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# The Signal



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## News UPDATE

### Holiday office closures

Most offices across Fort Gordon will be closed in observance of Veterans Day on **Nov. 10 and 11**. Visitors should call ahead to make sure an office is open.

### Veterans Day concert

The 434th Army Band and the Lakeside High School Symphonic Band, will be performing a Veterans Day Celebration Concert 7 p.m. **Nov. 11** in Alexander Hall. Everyone is invited to participate.

For additional information call (706) 791-2423.

### Freedom Park Book Fair

Buy children's books (Kindergarten-8th grade) from 99 cents and up, **Nov. 10 to 14** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to noon Friday at the school. Join in for some early holiday shopping.

For information call (706) 796-8428.

### Massing of the Colors

The Fort Gordon Massing of the Colors ceremony will be held 3 p.m. **Nov. 16** in Alexander Hall.

For information call (706) 791-3702.

### Housing Services office closure

The Housing Services Office will be closed on **Nov. 17** to complete office renovations. The office is expecting to reopen Nov. 18.

For information call (706)791-9658

### Burger King closed

The Fort Gordon Burger King restaurant is closed due to minor damage sustained during a fire last weekend.

Notice will be given concerning its reopening once repairs are completed.

### Christmas House opening

The 42nd Annual Fort Gordon Christmas House opening ceremony will be 10 a.m. **Nov. 24** in Gym 6, Building 21711. For information call (706) 791-3880.

## Wounded Warrior Care Month kicks off

Charmain Z. Brackett  
*Correspondent*

The Army's Assistant Surgeon General for Warrior Care and Transition and Director of the Warrior Care and Transition Office visited Fort Gordon earlier this week.

Brig. Gen. Gary Cheek stopped at



Photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

**Brig. Gen. Gary Cheek, Assistant Surgeon General for Warrior Care and Transition responds to service members at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center during a visit Nov. 4.**

Fort Gordon's Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center Nov. 4 and the Active Duty Rehabilitation Unit at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center on Nov. 3.

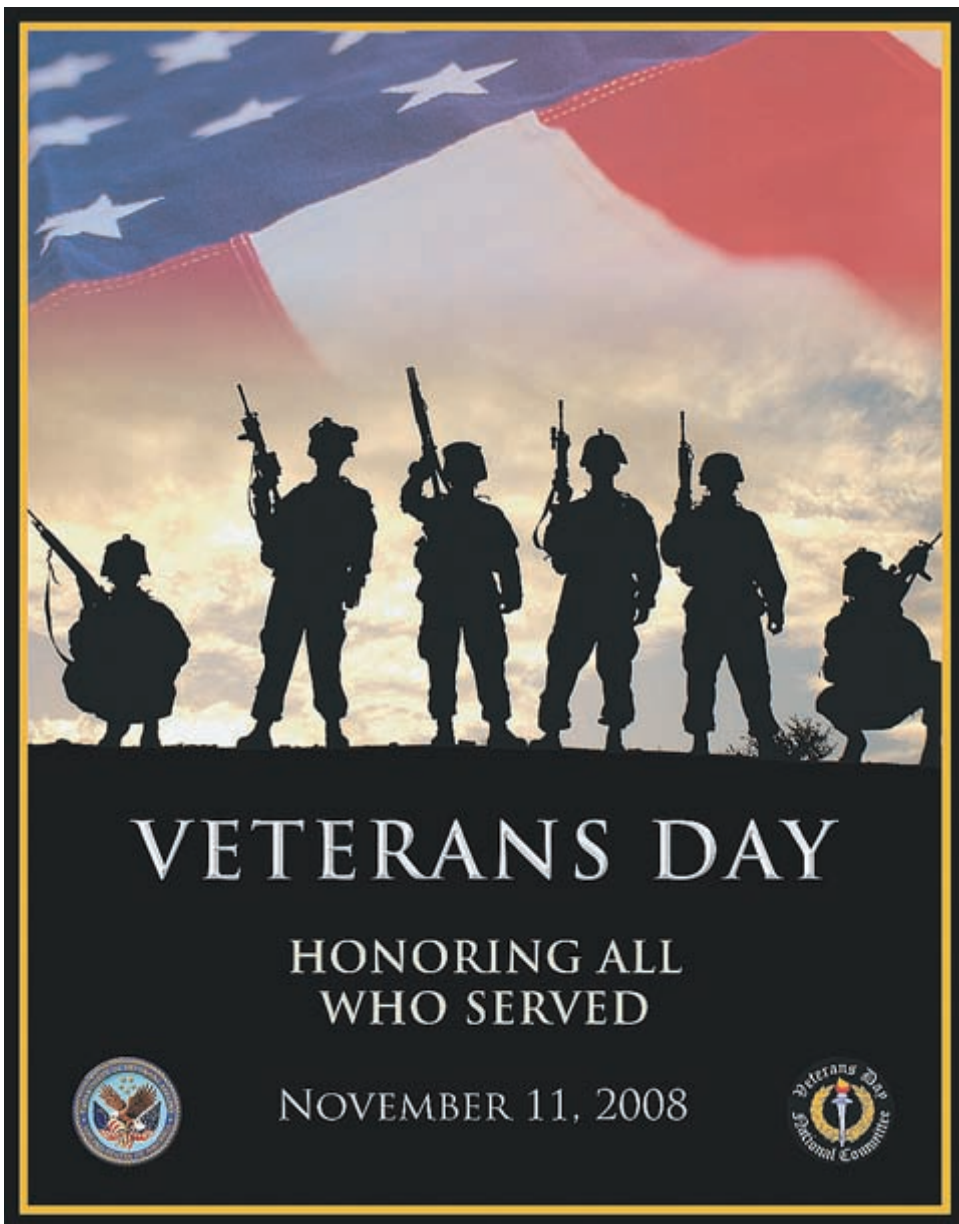
Starting last week on Nov. 1, the Army and its sister services began focusing attention to one of the Defense Department's highest priorities – caring for wounded ill, and injured warriors.

As directed by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, November has been designated as "Warrior Care Month." Each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces has events planned during the month to highlight warrior care.

"I came here to see how things are going," Cheek told a group of Soldiers with the Warrior Transition Battalion during an informal lunch in the hospital's Ike's Café.

Cheek wanted a chance to meet with some of the Soldiers at Fort Gordon. He gave a short speech and told them he wanted to speak with them one-on-one briefly.

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## Family Readiness Group forum shares plans

Siobhan Carlile  
*Signal staff*

Leaders and members of the Family Readiness Groups that support units and Families at Fort Gordon met at the Family Outreach Center Oct. 28.

The group met with staff members of the Army Community Service to share ideas with each other and to stay informed about services that ACS offers to FRGs, Soldiers and Families. This monthly forum covered information on the upcoming Christmas House which will open Nov.24.

The forum talked about the virtual Family Readiness Group Website and how easy it is to use, and they also covered the Volunteer Management Information System where volun-

teers register. Lynn Harshman, Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator, said it is extremely important to register as a volunteer. VMIS provides online recruitment, storage of volunteer records (hours, positions, awards, training) roll-up of volunteer hours, easy and efficient communication with volunteers and volunteer managers, a portal to Everyone Ready (a volunteer staff development plan) and more.

The website for registering is located by going through **MyArmyLifeToo.com** and then clicking on the VMIS link.

Harshman offered her assistance to anyone having trouble

registering. She said give her a call and she will happily walk you through the process. Her number is (706) 791-3880.

Paraphrasing DA Pamphlet 608-47, the FRG is "an organization of Family members, volunteers, Soldiers, and civilian employees belonging to a unit/organization who together provide an avenue of mutual support and assistance and a network of communication among the members, the chain of command, and community resources."

Unit FRGs consist of all assigned and attached Soldiers (married and single), their spouses, and children.

This membership is auto-

matic, and participation is voluntary.

Extended Families, fiancées, boy/girlfriends, retirees, DA civilians, and even interested community members can and should be included, as well.

The FRG may fill many important roles, including: build Soldier and Family cohesion and morale; prepare Soldiers and Families for separation during deployments and, later, for the stresses of reunion; reduce Soldier and Family stress; reduce the commander's and other leaders' workloads; help Soldiers focus on their mission during deployments; help Families become more self-sufficient; provide an avenue for sharing timely, accurate information; and promote better use of post and community resources.

Later, these roles will be translated into the key tasks that effective FRGs plan and implement for their Soldiers and Families.

The FRG is: an information conduit; a welcoming organization; a self-help, referral organization; a source of social support and group activities; and a unit Family dedicated to achieving social and military goals.

The FRG is not: a babysitting service, a taxi service, a financial institution, a professional counseling agency, or another military organization.

For more information about the programs, training and services offered by Army Community Services call (706) 791-3579.



Photo by Kayla Munro

## Congressional staff member visits Fort Gordon

**Ellen Maldonado, senior staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee-Defense, meets with Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general during a tour of Fort Gordon from Oct. 29-Oct. 30 for updates and briefings on Signal Center training.**