



# 2022 HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Programs That Put People First

By John Zierow  
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Soldiers and civilians at Dugway had help making the holiday's happy thanks to gift bags given out by Blue Star Families. The bags were free to anyone who wanted one and filled with various items intended to spread holiday cheer.

For Sgt. Gabriel Guerrero, the gift bags went farther than a friendly gesture of good will. The Guerrero family recently had a permanent change of station (PCS) from their duty station in Belgium to Dugway Proving Ground but receiving their PCS orders was anything but orderly. They were originally supposed to extend their stay in Belgium, things changed at the last minute and they ended up in Utah. Changes to orders are nothing new to soldiers but adjusting to the changes can be more difficult if all your possessions being shipped from overseas show up late, like they did for the Guerrero's. "We were basically here for three months without anything. We finally got our house hold goods right before

Thanksgiving but there was a ton of broken stuff," said Sgt. Guerrero.

With no one to turn to, the Guerrero's reached out to the Dugway Proving Ground Family, Moral, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) team for help. They utilized the Lending Closet in the MWR building to get access to basic household items they needed, free of charge. "The Lending Closet was awesome. They let us borrow some furniture and they were very eager to help," said Sgt. Guerrero. The gift bags added to the experience, giving them more to celebrate during Christmas. "It's a little more that we can give to our kids and they get to have Christmas. We were not expecting to do anything this year. Now having stocking stuffers and other gifts will be great for them," said Sgt. Guerrero.

To take advantage of other programs or services offered by MWR like the Lending Closet or the Blue Star Families gift bags, please drop by the Dugway MWR building and talk with staff.



Soldiers get holiday gift bags from Blue Star Families. Photos by John Zierow, Dugway Public Affairs

## Command Perspective



By CSM Mauvet M. Rawls  
Installation Command Sergeant Major

Work-Life Balance is necessary for family success, positive mental health, and a productive professional life. Having a good balance allows us to excel at hobbies and interests outside of work and put energy into our family or close relationships. This can help minimize work related stress, improve on one's physical and mental health, and re-

energize how we feel towards our profession.

When I arrived at Dugway, I was told it's a close community. I thought I was laying low before reporting to work but I was warned, people already knew I was on post. From the gate guard to the manager of the commissary and even the housing office, I felt very welcomed.

During the first meeting with the "Top 5", I remembered someone asking to telework half the day so they could be at their child's football game. In another meeting, I saw someone letting the Commander and their supervisor know they needed to leave the meeting to pick up their child. No one reacted negatively, verbal or nonverbally. It was heartwarming. Family and dedication to the mission seemed to be the focus of the DPG Team. In those cases, having that work-life balance was a priority.

Leaders can assist in that work-life balance by respecting the non-duty hours/days of employees. If possible, do not send emails after hours or on non-duty days because some employees may believe they must answer those emails. Leaders should be the example, halt non-essential work after close of business. Employees see this as leaders putting their work-life balance in check, demonstrating that work can wait. This shows employees their total person is valued and not just their job performance.

Many people set goals at the beginning of a new year. Consider your current work-life balance. Should you make improvements or maintain where you are? As we telework more, do you have boundaries for when the workday ends and personal life begins? Are you spending enough time with family or friends? Are there areas of your job that you need to change?







## National Defense Authorization Act 2022

In a statement released on The White House website Dec. 27, 2021, President **Joseph Biden said, "I have signed into law S. 1605, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022."**

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 is a lengthy document with many provisions on a wide range of subjects. Several of those provisions relate directly to Dugway Proving Ground as a remote military installation. During the Fall of 2021, the Commander of Dugway, COL Brain Hoffman sent a series of white papers to the Department of Defense requesting quality of life improvements for people living and working at Dugway. The requests were well received by the DOD liaisons to DPG. In fact, they were so well received that many of the topics are directly addressed in the National Defense Authorization Act.

In addition to the numerous quality of life provisions, the Act has an eight million dollar budget increase for Test and Evaluation facilities. It also states that the Secretary of Defense will identify Major Range and Test Facility Bases with hypersonic test capabilities and there will be an increase in remote site pay allowance for eligible personnel at remote installations. The pay increase will begin on the first day of the first pay period beginning after the date the pay recommendation is submitted, which is due

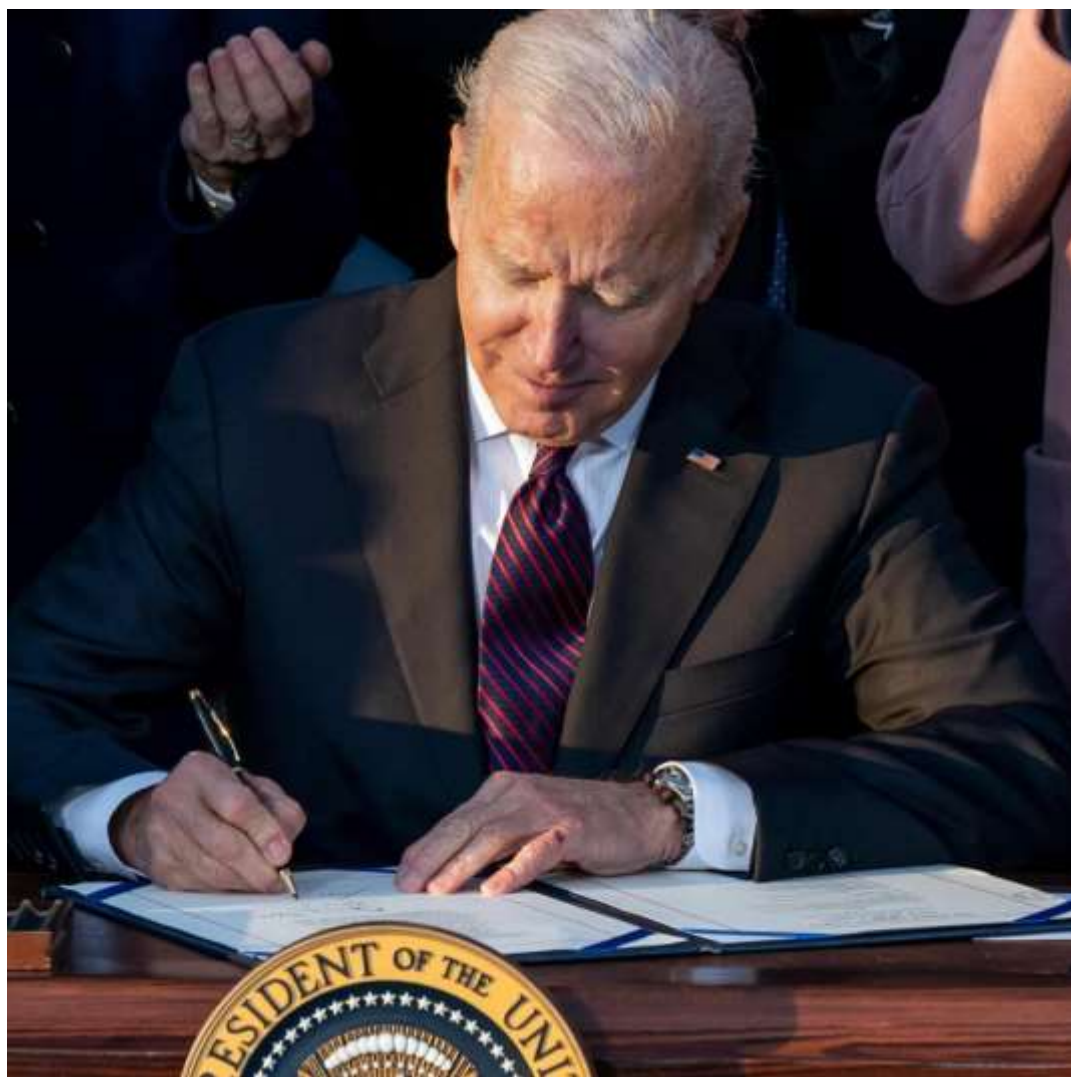
no later than March 31, 2022.

Regarding the quality of life provisions, section 568 of the Act states: Not later than April 1, 2022, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall develop a uniform policy for how to identify remote military installations; and assess and manage challenges associated with remote military installations.

The challenges under consideration include:

1. Activities and facilities for the morale, welfare, and recreation of members of the Armed Forces.
2. Availability of housing, located on and off remote military installations.
3. Educational services for dependents of members of the Armed Forces, located on and off remote military installations.
4. Availability of health care.
5. Employment opportunities for military spouses.
6. Risks associated with having insufficient support services for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

No later than July 1, 2022, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth quality of life recommendations for remote military installations.



## School Volunteer Opportunities

Dugway Proving Ground is working with the Dugway School to enrich the education opportunities of our youth. We are looking for volunteers to share **their experience and knowledge with the students through guest's lectures, field trips, classroom instruction, or coaching.** Examples include teaching a foreign language, a hard science, or a music class. If you are interested in volunteering at the Dugway School, please contact Ms. Kelly Cochrane at (435) 831-4090 or [kcochrane@tooeleschools.org](mailto:kcochrane@tooeleschools.org). Apply as a volunteer at AppGarden <https://appgarden5.app-garden.com/VolTrackUT30.nsf>.



Dugway volunteers teaching students at Blue Peak High School in November 2021.

**January is  
NATIONAL  
BLOOD  
DONOR  
MONTH**



American Red Cross has scheduled a blood drive for Dugway Proving Ground on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1000-1500. The blood drive will be in the Multipurpose Room, Bldg 5124 (Community Center) at English Village. You may

register for a time slot at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search for Dugway. Use sponsor code:dugway. You may also call Shocklee Fitness Center at 435-831-2705 to sign-up. Your donations are greatly appreciated.





Christmas Bird Count at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge. Photos by Keeli Marvel, Dugway Natural Resources Office



# Christmas Bird Counts

By Keeli Marvel  
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In the late 1800s it was a tradition in some parts of the U.S. to have a “side hunt” at Christmas where people divided up into teams, went out hunting, and shot as many animals and birds as they could. The side that shot and brought back the most animals was declared the winner.

Around the turn of the 20th century, people were becoming more and more aware of the impact they were having on wildlife populations, and federal regulations such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were another result of this growing awareness.

An early proponent of bird conservation and an officer of the fledgling Audubon Society by the name of Frank Chapman proposed a wildlife census instead of the usual hunt as a way to reduce their impact on wildlife populations. In the year 1900, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count was born! The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is one of the oldest citizen science programs in the world. The data on bird populations

that have been collected annually by the Audubon Society and other organizations is used to assess the health of bird populations and inform conservation actions by helping track patterns and trends in the change of bird populations over the past 100 years.

Every year CBCs are held between December 14 and January 5 with count circles all over the U.S. and the world. There are now over 2500 count circles around the world in the U.S., Canada, the Pacific Islands, Caribbean, and Central and South America. In any given year, there are up to 29 count circles active in Utah.

Last year, the Dugway Natural Resources Office and Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge restarted the Fish Springs CBC after several years of inactivity. The Fish Springs count circle includes portions of the wildlife refuge, BLM public land, and the southern portion of Dugway.



Dugway Natural Resources Office counts birds to collect data for the Audubon Society.

# Happy Holidays

The holidays are a time for celebration and self-reflection. Please take a few moments to reflect on the past year and resolve to re-commit to investment in the things which improve your work and enrich your lives.

There are many things to be grateful for. Each day at work, each of you

devote your time and talents to keeping soldiers and Americans safe. Completing our mission makes America and the world a better place. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Thank you for being a part of Team Dugway.



Children at Dugway sang carols during the tree lighting as they waited for Santa to arrive.

# THE DISPATCH

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