



## 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](tel:740-504-3264) 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.

## Guardians will be allowed to sport neck tattoos

Space Force recruits will be allowed to have tattoos that extend to infinity and beyond — or at least to the neck.

An Air Force memorandum shared by the popular Air Force amn/nco/snco Facebook page reveals that the tattoo policy for incoming guardians will be different from standards for airmen.

While the service will allow all recruits for both Air and Space Forces to have hand tattoos that don't cover more than 25% of the hand's surface, only guardians will be allowed to have neck tattoos.

"Applicants with neck tattoos are not authorized to 'dual track' with the USAF or list any USAF specific AFSC in the job preference tab," the memo says.

But don't go getting a sick choker tattoo if you're hoping to float among the stars. The neck tattoo policy is still fairly strict.

Guardians will be allowed only one neck or behind-the-ear tattoo, and it cannot exceed more than 1-inch in size.

Commenters on the Facebook page, however, seemed much less interested in the new ink policy, calling instead for beard allowances.

"But we can't have a beard cause it's unprofessional..." wrote user Chris Capkovich.

So far, the updated policy hasn't been added anywhere on either the Space Force or Air Force web-sites. The memo also doesn't provide any information about current airmen and guardians, and whether or not they will be able to get hand or neck tattoos if they are already enlisted or commissioned.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2022/05/17/guardians-will-be-allowed-to-sport-neck-tattoos/>



## Here's How the Army Is Keeping Basic Trainees from Getting Injured as Often

Roughly 1 in 4 young adults are too overweight to qualify to serve in the military. But even a lot of the ones who make it through the recruiting process suffer injuries in basic training, some of which can be attributed to the sudden ratcheting up of physical activity.

Treating injuries in basic training and the follow-on advanced individual training, or AIT, where soldiers train for their specific job, can be expensive. Removing a soldier from the force before they arrive to their first unit costs the Army roughly \$85,000, according to service data.

"We're seeing a decrease in fitness of those coming into the military," Col. Chris Meyering, the top medical officer for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC, told Military.com. "You have kids that are involved in sports and are very active and you have those that don't do much at all, and we're bringing both in and having the same expectation of training them up to be soldiers in a relatively short amount of time."

Even injuries during those first few months of training that aren't serious enough to force soldiers from service mean sacrificing hours of time for both them and their drill sergeants, which can upend tightly scheduled training.

About a year ago, TRADOC started rolling out a new program that has medics and behavioral health specialists fully integrated into basic training units. And early data suggests more soldiers are able to complete their initial training and that hours of injury time are saved.

After the integration of the program, TRADOC Organic Medical Structure, or TOMS, there were 1,700 fewer soldiers removed from initial training last year compared to 2020, out of the roughly 100,000 new recruits each year. While it's unclear how much of an impact TOMS had, that's a sizable drop.

The new program has medics at each formation at the beginning of the duty day for basic trainees, often around 5 a.m., before they begin training, according to Meyering. There, small injuries such as blisters and minor sprains can be addressed, and over the counter-style medication for issues such as allergies can be handed out.

Previously, new soldiers would have to go to a clinic on base, which often takes them out of training for half the day or longer. And they were often required to be accompanied by a fellow soldier from their formation, taking two soldiers away from training. It also wasn't uncommon for a drill sergeant to be needed to transport the soldier, leaving a leadership vacuum behind.

Catching small issues early, and treating them on the spot, saves hours of time and doesn't put the soldier at risk of missing critical events such as must-pass ruck marches, land navigation and marksmanship training, Meyering said. The Army's 10-week basic training course is fast-paced, with new soldier tasks taught almost daily. Missing a day could put the soldier behind when they show up to their first duty assignment.

Army basic training has gone through a series of changes in recent years -- most notably in 2020, when it removed the so-called "shark attack" in which drill sergeants would ambush, scream at and purposefully intimidate new trainees upon their arrival. Instead, combat arms schools such as infantry and the cavalry scout schools now task new soldiers to accomplish a series of team-driven tasks while having their physical fitness put to the test.

The idea is to have soldiers trust their noncommissioned officers, instead of their first interaction being antagonistic. However, those first few hours at basic training are still built to be stressful.

The drill sergeants themselves also have access to the embedded medical units as part of the new policy, including behavioral health resources.

"When we looked at suicides across our formations, where we've had more suicides is in our cadre and our drill sergeants, as opposed to the trainees. The job is very demanding for what they do," Meyering added.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/05/26/heres-how-army-keeping-basic-trainees-getting-injured-often.html>

## Navy SEALs are itching for upgrades to their silent underwater rides

TAMPA, Fla. — Navy SEALs have a lot of [cool toys](#), but most of the wet ones either need replacing or need some [serious upgrades](#) to haul them into the 21st century. That was the overriding message from a panel of sailors and civilians who oversee all things maritime for Special Operations Command at the Special Operations Forces Industry Conference held here by the National Defense Industrial Association. During the May 18 panel, one of the program managers shared a “parable of the Dry Combat Submersible” as a fitting comparison for what Navy special operations are doing with their undersea and surface vessels.

The Dry Combat Submersible “is like an electric truck,” said Navy Cmdr. John Conway, program manager for SOF undersea systems. “Sometimes you want to drive around, listen to the radio and make a phone call. Sometimes you want to haul a lot of stuff. You may want to keep your truck for 20 or 30 years, change out the radio, get bigger tires, put on a tow hitch, backup camera or 360-degree camera. We need it all.”

Navy Capt. Randy Slaff, program executive officer for maritime, shared the top two goals for all their platforms – better communications and better [power and energy use](#). “It’s not just talking to each other — diver to diver, or operator to operator,” Slaff said. “This is diver to craft, craft to host platform.” That means humans, undersea assets, surface vessels and everything else connected, sharing data and taking directions to help that cold, wet SEAL in the water headed to or returning from a mission.

Navy Cmdr. James Hanlon, program manager for systems with SOF Maritime, laid out the work left for the SEAL Delivery Vehicle MK 11. That vehicle replaces the SDV MK 8 Mod 1, running in one form or another since the early 1980s.

The MK 11 is about to hit initial operating capability this summer, he said. The MK 8 and MK 11 are both wet, open submersibles — mini-submarines that combat divers or SEALs board and ride to near their destination while wearing scuba gear.

“This is still SOF’s only clandestine submersible option,” Hanlon said.

The MK 11 is heavier but it boasts more capabilities, he added. While it’s been in development since a contract was awarded to [Teledyne Brown Engineering](#) in Huntsville, Alabama, in 2011, the “next generation” in combat submersible MK 11 isn’t expected to hit full operational capability until fiscal year 2027.

While the initial five boats delivered between 2018 and 2020 were tested and adjusted, he’s looking for more capabilities to plug into the platform — and for other ways to deliver it to the fight.

That’s because large host submarines such as the Ohio-class subs are reaching retirement age. SEALs use standard gray-hull ships and subs to get their smaller vehicles within range. They don’t want to limit their options when the subs go out.

The service is looking at “other nontraditional ways to launch this platform,” Hanlon said. “Whether it’s a containerized solution off of some vessel of opportunity or things like that.”

On the underwater but dry side, the Dry Deck Shelter craft is also reaching its senior status.

Navy Capt. Grady Hill, program executive officer for undersea special mission systems, said the initial 40 vessels built starting in the early 1980s by the company now known as [Huntington Ingalls Industries](#) just got a service life extension to push them out to 2051.

Modifications have increased the vessel’s payload capacity by 30% and weight capacity by more than 300% from the original.

SEAL Team 8 is expecting delivery in the coming weeks, he said. They plan to conduct shore testing this year and more testing to conclude next year, he said.

For surface craft, the SEAL teams either already have or are in the process of upgrading all of their boats.

Those upgrades offer more room.

Navy Capt. Rocky Russell, former head of surface craft programs, said though the new Combatant Craft Medium “MK 1” hit full operational capability this past year and has seen all 30 boats fielded, Navy special operators want more out of the vessel.

The 60-foot boat carries a four-sailor crew and up to 19 passengers ready for combat. It also has significant space to add new weapons and tech. Russell said the SEALs are “looking to integrate loitering munitions” on the MK 1 and a munition launcher or remote-controlled .50 caliber machine gun.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-navy/2022/05/26/navy-seals-are-itching-for-upgrades-to-their-silent-underwater-rides/>

## Pictures of the Month



Army Spc. Josh Wyant conducts a patrol prior to a cold weather readiness training exercise at the Donnelly Training Area, Alaska, March 11, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by John Pennell)



Visitors participate in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration Flower Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, Nov. 9, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser)