

THURSDAY JUNE 1, 2023

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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Do you even lift? Jackson's strongest go toe-to-toe

by **EMILY HILEMAN**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Pulling a truck with sheer strength seems like something only in the movies, but several members of the Fort Jackson community did that and more at the Strongman and Strongwoman competition at Vanguard Gym, May 24.

The Strongman and Strongwoman competition is an event hosted by the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation that is held annually. The event is a Strong B.A.N.D.S. (Balance, Activity, Nutrition, Determination and Strength) as well as a Commander's Cup event.

The Commander's Cup is the highest sports award on Fort Jackson and is based on a points system. Units compete in a variety of team and individual sports and the unit with the highest cumulative point total at the end of the year receives the award.

Competitors exhibited strength in classic weightlifting, tire flipping and yes, they even pulled a truck with only their bodily strength. "It was hard," said Cpl. Kadeem Gadson. "The way they did it was very organized. I'd definitely do it again."

Although they're all vying for the title, individuals also have personal reasons for competing in the strength-driven competition. "I chose to do it because I haven't been in a competition in a little while," said Spc. Stephanie Gonzalez.

Although not stationed at Fort Jackson, Gonzalez, an Army reservist, said she comes to Fort Jackson to work out every day while she's on assignment as a traveling nurse in Columbia. It's one of the many ways she maintains a community and keeps up with her Army roots.

"I usually do Olympic weightlifting," she said. "I felt like it was a good way to get back into the competitive spirit and do some cool morale boosting things with other people."

Only one competitor on the field was a returning champion, retired Sgt. 1st Class Levar "Big Sarge" Curry. Curry won the 2018 Strongman Competition.

"They added some good events" he said. "The tire flip was for distance and fastest time, versus doing the most you can."

Even though he enjoys the spirit of the competition and the community it provides, he's decided to retire from powerlifting to keep up with his grandchildren.

Competitors put their best foot forward, but only three competitors walked away with titles. The men's heavyweight champion was Staff Sgt. Steve Lowry, drill sergeant with Company E, 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment. Men's lightweight champion was 1st Sgt. Denny Horton of Company B, 369th Adjutant General Battalion and the women's strongwoman champion was Staff Sgt. Char-tell Deloney of 120th Adjutant General Battalion.



Photo by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

Spc. Stephanie Gonzalez, a reservist and traveling nurse, pulls a truck as part of the Strongwoman competition, May 24. 'It was a lot of fun,' she said. 'I like the competition to see where I'm at compared to other females.'

ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. Brenda Vargas, a drill sergeant with 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment fires her weapon during the Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition, May 25.



Photo by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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Columbia, Fort Jackson salute fallen troops

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

For some Memorial Day means cook outs, family gatherings and thanking those in uniform for their service. But it is so much more.

It is about the rows of headstones in cemeteries across the country emblazoned with the name of a service member who gave their lives during America's wars. Memorial Day, originally founded to remember those in Union blue uniforms who lost their lives keeping the nation whole, honors those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the United States.

On May 29, the Columbia, South Carolina, community gathered at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery to remember the fallen. Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander, referred to the event as "a national recognition day set aside to honor men and women who gave their lives in defense of our great nation and its values."

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III said in a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, "It is our duty to remember those we have lost. It is our honor to stand with their families. And it is our sacred obligation to remember all that you have given."

According to the Veterans Administration, Memorial Day was declared on May 5, 1868, by Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, head of a group of Union Civil War veterans. An act of Congress in 1971, made the holiday's name and date official. Some believe the date, for the holiday originally called Decoration Day, was chosen due to the flowers in bloom during that time. The idea was to decorate the graves of those Union soldiers killed during the Civil War with flowers.

"As the spring and summer months are in full bloom, we see the flowers of peace and democracy blooming across our land," Kelly said during the ceremony. "However, we can never forget ... or minimize the sacrifice of the few for the benefit of the many. In a literal sense,

WE CAN NEVER FORGET ... OR MINIMIZE THE SACRIFICE OF THE FEW FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MANY ...

