The Knox County Joint Veterans Council are 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 to schedule services. Contact Eddie Stage@ 740-504-1597 if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!



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. And they do this without thought of payment. For them, honoring a fallen brother-in-arms is compensation enough.

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

They are the Joint Veterans Council.

Space Force boot camp? Newest service wants its own military training

The Space Force wants to set up its own tailor-made boot camp for aspiring guardians, top officials said at a Florida conference this week. “We’re trying to figure out, what’s the right scope, what’s the right scale, what’s the right evolution away from the Air Force training our inductees, and get to a more guardian-focused environment,” Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman said Tuesday at the Space Force Association’s Spacepower Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Since 2020, the Space Force’s new recruits have trained at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas, where Air Force recruits also train. Along the way, Saltzman said, the Space Force has “carved out pockets” inside the Air Force’s basic military training curriculum to teach future guardians information specific to their service. But the time has come for the Space Force to put its own stamp on BMT, Saltzman said in a roundtable with reporters. “At some point we say, well, we’ve got to train and educate our own people,” Saltzman said. “It’s a natural part of the evolution. When you enter the Space Force … we want you to be focused on being a guardian from day one.”

Creating a Space Force-specific boot camp requires a lot of effort and investment, Saltzman said, which is one reason the service has piggybacked on the Air Force’s BMT so far. The Space Force plans to continue using the Air Force’s training infrastructure as it sets up its new training, so it can move as quickly as possible, he said.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force John Bentivegna told reporters that the Space Force recently created its own BMT curriculum at Lackland, instead of using a slightly modified version of the Air Force’s plan. That Space Force curriculum is taught by guardian MTIs, he said, and Space Force recruits have their own formations and flights. It is also 7.5 weeks long — the same as the Air Force’s curriculum — so guardian training is better integrated with the “ecosystem” at Lackland, Bentivegna said.

But a bespoke Space Force training curriculum may need to be a little shorter or longer to best train aspiring guardians, Bentivegna said. “Let’s figure out what we need to do,” Bentivegna said. “It’s really defining first, without any kind of barriers, what do we need to do for the nation to develop the guardians that we need? And we’ll go from there.” Bentivegna said it is not yet decided where a possible Space Force boot camp might be held.

This Marine unit now has its own tool to blast drones out of the sky

One of the Marine Corps’ newest operational formations recently fielded a crucial “workhorse” air defense system to counter enemy drones and other aerial threats. Leathernecks with the 3rd Littoral Anti-Air Battalion, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment in Hawaii received the Marine Air Defense Integrated System, or MADIS, as the newly formed unit positions itself to counter threats in the Indo-Pacific region, according to a Marine Corps Systems Command release. “The rapid rise of UAS, used for surveillance, targeting and attacks, has made advanced air defense systems like MADIS critical to protecting our Marines and preserving our combat effectiveness,” said Lt. Col. Craig Warner, Future Weapons Systems product manager. “MADIS not only detects, tracks and defeats aerial threats but also serves as a powerful deterrent, signaling to adversaries that their aerial assets will not succeed against U.S. forces.”

All services continue to face a growing drone threat in every area of operations. In 2018, the Marines responded by beginning to build capacity for a “layered defense,” one that would eventually use the MADIS, Col. Andrew Konicki told Marine Corps Times. Konicki manages the Corps’ Ground-Based Air Defense program office. Marine officials have called the MADIS, built by Kongsberg Protech Systems USA, the “basic building block of the LAAD battalions’ ground base air defense capability.” For non-air defenders, MADIS allows Marines to focus on their mission instead of the sky, giving Marines one major threat they no longer have to worry about. “MADIS creates its own [anti-access, area-denial] bubble,” Warner said. The system replaces a cumbersome legacy platform Marines have long used to defend the skies. The Man-Portable Air Defense System, or MANPADs, includes a fire unit vehicle, section leader vehicle and the Stinger shoulder-fired missile as its primary weapon system, according to the Marine Corps. Some version of that platform has been in place since the Army and Marine Corps first developed anti-aircraft protection measures against fast-moving aircraft in the 1950s. MADIS, meanwhile, removes the need for a Marine to ever exit their vehicle, manually sight in and destroy an enemy aircraft.

The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle-mounted MADIS allows users to track and detect both friendly and enemy aircraft and select kinetic options, such as missiles or gunfire, and non-kinetic options, such as signal jammers or lasers, before disabling the threat. The MADIS, which uses two JLTVs, includes multiple systems, such as radar, surface-to-air missiles and command and control elements. Each vehicle complements the other. “In layman’s terms, one detects, and the other attacks,” according to a Marine release. The new unit fielding the MADIS, the Hawaii-based 3rd MLR, is the Corps’ first operational littoral regiment. The service seeks to establish two additional regiments in the Pacific, with the 12th MLR slated for Okinawa, Japan, and the 4th MLR planned for Guam. The new regiments are a slimmed down version — about 1,800 to 2,000 Marines — of the traditional infantry regiment, with missiles instead of conventional artillery, their own landing craft, anti-air battalions and other features purpose-designed for littoral combat. A conventional Marine infantry regiment can contain up to 2,200 Marines. A light version of the MADIS, aptly named the L-MADIS, saw its operational debut in July 2019, when Marines aboard the amphibious assault ship Boxer used the system, mounted on a Polaris MRZR all-terrain vehicle, to shoot down an Iranian drone, Marine Corps Times previously reported.

The light version is “uniquely aligned” to the Marine Expeditionary Units, smaller than an MLR with a broader range of missions. The MADIS can handle the air defense needs of larger formations and can synchronize and coordinate with the L-MADIS, Konicki said. The Corps’ Fiscal Year 2024 budget request included $130 million for 13 MADIS Increment 1 systems. In 2022, the Marines held an industry day to develop capabilities for the next version of MADIS to defeat larger drones. “Fielding MADIS to [3rd] LAAB is only the first step,” Konicki said. “What MADIS is today will not be the same system 12, 24, 36 months from now. Through 2035, the Corps is planning to field a total of 190 MADIS systems to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense battalions — which are separate from the Littoral Anti-Air Battalions — and the 3rd, 4th and 12th MLRs. Beyond continued upgrades to software, power consumption and capabilities for the system, Marine officials released a request from industry for proposals on a smaller, dismounted version of the MADIS capability earlier this year, Konicki added. System fielding by the LAAD battalion will begin in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025, according to the release.



Drone sightings lead to airspace shutdown at Ohio military base

BOSTON — More suspected drone sightings in the eastern U.S. led to a temporary airspace shutdown at an Air Force base in Ohio and arrests near Boston's Logan International Airport, as elected officials increased their push for action to identify and stop the mysterious unmanned flights.Drones flying around Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, forced base officials to close the airspace for about four hours late Friday into early Saturday, said Robert Purtiman, a base spokesperson. It is the first time drones have been spotted at the base, one of the largest in the world, and no sightings have been reported since early Saturday, Purtiman said Monday. He would not say how many drones were flying in the area, adding that they ranged in size and that they did not impact any base facilities.

In Boston, city police arrested two men accused of operating a drone "dangerously close" to Logan Airport on Saturday night. Authorities said an officer using drone monitoring technology detected the aircraft and the location of the operators. A third man who fled police remains at large. Authorities said the two men face trespassing charges, and could face more charges and fines.

Boston police urged drone operators to adhere to federal safety guidelines. "Even small drones pose significant risks, including the potential for catastrophic damage to airplanes and helicopters. Near-collisions can cause pilots to veer off course, putting lives and property at risk," police said in social media posts.

National security officials have said the drones recently spotted in the eastern part of the country don't appear to be signs of foreign interference or a public safety threat. But because they can't say with certainty who is responsible for the sudden swarms of drones — or how they can be stopped — leaders of both political parties are demanding better technology and powers to deal with the drones.

"There's a lot of us who are pretty frustrated right now," Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday," as drone sightings were being reported in his state. ""We don't know' is not a good enough answer."

Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer on Sunday called for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to deploy better drone-tracking technology to New York and New Jersey to identify the drones and their operators. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said federal officials had agreed to send a drone detection system to the state. "New Yorkers have tremendous questions about it," Schumer, the Senate majority leader, told reporters of the drone sightings. "We are going to get the answers for them."

The federal government did little to answer those questions in its own media briefings over the weekend. "There's no question that people are seeing drones," U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told ABC's George Stephanopoulos on Sunday. "But I want to assure the American public that we are on it. We are working in close coordination with state and local authorities." Some of the drones reported above parts of New York and New Jersey have turned out to be "manned aircraft that are commonly mistaken for drones," Mayorkas said. "We know of no foreign involvement with respect to the sightings in the Northeast. And we are vigilant in investigating this matter."

New Jersey Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy posted on X Sunday night that he had been out looking for drones with state police in West Trenton, New Jersey. "The public deserves clear answers — we will keep pushing the federal government for more information and resources," he said, adding that the FBI had briefed him about the sightings in Colts Neck, New Jersey.

Federal aviation authorities have required certain drones to broadcast their remote identification since last year, including the location of their operators. It's not clear whether that information has been used to determine who is behind the drones plaguing locations over New York and New Jersey. Mayorkas' office didn't respond to questions about whether they've been able to identify drones using this capability.

Dozens of mysterious nighttime flights started last month over parts of New Jersey, raising concerns among residents and officials. Part of the worry stems from the flying objects initially being spotted near the Picatinny Arsenal, a U.S. military research and manufacturing facility, and over President-elect Donald Trump's golf course in Bedminster."It didn't concern me at first," said Trisha Bushey, of Clinton Township, New Jersey, about 30 miles south of the Picatinny Arsenal. "I just didn't think anything of it until it started becoming like every night, the same time, same places."

Bushey said she thought it was military drills at first, but then officials said the military wasn't involved.

Pictures of the Month



Airmen scan for hazards within the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility, Nov. 7, 2024.



Airmen practice navigation techniques during overnight field training at the Ruby Creek training site, Wash., Nov. 19, 2024. Students are given minimal supplies and tasked with creating livable environments to hone their survival abilities and ensure they will be able to train at-risk personnel to survive and return with honor.