



**Frontier Warriors!**



**Warriors First!**

## Monthly Newsletter - December 2023

The holidays are upon us, and seasonal celebrations in our community are in full swing! Many of our organizations will begin to slow the pace of work, and I am hopeful that you will find time for rest and recuperation, surrounded by family and friends. Although the world will always have strife and turmoil, this season presents an opportunity for us all to foster peace, goodwill, and gratitude in our own lives. Here's to wrapping up 2023 on a high note and looking forward to 2024 with optimism!

Just as the new year brings new beginnings, we are happy to welcome our new Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Leonard V. McFarlane. He is coming to us from Fort Shafter, Hawaii where he served as the G4 Sergeant Major for the 18th Medical Command. We are thrilled to have CSM McFarlane, his wife Juaquinna McFarlane, and their five children join our Frontier Warrior Family. CSM McFarlane brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him, with assignments spanning the 3d Infantry Regiment "The Old Guard", the Defense Language Institute, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 20th Engineer Brigade, the 1st Special Forces Command, the Combined Arms Support Command, and the Sustainment Center of Excellence among others.

CSM McFarlane and I look forward to greeting you before we break for the holidays or shortly afterwards in the new year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Gong".

Benjamin Gong  
LTC, MI

[benjamin.w.gong.mil@army.mil](mailto:benjamin.w.gong.mil@army.mil)

# Announcements

We are still in the midst of Flu Season! Our unit has a goal of 100% of service members vaccinated by the end of the year. Any Tricare Beneficiary can receive their vaccine at no cost at any Tricare Network pharmacy. If an active duty service member or family member receives their vaccine from an off-post facility, a responsible party can bring the record of vaccination to Munson's Primary Care Department on the third floor and have their records updated.

## Upcoming Community Events

### December

16 December: Wreaths Across America  
(0830, FLKS National Cemetery)

16 December: Survivor Tree Trimming  
(1300, Resiliency Center, 600 Thomas Ave)

18 December - 2 January:  
CAC Half Day Schedule

23-26 December: Christmas  
DONSA

30 December - 2 January:  
New Years DONSA

### January

*Mental Health Awareness Month*

12-15 January: Martin Luther King Jr.  
DONSA

20 January: Wreaths Across America  
Wreath Recovery  
(0830, FLKS National Cemetery)

25 January: Frontier Warrior Forum  
(1130, MS Teams)

### February

*Black History Month*

1 February: Garrison Newcomers Brief  
(0800, Frontier Conference Center)

16-19 February: Presidents' Day  
DONSA

22 February: Frontier Warrior Forum  
(1130, MS Teams)

