

THURSDAY FEB. 20, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ..."

COMING SOON:

AER CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF FEB. 27



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Army preps for 250th birthday

Army Public Affairs

The Army will celebrate its 250th birthday on June 14, 2025, commemorating the Army's distinguished service to our nation. The central theme for this year's celebration is "This We'll Defend."

"As we prepare for our future, we also reflect on our past," said Gen. Randy George, Chief of Staff of the Army. "This we'll defend" was first used as a battle cry by the Continental Army. Today it reminds us that our Army's purpose is clear: to fight and win the nation's wars.

We remain committed to honing our warfighting skills, enforcing standards and discipline, and living the values that have defined our Army culture for the past 250 years."

As we enter 2025, the Army's 250th birthday will be celebrated with a series of commemorations, including leadership engagements, community outreach events and other events showcasing Army units, history, lineage and esprit de corps.

Established on June 14, 1775, the Army is a year older than the United States itself. Since its establishment Soldiers, families and

civilians have supported our nation, bearing true faith and allegiance to the country, the Constitution, their units and fellow team members as they defend the nation and provide assistance in times of need, including disaster relief and recovery efforts.

For 250 years, the Army has offered endless possibilities and opportunities for service to our nation.

With over 200 career choices for Soldiers and more than 500 career paths for civilians, Army possibilities are endless.

The Army helps create a sense of purpose through personal growth and professional development – empowering Soldiers and civilian employees to be part of something greater than themselves and to

be all they can be.

"For 250 years, Soldiers have proudly served our country and protected its people, with our oath to support and defend the Constitution as our guiding principle," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael R. Weimer. "We continue to stand ready to respond to the needs of the nation, and to fight and win when called upon. This we'll defend!"

To learn more about the Army's 250th birthday, visit: <https://www.army.mil/1775> or <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/ARMY250>



DOD to invite back troops separated for refusing vaccine

By C. TODD LOPEZ
DOD News

Over the course of 500 days, beginning in 2021, nearly 8,000 active duty and reserve service members were involuntarily separated from service for refusing to take the COVID-19 vaccine. Many others left voluntarily to avoid the vaccine mandate.

Now, the Defense Department plans to invite those service members back into uniform at the same rank they held when they separated.

President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 27, 2025, regarding reinstating service members discharged under the department's COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

As part of the executive order, active duty and reserve service members who were discharged solely for refusing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may request reinstatement to their former rank.

The Defense Department rescinded the mandate to take the COVID-19 vaccine on Jan. 10, 2023.

Last week, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth directed the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness to provide guidance to the military departments on how to proceed.

"This guidance will provide procedures to rapidly reinstate individuals who were involuntarily discharged or voluntarily left to avoid vaccination," Hegseth wrote.

That guidance, now in the hands of the military departments, details the efforts the service branches must take.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO INVITE THOSE SERVICE MEMBERS BACK INTO UNIFORM AT THE SAME RANK THEY HELD WHEN THEY SEPARATED.

A large part of that effort involves records reviews: identifying service members who were involuntarily separated or voluntarily separated to avoid vaccination and then communicating with those service members to let them know they are invited back into service.

Service members involuntarily discharged, solely for their refusal to take the vaccine, will be contacted directly by their respective services, according to the guidance.

"The secretaries of the military departments will invite these service members to seek reinstatement by applying to have their records corrected to reflect continued service such that back pay, benefits, bonus payments, or other compensation, subject to required offsets, will be available," the

See **VACCINE:** Page 6

ON THE COVER

Fort Jackson's Army
Emergency Relief
campaign for 2025
kicks off Feb. 27
with an event held at
Century Lanes. AER
helped more than 550
Fort Jackson Families
in 2024.
See Page 3



Graphic by ARMY
EMERGENCY RELIEF

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Leader file photo

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Brie Kotula rolls the first ball down the lanes during the 2024 Army Emergency Relief campaign kick off ceremony. The post kicks off the 2025 campaign Feb. 27 at Century Lanes on post.

Coming soon: AER campaign kicks off Feb. 27

Leader Staff Reports

It's time to grab your bowling balls, shoes and head on over to Century Lanes to bowl for a good cause.

The Fort Jackson Army Emergency Relief campaign kicks off its 2025 campaign at 3 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Century Lanes Bowling Center.

AER is the Army's only private, nonprofit organization that was created in 1942 to help Soldiers, retirees and their Family members who experience financial emergencies.

AER provides funds to help with immediate financial needs such as rent/mortgage, POV payments, utilities, emergency travel, minor home repairs, etc.

According to Fort Jackson's Army Community Services office, the post in 2024 provided more than \$1 million to 550 applicants during their time of need.

AER also provides emergency funds to Soldiers' orphans and widows and offers undergraduate scholarships to spouses and children of both active and retired Soldiers.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Fort Jackson was part of the top 20 installations of applicants who applied and was awarded a scholarship for educational assistance.

The program offers 23 different assistance programs, which are:

- Emergency travel
- Natural disaster preparation and evacuation
- Mortgage, rent and initial deposit
- Temporary lodging
- Food
- Medical co-pays not covered by TRICARE
- Vehicle costs
- Utilities
- Funeral expenses
- Basic essential furniture
- Appliance costs
- Cranial helmets
- PCS travel
- Child car seats
- Dental care for dependents

- Home repair
- Non-medical attendant travel
- Invitational travel order
- Clothing
- Immigration and passport fees for dependents
- Special needs medical equipment
- Spouse relicensing and recertification
- Childcare (Army Fee Assistance enrollment required)

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 as even the best Soldiers and Retirees need help.

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.

For more information please call (803) 751-5256, option 3, or visit <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/>.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death Notice

This notice serves as a death notice advisory for all those in possession of the property of Sgt. 1st Class Joshua A. Featherston, as well as those whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact 1st. Lt. Colin J. Shreves, Summary Courts Martial Officer with questions or concerns at (301) 525-1914 or via email at colin.j.shreves.mil@army.mil.

ArmyIgnitED System Update

The ArmyIgnitED portal will be unavailable from Feb. 16-23. As a result, Soldiers will be unable to submit educational goals, request Tuition Assistance and Credentialing Assistance request from Feb. 16. Soldiers must be proactive and plan to submit TA and CA requests before the scheduled downtime. As a reminder, Soldiers may request Army Tuition Assistance up to 60 days prior to the term start date to allow time to correct any issues or concerns. There are no exceptions or waivers to this rule. For TA for Credentialing Assistance; all requests should be submitted no earlier than 45 days prior and up to 90 days before start dates. All existing CA start dates that occur between Feb. 16 and 23 must be approved and paid by the shutdown date (Feb. 16). There will be no exception to policy granted for CA requests submitted on/after Feb. 24 for any start dates that occur less than 45 days from submission due to the downtime.

Safety Courses

The Installation Safety Office presents

various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to the website <https://imc.army.mil/airs/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your Safety Specialist.

■ **Basic Riders Course:** March 25-27 (six seats open); April 8-10 (six seats open); April 29-May 1 (six seats open)

■ **Advanced Riders Course:** April 22 (six seats open) and April 23 (six seats open)

■ **Local Hazards Course:** Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; and April 7, 14, 21, 28

■ **Intermediate Drivers Course:** March 20 (no seats open)*; and April 17 (12 seats open)

■ **Remedial Drivers Course:** May 13 (12 seats open)

■ **Unit Safety Officer Course:** April 1-2 (23 seats open)

* Those wishing to attend this date should still try to attend as there may be last minute cancelations.

Pharmacy updates

Beginning on May 1, the Moncrief Main Pharmacy and the PX Refill Distribution Center will change schedules. The new hours will be Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on the weekends and federal holidays, and closed after 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Victory Fresh

Victory Fresh offers Military Service Members, Department of the Army Civilians and their guests healthy alternatives to fast food. Located at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy Dining Facility 9572

Marion Ave. Victory Fresh offers Grab and Go entrees, a Build Your Own Power Bowl station, Hot BBQ bar, and brick oven pizzas during lunch hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Grab and Go items are available during extended hours and breakfast is available from 7 - 9:30 a.m. Victory Fresh helps patrons manage fueling their bodies in a healthy way, within the time constraints.

COMMUNITY EVENTS TODAY

Olympic Lifting Workshop

5:30-7 p.m., Vanguard Gym. Want to learn how to do the clean and jerk correctly? Join the Olympic Lifting Workshop

SATURDAY

Charleston Brews Cruise

9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Marion Street Station. Join Outdoor Recreation for a guided drinking tour downtown Charleston. Snacks and bottled water are provided. Coolers will be on the bus for storage. Must be 21+ Patrons cannot register over the phone if they have never been to Marion Street Station ID Card verification. For more information, visit Marion Street Station, or call (803) 751-3484.

TUESDAY

Shred Day

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5671 Liberty Division Ave. Come and bring your paper, cardboard, magazines, containers, steel cans, newspapers and writing paper to the Fort Jackson Recycling Center on shred day. The event is open to all Department of Defense ID card holders. No classified documents and those with large metal clips will be accepted.

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

■ Paddington in Peru (PG) 2 p.m

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

■ No Showing

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

FEB. 27

AER Kickoff Celebration

3-5 p.m., Century Lanes Bowling Center. Come celebrate the kickoff of the 2025 Army Emergency Relief Campaign kickoff with a bowling competition.

Citizenship and Immigration Services Virtual Training

5:30-6:30 p.m., MS Teams. Get all your questions answered regarding: How to apply for lawful permanent residency (green card) or naturalization/citizenship; how to replace lost or misplaced permanent residency and/or citizenship documentations; how to complete application forms and all supporting documents needed to complete the application; and any

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

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. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style.

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.

Harding Fellowship offers chance to propel impactful ideas

By **CHRISTOPHER HURD**
Army News Service

Almost seven years into his Army aviation career, Capt. Phillip C. Fluke, AH-64 Apache pilot, was looking for a new assignment last year following his time with the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade.

"I really wanted something different, intellectually challenging and stimulating," he said.

He said his unit leadership at the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, thought he would be a good candidate to support the Harding Project, a chief of staff of the Army initiative started in 2023 to renew the service's professional publications.

The opportunity, a Harding Fellowship, would allow Fluke to serve as an editor for Aviation Digest and make an impact by spreading Soldiers' ideas in the aviation community.

"I think some people (in the Army) think they don't have a way of making their voice heard about topics that impact them professionally," he explained. The journals are a way of offering solutions and making others aware of new tactics and technologies that may make their jobs easier.

The Army selected Fluke and several other Soldiers as the first group of Harding Fellows. Each is assigned to a center of excellence, serving as editor on their respective branch journals for two years.

There are 17 different publications: Special Warfare, Army Sustainment, Military Police, Engineer, Chemical, Infantry, Air Defense Artillery, Armor, Field Artillery, Association of Army Dentistry, U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Journal, Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin, Applied Language Learning, The Army Lawyer, The Medical Journal, Army Communicator and Aviation Digest.

Shortly after arriving at the Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Novosel, Alabama, last summer, Fluke joined his fellow editors for a job training workshop in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The group worked on learning their new roles.

In the months that followed, the Soldiers routinely held group discussions with the Harding Project director and the deputy

director of the Army University Press to get a better understanding of how to move the modernization project forward.

"For the first cohort, it's been more of a learn-as-you-go," Fluke said. "I enjoy the job; it's a lot of problem-solving you wouldn't normally encounter in the day-to-day force."

Those problems include increasing readership of the journals and encouraging Soldiers, Army civilians, and contractors to contribute by writing and submitting their ideas for articles.

"Their thoughts, perspectives, and ideas don't do a lot of good if no one has access to them," he said. "By contributing, hopefully, we can move the knowledge base across the Army forward."

To start that push, the Army moved each journal online to a centralized website called Line of Departure. Here, people from across the service have access to articles from every branch publication.

The Harding Project also started a non-commissioned officer journal in October called Muddy Boots and is working on podcasts and audio articles.

These changes are part of the project's modernization initiative to bring the journals into the future and create a tool for information sharing amongst Army personnel.

"I hope by the time I leave this assignment the Aviation Digest serves as the primary outlet for discussing important top-

ics," Fluke said. "I also want the community to weigh in, so we can figure out problems together and make the digest a vehicle for change in the Army aviation branch."

Anyone wishing to submit an article can contact the editor for their respective branch journal. Their information is available on the journal's Line of Departure website.

Last month, the Army announced the selection of the second group of Harding Fellows.

They will be the first cohort to attend a year-long accelerated master's degree program for journalism and mass communications at the University of Kansas before serving as editors-in-chief for their branch journals.



Photo by CAPT. AUSTIN LACHANCE

Capt. Phillip C. Fluke performs a preflight check on an AH-64 Apache helicopter. Fluke, a pilot, became an editor for Aviation Digest in 2024 after being selected as a member of the first group of Harding Fellows.

S.C. governor selects next state adjutant general

By **STEPHEN HUDSON**

South Carolina National Guard

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster announced his nominee for the next adjutant general during a press conference at the State House, Feb. 18.

McMaster nominated Army Brig. Gen. Robin B. Stilwell as the 30th adjutant general for South Carolina. Stilwell currently serves as director of joint staff for the South Carolina National Guard and deputy commanding general – reserve matters at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

As Director of the Joint Staff, Stilwell oversees and directs the administration of all South Carolina National Guard joint staff programs, supporting the state's domestic response and homeland defense contingency operations.

"Maj. Gen. Van McCarty represents the very best of South Carolina's military community. He has provided a steady hand during times of crisis and has proven to be the right man, at the right time, to lead our National Guard," said Governor McMaster. "As we look to the future, Brig. Gen. Stilwell's extensive experience within the South Carolina National Guard and his proven leadership in domestic and overseas operations make him the right choice to serve as our next Adjutant General. We are fortunate to have a committed and highly respected leader ready to step into this critical role."

Stilwell began his military service in the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the Citadel in 1985.

Stilwell has deployed multiple times including to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom; Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian. His last deployment was to Kuwait from 2020 through 2021 as Deputy Chief of Staff Forward for U.S. Army Central.

"As Adjutant General, there are responsibilities to protect critical infrastructure, maintain equipment and facilities, manage a budget, and train soldiers for missions both at home and abroad. But the most important responsibility is taking care of the Military Department's people," said Brig. Gen. Stilwell. "If I am confirmed by the Senate, every decision that I make will be calculated in the



Photo by SPC. TURNER HORTON

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster greets Army Brig. Gen. Robin B. Stilwell, after nominating him as 30th adjutant general for South Carolina during a press conference at the State House in Columbia, Feb. 18, 2025.

best interest of the Soldiers, Airmen, State Guardsmen, and employees of the South Carolina National Guard and the citizens of South Carolina."

Once confirmed by the South Carolina Senate Stilwell will follow Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty as adjutant general.

During the press conference McMaster lauded McCarty for his leadership as Adjutant General since February 2019, and more than 40 years of military service in the Army and South Carolina Army National Guard. During his tenure as the state's top military officer, McCarty led the National Guard through a number of major events including the unprecedented response to the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple natural disasters including Hurricane Helene in 2024 and numerous deployments including the Southwest Border mission and ongoing overseas operations in Europe and Southwest Asia.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Adjutant General of the great state of South Carolina. We have been busy, but our soldiers kept one steady focus on their mission to do what they were asked to do and do it well," McCarty said. "Under

the leadership of Brig. Gen. Stilwell, I am confident that the Soldiers, Airmen, and employees of the Military Department will continue to answer the call of our state and our nation.

Through his confirmation process with the South Carolina Senate Stilwell will meet with members of the Senate Family and Veterans' Services committee chaired by Sen. Tom Young of Aiken.

"Gen. Stilwell's vast experience, his career, and his strong family background built on faith and character have prepared him for this opportunity," said Young. "I am confident that Brig. Gen. Stilwell will lead the men and women of our state's Military Department with vision, passion, and integrity. I look forward to working with him when he is confirmed by the Senate."

Upon confirmation as Adjutant General, he would assume responsibility for overseeing and directing the operations of the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard, as well as the Emergency Management Division, the State Guard, and the Youth ChalleNGe Academy, ensuring the effective administration and coordination of these critical state agencies and programs.

Vaccine

Continued from Page 2

guidance reads.

To inform the service members who were involuntarily discharged of the option to return to uniform, the military departments will make direct contact with them by written letter, email, if possible, and a telephone call.

The Board for Correction of Military/Naval Records will correct the military records of service members separated involuntarily.

For those who voluntarily left the service or allowed their service to lapse due to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, the military services will reach out through broad communications, including social media, website content, or newsletter, to let them know about the process if they are interested in returning to service.

That process includes, among other things, submitting a written statement attesting that they chose to leave the service or allowed their service to lapse rather than be vaccinated under the mandate.

Service members who voluntarily separated will not receive back pay, bonuses, or other compensation.

In both cases, whether service members were separated involuntarily or separated of their own will, rejoining the military will require them to accept a two-year commitment to continue military service and meet current military retention standards.

When Hegseth took his role at the Pentagon last month, he promised to restore America's warrior ethos, rebuild the military and reestablish deterrence.

Inviting service members back who refused to take the COVID-19 vaccine is firmly in line with those goals, he said.

Military spouses exempt from return-to-work mandate

By C. TODD LOPEZ
DOD News

While the president has ordered federal employees who have been working remotely and teleworking back to their offices, an exception is now in place for those federal employees who are spouses of military service members.

The Office of Personnel Management released a memorandum titled "Guidance on Exempting Military Spouses and Foreign Service Spouses from Agency Return to Office Plans" on Feb. 12, 2025.

The memo explains how federal civilian employees who are also military spouses are exempt from the return-to-work mandate.

"Agencies should ... ensure that their return-to-office plans categorically exempt all military spouses authorized to engage in remote work," the memorandum explains. "This includes both military spouses appointed under the Military Spouse Employment Act authorities and those appointed under other hiring authorities."

The memo also said agencies may continue hiring military spouses in remote work positions.

According to the memorandum, the policy covers spouses of members of the armed forces on active duty, spouses of service members who retired with 100% disability, and spouses of service members who died while on active duty. Spouses of National Guard members on full-time guard duty are also included. The memo also covers spouses of U.S. foreign service members.

"Agencies should ensure that all such military and foreign service spouses are permitted to continue with any applicable remote work arrangements," the memo says.

Across the active-duty military, more than 48% of service members are married. Their spouses face challenges finding employment because the military lifestyle includes frequent moves, making it difficult to commit to a single employer or develop a career. That inability to find meaningful work makes life even more difficult for families who may depend on having a dual-income household.



Department of Defense photo

The Department of Defense announced Feb. 12 that military spouses were exempt from the return-to-work mandate. Tim Dill, who is currently performing the duties of the assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs said, 'Rebuilding our military starts with recruiting and retaining the right people.'

According to DOD's "2023 Demographics Profile of the Military Community," approximately 64% of military spouses want to be employed.

Of the spouses who want to be employed, about 79% have found work, while about 21% are unable to find work. The new policy memo from OPM will help keep many military spouses employed and serve as a critical recruitment

**HELPING MILITARY SPOUSES
FIND AND KEEP JOBS HELPS
OUR MILITARY FAMILIES
THRIVE IN CHALLENGING
CIRCUMSTANCES ...**

- Tim Dill

**Performing duties of the assistant
secretary of defense for
manpower and reserve affairs**

and retention tool.

"Rebuilding our military starts with recruiting and retaining the right people. Spouse employment is a key factor in that task, helping the department retain service members with hard-earned skills by easing the financial strain on their families," said Tim Dill,

who is currently performing the duties of assistant secretary of defense for manpower

and reserve affairs.

Dill is an Army veteran and Green Beret who served as an infantry and Special Forces officer in the 82nd Airborne Division and 3rd Special Forces Group.

He said his military service gave him a deep understanding of how military service affects family life.

"I witnessed firsthand the challenges that military families face, including frequent moves, long hours and deployments," he said. "Helping military spouses find and keep jobs helps our military families thrive in challenging circumstances, making us a more focused and lethal force."



A disciplined cycle pickup

Photos courtesy of 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment

Trainees with 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment recently took their first steps off the buses to be met by their drill sergeants. The trainees, under the guidance of their drill sergeants, underwent the First Hundred Yards, a team-building exercise designed to foster cooperation and trust among the service members. That day they were divided into platoons and introduced to the drill sergeants who will provide them mentorship over the next 10 weeks.



(Top) Trainees carry a large box as part of the First Hundred Yards team-building exercise held at the beginning of each training cycle.

(Above) A drill sergeant with 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, leads troops in physical training as part of the unit's structured and disciplined cycle pickup.

(Left) A trainee carries a sand bag as part of the cycle pickup activities. That day they were divided into platoons.

MEPS hits all-time high goal four months before deadline

Fort Jackson MEPS

The Fort Jackson Military Entrance Processing Station Student Testing team was tasked to reach an all-time high goal during the 2024-25 school year of conducting 15,531 individual tests.

The current year goal is a 35% increase from the previous school year's goal.

The Student Testing Team just reached their goal over four months prior to their June 30 deadline by conducting 438 test sessions for a total of 15,662 individual student tests. The number is expected to increase through the remainder of the school year as they have another 160 test sessions. They average 27 students per session.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery testing is one portion of the ASVAB Career Exploration Program and Post-Test Interpretation.

All students in the 10th grade and above can benefit from understanding their aptitudes, work-related interests, and work values through the ASVAB CEP PTI.

Potential recruits go to MEPS to determine if they meet service standards, and in the case of the Army to choose a career field, sign a contract and take an oath. All branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are represented at MEPS.

The PTI guides students through online career exploration and career planning tools in-



Courtesy photo

Fort Jackson Military Entrance Processing Station recently reached its testing goals four months early. Here Scott Burgess, education services specialist; Raymond Bell, testing coordinator; Air Force Lt Col Jerry, 'Smoke' Isabelle, MEPS commander; Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Chelsie Sampson; and Mike Pruitt test control officer pose for a photo.

cluding up-to-date information on more than 1,000 occupations in business, government, non-profit, and the military.

Raymond Bell, testing coordinator, and Scott Burgess, education service specialist, have trained school counselors, Junior ROTC In-

structors, and recruiters to increase the reach and availability of PTI sessions,

For more information about the ASVAB Student Testing Program and the Career Exploration Program, please visit: www.asvabprogram.com.



Happy Retirement

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Fort Jackson saluted the careers of Lt. Col. Darien L. Butler, with the 408th Contracting Command at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and Chaplain (Maj.) Todd E. Wainman, with the 165th Infantry Brigade, during the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment Basic Combat Training graduation, Feb. 12. Butler retired with 22 years of service, while Wainman retired with 30 years of service.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

1st Battalion,
13th Infantry
Regiment

**DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE**
Staff Sgt.
Marcus Gilbert

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Peter Yoo

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Sarina Petitt

BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Amber Nicole Newman

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Logan Taylor Bales

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Ryan Heitzig

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Kenneth Luong

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Ashlyn Evans

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Jeffrey Lee

ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Michael Eyler

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Hannah Grace
Langowski

Events

Continued from Page 4

other questions you may have. Participants are invited to ask questions that are not case-specific.

Pickleball Tournament

5 p.m., Perez Gym. Come and out show off your pickleball prowess. Sign up at any gym, or call (803) 751-6258.

MARCH 2

EFMP day at the Museum

1 p.m., 301 Gervais Street, Columbia, S.C. Army Community Service offers a chance to connect with other Exceptional Family Member Program families in the community while exploring South Carolina history, see art and natural history and much more. It gives the EFMP families the ability to inspire their imagination and creativity. For more information, call (803) 751-5256 (Option 3).

MARCH 6

EFMP presentation

10-11 a.m., MS Teams. Join the Fort Jackson Exceptional Family Member Program for a presentation to provide information on what resources, and services available to families of children and adults with special needs and/or disabilities in the surrounding community. For more information, call (803) 751-5256 (Option 3).

MARCH 8

Offshore Fishing Trip

5 a.m., Marion Street Station. Join Outdoor Recreation on a trip to Hilton Head, S.C., for a deep sea fishing trip. The trip will go 3-5 miles offshore for black sea bass, mackerel, black drum, red fish, bluefish and maybe even a shark. Outdoor Recreation will provide the transportation and coolers for you to transport your catch back home. The cost covers transportation, license, bait, tackle and trip. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register,

call (803) 751-3484.

FJ Memorial Bataan Death March

6 a.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. Honor the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II. Participants can select from a full route 26.2 miles or honorary route 14.2 miles. A 35-pound rucksack is optional both male and female. The first 25 to register online get a free t-shirt. Registration begins March 1, but is no required to attend. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

MARCH 22-23

Spring Family Campout

4 p.m. March 22 to 10 a.m. March 23, Twin Lakes Park. This family-friendly overnight primitive camping event will include these fun activities: games, fishing, s'mores, connect four, arts & crafts and more. Rental items available: tents, cots, sleeping bags and more. Event costs \$20 per adult and \$15 per child. For information and to sign up, call Ma-

rión Street Station at (803) 751-3484.

MARCH 27

Arm Wrestling Competition

5:30 - 7 p.m., Vanguard Gym. Come out and try your hand, or arm, in the Sports and Fitness Arm Wrestling Competition. For more information, call (803) 751-4256.

APRIL 5

Youth Golf Fun

9 a.m. to noon, Fort Jackson Golf Club. Youth golfers will go through three stations available (Putting, Chipping & Driving range). Please bring clubs (not required to participate). Pre-registration March 31. For more information and to register call (803) 751-4344.

APRIL 18

Youth Archery Class

10 a.m. to noon. This class shows youths ages 8-17 the proper form and technique to safely shoot. Register at Marion Street Station, or call (803) 751-3484.

DID YOU KNOW: In rooms within a facility designed for 50 or more occupants, exit doors must open in an outward direction when exiting to allow for proper egress during an emergency.

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.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
	GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	REVIVE SERVICE	SUNDAY	5 P.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
	HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	POST THEATER
	ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN 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. to NOON	WASHINGTON ROAD CHAPEL
	HEATHEN/PAGAN	SUNDAY	8:30-9:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

Manila battle foreshadowed future urban warfare

By **DAVID VERGUN**
DOD News

The Battle of Manila in the Philippines, which took place 80 years ago, from Feb. 3, 1945, to March 3, 1945, is widely considered to be one of the most destructive urban battles ever fought in terms of lives lost, with near-total destruction of the capital.

Some have referred to the Battle of Manila as “the Stalingrad of Asia,” Stalingrad being a large city in the Soviet Union that was the site of protracted fighting between the Red Army and troops of Nazi Germany earlier in World War II.

The day after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Japanese attacked the Philippines, which was a U.S. territory.

At the time, Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur was the commander of U.S. Army Forces in the Far East. MacArthur and his forces in the Philippines were defeated, and in March 1942, he escaped to Australia, promising to return to the Philippines.

The Battle of Manila and other battles in the Philippines fulfilled MacArthur’s promise, albeit at the cost of 1,010 Soldiers and countless Filipino civilians who were killed in the Battle of Manila alone.

The Battle of Manila provided valuable tactical lessons for future urban warfare, such as the battles of Seoul, during the Korean War, Hue City during the Vietnam War and the battles of Baghdad and Fallujah.

The Japanese defense of the city included turning buildings into fortresses and integrating obstacles to disrupt and channel U.S. forces into kill zones. The monthlong battle demonstrated what a determined, well-prepared and well-entrenched enemy force can accomplish in an urban environment despite being outnumbered more than two to one.

The U.S. strategy took advantage of combined arms warfare, whereby tanks and artillery used direct fire at close range to breach structures.

Sappers carrying explosives and infantrymen armed with flamethrowers, grenades, bazookas and other small arms



Photo courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard

The first wave of U.S. troops approaches the beaches of Luzon, Philippines, in a Coast Guard landing craft, Jan. 9, 1945.

assisted in the advance.

Soldiers quickly learned to limit their exposure in open areas, moving from building to building rather than down the streets.

Upon entering buildings, flamethrowers and small-arms fire were employed to clear the structure.

In such close quarters of fighting, fratricide quickly became a concern for U.S. forces operating in chaos, as there was no well-defined forward edge of the battle area, as there would have been in non-urban combat areas.

The battle also highlighted the danger to civilians caught in the path of the fighting.

It is estimated that more than 100,000



U.S. Army photo

American Soldiers advance through Manila, Philippines, Feb. 23, 1945.

Filipino civilians were killed during the battle.

The following year, on July 4, the Philippines gained their independence.



U.S. Army photo

A U.S. Sherman tank sits amidst the rubble of a historic building during the Battle of Manila.

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



A drill sergeant with 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, runs with a guidon during the battalion's recent structured and disciplined cycle pickup.

Photo courtesy of the 3RD BATTALION, 13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT