

FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 2023

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

IT'S BEGINNING TO SOUND A LOT LIKE ...

JACKSON HOLIDAYS



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Army ready to send thousands home on leave

By JONATHAN DAHMS

Center for Initial Military Training

More than 38,000 Soldiers will take to the air and roads this holiday season as the Army kicks off its annual holiday block leave period.

Holiday block leave, also known as Victory Block Leave at Fort Jackson, is a unique program within the Army for Soldiers going through Initial Entry Training.

"This marks a time when our trainees, drill sergeants and cadre are afforded a break from their training to reconnect with their families and their hometown communities," said Maj. Gen. John Kline, commanding general for the Center for Initial Military Training. "We want them to take time to recharge and focus on their holistic health and fitness before coming back after the holidays to resume their training."

While a lot of the attention during holiday block leave is on the trainees and students, Kline said it is just as important to give the drill sergeants and cadre a break from an almost non-stop training cycle.

"This is also a time for our drill sergeants and cadre to take some much-deserved time off to reconnect with their families and recharge their batteries," Kline said.

Fort Jackson is part of this, as it is preparing to send trainees, drill sergeants and Soldiers home in the upcoming days. The first step in preparing for departure was one last post run.

"Please accept my warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday break," said Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander,



Leader file photo

Trainees reach for cookies handed out by United Services Organization volunteers Dec. 18 as they wait for buses to take them to the Columbia Amtrack station before heading home for the holidays as part of Victory Block Leave.

before the run. "Whatever you're doing, wherever you are going, whatever your plans are, I wish you a peaceful, happy and safe break. We need you back here as there is a lot of work yet to be done as we generate readiness for the nation."

Kline emphasized the discipline and

values instilled in Soldiers during training and the expectation they continue to display these values while on leave, taking all precautions to keep themselves and others safe this holiday season.

"Our primary goal throughout this period is to ensure the health and safety

of our Soldiers traveling home to be with their families during the holidays," Kline said. "We're working through our training centers to maintain communication with their Soldiers and provide information and resources to ensure their safe return to the training base in the new year."

ON THE COVER

The Fort Jackson salute battery fires off a round as a unit crosses the release point of the 2023 Holiday Run held, Dec. 12 on post. The run was just one of many holiday themed events held.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

See Page 6-7

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"We Make American Soldiers"

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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All editorial content of the Fort Jackson Leader is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Jackson.

The Fort Jackson Leader is distributed online. To submit articles, story ideas or announcements, write the Fort Jackson Leader, 3330 Century Division Ave., Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, or call (803) 751-6739 or e-mail usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

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Survivors gather for the holidays

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

“There is no greater honor for me than recognizing those men and women who call South Carolina home and who have given their lives in defense of our great nation and the values we, as Americans, hold so dear,” said Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander, to a gathering of Gold Star family members at the NCO Club, Dec. 9. “We can never forget or minimize the sacrifices of the few for the benefit of the many. Moreover, I am mindful that no words or deeds we offer can ever truly erase the pain and loss of a loved one’s absence, especially during the holidays.”

The holidays can be a joyous time as families come together, yet for some it can be a harsh reminder for those who have lost loved ones, so South Carolina Survivor Outreach Services holds a holiday event every year to “remember the loved ones that families have lost and to let them know that we are always there for them,” said Marilyn Bailey, the post’s survivor outreach services coordinator.

... TO LET THEM
KNOW WE ARE
ALWAYS THERE FOR
THEM...

Marilynn Bailey
Survivor Outreach Services
Coordinator

The term Gold Star family originates during World War One I when families flew a banner in their windows with a blue star for each family members serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. When a service member was killed in action a blue star was replaced by a gold one.

a deep meaning.

“Today’s act of reverence is a time to honor our commitment to the heartbroken and proclaim our solemn promise never to forget those who served and sacrificed so much for our nation,” Kelly said. “By being here today, we are participating in a meaningful act of remembrance and ensuring that the fallen and their selfless service will continue to resonate with Americans from time immemorial.”

The holiday wishes event brings families together to help each in ways only those who share loss of loved ones can.

Gold Star family member Paola Barnes took part in the event as sort of a tradition because she doesn’t celebrate Christmas at home, plus she gets support she can’t get everywhere.

“I don’t celebrate (the holidays) because my husband passed away,” Rojas said. “So, this is nice to come here and honor him. I want to honor him.”

The event is good because you get the support you need, she said. Being with a group of those with shared experiences is helpful because “not everyone can understand what you



Photos by *NATHAN CLINEBELLE*

A Gold Star family member places an ornament on a Christmas tree during the event.



Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Cesar Duran, pose with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the holiday wishes event.

are going through. The support we have here is wonderful, it is always welcome. It’s nice to have a community that supports us.”

Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, adjutant general for South Carolina, said he felt blessed to be a part of the ceremony that saw



Special ornaments wait on a table during the holiday wishes 2023 event held in the NCO Club on post, Dec. 9. The South Carolina Survivor Outreach Services holds the event each year.

the 282nd Army Band play holiday music and ornaments hung on a Christmas tree.

“We hope, and more importantly, we pray that you find a comfort and a blessing by being here together with Gold Star mothers and Gold Star families,” he said.

Community Updates

HOLIDAY HOURS

Holiday Gate hours

Gate 1

CLOSED: Dec. 20 - Jan. 1

When Open

5:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. (M-F)

Gate 2

Open 24/7

Gate 4

CLOSED Dec. 23-26

4:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (M-F) When Open

Gate 5

6-8 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. (M-F) When Open

All lanes are open Dec. 18-19

Visitor Control Center (VCC): Monday-Sunday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Closed Dec. 25)

Commercial Traffic will utilize Gate 2 when Gate 4 is closed (No change)

All Gates will resume normal operations Jan. 2, 2024

Directorate of Human Resources

The Directorate of Human Resources will be closed on the following days:

Christmas Day – Dec. 25

Training holiday – Dec. 26

For more holiday closures visit: <https://home.army.mil/jackson/my-fort/facility-hours-2>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Road Name Changes

Fort Jackson has renamed numerous roads and streets on post named after Confederate leaders, battles and units. This is part of efforts to rename Department of Defense installations, streets, buildings and ships that featured



names commemorating the Confederacy. These name changes, effective Jan. 1, 2024, have already been made by the U.S. Postal Service. To learn which road names have changed, scan the QR code or visit <https://home.army.mil/jackson/about/fort-jackson-road-renaming>.

ArmyIgnited 101

Are you new to tuition assistance or credentialing assistance? Maybe you are looking for some refresher training. The Fort Jackson Army Continuing Education System is holding ArmyIgnited 101 briefs every second and fourth Mondays and Wednesdays of each month. The briefings will be held in person at the Education Center (4600 Strom Thurmond Blvd.) at 10 a.m. Dec. 27. To sign up email your attendance request to usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.dhr-jacksonedcenter@army.mil. Walk-ins are welcome.

Coffee, Donuts and Purpose

Coffee, Donuts, and Purpose allows retirees with drill experience to connect with current drill sergeants and those who are about to start their time on the trail. This common bond event allows retirees and today's Army members to connect and give back to one another making each other stronger through their shared service, passion, weaknesses, and strengths. For more information, email Tabatha Baker, 193rd Health Educator, at tabatha.l.baker2.civ@army.mil.

Combined Federal Campaign

Fort Jackson is holding its Combined Federal Campaign until Jan. 14 to allow Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians an opportunity to donate. CFC is a program allowing certain nonprofit organizations to solicit contributions from employees of the federal government of the United States. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is em-

ployee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. It is one of two campaigns allowed to solicit donations on post. For more information on how to donate contact your unit CFC coordinator.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

Holiday Paint & Sip

5:30-7:30 p.m., Solomon Center. Create a holiday masterpiece for \$30 per person. For those 10 years or older. Registration required by Dec 13. For more information, call 751-4056.

Mommy & Me Yoga

10:15-11 a.m., Army Community Service Bldg. Certified yoga instructor will walk you and your little one through basic yoga poses while providing mindful meditation and relaxation techniques. The class is free. Call 751-5256 to register.

Peaceful Parenting for 1-3-year-olds

11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Army Community Service Bldg. Strategies and information for handling common toddler and preschooler issues: tantrums, bedtime, picky eaters, potty-training, and more. Registration is encouraged, call 751-5256.

Escape Room Adventure

6 p.m., Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers has arranged an escape room adventure at Escapology, 717 Lady Street, Suite D, Columbia, for those eligible. Participants are able to choose from two rooms, which are Mayday and Under Pressure. The cost is \$10 per person and snacks will be provided. Maximum of six participants per room. For more information or to register, contact Sgt. Merari Morales at (803) 629-9781.



Fort Jackson

Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

DEC. 15

■ Lonesome Soldier (R) 6 p.m.

DEC. 16

■ Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce (NR) 6 p.m.

DEC. 20

■ Five Nights at Freddy's (PG-13) 2 p.m.

● Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.

● Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

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 751-6739.



A runner runs past the 'standing Andy' statue at Hilton Field during the Jingle Bell Fitness Run, Dec. 9.

Runners 'jingle' all the way

By **EMILY HILEMAN**

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

Running enthusiasts of all ages gathered on Fort Jackson, Dec. 9, to participate in the jolliest run of the season, the Jingle Bell Fitness Run - all while wearing small bells. The 3.1-mile course was peppered with various additional physical activities called breakout stations that featured exercises such as squats and the caterpillar crawl.

"Fitness and wellness become front and center at this time of year," said Pam Long, fitness coordinator at the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "People are celebrating the holidays and getting together with family and friends, but in the back of their minds, they're thinking of the opportunity to get healthy again. So, that's where events like this make people come together and get active."

The run, one of many annual running events planned by FMWR, kicked off at 8 a.m. at the NCO Club and invited the

entire Fort Jackson community to participate.

10-year old runner, R.J. Bailey, one of the running enthusiasts, was excited to participate in the Jingle Bell Fitness Run and have the chance to beat the time of Lt. Col. Richard Bailey, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment commander, who also happens to be R.J.'s dad.

"I like that with running, you don't need to be super-fast to do it," R.J. said. "You just need to go long."

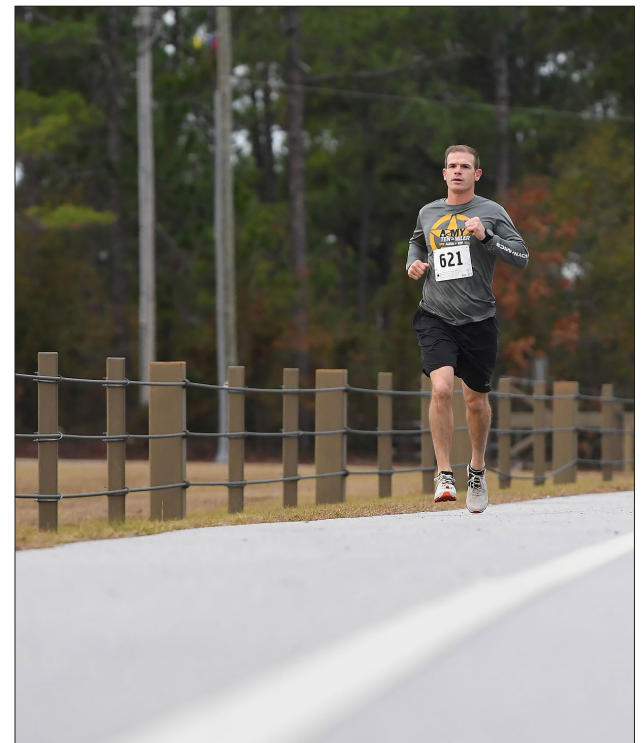
Although he likes that you don't have to be fast in endurance runs, his favorite part of the run was running downhill.

"You can just run, and you don't have to worry about keeping your breath," he said. "You can go as fast as you want."

He continued to encourage all runners to come out because running is "awesome and you don't have to be really good at it," to participate.

R.J. was able to succeed at his goal of beating his father, by running a 7-minute mile.

"Our goal is to keep it light, keep it fun, keep it constant,"



Col. David Uthlaut, 165th Infantry Brigade commander, runs in the Jingle Bell Fitness Run, Dec. 9. Uthlaut joined other fitness enthusiasts to run a 3.1-mile course peppered with various physical activities.



R.J. Bailey, left, and his father, Lt. Col. Richard Bailey, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment commander, run near Hilton Field, Dec. 9, as part of Fort Jackson's Jingle Bell Fitness Run.

said Long, reinforcing R.J.'s excitement and enjoyment. "The consistency of wellness gives everyone the opportunity to always have something to do to enhance wellness."

The true holiday believers were greeted with an exciting treat following the completion of the run, at the NCO Club - breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Jingle Bell Fitness Run was also the last Commander's Cup event of the season. For future fitness and wellness activities on Fort Jackson, keep an eye on The Leader, call FMWR at 751-3700, or visit their website at <https://jackson.armymwr.com/>.

New program targets 90-day fitness goals

By **EMILY HILEMAN**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Will 2024 be the beginning of your fitness era?

According to research, only 9% of Americans complete their resolutions, with 23% of people giving up their resolution by the end of the first week of January and 43% abdicating by the end of the month.

Pam Long, fitness coordinator with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hoping to revamp its fitness challenge to help people achieve their fitness and health goals.

In the past, FMWR has facilitated a challenge dubbed "The Biggest Loser," but Long said it's lost some of its luster and it's no longer motivating participants.

"Instead, they're like, 'Oh, man. Here's The Biggest Loser again. I gained all the weight back from last time,' and so I'm trying to pull away from the name, but the 90-day concept remains," she said. "So, I'm just calling it a 90-Day Makeover and I'm doing it in 30-day chunks."

The first 30 days of the program is the water and walking challenge and it's simply drinking eight glasses of water per day and walking 2,000 steps per day, which is roughly equal to one mile.

"Right now, we have in-person walking segments planned and we'll meet at Pecan Orchard (near Darby Field) on post and complete the 2,000 steps together. We'll do this at least two days per week, but I'm trying to squeeze in three," Long said, "but participants are also encouraged to walk on their own."

Each week, participants log their steps and water intake on a calendar

they receive from Long once they register for the program. The calendar also includes the dates the group will meet to walk together in person.

"The second 30 days is called Salads and Sun Salutations. We have a yoga instructor that will provide a 15-minute yoga exercise twice per week," Long said. "There will also be 15 salads posted in our online group to choose from."

Participants can attend the yoga in person or follow along at their convenience online in the Facebook group. As for the salads, Long said fitness followers choose one and add it to their daily regimen.

"Group members add this healthy salad to their current meal and continue that for 30 days," Long elaborated. "Which will make a difference, because a salad is loaded with nutrients and so is the water from the first 30 days."

The last month has participants following and engaging in the Couch to 5K program.

"We have our running coach and they'll work with everyone to show them how they can physically go from walking to running a 5K, which will be done on a flat surface only," Long said. "We'll all physically run the 5K together. Everyone will receive a bib with a timer on the bottom of it and we're going to make a really big deal out of the Couch to 5K."

The 90-Day Makeover begins Jan. 2 and is \$15 per month to participate and Long said the proceeds go to help support their fitness and recreation program. Registration has already begun and will continue through the length of the program. For more information or to register, email Long at pamela.j.long19.naf@army.mil or call 751-3700.

I'M CALLING IT A 90-DAY MAKE-OVER AND I'M DOING IT IN 30-DAY CHUNKS.

Pam Long
Fitness Programmer

Holiday Service Schedule

On behalf of the chaplains and staff of Fort Jackson religious community,
Happy Hanukkah, Season's Greetings, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Dec. 24, 31

Catholic Mass	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Main Post Chapel
Gospel Service	10:30 a.m.-Noon	Daniel Circle Chapel
General Protestant	11 a.m.-Noon	Main Post Chapel
Revive Community	5-6 p.m.	Main Post Chapel

During the week

Catholic Mass Mon-Fri Noon - 1 p.m. Main Post Chapel

Christmas Eve Services

The Revive Community will have a special Candlelight Service at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) and they would like to welcome everyone to come.

The Roman Catholic Community will have Carols and Mass starting at 7 p.m.

Dec. 25 — No on-post Christmas Day services are scheduled

Initial Entry Training Services - Dec. 24, 31

There are no IET Services Dec. 17

Catholic Mass	8-9 a.m.	4-39 Footprint
Protestant Service	9:30-10:30 a.m.	4-39 Footprint
Latter Day Saints	11 a.m.-Noon	4-39 Footprint



Photo by EMILY HILEMAN

Holiday Tune-up

Addison Murphree, music teacher with Pierce Terrace and C.C. Pinckney elementary schools, leads Pierce Terrace students in singing holiday songs during the school's holiday concert, Dec. 8.

SSI redesignates to honor barrier-breaking pioneer

Story, photos by
EMILY HILEMAN

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson, home to the Adjutant General School, Finance and Comptroller School, the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, U.S. Army School of Music, the Interservice Postal Training Activity and the 369th Adjutant General Battalion, held a redesignation ceremony, Dec. 12.

The ceremony officially redesignated the location as the Soldier Support Institute, Army Sustainment University-Adams Campus, in honor of Lt. Col. Charity Adams.

The redesignation occurred as part of the Department of Defense's Naming Commission that identified nine Army posts, dozens of buildings and hundreds of street names to be re-named or redesignated because they bore the names of individuals associated with the Confederate States of America.

"The Naming Commission's primary goal was to inspire service members and military communities with names or values that have meaning," said Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander. "Today, we're being good ancestors. We're getting it right."

Adams was the high-est-ranking black female in the Army at the time.

"I served as an Army officer for 28 years and I could not have done that if (Adams) had not blazed the path for me," said Sydney A. Smith, the president of Army Sustainment University, Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia. "... Her legacy is going to be an example for the 32,000 plus sustainment leaders who walk through the doors of Army Sustainment University each year, both here at the Soldier Support Institute as well as our other campus at Fort Gregg-Adams, her other namesake."

Adams grew up in Columbia, South Carolina and graduated high school as her class valedictorian. She relocated to Ohio and attended Wilberforce University where she obtained her bachelor's degree. She promptly returned to South Carolina and began teaching junior high school. During the summer, she attended Ohio State University in pursuit of her master's in psychology.



Soldier Support Institute's Command Sgt. Maj. Justin Turner; Judith Earley, daughter of Lt. Col. Charity Adams; Lt. Gen. Douglas Stitt, Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1; Soldier Support Institute Commander, Col. Jason Edwards; Lt. Gen. Paul Chamberlain, Military Deputy for Budget; Stanley Earley, son of Lt. Col. Charity Adams and Sydney Smith, president of Army Sustainment University, Combined Arms Support Command, cut the cake following the redesignation ceremony, Dec. 12.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Adams promptly halted her educational pursuits and joined the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps where she was quickly assigned to Officer Candidate School due to her scholarly and leadership skills.

Adams completed the female officer candidate course at Fort Des Moines, Iowa in August 1942 and received a commission in the Army.

In 1944, she was selected to command the 6888th Central Postal Directory in England, which was tasked with delivering mail to and from nearly 3 million Soldiers fighting in the European theater.

At the end of war, she was promoted to lieutenant colonel, which was the highest officer grade a female in the Women's Army Corps could legally hold. She was discharged in 1946 and completed her master's in vocational psychology at OSU.



Col. Jason Edwards, commander of the Soldier Support Institute, Army Sustainment University - Adams Campus, gives a tour of the campus to Stanley and Judith Earley, following the redesignation ceremony in honor of their late mother, Lt. Col. Charity Adams, Dec. 12.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Families eat their breakfast at the NCO Club Dec. 9, after the Jingle Bell Fitness Run. Santa and Mrs. Claus visited patrons at the event.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Lt. Col. Anthony Messenger, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment commander, leads his battalion during the post holiday run, Dec. 12.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Troops raise their unit guidon as they near the end of the post's holiday run, Dec. 12. The run was one of many events held at Fort Jackson to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. 'Please accept my warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday break,' said Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander, before the run.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Guidon bearers with the Army Training Center and Fort Jackson present the Fort Jackson colors during the playing of Reveille, Dec. 12, before the start of the 2023 Holiday Run.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

A trombone player plays a holiday tune during warm-ups for the 2023 Holiday Run at Fort Jackson, Dec. 12. The run was one of many events held on post leading up to the holidays.

Beginning to look a lot like ... *Jackson holidays*

Post begins festive season with a post run, holiday concert by the 282nd Army Band, and other events.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Staff Sgt. Thomas Katysiannis, a musician with the 282nd Army Band, jams a guitar riff during "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch" performed during the band's holiday concert held, Dec. 13, at the Koger Center of the Arts in Columbia, S.C.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

(Above) Staff Sgt. Shawn McGovern sings 'You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,' accompanied by the Grinch himself, aka Sgt. Willie Reed, during the 282nd Army Band's holiday performance at the Koger Center for the Arts in Columbia, S.C., Dec. 13.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

(Left) A santa hat sits atop a bassoon during the 282nd Army Band's holiday concert titled 'Twas the Night,' held at the Koger Center of the Arts in Columbia, S.C. The band played two concerts, Dec. 13 and they will play another one in Sumter, S.C., Dec. 16.

WHY I SERVE

1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

SPC. TIMOTHY BROOKS, 25

Davis, California

"I have always wanted to serve in the military. It felt like a calling to give something back to a country that has done so much for myself, my Family, and the world."

"I was prepared for Basic Combat Training to be physically and mentally demanding."

"The people were the most challenging part of BCT. While there will always be difficulties assimilating people from varied backgrounds into a new environment, the amount of immaturity and disrespect from my peers made BCT tougher than anticipated."

"My MOS is 09S – Commissioned Officer Candidate. I want to serve in a leadership role within the Army."



PFC. MIGUEL ROBLES, 30

Salinas, California

"I have always dreamed about joining the military and serving my country, but because I had cancer when I was 17, I wasn't able to join. My sister's boyfriend told me that there are waivers for previous conditions, so I was in an office two days later."

"I thought we would have a much more stressful environment with drill sergeants screaming in our faces the way you see in the movies or online."

"My MOS is 12N – Horizontal Construction Engineer. I chose this job because my first choice wasn't available due to red-green color-blindness."



SPC. ROLYN DUMALA, 34

High Point, North Carolina

"My friend asked me one day if I wanted to join the National Guard and it piqued my interest. I think it will be challenging and I will be able to learn something new aside from my civilian job."

"I was able to ask other trainees who graduated Basic Combat Training before what it was like. So, I got a little bit of a picture of what it's like. I knew it wouldn't be easy, especially on the physical side. But I was able to do some exercises and that made me prepared for the things that I did."

"My MOS is 91F – Small Arms Repairer. I just think it would be interesting to learn new things aside from my civilian job."



PFC. XIANNA GAGNON, 21

Savannah, Georgia

"My older sister, who is also in the Army, influenced me to join."

"I imagined that Basic Combat Training was going to be difficult and lonely. I thought I wasn't going to be prepared or able to pass anything. As well as that I wasn't going to have anyone."

"The most challenging part of BCT was keeping a positive mindset."

"My advice to someone starting BCT would be to follow orders and instructions. Right time, right uniform and right attitude."

"My MOS is 68B – Orthopedic Specialist. It wasn't my first choice, but I chose it since it's in the medical field and helps others."



PFC. SARA RAMIREZ, 18

Greeley, Colorado

"My parents, who both served in the Air Force, were my biggest influence to join the Army."

"I had many ideas of what Basic Combat Training would be like, but I never imagined I would be so successful."

"The most challenging part of BCT was taking it on the chin when others weren't willing to change. It becomes difficult to forgive the same people for messing up the same thing every day."

"My MOS is 89D – Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialist. I chose this MOS because I wanted a challenge and I wanted to prove to myself and everyone else that I can make it."



PFC. MICHAEL MCCLARY, 36

Carrollton, Texas

"My grandfather influenced me to join the Army. He served in the Navy a long time ago. I decided to join in 2006, following graduation and Sept. 11, 2001. My brother also joined, and he inspired me as well."

"I honestly had no expectation of Basic Combat Training. The second time through BCT has changed quite a bit from what it was before. It's been another challenging experience, to say the least."

"My MOS is 46T – Visual Information Equipment Operator-Maintainer. I chose that because outside of the Army, I own a photography business and I did some media stuff as well."



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

Army identifying possible ROTC service time miscalculation

By **CHRISTOPHER HURD**
Army News Service

The Army is reviewing the records of all officers who were commissioned through the active-duty option of the Green to Gold Program for possible time-in-service miscalculations.

The records review follows a U.S. Army Cadet Command Inspector General notice in September stating some Soldiers may not have known the period they spent as cadets did not count toward their time in service for retirement.

"It's my business to take care of Soldiers, and I don't want to rush to the wrong conclusion," said Brig. Gen. Hope C. Rampy, director, Military Personnel Management Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff. "I want to go through a deliberate process and confirm what's in their file. I want to come up with options that best takes care of that Soldier and their Families."

Federal law, Title 10 section 2106, prohibits the Army from counting a Soldier's time in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps toward time in service.

The Army is currently going through each officer's record to verify if any miscalculation took place. The time to complete the review is to be determined.

During this process, the Army will see if there is anything in a Soldier's record that shows if they were aware the time in the ROTC program did not count toward retirement.

Current cadets signed a notification this fall letting them know that time in the Green to Gold Active-Duty Option program does not count toward their years in service in accordance with law.

"It's not about trying to find fault with the Soldier, it's about trying to find an opportunity if we have the chance to correct their record with little or minimal impact," Rampy said. "We have to have proof."

Once the review is complete, the



Photo by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

ROTC Cadets and junior officers gathered together on Fort Jackson April 21. The Army is reviewing records looking for ROTC service miscalculations.

Army will identify solutions for each group of affected Soldiers.

For retired/separated service members, Rampy says the Army is looking at options with the least amount of impact including "no potentially remedial action."

Solutions for active-duty Soldiers will depend on the scope of the problem, Rampy said. The Army Board of Corrections for Military Records can provide individual relief or class relief depending on the findings of the review process.

The Army will reach out to Soldiers as soon as their record review is complete and notify them before any changes are made.

"It doesn't matter if it was just one individual (affected by a potential miscalculation), the Army is profoundly committed to taking care of Soldiers," Rampy said.

"Some people have dedicated their entire adult life to this business, and it's personal," Rampy added. "And I think it's extremely important that they know we, the Army, are committed to taking care of them and their Family."

SALUTING THIS BCT CYCLE'S HONOREES 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Zachary Cobb

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Xianna Gagnon

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Sara Ramirez

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Rolyn Dumala

BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Jacob Neiman

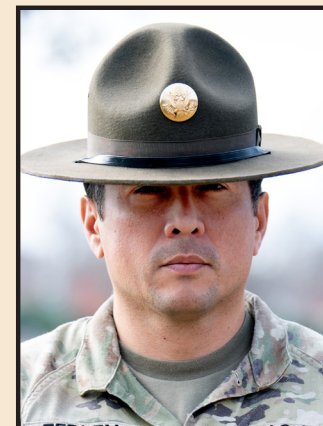
SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Lorna Nieves-Sevillano

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Timothy Brooks

ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Michael McClary

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Miguel Robles

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Leann Dobbs



STAFF SGT. SAM ZEBLEY

**DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE**

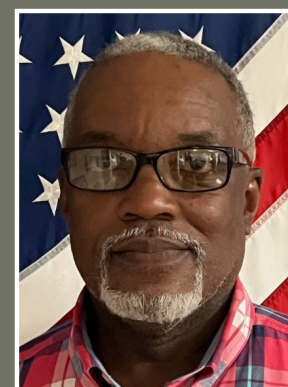
SALUTING THE CIVILIANS OF THE YEAR Army Training Center

The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson recognized the following Department of Defense civilians as the Fiscal Year 2023 Civilians of the Year. David Jackson, motor vehicle operator, 165th Infantry Brigade, WG-06 and below; and Michael Derry, information technology specialist with ATC as GS-9 and above. The two honorees were recognized for their commitment to service and were presented with a Civilian Army Service Commendation Medal and time off award.



MICHAEL DERRY

GS-9 and above
Army Training Center

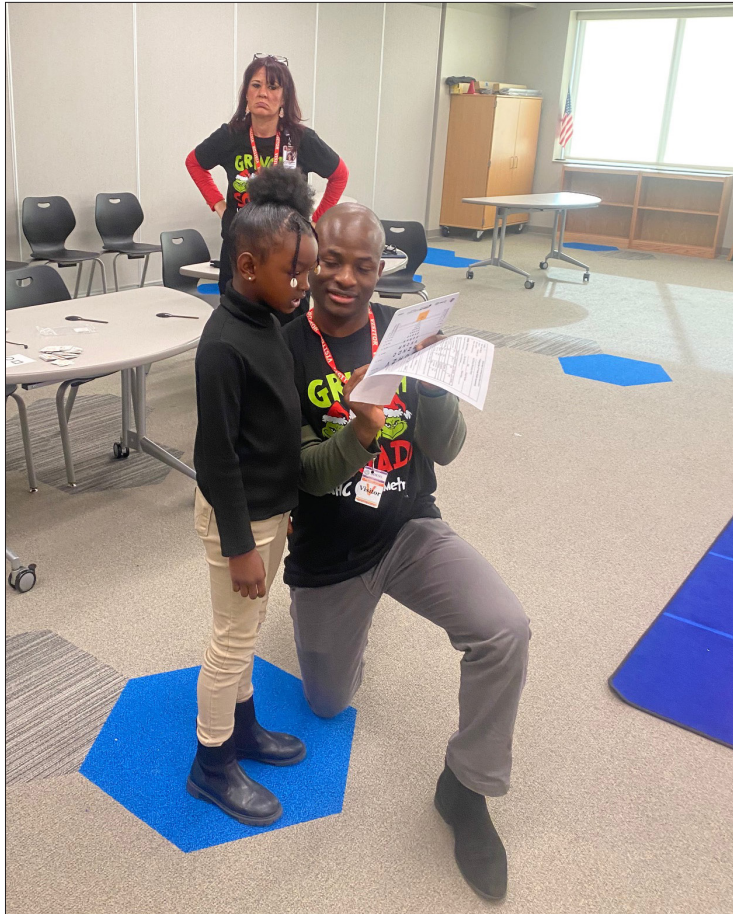


DAVID JACKSON

WG-06 and below
165th Infantry Brigade

See you in 2024

The Leader is taking a holiday hiatus and will return in January.



An optometrist speaks to a child at Pierce Terrace Elementary School about vision health.

Team en'vision's eye health at Pierce Terrace

By **LORRAINE EMORY**
Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Capt. Ridwan Carwim-Sanni, Chief of Optometry from the Moncrief Army Health Clinic, assembled a vision team to visit Pierce Terrace Elementary School, Dec. 8.

The vision team educated and performed a vision screening on PreK and first-grade students for vision problems. Earlier in the school year, kindergarteners were screened.

Carwin-Sanni's team from Moncrief spent the morning with students to be screened for issues.

Vision screenings are used to detect vision health issues early on when they are more straightforward to treat. An evaluation that is performed to identify decreased visual acuity and risk factors that threaten the growth and development of the eye and visual



Courtesy photos

A group of optometrists from Moncrief Army Health Clinic's Optometry Department pose at Pierce Terrace Elementary School on post during a visit, Dec. 8.

system in children is known as a pediatric vision screening. Many eye problems do not have any symptoms, so vision screening is

a crucial way to find visual disorders in kids with no other symptoms.

This helps with early diagnosis and treatment, and any untreated condition has less of an effect on their visual development and educational and social progress.

School vision screening is a public health measure involving eye examination of children in a school setting, followed by communication with parents about their child's visual health and any necessary care.

The team attempts to spot vision health issues early on and encourages parents to get treatment when necessary.

A more thorough vision exam may be necessary with a failed vision screening. Students with failed vision screening results will be referred for a complete eye examination and return the final assessment to the school nurse for follow-up.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Happy Retirement

Fort Jackson honored the service of Col. Eric Flesch, Sgt. 1st Class Mia Fripp, and Staff Sgt. William Winstead during the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment graduation Dec. 14.

DID YOU KNOW:
Use of tobacco, alcohol, and/or medications can increase the risk of cold weather illnesses/injuries. For more information visit: safety.army.mil.



Lt. Col. Charity Adams-Early

SSI

Continued from Page 7

where she met her husband Stanley Earley, Jr.

She later became the Dean at the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College (now Tennessee State University) and Georgia State University. She also served on many civic boards and mentored a new generation of black leaders.

“Lt. Col. Charity Adams was the epitome of an Army Sustainer. She was given a practically impossible mission with limited resources and very poor conditions,” Smith said. “... She worked out of dimly lit, rat-infested hangars and warehouses and yet she and her battalion of 900 Soldiers literally delivered well beyond the expected; clearing a six-month backlog of mail in just three months.”

“She combined her mastery of the art of postal operations with exceptional inspired leadership for her troops, who worked practically nonstop,” Smith continued. “Just as our sustainers around the globe do today. She took the impossible and made it look easy.”

Also in attendance at the monumental ceremony, were Adams’ two children, Judith and Stanley Earley, who attended for their mother.

“Redesignations are bridges from the past to the future,” said Kelly. “and by design, honor people who inspire hope and whose courage, dignity, patriotism and service exemplify the very best of us.”

Although Adams passed away in 2002, her legacy will continue to live on in the passion, leadership, and dedication of each service member that passes through the Soldier Support Institute, Army Sustainment University-Adams Campus.



Army Community Service

Dec. 22,25Closed
Dec. 29, Jan. 1.....Closed
Jan.2 Normal Hours

Auto Craft Shop - Dec. 20 - Jan. 2
Block leave hrs 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 22,25Closed
Dec. 29, Jan. 1.....Closed
Jan. 4Normal Hours

Century Lanes Bowling Ctr

Dec. 19-21.....Closed
Dec. 225-10 p.m.
Dec. 2312-8 p.m.
Dec. 24-28Closed
Dec. 295-10 p.m.
Dec. 3012-8 p.m.
Dec. 31, Jan. 112-6 p.m.
Jan. 5Normal Hours

Child Youth Services
CDCs and SACs

Dec. 21-296 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25, Jan. 1.....Closed
CDCs combined at Scales
(4581 Scales Ave)
SACs combined at Hood St
(5614 Hood St)

Youth Center

Dec. 20-296 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25, Jan. 1Closed

Parent Central Services

Dec. 25-29Closed
Jan. 1Closed

Lee Rd Extended Care Ctr

Dec. 20 to Jan. 2Closed

NCO Club

Dec. 18 - Jan. 8Closed
Jan. 9-11 .. Lunch Open .. short
order only

Down Range Bar

Dec. 18 to Jan. 16Closed
Jan. 17Normal Hours

Palmetto Greens, 512 Trolley

Open Family Days Only
*Solomon Center, Palmetto Greens
512 Trolley will be open to
accommodate any VBL activities.

Solomon Center

Dec. 20 to Jan. 1Closed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Fort Jackson Golf Club

Dec. 25Closed

Marion Street Station

Dec. 18-2211 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 23-25Closed
Dec. 26-2911 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 31 to Jan. 1Closed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Aachen Range

Dec. 26Closed
Jan. 2Closed

Victory Bingo

Dec. 24,25Closed
Dec. 31 to Jan. 1Closed

Victory Travel Center

Dec. 18-229 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dec. 25,26,29Closed
Dec. 27-289 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Jan. 1Closed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Perez Fitness Center

Dec. 20-22 ..6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 23,24 ..9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 25Closed
Dec.26-29 ..6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 30-31 .9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Jan. 1Closed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Vanguard Gym

Dec. 20 - Jan. 1Closed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Coleman Gym-Open 24 hrs

Dec. 18 - Jan. 1....Unstaffed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Thomas Lee Hall Library

Dec. 23-25Closed
Dec. 30 - Jan.1Closed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Knight Pool

Dec. 20 - Jan. 1Closed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Weston Lake

Dec. 3010 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 31 - Jan.1Closed
Jan. 2Normal Hours

Recycle Center

Dec. 25Closed
Jan. 1Closed
Jan.2Normal Hours

Videorama

Dec. 19 - Jan.2Closed

Fitness Classes

Dec. 19(last class
4 p.m. at Vanguard)
Dec. 20 to Jan. 1Closed
Jan. 2 Normal Hours

(Current as of Nov. 28, 2023)

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander, welcomes units after they finished running in the post's holiday run, Dec. 12.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE