

The Challenge

Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, Calif.

September 2016

Vol. 72 No. 3

15 years after 9/11 - United We Stand

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our tallest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of AMERICA. We will not tire, we will not falter, we will not fail."

G.W. Bush



Commander's View

It is hard to believe my first year in command here at Sierra has already passed me by. As I look back on this past year, I see all the things this depot has accomplished because of the great workforce and I thank everyone for their dedication to the mission.

Over the next six months, myself, my deputy to the commander, and my chief of staff will be out and about during break times and lunch so that you can "Meet the Command." These are not town halls, nor are they mandatory. If you happen to be in the vicinity at the time we are in your area, come and talk to us; feel free to ask us any question that might be on your mind. I am holding these impromptu sessions during this timeframe so there is little disruption to the mission.

We all recognize the recent morning delays with entry through the main gate and the frustration that comes with it. Long traffic wait times are a common occurrence at many military installations/larger metropolitan areas and our initial analysis, on the cause, shows an increase in private owned vehicles (POV) coming onto the Depot. This recent trend may be an anomaly with the end of summer and start of school year or it may be our introduction to the new timelines to get on the Depot.

The Garrison is researching alternatives to possibly alleviate some of the delays but there are limited options available (number of guards/LE, number of gates). Please be aware that it is the employee's responsibility to be at work at the 6:30 start time which may require moving the departure time from your residence to an earlier time.

I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves



LTC Brian D. Kuhn

during Employee Appreciation Day. There were several organizations that helped make this a fun and enjoyable event. Members from the Civilian Welfare Fund committee were instrumental in putting together the venue for this event, while employees within Base Support were busy setting up the area. I want to thank everyone who contributed to make this event successful.

September is the kick-off for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC is held annually and is the only authorized fundraiser method of Government personnel within the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. Your contribution is 100% voluntary and you have the freedom to choose whether your contri-

See COMMANDER on Page 7

Employment verificaiton for current DoD employees

Employment Verification (EV) is an online self service MyBiz+ tool allowing current DoD employees to send employment and/or salary information to an external organization (business, bank, credit union) or person directly from the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System (DCPDS) in a password-protected document via email.

All you need is the recipient's email address along with your work or personal email address to initiate confirmation and validation of your employment verification.

Employment Information that is Sent

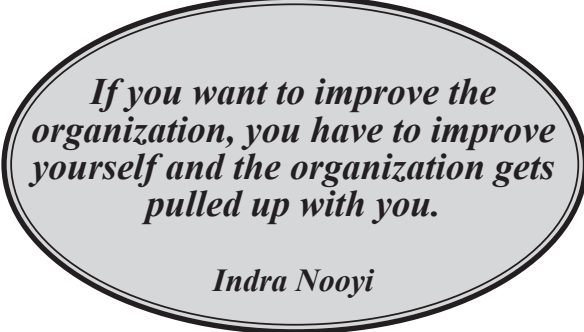
- Employee Name
- Current Date
- Employer Name
- Employer Address
- Duty Station
- Last Four of SSN
- Employment Status
- Most Recent Start Date
- Original Hire Date
- Total Time with Employer
- Position Title
- Rate of Pay (if Salary is selected)
- Salary (if selected)
- Reference Number
- Email to Address

Contact your servicing Human Resource Office if you have any questions regarding the accuracy of your employment information.

Steps to Send EV Information

1. Log into the DCPDS Portal at <https://compo.dcpds.cpmc.osd.mil/>
2. Select MyBiz+
3. Under Key Services, select Request Employment Verification
4. Select your details to share, either
a. Employment Information, or
b. Employment and Salary Information
5. Enter recipient's email information in the To field
6. Verify that your desired email address is included in the My Email field to receive the password
7. Select Continue to preview the Information
8. Select Acknowledge and Submit to send your EV information
9. Confirm your submission
10. Consent to release your information
11. Provide password to recipient to view EV information

Access to the MyBiz+ Employment Verification tool is available with your Common Access Card (CAC)!



THE UNION'S POSITION- AFGE LOCAL 1808

AFGE push to achieve a pay raise catch-up adjustment

Does a 1.6% pay raise next year leave you feeling underwhelmed? You're not alone.

Three years of frozen pay and miniscule increases since then have left you and your coworkers worse off today than you were at the start of the decade. President Obama's plan to give federal employees a 1.6% raise in January just won't cut the mustard.

Federal employees need a meaningful pay



raise to "make up for years of neglect and begin to close the widening gap between employees in the federal and private sectors," AFGE President J. David Cox said.

That's why AFGE members have been pushing for a 5.3% catch-up adjustment in 2017. We've gotten strong support on Capitol Hill, with bills introduced in both the House and Senate to provide you with the pay raise you deserve. But that won't happen unless Congress acts.

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt



Mr. Donald Olson, right, presented Mr. John Foster with a certificate after for achieving Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification. The project Foster completed to gain this level was the Add-on-Armor, Overhead Gunner Protection Kit.

Lt. Col. Brian D. Kuhn
Lori K. McDonald
Eric Shadowens



Army prepares to administer 1.6 million flu shots

By Ellen Crown, Army Medical Materiel Agency Public Affairs

WASHINGTON -- The Army estimates it will use about 1.6 million doses of the injectable influenza vaccine (i.e., the flu shot) this upcoming flu season to keep both active duty and reserve Soldiers, civilian staff, and family members healthy.

That's more than half of the total number of doses ordered by the Department of Defense annually.

For the 2016-2017 flu season, the Army will offer injectable flu shots to Soldiers, federal civilians, and beneficiaries. In accordance with effectiveness recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Army will not be offering live attenuated influenza vaccine, known as FluMist.

The Army's flu shot supplies are expected to arrive at military medical treatment facilities as early as September. The goal is to immunize with flu shots at least 90 percent of service members and health care professionals by Dec. 15, 2016.

While most people may worry about flu vaccines only during the fall and winter months, Army Flu Manager Miguel Rivera Jr. said that, for the Army, preparing for flu season is a yearlong mission.

Each year Rivera, who is assigned to the Army Medical Materiel Agency, a subordinate organization of the Army Medical Research and Materiel

Command, works with other preventive medicine experts and logisticians to estimate the number of vaccines needed for the upcoming season.

The calculation starts in February to allow the Defense Logistics Agency enough time to tally the total number of doses needed across the DOD and order supplies.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, which is sponsored by the National Public Health Information Coalition to encourage people of all ages to make sure they are up to date on the vaccines recommended for them.

"If people do not get their flu shots by December, we still encourage them to get immunized," said Lt. Col. Charlene L. Warren-Davis, US-AMMA's pharmacy consultant and distribution operations center director. "The flu vaccine is usually viable until June 30."

According to the CDC, the risks of getting vaccinated are significantly lower than the benefits in most cases. Getting vaccinated also protects others who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, such as older adults, people with chronic health conditions and young children -- especially infants younger than six months old who are too young to get vaccinated.

Also vaccination has been shown to make the flu milder for individuals who do get sick, which may reduce the risk of more serious flu outcomes such as hospitalizations.

New Hires at SIAD

As you go about your day to day operations, in some type of fashion you have probably come in contact with one or several new employees. Take a few minutes to welcome these individuals to the Depot. Below is a list of employees who joined our team since the last edition of The Challenge was printed:

Adams, Ryan	Kennemore, Destiny
Baldwin, Daniel	Lampman, Isaiah
Bryan, Wilbur	Lindsey, Brent
Caro, Arnulfo	Mecredy, Samuel
Cordova, Cynthia	Perez Palomares, Mario
Davis, Casey	Pettigrew, Joshua
Deluca, David	Renaud, Garth
Ebbs, Kaitlyn	Rodriguez, Ivanna
Elaban, Reginald	Schaefer, Lisa
Fleming, Brenda	Siekierski, Bruce
Groves, Keisha	Stewart, Mindi
Herrick, Dominick	Tedford, Nicolas
Holmes, Adam	Vial, Anthony
Hunter, Jonathan	Wardlow, Matthew
Jobbins, Timothy	Williams, Jesse

Employee recognized for outstanding achievement



Mr. Donald Olson recognized Ms. Katherine O'Sullivan for exceptional work and meticulous attention to detail she conducted on an external claims submission which saved countless man hours for the litigation team. Ms. O'Sullivan works in the Legal Office as the paralegal specialist.

Next Month: October Awareness Month

Army Cybersecurity Awareness
Breast Cancer Awareness
Domestic Violence Awareness
Mental Illness Awareness
National Red Ribbon Week

The Challenge

Depot Commander/Publisher
Public Affairs Officer/Editor
Photographer

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EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY 2016



Sierra Army Depot employees were treated to an afternoon of rest and relaxation during Employee Appreciation Day on Aug. 11, 2016. Employees had the opportunity to join in on several friendly competitive events, show off their classic cars or shiny motorcycles, enjoy food from three different vendors, listen to music, enjoy rides or games, or just do nothing. The morning employees attended mandatory safety training in their respective areas, after which they were released to attend the afternoon festivities.



For the first time in 12 years, the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) is having an Open Season and it starts Thursday, September 1. The FEGLI Open Season allows eligible employees to enroll in FEGLI life insurance or increase their coverage up to the program maximum without having a qualifying life event, answering medical questions, or having a physical exam.

Here are some advantages of the FEGLI Program and this Open Season:

- Competitive group premiums with convenient payroll deduction
- You can elect coverage as little as about one-years' salary, as much as about six-years' salary, and many options in between
- You can elect Option C coverage on the lives of your spouse (up to \$25,000) and eligible dependent children under age 22 (up to \$12,500 for each eligible child)
- No medical questions to answer and no physical exam
- Extra Benefit automatically enhances Basic coverage for enrolled employees under age 45, at no additional charge
- You can continue your FEGLI coverage into retirement if you meet all of the requirements

Visit www.opm.gov/FEGLIopenseason for more information.

Child Youth and School Services Monthly Update

In honor of Month of the Military Child, CYSS partnered with parent/ SIAD employee, Jose Sierra, to assist in creating a timeless mural for our gym.

The mural took several weeks, many generous volunteer hours and supplies provided by SIAD Box Shop for Mr. Sierra to complete. The project also enlisted the help from both school-age and middle-school teen youth who are registered members within CYSS. Their artistic abilities added character and fun to our mural and generated a sense of pride as everyone worked together to create this awesome piece of art! DPW lent their expertise by safely installing each piece of the mural to its' precise location on the wall.

CYSS unveiled the mural at our Parent Advisory Council meeting on May 26, 2016. Those who attended the meeting and saw the mural in its' full glory were amazed on how

There is a one year delayed effective date before your Open Season coverage becomes effective.

Your new coverage will be effective the first day of the first full pay period that begins on or after October 1, 2017, as long as you meet pay and duty status requirements. For most biweekly employees, this means your new coverage will be effective October 1, 2017. You will not pay premiums for your new coverage until your new coverage is effective.

Thinking about retirement? For any FEGLI coverage you wish to bring into retirement, you must have that coverage for your last five years of Federal service, among other requirements. If you plan to retire before October 2022 (five years after the soonest your Open Season coverage could come into effect), consider this when making your Open Season election.

Remember - this FEGLI Open Season ends on Friday September 30, 2016.

Employees may enroll by logging into their Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) account at <https://www.ebis.army.mil/> or by speaking to an ABC-C Benefits Specialist at (877) 276-9287, (785) 240-2222 or by DSN at 520-2222 between the hours of 6 am to 6 pm (Central Time).

the art made our gym “pop” with colorful life, as well as displaying the vision of what CYSS offers to our families, community and to Sierra Army Depot!

Thank you to everyone who gave



Recent graduates from the preschool program at the depot's Child Development Center are left to right, Addison Harkema, Nathan Danner, Madoline Lambert, Hartley Radey, and Kayden Idzinski.

National Preparedness Month

Personnel Accountability

When an event occurs; knowing as quickly as possible where all your personnel are located is crucial to be able to report to first responders. By relaying this information to first responders may save lives or allow first responders to change tactics. At Sierra Army Depot we utilize the chain of command for reporting Personnel Accountability and we also have it organized by building.

Building Level: Organized by building, during this evacuation you assemble at the designated rally-point within a safe distance to the building to relay crucial information regarding the status of personnel and clarify the reason why the building was evacuated.

