiseman
Messenger Editor

When Marine Corps Colonel Kathy J. Maloney assumed command of United States Military Entrance Processing Command, she knew she faced a learning curve.

Maloney's first priorities were to introduce herself to the command and publicize her command philosophy.

She said she, like most leaders, uses a blend of leadership styles, but most closely identifies with a participative or democratic leadership style. "I'm one who likes to hear input from individuals. I like to get their ideas as we are formulating a decision."

While she thinks of herself as an even-tempered person who takes most things in stride, people who are "overly negative" and "constant complainers" get under her skin.

"I feel strongly that, if you want to complain, you should be part of the solution and be able to offer recommendations," Maloney said.

Her first impressions of the command have all been positive, Maloney said.

"I can tell you, without a doubt, this is a great organization to work in," Maloney said. "It's refreshing to work with so many individuals who care about what they do. They really care that they're providing the best service they can to this command and its customers."

Maloney said she has found that MEPS employees take their jobs seriously.

"The commanders, the senior enlisted advisors, the staff, every individual who is pushing that applicant through the process takes Red Carpet Treatment seriously, realizes they are one of the first individuals who represents the Department of Defense to that applicant, and are making the first impression on that applicant's military career."

She previously served as the command's Western Sector commander, where her focus was the 31 military entrance processing stations under her command.



Photo by Art Heintz

Col. Kathy J. Maloney appreciates that the USMEPCOM staff is dedicated to the mission

The emphasis switched instantly when she assumed command of USMEPCOM.

"Now I'm responsible for looking up (the Department of Defense chain of command), for working budget issues, sequestration issues, and policy issues," she said. "It's been a good experience. It's just a matter of refocusing the lens, learning the intricacies of USMEPCOM and gaining insights from the staff on the issues I need to present to external agencies."

In fiscal 2013 the command processed 379,000 applicants for enlistment in the Army, Marine

Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. Of these, 233,000 joined the armed forces.

A total of 680,000 students participated in the student testing program in fiscal 2013.

Maloney said it has been a "positive experience" dealing up the chain of command. She interacts with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy; Director for Accession Policy, the Army's Medical Command, which supports USMEPCOM with a portion of its funding; the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Human Resources,

through whom the Department of Defense administers funding and manpower spaces for the command; and recruiting organizations from all branches of service.

"I've more or less met all the contacts," she said. "Now I know who to go to and ask questions and find resolutions. The individuals I've found so far who are external to USMEPCOM, the advocates, are there to help us pursue our initiatives."

She said the recruiting services have been "very understanding" about changes the command has had to make due to budget issues.

"We've had a couple of changes, obviously, in the way we are pursuing fiscal '14," Maloney said. "The services have been very understanding, but they are very concerned with some of the budget reductions we have and the impact it could have on them."

Maloney considers Coeur d'Alene, Idaho her hometown, but grew up throughout Montana, Idaho and Alaska, where she lived near Anchorage for six years.

"It was beautiful," she said. We spent a lot of time outdoors."

An athlete, she played basketball, volleyball and ran track in high school and played basketball and some volleyball in college. In fact, her background in sports is part of what drew Maloney to the military.

She said her background in organized sports made the military attractive. After completing her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Western Montana College, Dillon, Mont., in 1987, she looked into pursuing a commission.

"I went to all the different officer selection officers and the Marine

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I can tell you, without a doubt, that this is a great organization to work in.

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Corps just kind of tickled my fancy," she said. "I liked the customs, the courtesies, the culture of the Marine Corps."

Maloney said all her assignments have been rewarding, including deployments to Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Really, any assignment, in my mind, is about the people you have the opportunity to work with, the professional development and the experiences you gain from that assignment."

She deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a personnel officer. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, she served as assistant chief of staff for human resources with II Marine Expeditionary Force. In Afghanistan, she was assigned to Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435. In addition to serving as director of human resources, she was also the unit's Inspector General, which she said was outside of what she was used to doing in human resources.

Maloney said she enjoyed the deployments.

"Those have probably been some of the most rewarding times of my career, because that's what we get

paid to do," she said. "That is what our nation hires us to do, so it is very rewarding."

Her husband, Mark M. Maloney, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, opted to retire when she was assigned as a student in Newport, R.I., and he was scheduled to deploy.

"Actually we were very blessed throughout our careers that the Marine Corps was willing to assign us to the same location as dual active-duty family members," she said. "We didn't always get the location we wanted, but we were fortunate to be assigned together."

"It got a little interesting sometimes when he was coming back from a deployment and I was leaving for a deployment on the same day, literally," Maloney said. "We handed off our keys to the duty officer and hoped none of our flights got delayed so somebody was there to pick up the kids."

"When I received orders to Newport and he was scheduled to deploy, that was the deciding moment for us, so he retired," she said.

The Maloneys have four children. Kate, 30, is a teacher. Patrick, 25, is a sergeant in the Marine Corps. Alexis is a junior at Arizona State University. Matthew, 16, is a junior at Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, Ill.

As she has throughout her career, Maloney said the best part of her job is the people.

"I've had the opportunity to work with the staff in the headquarters as well as the sectors," she said. "I've been fortunate to go out to several of the military entrances processing stations."

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I feel strongly that, if you want to complain, you should be part of the solution.

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Command finds communications help fix e-Security problem

By Danielle Lieber
Messenger Associate Editor

Some communication models include feedback as part of the loop. Some do not. The e-Security program proved just how important that feedback is.

In October 2012, the USMEPCOM commander asked the Information Technology and Operations Directorates to investigate shutting down the e-Security program. Headquarters had received significant negative feedback from the field indicating that cancelling the program seemed the only way out of an unsatisfactory situation.

“e-Security is down.’ That’s what they used to tell them all the time,” said Kathy Browning-Callen, chief of the Accessions Division in USMEPCOM’s Operations Directorate.

