

THURSDAY, AUG. 7, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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**'BEST ASSIGNMENT OF
MY CAREER'**

PCSM REMEMBERS HIS TIME AT JACKSON



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DOD launches 24/7 permanent change of station call center

Story, photo by **SENIOR AIRMAN KEIRA ROSSMAN**
PCS Joint Task Force

The Permanent Change of Station Joint Task Force launched a 24/7 call center today to help service members, Defense Department civilians and their families with their government moves. Service members can call 833-MIL-MOVE (833-645-6683), email PCSCallCenter@mail.mil or visit the PCS JTF webpage for support.

Personnel using the 1 (833) MIL-MOVE number will have their cases triaged prior to being escalated to the PCS JTF call center.

"When a military family reaches out for help, they shouldn't have to chase answers," said Army Maj. Gen. Lance G. Curtis, PCS JTF commander. "This call center ensures someone takes responsibility and stays with them until the issue is fixed."

Once a service member undergoing a government household goods move reaches the call center, trained military personnel log the issue into a centralized tracking system. Callers will receive regular, personalized updates until their issues are resolved.

Task force leaders estimate that 40% of calls that currently go to 833-MIL-MOVE will be escalated to the PCS JTF call center to help resolve moving issues.

"First, we receive a warm transfer from the system response center, where they explain the issue the service member is experiencing," said Marine Corps Sgt. Garay Reyes, a PCS JTF call center action officer. "Next, we pull the incident number or ticket to review the history of the situation. From there, we begin our own process to pinpoint the issue and find a reliable solution that



A moving contractor carries boxes onto a truck during a military move near Scott Air Force Base, Ill., July 18, 2025. The Defense Department recently established the PCS Joint Task Force to improve the moving experience for service members and their families.

meets the service member's needs. Throughout the entire process, our team follows up with the service member until the incident is fully resolved."

The call center offers around-the-clock support worldwide, ensuring military families receive assistance with household goods moves regardless of their time zone.

Personally procured moves are still the responsibility of service members who elect to use that option, and the task force call

center personnel will help wherever possible. Detailed guidance for PPMs is available on the Military OneSource website.

Reyes said the PCS JTF call center focuses on case ownership and ensuring a tailored and consistent communication experience.

"Case ownership means it becomes personal," he explained. "It builds a sense of commitment; when you take ownership of a case, you're driven to help the service member to the best of your ability, even if

you don't have the answer right away. That effort makes the customer feel heard and supported."

To prepare, call center action officers received training to ensure they could deliver expert-level support from day one. This included a call-answering workshop, which emphasized best practices in clarity, empathy and effective communication.

See **PCS:** Page 9

ON THE COVER

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, and Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs lead a post run. Ochs recently sat down to discuss his time at Fort Jackson.



Photo by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Ochs: Jackson best assignment of my career

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

For Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs his tenure as the senior enlisted leader of the installation will end Aug. 15 when he hands over his duties to Command Sgt. Maj. William Shoaf.

Ochs sat down and spoke briefly about his time at Fort Jackson.

"It is bittersweet," he said as the ceremony looms just over a week away. "I've definitely and totally enjoyed my time here. I love our mission. I love what we do as Team Jackson. I hate to see it end, but I also know it's how the Army works. I'm becoming that old guy that's ingrained in the system, and we need new ideas and new perspectives here as we continue to improve."

Ochs, who entered the Army in 1998 as an infantryman, said the assignment has been at the top of his career accomplishments.

"It is definitely the best assignment of my career," he said. "This truly has been the best job I've ever had in my career, and it's mainly because of the people, and absolutely because of the mission. What we are doing here making American Soldiers has a strategic impact on our country. We are setting the culture for the Army here at Fort Jackson, where 60% start from. We have nothing but an open slate to help shape the future of our force. And to me, it's such a grave mission."

He said a vision one of his sons training at Fort Jackson lends a fresh perspective to the mission of making American Soldiers.

"I just see my son standing out there and realizing the connection of how important what we do here is," he said. "And the importance of the care, dignity and respect we show because each and every one of those trainees is a son or daughter of somebody like me, and we have to treat them as such."

