

THURSDAY JUNE 22, 2023

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY"

NEW GARRISON COMMANDER

HICKMAN HAS MULTIPLE TIES TO POST



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Becoming an American; the Army way



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

One of 25 newly minted Soldiers raises her hand to take the oath of citizenship prior to the graduation ceremony for the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, June 15.

ON THE COVER

Col. Timothy R. Hickman, garrison commander, receives the organizational colors during a change of command ceremony on Victory Field, June 15.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

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By EMILY HILEMAN
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Twenty-five Soldiers saw their dreams come true in more ways than one as they became naturalized American citizens during a naturalization ceremony prior to 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment's Graduation on Fort Jackson, June 14.

For many of us, being an American citizen is all we know, but for others, it's a distant dream and an uphill battle. The newly-minted Soldiers decided to take advantage of the Expedited Naturalization Executive Order signed into law by former President George W. Bush on July 3, 2002.

This executive order allows an exception to the usual requirements for naturalization during times of armed conflict with a hostile foreign force. Naturalization is the term for the legal process by which a non-American may apply for and acquire American citizenship.

"They can apply for citizenship a couple of ways," said Dr. Ken Zimmerman, Fort Jackson supervisory security specialist said. "They can go online and create an account and fill out their Form N-400 or they can start the paper copy of Form N-400 and complete it here in training."

Form N-400 is the 20-page Application for Naturalization and while there's no shortcut for the form, the process can be expedited during Basic Combat Training.

A few days after trainees arrive to Fort Jackson, all legal immigrants receive a naturalization brief from their Battalion

legal team.

"While they're in basic training, they fill out the Form N-400 and their chain of command sends it to their battalion legal," Zimmerman said. "The legal assistants ensure the packets are complete. The packets are then mailed off to the U.S. Citizenship & Immigrations Services mailbox with a spreadsheet containing the applicants' information, so the field office can begin working on them." It is very much a team effort.

Trainees then work with their battalion points of contact and USCIS to complete the process. Although it is expedited, applicants must be fingerprinted, interviewed, and take the Naturalization exam, which is a series of questions that span topics such as principles of American democracy, the American system of government, rights and responsibilities, history, geography, and holidays.

"If the applicant has everything filled out, their biometrics are good ... they'll do an interview and then they'll be given their exam all by a USCIS Officer," Zimmerman explained. "Once they complete the interview and pass the test, they receive a date when they'll take the Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. and become an American citizen."

For those that are unable to complete the process in 10 weeks, there's still hope. "There's a high percentage that their paperwork doesn't come back within 10 weeks," Zimmerman said. "Once they get to their (Advanced Individual Training), they can go online and update their address change,

See **AMERICAN:** Page 11

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"We Make American Soldiers"

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Fort Jackson community honors life of fallen Soldier

by **EMILY HILEMAN**

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Soldiers and drill sergeants from the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy and Fort Jackson gathered at Fort Jackson's Main Post Chapel, June 20 to pay their last respects to Sgt. 1st Class Jaime E. Contreras, Jr.

Contreras was a drill sergeant candidate in his eighth week of the 10-week course at the Drill Sergeant Academy. Contreras was participating in the land navigation course when he did not return to the origin point at the appointed time, June 12. He was later found unresponsive and pronounced deceased at the scene.

Contreras was passionate about cooking, earning his diploma in Culinary Arts from Scottsdale Community College. He worked at restaurants in Phoenix and Sedona, Arizona, prior to taking a position with an award-winning restaurant in Las Vegas.

In 2011, while working in Las Vegas, Contreras decided to combine his love of cooking with his dedication to others and enlistment in the Army as a Culinary Specialist.

"The first thing he said was, 'Drill sergeant, I joined the Army in 2014 and prior to joining the Army in 2014, I was in Las Vegas living my best life as a cook. I love to cook,'" recalled Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Turnipseed, Contreras's squad leader and friend.

Turnipseed, a drill sergeant leader at the Academy, said the first thing he noticed about Contreras was his smile.

"He was uncomfortably optimistic in the face of adversity," he said. "... I believe that adversity builds character and I never saw him in a bad mood."

"He put others before himself," said chaplain (Capt.) Channing Blake. "One of the ways he did this was through food ... I had a chance to talk to Sgt. 1st Class Contreras Jr.'s mother, who told me of a very fond memory of her son." In the story, Contreras was making a lot of noise just to make a simple sandwich.

After asking what he was doing, Contreras said, "I can't have mayonnaise out of a jar. I have to make it myself."



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Sgt. 1st Class Jaime Eduardo Contreras, Jr. was a drill sergeant candidate in his eighth week of the 10-week course at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy. 'He was uncomfortably optimistic in the face of adversity,' said Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Turnipseed, Contreras's squad leader and friend.

"As if only the uncivilized would dare to eat mayonnaise out of a jar," Blake said. "Sergeant 1st Class Contreras knew how to make people laugh, which is a gift that we will continue to carry with us long after we leave here today."

Contreras's first assignment was with 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York, where he served as a food operations specialist. During his time at Fort Drum, Contreras deployed to Afghanistan from 2012 – 2014.

Following his deployment, he moved to Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg), North Carolina, and served as a food operations

noncommissioned officer and culinary noncommissioned officer with 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Contreras deployed to Afghanistan for a second time in 2019 and upon his return he was assigned to 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and served as the advanced culinary noncommissioned officer until he was sent to Fort Jackson to become a drill sergeant in 2023.

"He was the kind of man that loved his children and family," said Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Jackson, Drill Sergeant Academy commandant. "Everything he did in life was about taking care of

his people. I'm proud to have served alongside one of the most resilient, adaptable and ready drill sergeants in the U.S. Army."

Contreras' awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with a c-device, Armed Forces Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral two, NATO Medal with one Bronze Star, Parachutist Badge and Marksmanship Badge for carbine.

"He had so much pride in wearing his maroon beret," Turnipseed said. The maroon beret has been the international symbol of airborne forces since World War II. "He had so much pride in wearing his airborne wings."

Contreras impacted countless lives with his laughter, leadership and cooking.

**EVERYTHING HE DID
IN LIFE WAS ABOUT
TAKING CARE OF
HIS PEOPLE...**

- Command Sgt.
Maj. Rickey Jackson,
Drill Sergeant Academy
commandant

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 OneSource 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.

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.

Yoga Classes

Yoga classes are offered to Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and Family Members at the Drill Sergeant Timothy Kay Soldier Performance Readiness Center 7:30 a.m. Tuesdays; 6 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays; and 11:45 a.m. Thursdays.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

Leader Development Webinar

11 a.m. to noon. Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Hendrex, Training and Doctrine Command senior enlisted advisor, is hosting a live leader professional development dis-

cussing military service in 2023. Guests include recruiters, drill sergeants, and others sharing their personal experiences and discussing the importance of service to the nation. The webinar can be viewed at <https://www.tradoc.army.mil/watch> or at <https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/32232>.

Sharpening Your Focus

9:30-10 a.m. The USAG Civilian Workforce Development Program and the Master Resilience School are partnering to offer the Leader/Workforce Development Training "Sharpening Your Focus when Dealing with the Task at Hand" training class. The training will provide information on how to change the focus away from counterproductive thinking to enable greater concentration and focus on the task at hand. For more information or to register, email usarmy.jackson.id-training.mbx.usag-civilian-wfd@army.mil or call 751-7535/6736.

SATURDAY

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?

JUNE 28

Children's Theater Club

2 p.m. and 3 p.m., Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. Children will laugh, sing, and act through various theater games, and then work together to produce a storybook play, all within an hour. The club for children ages 3-5 begins at 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. for children over 5 years old.

JULY 1

Independence Day Celebration

Hilton Field. Gates open at 4 p.m. Enjoy an exciting variety of food trucks and children's carnival rides, live music, beer tents and of course, fireworks.

JULY 3

Intramural Golf

Letters of intent for intramural golf are due. This is a commander's cup event, two-person teams and open to active-duty Soldiers only. For more information call 751-3906/5839. Play starts at 5 p.m. July 11 at the Golf Club.

JULY 7

Do-It-Yourself Credit Repair Seminar

10-11:30 a.m., Training Support Center (1565 Hall Street), Army Community Ser-

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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?

vice will host a do-it-yourself credit repair class. Tired of paying high interest or being denied credit? Are you planning to purchase a car or home in the future? If so, this class is for you. Learn how to interpret your credit reports, complete disputes with the credit reporting agencies, address collections, etc. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

JULY 7-8

Football ProCamp

Fort Jackson Youth Sports Park, 5984 Chesnut Road. A free NFL ProCamp hosted by kicker Graham Gano will be held at the Youth Sports Park. The camp is open to boys and girls 6-14 years old, who are dependents of active duty, retirees or Department of Defense civilians. The sign in tent opens a noon July 7 and



Fort Jackson Movie Schedule
3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

JUNE 24

■ Spider-man: Across the Spider-verse (PG) 2 p.m.

JUNE 28

■ Super Mario Brothers (PG) 2 p.m.

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

the camp runs from 1-4 p.m. On July 8, the sign begins at 8 a.m. and the camp runs from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is currently open. Contact Darius Lane via email at: darius.lane2.naf@army.mil, at the Youth Center to request your registration form. The camp is open to the first 150 youths who register.

JULY 10

DENTAC change of command

11 a.m., Joe E. Mann Ballroom. Col. George Quiroa relinquishes command of Fort Jackson DENTAC to Col. Susan Cebula in a ceremony, July 10.

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Degree program provides medical field opportunities



Army News Service photo

Graduates of Uniformed Service University's Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program class of 2023 perform the commissioned officer's oath of office. The program offers enlisted Soldiers the opportunity to transition to a medical career field and earn a commission.

By STAFF SGT. DUSTIN BIVEN
Army News Service

The Uniformed Service University's Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program class of 2023 recently graduated and commissioned 25 enlisted service members who completed the first phase of a career in the medical field.

The EMDP2 is a unique program that the Bethesda, Maryland school offers to enlisted service members, giving them the opportunity to transition to a career in the medical field after completing a two-year, full-time education program.

The initiative is designed to provide active-duty service members with the academic and professional skills necessary to gain acceptance into medical school. The program is open to all enlisted service members who have earned at least a high school diploma or equivalent, and who have earned a bachelor's degree. The program is highly competitive with a limited number of slots available each year.

Participants in the program receive a full-time salary, medical and dental benefits and are allowed to continue their mili-

tary service while participating in the program. The program also covers the cost of tuition, books and supplies. Additionally, participants receive academic support and mentoring from experienced medical professionals.

Many service members may have desired to become a doctor but did not have the means or opportunity to pursue that dream. The program provides a path for service members to achieve that goal and make a meaningful impact in the medical field.

"I first heard about the program during a two-week advanced medical refresher course in early 2020," said Army 2nd Lt. Travis Clinton, an EMDP2 graduate. "It was briefed as a way to continue our understanding and education within the medical field. I had never heard of it before then. I had looked it up back at my hotel room and found that I met every prerequisite, so I pursued applying."

Clinton, formerly Sgt. 1st Class Clinton, served as a Special Forces Medical Sergeant with the 7th Special Forces Group at Fort Liberty, North Carolina as the battalion medical station senior noncommissioned officer.

"To apply to medical school, you need certain prerequisites, and it's not just a bachelor's degree," Clinton said. "You are required to have the hard sciences, and with my operational tempo, it was impossible for me to do these courses. I was either deploying or going to school, and I couldn't make the time to do it. This program literally gave me two years of just school as my only job."

The program is designed to provide an academic curriculum that prepares participants for the rigors of medical school. Participants take courses in biology, chemistry, physics, as well as courses in medical ethics, health care policy, and other relevant topics.

Participants also receive hands-on clinical experience, working alongside medical professionals in a variety of settings: physician shadowing, mentoring by physicians and medical students and pre-health advising.

For Army 2nd Lt. GyuRi Lee, also a recent graduate from EMDP2, the chance to participate in the program took more than five years to become a reality. Upon graduation from the program, Clinton and Lee traded their noncommissioned officer stripes for golden second lieutenant bars, commissioning into the Army as junior medical officers.

"I had applied for the program twice before being accepted," said Lee. "The first time I applied, I didn't have enough time left on my contract; you must have at least 36 months left. The second time I was actually placed on an alternate list, so I was close to getting in, but it just didn't happen."

Though Lee was denied admission twice into the program, she never let the rejections

discourage her from continuing to pursue her goal.

"I was actually towards the end of my contract and was about to get out of the military," said Lee. "I applied one last time before getting out and was surprised to find out that I got into the program. If not for this program, I would have had to pursue a different, more difficult route to get to where I am today. But with this program, not only does it alleviate a lot of the financial restraints because they have you stay on active duty during the program, but it also allows me to speak to mentors who have been in my shoes and can offer advice and guidance."

Lee also spoke about the support she received from her mentors while applying and pursuing admission into the program.

"I was in the logistics field before being accepted into the program," Lee said. "I was a driver for some amazing officers who became mentors of mine. Officers like Col. (Nkemakonam) Okpokwasili, Brig. Gen. (Gene) Meredith and retired Gen. (Robert) Abrams all had a common trait; they sincerely cared about looking after and caring for Soldiers. I knew I shared that with them, and they encouraged me to pursue a path that allowed me to do just that: care for Soldiers."

Following the footprints of the officers before her, Lee continues to place Soldiers first and care for them in the best way possible.

The program has offered enlisted service members a two-year structured path toward commissioning as a medical officer since 2014 and is continuing to accept applicants.

"Anyone who wants to go to medical school and begin that journey, know that you can," Lee said. "You do not have to be the smartest or quickest learner, just don't give up. Don't be discouraged if your path takes longer than others; it took me five years and three attempts. The common thread I have seen from those who have succeeded is that they never gave up. So, if you want it, apply and never give up."

The Army provides practical, hands-on training and support that cultivates skills and interests, and sets Soldiers on a path for long-term success in the Army and beyond.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Vincent Grewatz, director of IMCOM Directorate - Training, hands the garrison colors to Col. Timothy R. Hickman, Fort Jackson's garrison commander during a change of command ceremony held at Victory Field, June 15.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Garrison commander's multiple ties to post

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson welcomed a new garrison commander with multiple ties to the post, June 15.

When Col. Timothy Hickman received the garrison colors from Vincent Grewatz, director of the Installation Management Command's Training Directorate, he added another tie to Fort Jackson. Hickman took command of the unit from Col. Ryan Hanson during a ceremony at Victory Field.

Hickman's father went through Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson before getting out and later rejoining the Army as a chaplain. He had two sons one of which who became the newest garrison commander.

"That doesn't happen without hard work of garrisons and Army communities across the globe," Hickman said after illustrating the impact the Army has on the service and Families, in his first speech as garrison commander.

Hickman's father's service at Jackson isn't his only tie to the post. He attended the Adjutant General Corps Captain's Career Course in 2004, and as the chief of the Integrated Personnel & Pay System Fusion Cell at the Soldier Support Institute from 2016-2018.

His ties to Jackson go even further.

He was the AG Proponent Director at the AG School in 2020. He returned to Jackson again in 2022 after spending a year at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania to be the director of the TRADOC Proponent Office for Human Resources at Fort Jackson.

"I love the Fort Jackson community and downtown Columbia," Hickman said. "We have a lot of fun in the community, and we are just super excited to be part of this portion of the Fort Jackson community now."

"The Fort Jackson garrison has magnificently executed its support mission ... which is only possible because we



share a common purpose underpinned by common values," Grewatz said while lauding the garrison's efforts during Hanson's tenure.

I'M CONFIDENT THAT YOU'RE GOING TO LEAD THE ORGANIZATION WITH PRIDE AND DISTINCTION.

- Vincent Grewatz
director,
IMCOM Directorate -
Training

In the past two years, Fort Jackson garrison supported "the Army's Future Soldier Preparatory Course – a major step to address the accessions mission of our Army. They've supported the establishment of the Institute for Religious Leadership and the religious services business operation center. They've opened up the installation from a Morale, Welfare and Recreation standpoint ... They've electrified the vehicle fleet ... and they've continued to set the Army standard for childcare."

The garrison "executes over \$225 billion every year and processed more than 75,000 Soldiers passing through Fort Jackson's gates," Grewatz said.

Grewatz, during the ceremony spoke directly to Hickman and his wife, Cheryl, when he said, "I can't think of a better couple to lead the garrison who have the full confidence and support moving forward."

"I'm confident that you're going to lead the organization with pride and distinction," Grewatz added, "and you'll successfully meet all the new challenges while elevating the garrison to new levels."

(Top left) Cheryl Hickman, wife of Col. Timothy R. Hickman, garrison commander, receives a bouquet of roses welcoming her and her Family to Fort Jackson. (Top right) Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Cesar Duran, salutes Col. Timothy R. Hickman for the first time after the latter took command of Fort Jackson's garrison, June 15. (Bottom left) Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Cesar Duran salutes during the change of command between Col. Timothy R. Hickman and Col. Ryan D. Hanson at Victory Field, June 15. Hickman took command of the Fort Jackson garrison during the event.

WHY I SERVE

3RD BATTALION, 13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

SPC. JACOB GENTRY, 26

Corpus Christi, Texas

"My biggest influence to join the Army is the pursuit of a more fulfilling life. I am continuing my aviation career, so I want to do it with the best of the best."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be full of strenuous activity, yelling and shooting. I've heard so many stories that described it that way."

"I would advise (a future trainee) to do plenty of physical fitness before arriving. I would also advise them to learn to talk only when spoken to and stay quiet at all other times. Lastly, I'd say to follow all instructions to the best of your ability."

"My MOS is 09W - Warrant Officer Candidate. I chose this MOS so I can pursue my dream of flying rotary wing aircraft and to serve a purpose in our country's military."



SGT. BRIAN GHOLKE, 30

Chesterfield, Virginia

"The possibility to further my career and become a better leader influenced me to join the Army. Also, the Army has cooler officer careers than the Air Force."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be an immersion into the Army more than a challenge. This is due to a prior career in the Air Force."

"The most challenging part of BCT was rarely talking to Family."

"The advice I would give to someone planning on going through BCT is to pay attention to the little things and keep the orders received simple."

"My MOS is 09S - Commissioned Officer Candidate. I'll be branching as an Ordnance Officer as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Tech. I chose this because I loved this career field in the Air Force and I wanted the opportunity to care for troops more than I could being enlisted."



SPC. JOSEPH DORIA, 35

Ocean Pines, Maryland

"My children influenced me to join the Army. I wanted to join out of high school, but there wasn't a whole lot of support to join. I wanted to show my children it's never too late to follow your dreams and that anything is possible, but I couldn't have done this without the support from my wife."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be a lot of yelling and a lot of physical fitness. There was in the first 72 hours, but as the weeks went by there was a huge focus on training and developing us into Soldiers."

Advice I would give to a future trainee is, "Volunteer. Step up and be a leader. Whether in your bay or platoon, stand out for the right reasons."

"My MOS is 15T - UH-60 Helicopter Repairer. I've always been fascinated by military helicopters and so have my kids. My goal is to become a pilot. I'd be the coolest dad ever."



SPC. CAITLIN WARD, 28

St. Louis

"My dad was a major influence in me joining the Army. He served our country and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I'm happy to be taking steps forward in following my dream."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be physically and mentally demanding. I expected to be pushed to my limits and forced out of my comfort zone."

"The most challenging part of BCT was the unknown. Not knowing what we were doing and when helped me become more flexible."

"I would advise future Soldiers to arrive at BCT physically and mentally tough, always be respectful, do as your told, be early and be ready to work. It will challenge you in ways you never thought."

"My MOS is 09S - Commissioned Officer Candidate. I chose this because I wanted to use my knowledge and experiences to lead and influence Soldiers to be the best versions of themselves."



SPC. TANNER ATIBURCIO, 25

Mililani, Hawai'i

"I joined the Army to fulfill a personal goal to serve my country and state. I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. I thought the Army would help me achieve my personal goals."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be mentally and physically challenging. I knew I would be tested as a leader and to be able to handle challenges quickly."

"The most challenging part of BCT is dealing with many personalities on a team. People come from all across the world and have different childhoods. Being able to get everyone to come together and be successful was challenging."

"My MOS is 15T - UH-60 Helicopter Repairer. My goal is to be able to fly Black Hawks one day and this MOS will give me a better understanding of the aircraft and its components."



SPC. PABLO TOVAR, 28

Penitas, Texas

"I have family members who served in the Army, but ultimately it was the call to serve our country that led me to join the Army. I refuse to grow old and live with the regret of never serving the United States in our Army."

"I expected Basic Combat Training would be both physically and mentally challenging. I imagined that teamwork would be an integral part of BCT as well as use of critical thinking and problem solving skills."

"The most challenging part was adjusting to last minute changes on the fly. I am grateful for this challenge, because it presented the opportunity to work on adapting and adjusting."

"My MOS is 09S - Commissioned Officer Candidate. I chose to apply for Officer Candidate School because I want to lead Soldiers. I want to be in a position where I can offer guidance, direction and mentorship."



To read more why Soldiers serve visit: home.army.mil/jackson



photo by G. Anthonie Rils

Army Community Service hosts money saving events

By **KIM BOTTEMA**
Personal Financial Specialist

July is recognized as Military Consumer Month, an annual observance to increase awareness of consumer protections and financial readiness for servicemembers, veterans, and military families. Unfortunately, military members are at a higher risk for identity theft, fraud, and scams due to frequent moves and deployments that take us away from constant monitoring of our finances. To combat this ever growing and vicious trend, your Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program team focuses efforts on educating and providing consumer resources to protect military families.

Several consumer and wealth building events are planned throughout the month. Each event focuses on strengthening and/or protecting your financial future. Events include:

July 7, 10-11:30 a.m. – DIY Credit Repair, Training Support Center, (In-Person)

July 11, 9:30-11 a.m. – Thrift Savings Plan (Virtual)

July 18, 1:30-3 p.m. – Investing in the Digital Age (Virtual)

July 21, 10-11 a.m. – Scams and Identity Theft (Virtual)

July 25, 10:30-11:45 a.m. – Coupon Craze (Virtual)

July 28, 8-11 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. – Open House – Credit Report Review (In Person)

Remember, your personal financial counselor is a phone call away. All classes and counseling services are open to active/retired service members and their ID Card Family members and Department of Defense employees.

To schedule an appointment or signup for a class, call 751-5256 (option 3). For additional information on the Financial Readiness Program or any Army Community Service program, follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/fortjacksonacs/> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/fffinancial-read>.

SALUTING THIS BCT CYCLE'S HONOREES

3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Pablo Tovar

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Jacob Gentry

BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Maxwell Jeffrey

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Mason Lorber

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Sgt. Brian Gohlke

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Joseph Doria

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Caitlin Ward

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Tanner Atiburcio

ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Hayes O'Brien

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Khadija Abdi



STAFF SGT. NATHAN CHAVIS
DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE

June 15 Retirees



Photo by 1ST LT. SYDNEY MORRIS

The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson honored the service of Sgt. 1st Class Christopher M. Bowman, from Headquarters, Headquarters Battalion, during the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment graduation, June 15. Bowman retired with 24 years of service.

Events

Continued from Page 4

JULY 11
Thrift Savings Plan Webinar
9:30-11 a.m., Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will conduct a Thrift Savings Plan webinar on Microsoft Teams. Do you want to gain a better understanding about the different funds and how they can impact your plan for retirement? Learn the differences between Roth and Traditional accounts, avoiding penalties, withdrawals, latest changes and more. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

JULY 18
Meals in Minutes & Your Budget
9-10 a.m., Army Community Service 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, call 751-5256.

Investing in the Digital Age Webinar
1:30-3 p.m., Army Community Service in

partnership with the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission will provide valuable information on the basics of saving and investing, including steps to start to grow wealth and diversification. The webinar, via Microsoft Teams, will also cover the red flags of fraud and crypto currency investment and risks. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

JULY 19
Children's Theater Club
2 p.m. and 3 p.m., Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. Children will laugh, sing, and act through various theater games, and then work together to produce a storybook play, all within an hour. The club for children ages 3-5 begins at 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. for children over 5 years old.

JULY 21
Scams & Identity Theft Webinar
10-11 a.m. Army Community Service in partnership with South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, via Microsoft Teams, will share tips to help you protect your identity and finances in support of 2023 National Consumer Protection Week. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover
Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. Drop off your fluffy friend for a fun night at the library. Check the Library Facebook page (Fort Jackson Library) to see the

antics your stuffed animal gets up to after hours, and then pick up your plushie on July 22.

JULY 25
Coupon Craze Virtual Workshop
10:30-11:45 a.m. Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will host a coupon craze virtual workshop via Microsoft Teams. Learn the art of doubling and tripling coupons, stacking coupons, price matching and more. Get tips on how to prepare for grocery store trips. This is a great opportunity to learn new strategies, meet other coupon users, and share your own ideas. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

JULY 28
Open House – Credit Report Review
8-11 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m., Army Community Service, 9810 Lee Road. ACS financial counselors will be available during scheduled times on a first come, first served basis to download and review free credit reports for Army personnel. Active-duty Soldiers and their Department of Defense ID card holding Family members will receive their free credit scores. For more information, call 751-5256.

JULY 29
Natural Body Building Competition
6 p.m., Solomon Center. You've worked hard through proper diet and exercise to sculpt your body. Reap the rewards of

your hard work. Divisions available for competition are Men's Natural Builder, Men's Natural Physique, Women's Natural Builder, Women's Natural Physique, Women's Bikini, Masters' Natural 41-49, and Grand Master Natural 50+. Register by June 15. For more information, call 751-3700.

AUG. 5
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.

AUG. 11, SEPT. 8
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 classification standards and functional guides; breaking down the vacancy announcement adjusting your experience to the vacancy. Registration is required. Call 751-5256 to reserve a seat.

Did you know: You can receive real-time weather alerts from the National Weather Service? Visit www.ready.gov/hurricanes to learn how.

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



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment take the Oath of Citizenship before their unit's graduation ceremony, June 15. The newly-minted Soldiers decided to take advantage of the Expedited Naturalization Executive Order signed into law by former President George W. Bush on July 3, 2002.

American

Continued from Page 2

so the proper USCIS field office can continue with their application. They can also call the Military liaison at USCIS."

Roughly, 11-12% of each training battalion are legal immigrants, Zimmerman said. Not all immediately apply for citizenship, but they're able to apply at any time due to their honorable service in the military.

"I feel so happy because all of my life I wanted to be a US citizen," said Pvt. Joovinx Michel, who is originally from Haiti. "Now I get the opportunity, so it's a great day for me." Michel has spent his entire life dreaming of being an American citizen and serving in the Army.

"I chose to join the U.S. military because I want to serve and I want to have so much opportunity for my life," he said. Michel said his family is also happy for him and many are traveling from Haiti to watch his accomplishments unfold. "I have a lot of people coming. My brother, cousins, uncle and my father are all coming from Haiti to support me on the great day."

Pvt. Ayram Aguilar from Mexico said her stepfather's dedication and service to the military influenced her decision to join.

"He's been a role model for me most of my life," she said. "And I want to be a role model for my two daughters. This is a dream come true."

When Pvt. Soumiyatou Mfonguie from Cameroon gave birth, she couldn't imagine being away from her daughter for more than a day, let alone 10 weeks, she said.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to get through it, but I'm here," she said. "I don't know how, but I'm here and I'm so proud of myself. If you want to do something, nothing can stop you," Mfonguie said to those considering making the same decision she did. "Everything, even the physical part, is in your mind."

Commentary: SC enrollment act boon for Jackson families

By 1ST. SGT. JULIANE BECKER
Headquarters, Headquarters
Battalion

Enrolling military kids into South Carolina schools just got easier with a new act that allows all service members serving on active duty, including National Guard and Reservists on active duty orders, to enroll their children in a school of their choice the moment that they receive their orders.

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster signed the Military Temporary Remote School Enrollment Act at the end of May. While this Act is still pending final approval by the legislative council, it has been approved by the governor, making it effective as of May 16, 2023. The potential

positive affect to the military family is huge. It is customary for schools to request proof of residency to enroll children into a school or a school program. This proof of residency is impossible to obtain for a family that has just completed a Permanent Change of Station move, unless they purchase or rent a home before their arrival to the new duty station. The unfortunate result is school-aged children miss out on valuable school and are delayed in their educational progress.

The Military Temporary Remote School Enrollment Act allows families to enroll their children without the immediate need for proof of residency. Once the family has moved to a South Carolina military installation, proof of residency can include a

temporary on-base billeting facility, a purchased or leased home or apartment, or any other federal government or off-base military housing. This will also include off-base housing that may be provided through a public-private venture. With the way the act reads, that should also include circumstances where there is nonavailability of on-post lodging.

The good news, families will now be able to enroll their children, several months to sometimes even a year out from moving, even for those highly competitive schools and school programs that may otherwise be filled to capacity. Children will be able to continue to attend those magnets schools that they have just left, keeping them on the same educational trajectory that they have

been on. Children serving their country alongside their parents will no longer be penalized or see their educational goals set back due to their parents serving in the military.

Either way that it is looked at, if there is any ambiguity in construing this act, it must always rule in the favor of the student. South Carolina has really stepped it up in taking care of its military service members and all of their family.

This will absolutely make Fort Jackson the destination of choice for all Soldiers getting stationed in the southeast. Soldiers will be able to find comfort in knowing that this act will place their family's needs first, so that they may focus on their mission – to make American Soldiers.

VICTORY... STARTS HERE

