

THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2023

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE"

ENTRY
OFFICIAL
VEHICLES
ONLY

MARCHING FOR BATAAN

EVENT REMEMBERS DEATH MARCH



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photos by ROBERT TIMMONS

(Above) Col. Mark Huhtanen, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson deputy commander, gives opening remarks at the Fort Jackson Industry Day, March 12, where exhibitors (left) showed how they can help improve Initial Entry Training.

Post relentlessly pursues improvements at event

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson hosted an Industry Day March 12 as part of a “relentless pursuit” to improve its abilities.

The Industry Day, held at the Solomon Center, brought Soldiers and leaders together with vendors who can help the post continuously seek excellence.

“We have the history, we have the equipment, and we definitely have the people to back up that claim,” said Col. Mark Huhtanen, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson deputy commander.

Huhtanen opened up the exposition with a brief speech. “With no doubt we actually are the best Army on the planet. But not because we crossed the finish line or reached some point. We are the best Army because our standards are rising, our requirements are evolving as our people get smarter, faster and stronger every day.”

“It is with this reality in mind, as we continue our relentless pursuit of constantly improving, that we host this Industry Day.”

He said the vision was for government and industry to collaborate “to solve tough, tough issues we faced in the Initial Entry Training sector.” The issues addressed at the Industry Day included how trainees and their Families correspond to each other; how to keep them cool during hot training; and new ways to treat wounds.

The Industry Day began with post senior leaders given a guided tour of the expo where each exhibitor gave a one-minute presentation. Later, the doors opened to the general public.

Emily Anderson, one of the event coordinators, told the senior leaders, the day is a “great way to pinpoint what you might want to go back and learn more about.”

“We depend on the ingenuity, technical progress, and creativity of our partners outside the game, just as much as we rely on our people inside the game,” Huhtanen said. “Today, we bring all that together via communication and inform one another of what’s new, and to find out the next big thing that’ll get that extra 10% out of our trainees.”

ON THE COVER

A participant in the Fort Jackson Bataan Memorial Death March arrives at Hilton Field near the end of the event, March 19.

SEE PAGES 6-7

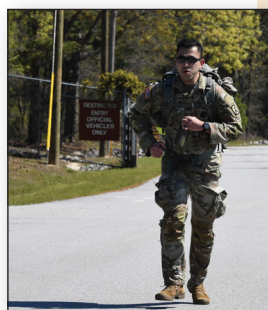


Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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photo by Emily Hileman

Army Training and Doctrine Command Commanding General, Gen. Gary M. Brito speaks during this iteration of the Lt. Gen. Maude Leadership Lecture Series event, March 21. The lecture was the first of the series held since the beginning of the pandemic. ‘The first layer of bricks that feeds into combat readiness starts with us,’ Brito said during the event. ‘That first layer of bricks, making yourself good and making those you are teaching better - starts with us.’

Lecture returns: Maude leadership series returns after COVID hiatus

By EMILY HILEMAN
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Soldiers from various Fort Jackson units gathered at the Solomon Center to listen to the first Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Leadership Lecture Series event held since the beginning of the pandemic. The event was hosted by the Adjutant General School, March 21.

Maude was serving as the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel when he was killed during the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. He was the highest-ranking Army officer killed in the attacks.

The leadership series is held in his memory to continue his service and dedication to the development of Army leaders.

Col. Chesley D. Thigpen Jr., commandant of the Adjutant General School said, “we don’t want to lose events like the Lt. Gen Maude Lecture Series and the commemoration and the tribute we pay to him and everyone (who died) in 9/11. We don’t ever want to forget. This is a way of keeping them alive in us. Highlighting this as his event because he was so passionate about Soldiers.”

Gen. Gary M. Brito, Training and Doctrine Command commanding general was the guest speaker for this iteration.

“His career is marked with multiple operational leadership positions – all key positions, from command at every level and every echelon to the Pentagon – making him an expert on the topic of leadership,” Thigpen said. “Gen Brito previously served as the

Army G-1, the same position held by Lt. Gen. Maude. He is simply the best senior leader to restart our Lt. Gen. Maude Leadership Lecture series.”

“I hope you are ready to be the very best leader that we need right now in our Army,” Brito said.

He highlighted the Army’s key priorities of people, modernization, and readiness.

“The first layer of bricks that feeds into combat readiness starts with us,” Brito said. “That first layer of bricks, making yourself good and making those that you’re teaching better

– starts with us. If you pull a brick out of that core foundation, the house is going to start to crumble.”

Brito also discussed the recruiting challenge that all branches of the U.S. military continue to face as well as the modernization goals TRADOC and the Army have set. He concluded the lecture by giving the advice to the future leaders in the room to help drive change for all leaders and challenged them to see changes that need to be made and to act on them.

“Leaders at all levels expect it and those Soldiers coming in today deserve it - for you to be prudent - modeling the Army values and helping drive change.”

“The Army didn’t stop during those two years,” Thigpen said, when asked about the importance of resuming the lecture series post-Covid. “We now have a gap. We have folks who came to the institutional Army to train, and they’ve never had these types of engagements with senior leaders and it’s important for them to hear this message from them.”

**THE ARMY DIDN'T
STOP DURING
THOSE TWO
YEARS ...**

Col. Chesley Thigpen Jr.
Commandant
Adjutant General School

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOD Civilian Retiree Identification Card Termination

The Department of Defense has terminated the issuing of civilian retiree ID cards. Previously issued DOD civilian retiree ID cards will remain valid through Aug. 31, 2023 and will not be reissued. DOD civilian retirees requiring installation access will follow procedures IAW DOD Manual 5200.08, Volume 3, "Physical Security Program: Access to DOD Installations," which requires all persons seeking such access to establish their identity, fitness, and purpose. For more information, visit: <https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/Renewing-Online/> or contact the ID Card Center office at 751-6024.

CTSA Survey

U.S. Army Public Health Center developed the Community Strengths and Themes Assessment Survey to serve as a comprehensive tool to assess the installation community's perceptions of health, health-related concerns, quality of life, safety, spirituality and satisfaction with and access to post programs and services. The Fort Jackson Commander's Ready and Resilient Council utilizes the results to help identify the most pressing concerns of the Fort Jackson Community, which will lead to better targeting of resources and address concerns. The assessment will help leadership gain a better understanding of the community perceptions in regard to physical, spiritual, emotional and mental well-being. After the Army Public Health Center has analyzed the information and data, the feedback will be sent to the Fort Jackson commander to be reviewed and disseminated. The CSTA is voluntary. The incentive to complete the survey is to improve the health, safety and quality of life on the installation. All responses are anonymous, and the data will be kept confidential and housed on a protected, secure server. Fort Jackson Commander's Ready and Resilient Council will be soliciting feedback at the link (<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se/25113745648F0C25>) or QR Code above from Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, Retirees and Family members through the biennial Community Strengths and Themes Assessment. The survey will run until March 31.



Personal Property Announcement

U.S. Transportation Command personal property pre-peak season will begin late February 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>.

Museum Closure

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Museum is temporarily closed for gallery renovations. A reopening date is anticipated in April. For more information, call 751-8079.

Fireproof Your Marriage

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Chaplain Family Life Center, 5460 Marion Street. Would you like to strengthen your marriage? Seize the opportunity by coming to the eight week "Fireproof Your Marriage" bible study offered by the Family Life Chaplain at the Fort Jackson Chaplain Family Life Center. An introductory session will be provided on from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 28. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch and will receive a participant guidebook. Seats are limited to the first 15 couples to sign up. Sign up by calling 751-4966. There is no cost. Class dates are April 28, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, 23, 30. Participants are encouraged to commit to each class until complete.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY

Soldier Performance Readiness Center Grand Opening

9 a.m., 12650 Jackson Blvd. Fort Jackson opens the Kay Soldier Performance Readiness Center to honor the service of drill sergeant Staff Sgt. Timothy Kay's service to the Army and to showcase the impact of the SPRC facility will have on Fort Jackson Soldiers and trainees.

Herstory is history

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., NCO Club. Second Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment Women's Mentorship group is hosting "Its Her Story ... let her tell it," Women's History Month event. The event will include special stories from women in the military. All are welcome to attend. An optional lunch buffet is \$15.

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? Call 751-6739.

en's Mentorship group is hosting "Its Her Story ... let her tell it," Women's History Month event. The event will include special stories from women in the military. All are welcome to attend. An optional lunch buffet is \$15.

SATURDAY Cars and Coffee

8-11 a.m., Solomon Center parking lot, adjacent to the 512 Trolley Cafe. Enjoy hot coffee and cool cars. Show off your vehicle or just appreciate the wicked whips of others. The Trolley Café will be open serving hot and cold espresso-based drinks, real fruit smoothies, and pastries.

Recycled Bowling Pin Crafts

11 a.m., Solomon Center. Learn how to reuse bowling pin using a variety of ma-



Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

APRIL 1

■ Air (R) 6 p.m. (Free Screening)

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

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terials to create something unique and new. There is a cost associated with this event and all materials are provided.

APRIL 1

Easter Egg Golf Ball Hunt

1-3 p.m., Palmetto Greens Miniature Golf. Hunt golf balls instead of Easter Eggs for prizes, cupcakes and cookies, and play miniature golf all for free.

Free Movie Screening

6 p.m., Post Theater. Exchange Reel Time Theaters and Amazon Studios have teamed up to offer a free screening of the upcoming drama, sports film Air. Air follows the history of shoe salesman Sonny Vaccaro, and how he led Nike in its pursuit

Around Post



photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Nicole Topakas, Nutrition Health Educator and yoga instructor for the 165th Infantry Brigade Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) team leads a group in relaxation exercises during the Civilian Health and Fitness Fair held at the Soldier Performance Readiness Center, March 17. The fair promoted civilian wellness with a variety of activities including meal preparation, Yoga and a blood pressure check. Enrollment forms for the Civilian Wellness Fitness Program were also available at the fair. The SPRC will officially open during a ceremony, March 24.



photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Col. Ryan M. Hanson, Fort Jackson garrison commander, speaks to a group of single Soldiers and barracks residents during a Single Soldier Town Hall held to hear and address the Soldiers' concerns, March 16.

Drill sergeant shares personal story for Women's History Month

By GARY LOTEN-BECKFORD

Center for Initial Military Training

Soldiers choose military service to be a part of something larger than themselves while fulfilling their patriotic duty and a way of life for their families.

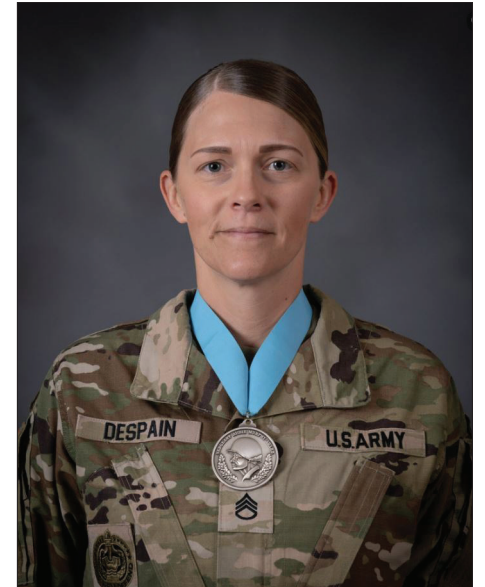
One drill sergeant, Staff Sgt. Moranda DeSpain, native of High Point, North Carolina, upon graduation from college with a degree in Elementary Education, answered her calling. Her "calling" as she puts it was to be an educator. DeSpain wanted nothing more than to teach, guide, and develop young minds. In doing so she taught fourth and second grade students. After seven-plus years of teaching DeSpain had another calling. She answered her call to service and volunteered to serve in the Army as a Unit Supply Specialist. DeSpain chose to leave the classroom setting while the nation was engaged in combat overseas.

"I joined the military to take care of my family. I was a teacher in North Carolina struggling to make ends meet with two children," DeSpain said. "I needed to make a change and I needed to find a job that would help me explore the world and take care of my family while doing it."

For the past eight years, DeSpain has been stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Rucker, Alabama; Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and her follow-on assignment to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Jackson. DeSpain said her current assignment has been the most challenging as a drill sergeant.

"I enjoy training and teaching individuals, while being a drill sergeant I realize how critical the mission at the Initial Entry Training level is," DeSpain said. "This made me want to be a part of helping develop noncommissioned officers to drill sergeants. I knew the only way to do this was take my chance to become a drill sergeant leader at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy."

The past 21 months as a drill sergeant came with many challenges, some of which can't be trained for. Accepting the role as a primary trainer, transforming civilians to Soldiers, requires undivided attention/



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Moranda DeSpain

focus and sacrifice away from family. DeSpain expressed time away from her children was her biggest challenge.

"As much as I love being a drill sergeant, I did not love the time I've had to sacrifice being away from my children. I have had to rely on other people to care for them, take them to sporting events, and even make sure their homework was complete," DeSpain said.

Despite the long duty hours DeSpain sought ways to professionally develop herself. In addition to being a mom and senior drill sergeant, she prepared, competed, and gained membership into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

Much of DeSpain's success is attributed to mentorship, individuals who encouraged her to be a better professional Soldier. A mentor, by definition, is an experienced and trusted adviser. Mentors provide guidance, advice, feedback, and support to the mentee. DeSpain sought out such professionals for guidance and advice throughout her military career.

Speaking to her younger self DeSpain says, "Moranda, just believe in yourself like everyone else does."

DeSpain added that women who want to join the Army can be anything and do anything if they put their minds to it.

Marching for Bataan

Event remembers death march

Leader Staff Reports

Fort Jackson's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted the Fort Jackson Memorial Bataan Death March to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Bataan Death March.

The event honors the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands in World War II. The defenders retreated to the Bataan Peninsula, where bereft of supplies and reinforcements, and after fighting the Japanese invaders as long as possible they were forced to surrender.

On April 9, 1942, the roughly 60,000 to 80,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war were forced to march 65 miles to camps inland. Along the route, the survivors faced the harshness of the Philippine environment with lack of food and water – all under constant depravity of their captors, who beat and even beheaded them along the route.

Roughly 10,000 prisoners - 9,000 Filipino and 1,000 Americans were killed along the route.

At the Jackson event, there were two routes available for participants to choose from – the full route, 26.2 miles and the honorary route, 14.2 miles. Males marched with a 30-pound rucksack and females with a 25-pound rucksack. Participants rucksacks were weighed before the start of the event.

More than 100 participants ruck marched on either distance.

The results are:

14.2 miles:

- 1 – Seongbum Kil – 369th Adjutant General Battalion (Advanced Individual Training student) – 2:47
- 2 – Jason Phillips – U.S. Army Institute of Religious Leadership – 2:48
- 1st female – Sarah Stachura – 369th Adjutant General Battalion – 3:36

26.2 miles:

- 1– Matthew Torres – 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment – 5:00
- 2 – Daniel Hayes – 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment – 5:43
- 1st female – Stacy Upshaw – 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment – 6:29.



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

WHY I SERVE

1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

PVT. SAMUEL BURNS, 19

Royersford, Pennsylvania

"I've wanted to join the Army for years mainly because I wanted the camaraderie, an environment that breeds constant improvement, and the job itself just appealed to me. Also, both of my grandfathers served, and I felt it was worth carrying on that legacy."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be substantially more yelling, worse food, and a slower pace. The drill sergeants turned out to be more of mentors than I expected. The food was a lot better, and the instruction moved very fast."

"Here is a good bit of advice: Learn as much as you can before you leave for training. Knowing things like the Soldiers Creed, general orders, etc., helps you focus more on the training at hand."

"My MOS is 68W-Combat Medic Specialist. I chose it because the medical field fascinates me."



PVT. DYLAN MULNIX, 18

Sand Lake, Michigan

"My grandpa influenced me the most to join the Army. He wanted to fight in the Vietnam War right after he got out of high school but broke his back and wasn't able to join. So, I decided to fill his shoes and enlist."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be a lot worse than it was. I watched a few videos of it and it made me worry a bit. I thought I wouldn't be able to do all the physical activity they do because I was a bigger guy. Turns out I was fine and performed very well."

"What I found the most challenging about BCT was being able to be punished for someone else's wrong behavior."

"My MOS is 91D-Tactical Power Generation Specialist. I chose it because I wanted to be a repairman of some sort and also, I'm in the National Guard so I wanted a good civilian job."



PVT. IAN SEIPEL, 19

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

"I knew many kinds of people who had served, and I admired them all. My grandfather served in Korea, which was always something I looked up to. I enjoy being outdoors and being active. I also joined to push my limits."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be not necessarily challenging, but nonetheless very informative."

"I struggled with shin splints in BCT, so for me running was the most challenging."

Here are some things I will tell potential trainees: "Take BCT very seriously and learn as much as you can."

I am a "68W-Combat Medic Specialist. I want to learn trauma medicine in order to take care of my fellow Soldiers. I want to push myself to my limit while simultaneously making the world a better place."



PVT. ANA CALDWELL, 18

New Orleans

"I joined the Army for myself and to launch my career and set a standard for a successful life."

"I expected Basic Combat Training to be a challenge. I was uncertain about what to expect out of training, but I attached every obstacle I came across."

"The most challenging part of BCT was pulling together Soldiers of all types to work together."

"Some advice to those entering BCT is that being mentally and physically tough will guide you. BCT is a great opportunity for personal growth."

My MOS is "15Q- Air Traffic Control Operator. I chose the 15 series MOS in order to kickstart a career in aviation."



PVT. MINWOOK YUN, 24

Seosan, South Korea

"My friend who works at the Osan Air Base as a 91B (Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic) told me about his life in the U.S. Army and I decided right away to join too."

"I once had Basic Combat Training in the South Korean Marine Corps, it was at that time I realized where I belong and made a family. BCT this time was the same experience but with the same people but with different faces. I made a bigger and stronger Family."

"My MOS is 91B-Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. I loved my time in the infantry, and still feel happy as I am doing all the infantry training. After I got discharged, I got out of the military service with lots of good memories and life lessons, but with no practical skills. I wanted to have some skills that I could use outside the military and this MOS was the best option for me."



PFC. WILLOW BAILEY, 23

Morrow Bay, California

"I had always thought of joining the military from a young age. I remember watching a documentary with my dad about Apache helicopter pilots in Iraq, and from that point flying helicopters in the Army became my goal."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be extremely intense and overwhelming. I was expecting to be pushed mentally and physically and to be out of my comfort zone."

"The most challenging part of BCT was all the different personalities and trying to get an entire platoon to come together. It seemed like some people didn't want to be here which negatively affect the whole platoon."

"My MOS is 15T - UH-60 Helicopter Repairer. I chose this MOS so I would immerse myself into the aviation community and build connections that will help me into getting into flight school someday."



**COMING TO
HILTON FIELD**

Happy ★

**INDEPENDENCE
DAY**

★ **JULY 1** ★

**FIREWORKS
celebration
& CONCERT**

March 16 retirees



The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson honored the service of Sgt. 1st Class Mondragon Contreras, Company B. Special Troops Battalion; and Spc. Myyon Bonner, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, during the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment Basic Combat Training graduation, March 16.

SALUTING THIS BCT CYCLE'S HONOREES

1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Samuel Burns

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Dylan Mulnix

BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Ana Caldwell

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Willow Bailey

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Alexander Fields

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Minwook Yun

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Francois Espinosa

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Ian Seipel

ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Alexander Choi

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Nathan Ruedinger



**DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE**

Fort Jackson to honor retirees during three-day May event

By **REGINA HARLAND**
Retirement Services Officer

The Fort Jackson Retiree Appreciation Days event this year will be in-person, May 18-20. The theme for the 2023 RAD is "Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier ... A Soldier for Life!" We will honor our military retirees during the Basic Combat Training Graduation at 9 a.m. May 18 on Hilton Field. To avoid traffic associated with the graduation, retirees are encouraged to arrive at Hilton Field no later than 8:30 a.m. to be escorted to the VIP seating area.

Retirees attending the BCT graduation can encourage the graduating Soldiers by being recognized, displaying for the parents and loved ones of our newest Soldiers the full military lifecycle, and lifelong commitment that has sustained our Armed Forces and made us a great nation.

The 19th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Tournament starts at 9 a.m. May 19 at the Fort Jackson Golf Club's Wildcat Course. All military retirees and their

**THE FORT JACKSON
RETIREE APPRECIATION
DAYS WILL BE IN-
PERSON, MAY 18-20.**

guests are eligible to participate in the Captain's Choice tournament. Enter individually or as a team of four. Entry fee is \$45 for FJGC members, \$55 for all authorized patrons, and \$60 for civilian guests. This year's field is limited to 128 players/32 teams. Stop by the golf club or call to register at (803) 562-4437.

The Retiree Health and Benefits Expo will take place May 20, at the Solomon Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The special guest speaker at the expo is Mark Overberg, director, Army Retirement Services, deputy chief of staff, G-1. Overberg comes to us from the Pentagon to provide benefits updates and a Q & A session that begins at 10 a.m. ID card services will begin at 9 a.m. in Rm. 104 of the Strom Thurmond Bldg.

For more information, call 751-5523.

Events

Continued from Page 4

of the greatest athlete in the history of basketball: Michael Jordan

APRIL 4
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 Army Wellness Center will host Meals in Minutes. Learn how to save calories while also optimizing your budget. AWC 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.

Flag Football League
Letters of Intent for Flag Football due to the Sports Branch. Flag Football is open to active-duty and is a Commander's Cup event. Submit letters of intent to the Sports office by April 4. A captains' meeting will be held April 10, 5 p.m. at Hilton Field Softball Complex. For more information, call 751-3096 or (803) 237-0184.

APRIL 6
Thrift Savings Plan
2:30- 4 p.m., 1565 Hall Street. DFMWR/Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will conduct a Thrift Savings Plan Seminar. 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. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

APRIL 7
Pre-drivers' Life Skills Class
5-7 p.m., Auto Craft Shop. Prepare first-time driver's to properly care for a vehicle. Basic automotive skills will be covered in this 2-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 or 751-7061.

APRIL 9
Easter Sunrise Service
6:30 a.m., Hilton Field. Fort Jackson Religious Support Office holds the annual Easter Sunrise Service. All are invited to attend the service which is free. Event will be live-streamed on the Fort Jackson RSO Facebook page. For more information, call 751-4778.

APRIL 10
Social Security seminar
10 - 11:30 a.m.,1565 Hall Street. DFMWR/Army Community Service will host a Social Security Benefits seminar. Seminar will provide detailed information about social security benefits including how you become eligible, early retirement vs full retirement vs delayed retirement, family benefits, etc. This is a great opportunity to get a jump-start on your retirement preparation. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

Community Blood Drive
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Moncrief Army Health Clinic multipurpose room. Fort Jackson will host a community blood drive April 10. To schedule an appointment visit red-crossblood.org and sign up with sponsor code: FortJackson.

APRIL 14
Pre-drivers' Life Skills Class
5-7 p.m., Auto Craft Shop. 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 or 751-7061.

APRIL 17-21
Bi-Annual Plant Swap
Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. To celebrate Earth Day the library will host its bi-annual plant swap event. Get rid of your surplus plants and seedlings and swap them for new! Bring your plants, seedlings, and seeds to the library through out the week of April 17-21. On the April 21, you can stop by the library to pick out a plant.

APRIL 18
Family of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Recognition Ceremony
4 p.m., NCO Club. Recognition will include: all family nominees, four volunteers of the year, youth, retiree, active-duty military, and family member/civilian. One Family will be named Fort Jackson Family of the Year. Nominations must be endorsed at the colonel commander level.

Nomination forms can be found at: jackson.armymwr.com/programs/army-volunteer-corps. Nomination forms must be submitted by March 31. For more information, call 751-5256.

Meals in Minutes & Your Budget
9-10 a.m., MS Teams. DFMWR/ACS Financial Readiness Program, in partnership with the Fort Jackson Army Wellness Center will host Meals in Minutes webinar. Learn how to save calories while also optimizing your budget. AWC 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 751-5256/6749.

APRIL 20
Sportsman Club Meeting
6 p.m., Alpine Lodge. The Fort Jackson Sportsman Club will host its monthly meeting. This meeting will feature a panel of experienced Fort Jackson deer hunters to answer your questions about the unique aspects of hunting deer on the installation. If you are new to hunting - or new to hunting on Fort Jackson - this is the meeting for you.

APRIL 21
Estate Planning – Protect Your Assets
10-11 a.m., 1565 Hall Street. DFMWR/Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will host an estate planning seminar. This seminar will provide information about the components of an estate plan (wills, trusts, power of attorney, beneficiary designations and health care directives). Registration is required.

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

Army Community Service offers classes in April

By **SHAWN M. SMITH**
Army Community Service

National Financial Capability Month is observed during the month of April every year. During this time, we affirm the importance of financial literacy and highlight the need for all of us to work to increase our financial literacy while planning our financial futures. This is the perfect time to reassess your finances and work on your short-, medium- and long-term financial plans.

Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program is hosting several classes throughout the month focusing on different aspects of your financial plan. Classes are for all Department of Defense ID card holders.

Registration is required for all classes.

Thrift Savings Plan (April 6, 2:30-4 p.m.)

This is a great opportunity to gain a better understanding about Thrift Savings Plan. You'll learn about the five core funds and lifecycle funds, the differences between Roth and traditional accounts, loans and withdrawals, avoiding penalties as well as the latest TSP changes.

Social Security Benefits (April 10, 10:11:30 a.m.)

Learn about your social security benefits as early as possible is a key element to a successful retirement plan. A representative from the local Social Security Administration office will conduct this seminar and will provide detailed information about social security benefits including how you become eligible, early retirement vs full retirement vs delayed retirement, family benefits, etc. This is a great opportunity to get a jump-start on your retirement preparation and interact with a SSA representative.

Estate Planning (April 21, 10-11 a.m.)

As you build your wealth, you must ensure you protect it and ensure it goes to the intended person/people. A guest presenter from the installation Judge Advocate General's office will conduct this seminar and provide information about the components of an estate plan (wills, trusts, power of attorney, beneficiary designations and health care directives).

DIY Credit Repair (April 28, 10-11:30 a.m.)

Interpreting your credit report can be overwhelming for many of us. The lack of knowledge results in paying a higher interest rate or being denied credit. It doesn't matter if you have a 520 or 820 credit score, this class is for you. Do not wait until you're ready to make a purchase to review, or try to repair, your credit. The instructor will discuss the components of a credit report, how to address collections,

complete disputes with the credit report agency, etc. This class will give you confidence to tackle your credit reports head on.

We are also conducting our quarterly **Coupon Craze Workshop (April 25, 10:30-11:45 a.m.)**. Have you noticed the prices of groceries nowadays? There is a major concern with food insecurity (a person or household lacks nutritious food to live an active, healthy life), one of ways to counteract this issue is utilizing coupons. This workshop will cover doubling and tripling coupons, stacking coupons, price matching and more. You'll get tips on how to prepare for grocery store trips, learn new strategies, meet other coupon users and you can share your own ideas.

Call 751-5256 (option 3) to sign up for one or several classes, to speak with a financial counselor or to setup a one-on-one appointment. We're here to help you achieve your financial goals.

What happens in Ukraine matters to the world, Austin says at news conference

By **JIM GARAMONE**
DOD News Service

The Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III, and Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke to the media following the 10th meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group — a group of nations working to supply Ukraine what it needs to combat Russia's invasion of the country.

"Ukraine matters. It matters not to just Ukraine or to the United States, it matters to the world," the secretary said. "This is about the rules based international order. It's about one country's ability to wake up one day and change the borders of its neighbor and annex its neighbor's sovereign territory."

Countries around the world realize how serious this challenge to the status quo is, and they are working together. "That's why you've seen 50 countries not only come to the ... the initial meetings of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, but they continue to come back," Austin said. "And they continue to work hard to ensure that Ukraine

gets everything that it needs to be successful. And that'll remain our focus going forward."

The secretary also addressed Russia's "dangerous and reckless and unprofessional behavior in the international airspace over the Black Sea" yesterday. Russian jets dumped fuel on an unmanned U.S. MQ-9 aircraft conducting routine operations in international airspace. A Russian jet struck the unmanned aerial vehicle causing it to crash.

"This hazardous episode is a part of a pattern of aggressive, risky and unsafe actions by Russian pilots in international airspace," Austin said. "Now I just got off the phone with my Russian counterpart, (Defense) Minister (Sergei) Shoigu. And as I've said repeatedly, it's important that great powers be models of transparency and communication. And the United States will continue to fly and to operate wherever international law allows. It is incumbent upon Russia to operate its military aircraft in a safe and professional manner."

The contact group is a visible affirmation of unity and resolve to support Ukraine's fight for freedom. "We were joined again to-

day by some 50 nations of goodwill from all around the globe," the secretary said. "And they all understand that Ukraine's battle to defend itself from Russian aggression is vital for everyone who values the core principles of sovereignty, self-determination and freedom."

The group heard from Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov about his country's plans and needs in the face of Russia's aggression. Ukrainian service members have stood firm against Russia using weapons supplied by various nations.

"Russia hopes to grind down Ukraine in a war of attrition, but Ukraine has been supplied by more than 40 countries," Austin said. "Meanwhile, Russia has had to depend on Iran and North Korea and has had to use equipment dating back to World War II. So, Russia is running out of capability and running out of friends."

Ukraine has never been a threat to Russia, Milley said. "Russia launched, and has continued for over a year now, a war of aggression and flagrant violation of international law," the general said. "This is, and remains,

a Russian frontal assault on the rules-based international order that has been in place for 80 years."

In face of this war of conquest, the contact group remains unified. "NATO is united. The people of Ukraine are unyielding; they are standing steadfast in the face of the Russian onslaught," he said. "Russia remains isolated, their military stocks are rapidly depleting, the soldiers are demoralized, untrained, unmotivated conscripts and convicts and their leadership is failing them."

The Battle of Bakhmut continues. "Ukraine has fixed the Russian forces at that city, and they're exacting very heavy costs on the Wagner group and the Russian regular military," Milley said. "Ukraine remains strong."

"This is a grinding, attrition warfare that Russia is trying to execute," the general continued. "Wave after wave of Russian soldiers are thrown into the chaos of war, absent any sort of synchronized coordination and direction. Russia continues to pay severely in terms of lives and military equipment for its continued war of choice."

VICTORY...
STARTS
HERE

