

FORT JACKSON - SOUTH CAROLINA

RETIREE BULLETIN



VOLUME 1 2024

Dear Military Retiree,

On behalf of the Fort Jackson Military Retiree Council (FJRC), Eric and I are looking forward to being a conduit of information for our military retiree population across the state. Supporting the phenomenal work of JR Sanderson and Joe McLamb, the role, and functions of the FJRC will continue to evolve during our tenure.

With the support of the Fort Jackson Commanding General, our charter is to support all military retirees across the state, regardless of service or component. By virtue, we will work closely with our partners in the South Carolina National Guard and the 81st Readiness Division (Army Reserve), and numerous other supporting agencies and organizations, to inform and educate our retiree population of important topics, as well as your systemic concerns that we need to address statewide.

Regardless of service or component, help us keep all military retirees in the state informed with the latest information. If you or your organization are interested in being on the Fort Jackson Retirement Services Officer's email distribution list, please send an email to armyrs.jackson@mail.mil for inclusion. Help us get those retirees in your network onto this information conduit. Again, regardless of service or component.

The 2024 Fort Jackson Retiree Appreciation Days will be held on May 16-18, 2024. Thursday's pass in review from the Basic Training Graduates in front of the Retirees is open to all, and not one to be missed. This serves as a symbolic passing of the torch from the retirees to the newest Soldiers in the Army. We will also host the extremely popular "Retiree Expo" on Saturday and hope you can take full advantage of these opportunities. You can find further details in this newsletter.

Look forward to seeing you at the 2024 Retiree Appreciation Days!

REGARDS,

DAN BEATTY
CHAIRMAN, FORT JACKSON RETIREE COUNCIL

ERIC DOSTIE
SECRETARY, FORT JACKSON RETIREE COUNCIL

FORT JACKSON 2024 RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 16, 2024

7:30 a.m. Join us online at <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson> to hear the Garrison Commander's Message to the Retirees. 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast at the Club 1917.

9:00 a.m. Basic Training Graduation Ceremony and Salute to Retirees. **Speaker Lieutenant Colonel (RET) Charles (Charlie) Ferrell.** Reserved seating under the covered bleachers. Enter Hilton field with VIP parking with pass at the 4th Division Road entrance. Arrive not later than 0830, to be escorted to the reserved seating.

To obtain VIP parking pass contact (803) 751-5523.

Friday, May 17, 2024

20th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Golf Tournament: Friday, May 17, 2024, starting at 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start on the Wildcat Course. Format is Captain's Choice, Gross, and Net Scoring. Cost is \$45-FJGC member, \$55-Authorized Patrons, and \$60-Civilians. Entry fee includes all golf fees, prizes, and a post tournament meal. Register your team today or sign up as a single and the FJGC PGA Professional will pair you with a group. Register your team by calling the FJGC golf shop at 803-562-4437.

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Retiree Health and Benefits Expo at the Solomon Center, 6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. This year's **Keynote Speaker: Director Shelia A. Jackson,** Veteran's Affairs Regional Office, comes to us from the Columbia offices to provide updates and a Q&A session at 10:00 a.m. Moncrief Army Health Clinic (MAHC) will provide health screenings and counseling booths. Agencies represented include: DENTAC, TRICARE, AER, AWC, GEHA, Dept of Veteran's Affairs Region Offices and Health Services, AAFES, Veteran's Fashion, AAFMAA, Humana and a host of others.

9:00a.m.-12:00p.m. ID Card Services and MyPay pin resets in building 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd, Strom Thurmond Bldg.

AAFES in Store Sales at the Main PX starting at 9:30 a.m.

Commissary in Store Sales starting at 9:30 a.m.

Victory Bingo at the Fort Jackson Victory Bingo games begin 11:00 a.m.



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Fort Jackson Casualty Assistance Center (CAC)

Is in the Strom Thurmond building, Room 206, located at 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd., Columbia, SC 29207. The CAC provides high quality, quick and responsive, professional service to the next-of-kin and family members of critically injured or deceased Active Duty Army Soldiers, Retirees and Veterans within our geographical area of responsibility.

The CAC supports the following SC counties: Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, and York Counties.

All requests for Military Funeral Honors must be received from the requester (Funeral Director or family member) handling the service. To initiate this process, the requester must provide the DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or an official honorable discharge certificate of the deceased to the CAC to request that Honors be rendered. The requester will contact the CAC by phone/fax/email; preferred method of receiving documentation is by email. All funeral requests should be received 72 hours prior to the Military Funeral Honors being rendered.

Fort Jackson CAC hours of operations are Monday – Friday, 0730 -1700 (Eastern Standard Time). Telephone: 803-751-4519 or 803-751-7980.

RSO NEWS

Now that the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Open Season has ended, here's a few reminders of what to do if experiencing any life changing events. Access the Survivor Benefit Plan at: US Army | Soldier For Life

- a. No SBP Beneficiaries at Retirement. If you had no eligible SBP beneficiaries at retirement, and this marriage or child is your first eligible dependent (spouse and/or child) after retirement, you have one year to request that DFAS change your SBP election to Spouse, Spouse and Child, or Child Only coverage or your SBP election defaults to decline SBP excluding spouse and/or child(ren).
- b. Suspended Spouse SBP. If you remarry after electing SBP Spouse coverage, your new spouse must be married to you for one year or be the parent of a child by your marriage to qualify as an SBP beneficiary. Within one year of your marriage, you can elect to increase the amount of retired pay you covered for your previous spouse, decline to cover your new spouse and any future spouse, or resume your existing SBP coverage. Taking no action will result in your new spouse automatically receiving the existing spouse SBP.
- c. Adding Spouse to Existing Child SBP. If you were not married at retirement, but elected Child SBP, and this is your first marriage following retirement; you can add your spouse to your existing Child SBP coverage if you make the election change within one year of your marriage. If you take no action within one year of your first marriage following retirement, you will close the spouse SBP category.
- d. Child after Retirement.
 1. If you have a child after retirement and you previously elected Child or Spouse and Child SBP coverage, the child will be added to your existing SBP coverage.
 2. If you had no children at retirement, elected Spouse SBP, and this is your first child, you have one year to add the child coverage. If you take no action within one year, that child and any future child is excluded from SBP coverage.
 3. If you had no dependents at retirement and the child is your first dependent, you have one year to change your SBP election to child coverage or your SBP election defaults to decline SBP coverage.
- e. Insurable Interest. If your insurable interest dies, you have 180 days to elect a new insurable interest. The costs will be calculated from the death of the previous insurable interest.

The Fort Jackson ID Card Facility is located at building 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd., room 109, Ft. Jackson, SC 29207

ALL CUSTOMERS AGES 18 AND OVER MUST HAVE TWO FORMS OF UNEXPIRED IDENTIFICATION UPON ARRIVAL. Appointments have priority. This office will be closed on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month for mandatory training from 1230-1700. We are also, close on all Federal Holidays.

To schedule appointments, go to <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco> or Google ID CARDS ONLINE (CLICK ON ALTERNATE SEARCH AND ADD THE STATE IN WHICH YOU ARE TRYING TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH or site 102071). You must schedule one appointment slot for each person receiving an ID card.

ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE ORIGINALS OR TRUE CERTIFIED COPY

Issuance of ID card for family members: All Dependents without a Sponsor present must have a valid DD Form 1172-2 pre-printed by a DEERS station that has been signed by both the Sponsor and a Verifying Official ahead of time. The sponsor can also have the DD form 1172 scanned in the system by an ID card facility, also, the sponsor can complete the DD form 1172 online through MILCONNECT prior to their dependents arrival to the ID card office. The signed DD Form 1172-2 is valid for 90 days.

ADDING A Family Members: Documents needed are a Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, Social Security Card, Valid Primary Form of Identification. If applicable, Divorce Decree, Annulment, or Death Certificate of previous spouses to remove them from the sponsor's profile in RAPIDS. ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE ORIGINALS OR TRUE CERTIFIED COPY.

Male sponsors adding children born out of wedlock will need additional documentation- a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity with notarized signatures or a court order stating paternity, Birth Certificate (must list sponsor), and Social Security Card. Children are entitled to an ID card at the age of 10 years old. However, dual military, a single sponsor, or children of divorce, or deceased sponsor are eligible of an ID card prior to the age of 10.

100% DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN (DAV) ELIGIBILITY DAVs must schedule an appointment prior to visiting the ID card facility.

If you are retired, you are not entitled to a disabled Veteran ID Card (DAV)

Required Documents are:

1. Your award letter from the VA shows your 100 percent total and permanent rating and the start date of your rating. Award letter should also state that there are no further examinations required.
2. You may call VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000 for awards letter (please ensure to print a copy of the letter to bring with you to your appointment).
3. DD Form 214 (copy 2 or 4 ONLY -No other copy will be accepted) stating that the characterization of your discharge is Honorable. An Honorable discharge is required for veteran (who is rated 100 percent disabled) to qualify for DEERS enrollment and for ID card issuance. A General discharge (under honorable conditions) is considered an Honorable discharge. Therefore, veterans who are rated 100 percent disabled with a general discharge under honorable conditions qualify for DEERS enrollment, including their family members, or an ID card issued from RAPIDS.
4. If you are married and you are enrolling your spouse in DEERS, you must have: * Your marriage license (certified true copy) * His/her birth certificate, or passport (cannot be expired) * Spouse driver's license * Social security card. **If you are enrolling children, you must have their birth certificate with at least one parent name on the certificate and social security card. ***If you were married prior to your current spouse and not sure if former spouse is still on your record, please bring a copy of your divorce decree
5. Finally, you will need a valid Primary picture ID and Secondary form of Identification.

(ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE PRINTED AND BOUGHT WITH YOU TO YOUR APPOINTMENT).

College Students

Students aged 21-23 must provide two acceptable forms of identification that has not expired, along with a letter from their college registrar stating they are CURRENTLY enrolled FULL TIME, pursuing an associate degree or higher. Letter from the registrar's office must be on the college letterhead and must state that the student is a Full-Time student, the letter must have the student current enrollment begin date and estimated graduation date listed. Students must be attending an accredited college or university.

Initial Retirement

Retirement issuance of their ID card will be issue on their retirement date, if that date falls on a weekend or a holiday, they will receive their ID card on the next duty day. Retirement orders and DD Form 214 (copy 2 or 4 ONLY -No other copy will be accepted) are required to receive retirement ID.

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OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

Legal Assistance Office Phone: 803-751-4287

Client Services Office Official Page:

<https://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/my-fort/all-services/client-services#qt0:5>

Legal Assistance Mailbox:

usarmy.jackson.army-tng-ctr.mbx.legal-assistance@army.mil

Office Hours: 0900-1115; 1230-1600 MON-WED/1230-1600 THURS/ 0900-1115; 1230-1500 FRI/ *Office closed on federal and training holidays

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) values our Retiree community and their Dependents. As such, the Legal Assistance Office offers basic Power of Attorney and notary services on a walk-in basis during normal operating hours. Although manpower limitations have currently prevented the scheduling of attorney consultations, our office is committed to linking Retirees with community resources. Through partnerships with our Reserve counterparts, Retirees and their Dependents may obtain legal assistance on an ad hoc basis during Battle Assemblies. Additionally, there are several programs offering free or discounted legal information and services.

The SC-VALOR (Veteran and Armed Services Legal Outreach) Program coordinates legal resources for military and Veterans through free clinics across the state, as well as a referral line to connect individuals with lawyers who can provide free or heavily discounted legal assistance. Clinics generally help with simple legal matters, such as the preparation of wills and power of attorney documents.

Telephone: (803)734-VETS Website: <https://www.scag.gov/inside-the-office/executive-division/sc-valor-program/>

Electronic Intake Form: <https://www.scag.gov/inside-the-office/executive-division/sc-valor-program/sc-valor-program-intake-form/>

Lawyers 4 Vets is a pro bono legal clinic managed by the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center in partnership with William Jennings Bryan Dom VA Medical Center. The clinic connects lower-income Veterans with local attorneys who provide one-on-one legal advice or representation for matters such as child support orders/modifications, expungement of SC criminal records and/or pardon applications, simple wills, and healthcare powers of attorney. There is an eligibility requirement for this resource.

Intake Line: 1-877-289-6000

Veterans Legal Clinic through the University of South Carolina School of Law is a year-round clinic that serves the needs of indigent Veterans and their family members. Individuals meeting eligibility requirements may seek assistance with VA disability claims and Military Discharge upgrades. Clinic operation follows the university calendar.

Telephone: (803) 777-3398 Email: lawvet@law.sc.edu

Intake Form: https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/law/academics/experiential_learning/clinics/veterans_legal_clinic/veterans_legal_clinic_intake_form.php

Assistance with the preparation of tax returns is no longer a part of the Legal Assistance program. Tax services will not be offered through military tax centers. Volunteers are available to help with tax preparation through IRS Volunteer Income Tax (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs across the state. Locally, the following locations offer walk-in services:

The Cooperative Ministry (Walk-In) - 3821 West Bellline Boulevard Columbia, SC 29204

Service Dates: 9 JAN - 15 OCT 2024 (Languages - English, Spanish); Hours: 10:00 AM - 2:00PM (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)

<https://www.coopmin.org/vita>

Garners Ferry Technology Center (Walk-In) - 950 Jackson Avenue Columbia, SC 29203

Service Dates: 01 FEB - 11 APR 2024; Hours: 5:00PM - 7:00PM (Tues, Thurs)

Seven Oaks Recreation Center (Walk-In) - 700 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201

Service Dates: 01 FEB - 11 APR 2024; 9:30 AM - 2:00PM (Tues, Thurs)

Sumter Recreation Department (Walk-In) - 155 Haynsworth Street Sumter, SC 29150

Service Dates: 01 FEB - 11 APR 2024; 10:00PM - 2:00PM (Thurs)

Legal Assistance Office (CONTINUED)

The Department of Defense offers free tax software (i.e., MiTax) through Military OneSource. MiTax includes free tax services, easy-to-use tax preparation and e-filing software, along with personalized support from tax consultants. Military tax consultants are available at any time to answer questions via chat or phone. Consultations can be scheduled by calling 800-342-9847 or through the website's chat feature: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/taxes/miltax-military-tax-services/>

FUN FACT: Did you know the Fort Jackson OSJA has a public Facebook page? You do not need to be logged into an account to view the content of this page. Additionally, the page is updated daily with preventive law information, links to upcoming webinars, and free community resources. If you have legal questions or need information on a particular matter, the OSJA Facebook page is a great place to start! Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/FTJacksonOSJA>.

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

Interest Free Loans & Grants for Active Duty and Retired Soldiers and Scholarships for Spouses and Dependent Children. Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a private, nonprofit organization created in 1942 to help active and retired Soldiers and their dependent Family members who experience financial emergencies. AER provides funds to help with immediate financial needs such as rent/mortgage, vehicle payments, utilities, emergency travel, minor home repairs, etc. AER also provides emergency funds to orphans and survivors of Soldiers who died on active duty or after retirement. Members of the Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves who are activated on Title 10 orders for more than 30 days are eligible for assistance. Since 1942, AER has provided over \$2 billion to nearly 4 million Soldiers, including \$1 Billion since 9/11 through zero-interest loans, grants and educational scholarships. In 2023 Fort Jackson provided over \$937K to 502 applicants during their time of need.

AER offers undergraduate scholarships to Spouses and Children of both active and retired Soldiers. During the 2022-2023 school year, AER provided over \$13 million in scholarships to over 3K dependent spouses and children. Fort Jackson had 87 recipients to receive over \$375K in scholarship funds. Spouses can apply for scholarships year-round; however, dependent children must apply during the open season between 1 Jan and 1 April of each year.

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and it's dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own." AER has always served the Army in times of need. Financial emergencies seem to occur at the worst times but AER's ability to provide interest-free loans and grants can greatly reduce the stress of unforeseen problems. To apply for a scholarship or for more information please call (803) 751-5256 (option 3) or visit www.armyemergencyrelief.org.

Air Force Aid Society

AFAS provides emergency assistance to Air Force and Space Force families when unexpected financial emergencies arise with no-interest loans and grants. These financial assistance programs help meet immediate financial emergency needs and help make a positive step toward a lasting financial solution.

Retired, Active Duty and their family members are eligible for assistance. For more information, please call [703.972.2650](tel:703.972.2650).

Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society

NMCRS understands the unique challenges of military life and the impact on their finances. NMCRS is ready to assist you in meeting your needs with an interest-free loan or grant when you find yourself in need of financial assistance. They can help with everyday living expenses such as rent, food or even a car repair. They offer a range of assistance along with financial education to help you navigate your financial future. Retired, Active Duty and their family members are eligible for assistance. For more information, please call [800.654.8364](tel:800.654.8364).

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

CGMA is the official relief society of the US Coast Guard. While CGMA works closely with the Coast Guard, it is an independent nonprofit charitable organization. Established and operated by Coast Guard people for Coast Guard people, CGMA provides a way to extend compassion to one another in times of need. It serves as a vital financial safety net, promoting financial stability and general wellbeing, fostering high morale, and encouraging a sense of loyalty to the Coast Guard. Retired, Active Duty and their family members are eligible for assistance. For more information, please call [703.875.0404](tel:703.875.0404).



FMWR SOCIAL MEDIA *Menu*



The Facebook

While you're listening to your favorite tunes, follow us



The Gram

While you're traveling to your next destination, include us



The YouTube

Check out what we're making viral...kind of



The Interweb

Happenings, events, and stuffs, oh my



Ads and Sponsors

'Ad' yourself to our next event, show or just because



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