



# THE DISPATCH

U.S. ARMY DUGWAY PROVING GROUND

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## DUGWAY MARKS 75TH BIRTHDAY WITH HISTORY FEATURES THROUGHOUT 2017

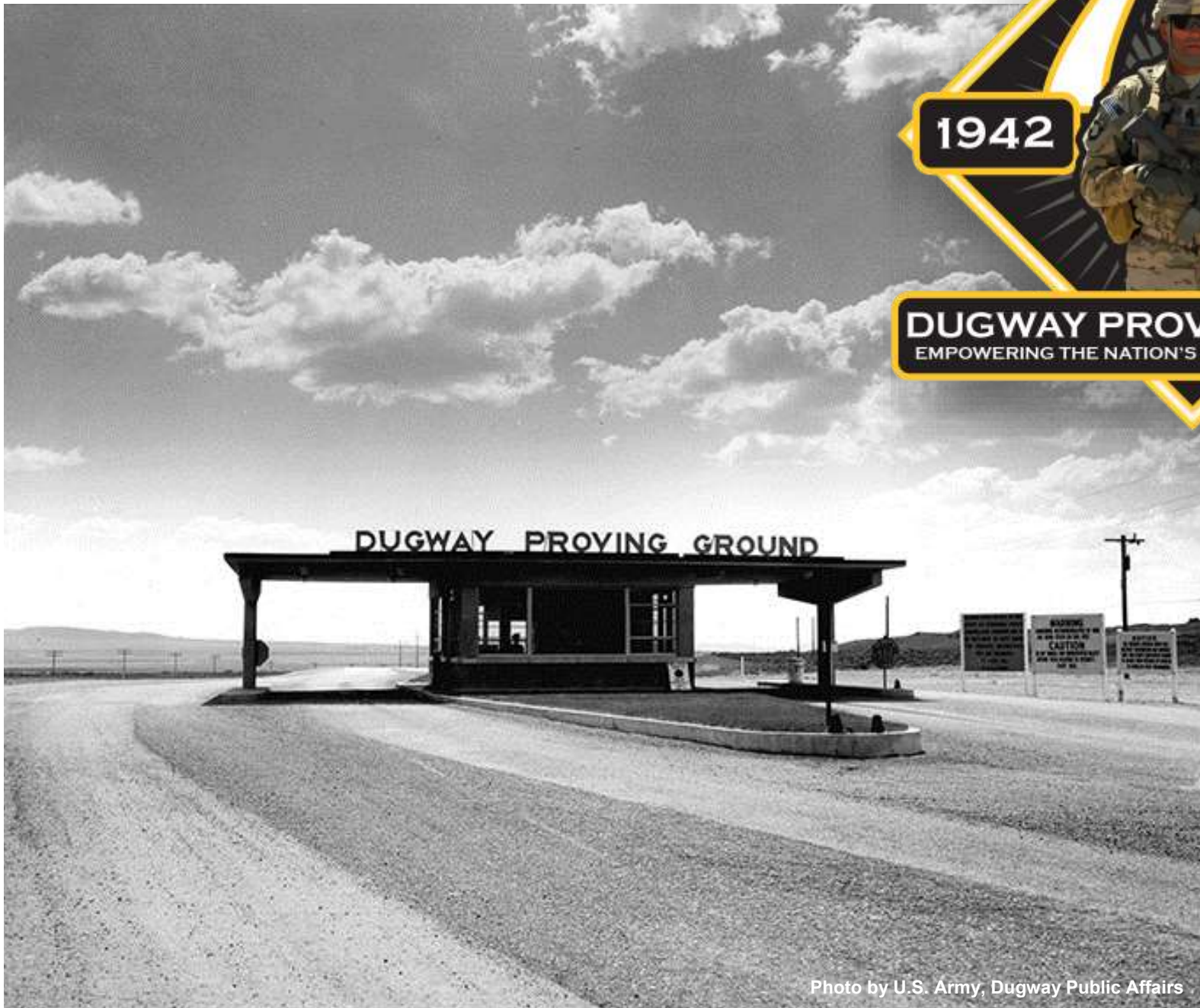
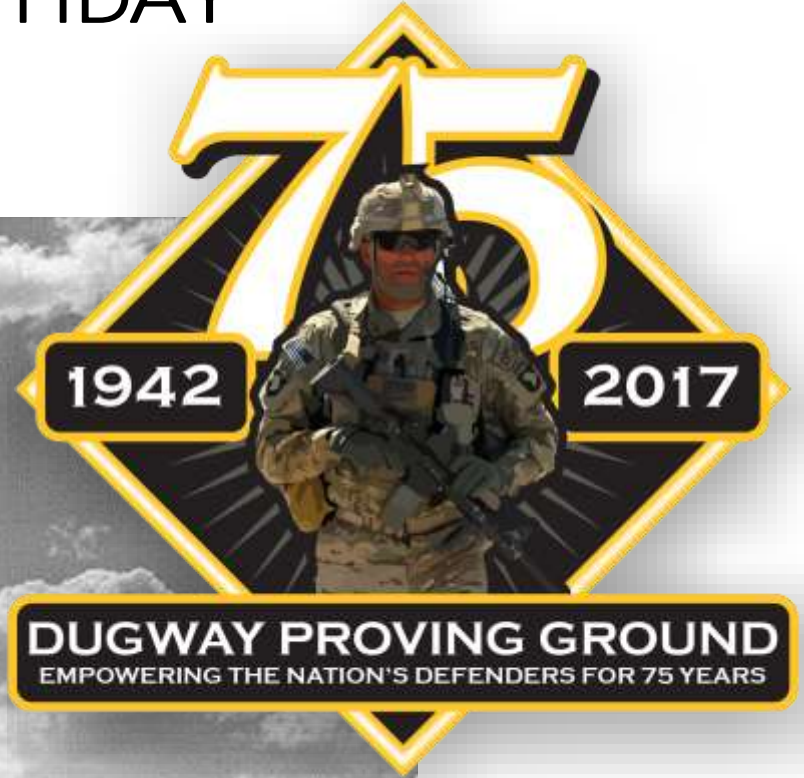


Photo by U.S. Army, Dugway Public Affairs

By Al Vogel  
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This year marks the 75th birthday of Dugway Proving Ground, created in 1942 from public land chosen for its remoteness and unsuitability for mining or agriculture. Throughout 2017, the *Dugway Dispatch* will offer articles and vintage photos, noting Dugway's unique and remarkable 75 years.

Observances and events recognizing Dugway's 75th year of protecting America are also planned. When finalized, they will be advertised in the *Dugway Dispatch*, email, the Dugway Proving Ground (Official) Facebook page and other venues.

Dugway is too big, too filled with history, to be honored

with a single date. On Feb. 6, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt withdrew 126,720 acres of Utah land from public domain, to be used by the War Department. On March 1, 1942, Dugway Proving Ground was officially activated by its first commander and his lieutenant assistant – its first two Soldiers – before a single building stood.

**Part of Dugway's** uniqueness is its size. Expanded to nearly 800,000 acres by the 1950s, it remains vast. While other military installations have seen small towns swell into communities that crowd their fence lines, Dugway has not.

In 1969 Dugway also saw its mission change overnight to strictly defensive, when

President Nixon ordered the U.S. to halt the development of biological weapons. A ban against chemical weapons soon followed.

Dugway tests only defenses against chemical or biological agents: detectors, decontaminators, gas masks, air filtration units, protective clothing, etc. But defenses don't test themselves, it requires people of all types. Whether you're a chemist, carpenter, cook, mechanic, accountant or medic, you're making an important, life-saving contribution to the U.S. and the world.

Across 75 years, Dugway Soldiers and civilians have shared traits: a "can do" attitude, willingness to help, and ability to adapt and

personnel stepping forward to do the work.

Some "Old Soldiers" of the 1950s and 1960s have visited Dugway in recent years. They couldn't explain it, but they all felt a need to see Dugway one last time. Most expressed a common sentiment: "Because we were so remote, as a community and in work, everybody helped each other. You had to."

Those Old Soldiers carried a fondness and pride in Dugway for decades.

Beginning with this issue, and throughout 2017, we'll examine Dugway's 75 years with the same fondness and pride in a mission well done. We hope you enjoy our efforts.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ INSIDE YOUR DISPATCH

#### 75 YEARS AND COUNTING



We launch a year long history series celebrating Dugway's birthday.  
Page 1.

#### 50 YEARS AND COUNTING



Come along on "Bud" Ford's excellent adventure.  
Page 2.

#### TEST GRID SAFARI



Newly installed grid instrumentation makes testing more efficient and less expensive.  
Page 3.

AND MUCH MORE

**EMPOWERING THE NATION'S DEFENDERS**

# FIFTY YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

By Bonnie A. Robinson  
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Fifty years ago, Milton Berle aired his final show, the Newlywed Game premiered on TV and the Six Day War began between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The world's first ATM was installed in London and the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart Club Band went gold. Vietnam was nearly 12 years in.

That same year, Marion "Bud" Ford, an operations specialist and operations security manager at Dugway joined the federal service. "I've been assigned a lot of places, it's been a wide and enjoyable career," Ford said after receiving his 50-year certificate and pin in December. "But it's not over."

Still going strong at 77 years, Ford is a comfortable, weathered man with snowy hair and whiskers. He is delighted to chat and smiles broadly, emphasizing the craggy lines near his eyes, which underscores his years of outdoor work.

A photo of himself, taken as a young man is on his computer. It shows him in an Air Force uniform with all the expectation and eagerness of youth written on his face.

Ford wanted a career in the U.S. Army, but his parents wouldn't agree to it. His father finally said if he was determined to leave home, he would consent to his joining the Air Force. Thus began Ford's 50 years of federal service. "It was culture shock. I came out of the hills of Kentucky not knowing hardly anything, basically a hillbilly," he said with a grin. "But I loved it. The first time I climbed onto an airplane, I was thrilled beyond belief."

Ford joined the Air Force just 11 days after his 17th birthday. His first assignment was as an aircraft electrician at Nouasseur Air Force Base in Morocco, North Africa. An airman taught him to drive. "It was a deuce and a half-- a 2 1/2 ton truck. The Staff Sergeant showed me the gears and told me to keep practicing until I 'got it.' Then he went for coffee. I started changing gears, backing up and pulling forward. When he returned, he said: 'That's good enough. Let's go get your license.'"

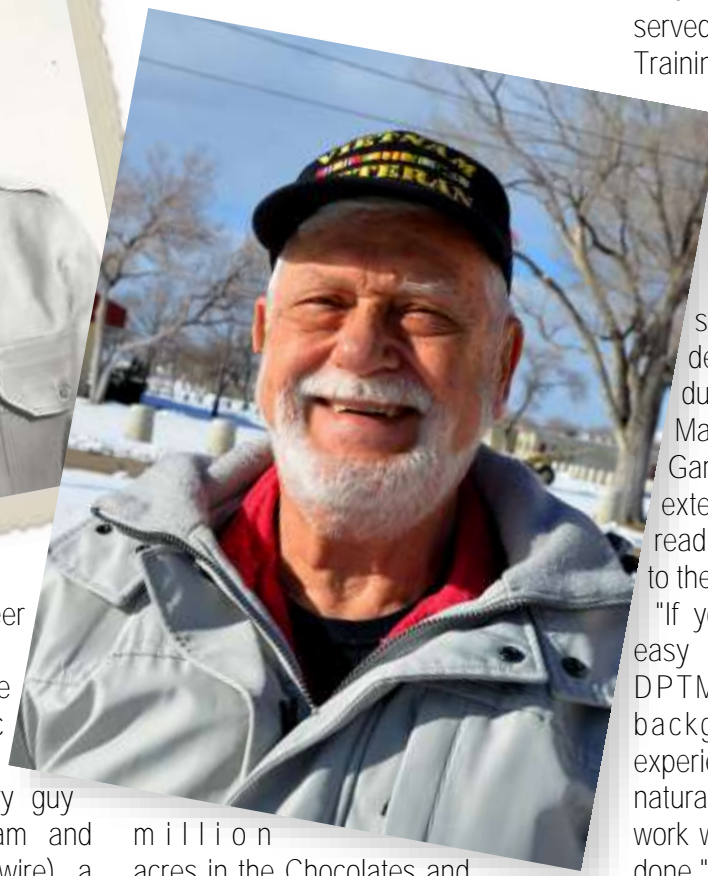
Six years later, with no rank advancement after attaining the rank of Airman First Class (now called Senior

Airman) due to glut of World War II and Korean Veterans, Ford's commitment with the Air Force ended.

He "bummed around" the U.S. for six months before hitch-hiking to Bangor, Maine, where he met an Army recruiter who enlisted him as a Private First Class, fulfilling his boyhood desire and



## "NO REGRETS"



ambition of a career in the Army.

"In the Army I was a Nike Hercules Missile Electronic Material chief, a Hawk missile crewman, a part time Infantry guy (perimeter defense in Vietnam and once in a while outside the wire), a truck driver, an administrative supervisor, and a courier of classified material." He said. His biggest challenge was "Vietnam" and "staying alive."

Over the years, Ford continued to build his career with a variety of professional skills. "If I had to pick a favorite job, I guess it would be my time with the Air Force," he admitted, though it's clearly a tough choice for him to make.

Ford said he worked on every type of cargo aircraft they had between 1956 and 1958; plus the B47 Bomber, the KC97 aircraft refueler and a B66 electronic intruder.

Later, he upped his expertise working on the Jupiter "C" Inter-Range Ballistic Missile and on the Atlas "D" Series Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile.

In 1980, he taught at the Great Lakes Naval Station under contract to the College of Lake County of Grayslake, Illinois for 5 years with classes on the Navy Missile and Gun Fire Control Radar and in "computer trouble shooting."

In 1986, he landed the only environmental protection specialist job at Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona. There, he was responsible for both the Installation Restoration Program and the Compliance Program with 1 million acres on the Barry M. Goldwater Range in Arizona and a half

million acres in the Chocolates and Blues Mountains of California.

Four years later, he transferred to the Navy for 12 years where he built a solid skill set in environmental compliance documentation and resource management.

Ford recalled, "I came to Dugway in 2002 from the Naval Air Station Fallon in Nevada. I knew Steve Klauser who worked at the Environmental Technology Office at the time."

For five years, Klauser encouraged Ford to apply at Army Test Evaluation Command because of his expertise in environmental compliance.

At Dugway, Ford served as a National Environmental Protection Act Coordinator. He helped write the Dugway Environmental Impact Statement in 2005, several environmental assessments and the Environmental Check List that both the

Army Test and Evaluation Command at West Desert Test Center and the Army Installation Management Command in English Village currently use. He also worked closely with his state counterparts throughout Utah.

Mike Robinson who now anchors the environmental office shared, "When I started my civilian career with the Army, I was preparing environmental documents, which Bud reviewed. He was a fine mentor. I learned a lot from him and came to value his knowledge and constructive advice to improve our documents. We soon realized our common experiences and values as Army Veterans and became friends."

For the last four years, Ford has served at the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security for Dugway Garrison as an operations specialist, training coordinator and the operations security manager, which he enjoys.

"I personally admire Mr. Ford's service to our nation and dedication to our service members during the past 50 years," said Matthew De Pirro, director of Garrison DPTM. "Bud's broad and extensive experience, which he readily shares, makes him an asset to the team."

"If you're content with your job, it's easy to be happy," Ford said. "At DPTMS we all have similar backgrounds and shared life experiences in the military. We have a natural respect for one another and work well as comrades to get the task done."

Ford has no real plan to retire but, said his wife of 37 years, Brenda, he is considering three more years. Their plan is to spend more time with their three daughters and six grandchildren. "Three girls, three boys," Ford said proudly.

But when pressed on retirement, Ford shakes his head and furrows his brow. "Those guys who retire only last about 10 years before they get bored to death." A chuckle follows.

Ford's words of counsel to younger federal employees: "People sometimes have an idea of what they want to do when they are young. My advice is to get as much experience as you can, think about it before you settle on your choice, then move forward and pursue it with all you've got."

Would he do it all again?

His reply: "No regrets."

## THE ARMY WINS PRESTIGIOUS INDUSTRY AWARDS FOR OPERATIONAL PROCESS EXCELLENCE (OPEX)

The annual Operational Process Excellence Award is a globally recognized industry award, which honors and celebrates organizations, teams and individuals who have exceeded industry standards in their Operational Process Excellence initiatives and have delivered exceptional results for their organizations and the world.

On January 26, 2017, at the closing of **this year's "OPEX Week: Business Transformation World Summit"** the Army was announced as the winner in two categories:

- Best Process Excellence Program (Army Continuous Process Improvement Program)
- Program Director of the Year (Dr. Charles T. Brandon III, Director, and Army

Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) Program Office).

To meet the challenges posed by an uncertain international security environment, the Army is in the process of implementing the most dramatic changes to the design of our operating forces in 50 years. At the same time, we must transform the Institutional Army to ensure its ability to provide the people, training, resources, quality of life, and infrastructure in support of these design changes.

The Army CPI Program Office enables this improvement effort, which consistently delivers significant financial benefits, solutions to enterprise challenges and improvements to processes and programs that impact readiness.

# OUTDOOR SIMULANT TESTING AT DUGWAY TO BE MORE EFFICIENT, MOBILE

By Al Vogel  
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Ten years ago, Dugway began pursuing a system to make outdoor testing of chemical and biological defenses more efficient and mobile, and less expensive. By this fall, the newly installed hardware and software of the Test Grid Safari Instrumentation System will be in place to solve those requirements in an era of shrinking budgets and reduced personnel staffing.

Funding for the multimillion dollar system is provided by the Department of Defense's Joint Project Manager for Chemical and Biological Defense.

The new testing system will significantly improve outdoor testing of chemical and biological agent detectors which employs simulant, a benign substance with characteristics similar to actual agent. Simulant simplifies testing allowing authentic scenarios



A crude but somewhat effective method terrorists might use to disseminate a chemical agent is with explosives. Here, clouds of dust and simulated agent drift toward detectors some distance away at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Test Grid Safari Instrumentation System, underway at Dugway and expected to be completed this fall, will test chemical and biological agent detectors with simulated agent. Photo by Al Vogel, Dugway Public Affairs

real-time data review. Normally, data is sent from samplers and detectors to individual digital storage devices. At the end of each day or trial, the storage devices are collected and their data are

cloud tracking, detector status, data management and instrument status.

"The idea is a one-stop shop for immediate test decision making, to review data in real time, as it happens, instead of waiting for data to be processed," said Nathan Lee, physical scientist with Dugway's Test Support Division overseeing the project. "Real-time tells us whether to continue or to stop testing and fix it."

Developers of the new test system foresee a near-future capability for viewing by pre-authorized personnel. Initially, authorization will be limited within Dugway, but access may be widened. Imagine the Secretary of

Defense at his desk, watching a detector test in real time, or a handful of Canadian engineers in Montreal, witnessing how their biological detector is faring.

The Test Grid Safari Instrumentation System ushers in a new standard for testing chemical and biological detectors outdoors ensuring Warfighters and first responders can trust their detectors to work as required when a chemical or biological incident or attack occurs.

**EMPOWERING THE  
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A trailer-mounted 10-meter tower, ready for its instrumentation to begin receiving data, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. The tower may also be folded down for travel or to work with instrumentation. The trailer also includes a Computer Network Interface for data, and a propane-fired electrical generator. A new, mobile and highly efficient system for testing chemical and biological detectors is anticipated to be complete for use this fall. Photo by Joe Mashinski, US Army

without the safety risks of actual agent.

Warfighters and first-responders receive the greatest benefit – a rigorously tested detector placed in their hands sooner.

The Test Grid Safari Instrumentation System offers an option not available before—testers may use an established test grid, but the testing system's mobility allows testing in non-traditional areas such as a canyon, salt flat or mountain slope on Dugway.

The new system also provides for

downloaded into a central repository. Later, personnel process the raw data into a more useable format for study and comparison. This can take weeks, depending upon the test's extent.

The new testing system sends encrypted data from the tested detector directly to Dugway's Ditto Area for storage and backup. From Ditto, it's sent to the Relocatable Command Post near the test site for real-time viewing. Trial data displayed includes weather conditions, generator electrical output,



A Relocatable Command Post is part of the Test Grid Safari Instrumentation System now underway at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Data from testing chemical and biological agent detectors is fed into the command post after data is stored and back-up elsewhere. The mobile testing system is anticipated to be turned over to Dugway this fall. Photo by Joe Mashinski, US Army



Inside the Relocatable Command Post at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Test personnel watch data from different aspects of each test of a chemical or biological detector, challenged with simulated agent. Changes appear in real time, allowing quick decisions based on the moment's information. Photo by Joe Mashinski, US Army

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 West Desert Staff Meeting - 0800 Ditto Dugway EMS CPR Training - call for time Story Time & Crafts 1000 - Library	2	3	4  Family Activity - Pratt Aquatic Center - Tooele 2000 - 2200
5	6	7 Staff Assistance Visit  Newcomers Orientation 1330 - 1700 - Bldg. 5124 - Rm 239	8 Staff Assistance Visit  Command Staff Meeting - 0830 - Kuddes Story Time & Crafts 1000 - Library	9 Staff Assistance Visit	10	11
12  Super Bowl Tailgate Party - Sportsman's Lodge	13	14 Valentine's Day - Community Club 1700—2000  Garrison Staff Meeting - 0800 - Rm 1202	15  Dugway EMS CPR Training - call for time	16  Black History Month Observance - 1500 - 1630 - Community Club	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21  WDTC Stand Down	22 West Desert Staff Meeting - 0800 Ditto ESC Meeting - 0900 - Ditto  WDTC Stand Down	23 WDTC Stand Down  DPG Small Vendor Business Fair - 0900 - 1400 Community Club  Employee of the Year Award Ceremony - 1500 Community Meeting Center	24	25
26	27	28  Garrison Staff Meeting - 0800 - Rm 1202		WDTC/ATEC Town Hall - 1500 - 1700 Community Meeting Center		

## THE DISPATCH

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Currently playing on the Dugway YouTube Channel

- Command Holiday Message
- Native American Heritage
- Innovation/Glovebox Update
- General and Olympian
- CSM Change of Responsibility

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCPjFIEBY7j7ay6m7FouadqQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPjFIEBY7j7ay6m7FouadqQ)

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