



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Middle East District

Team TAM Times

Asked for a veteran's discount at Lowes; they asked me for proof I was a veteran. I said, "Listen here, %\$*#@#\$*! If I have to go back to my %^\$*&# car and get my \$*%#&\$ DD-214, I'm going to %^\$^#*&#%!" They said, "Thank you for your service."

11 November 2022



Deadline to Schedule Leave is Near

As a reminder, your annual leave needs to be scheduled and approved in CEFMS by your supervisors by **19 NOV** to be safe from losing canceled annual leave. The leave year ends 31 DEC. Any leave over 240 hours (or 360 hours if you were deployed) will be forfeited. If leave is not scheduled/approved and a mission requirement arises forcing you to cancel your leave, your chances of getting that leave back are slim. Don't risk it. Schedule your excess leave now!

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS OPEN SEASON

Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season is 14 NOV through 12 DEC. If you don't want any changes, you don't need to do anything unless you have a Flexible Spending Account; you must re-enroll each year. The OPM website has a comparison tool and 2023 costs: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season/active-federal-employees/>

Team TAM's 2022 CHILI COOK OFF 1 DECEMBER

If you liked the return of Halloween, you're going to be blown away by the return of TAM's annual chili cook-off on 1 December. Contest details are still being worked, but if you are interested in entering, please contact Chef Joe Macri.

Use it, don't lose it

Volunteer Leave Donation Program

Another way to ensure your leave is not lost is to consider donating to coworkers who may be in need for any of several qualifying reasons.

Currently, Ms. Catherine Hale, TAD Program

Manager, is eligible to receive donations through the Volunteer Leave Transfer Program (VLTP).

If you would like to donate any of your annual leave to help Ms. Hale, please complete OPM-630a Donation Form. Then simply email your completed form to DLL-CETAC-Payroll@usace.army.mil. The process is extremely easy. But if you have any questions, please contact Resource Management's Mrs. Lisa D'Elia.



The votes are in: Congratulations to TAM's Halloween winners!

Pumpkin Carving
Howard Sprouse
Zombie



Costume Contest
Mark Morris and family
Apocalyptic Mystery Scooby Gang



Office Decorations
Contracting
Halloween



See Team TAM Pride next page

SAFETY REMINDERS



FROM OUR SAFETY TEAM
KEVIN, DAVE AND
MELANIE

WINTER EMERGENCY KIT

Put an emergency kit in your car for winter. Suggested items to include are blankets, pillows, hand warmers, flashlights, shovel, jumper cables, water, granola bars, energy bars, first aid kit with necessary medications, extra clothing, flares and reflectors.



CFC CAUSE OF THE WEEK

MILITARY & VETERANS SERVICES

Active-Duty Member Support; Veterans; Military Families; Rehabilitation; Counseling; Medical Services; Job Training / Workforce Reentry



The United States is blessed to have over 1.5 million currently serving active-duty members in the military and over 17 million Veterans who served in our nation's defense. While these selfless individuals preserve and protect freedom around the globe, the price of their service is never free. Military members and their loved ones endure long separations,

frequent moves, distance from extended family, and service-related health issues. It is the responsibility of a grateful nation to thank veterans and active-duty members for their service by caring for them and their families. CFC charities send children of military families to college through scholarship programs, offer mental health support, provide service animals to wounded warriors, and improve veterans' transition into civilian life. Here's how your CFC donations help to change the world for our nation's heroes through military and veterans services:

- \$29 provides a military member serving overseas with a personal first aid kit.
- \$59 films a deployed service member reading a bedtime story and sends it to their children.
- \$100 puts one of our nation's heroes in the stands of a major sporting event.



Watch videos: https://givecfc.org/virtual-videos?field_charity_name_value=&field_cfc_number_value=&field_cause_of_the_week_target_id%5B%5D=95&field_charitytype_target_id=All&field_cfczone_target_id=All

Read stories: https://givecfc.org/charity-stories?field_charity_name_value=&field_cfc_number_value=&field_cause_of_the_week_target_id%5B%5D=95&field_charitytype_target_id=All

If Military and Veterans services is your cause, show your support by downloading the Cause Badge and using it in your email signature and social media. Find it here: https://givecfc.org/sites/cfc.org/files/22%20Toolkit%20Reference%20Files/cause_week_military_veterans_services_badge_2022.png



RON LIGHT

Past District Commander



Ron Light retired as the Commander and District Engineer of the Middle East District. His three-year assignment was interrupted and therefore stretched into a four-year period. He originally took command of the Transatlantic Programs Center in July 2007 and was headquartered in Winchester, Va., until July 2008 when left to command the Central District of the Gulf Region Division in Baghdad, Iraq for a year. He returned in August 2009 as the Center was preparing to transition to the Middle East District in October 2009. He then served as Commander and District Engineer until he completed his 30 years of active duty service in August of 2011.

The Center had had four commanders in the six years before COL Light arrived in 2007. "I noted that the amount of time my predecessors remained in command was short; I was intent on extending my service at TAC/MED as long as possible so as to provide continuity and address what I saw were long-standing areas that needed attention," he said. "I was proud of the training program that leaders implemented, our leadership development program, and the overall rigorous approach we all took to managing projects, contracts, and budget."

Before he retired, he and his wife Beth bought a farm in Clark in Clarke County.

"My first post-retirement day of work was to walk 20 paces to my workshop, to build custom furniture and cabinets," he said. "I am blessed to be able to do this six days a week. We've had a continuous backlog of commissioned, client work since 2013 (including work for a few TAC/MED/TAD folks). My current backlog stretches into January 2023. I have a portable sawmill, and several former members of MED have helped mill lumber; this is always a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun."

Beth worked in the pharmacy at the Winchester Medical Center for several years, but now runs her own custom sewing and embroidery business. She makes and sells a lot of US Army Corps of Engineers items and enjoys it very much."

Ron Light still thinks about those he's served with. "It is the tradition of the Army officer's corps for an officer to not return to a unit once he/she has relinquished command. We do this so the current commander can address issues and lead the outfit as they see fit. I have largely done this, but there's not a day that goes by that I don't reflect on the tremendous work ethic, technical ability, knowledge and sacrifice that the men and women I served along side at TAC/MED/GRC displayed.

"You all made – and continue to make – a huge difference in the Middle East and Central Asia for our Nation and the world. It was an honor to serve with you."



Ron and Beth Light in California at one of the redwood forests this past December.



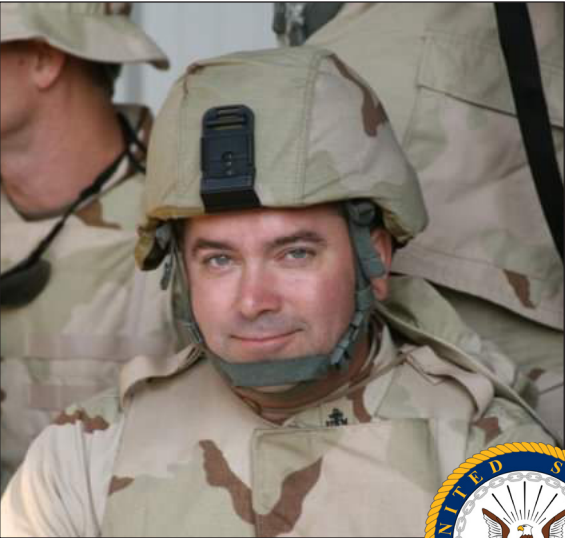
Lora Carroll
Project Manager

Active Duty
U.S. Army
1997 to 2009



Paul Vecchiet
Design Manager
Architect

U.S. Air Force
May 1982 through
February 1995



Ken Baker
Contracting Branch
Chief

U.S. Navy
1985 through 2008

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
VETERANS
day
Thank you



Matt Kenney
RM Branch Chief

Virginia Army National Guard
September 2001 through
September 2009.



Ken Kajihiro
Law Clerk

U.S. Marine Corps
Corporal
2009-2014



Keith Frye
Program Manager

US Air Force
1982 to 2002



thank you FOR YOUR SERVICE

Howard Sorber
Financial Management
Specialist

U.S. Army
Fort Campbell, Kentucky
January 1971 - 1972



Joe Macri
Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Air Force
1997 through 2012



LTC Lester Gebski
Contract Specialist
18 years Active Army
and 11 years Army
National Guard



VETERANS DAY

Sean Purciel
Community Planner

U.S. Army
August 1995 through
January 2022



Dave Green
Construction Safety
Manager

U.S. Marine Corps
1994 through 2015