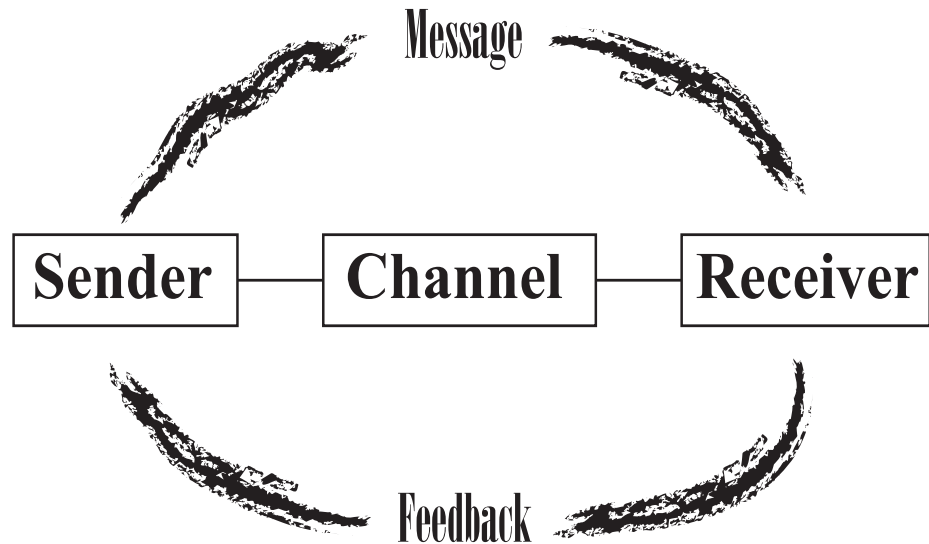
Stakeholders asked for six months to fix the program. A Tiger Team was created to repair and save e-Security.

Tiger Team members Lloyd McKinney, management analyst, and Patricia Burke, information technology specialist, traveled to San Diego MEPS to investigate problems with the program.

“What we found through research was that when MEPS would indicate that e-Security is down, it was actually that we were having network issues,” Browning-Callen said. It was also discovered that variables in environment were affecting the application, such as a room being too dark to capture a photo properly or a fingerprint scanner not being clean.

The Information Technology directorate “took it and started running. They found out that many of the computers at the MEPS weren’t kept up-to-date with software updates. They established a baseline process to make sure everybody brought their systems up to date. On the functional side of the house, we started attacking it through what we consider the best business practices,” Browning-Callen said.

Armed with the MEPS’ feedback, the Operations Directorate revamped its user products. The e-Security Best



Business Practices was released Feb. 25, 2013 and the Quick Reference Guide was released April 10, 2013.

Having learned how important feedback is, an e-Security Usability Survey was released to the field in May 2013. The e-Security User Manual was released June 19, 2013. An interactive e-Security User Training Course was mailed to the field Dec. 2, 2013.

Since the user manual was released, there have been only two service desk messages alerting, “e-Security is down,” compared with June 2012 to October 2012 when nine e-Security service desk messages were released, according to Brent Downs, chief of the Enterprise Application Branch.

“Submitting MOC tickets and MIT Help Desk tickets pays dividends by giving headquarters accurate quantitative data that can be used to

focus people, time and money on the problem. In the case of e-Security, tickets were used at the formation of the e-Security Tiger Team to prove that this was indeed a documented legitimate issue and that it was not just an anecdotal word-of-mouth rumor,” said Richard Preston, chief of the USMEPCOM Operations Center.

“That is what I consider a big win, the fact that we are all on the same sheet of music; we are all communicating in the same language now. We all have a clear understanding of how we are supposed to operate the system and use it, what we are supposed to do with the system if we have issues and who we are supposed to report to,” Browning-Callen said.

“We are listening to you. We heard you and now, hopefully, you are experiencing the benefits from us listening to you,” Browning-Callen said.

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**We are listening
to you. We heard
you...**

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USMEPCOM introduces new property book system

By Danielle Lieber
Messenger Associate Editor

USMEPCOM began using the Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced, or PBUSE, system in April.

This system has new features

“It can account for all property and supplies from acquisition to disposal. You can order supplies through that system. You can issue supplies through that system. You can also generate turn-in documents through the system,” said Richard Dorsey, the chief of the Logistics Branch at USMEPCOM and the command property book officer.

Users can order supplies and equipment in the automated system. That means they do not have to worry about using a Government Purchase Card anymore, and transactions can take only minutes.

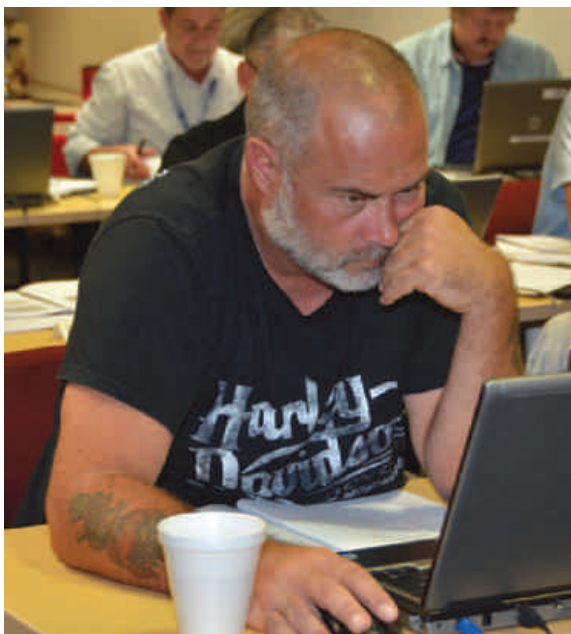
Users can view real-time updates 24/7 from any common access card-enabled device. “They see those updates immediately,” Dorsey said.

Hand receipts can now be signed digitally as well. “Commanders can digitally sign the hand receipt and upload it, and I can go to their MEPS within PBUSE and see that signed hand receipt. There is no need to print it. It stays in a document repository for two years,” Dorsey said.

PBUSE makes running inventories easier. “They (users) can schedule the inventory in PBUSE. They can conduct the inventory using the barcode scanners. The commander can digitally sign the inventory. Everything is within PBUSE. You can upload that inventory. In PBUSE, everything is automated,” Dorsey said. “This is a big upgrade.”



Omaha MEPS administrative services technician, Rena Nickell (left), and 1st Battalion program support specialist, Cynthia Geldert (right), work together at the headquarters, USMEPCOM PBUSE training.



Beckley MEPS administrative services technician, Jim Wheeler Jr., concentrates at the headquarters, USMEPCOM PBUSE training.

“

It can account for all property and supplies from acquisition to disposal.

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Post-9/11 GI Bill provides benefits, flexibility

By Danielle Lieber
 Messenger Associate Editor

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is available to any service member or veteran who served “at least 90 days of aggregate service after Sept. 10, 2001, or (was) discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days,” according to the Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 GI Bill website. An honorable discharge is required for eligibility.

The program provides up to 36 months of education benefits.

Generally, benefits are payable for 15 years after release from active duty.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill to dependents.

Transferability is a hot topic. Only current service members are eligible to transfer benefits to dependents.

A service member who elects to transfer benefits incurs a four-year service obligation. Other eligibility requirements may apply and can be reviewed on the GI Bill website.

To transfer benefits, a transfer request must be submitted via MilConnect. If the request is approved, the data is sent to the VA.

Each family member must first apply for a certificate of eligibility using VA Form 22-1990E, according to the MilConnect website.

The application can be filled out electronically via the Veterans On-Line

Application or on paper. The paper copy can be found on the GI Bill website.

The website, www.gibill.va.gov, has a lot of information on the GI Bill, including to whom it applies, to what it can be applied, how to apply, how to transfer benefits, etc.

Anyone looking for information on the bill should visit this site or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

Command personnel provided these assessments of their experience with the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kayla Miller, medical technician at the Butte MEPS, transferred one month of her Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to her son, Wyatt, who is 20 months old.

Because benefits cannot be transferred after separation, Miller transferred only one month “just to start the clock,” she said. Benefits can be altered anytime after they are transferred, including after separation.

Miller knew she would incur a mandatory, four-year service obligation; therefore, she transferred her benefits early. “Just get the clock started. You can always opt to take the months yourself,” she said.

“The Post 9/11 GI Bill is just such an awesome benefit,” Miller said.

She said that, for her, the whole process took about two weeks. She began by clicking the Air Force Virtual Education Center’s transfer benefits link.



Staff Sgt. Kayla Miller talks with applicant, Fiona Mott

Army Maj. Riley Coffey, commander of the Butte MEPS transferred his Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to his son, Maol-Eown, 8.

“I figured out how to do it on my own,” Coffey said. “The process is easy when you know where to go.”

He explained that he did the transfer online. Dependents are displayed and the beneficiary decides what percentage to transfer to each dependent.

After the transfer is submitted, there is a 24-hour review process where eligibility is determined, he said. “It’s that easy.”

Coffey explained he incurred a four-year active duty service obligation by transferring his benefits. However, if someone is involuntarily separated during a “drawdown,” the service obligation is waived, but the transfer remains.

He said transferring his benefits to his son freed the money that he was saving for Maol-Eown’s education. The Post 9/11 GI Bill is “not just allowing people to go to school. Its effects are far reaching.

“If you are not using them, then you need to transfer them,” he said.

Benefits can be used on education other than college. “You owe it to the people who fought to give you these benefits,” he said. “The beauty is ... you will be able to afford the average state school.”

Coffey described the GI Bill as a “generational game-changer.”

It is “not just what it gets you, present day, but what it means to future generations.”

He explained that if his grandfather had not used the original GI Bill to get a degree, his father’s life would have been much different, as would his in turn.

“If possible, don’t go to an online school. Go to a campus. Get the full bang for your buck,” he said when asked to give his advice.

“They owe it to themselves to experience a university. Get the social aspects as well as the educational.” It boils down to credibility,” he said.

He also advised using

tuition assistance benefits before using the GI Bill.

He used his tuition assistance to get his graduate degree.

He said some universities, like his alma mater, the University of Wyoming, cap tuition to match tuition assistance.

Army Capt. Tawana N. Norman, Charlotte

MEPS assistant operations officer, is using the Post-9/11 GI Bill to earn her master's degree in human services from Lake Forest University.

She started her program in August 2013 and anticipates graduating in May 2015.

She did not know what to do when she decided

to use her GI Bill, so she called Veterans Affairs.

The counselors were nice, she said. She filled out her application online, got a response in two weeks, and was awarded full benefits.

She said, applicants can appeal if they do not agree with the amount approved.

"The process is fairly simple," she said. She sent

the certificate of eligibility to the school, and they posted it.

"Do not wait until you are accepted. If you know you want to use it, apply for your certificate of eligibility," she said. "The information online is very helpful. If you run into any snags, call the 1-800 number. The people are very helpful."

Questions about the Post-9/11 GI Bill? Here's where to get answers

For specific questions about your eligibility, the status of your transfer request and service-specific questions about the Transfer of Education Benefits Portlet, please contact the appropriate career counselor or personnel center from the following list

Branch of Service

Contact

Army Active Duty Officer

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post-911-gi-bill@mail.mil

Army Active Duty Enlisted

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post-911-gi-bill@mail.mil

Army National Guard

ng.robinson.ngb-arng-pec.mbx.arng-hrm-o-gi-bill-ch33@mail.mil

Army Reserve (Enlisted and Officer)

usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post-911-gi-bill@mail.mil

Navy Active Duty Navy Personnel
Command Customer Service Center

866-U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672)/DSN 882-5672

Navy Reserve

800-621-8853, Fax: 757-444-7597/7598
cnrfc_post911gibill@navy.mil

Marine Corps Active Duty Officer

Tasha.Lowe@usmc.mil

Marine Corps Active Duty Enlisted

Michael.A.Peck@usmc.mil

Marine Corps Reserve

smb_manpower.cmt@usmc.mil

Air Force Active Duty

800-525-0102 or 210-565-5000 or DSN 665-5000

Air National Guard

Contact one of the Retention Office Managers at your unit.

Air Force Reserve

julia.williamson@us.af.mil

Coast Guard Active Duty

reidus.stokes@uscg.mil

Coast Guard Reserve

reserveVAeducation@uscg.mil

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

Gregory.Raymond@noaa.gov or 301-713-7728

Public Health Service

OCCOHelpdesk@hhs.gov or 240-453-6130

From the Veterans Affairs' Post 9/11 GI Bill website

Online GI Bill Comparison Tool can help calculate benefits

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched an online GI Bill Comparison Tool to make it easier for veterans, service members and dependents to calculate their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities and other education and training programs across the country.

"We are pleased that Post-9/11 veterans are taking advantage of this significant benefit program," Allison A. Hickey, under secretary for benefits, said. "The new GI Bill comparison tool will help future beneficiaries as they make decisions about what education or training program best fits their needs."

The comparison tool provides key information about college affordability and brings together information from more than 17 online sources and three federal agencies, including the number of students receiving VA education benefits at each school. The comparison tool, one item in a

series of resources VA is launching, in response to Executive Order 13607, which directs agencies to implement and promote "principles of excellence for educational institutions that interact with veterans, service members and their families, and to ensure beneficiaries have the information they need to make educated choices about VA education benefits and approved programs."

VA has also instituted a GI Bill online complaint system designed to collect feedback from veterans, service members and their families who are having problems with educational institutions receiving funding from federal military and veterans educational benefits programs, including benefits programs provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Department of Defense Military Tuition Assistance Program.

The executive order directs federal agencies to provide meaningful cost and quality information on schools,

prevent deceptive recruiting practices and provide high quality academic and student support services.

VA works closely with partner institutions to ensure the needs of GI Bill beneficiaries are met.

More than 5,000 educational institutions have agreed to the principles of excellence.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a comprehensive education benefit created by Congress in 2008.

In general, veterans and service members who have served on active duty for 90 days or more since Sept. 10, 2001, are eligible.

