

# Off Duty

*Off Duty is a compilation of military affiliated information and events focused for the Soldier, their family members and veterans. 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 Friday for publication in the following week's paper.*

## Biggs Chapel VBS

Biggs Chapel Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 to 12 will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Aug. 6 through 9. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served at registration at 5 p.m. Aug. 5. For information, call 892-8232.

## 62nd Army Band performs

For the first time, a U.S. Army Band, Fort Bliss' 62nd Army Band, will perform at the new Juarez Cultural Art Center July 23. The concert is sponsored by the U.S. Consulate in Juarez. The band will perform patriotic and big band selections. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Ms. Terri Sirois, 568-6056. The Cultural Institute of Chihuahua is located at the PRONAF, at the corner of Estocolmo and Benjamin Franklin Streets, Ciudad Juarez.

## Volunteers needed

STARS Rape Crisis Center of El Paso seeks men and women interested in becoming volunteer hospital outreach advocates. The Center is now accepting applications for the August training class. Classes meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 25. Volunteers must be at least 21, have valid driver's license and insurance. For information, call Rebecca Orndorf or Michelle Marquez at 533-7700.

## Country Junction sale

The Country Junction will have a "Christmas in July" sale from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 19 at 2011 Sheridan Rd. There will be a 20 percent sale on all items throughout the store. See the new "Christmas Corner," enjoy refreshments and have an opportunity to win prizes. Proceeds from Country Junction sales are returned to the community through scholarships and donations to local charitable organizations. For information, call 562-7467.

## United Through Reading



Join USO-El Paso and El Paso Community College in launching the United Through Reading® Military Program at an open house from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today. The event, for active duty military and family members, is at the USO, Bldg. 2408, Chaffee Rd. Free activities for the entire family include prize giveaways, food and beverages, a jumping balloon and booths sponsored by community partners. For information, call 568-2911 or e-mail [usoelpaso@uso.org](mailto:usoelpaso@uso.org).

## Blood shortage

The Armed Services Blood Program is critically short of type O negative and AB blood. Personnel with those and any other blood type can make an appointment to donate at the ASBP office by calling 568-5365. Blood donated through the ASPD is used for the military community.

## Project Linus Anniversary

Join the El Paso Project Linus members as they celebrate the organization's fifth anniversary at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Western Hills United Methodist Church's Stewart Family Life Center gymnasium, 524 Thunderbird Drive. The organization has donated more than 7,000 blankets to seriously ill or traumatized children of the El Paso area. Newcomers are welcome. For information, call Kathy Brunk

## WEC Fighter

# "All American" Brian Stann

**Join AAFES at the Fort Bliss Main Exchange, Bldg. 1611, Haan Rd., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a meet and greet with "All American" Brian Stann, WEC fighter.**

at 585-1492.

## Taste the world

Beginning in July, Friday Night Dining options at the Officers' Club will be changing. Italian Night begins at 6 p.m. Friday. The cost is \$12.50 for members and \$14.50 for nonmembers. The five-course Wine Pairing Dinner is at 7 p.m. July 27. The cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. Every other Friday through September there will be a different themed dinner from around the world. Call 568-7013 for information and reservations.

## Pet adoptions

The big, red pet adoption trailer will be set up at the Fort Bliss Post Exchange Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the Humane Society of El Paso, Animal Rescue League and From the Heart Rescue at the Pet-To-Go Adoption Mobile. Adoption fee for all cats and dogs is \$100, which includes the micro-chip, age appropriate vaccinations, spaying or neutering and a year's worth of cat or dog food.

## El Paso Youth Choir

El Paso Youth Choir continues summer auditions through Sunday for the community concert choir. Youths 8 to 18 will rehearse from 4:45 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays beginning in September. Choir members receive free training and can earn community service credits when performing for other fine-arts organizations. For information and audition appointments, call 422-8793.

## Retired Officers Wives' Club

The Retired Officers Wives' Club will have their semi-annual evening function at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Officers' Club. Cost for the luau is \$13 and there will be a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. For information and reservations, call Ann Lawrence at 751-6315.

## Environmental forum

The Bi-Monthly Environmental Forum meeting will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Fort Bliss Museum and Study Center. Agenda items are Archaeological Resource Protection Act, recycle outreach, water conservation and an oil water separator overview. Everyone is welcome to attend. For information, call Stan Green at 568-7041.

## Change of command

Lt. Col. Herman Gooden Jr. will relinquish command of 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, to Lt. Col. Carolyn S. Birchfield at 8:30 a.m. July 20 at Noel Field.

## Unit reflagging

First Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery will have a Reflagging and Patch Ceremony to commemorate the unit becoming part of the 11th ADA Brigade at 10 a.m. July 20 at the Fort Bliss Museum.

## Change of command

Brig. Gen. Francis G. Mahon will relinquish command of the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command to Brig. Gen. Robert Wood at 8:30 a.m. July 25 at Noel Field.

## MOAA meeting change

The August MOAA meeting will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 8 at the Officers' Club. Retired Maj. Gen. James Moloney will speak about base realignment and closure. Mail reservations to P.O. Box 6144, El Paso Texas, 19906-0144 or email [gorgasELP@aol.com](mailto:gorgasELP@aol.com).

## Bliss education fair

The seventh Annual Education Information Fair for military families with students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 will be from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Aug. 15 at the Centennial Club. More than 60 El Paso area public, private and parochial school administrators will welcome new

families, provide information and answer questions. Representatives from school departments such as magnet schools, athletics, advanced academics, transportation, career and technology, fine arts, JROTC, special education, gifted and talented, pupil services, health and food services will also be available. Representatives from Fort Bliss Child and Youth Services and Army Community Service on hand to provide information about childcare, Army Family Team Building, relocation, employment readiness, Exceptional Family Member and financial readiness services.

For information, call School Liaison Services at 568-9306.

## Volunteer conference

The Inaugural Volunteer Management Conference will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 16 at Biggs Centennial Club and Conference Center. Guest speakers will facilitate sessions on recruitment, motivating and retaining volunteers, volunteer screening and background checks, risk management-liability and an Information Sharing Session. The conference is open to volunteer leaders from the El Paso, Fort Bliss and Las Cruces communities who work with volunteers in museums, schools, hospitals, civic and religious organizations, or anyone who wants more information about working with volunteers.

The registration fee is \$20 until Sunday. Late registration is \$30. The fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack.

For information or to register, call Tephane Hopper at 568-1132 or e-mail [tephane.hopper1@bliss.army.mil](mailto:tephane.hopper1@bliss.army.mil).

## MWR survey

The "High Adventure Survey" is a survey tool designed to let Soldiers identify the top three high adventure activities they would like to participate in at their respective installations. The survey can be com-