The Knox County Joint Veterans Council Honor Guard is looking for volunteers!!!

The Knox County Joint Veterans Council is located at the Knox County Veterans Service Office located at 105 E Chestnut St. Mount Vernon, Ohio. The post conducts regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The meeting time is 7:00 P.M. Contact Carol Riley @

740-504-3264 if you are interested in volunteering.



They stand guard silently, vigilantly through whatever Mother Nature dares throw at them. They do so with great pride to honor one of their own. For them, honoring a fallen brother-in-arms is compensation enough.

For the families of the deceased veteran, they are the ever-watchful sentinels, and their selfless act is a much-appreciated tribute.

The Army's black and gold PT uniforms are here to stay

Rumors of the demise of the Army's black and gold physical training gear were greatly exaggerated, and a redesign is not in the works, despite recent leadership comments suggesting otherwise. The Army on Monday clarified comments made by its top enlisted soldier at last week's Association of the U.S. Army's Annual Meeting and Exposition about the service's approved PT uniform.

"We're redesigning the Army PTs," Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Weimer said last week. "We're not going to get locked into the same T-shirt, [where] everybody is just going out and buying a new T-shirt anyway for their unit." But on Monday, Weimer told reporters he was referring to the Army providing additional options for soldier workout clothing, not a wholesale revamp of the iconic soldier PT gear.

Instead, the Army wants to give soldiers more comfortable options if they need them without spending Army money redesigning or issuing a new PT uniform, he said. Those options will be presented to Army senior leaders by the end of 2025, the service clarified. Either way, Weimar said, the black and gold design is here to stay. Weimer said the goal of providing additional options emerged after frequent soldier feedback regarding the comfort and fit of the existing PT clothing. "It really comes down to fit," Weimer said. "It's about performance and functionality."

Sgt. Maj. Rob Haynie, senior enlisted soldier at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, began leading the service's review of options about two months ago and will continue that through next year. So far, Weimer and Haynie said, some of the biggest complaints are about how the shorts fit, including problems with fabric bunching. Small features also mean a lot, and soldiers griped about a lack of shorts pockets for stowing ID cards.

As Haynie gathers soldier feedback, his team will review existing, available options from the clothing industry, he said. A finalized list of types of PT clothing that meet the Army's regulations and standards and maintain uniformity among the troops will then be delivered to Army senior leaders for review. Soldiers will still get their PT uniforms issued at basic training and use that clothing through their Advanced Individual Training, Weimer said. But once they join their unit, they could have the option to get some different gear.

The 2025 review could wind up giving soldiers additional options for each of their basic PT gear clothing items, officials said. The current basic gear includes short-sleeve and long-sleeve T-shirts, shorts, pants and a jacket, all in the black and gold color scheme, according to Army regulations. Additionally, soldiers may wear calf or ankle-length socks, athletic shoes, a fleece watch cap, a compression shirt, shorts and a reflective belt for inclement weather conditions.

The service previously changed the PT uniform in 2017 when it switched from the black and gray design it had used for years to the current black and gold color scheme, among other changes. Whatever gear gets approved for soldiers to add to their training wardrobe should provide options that better-fit soldiers' comfort and performance needs while maintaining a uniform appearance, Weimer said.

The potential workout clothing options fall in line with several non-issue items that are approved for wear. The Army allows soldiers to select from an approved list of protective eyewear, and to choose between different types of combat boots to find the best fit. Some units also allow soldiers to wear unit-specific, command-approved T-shirts that showcase the specific unit for their PT uniform.

Space Force Makes Tricky Maneuver with Top-Secret Space Plane to Dispose of Debris

The Space Force's top-secret spacecraft is attempting a new maneuver where it will change its orbit around the Earth without burning fuel, marking a rare public-facing announcement of the highly classified vehicle's movements.

The unmanned X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle has been in space since late December, and it has been used for classified experiments and investigating radiation effects for NASA. The Space Force announced Thursday that the spacecraft is starting "a series of novel maneuvers, called aerobraking" -- essentially using the drag of Earth's atmosphere to change orbit and save fuel.

It's the first time the X-37B or the Space Force has ever attempted the move. In the 2014 science fiction film "Interstellar," a similar technique was used by actor Matthew McConaughey's character, Joseph Cooper, to land his spacecraft on a planet without wasting fuel.

"This novel and efficient series of maneuvers demonstrates the Space Force's commitment to achieving groundbreaking innovation as it conducts national security missions in space," Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said in a news release.

Space Force officials said in the news release that the service is doing the maneuver so the spacecraft's unnecessary components can be safely disposed of "in accordance with recognized standards for space debris mitigation," instead of releasing the contents at a higher orbit where it could become space junk for several years and create obstacles and hazards for satellites and other spacecraft.

Addressing the responsible way to dispose of space debris has become a major concern for countries and companies in space. Most recently, U.S. Space Command called out Russia after a decommissioned satellite broke up in orbit, creating more than 100 pieces of debris in June.

Todd Harrison, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute who focuses on space policy, told Military.com in an interview on Monday that it's notable the service is going out of its way to avoid creating more junk in orbit.

"I think it's important that they are setting a good example for commercial operators, for other countries, for other parts of government," Harrison said. "They're setting the right example that this is how a responsible space operator behaves. You don't leave junk if you can avoid it. Don't litter."

Harrison said that commercial space companies and NASA are accustomed to aerobraking maneuvers -- which can sometimes take several days or even weeks to complete -- but that this is a notable first for the Space Force, which took control of the top-secret X-37B spacecraft in 2020. "I don't see this as the Space Force taking risk. I see it as maybe getting more comfortable with operating their vehicle and trying out all the things it could do," Harrison said.

It's rare for the Space Force to publicize happenings with the X-37B, especially as competition with adversaries such as China and Russia continues to grow. Harrison speculated that they announced it, in part, because the maneuver would be so visible to countries tracking objects in space.

"They can't hide it anyway; China and Russia can see this as plain as day," Harrison added,"maybe they're just catching up to the fact that you can't keep these things secret."

The military tensions in outer space are running high. Last year, China deployed its highly secretive space plane for the third time right before the Space Force was preparing to launch the X-37B in December.

Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman raised the Space Force's latest mission with the X-37B, saying it marked significant progress for the service.

"This first of a kind maneuver from the X-37B is an incredibly important milestone for the United States Space Force as we seek to expand our aptitude and ability to perform in this challenging domain," Saltzman said in the news release.

Trash Carried by a North Korean Balloon Again Falls on the Presidential Compound in Seoul

SEOUL, South Korea — Trash carried by a North Korean balloon fell on the presidential compound in central Seoul on Thursday for the second time, raising concerns about the vulnerability of key South Korean sites. The incident comes after the rival Koreas ramped up threats and rhetoric against each other over North Korea's claims that South Korea flew drones over its capital Pyongyang to scatter propaganda leaflets this month.

No dangerous items were found in the rubbish that was dropped on the ground when one of the North Korean balloons burst over the South Korean presidential compound on Thursday morning, South Korea's presidential security service said in a statement.

North Korea has sent thousands of balloons carrying bags of rubbish like plastic and paper waste into South Korea since late May in a resumption of a Cold War-style psychological campaign. The trash that fell on the South Korean presidential compound in July contained no hazardous materials as well. It wasn't immediately known whether South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was at the compound during the latest incident. Later Thursday, he met visiting Polish President Andrzej Duda at his office.

South Korean media reported that North Korean leaflets criticizing Yoon and his wife Kim Keon Hee were found on Thursday in Seoul's Yongsan district, where Yoon's presidential office is located. Media published photos of some leaflets that described Kim as a latter-day Marie Antoinette, the queen who was beheaded in 1793 during the French Revolution.

The reports said it was the first time that North Korean propaganda leaflets have been found in South Korea since the North began its balloon campaign five months ago.

The South Korean presidential security service didn't confirm the reports. But South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff later urged North Korea to stop flying "crude leaflets" slandering the South's president, warning that Pyongyang will be entirely responsible for any consequences. Experts say North Korea likely lacks the sophisticated technology needed to drop balloons on specific targets.

"Whether the balloons have GPS or not, it's all about launching them in large numbers and hitting the right altitude based on wind direction and speed, so that they can ride those winds to travel," Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute, said.

"While some media are saying the accuracy of the balloons has improved, that improved accuracy isn't because they equipped them with some sort of guidance system, but rather because it's the season when winds blow southward," Lee said. North Korea has earlier accused South Korea of infiltrating drones to drop propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang three times this month and threatened military responses if it happened again. South Korea has refused to confirm whether it sent drones but warned that North Korea would face the end of its regime if the safety of South Korean citizens is threatened.

North Korea said its balloon activities were a tit-for-tat action against South Korean activists launching anti-Pyongyang leaflets via their own balloons. South Korea responded by restarting propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts at border areas, prompting North Korea to turn on their own frontline loudspeakers.

The Koreas' Cold War-style campaigns come as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has increased the pace of his weapons tests and expanded military cooperation with Russia. U.S. and South Korean officials said Wednesday that 3,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia and are training at several locations. South Korean officials say North Korea eventually aims to send a total of 10,000 troops to Russia to support its war efforts in Ukraine. South Korea is concerned that Russia may reward North Korea by giving it sophisticated technologies that could improve the North's nuclear and missile programs that target South Korea and the United States

Pictures of the Month



A Navy MH-60R Sea Hawk hovers over a Peruvian navy submarine during a Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative exercise off the coast of San Diego



Three Air Force F-16s practice formation flying near Death Valley, Calif., Sept. 30, 2024.