- Brig. Gen. Jason Kelly
Fort Jackson commander

neath."

Kelly said the defense of the nation has a human cost.

The admitted numbers guy said "numbers seem to define Memorial Day - 416,000 Americans

flowers of the season are breaking through the soil seeking sunlight. They are the continuous reminder to honor the warriors sleeping be-



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Sgt. Matthew Cruice with the 282nd Army Band plays Taps during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery, May 29. Fort Jackson Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly was the guest speaker at the event that paid tribute to service members who gave their lives defending the nation.



Small flags stand by headstones at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery, May 29. They were placed during the Memorial Day ceremony.

were killed during World War 2; 58,000 in Vietnam; 36,000 in Korea; 4,500 in Iraq;

and 2,400 in Afghanistan. While these numbers are significant, they have their limits in that they obscure the human dimension of war. They shield us from the feeling of loss ..."

He said we must also remember those they left behind.

"In periods of war, every military family lives in perpetual fear of the knock on the door that is accompanied by a chaplain and other service members," Kelly said.

Kelly laid a wreath at the ceremony with Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs. Sgt. Matthew Cruice trumpeter with the 282nd Army Band blew Taps during the ceremony, while the Fort Jackson rifle salute team fired a volley in honor of the fallen.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Personal Property Announcement

U.S. Transportation Command personal property pre-peak season began in February and will last through September. Once service members receive orders for Permanent Change of Station, they are required to access Military Once-Source for customer support resources to arrange household goods shipment. <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-housing/moving/pcs-and-military-moves/>. For more information, contact the Fort Jackson Personal Property Office 751-5137/5138. Soldiers and Families can find personal property programs overview information and TSP ratings on the customer facing dashboard, <https://www.ustranscom.mil/dp3/index.cfm#overview>.

Employment Readiness Seminar

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Army Community Service invites military spouses to an employment readiness seminar. The seminar includes classes on interviewing skills and resume writing. Come meet AAFES and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center representatives, who are looking to hire military spouses. The seminar takes place the last Thursday of every month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at 9810 Lee Road. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 751-5256.

248th Army Birthday Ball Tickets

Tickets for the Association of the U.S. Army's 248th Army and 106th Fort Jackson Birthday Ball, scheduled for June 10, are available through <https://ausafjpcarmybd-ball2023.eventbrite.com>.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Looking for Equal Employment Opportunity information? Can't find the latest EEO newsletter? You can find the information you need at: home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/eeo.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TOMORROW

First Friday Golf

Noon, Fort Jackson Golf Club. Brig. Gen. Jason Kelly, Fort Jackson commander, invites you to join him for First Friday Golf the first Friday of every month. This is a Captain's Choice event and will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Registration starts at 11 a.m. You may enter your own

team or sign up as a single and the club's PGA professionals will pair you with a group. This is a nine-hole tournament and will be followed by the leader's call.

SATURDAY

Powerlifting Clinic

10-11:30 a.m., Vanguard Gym. Want to get stronger? Want to maximize your weightlifting prowess? Come to a Powerlifting Clinic at Vanguard Gym. For more information, call 751-5839.

JUNE 6

Meals in Minutes & Your Budget

1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 9810 Lee Road. DFMWR/ACS Financial Readiness Program, in partnership with the Fort Jackson Armed Forces Wellness Center (AFWC) will host Meals in Minutes. Learn how to save calories while also optimizing your budget. AFWC and ACS provides programs and services to improve and/or maintain readiness of the military community. Registration is required. For more information or to register, please call 751-5256/6749.

JUNE 6-10

Victory Week

Join Fort Jackson as it celebrates its 106th birthday during Victory Week. The weeklong celebration begins June 5 with a post run beginning at 6 a.m., at Darby Field. Post units will vie for the best during sporting events, June 6. The Army Parachute Demonstration Team, The Golden Knights, will jump into the post's organizational day from 10-3:30 p.m., June 7 at Darby Field. Fort Jackson inducts new members into the Hall of Fame, June 8. On June 9, Brig. Gen. Jason Kelly, Fort Jackson commanding general, hosts a Victory Week Golf Tournament. The week ends with the Association of the U.S. Army's 248th Army Birthday Ball, held at the NCO Club, June 10.

JUNE 7, 14

Pre-driver's Life Skills Class

5-7 p.m., Auto Crafts Center. Prepare first-time driver's to properly care for a vehicle. Basic automotive skills will be covered in this two-part course. Limited space available, ages 14 and older, \$30 per class, class includes oil change on students' family vehicle. For more information or to register, call 751-5755/7061.

JUNE 7

Intramural Softball League

6 p.m., Hilton Sports Complex. This is

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**SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO**
usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

Deadline for events to be included in the Community Updates is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible.

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names. Questions?

a Commander's Cup event and is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders. For more information call 751-3906/5839.

JUNE 9

Spouse Federal Resume Workshop

9:30-11:30 a.m., Army Community Service Building, 9810 Lee Road. Are you seeking federal employment? Come learn everything you need to know about: transitioning from private industry to the federal government; writing a correct federal resume; creating effective Knowledge Skills and Abilities; answering Self-Assessment Questionnaires; formatting your resume to be noticed by reviewers; interviewing; and tracking the progress of your application. Topics covered are: USAJobs account, position



Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

FRIDAY

■ Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (NR) 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

■ The Flash (PG-13) 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

■ Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (NR) 2 p.m.

- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

classification standards and functional guides; breaking down the vacancy announcement; adjusting your experience to the vacancy; self assessment questionnaire; and military spouse preference. Call 751-5256 to reserve a seat.

Money & Mindsets Webinar

1:30 – 2:30 p.m., DFMWR/Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program in partnership with the Ready & Resilient Performance Center will host a

Sliding into summer break



Photo by EMILY HILEMAN

Fifth and sixth graders at C.C. Pinckney sport their shades and play drums along to the song 'Sunshine' during their Spring Music Concert, May 25.



Photo by EMILY HILEMAN

Fifth and sixth graders at C.C. Pinckney play the ukelele to a song during their Spring Music Concert, May 25.

Story, Photos by EMILY HILEMAN
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School students hosted their Spring Music Concert; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Day; and Field Days for the two weeks leading up to summer vacation. The school year ends June 7 and leaves students out of school to enjoy the summer for two full months until school resumes on Aug. 7.

Although summer break is a time of excitement and a much-needed break for many, it can also lead to something many educators have dubbed “summer slide.”

“Having multiple months of not going to school can be detrimental to children,” said Katherine Livingston, library director for the Fort Jackson Library.

Students who fail to read and socialize tend to lose some of the academic, fine arts, physical, and social achievements they’ve gained during the previous school year.

To combat summer slide and keep children engaged throughout the summer, the Fort Jackson Library and Child and Youth Services host a variety of events to keep young minds growing and engaged.

The Summer Reading Program has weekly events that will keep the entire family engaged. “This is a community space,” Livingston said. “We’re not just a warehouse of books. We want it to be a space that’s used and utilized.”

The program is open to the Fort Jackson community, including civilians and retirees and begins the first full week of June. The first week is loaded with fun events such as matinee movies, Lego club, game club and their karaoke and cupcake kickoff.

“We’re excited to kick off the Lego Club every Tuesday and the game club every other Saturday,” said Kimberly McDowell-Will, the children’s librarian. “There’s going to be Dungeons and Dragons for ages 10 and up as well as featured board games each week for all ages.”

These are just a few of the fun and exciting things happening at the library this summer. For more information, contact the library Monday – Saturday from 11

a.m. to 7 p.m. at 751-5589 or visit them at 4679 Lee Road.

Child & Youth Services also has an action-packed events list and summer camp. These events are for those who are sixth through twelfth grade and are currently registered with CYS.

Summer camp activities range from Outdoor Adventure Camp, with activities that include archery, hiking and rock climbing, to The Art of the Hustle Camp, which is a week-long camp devoted to learning entrepreneurial skills through a variety of projects.

CYS also offers field trips to local adventure and amusement parks, as well as open recreation time, bingo, card tournaments and scavenger hunts for those who prefer to stay indoors.

While CYS is free for attendees Monday – Friday, 1 – 7 p.m, some field trips and activities do have an associated cost and children must be registered with CYS. Students also must be in sixth grade, not upcoming sixth graders, to participate. For more information or to register, contact CYS at 751-6387.



Courtesy Photo

Third graders created roller coasters to discover the principles of motion and matter during S.T.E.M. Day, May 26.

Top drills on Jackson named

Story by **EMILY HILEMAN**

Photos by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fifteen drill sergeants across Fort Jackson's spent last week in a battle of knowledge, teaching and leadership as they competed for the title of Drill Sergeant of the Year. Three drill sergeants were given the illusive title, each in their own category. DSOYs were named Drill Sergeant Academy's Drill Sergeant of the Year, the Reserve Component Drill Sergeant of the Year and Fort Jackson's Drill Sergeant of the Year.

The competition isn't just a few questions, a board and physical obstacles. It is known as one of the most physically demanding and mentally draining challenges any Soldier can face in the Army. Winners of this competition must be knowledgeable, physically fit leaders capable of training battle-ready Soldiers in high-stress environments.

"Every year, we gather drill sergeants from across Fort Jackson as well as the Drill Sergeant Academy,"

said Staff Sgt. Devante McLean, the 2022 U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy's Drill Sergeant of the Year. These drill sergeants compete in mental and physical exercises to see which drill sergeant is the best of the best.

The competition's roots go back to 1969 when Sgt. 1st Class Allen G. Carpenter was selected as the first Drill Sergeant of the Army and he received the Stephen Ailes Award, an award presented annually to the most outstanding drill sergeants in the Army. Carpenter, a Vietnam veteran with more than 23 years of service, set the standards high for all drill sergeants, but especially those wishing to be named the DSOY.

Drill sergeants start small and compete within their own footprint before moving up to the installation level. Following that competition, the winners go on to compete in the Army's competition. The final competition awards both an active duty and a reserve component drill sergeant with the title and belt.

The work of the DSOYs does not end at the competition, though. Once crowned (or belted) as victors, the

two drill sergeants will work for the Center for Initial Military Training at Fort Eustis, Va. "You are the face of the drill sergeants," McLean said. "You are also the voice of the drill sergeants. You are the one who is going out and checking on them."

Not only were they pushed physically and mentally, but their leadership acumen and character were also tested throughout the event. "They're going to be tired for days in a competition and they still have to perform at that high level and execute at a higher standard," McLean said.

Through the mental and physical exhaustion, three drill sergeants reigned victorious above their competition and were given the title of Drill Sergeant of the Year. Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Turnipseed was named the Drill Sergeant Academy's Reserve Component DSOY, Staff Sgt. Devin Sorensen was named the Drill Sergeant Academy's active duty DSOY and Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl was named Fort Jackson's DSOY.

After being offered the chance to teach at the Drill Sergeant Academy and working with some of the best

people he's met, Sorensen decided it was time to compete. "I wanted to do something a little more difficult," he said. "I wanted to see where I stand with everybody and I think I got that out of the competition."

Buhl was at a significant disadvantage during the competition as she was the smallest in stature and was suffering from an injury during the competition. However, she was still able to show everyone what she's capable of and she hopes to use her position to help others. "I'm hoping to be able to go around to each battalion and see what they want changed about Fort Jackson," she said. "I can't be the voice of the people without knowing what they want."

As for the Reserve Component DSOY, Turnipseed said he wants to lead by example. "I don't just want to talk the talk, but also walk the walk," he said. "I've got a lot of work to do."

Turnipseed and Buhl will continue to study, train and grow to compete in the Army's Active Duty and Reserve Component Drill Sergeant of the Year competitions later this year.



Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Turnipseed, reserve component drill sergeant of the year for the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy gives a class during round robin testing. The testing was part of the Fort Jackson and USADSA Drill Sergeant of the Year competition.



Staff Sgt. Devin Sorensen, active component drill sergeant of the year for the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy lays fire down range during the Fort Jackson and USADSA Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition held May 22-26.



Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson Drill Sergeant of the Year, aims her weapon downrange during competition for the right to be called the best drill sergeant on Fort Jackson.

WHY I SERVE

2ND BATTALION 13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

PFC. TRENT KRUCKENBERG, 19

Wenatchee, Washington

"I have Family that served in the Marines and Army and I wanted to follow in their footsteps."

"I imagined (Basic Combat Training) would be very similar to how it was. It was surprisingly a lot more of a mental challenge and tested my commitment more than it did physically."

"The most challenging part of BCT was being away from friends and Family for longer than I ever have before. It got better once I learned to rely on those going through BCT alongside me."

"My MOS is 89D - Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialist. I chose this MOS because I wanted to serve in a way that is very active and hands on, but still very technical."



PVT. GUNNER FOX, 20

Meridian, Idaho

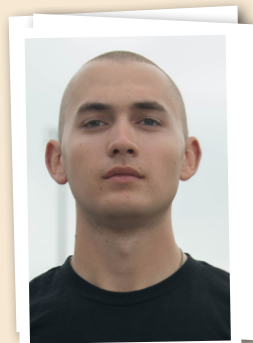
"My father, who served 27 years before me, influenced me to join the Army."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be physically and mentally draining, disciplined and the hardest adventure yet."

"The most challenging part of BCT was the inability to stay in contact with loved ones."

"Advice I would give someone planning to start BCT is study, keep your head up and never quit."

"My MOS is 15W - Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator. Flying drones has been something I've wanted to do since middle school."



SPC. RYAN MOCCIA, 36

Staten Island, New York

What influenced me to join the Army is "I spent 12 years as a line corpsman (medic) attached to the Marine Corps infantry and I wanted to continue and expand my operational reach."

"I thought Basic Combat Training would be a pretty straight forward basic introduction to what the Army expects of you."

"The most challenging part of BCT was finding the line between prior service and trainee to help the younger ones grow, while still helping/leading them."

"Advice I would give someone planning to start BCT is "Do what you're told. No more, no less. If you choose to do more, move forward with confidence."

"My MOS is 11B - Infantryman. Serving as a corpsman with the Marine infantry, it felt like a logical progression to improve upon."



PVT. MICHAEL KURTZ, 35

Whiting, Kansas

"I always wanted to serve my country. I also wanted to build a second retirement and set a good example for my children."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be more physically challenging, not that it wasn't at times. I also thought there would be more weapons training on other weapons."

"The most challenging part of BCT was being an older person, surrounded by kids that have no discipline or bearing. It's mentally taxing when everyone else constantly does the wrong thing and gets everyone in trouble."

"My MOS is 91M - Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer. I chose this MOS due to my extensive mechanical background. I also enjoy fixing things and solving problems, so I thought that's where I would be the most beneficial to the Army."



PVT. KRISTEN MCCRARY, 21

Atlanta

"Life influenced me to join the Army. The way my life was heading prior to joining wasn't something I could take pride in. I joined for a chance at a potentially better life."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be how it was, but with more yelling from drill sergeants, less drama from trainees and worse food."

"The most challenging thing about BCT was living and being around other trainees. You have to remember everyone comes from different places."

"The advice I would give someone planning to start BCT would be to work hard no matter how you feel that day. When you want to quit, work harder. Remember right place, right time and right uniform."

"My MOS is 91B - Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. I chose my MOS because it's a career path I started in high school, but couldn't finish."



PVT. DIVINE FRANCIS, 19

West Palm Beach, Florida

"I've always wanted to be a part of the Army, even though I was born and raised in Nigeria. I've always dreamed of being part of a big team."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be competitive. People join the Army from different parts of the world. I try my best to be among the best and disciplined too."

"The most challenging part of BCT was most of the field exercises. Most of us live up to the Army's values even when some battle buddies don't, which puts the entire platoon or company in smoke sessions."

"My MOS is 13B - Canon Crewmember. I chose this MOS because it was very specific among the ones on my list. I don't know much about it, but I know I'll do great."





Courtesy photo

Up and over ...

A trainee goes over an obstacle at the Fit to Win Course. The obstacle course is one part of training aimed at transforming a civilian into a Soldier during the Red Phase of Basic Combat Training.

SALUTING THIS BCT CYCLE'S HONOREES 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Trent Kruckenberg

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Gunner Fox

BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Ryan Moccia

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Nasir Perkins

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Michael Kurtz

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Kristen McCrary

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Samuel Foster III

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Divine Francis



**STAFF SGT. BRANDON
BOISSONNAULT**
DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE

Commentary: Changing the course of BCT pickup operations

By **CAPT. JAMES HAGAN**
2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

We must standardize pick up operations across the Army.

How trainees are received on day zero of Basic Combat Training is arguably the most important non-program of instruction event of the training cycle.

Pick-up sets the tone for their next 10 weeks. The disciplined pick-up must establish drill sergeants as trusted knowledgeable leaders who will teach, train, mentor, and demonstrate every task required of the trainees. However, with no standard provided, experiences may vary, as this event is performed drastically different from unit to unit.

Nothing in the Army happens without a leader first showing a subordinate how to accomplish the task. This is the very foundation of leadership. You must lead from the front during execution, building trust through the display of aptitude, knowledge, and expertise of the noncommissioned officer or drill sergeant. The Army needs leaders building a cohesive team through their leadership. Eliminating the impossible tasks and replacing it with a structured "possible task" builds a foundation of trust and enables drill sergeants to portray themselves as the professionals they truly are.

What is a disciplined pick up? It is a structured, rehearsed, and well thought out introduction to the Army where trainees are welcomed by the leaders who they will follow for the next 10 weeks. The problem with transitioning to a standardized pick up is twofold: no two units execute the same, and traditions run deep where enlisted service members want trainees to have the same shared experience they endured.

BCT posts are beginning to change the process of pick-up operations.

Fort Moore developed the "First 100 Yards" where trainees are given blocks of instruction, shown how to execute, and then required to execute as a team. This serves to build trust. A class on Army history is included in their introduction to instill pride and reinforce why the trainees are there in the first place. Furthermore, it references the powerful meaning of the last 100 yards, which translates to how the NCO teaches, trains, mentors, and is ultimately the catalyst which ensures the mission is accomplished in both garrison and on deployments.

Second Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, has developed its own take on the "First 100 Yards" and calls it "The Fit to Win Pick-Up." The product of Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Darenbourg, a former first sergeant with Company E, 2-60th hits all the objectives.

The first thing trainees hear when exiting the bus is a drill sergeant saying, "follow me." That immediately begins building trust and demonstrates that a drill sergeant will be executing the task with them, in front, and as a leader. Trainees are then separated into the platoons where they remain until graduation. They stand in a formation of four platoons, with their senior drill sergeant at the front. Once the trainees have received introductions from the senior drill sergeants and command team, they receive a brief on "people first, winning matters and This is My Squad." These two briefs are paramount, as history is an important and influential tool.

Trainees are given unit and the Fort Jackson Fit to Win history. They also hear of the sacrifices Capt. Barry McCaffrey made for his teammates during the Vietnam War and are given an opportunity to recreate that small piece of that history. The recreation tests their ability to work as a cohesive team while under duress, while enabling the drill sergeants to

identify those trainees demonstrating leadership abilities as well as personnel who may display some counterproductive leadership traits.

Once trainees have received all briefs as a company, they are then given the task, conditions, and standard just like any other event they will conduct in the Army.

The course is specifically utilized to have four operational lanes (one for each platoon). Upon completion of the briefs, an artillery simulator "booms." The next thing the trainees hear is a drill sergeant saying, "follow me," at which simulated gunfire sounds. During this movement trainees work as a team to conduct a resupply and move a casualty through obstacles, requiring teamwork as each lane has at least one piece of equipment per trainee, and the casualty they encounter is a four-person lift. Once they complete the obstacle course, they utilize the equipment they carried to construct a fighting position which mirrors a display the drill sergeants constructed – all under constant simulated artillery and rifle fire. These tasks and stressors help simulate McCaffrey's heroic action in Vietnam where he took charge, treated casualties, and coordinated a defensive position to fend off an overwhelming force.

We must ensure the foundations for team building and trust are established upon arrival. The easiest way to ensure this happens across the force is to implement a disciplined pick-up training support package and enforce it.

We owe this to the Army of 2030 as trainees coming through Fort Jackson today are the junior NCOs of 2030. Setting a pick-up standard will ensure all trainees across the Army receive a shared experience and give America's sons and daughters the best possible chance for success in their Army careers.

Events

Continued from Page 4

“Money & Mindsets” webinar on Microsoft Teams. This webinar will dive into an individual’s mindset regarding managing money, effective self-talk, and goal setting. This is a great opportunity to learn about self-motivation, setting and achieving goals that will help you improve the management of your personal finances and achieving financial goals. Registration is required. For more information, or to register, call 751-5256.

JUNE 10
Offshore Fishing Trip

5 a.m., Marion Street Station. Outdoor Recreation’s popular fishing trip is scheduled. Space is limited so register early by calling 751-3484. Travel to Hilton Head, South Carolina with your Outdoor Recreation team and fish three to five miles offshore for black sea bass, mackerel, black drum, red fish, bluefish and maybe even a shark. Climb on board the 70-foot fishing boat for a five-hour fishing trip. This boat offers shaded and seated fishing areas, restrooms, and even has snacks and drinks for sale on board. Outdoor Recreation will provide the transportation and coolers for you to transport your catch back home. Registration required at Marion Street Station.

JUNE 15
Garrison Change of Command

8:30 a.m., Victory Field. Col. Ryan Hanson will relinquish command of the Fort Jackson garrison to Col. Timothy R. Hickman in a ceremony on Victory Field.

JUNE 17
Army Birthday Relay Race

7 a.m., U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy. Celebrate the Army’s Birthday with a traditional relay race with teams of four. This is a Commander’s Cup event. For more information, call 751-5869/3096.

JUNE 20
Meals in Minutes & Your Budget

9-10 a.m. DFMWR/ACS Financial Readiness Program, in partnership with the Fort Jackson Armed Forces Wellness Center will host Meals in Minutes webinar on Microsoft Teams. Learn how to save calories while also optimizing your budget. AFWC and ACS provides programs and services to improve and/or maintain readiness of the military community. Registration is required. For more information or to register, please call 751-5256/6749.

JUNE 24
1,000 lbs. Club competition

8 a.m., Vanguard Gym. Test your strength levels. If you love to lift, why not compete in the sport of weightlifting in the 1,000 lbs. Club competition?



Photo by EMILY HILEMAN

This is how we do it ...

Brig. Gen. A.D. Griffiths, Director of Recruiting for the British Army Recruitment and Initial Training Command, listens intently as 1st. Sgt. Tatiana Mason and Lt. Col. Daniel Hayes, battalion commander of 1st Battalion 61st Infantry Regiment, respectively, explain various aspects of the future Soldier Preparatory Course during the British general officers visit to Fort Jackson, May 26.

Did you know: Hurricane season starts today. The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. Start preparing for a hurricane now because you can never be too ready. To learn how to prepare visit: www.ready.gov.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	MON-FRI	NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M.	DANIEL CIRCLE CHAPEL
GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
THE BRIDGE (PROTESTANT)	SUNDAY	8:30-9:30 A.M.	ANDERSON CHAPEL
CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	MAGRUDER CHAPEL
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	MAGRUDER CHAPEL
ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	DANIEL CIRCLE CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:15-11:30 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. - NOON	ANDERSON CHAPEL

Soldier recognized for saving \$ millions

By SGT. EGYPT JOHNSON
USARCENT Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class John Kim, a budget manager assigned to U.S. Army Central, was recognized by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller) for his cost savings initiative.

Kim received the Cost Savings, Analysis, and Evaluation Initiative Award Level Above Army Command at the American Society of Military Comptroller's Professional Development Institute Conference in St. Louis, Missouri during Service Day, May 31.

Kim developed a streamlined system of record keeping. The system synchronized the tracking of partner nation reimbursements due under the Acquisition Cross Servicing Agreements, or ACSA, program which recouped over 22 million U.S. dollars for fiscal year 2023.

"My job is important to U.S. Army Central's mission because it allows us to share costs with our partner nations for operations in theater," said Kim. Army Central executes 80% of ACSA transactions with partner countries and represents over 50% of the Department of Defense's ACSA transactions.

"Sgt. 1st Class Kim's work in the field of ACSA has dynamically changed the way Army Central manages its account reconciliation and set the standard for the entire DOD ACSA program," said Brig. Gen. Rebecca McElwain, assistant chief of staff, USARCENT G8.

As a day-to-day task, Kim is responsible for the financial auditing of ACSA transactions. Kim verifies and inputs billing and collection information for ACSA orders in the General Fund Enterprise Business System for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, or DFAS, to invoice coalition partners.

"The ACSA program is a way for the U.S. military to transfer funds to and from our partner nations. Which could be anything from billeting, fuel, meals and transportation," said Kim.

Kim arrived at Army Central's G8 comptroller directorate, on Sept. 10, 2020, with over 15 years of experience in finance working for the Army. After a few months of working in his section, he realized during an audit that pieces of information were missing.

"There were a lot of blind spots. There was no way for us to look at the program as a whole," Kim said, "I talked it over with my supervisor and I was given free rein to try to do what I can to fix it."

To rectify the deficiency, Kim combined several programs of record into a daily automated ACSA reconciliation spreadsheet which took him over 6 months to develop.

"It was just incredible," said Capt. Moussa Sylla, Army Central G8, ACSA budget officer, "I saw every spreadsheet and every pivot table that came into the creation of that innovation chart." The spreadsheet summarized the count and dollar value of all current and outstanding orders by category.

"Sgt. 1st Class Kim's reconciliation tool allowed USARCENT and Army leadership to identify the status of over 180 million dollars' worth of open ACSA orders," said Lt. Col. Martin Crouse, Army Central G8 directorate, host nation



Photo by SGT. EGYPT JOHNSON

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assistance branch chief. The full view of the ACSA program allowed Kim and the G8 directorate to correct past mistakes and prevent future mistakes.

"As compared to fiscal year 2021, this tool enabled USARCENT to reduce and close out current and past fiscal year 2022 ACSA orders, annually reported to Congress, by over 70 million dollars," Crouse said. The experience allowed Kim to use his skillset in data analytics. Kim's efforts resulted in a 38 percent reduction in overdue ACSA orders.

"I learned a lot from him regarding the analytical skills needed to manage the ACSA program," said Sylla. Kim's initiative laid the foundation to help the G8 directorate become more efficient and effective. Due to better visibility of the ACSA program, the G8 directorate is now less reliant on DFAS to provide collection status.

"It is important to take ownership of your job," said Kim. "Taking ownership allowed me to see what was working and what was not so that I could make the changes to improve our processes and reduce mistakes." Kim was able to identify problem sets from a different perspective which helped him to creatively formulate a solution.



Photo by SGT. AMBER COBENA

Sgt. 1st Class John Kim, left, U.S. Army Central budget manager, receives a challenge coin from Lt. Gen. Patrick Frank, USARCENT commanding general, at Patton Hall, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., May 5.

VICTORY...
STARTS
HERE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE