

Off Duty

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Off Duty is a compilation of military-affiliated information and events focused for Soldiers, veterans and their family members. Information should be 100 words or less and contain no editorializing. An informational brief that is not time specific will not run for more than 30 days. All submissions are due no later than 5 p.m. Fridays for publication in the following week's paper.

Operation graduation

Fort Bliss School Liaison Services, in collaboration with El Paso area school districts, is working on a project to broadcast high school graduation ceremonies to deployed Soldiers overseas. We need parents of graduating seniors with deployed family members to provide the following information:

- Deployed Soldier's full name and unit
- City and country where they are deployed
- Graduating student's full name and high school

For more information, call 568-9306, or e-mail mary.a.avila@bliss.army.mil, maura.mccabe@us.army.mil or michi.l.carl@us.army.mil.

Military Appreciation Day

The USO-El Paso is pleased to offer a free event open to the families of active-duty military from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the El Paso Zoo. For free admission and access to the after-hours military event, families should present their military IDs to the USO volunteers in front of the zoo from 3 to 4 p.m. The USO will issue armbands for admission and tickets for the meal, first-come-first-served to 700 active-duty servicemembers and family members. The families will be able to view the animals until the zoo closes at 5 p.m. When the zoo closes, the Military Appreciation event will begin. Military Appreciation activities from 5 to 8 p.m. include a jumping balloon, carousel rides, face painting, magic show, velcro wall, and a cook out. There will be no advance ticket distribution at the USO or at the zoo. For more information, call the USO at 569-5644 or usoelpaso@uso.org.

Transportation Corps Ball

The 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Motor Transport Operator Course Commander is hosting the Transportation Corps Ball from 6:30 to 10 p.m. May 18 at The Ambassador Ballroom, 10921 Pellicano. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers. Tickets are \$20 single or \$35 couple and can be purchased through Tuesday from Sgt. 1st Class Bailey or Staff Sgt. Murdock at 568-5080.

Childcare will be available at the main CDC from 5 to 11 p.m. for children ages 6 weeks to 11 years. Cost is \$2.50 per hour per child.

American Civil War

Anyone interested in learning more about the American Civil War is invited to a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Officers' Club.

If there are enough participants, we will be able to have speakers from UTEP and have members of our own group present materials of interest about America's central defining conflict from 1861-1865. For information, contact Capt. Nelson Cutter at nelson.cutter@us.army.mil.

ADA Regimental Social

All members of air defense regiments, and those interested in becoming members, are invited to a social at 5 p.m. today at the Officers' Club. Meet the regimental leadership and discuss what's happening within the regiment. For information, call Jeff Carpenter at 568-3752.



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Armed Forces Day Health Fair

In conjunction with Armed Forces Day, William Beaumont Army Medical Center and the Veterans Administration have organized the Ninth Annual Armed Forces Day Health Fair. The Health Fair will be held in the Religious Activity Center buildings just West of Noel Parade field. There will be more than 60 different services and agencies represented. For more information on the Health Fair call 569-2759. Fort Bliss will open its gates May 19 to celebrate Armed Forces Day 2007 at Noel Field from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admissions is free. Planned activities includes: military equipment on display; military police working dog teams; fire department; explosive ordnance disposal; health fair; drill team competition; chili cook-off; a car show; post historical tours; entertainment by the 62nd Army Band and others; rappelling is open to the public; and a variety of food and drink concessions will be available. For more information, call the Fort Bliss Public Affairs at 568-4505.

Homebuyer seminar

Anyone interested in becoming a well-informed consumer when it comes to purchasing a home is invited to the Homebuyer Seminar from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Centennial Club. Guest speakers will represent the Veterans Administration, Texas Veteran Land Board, Fannie Mae, El Paso County Appraisal District, El Paso Affordable Housing and Consumer Credit Counseling Service. RSVP before Monday. Call CDC at 568-5689 for free child care. For information, call Ana Hernandez at 568-7088.

Freedom Camp

Fort Bliss will hold a Team Bliss Freedom Camp for children ages 7 to 18 June 22 to 24 at Biggs Park. The focus will be "a day in the life" of a Soldier while deployed. Campers age 13 and older will set up June 22 and spend the entire weekend outdoors while learning about military life. The younger group will begin June 23 with a day full of activities, and return June 24 to join the others for the Family Finale. The camp will have soldier presentations, team and skill building activities, static displays, special guests, question and answer sessions. Climb the Tango Tower, play paintball, watch a movie or shoot some hoops. Registration ends May 15. Application packets can be picked up at CYS Central Registration, Bldg 1743, ITR at the PX. Registration fee is \$10 per family. Limited scholarships are available. For information, call 568-9306 or 569-6774.

Environmental forum

The Bi-monthly Environmental Forum meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. May 17 at the Fort Bliss Museum and Study Center, Bldg. 1735. Topics to be covered are Recycle Management Environmental Services, Environmental Management Systems, Water Conservation and Pest Control. For information, contact Stan Green at 568-7041.

Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society is hosting the second annual Fort Bliss Relay for

Life from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday at Stout Track. For those interested in participating or volunteering in the event, call 569-1180 or 842-9436.

Audie Murphy scholarships

The Fort Bliss Chapter, Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is issuing four \$2,500 scholarships to deserving individuals which meet requirements. Application forms can be picked up at the Army Community Service building, Bldg. 2494. Completed applications can be returned to ACS. Applications must be received by May 11. For information, call 568-6516.

Team Bliss bike rally

Join Team Bliss in their 2nd annual motorcycle rally May 11 in the parking lot of the Fort Bliss ADA Museum. Registration is from 7:30 to 9 a.m. or with unit motorcycle mentor before the event. Requirements to ride a motorcycle on post are, motorcycle endorsed driver license, proof of insurance, Motorcycle Safety Foundation card and proper safety equipment. For information, call 568-1235.

Freedom Fiesta

In appreciation for Soldiers, a picnic is scheduled from 3 to 8 p.m. May 12 at Biggs Park. There will be free games, food, beverages and entertainment for all Fort Bliss, Holloman Air Force Base, and White Sands Missile Range active-duty personnel and their family members.

Golf challenge

Freedom Fiesta Event: Local businesses will sponsor 25 teams to play in a four-man scramble tournament beginning at 11 a.m. May 14 at the Underwood Golf Complex. Each team will have three Soldiers teamed up with a local businessman. Lunch and a dinner buffet will be served. Soldiers interested in participating should contact Bobby Kaerwer at 562-7255, 562-1273 or 562-2066.

Marriage retreat

All Fort Bliss servicemembers and their families are invited to a marriage retreat June 1 through 3 at The Lodge in Cloudcroft, N.M. Reservations are limited to 26 families, and a donation of \$50 is

due to hold a room. The retreat includes classes on conflict resolution, improving communication and critical success factors for making marriage work. Children are also welcome and child care will be provided while classes are in session. Registration deadline is May 17. For information, call Chaplain (Lt. Col.) McFarland or Linda Sherrill at Fort Bliss Chaplains' Offices, 568-1519.

Women's conference

The Women's Ministry from Sage Hall invites everyone to their 6th annual Women's Conference May 18 and 19 at the Radisson Suites Hotel, 1770 Airway. This year's theme is "Women Serving from the Heart: It's all about Love." The final event will be a worship service at 8:45 a.m. May 20 at Sage Hall. For information, call Dianne Collins at 568-6707.

Armed Forces Day

Fort Bliss will open its gates to the El Paso community to celebrate Armed Forces Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 19 at Noel Field. Admission is free. Events include military equipment displays, military police working dog teams, fire department, explosive ordnance disposal, health fair, drill team competition, chili cook-off, car show, post historical tours, entertainment by the 62nd Army Band and others, rappelling and a variety of food and drink concessions. For information, call Fort Bliss Public Affairs at 568-4505.

Chili cook-off

The El Paso Sergeants Major Association is hosting the 2007 Chili Cook-Off during Armed Forces Day May 19 at Noel Field. The event is open to the public. Chili can be tasted for \$2. Registration is \$40 for a five-member team and any members handling food must have a food handler's card. For information contact John McLaughlin at 568-9052, or e-mail john.a.mclaughlin@emh10.bliss.army.mil.

Old Fort Bliss

Old Fort Bliss is recruiting students to volunteers at the Playtimes and Pastimes event at the Old Fort Bliss May 19 for Armed Forces Day. Volunteers will receive credit for community service hours. For information, contact Lauri Anne Disinger at 568-3137.

Post job fair

The Army Spouse Employment Partnership will be at the Army Career and Alumni Program job fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 23 at the Centennial Club. More than 100 employers, corporate recruiters and human resource managers will be there prepared to hold interviews. Participants should come dressed to interview and bring copies of their current resume. For information, call the Army Career and Alumni Program at 568-7165, or Army Community Service at 568-1132.

O'Club events

Come to the Officers' Club new members-only program "Saturday Socials" - a cultural enrichment program which will occur once a month. All socials are free at the Officers' Club and begin at 3 p.m.

May 19: Marg-ART-itas Frida Kahlo/Diego Rivera discussion and margaritas

June 9: Ballroom and libations -ballroom demo and class

July 14: Wine and cheese tasting

Aug. 11: Improve your swing golf discussion

Events are limited to the first 50 people, call 569-5715 to reserve your seat.

Veteran nomination

The ADA Association is accepting Veteran Nominations to be selected and