Since 2009, VA has distributed more than \$30 billion in tuition and other education-related payments to more than one million veterans, service members and their families, and to universities, colleges and trade schools they attend.

The GI Bill Comparison Tool can be found at <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison>.

What USMEPCOM employees are saying about the Post-9/11 GI Bill

Rod Cobb
management
analyst, Air
Force retiree

"Use it right away. The longer you wait the harder it is."

Davis Gray
management
analyst, Army
retiree

"(The process is) exceptionally easy. The worst

that will happen is you will get smarter."

Ted Newman
management
analyst, Army
retiree

"If you are even thinking about it, go to the VA to get your letter, if not for your career, for yourself."

David Davis
management
analyst, Army
retiree

"(It) makes you more competitive in your job search. (You) have to have that education to back you up."

Ted Hagert
command
education

**services
specialist,
Navy retiree**

"You earned it, make use of it."

"The initial application for aid using the 'VonApp' form on the VA website is a bit complex, but not overwhelming."

12th
Battalion

Baltimore MEPS



Lt. Col. Rod Boles

Hometown: Sulphur, Okla. “It is a small town in southern Oklahoma with two stoplights.”

“Both my parents were educators and my dad was in the Army Reserve, so we had the opportunity to do some travel around the United States.”

What was your favorite toy when you were a kid? “A basketball. I was an only child and that was something I could do by myself.”

Education: Bachelor of elementary education from University of Central Oklahoma and a master’s degree in education administration from the University of Oklahoma. He was a fifth grade student teacher.

Why did you join the Army? “I was a sophomore in college and really wanted to be a basketball coach. I was in our school library and got a brochure on Army ROTC. I talked to them and I loved it. I decided I wanted to do this full time.”

Previous assignment: Professor of military science at Cameron, University, Okla.

Favorite assignment: “Cameron. It was awesome seeing the cadets come in as freshmen, become leaders, and be commissioned as second lieutenants.”

Future military career plans: “I am going to retire. It’s been awesome. I’ve loved the Army, but all my family and my wife’s family – even cousins – are in Oklahoma. Next summer after the change of command we’ll be going to my hometown.”

What do you want to be when

you grow up? “I wish I knew what my job post-Army will be. My job in the Army is human resources. I think I’ll do something in education or human resources.”

Life on the ranch: His parents have a ranch on two 160-acre plots. “My grandfather had the ranch then my dad. Now we’re going there. I don’t want to do it full time, but I’ll probably help my dad out.”

What do you do when you’re not a commander? “Spend time with family. I have a wife and two boys. I love spending time with them.” The boys are 7 and 10.

What’s your leadership style? “Hopefully it’s positive. We need positive communication – Red Carpet treatment and respect to all, not only the applicants, but the people who work here and their families.”

What do you like best about your job? “I love that we’re a melting pot and I have the opportunity to work with people from all over the country. I think that makes me better. I love the multicultural aspect of the military.”

What do you order when you eat out? “I love southern food. I love fried chicken and barbecue.”

What’s the best present you ever got? “My wife got me two tickets to see the Rolling Stones in Oklahoma City in 1999.”

What’s your guilty pleasure? “I love college football. Oklahoma Sooners. I love Oklahoma City Thunder basketball.”

What is your least favorite sport? “Hockey. It’s just not big a sport in Oklahoma.”

Tell me something people would be surprised to know about you. “I play the drums.” He started playing when he was about 10. “I mainly play rock and roll. I like all kinds of music, but rock and roll is probably my favorite.”

What is your favorite all-time movie? “‘Dances with Wolves.’ I like it because there is an army officer on the frontier, It kind of reminds me of Oklahoma – it’s Native American country.

It’s 2 o’clock Sunday afternoon. What are you doing? “I will have gone to church and just eaten lunch with my family after church.”

What is the last book you read?

“‘1776’ by David McCullough. The book is considered a companion piece to McCullough’s earlier biography of John Adams, and focuses on the events surrounding the start of the American Revolution.

What is your ideal vacation? “My honeymoon in Hawaii was probably the best vacation I ever had.”

1st
Battalion

Des Moines MEPS



Maj. Sean Keenan

Hometown: Raleigh, N.C. “It’s a crossroads. There are people from all over the United States and the world. As such, it is a city with a great deal of charm. I would not classify it as a southern city any more because of all the cultures, which is a good thing and a bad thing.”

Fond childhood memories: “One of the nice things about Raleigh is it’s near the coast, so we went to the beach a lot. There were a lot of woods, so I went there a lot. I rode my bike a lot. There was a sense of freedom.”

What was your favorite toy when you were a kid? “Probably a football or a bicycle. I love the game of football, because it’s the ultimate team sport and it mirrors life.”

Education: Bachelor of arts degree in government from Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C.

Why did you join the Marine Corps? “I viewed it as being the hardest.”

Enlisted time: He was an enlisted man for five years, serving as a loadmaster. “I got out of the Marine Corps in 1997 and went to pursue my

education. About halfway through college, I decided I didn't like being a civilian, so I came back into the Marine Corps through the Platoon Leaders Course." He missed being with Marines the most. "I was waking up in the middle of the night or in the morning and thinking I was back in the barracks. I was waking up in my own home and was disappointed I wasn't back with Marines."

Previous assignment: Company commander Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Favorite assignment: "I would have to say as a squadron loadmaster at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif., because of the amount of traveling I did at a young age. It opened my mind to a much larger world than I had ever known. It shaped me for my adult life."

Future military career plans: "I really have no idea. I'll be eligible to retire in about four years. I have two years left here and then I hope to go to a joint billet in the national capital region."

What do you want to be when you grow up? "I want to be a lawyer. I believe in justice and I enjoy fighting for those who can't fight for themselves. And I'm an idealist."

What do you do when you're not a commander? "I have three children, so I spend a great deal of time with my family. I enjoy deer hunting in the fall. I am an avid cyclist. I ride my bike to raise money for research and treatment of mental illness. I've ridden my bike in North Carolina, the Kingdom of Bahrain and across the state of Iowa in an effort the raise money. I've raised over \$11,000 since 2008. Iowa was 10,000 riders, seven days. We started at the Missouri River and rode to the Mississippi."

What's your leadership style? "I guard my mission jealously and I am dedicated 100 percent to the well being and success of those in my command. I think the two go hand-in-hand."

What do you like best about your job? "The people I work with."

What do you order when you eat out? "That depends. Am I choosing the restaurant or is my wife choosing it? I'm a meat and potatoes kind of guy. I like a steak."

What's the best present you

ever got? "My first bicycle." He was about 3.

What's your guilty pleasure? "I'm a news and sports junkie." He goes to a lot of different sources. "I would say primarily for Fox News either TV or online, but I also listen to (National Public Radio). Just talk radio in general, whether its sports or news. I like being in my car alone so I can listen to what I want to listen to. Music is soothing sometimes, but I like hearing people discuss issues."

What is your least favorite sport? "I would have to say cricket because I don't know anything about it."

Tell me something people would be surprised to know about you. "I taught myself how to ride a bike when I was three years old, without training wheels. It's something I'm kind of proud of. I think it was borne out of a desire to be free. I think my parents regretted that because they could never find me. If I could get out the door, I was off on my bike."

What is your favorite all-time movie? "It's a Wonderful Life.' Every year on Christmas Eve, I force my family to sit down and watch it." He likes the lesson that man is both significant and insignificant at the same time and we determine how we handle that.

It's two o'clock Sunday afternoon. What are you doing? "If the Carolina Panthers are playing I'm watching them. If they're not on, I'm either playing with my kids or out riding my bike."

What is the last book you read? "Mere Christianity' by C.S. Lewis. It's a collection of monologues he did for the British Broadcasting Corporation) during World War II that describes his philosophy on being a Christian after converting from being an atheist. It was designed to inspire the British troops."

What is your ideal vacation? "Every year my family and I go down to Bald Head Island, North Carolina. We spend a week with just my extended family and it is wonderful."

Hometown: Hamburg, N.Y., a suburb of Buffalo. "They say they are

11th
Battalion

St. Louis MEPS



Lt. Col. Patricia George

the originator of the hamburger. I don't know about that. I grew up right off Lake Erie so I spent a lot of time at the beach.'

Fond childhood memories: "I still remember the 1977 blizzard. The school was closed for over a week. We had to dig ourselves out. It sounds scary, but that was a winter wonderland."

What was your favorite toy when you were a kid? "We had a trampoline when trampolines weren't in every back yard. We would spend hours on it. My father was a diver. He taught us how to do some amazing tricks on the trampoline."

Education: Bachelor of arts degree in psychology, St. Bonaventure University. Master of arts degree in human resource management from Webster University.

Why did you join the Army? "My father is a retired master sergeant. He is the one who brought the recruiter to my house when I was 17. I am following in my father's footsteps. I was in the Army Reserve for six years before I won an ROTC scholarship. I was in a drill sergeant unit that supported Fort Leonard Wood for basic training."

Previous assignment: Instructor and executive officer of the Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Department, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. "I taught military leadership and human resource management."

Favorite assignment: “I like my time in the MEPS, but I also loved teaching.” She was assigned as the operations officer at the Pittsburgh MEPS 1998-2001. “That gave me a great foundation working with civilians and customer service. Teaching leadership helped me understand the theory of leadership, not just application. Each of those assignments helped make me a better officer.”

Deployments: She deployed to Iraq 2004-2005 as a company commander with 1st Calvary Division. She deployed to Afghanistan 2011-2012 as the Brigade Combat Team human resources officer with the 10th Mountain Division.

What is it like being a battalion commander? “I think it’s a great concept that is needed. It allows the stations to share ideas. Compared to when I was in Pittsburgh where we were in a cluster. I’m trying to get the stations to communicate with each other and share ideas. When I go from MEPS to MEPS, I try to share that. Being a battalion allows free sharing of information, it improves the effectiveness of each station.”

Future military career plans: “I was feeling like my next job is going to be at the Pentagon or Human Resources Command and do policy that impacts human resources at the senior level. I enjoy reading and interpreting policy and writing it.”

What do you want to be when you grow up? “I would like to teach part-time and my husband I would like to open a photography studio.”

What do you do when you’re not a commander? “Spend as much time as I can with my children and my husband. We enjoy going to the zoos, the museums around here. We like to visit different cultural sites. I have a 14-year-old son, a 12-year-old daughter and my ‘return from Iraq baby’ is 7, a son.”

What’s your leadership style? “I am definitely hands on. The biggest thing for me is to get to know each person. I know that seems pretty hard as a battalion commander, but I try to get to know each person and understand what motivates them. That makes things run better in the battalion.”

What do you like best about your job? “My favorite part of the job is probably being able to do professional development with the leaders in my organization. I have made it a priority passing that information down and cross talking, training and mentoring our junior soldiers and junior leaders in our organization.”

What do you order when you eat out? “Salmon. I love to eat salmon when I go out. It seems to taste better. It’s a treat to have somebody else cook it.”

What’s the best present you ever got? “On my 30th birthday, I got to bring home my daughter. I had her on my sister’s birthday and brought her home on mine.”

What’s your guilty pleasure? “I would say chocolate. Not a particular kind. Any.”

What is your least favorite

sport? “I don’t like watching any sports. I would rather play than watch.”

Tell me something people would be surprised to know about you. “I married my high school sweetheart. We have been together for 24 years.”

What is your favorite all-time movie? “Remember the Titans.’ I could watch that over and over. It’s definitely a leadership movie. I go back to it because it helps you, as a leader, deal with conflict management. There are always different ways to manage conflict.”

It’s 2 o’clock Sunday afternoon.

What are you doing? “One of two things. We usually have a big dinner on Sunday, so I’m getting things together. If I didn’t get up early enough, that’s my long run day.” She runs 8-10 miles and completed her first half marathon in October.

What is the last book you read? “I just finished ‘In Extremis Leadership’ by Col. Thomas Koldris. I kept meaning to read it at West Point. He was our department head. Its about what leadership attributes are important in a life and death situation, what your subordinates look for.”

What is your ideal vacation? “We camp. We go out in the woods and we love to experience the wilderness by roasting marshmallows, sitting by the fire and be disconnected from technology. It makes me at peace.”

St. Louis volunteers rise early to honor World War II veterans

Service members from the St. Louis MEPS volunteered to support the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight.

Honor Flight transports World War II veterans to the National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. This event allowed current service members to pay their respect and gratitude for those who paved the way before them.

St. Louis MEPS

volunteers reported at 3:45 a.m. to meet the veterans, have coffee with them and share stories before they left.

When the veterans returned at 7 p.m. the service members were there to welcome them back. The service members formed a salute line at the gate and rendered salutes to each of the veterans as they disembarked from the plane.



Soldiers, sailors and airmen salute as a World War II veteran makes his way through the airport to his family.

Operations officer looks back on New Orleans MEPS tour

By Army Capt. Terez M. Little
Former Operations Officer
New Orleans MEPS

Serving as the operations officer at the New Orleans MEPS is an experience that will not soon be forgotten.

Traditionally, the operations officer is responsible for ensuring training is conducted and preparation for unit readiness is in sync with the unit's mission.

In USMEPCOM, the experience is multi-faceted and dually rewarding for self as well as those enlisting into the military.

Not only is the "opso" responsible for internal day to day operations, he or she will become "the face" of the station for local leaders, civilian agencies and the community.

A myth worth dispelling is working at a MEPS is "easy" or lacks "challenge."

During my tenure, each day was filled with excitement working with applicants, their families and friends, fielding questions, easing concerns and apprehension of the finality of their impending decision.

Ensuring quality applicants enlist in the armed forces is one of the most important aspects of national security and relies heavily on proper coordination between the military and local community leaders.

This is one of the unique

“

A myth worth dispelling is working at a MEPS is 'easy' or lacks 'challenge.'

”

aspects of the position vastly different than my previous experiences on active duty, regular and direct interaction with members of the community, working toward the common goal of helping young people map out a plan for their future.

The initial step is having students take the ASVAB with thorough understanding.

One challenge is far too many students take the test with a willingness to do poorly for fear that high scores will hinder their ability to enlist.

Educating local leaders without a military background on ASVAB testing can be used to identify strengths and weaknesses along with sharing this information with students to instill confidence during test taking, thus improving scores and the outlook and adjustment of the educational system to meet this requirement.

Beyond this, the military can be used as a trade for those who have no desire to attend school or lack direction after graduating high school.

Although most of our

applicants are recent high school graduates, some are young adults looking to make better life choices.

My interaction with thousands of applicants shed light on many different walks of life. Most desire to serve not only for patriotic reasons but for self-improvement and community philanthropy.

Call to action

Some applicants are medically disqualified, ruling out the possibility of military service.

Meetings with local government and community leaders highlight the importance to encourage healthy eating and exercise.

Maintaining an open line of communication with local leaders gives them insight into their communities, helping them make positive changes in the community.

Making memories

This experience has produced many memorable moments.

The staff's family-like relationship will be a lifelong bond of cherished memories and learned experiences.

A few months back, I met a woman who as a teenage

mother, sacrificed her desire to join the military for 18 years to raise her child. They took the oath of enlistment together and left for basic training together.

Another instance was the young high school graduate who enlisted in front of five generations of family to continue a legacy of military service.

Empowerment and encouragement

Every oath of enlistment is an opportunity to look each individual in the eye and take the opportunity to ask what they expect to gain from military service and explain that they are joining one of the largest organizations in the world and should be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect one another at all costs.

I explained that the military is a bond that cannot be broken, one that will strengthen and change them forever.

Working in a joint environment with other services and civilians is rewarding and educating.

Hands-on learning is one of the best ways to understand the missions of other services.

The bond created working with civilian employees is lasting and as cherished as the one built with those in uniform.

“

The staff's family-like relationship will be a lifelong bond of cherished memories and learned experiences.

”

Milwaukee raises money for Wounded Warrior project

Most people feel there are enough obstacles in life without intentionally putting more in front of them. Not so with the Milwaukee MEPS and Friends Tough Mudder Wisconsin 2013 team.

A Tough Mudder event is part race, part obstacle course. The eight-member MEPS team overcame 23 obstacles, and plenty of mud, over the 11.8-mile course on the Experimental Aircraft Association grounds at Oshkosh's Wittman Field Sept. 7.

Tough Mudder events benefit The Wounded Warrior Project. Nick Berry, team organizer, raised more than \$300 alone for this worthy cause.

"I'm planning on raising even more next year," he said. It was his third Tough Mudder.

Team members included Capt. Matt Miller and his wife Colleen, Senior Chief Petty Officer Jeremy Gonyer, Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Purtee, Nick Berry and his wife Nicole, Steven "Rusty" Thomas, and from

USMEPCOM Headquarters Ryan B.W. Hanson. Another Milwaukee

MEPS member, Bob Woyak, also ran the same course the next day.



Members of the Milwaukee MEPS who completed the "Tough Mudder" to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project.



Des Moines trio completes team triathlon

Capt. Jennifer Coatsworth, Maj. Sean Keenan and Lt. Steven Rancourt after completing the Hy-Vee Triathlon relay Sept. 1.

Coatsworth is the former executive officer of the Des Moines MEPS. Keenan is the MEPS commander and

Rancourt is the current executive officer.

They participated in the triathlon, one of the largest in the world, as a team. Coatsworth swam 1.5 kilometers, Keenan biked 40 kilometers and Rancourt completed a 10-kilometer run.



Mass swear in

Marine Corps Capt. Justin Singleton, Nashville MEPS operations officer, conducts a mass oath of enlistment ceremony. All the applicants were scheduled to ship later that day.

Columbus hosts fitness night at local school

The Columbus MEPS organized and hosted a family fitness night for more than 60 students and parents April 16 at a local elementary school.

The goal of the event at Goshen Elementary School in Gahanna, Ohio was to promote a healthy lifestyle. Fourteen military and civilian MEPS staff members as well as teachers and school administrators ran an eight-station circuit training routine.

The routine provided a full-body workout with minimal equipment. In addition to promoting exercise, healthy snacks were

also available for the participants.

The children and their families enjoyed interacting with the military personnel.

A sandwich shop, fitness center, the school's PTA and the Navy recruiting district sponsored the event. Sponsors provided door prizes including 10 gift certificates, two free gym memberships, and ball caps, T-shirts and water bottles. The MEPS team donated 12 event-specific t-shirts and the PTA provided healthy refreshments.

The school plans to continue the annual event.



Staff Sgt. Kalib Amos, Army National Guard liaison, demonstrates ski hops.

The MEPS was also asked to help with the school's field day in May.



Sgt. 1st Class Sheia Harris, Army liaison, demonstrates proper step techniques.



Tech. Sgt. Joshua Wilson, Air Force liaison, shows how the rope climb is done.

Indy challenges Mud and Mettle run to raise Suicide Prevention Month awareness

Members of the Indianapolis MEPS staff, Army and Marine Corps liaison offices took part in the first Mud and Mettle Run sponsored by the Indiana National Guard at Camp Atterbury, Ind., to bring awareness to Suicide Prevention Month.

The 5-kilometer run was filled with obstacles to challenge runners and build

team work.

Members of the Indianapolis MEPS team were Air Force Staff Sgt. Marlene Charles; Marine Corps Sgt. Nathan Perry; Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Orette Ayton; Army Sgt. Leon Vanterpool Jr.; Cpl. Brian Jagosz, Marine Corps liaison; and Master Sgt. Czar Sanchez, Army liaison.



Indianapolis MEPS members challenge obstacles during the Mud and Mettle Run.



Climbing this tower was one of the obstacles Indianapolis staff members overcame at the Mud and Mettle Run.



Volunteers with a fire hose provide the mud for the Mud and Mettle Run at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

New Orleans holds enlistment ceremony at NBA game

By Lt. Col. Troy V. Alexander
New Orleans MEPS
Commander

NEW ORLEANS – The New Orleans MEPS collaborated with the New Orleans Pelicans NBA team to host the team's 2014 Military Appreciation Night.

The Pelicans kicked off an evening honoring military men and women past, present and future, with an appreciation of the oath of enlistment in which all service members swear to support and defend the Constitution.

Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mustion, commanding general of Army Human Resources Command, administered the oath of enlistment



Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mustion, commanding general of Army Human Resources command, listens to a question during an interview with the New Orleans Pelicans radio network.

to more than 120 future service members during pregame activities Jan 18.

The oath was witnessed by families, veteran's organizations and local fans who encouraged the future warriors just before entering the New Orleans Arena.

The national anthem was performed by Marine Corps Master Sgt. Mark Kennedy, senior enlisted advisor for USMEPCOM's 11th Battalion,

The Pelican's then recognized Army Staff Sgt. Kendrick Gibson, a Purple Heart recipient and the New Orleans MEPS acting senior enlisted advisor, as the Pelicans military member of the game.

According to Pelicans representative Alex Aldrich, the night was a great success which was contributed to the partnership the MEPS has established with its accession partners, the New Orleans MEPS Inter-Service Recruitment Committee.

The MEPS' relationship with the IRC is grounded in community involvement as

the impetus to build rapport in its area of responsibility covering the 35 parishes in Louisiana and four counties in Mississippi.

"The MEPS has established a tradition of participating in events such as the Pelicans game to promote a broader community understanding of the MEPS role in the accessions process and the Career Exploration Program," Army Capt.

Jason Oradat, MEPS executive officer, said.

By leveraging events, the New Orleans MEPS has become a force multiplier for its IRC partners and has been instrumental in linking community and education leaders not only to the MEPS, but to the importance of honoring applicants as an extension of USMEPCOM's "Red Carpet" treatment.



Master Sgt. Mark Kennedy, 11th Battalion senior enlisted advisor, sings the national anthem before the game.



Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mustion, commanding general of Army Human Resources command, talks with a fan outside the arena.

Fort Jackson enlists 'Soldier for a Day'

Richard Culliver, a 7-year-old boy battling an inoperable brain tumor, took his place on Hilton Field with the rest of the Army's new soldiers during a regular graduation ceremony.

By anyone's definition, Richard's time at Fort Jackson was hectic. He arrived Wednesday with his family, anticipating a superficial tour of the installation.

But that was far from what Richard actually experienced. He started his Fort Jackson experience by enlisting into the Army at the Fort Jackson Military Entrance Processing Station.

The oath of office, administered by Army 1st Lt. David H. King, was just the beginning of Richard's experience.

After having lunch with drill sergeants, he quickly found himself going through the kinds of Basic Combat Training exercises most likely to appeal to boys.

"They asked him what he wanted to do," said his mother, Stephanie McMillan. "He wanted to crawl in the mud. He mentioned it a couple of times, and the drill sergeants were like, 'Let's go!'"

Richard was diagnosed in October, 2012, with an inoperable brain tumor called Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, or DIPG.

The tumor is at the base of his brain stem and has had a catastrophic impact on Richard's motor skills.

"Children usually have about 12 months, if they're doing well," his mother said. "This tumor will inhibit his ability to breathe, eat, drink ... all of his motor skills. He hasn't walked in a year."

Still, his impairment didn't keep him from getting the most from his experience at Fort Jackson.

"He crawled through (the mud) once and said he wanted to do it again," McMillan said. "He did it twice, and it was awesome."

Richard took part in physical training with other soldiers, visited the top of Victory Tower, and fired the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, an automated simulator that provides



Seven-year-old Richard Culliver takes the oath of enlistment in the Fort Jackson MEPS ceremony room.

realistic weapons qualification for soldiers.

He also visited McEntire Joint National Guard Base, where he met pilots and spent some time on a flight simulator.

"Richard's always loved servicemen and women. The military, the fire department, the police ... I think it has something to do with how he loves people who want to help and do better for other people," McMillan said. "This was just a natural thing from him to want to do."

As is the case with most new soldiers, Richard's experience on post ended with a graduation. He took his place alongside the ceremony's honor graduates, as well as a retiring sergeant major.

"Today, I have the beginning of some new careers, the end of an old career, a brand new (private first class) in the Army and a number of drill sergeants who are in their last cycle," Lt. Col. J.C. Glick, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment commander, noted during his commencement speech.

Richard was met with thunderous applause as Brig. Gen. Bradley Becker, Fort Jackson's commanding gen-

eral, promoted the child to the rank of private first class.

"I thought we were coming for a little tour, to get a little look behind the scenes," McMillan said. "I had no idea it was going to be as big as it was. Experiencing it in person was just ... you can't put it into words."

"He's not stopped talking about it. He's been ordering me around since he spent time with the drill sergeants. It was everything to him. It was magical."

In September, an MRI showed Richard's tumor had decreased "significantly" in size during 2013, she said. Richard is taking part in physical and speech therapy, and his mobility improved.

"Right now, we're a little more relaxed," she said. "A year ago, I didn't think we'd be here today. A year ago, I would have thought he'd already have gone to heaven."

"The fact that it shrunk, and we saw shrinkage 10 months after radiation and no further medical treatment at all, was just a miracle. It doesn't mean that it won't grow again, but right now we're not focused on that."

Portland, Maine, senior enlisted advisor re-enlists with future service members

The Portland MEPS senior enlisted advisor, Senior Master Sgt. Phil Eckenrod re-enlisted in the Air Force Jan. 31.

That alone isn't unusual because re-enlistments happen almost daily. What is unique is Eckenrod, who transferred to a new assignment in late March, insisted that he re-enlist alongside future service-members during an applicant ceremony.

His wish was granted and Maj. Peter M. Perzel, MEPS commander, presided.

The ceremony was conducted like any other with one exception of course.

Eckenrod didn't get any extra attention as he stood proudly next to the applicants.

"At the end of the day, make your service count, you are entering a profession like no other, your decision to join speaks highly

of your character," Perzel said during the ceremony. "You will face great adversity and celebrate victories. Take advantage of everything the services provide you.

"Again, in the end, no matter how long you serve, make sure your service counts, be able to look back and be proud of what you have done," Perzel said.

The statement holds true today, as it did when Eckenrod joined 20 years ago. After the ceremony Eckenrod took the young applicants aside into a private NCO huddle for some words. He emphasized being able to be proud of their service.

He told them about his watchwords – mentorship, leading by example, empowerment, respect and winning are all his watch words.

Eckenrod was selected for promotion to chief mas-



Maj. Peter M. Perzel, Portland, Maine, commander, administers the oath of enlistment to Senior Master Sgt. Phil Eckenrod, then the MEPS senior enlisted advisor, alongside applicants.

ter sergeant in November. He was one of only 16 senior master sergeants selected out of 95 in his specialty, a 16 percent selection rate, which was lower than the total Air Force selection rate of 20 percent.

It is even more signifi-

cant that the average time to promotion of this rank takes 22½ years. Eckenrod did it in 20, proving that with perseverance, hard work and compassion, at the end of the day you can look back and be proud of your service.



Next generation

Col. Kate Coffey, operations officer for the Oregon National Guard's Joint Forces Center, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Chuck Stewart, senior quartermaster warrant for Joint Forces Headquarters, watch their son, Pfc. Joshua Stewart, sign his enlistment papers after swearing him into the Oregon National Guard.

Cardinal company joins the Navy

The St. Louis MEPS assisted the local Navy Recruiting Battalion with one of its traditions, the 55th annual Cardinal Company in August.

The MEPS in concert with the Navy Recruiting Battalion inspected and processed more than 90 applicants over two days. After the applicants were processed by the MEPS, they were sworn into the Navy in a public

ceremony at Busch Stadium by the Navy's Chief of Civil Engineers, Rear Adm. Katherine L. Gregory.

After the ceremony the new sailors were transported to the Great Lakes Training Center, where the group will train together in the same company. This year 12 MEPS personnel were invited to attend the ceremony and the baseball game that followed.



Above: The Navy Cardinal Company prepares to depart the Robert Young Federal Building for the swearing in ceremony at Busch Stadium. Left: Rear Adm. Katherine L. Gregory, Navy chief of civil engineers, administers the oath of enlistment to the Navy Cardinal Company.



Another generation

Far left: Michael Neal, son of Charlotte MEPS senior enlisted advisor, 1st Sgt. Marlena J. Neal, takes the oath of enlistment. Left: Neal with his mother after taking the oath of enlistment. He went to basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Seeing double

Indianapolis enlists two sets of twins

The Indianapolis MEPS seems to be making a habit of enlisting twins.

Twin brothers Allen and Mark Long enlisted together, as did twin sisters Charline and Charmene Saint-Victor.

The Longs decided to enlist when they were high school students attending River Forest High School in Hobart, Ind.

They enlisted in the Indiana National Guard after a recruiter conducted a briefing at their high school.

The briefing made them aware of the career and training opportunities the military offers.

They will both attend basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., but at different times.

Mark who enlisted as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist will depart for basic training in August.

Allen enlisted as a military police officer and will go to basic training in July.

Both plan to attend Indiana State University in Terre Haute and pursue degrees in criminal justice.

The Saint-Victor twins were college students attending Indiana University and shared a dream of serving in the Navy.

They both are pursuing bachelor's degrees in health administration and, on the advice of one of their professors, sought information about the Navy Health Administration Program.

The program was exactly what they wanted and they both enlisted in the Navy Reserve in December. Charmene enlisted as a hospital corpsman and Charline enlisted as a yeoman. They departed for boot camp May 13.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Leon E. Vanterpool Jr.

Charline and Charmene Saint Victor.



Allen and Mark Long.

New faces

Fort Lee

Brianna J. Battle
 Human Resources Assistant
 Education: Associate of science degree, John Tyler Community College.
 Diversions: Reading, writing and exercising.
 First impression: Friendly and professional.

Tammy M. Bradshaw
 Test Administrator
 Last assignment: Spokane, Wash.
 Diversions: Scuba diving, hiking, boating and fishing.
 First impression: Outstanding.

Violetta W. Capers
 Test Administrator
 Education: Bachelor of science degree in early childhood education, master's degree in school counseling.
 Diversions: Reading, beauty consultant, family time and science fiction.
 First impression: Beautiful and well organized; easy entry

access and location.

Carolyn L. Cason
 Human Resources Assistant
 Last assignment: Fort Campbell, Ky.
 Education: Associate of science degree in behavioral mental health, University of Alaska.
 Diversions: Baking and action movies.
 First impression: Hospitable.

Simeon King
 Medical Technician
 Last assignment: Kenner Army Health Clinic, Fort Lee
 Diversions: Video games, football and basketball.

Molly Sippio
 Medical Technician
 Last assignment: Kenner Army Health Clinic, Fort Lee
 Education: Licensed practical nurse.
 Diversions: Watching NFL football and being active in my children's lives.
 First impression: Fort Lee

MEPS has the shiniest floor in town and USMEPCOM is a great place to work.

Rosiland S. Tyler
 Test Administrator
 Last Assignment: Baltimore MEPS..
 Education: Associate of science degree, John Tyler Community College.
 Diversions: Spending time with her grandchildren and helping military families.

First impression: Very welcoming and professional.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeMon Wilson
 Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Operations. Military Education: Senior Leader, Battlestaff, Instructor and Postal Operations courses.
 Diversions: Movie buff and collector, and watching sports.
 First impression: Professional atmosphere, friendly people and great facility.

Applause

Headquarters

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Whitney, selected for promotion to master sergeant.

Cleveland
Sgt. 1st Class Corey Schmachtenberger, selected for promotion to master sergeant.

Minneapolis

Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Leonard, selected for promotion to master sergeant.

Phoenix
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Venegas, selected for promotion to master sergeant.

MEPS of Excellence

Fourth Quarter, Fiscal 2013

Category 1
Jacksonville
Phoenix
Tampa

Category 2
Cleveland
Portland, Ore.
Lansing

Category 3
San Juan
Shreveport
Syracuse

The MEPS of Excellence Program acknowledges military entrance processing stations that obtain a level of excellence based on criteria related to USMEPCOM core processes (medical, testing and applicant processing) and general military readiness.

The two requirements to become a MEPS of Excellence are:

- To be one of the top three MEPS in each category.
- To meet the overall threshold.

The 65 MEPS are divided into three categories, based on historical data. MEPS remain in the designated category the entire fiscal year.

The MOE points system measures up to 10 criteria per quarter. The criteria are:

- Timeliness of military evaluations and awards.
- Total students tested goal.
- Drug and HIV specimen processing.
- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Program.
- Physical fitness readiness.
- Height and weight standards.
- Electronic fingerprint capture station (unclassifiable fingerprints).
- Incidents of serious misconduct by military or civilian employees.
- Test loss compromise.
- Citibank travel card delinquency rates.

USMEPCOM

Celebrates



U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Felix Fimbres

Flag Day

and the 239th

United States Army Birthday

June 14th, 2014