Antiterrorism Level: Organized by building, reported by Organization (Mission, Re-source, Garrison, Chief). Any form of an Active Assailant/Active Shooter will immediately become the next headlines. Your safety is para-mount. Remember; Run, Hide then Fight. During

run, please remember to get out of the building any way possible and head to-wards the designated Rally-point by the safest method, if you can't move safely, don't go to the rally-point. If you can see the Rally-point and it's safe to do so, show where you're located by getting their attention. Accountability is secondary to your safety, if you have made it to the rally-point Law Enforcement are going to ask the 5 W's

(Who are they? Weapons/Equipment? Where did you last see them? When did you see them? Why, anything that you heard from them?).

Installation Level: Organized and reported by Organization: During an Installation level evacuation there will be a large number of individuals that must get out of the area, safely but quickly. Once you get to the designated Rally-point, accountability takes place. Accountability will take time, but everybody must be accounted for by their Directors and GS-14 Managers and reported to the Operations Center, Call-Center. Phone numbers are located in your Building Emergency Action Plans.

ALERT! System

When disaster strikes, how does Sierra Army Depot get notified? The system is called ALERT! crafted by Navy Engineers it is the latest trend for Department of Defense Installations. This system incorporates many aspects from Network (computers), Telephone, E-mail and texting alerts into a single system.

How does this work; well the user puts their information into the system by self-registration at <https://alert.csd.disa.mil/SelfService> filling in the questions and saving, it is that simple. If you are computer challenged, please fill out a SIAD Form 2250 and submit it to the Emergency Management Office and they will personally add your information to the system. A few things to note, please include your cell phone number; because it's the best way to get a hold of you. Your number is secure within the system and is only used

See ALERT on Page 8



Make a difference, support Combined Federal Campaign

show Some Love

It's now easier than ever to Give to your favorite causes. Choose from thousands of Local, National & International Charities and make an impact in the world around you.

Bessie Sharpe
Federal Employee

Campaign Worker Contact Information:
Kelley Killgore-Goni
Kecia Knight

Choose your cause and show some love today.

CFC
Combined Federal Campaign

The month of September is the start of the 2016 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Fundraising for charitable organizations in the Federal workplace can be traced to the late-1940's. However, formal authority to permit fundraising in the Federal workplace was not established until 1961.

In the early years there were only six charitable organizations: The American Red Cross; Local Community Chests, United Funds, or Federated Groups; The National Health Agencies (an ad hoc group of nine health-related voluntary organizations, now known as Community Health Charities); and International Voluntary Agencies (a federation of two charities, now named Global Impact representing more than 60 charities, primarily focused on funding international relief

and development). Today, there are 209 campaign regions in the United States and overseas with more than 25,000 CFC participating charities.

The CFC is a one-gift one-campaign concept which allows federal employees a chance to contribute to private voluntary human health and welfare agencies. Employees also have the opportunity to direct their money to local, national and/or international organizations.

Depot employees should be very proud of the difference they are about to make through their contributions to organizations that provide assistance to those in need.

Within in next couple of weeks, watch for designated CFC key personnel to be in your area to share materiel on the campaign and to answer any of your questions.

Suicide Prevention Month

Provided by the Army Resiliency Directorate, G-1

What is it?

Suicide Prevention is a 365-days-a-year effort and a top priority for Army senior leaders. The Army is taking a comprehensive and holistic approach to strengthening its people and mitigating risk by providing education, building protective factors, encouraging engagement, and emphasizing early intervention. The Army is highlighting its message of prevention through the summer months, culminating in September with Suicide Prevention Month. The Army is in support of the Department of Defense, whose 2016 theme is: #BeThere.

What has the Army done?

The Army sees an increase in suicide events in the summer months. In 2015, the Army saw a 68 percent increase in the number of suicides from June to July. In 2016, the Army stressed suicide prevention by executing a communication campaign beginning in July. The goals of the campaign are to reinforce Army values, beliefs, and attitudes and to inform and educate members of the Army team about the risk factors and warning signs of suicide. This campaign includes Army senior leader messaging, videos and graphics.

What continued efforts are planned for the future?

In the Army, every Soldier counts, which is why messaging about suicide prevention continues and remains embedded in Army

culture. The Army will continue to emphasize that it is the responsibility of individual Soldiers to have visibility and take responsibility to sustain their own personal readiness and the personal readiness of their buddy.

In addition, the Army is finalizing a new intervention training module called "Engage," which empowers individuals to engage and do something when a situation is risky or has the potential to escalate. This module redesigns intervention training to meet suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention training requirements. Based on Army values training, the module emphasizes that all members of the Army team have a duty and obligation to intervene when alerted.

The Army will continue the ACE training (ask, care, escort) to ensure that individuals are equipped with the skills to intervene when someone is at the point of crisis.

Why is this important to the Army?

Suicide Prevention Month reminds all members of the Army team that Soldiers and units must be capable of building and sustaining their personal readiness, which is critical to mission readiness and deployability. High-risk behavior is preventable. Although tragic events, like suicide, are complex, members of the Army team have a duty and obligation to engage to strengthen themselves and others and #BeThere to connect fellow Soldiers in crisis with support.

COMMANDER (From Page 2)

tribution stays with a local non-profit organization or a national organization. In the coming weeks, several key CFC personnel will be out and about to the different directorates to share information regarding this campaign.

The month of September has several events that we should all be aware of. September is the Army's Suicide Prevention Month. The Army has lost too many people, both military and civilian, to suicides. Take advantage of the depot resources if you are feeling overwhelmed and need an outlet.

Here's an update on how you are doing with regards to achieving the GAP Award incentives. At the time this paper is going to print,

the depot is very close to meeting all four metrics. What does this mean? Each metric will pay out \$500 with an additional \$500 for making the goal on all four metrics if they remain where they are as of Sept. 12. Meeting these goals does not mean that we can relax, we establish these metrics as an incentive to create positive habits that should become routine. Each metric is reported to our higher headquarters and the diligence to continue maintaining these goals is a positive reflection on the Depot which in turn attracts potential new customers. As I have done for the past year, I'm encouraging everyone to put safety first while executing every job.

ALERT (From Page 6)

during an emergency or exercise. You can place more than one phone number in the system to be notified, but please do not place an office number that is not the desk you are assigned to - such as an administrative number. If an administrative number is used, the system will call that number multiple times, one for each time the number is used.

For additional information, contact the Emergency Management Office at 827-4804.



CYSS (From Page 6)

As a condition of employment all CYSS staff are required to complete a series of 13 modules that encompass all aspects of Child Development; this is referred to as Foundation Level Training. Each classroom staff member must read a module and then be observed showing competency in what they have learned. Normally, this task is completed within 18 months of hire. On top of their modules, all CYSS staff are annually trained in Infant/Child and Adult CPR and First Aid, Communicable Disease and Blood Borne Pathogens, Dispensing Medications, Food Handlers and Child Abuse. All CYSS staff are also required to complete all Army and Installation training requirements.

Despite having a heavy training workload, not to mention being in a classroom with the children, we are proud to show off some of the CDC staff's accomplishments. Ms. Tina Mathews has an A.A. degree in Early Childhood Education and has completed her Foundation Level Training, and is currently working on obtaining her Child Development Associate (CDA). Ms. Katherine Martinez and Ms. Maegan Thorn have completed their Foundation Level Training and are working on obtaining their CDA's. Ms. Selene Morales has her B.S. degree in Communication and she is currently working on her Foundation Level Training. Ms. Raina Stetson has her B.S. degree in Education and she is currently working on her Foundation Level Training as well. Ms. Amy Idzinski, Ms. Lydia McMakin, and Ms. Kelly Regan are currently working on their Foundation Level Training!

We are very proud of the accomplishments that these ladies have made and look forward to all that is to come in the future!

On Aug. 18, 2016, CDC said good-bye to five of our preschoolers as we celebrated their preschool graduation with family and friends. We would like to say farewell to Nathan Danner, Kayden Idzinski, Addison Harkema, Madoline Lambert, and Hartley Radey as they start their new adventures into Kindergarten! We wish them the best of luck as they will be missed by their preschool classroom.

Sierra Army Depot
Public Affairs Office
74 Currant Street
Herlong, CA 96113



New mural embroiders wall within CYSS



After several weeks, and many generous volunteer hours, one wall within the Child Youth and School Services building now has a new look. A new mural that describes the various activities the youth participate in at the CYSS.