He would remember the "the extraordinary professionals and exemplary warfighters" the most after his time at Jackson ends.

"It all comes down to people," said Ochs, who has multiple combat deploy-

THIS TRULY HAS BEEN THE BEST JOB I'VE HAD IN MY CAREER, AND ITS MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE, AND ABSOLUTELY BECAUSE OF THE MISSION.

- Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs

ments under his belt. "That's why I've stayed in uniform for 28 years. It is not because of the job, not because of the pay, it's the people we get to work with every day."

As he prepares to leave

his position, he said he wants people to know that he cared for them.

"I said day one in my incoming change of responsibility speech, that my sole focus was going to be on taking care of the cadre and their families," Ochs said. "I've tried to shape every decision and every action I've done since then ... to benefit our people."

He credits his wife and the post com-

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Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs receives the guidon from Maj. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, then Fort Jackson commander, during the ceremony where he took responsibility for the Army Training Center and Fort Jackson

File photos



Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs and Staff Sgt. David Weston, place a wreath at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery, May 26, 2025.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATC Change of Responsibility

Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs will transfer responsibility for Army Training Center and Fort Jackson to Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Shoaf in a ceremony held on Victory Field at 9 a.m. Aug. 15.

Safety Training

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://airs.safety.army.mil/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your safety specialist.

■ Advance Riders Cours: Sept. 9 (6 seats open)

■ Basic Riders Course: Aug. 19-21 (0 seats open); Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (3 seats open)*

■ Intermediate Drivers Course: Aug. 15 (7 seats open); Sept. 18 (25 seats open)

■ Local Hazards Course: Every Monday at 10 a.m. (except holidays)

■ Remedial Drivers Course: Tuesday (12 seats open)

■ Unit Safety Officer Course: Oct. 7-8 (20 seats open)— send your designated Safety Officer an email to register

■ Heat Illness Prevention Training: Every Monday at 1 p.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Room 207.

* Safety officials encourage those wishing to attend in case of no shows.

First Friday Golf

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, invites you to join him for First Friday Golf the first Friday of every month. This is a Captain's Choice event and will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Jackson Golf Club. You may enter your own team or sign up as a single and be paired with a group. Entry fee is \$45 for FJGC members and \$55 for non-members. The entry fee includes applicable greens fee, user Fee, cart, prizes, and a boxed lunch. Register by calling the pro shop, at (803) 562-4437.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

UNTIL - AUG. 8

Youth Sports Registration

Registration for tackle football, flag football, cheerleading, soccer and cross country begins. For more information and costs to register, call (803) 751-7451.

UNTIL-AUG. 28

Intramural Basketball

The games are on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 and 7 p.m. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

SATURDAY

Outdoor Fishing Trip

5 a.m., Marion Street Station. Travel to Hilton Head, S.C. with Outdoor Recreation Team and fish 3-5 miles offshore for black sea bass, mackerel, black drum, red fish, bluefish and maybe even a shark. Climb on board a 70-foot boat for a five-hour fishing trip. The boat offers shaded and seated fishing areas, restrooms, and even has snacks and drinks

for sale on board. Transportation and coolers will be provided. Cost (\$95 per adult) covers transportation, license, bait and tackle. Preregistration required at Outdoor Recreation. For registration and more information, call (803) 751-3484.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Dog Days at the Waterpark

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Palmetto Falls Water Park. Bring Fido to Palmetto Falls to wallow in the water. Dogs vaccinations must be current. Season pass holders are allowed one dog per pass. Non-pass holders \$10 per dog. For more information, call (803) 751-4796.

TUESDAY

Shred Day

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Recycle Center. Come and shred all types of paper with sensitive information will be accepted, but NO classified documents. Shredding papers with your personal information provides a level of insurance against identity theft and misuse. If you have any questions or comments please call, (803)751-4208.

Love & Money Matters

10 a.m. to noon, MS Teams. Army Community Service and the Religious Support Office hold a workshop to teach effective communication strategies and address common money issues in relationships. Learn to set SMART goals as a couple that can lead to wealth building and a stronger relationship. Registration is required. For more information or to re-



Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, AUG. 9

■ Freakier Friday (PG)

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13

■ Freakier Friday (PG)

- All shows start at 2 p.m.
- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

gister, call 803-751-5256 (option 3).

AUG. 16

Edisto River Tubing

7 a.m., Marion Steet Station. Join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation and enjoy a relaxing trip tubing down the Edisto River. For more information and to register, call (803) 751-3484.

AUG. 19

Thrft Savings Plan Seminar

10-11:30 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road, Rm. 119. Do you want to gain a better understanding of the Thrift Savings Plan, and



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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.



Courtesy Photo

Army Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Bill Green Jr., Regimental Sgt. Maj. Meaghan Simmons, retired Army Chaplain (Col.) Scottie Lloyd, and Pfc. Lamar Davis cut the Chaplain Corps birthday cake as part of the Corps' 250th anniversary celebration.

Institute for Religious Leadership celebrates Chaplain Corps' 250th anniversary

By **MASTER SGT. DENISE MIN**
Institute for Religious Leadership

The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps marked the 250th anniversary of the day the Continental Congress established, July 29.

The U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership hosted several events to celebrate two and half centuries of excellence in religious support and spiritual care for Soldiers and their Families.

Chaplain Corps Leaders from across the Army came to Fort Jackson to attend the Religious Leaders Symposium, led by Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Bill Green, Chief of Chaplains, and Sgt. Maj. Meaghan Simmons, Chaplain Corps and Regimental Sergeant Major covered aspects of the

Army Transformation Initiative and took a deep-dive into the role that the Chaplain Corps plays in evolving the Army.

Green, empowered the Corps Leaders in attendance to lean forward and embrace transformation: "What we do remains the same. How we do it will change. We have to be ready for that change."

Day Two of the anniversary celebration started off with a Regimental Run.

Attendees, unwilling to let the weather keep them from starting the day off with some physical readiness training, went for an easy 2-mile esprit de corps run in the rain.

Capt. Andy Wright and his team from the Fort Jackson Fire Department came out to help the formation celebrate the

completion of the run.

Another highlight of Day Two was the incredible historical display, organized by Chaplain (Capt.) Juman Kim. The display highlighted artifacts and photos from the past 250 years of the chaplaincy.

Those on the Institute campus were able to step back into history and read and experience the story of the Chaplain Corps dating back to the Revolutionary War.

Elsewhere on Fort Jackson, Chaplain Corps spouses, young and slightly-less-young, came together at a luncheon hosted by Robin Green at the 1917 Club.

The event was attended by 120 spouses from across the Corps, representing all three Army components and retirees. It was a time for the spouses to rest, rejuvenate,

and celebrate their part in the amazing Chaplain Corps legacy.

From the inception of the Chaplain Corps 250 years ago, spouses of unit ministry team members have worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes and in sometimes thankless roles, in partnership with their service member to ensure outstanding spiritual care to Soldiers and Families.

The week closed out with a U.S. Army Chaplain Corps and Regimental Association Birthday Ball held in downtown Columbia.

More than 800 Chaplain Corps members, past and present, attended the Ball and spent an evening celebrating the history and legacy of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps.

Jackson goes back to school

Story, photos by **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson welcomed students back for the new school year with a colorful run and celebrations at each school.

The back-to-school festivities began Aug. 2 with Child, Youth Services annual color run and kicked off in earnest when schools officially opened their doors to students, Aug. 4.

The run was a one-mile fun run around the perimeter of the Youth Sports Complex where runners were doused with color as they passed by.

The festival was “just to kick the kids off on a positive note back to school,” said Darius Lane, Youth Services Sports coordinator.

“It’s a great end of the season, end of summer and something to give them something to do before they go back to school,” he said. “It’s a good positive event. We are out here promoting school and doing something cool for families.”

The event featured not only the run but had other activities as well. There were field games, bounce houses, free school supplies and even the Fort Jackson Fire Department made an appearance.

The run was the last before school started.

Cars lined up at C.C. Pinckney and Pierce Terrace elementary school’s as parents escorted their students to the first day of the new school year. They were greeted by members of the Fort Jackson garrison team

including Col. David Gaugush, at Pierce Terrace, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Brie Kotula, at C.C. Pinckney.

Musicians from the 282d Army Band even were there to add to the ambiance as was McGruff the Crime Dog.

“I am filled with excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to serve our incredible students, families, and staff here at Fort Jackson,” said Dr. Taminika “Tammy” Shadd, Pinckney principal. “This year, our school community is united under a single, powerful word that captures our shared purpose and passion: elevate.”

To elevate means more than just rising, it means lifting each other up, reaching higher with intention, and creating an environment where every student can thrive, Shadd said.

“As a school serving military-connected families, we understand the unique challenges and strengths that come with this lifestyle,” she said. “Our mission is to provide stability, excellence, and a sense of belonging for every child who walks through our doors. We are committed to fostering a culture of high expectations, meaningful relationships, and purposeful growth.”

On the Pierce Terrace Elementary School website, Principal Robert Batty wrote his school is “a true community school that offers a warm welcome to all students and parents. We are committed to helping every student realize their potential by promoting high academic achievement for all.”



Clockwise from middle top: Families and students walk down the halls of Pierce Terrace Elementary School for the first day of school, Aug. 4.

McGruff the Crime Dog welcomes students and their parents to Pierce Terrrace Elementary School, Aug. 4.

Parents walk with their students for the first day school at C.C. Pinckney Elementary School.

Participants run the gauntlet and get doused with color during a back to school event held Aug. 2, 2025 at the Youth Services Complex on Fort Jackson. The annual Color Run is held to celebrate the beginning of the new school year.





U.S. Army Reserve Holistic Health and Fitness Instructor/Coach identifying sweatshirt at the H2F Summit on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Mar. 8, 2025. The Army recently established Skill Qualification Identifier for H2F advisors.

Army establishes Skill Qualification Identifier for H2F advisors

By **HUNTER RHOADES**

Center for Initial Military Training

In October 2024, the Army established a new Skills Qualification Identifier, or SQI, for Holistic Health and Fitness, or H2F. The new SQI is called the H2F Advisor and is designed to serve as the technical and tactical expert for the H2F System. This SQI is the Army's latest investment in how the Army prepares Soldiers to optimize their performance, reduce injuries, and improve personal readiness on and off the battlefield.

As key consultants to the brigade commander, H2F Advisors, or H2F-As, will synchronize the implementation, planning, and execution of Soldiers' physical and non-physical performance programming while serving as the bridge between the embedded H2F Performance Teams and the H2F Integrators at the lower echelons.

"H2F-A's will serve as the crew chief for the H2F System, as the brigade commander is the pilot, the H2F program director is the co-pilot," said Lt. Gen. David Francis, U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training commander. "The crew chief works hand-in-hand with the pilot to ensure the aircraft is in optimal condition, and that is exactly what we expect our H2F-A's to do for their bri-

H2F-A'S WILL SERVE AS THE CREW CHIEF FOR THE H2F SYSTEM, AS THE BRIGADE COMMANDER IS THE PILOT

- Lt. Gen. David Francis
Commander, Center for Initial Military Training

gade commanders regarding their Soldiers' human performance optimization."

The H2F-A SQI will target noncommissioned officers across the Total Army within the grades of E-7 or E-8 to fill this role as their brigades' crew chief of human performance. Specifically, NCOs will be already complete with their key developmental assignments, earned the H2F Integrator Additional Skill Identifier and rank-equivalent professional military education.

In partnership with the Uniformed Services University Consortium for Health and Military Performance, or USU CHAMP, the H2F Directorate will assess the H2F-A curriculum beginning in July at the Army's H2F Academy. Soldiers were identified to attend the H2F-A pilot assessment by their Army Command, ACOM, and will

have equal representation across all three components of the Army.

The curriculum for the H2F-A course will consist of three distinct phases: Phase I will consist of two weeks in residence at the H2F Academy and two weeks of distance learning focusing on Tools and Interventions; Phase II will be four weeks of distance learning to focus on Strategy and Operations, and Phase III will be four-weeks of distance learning to focus on Evaluation and Advising.

These three distinct phases build upon the knowledge that H2F-A received when they attended the H2F Integrator course, where they were exposed to H2F System foundations and science, to transition into an H2F-A and become command advisors.

"As the Army continues to evolve and modernize to meet the needs of the modern battlefield, it has never been more important for our NCO Corps to maintain our foundational role in performance-oriented unit training," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McMurdy, Command Sgt. Maj., U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training. "The H2F-A course will empower our NCO Corps to build human performance optimization into our long-term training calendars and better prepare our Soldiers for the rigors of Large-Scale Combat Operations"

81st deputy commander retires after 34 years of service

Story, photo by
LT. COL THOMAS CIESLAK
81st Readiness Division

Soldiers and civilians serving in the 81st Readiness Division celebrated the distinguished career of Brig. Gen. Jed Schaertl on Aug. 2, at Fort Jackson, as he retired after more than 34 years of service in the Army.

“To rise to the rank of brigadier general requires exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, strategic vision, moral courage and a lifetime of sacrifice,” said retired Maj. Gen. Miles Davis, the ceremony’s keynote speaker. “What sets Jed apart isn’t just the star on his shoulder, it’s the character of the leader behind that star.”

Schaertl graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1991 and served most of his Army career in active duty and Reserve engineer units with numerous deployments. He assumed duties as Deputy Commanding General for Operations at the 81st Readiness Division on Sept. 1, 2023.

“People would ask me, ‘how to be successful? I tell them, take the tough jobs...know the task, conditions and standards and train to the task, conditions and standards...the people that work for you, give them guidance and let them run.” said Schaertl during his farewell comments.



Retired Brig. Gen. Jed Schaertl and his wife, Galina, case his general officer flag during his Aug. 2, retirement ceremony at Fort Jackson. Schaertl retired after 34 years of service.

PCS

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“Being that voice on the other end of the line when a family is stressed is all too familiar,” said Army Staff Sgt. Robert Fryerson, a PCS JTF call center action officer. “Being able to empathize and understand their concerns allows me to address the needs of each service member better, knowing that their property will be taken care of and providing a safe place where they feel valued and cared for, not just another number.”

The action officers also received hands-on instruction in Defense Personal Property Program systems and procedures, enabling them to assist with a broad range of PCS-related concerns beyond household goods tracking.

The call center launch follows a series of reforms to the Defense Personal Property Program.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth directed the creation of the PCS JTF as part of an effort to fix long-standing issues within the PCS process and to improve the quality of life for service members and civilian employees.

“Our people are not just names on a roster,” Curtis said. “They’re warfighters, parents, spouses and public servants. Reducing the stress of relocation is not just the right thing to do, it’s a strategic imperative.”



Photo by VERAN HILL

On to retirement

Fort Jackson honored the service of Master Sgt. Andrew J. Ghiglieri during the July 31 graduation ceremony of 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment. Ghiglieri, from the 92nd Chemical Battalion, retired after 27 years of service.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE’S HONOREES

**3rd Battalion,
39th Infantry
Regiment**

**DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE**
Staff Sgt.
Jermain Francis

**ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Isabel Henderson

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Zachary Bush

**BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Elisa Massaro

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Sophia Alexander

**CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Phabian Rosario

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Alexander Krone

**DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Omaree Smith

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. William Rapp

**ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Tristan Johnson

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Dawson Circle

Events

Continued from Page 4

about how the different funds 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 803-751-5256 (option 3).

AUG. 20-22

Kickball Tournament

Hilton Field Sports Complex. The “Just Kicking It” Kickball Tournament. will take place at Hilton Field Sports Complex. Aug. 20 at 6 p.m., 6:45 p.m. Aug. 21; and 5:30 pm. Aug. 22. A Department of Defense ID card is required to register. An interest meeting will be held on Aug. 19 at the Solomon Center. Letters of Intent must be turned in by Aug 19. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

AUG. 26

Intramural Golf League

Fort Jackson Golf Club. An Intramural “ParTee” Golf League begins Aug. 26 and a Department of Defense ID card is required to register. The Letter of Intent deadline is Aug.19 and an interest meeting will be held Aug. 25. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

SEPT. 3

FJ Community Lunch

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall. The Fort Jackson community invited to attend a lunch with food, fellowship, fun and a brief inspirational message. The lunch is held the first Wednesday of the month. The next dates are Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3. For more information, call (803) 751-3979.

SEPT. 5

Lunch and Learn with Sew and Heal

11:30 a.m., Bldg. 9810 Liberty Division Road. Join this class to use sewing as a coping skill and make a small craft. This event is part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For more information,

call (803) 751-2915.

SEPT. 6

5K Run/Walk for the Fallen

7 a.m., Hilton Field. Come join Fort Jackson in honoring fallen Soldiers and their families. Registration begins at 7 a.m., opening remarks at 7:45 a.m., and the run/walk begins at 8. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

SEPT. 10

SafeTALK Seminar

9 a.m., Bldg. 9810 Liberty Division Road. You are invited to attend this seminar taught by the S.C. Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities. The objective of the seminar is to share ways to be alert of someone thinking of suicide and how to connect them with resources. This event is part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For more information, call (803) 751-2915.

SEPT. 13

Beaufort Tour

7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 5450 Strom Thurmond

Blvd. Join Army Community Service for a newcomer’s orientation “area tour” to Beaufort, South Carolina. For more information and to register, call (803) 751-5256, option 3. RSVP by Aug. 20.

SEPT. 20

Fort Gordon trail ride

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for a horseback trail ride at Fort Gordon, Ga. horse stables. Novice or pro, this guided ride will be great for those looking for an outdoor adventure. Cost: \$75 per person. Participants must be 7 years old or older. for more information or to register, call Outdoor Recreation at (803) 751-3484.

SEPT. 24

Suicide Prevention Panel

1:30 p.m., Zimmerman Auditorium, 10098 Cherbourg St.. Come listen to three dynamic speakers and panel of facilitators speak about overcoming thoughts of suicide, relationship concerns and resources. This event is part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For more information, call (803) 751-2915.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE	FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	CATHOLIC MASS	MONDAY-FRIDAY	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.	CENTURY DIVISION 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	9-10 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
	HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER (1st and 3rd Sundays)
	GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER (2nd and 4th Sundays)
	ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9:30-10 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only)
	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. to NOON	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL



File photo

A cadet listens intently as Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs answers questions during a speed mentoring session at the 1917 Club at Fort Jackson during the Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty LPD Symposium, held Feb. 21, 2025. The event helped future Army officers understand more about the service they will be leaders in.

Ochs

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manders he worked as keys to his success.

“My wife, well she supported me much through my entire career,” he said adding that he “absolutely had to give credit to my wife” for being there during the long hours and lots of travel involved with being the post’s top enlisted Soldier.

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood and Maj. Gen. Jason Kelly both provided him a “great strategic vision, but personally empowered me to do my job, providing recommendations, getting out there seeing what’s going on, bringing feedback, providing suggestions. They always had an open door, an open ear and supported me and my recommendations to them.”

He added the Midlands community also made his time at Jackson memorable.

“The community around here is like no other I have seen,” he said. There is “such a tie to our community outside the gate and the entire state of South Carolina. It’s the true involvement with our community, the true care they have for what we’re doing. It’s been truly a mutually beneficial experience.”

He ended by calling on those serving on Fort Jackson not to forget how important mission is to the greater mission of the Army.

“What we do here sets the conditions for the rest of the Army,” he said. “Without the dedicated drill sergeants creating our Soldiers every day, we would not have Soldiers to provide to the operational force.”

The change of responsibility ceremony will take place at 9 a.m., Aug. 15 on Victory Field.



Courtesy photos

School donations

The Fort Jackson Military Entrance Processing Station’s ASVAB Student Testing team recently donated ASVAB branded pencils and pens to the Palmetto Pencil Project. Raymond Bell and Scott Burgess (pictured) provided three large boxes pens and pencils for Richland County School District One and Mike Pruitt provided one large box for the Sumter School District. Information about the ASVAB Career Exploration Program can be found at www.asvabprogram.com.



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Maj. Abdon Garay-Briones, provost marshal, welcomes students and their parents to Pierce Terrace Elementary School, Aug. 4, 2025. It was the first day of the new school year for Department of Defense Education Activity schools at Fort Jackson.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS