

THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 2026

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY HERE."

The CDL School
Troops Info
Transportation

FAIR HIGHLIGHTS JOBS, EDUCATION



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Winter weather is coming Are you prepared?

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Forecasts for this weekend indicate the possibility of severe winter weather affecting the Midlands (including Fort Jackson).

The storm has a possibility of bringing snow, ice and sleet along with freezing temperature creating hazardous conditions on the roads.

These forecasts have caused South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster to declare a state of emergency Jan. 21.

The community should follow Fort Jackson social media sites, the website and My Army Post App for up-to-date information. The Fort Jackson website can be found at: home.army.mil/jackson and the post's Facebook page is at: www.facebook.com/fortjackson.

Here are some basic precautions for inclement weather:

- Keep your radio or television tuned to a local station to keep informed of current weather conditions and forecasts.

- Be prepared for isolation at home by keeping adequate supplies of heating fuel, non-perishable food, water, flashlights with extra batteries, first aid supplies, extra blankets, and a battery-powered radio. A fire extinguisher is also recommended, in case the help of the fire department is not available.

- If using alternative electricity, heating, or cooking sources are used, be aware of possible carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock, and fire.

- Stay indoors as much as possible. If you must go outdoors, dress warmly, in loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing. Your outer garment should be water repellent. Avoid overexertion from shoveling or walking to get supplies.

- Avoid driving if possible. If you must use your car, make sure it is in good working condition and filled with gas. Keep emergency supplies in the car, such as a shovel, extra gloves and hat, a blanket, a flashlight with extra batteries, food, a towrope or chain, and extra money. Travel by daylight and use major highways whenever possible. Most importantly, drive with extreme caution.

- Let a faucet drip to keep pipes from freezing. Information can also be found in the South Carolina Emergency Management Division's Winter Weather Guide available online at: <https://www.scemd.org/stay-informed/publications/winter-weather-guide/>.

IRS announces Warrior Dividend is tax free

By C.TODD LOPEZ
Pentagon News

The Internal Revenue Service confirmed Jan. 16 that the \$1,776 "Warrior Dividend" more than 1.5 million service members received last year, at the direction of President Donald J. Trump, would be tax-free.

In a press release posted Jan. 16, the IRS confirmed the tax-free status of the dividend.

"The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today confirmed that supplemental basic allowance for housing payments made to members of the uniformed services in December 2025 are not to be included in income by those who received the payments; they are not taxable," the statement reads.

According to the IRS, U.S. tax law excludes from gross income a "qualified military benefit."

The Warrior Dividend is just such a benefit and is not taxable. Service members will keep all of the dividend to use as they see fit.

"The tax-free Warrior Dividend places \$1,776 directly in the hands of our warfighters and their families," Pentagon Press Secretary King-



Photo by STAFF SGT. TIM ANDREWS

Col. Chesley Thigpen, Army Training Center deputy commanding officer, and Post Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Shoaf take part in an event at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery, Dec. 13, 2025. The Internal Revenue Service announced Jan. 16 the \$1,776 'Warrior Dividend' is tax free.

sley Wilson said Jan. 16. "The department is proud to recognize their sacrifice."

On Dec. 17, 2025, the president announced that nearly 1.5 million service members would receive a \$1,776 bonus to both thank them for their military service and to commemorate the 250 years the U.S. military has been defending the nation.

"Nobody deserves it more than our military," he said. "I say, 'con-

gratulations' to everybody."

In a related statement, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said the dividend illustrates the nation's commitment to military service members.

"This Warrior Dividend serves as yet another example of how the War Department is working to improve the quality of life for our military personnel and their families," Hegseth said. "All elements of what we're doing are to rebuild our military."

ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Morales, with 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, speaks to a prospective employer at the Winter 2026 Career and Education Fair held at the 1917 Club, Jan. 21.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Innovation Lab opens at Fort Jackson

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

There are more resources available to Fort Jackson community members at the Education Center, as the University of South Carolina - Palmetto College Innovation Lab opened at the Fort Jackson Education Center, Jan. 21.

"The Innovation Lab is available to the community for training classes, community meetings, and special training events," said Veronica Fields-Cox, Education Services Officer. "Access to the lab is free for the community. In addition, USC-Palmetto College will be offering free professional development courses."

The lab features computers, tablets and collaborative screen sharing spaces.

The lab is not on the military network "so spouses, Family members, retirees, dependents will have access to a computer to conduct research and take online classes, etc.," Fields-Cox said. "Going forward we are working on having the lab available in the evening and possibly on the weekend when the library is closed."

"This lab represents our commitment to those who serve," said Dr. Craig Wilson, Chancellor of USC Palmetto College. "By bringing innovative educational opportunities, skills training and resources to Fort Jackson, we are empowering service members and veterans to gain skills that will serve them well both in uniform and later in civilian life."

The Fort Jackson Education Center is part of the Army Continuing Education System whose mission is "to vigorously promote lifelong learning opportunities to sharpen the competitive edge of the Army in providing and managing quality self-development programs and services."

ACES provides professional educational counseling services and guidance on our educational programs to support individual military and/or civilian career goals while stationed at Fort Jackson and surrounding areas.

USC-Palmetto College, which provides bachelor's degree programs in organizational leadership and liberal studies, is one of two academic institutions holding classes on post. Midlands Technical College, is the other, offers associate's degrees in criminal justice and management.

For more information about the ACES and the Education Center, call (803) 751-5341, or email usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.dhr-jacksonedcenter@army.mil.



The Innovation Lab at Fort Jackson's Education Center opened its doors Jan. 21. It is open to all members of the Fort Jackson community.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Basic Skill Education Program

If your General Technical (GT) score is under 110, the Education Center's BSEP classes will help you improve your score. The instructor-led classes focus on basic math and reading skills, which make up your GT score. The classes are conducted during duty hours. The is being held until Jan. 30. For a BSEP enrollment packet, please stop by the Education Center, Bld. 4600 or send an email to usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.dhr-jacksonedcenter@army.mil. Classes are limited so register early.

AER Scholarship Opportunity

The deadline to apply for the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship for Dependent Children is April 1. Army Emergency Relief offers scholarships to the dependent children of a Soldier on federal active duty, a retired Soldier, or a deceased active or retired Soldier. This need-based scholarship provides assistance to the dependent children of Soldiers as they work toward their first undergraduate degree. To apply or get more information, go to www.armyemergencyrelief.org and click on "Scholarships."

1917 Club Hours

The 1917 Club is open Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday and Friday 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Short order menu available. Soul Food Thursday Buffet takes place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meals cost \$15 per person and \$15 for a to-go meal. Come and join us for a wide variety and different choices every day on our lunch menu, featuring all your favorites including our heart-healthy options plus a full salad and dessert bar. Don't pass up our Southern Style Fried Chicken. Call (803) 743-6525 for delivery or take-out.

POV Sales Lot

The POV Sales Lot, operated by Auto Craft Shop, located at the corner parking lot of the Strom Thurmond Building off Marion Ave. Here you can sell your vehicles, boats, trailers, recreational vehicles, and motorcycles. You must have a government ID or be the immediate family member of a government ID Cardholder, proof of registration and insurance to park on the POV Sales Lot. The cost is \$25 per vehicle for 30 days and this includes being advertised on the Fort Jackson Auto Craft webpage.

Creative Journey

5-6:30 p.m. second Tuesday of every month, 1227 Taylor Street, Columbia, S.C. Join Army Community Service's Exceptional Family Member Program for a fun-filled evening of visual arts with the Creative Journey Program. The program helps individuals with exceptional needs find calming and creative ways to express themselves through design and creating artwork. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

MWR Central

MWR Central located at the Solomon Center has a variety of facilities and programs to choose from. Your facilities and program destination to all things Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Outdoor Recreation, MWR Marketing and Commercial Sponsorship, MWR Micro Mart, MWR Concierge, on-site hourly care, Andy's Gym and Aerobics, Recreation Center. MWR Central offers rental opportunities for unit parties, trainings, events, retirements, and organizational days. Rental fees for Solomon Center Main Event (half day and full day available). Gaming stations, pool table, ping pong tables rental available. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

On-Site Hourly Care at MWR Central

7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Registration is available on-site and costs \$8 per hour per child,

with a 3-hour time limit. Parents have to remain on-site while using Solomon Center facilities. Walk-ins are welcome on space available basis. To make reservations, call (803) 751-4824.

Lego Club

The Thomas Lee Hall "Post" Library hosts Lego Club Wednesdays at 3 p.m. for children 2 to 12 years old. Swing by and enjoy a free build with bricks of varying sizes. Have fun and embrace your inner engineer. For more information, call (803) 751-5589.

Alpine Lodge

Alpine Lodge at Heise Pond is ready for any and all party events: birthday, holiday, retirement, promotion parties, and even weddings. Alpine Lodge is an amazing location overlooking Heise Pond (no swimming) with a loft, outdoor porch and a full size kitchen (no stove), and tables and chairs. The lodge requires a \$100 deposit, and \$300 to rent. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

Can't Dodge This Dodgeball Tourney

MWR Central at the Solomon Center. Participants must have a Department of Defense ID card to participate. For more information, call (803) 751-3096 or (803) 751-3700.

SATURDAY

Privately Owned Weapons Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Range. Shooters can shoot at targets between 25m and 200m. Paper targets, spotting scopes, tables and chairs are provided. Patrons can shoot rifle or pistol at a day rate or on an hourly rate. Pre-register at Outdoor Recreation-\$25 per person for all day (4 hours) \$10 per person per hour (pre-register), \$15 per person per hour (day on-site/cash only). All weapons must be re-

Fort Jackson

Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

JAN. 24

■ Testament of Ann Lee (R)

JAN. 28

■ Anaconda (PG-13)

JAN. 31

■ Send Help (NR)

- 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.

gistered on post. No automatic weapons or .50 cal allowed. Participants must be more than 12 years old, with those under 17 must be accompanied by an adult. The event is open to all authorized Department of Defense ID card holders. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at (803) 751-3484.

JAN. 29

Infant Massage Class

10-11:30 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road. Army Community Service's New Parent Support Program is hosting an infant massage class series for parents and babies. Discover the power of touch and strengthen the bond with your baby through our Infant Massage Class Series. This four-week program will guide parents in learning techniques to help soothe, comfort, and connect with their little ones.

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

**SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO**

usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

Deadline for events to be included in the Community Updates is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following

Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible.

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style.

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.

Young scientists explore water, wood hands on

By **DR. LORRAINE EMORY**
Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Kindergarten students at Pierce Terrace Elementary School stepped into the role of young scientists as they engaged in a hands-on investigation to observe how water interacts with wood.

They were guided by kindergarten teacher Cassandra Carlson. The lesson was part of the class's current science unit, Materials and Motion, and emphasized exploration, curiosity, and collaboration.

Before the investigation began, Carlson led students through a pretend practice session to model proper use of droppers and safe, careful handling of materials. This preparation helped students feel confident and purposeful as they transitioned into the real experiment.

"They feel like real scientists while they are participating; I'm proud that they can collaborate so well," Carlson said.

Students closely observed pieces of wood as water was applied, noting visible changes during the activity, and shared their discoveries aloud.

Some of the wood samples were natural, while others were manmade using sawdust, allowing students to compare textures and reactions.

As students worked, Carlson guided their thinking by asking open-ended questions such as, "What happens when wood gets wet?" and reminding them that "good scientists think about what it can be."

Excited observations quickly filled the room.

One student enthusiastically announced, "Mine is making a bubble on top," sparking further discussion and comparison among classmates. Students described what they saw, felt, and noticed, using language connected to physical properties such as texture, color,

See **EXPLORE:** Page 9



Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS TOM WADE

Brig. Gen. Vivek Kshetrapal, 81st Readiness Division deputy commanding general, takes questions from the first logistic sustainment training program class at Nord Hall in Anniston, Ala., Jan. 13.

81st elevates readiness through training

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS TOM WADE**
81st Readiness Division

The 81st Readiness Division provides world-class services and base operation support to more than 50,000 Soldiers, family members and Department of War civilians across nine southeastern states to include Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This footprint covers 258 facilities and 45 maintenance shops.

The 81st RD is starting a new Logistic Sustainment Training Program for Army civilian maintenance employees across the southeast to better support the facilities and increase the capabilities within the maintenance shops.

The first class to attend the new LSTP kicked off by holding a ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 13.

LSTP has 11 courses, ranging from en-

gine and transmission diagnostics to basic welding and fabrication. All the courses are designed to improve the knowledge and capabilities of each student.

"This workshop enables the civilians to improve on their (overall) skillsets" said Hap McConnell, Operation Logistic Management Specialists at the 81st Readiness Division. "There are nine fields within the 91 series military occupation specialty, and the civilians are expected to have some knowledge in all compared to the military Soldier who specializes in one field", McConnell added.

Brig. Gen. Vivek Kshetrapal, 81st RD deputy commanding general, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony and expressed gratitude to those attending the first ever class.

"By participating in this new program, you are directly increasing the readiness of

the Army Reserve," Kshetrapal said. "What you learn from this program will bring essential skills needed to support Army Reserve Units across the southeast."

Agreeing with the general is Robert Gulla, heavy mobile equipment repairer, from Fort Johnson, Louisiana.

"I am attending this class to be more proficient at my job" Gulla stated.

Gulla paused while thinking about how day one is going.

"I plan to learn more about the ends and outs of all the vehicles and equipment I am working on so I can pass this knowledge onward to my peers," Gulla added.

The average length of an LSTP course is one week and will be held twice monthly. It is programs like the LSTP that push civilians to be mentally sharp and ready to assist Soldiers in their deployment readiness and support worldwide.

Fair highlights career, educational opportunities

Story, photos by ROBERT TIMMONS

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Every year Fort Jackson holds a fair where community members can learn about occupational and educational opportunities available to them.

Roughly 128 participants attended the 2026 Winter Career and Education Fair, Jan. 21, where 40 perspective employers and 30 educational institutions were represented.

The fair was presented by the Army Continuing Education System, Transition Assistance Office and Army Community Service.

“It’s important for Fort Jackson to put these events on because it helps our Soldiers, veterans and civilians find jobs, see what communities and what industries are available to them,” said Timothy Jones, chief of Fort Jackson’s Transition Assistance Office.

There were more than 14 different industries represented at the fair including law enforcement, government and banking.

The Career and Education Fair is designed to connect transitioning service members, veterans, military spouses, and the broader community with valuable resources to support their professional and academic goals.

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Morales, with 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, was there looking “for information on everything available out there while transitioning” to civilian life.

vilian life.

Morales served 13 years in the Army and will move on to civilian life soon.

The Career and Education Fair is important to him because he is “able to talk to personnel here face-to-face and get more information” than he could find on a website.

Sgt. Derek Gallardo, with 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, was there with some of his Soldiers to see what opportunities are available to them to expand their education.

Gallardo said it is always better to learn what is available if he stays in the Army or proceeds to separate.

“These events help me as a Soldier to see what opportunities I can do while still serving and what opportunities I can take advantage of as I’m on my way out of the Army,” Gallardo added.

He also called on his subordinates not to take their education lightly.

“I let them know that I’ve been to many (career fairs) before, and it’s a lot of information, but it is very good to expand your knowledge and to know your options,” he said. You can do anything you put your mind to, but you have got to look at the doors open to you.

Jones said the Career and Education Fair reflects Fort Jackson’s commitment to supporting the military community and fostering connections that lead to meaningful opportunities.



(Above) A career counselor with the U.S. Army Reserves talks to a Soldier about what opportunities are available to him after he leaves the Army.

(Left) A Soldier listens intently to a representative from one of roughly 40 employers represented at the 2026 Winter Career and Education Fair held Jan. 21 at the 1917 Club

(Far left) Fort Jackson community members speak to roughly 40 perspective employers and 30 educational institutions present at the Career and Education Fair. The fair was presented by Army Continuing Education Services, Transition Assistance Program and Army Community Service.

(Top middle) Staff Sgt. Jimmy Morales, with 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment speaks to representatives of U.S. Border Patrol at the fair. Morales said he liked the event because he is ‘able to talk to personnel here face-to-face and get more information, than what he could find on a perspective employers website.





Photo by AIR FORCE MASTER SGT. WILLIAM BLANKENSHIP

A Soldier with the South Carolina National Guard patrols part of the Nation's capital. The Soldier is part of Task Force Swampfox, which is made up of troops from the South Carolina and Georgia Army National Guard.

Walking the mission with Task Force Swampfox

By AIR FORCE MASTER SGT. WILLIAM BLANKENSHIP
Joint Task Force D.C.

Rain hangs in the air as the city settles into a Friday-night rhythm. Streetlights cast a soft sheen on wet pavement near the Navy Yard, and the metro subway stations breathe Washington commuters in and out like clockwork.

In the middle of it all, Army Lt. Col. Brunson DePass moves at a steady pace, checking in on Soldiers the way he believes leaders should — up close, unannounced and in the elements.

“Y’all need anything? Are you good?” DePass asked as he paused near a team posted outside a station entrance, scanning the sidewalks and the steady line of people heading home.

DePass, a South Carolina National Guard officer, commands Task Force Swampfox, a team comprised of guardsmen from South Carolina and Georgia supporting the D.C. safe and beautiful mission. On any given evening, his Soldiers split between roving patrols and metro coverage — outside entrances, inside mezzanines and, when needed, down on the platforms where crowds gather and frustrations rise when trains run late.

“Protecting the metro is a very important part of this mission,” DePass said. “And then the roving patrols, like what we saw at the Wharf — we’re patrolling the areas where small businesses and restaurants operate. It’s supporting the people of D.C., both tourists and citizens, and supporting all the law enforcement agencies, with special emphasis on the Metropolitan Police

Department.”

For DePass, the most important part of the night is not the route itself — it is the chance to see the mission through his Soldiers’ eyes and make sure they feel seen in return. He frames it as an obligation, not a perk of command.

“It’s important for me to be out there with my Soldiers for several reasons,” he said. “First and foremost, I never want to ask anybody to do something that I’m not willing to do. And it’s important to be out here sharing this experience with my Soldiers but also inspecting what you expect — making sure we don’t forget what right looks like.”

As he moved from one location to the next, DePass kept the tone light when he

AER offers scholarships

Financial Readiness Program

Dependent children of active and retired Army Soldiers may qualify for financial assistance in their pursuit of higher education. Army Emergency Relief, or AER, offers a significant financial resource: the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship.

In 2022 - 2025 academic years, AER awarded \$813,700 in scholarships to 210 dependent children in the Fort Jackson area. This need-based scholarship provides assistance to the dependent children of Soldiers as they work toward their first undergraduate degree.

The program is named in honor of Maj. Gen. James Ursano, who served as the director of AER for a decade after a distinguished 33-year military career.

Established in 1976, the MG James Ursano Scholarship Program is a testament to the Army’s commitment to “Helping the Army Take Care of its Own.”

The scholarship is designed to alleviate the financial burden of college expenses, covering costs such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, and room and board. The program is a benefit, not an entitlement. Applicants must reapply each year, with the possibility of receiving aid for up to four academic years. Open season began on Jan. 1 and will end April 1.

Applicants must be the dependent children of a Soldier on federal active duty, a retired Soldier, or a deceased active or retired Soldier to be eligible for the scholarship.

They must be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, be under the age of 24, and remain unmarried for the entire academic year.

Additionally, applicants must be enrolled or accepted as full-time students in an accredited post-secondary

Swampfox

Continued from Page 8

could, trading quick jokes and words of encouragement, but he never lost sight of why he was there. At each stop, he checked posture, spacing and situational awareness, reminding teams to keep their heads up and maintain a full perimeter.

“Spread out. You want that 360 (view),” he told one group. “Support the metro police, and make sure we look out for ourselves.”

The mission, he added, is built on presence and relationships. That means helping when needed — sometimes in small, human ways that make a long day easier.

Earlier in the evening, a roving patrol assisted a familiar face in the area, helping him get from one location to another. At another stop, a station manager checked in with the Soldiers, a small moment that reflected a growing comfort between agencies and the guardsmen posted in their spaces.

“This metro station has been really good about working with us,” DePass said. “They’re really supportive. We’ve done a good job of working with them and building the relationship — mutual support. It’s been really good.”

In DePass’ view, those routine interactions are not incidental, they are the work. A deterrence mission is measured as much by what does not happen as by what does, and he believes success depends on how Soldiers carry themselves in public.

“A lot of people, this is what they think of not only the National Guard or the Army but the military,” he said. “We want to make sure we’re putting (our) best foot forward.”

He pointed to a shift in public sentiment as one of the clearest indicators that the mission is making progress. DePass said he saw a sharp contrast between his initial visit in early November and what he has experienced recently.

“I probably saw as many negative things that weekend as I have since I’ve been back on mission,” he said.

Now, he said, interactions are often more supportive — greetings, nods and brief conversations with residents and visitors who say they appreciate seeing Soldiers on foot instead of only in vehicles. DePass believes that shift is tied directly to professionalism and a simple approach he repeats often.

“Be nice to people,” he said. “Don’t make a permanent solution to a temporary problem.”

That mindset shapes how Task Force Swampfox positions around the metro, where crowds pause, wait and concentrate. DePass views those moments — people standing still, tired after work, shoulder to shoulder



Photo by AIR FORCE MASTER SGT. WILLIAM BLANKSHIP

South Carolina National Guard Soldiers stand watch near the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., Jan. 16, 2026.

near turnstiles and platforms — as the places where presence matters most.

“When they get to the metro, they’re waiting,” he said. “That’s where you find people standing still. There’s more opportunity for interaction, both positive and otherwise.”

It is also where visitors form some of their strongest impressions of the capital. DePass said he thinks about that often, especially at stations and corridors packed with travelers headed to hotels, restaurants and landmarks.

He said part of the mission is getting visitors to want to come back and visit D.C. again.

As the night stretched on, DePass continued to move between teams, pausing to listen, check conditions and remind his Soldiers that leadership is not a voice over the radio — it is a presence in the rain.

“The main thing about checking on Soldiers is upholding a standard,” he said. “But (it is also about) letting them know the leadership — the sergeant major, the executive officer, all of us — we’re willing to come out, whether it’s (in the) rain and cold, and be involved and be on patrol as well.”

For Task Force Swampfox, the route is never just a route. It is a message that the guard and its partners are present, coordinated and committed to keeping the nation’s capital safe, orderly and open.

AER

Continued from Page 8

institution and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0.

The application process is conducted online and requires the submission of several key documents.

These include the scholarship application, transcripts, and the free application for Federal Student Aid Submission Summary. The FAFSA is a critical component, as the scholarship is need-based, and the Student Aid Index from the FAFSA is used to determine the level of financial need. All required documents must be submitted by the April 1 deadline.

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano

Explore

Continued from Page 5

flexibility, and weight.

The lesson directly supports the Materials and Motion science standards, which focus on observing, describing, and classifying objects by their physical properties and the materials from which they are made.

Through this investigation, students explored how wood behaves when exposed to water and began developing an understanding of how material properties influence an object’s function. Later in the unit, students will extend their learning by investigating additional materials such as cloth, metal, plastic, and paper.

Later in the unit, students will extend their learning by investigating additional materials such as cloth, metal, plastic, and paper.

Key skills emphasized during the lesson included asking thoughtful questions, planning and carrying out simple inves-

Scholarship Program has a significant impact on the lives of Army families.

The award amounts vary based on the number of applicants, the total scholarship budget, and each applicant’s demonstrated financial need. By lightening the financial load, the scholarship allows students to focus on their studies and achieve their educational aspirations.

Scholarships are also available to spouses under the Mrs. Patti Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program.

For more information on both programs, go to www.armyemergencyrelief.org or visit Army Community Service at 9810 Liberty Division Road, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

tigations, interpreting observations, and later using evidence to explain why certain materials are chosen for specific purposes. Students were encouraged to make connections between properties and functions.

The core science concepts were reinforced throughout the activity, including identifying physical properties like hardness, smoothness, and flexibility; recognizing common materials; and understanding how an object’s properties determine its use.

Students will be able to practice essential scientific behaviors, such as analyzing data by comparing future materials, developing simple models through discussion, and providing evidence-based explanations.

Through guided inquiry and hands-on exploration, Carlson’s kindergarten class is building a strong foundation in scientific thinking.

The water-and-wood investigation not only supported academic standards but also fostered curiosity, teamwork, and confidence.

Events

Continued from Page 4

Registration is required as spots are limited. For more information, or to register, call (803) 751-6325.

JAN. 29
CIF Partial Closure

The Administration Office and the Permanent Party Section will be closed. For more information and emergency services call (803) 447-0880. Initial Entry Training personnel and IET chapter personnel will not be affected.

JAN. 30 - FEB. 1
Lifeguard Certification

The Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation is holding lifeguard certification courses at Knight Indoor Pool. Get a jump start on your lifeguard certification for the summer season. This is a three-day blended course costs \$200 and helps participants get certified in lifeguard rescue skills as well as First Aid/CPR for the professional rescuer. Course days/times: Jan. 30-31 and February 1. (Friday 2-7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday noon to 7 p.m. Participants

must be at least 15 years old by the last day of the course to register. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-4796.

JAN. 30
EFMP Free Fridays at the Zoo

3:30-5 p.m., Riverbanks Zoo. Join the Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program for free Fridays at the zoo for Richland and Lexington county residents. Proof of residency is required. For more information or to RSVP, call (803) 751-5256.

JAN. 31
Magician/Comedian Show

3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Down Range Bar. Magician and comedian Michael Kent is coming to the Down Range Bar. There will be two shows. 3 p.m. matinee which is free for children and a 7 p.m. show for adults. The show costs \$10.

FEB. 4
Chili Cook-off

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5499 Jackson Blvd. The Fort Jackson Fire Department is hosting a chili cook-off Feb. 4. The contest is open to anyone with access to Fort Jackson. Bring ten nonperishables to enter the contest, or five to taste and judge.

FEB. 5
Post Newcomers Orientation

8 a.m., 1917 Club. This orientation is mandatory for all Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians arriving at Fort Jackson. Spouses are encouraged to attend. This will be a great opportunity for spouses to receive first-hand information about the valuable available resources on and around Fort Jackson. For more information, call Army Community Service at 751-5256.

FEB. 6
First Friday Golf

11:30 a.m., Fort Jackson Golf Club. Maj. Gen. Daryl Hood Fort Jackson commander, invites you to join him for First Friday Golf. This is a Captain's Choice event and will begin at 11:30 a.m. You may enter your own team or sign up as a single and the FJGC PGA Professionals will pair you 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, or stop by the clubhouse.

FEB. 9
Planning For Your Financial Future

10-11 a.m., Virtual. The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Army Community Service is hosting a virtual Planning for Your Future class. Learn about your motivations regarding money, how to set SMART financial goals, and the steps to developing a personal spending plan. To register call, (803) 751-5256, or visit: <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/BJbvJ0JDGp>.

FEB. 21
Fort Gordon Trail Ride

8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fort Gordon, Georgia. Join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation for a horseback trail ride at the Fort Gordon Horse Stables. Novice or pro, this guided ride will be great for those looking for an outdoor adventure. Must be seven years old or older. Register at Outdoor Recreation or call for more information at (803) 751-3484.

FEB. 24
Intramural Volleyball League

6 p.m., MWR Central at the Solomon Center. Service members and Department of Defense ID cardholders can participate in an intramural volleyball league that begins play Feb. 24. A letter of intent is necessary to play. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

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
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

Army leaders chart path to transform, sustain OIB

By **MEGAN GULLY**
Army Materiel
Command

Army Materiel Command brought together leaders from the Organic Industrial Base and the broader sustainment and acquisition communities Jan. 13–15 to ensure the OIB remains viable and ready to meet the demands of future conflict.

“We are at a pivotal moment for the Army’s OIB,” said Lt. Gen. Gavin Lawrence, AMC deputy commanding general, during opening comments for the OIB Site Investment Conference. “Never have I seen so much focus and attention on the Army’s OIB, all for the right reasons, and right now we have a real window of opportunity.”

Following a comprehensive assessment in fall 2025, AMC identified opportunities and challenges across the 23 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants that comprise the OIB.

The command established an OIB Integration Cell, located in the Pentagon, to better align long-term OIB planning with Army strategic objectives, and the OIB Operations Center at AMC headquarters, designed to synchronize and accelerate OIB modernization.

“The OIB is the engine that drives Army readiness and AMC is moving out to ensure its long-term viability,” Lawrence said. “We can’t do this alone. We have to engage with our Army partners and private industry to make sure the OIB remains viable for years. You have the opportunity to create generational change in how the OIB operates, how it partners, and how it helps the Army deliver ready combat formations.”

The conference focused on the development of a holistic implementation strategy that will inform senior leaders on two critical lines of effort in response to the assessment’s findings: workload distribution across OIB sites and opportunities for private-sector investment to drive revenue

and offset long-term costs.

Col. Brett Ayvazian, who has been tasked to lead the OIB Operations Center, chaired the conference and briefed attendees on the importance of developing a common understanding on the current state of the OIB to shape future decisions.

“We are here to discuss how we execute workload and set policy to continue to ensure the viability of this national treasure,” Ayvazian said. “We’ve pulled together everyone that touches the OIB to provide enterprise solutions.”

The conference highlighted ongoing modernization efforts underway across the OIB.

Col. James Crocker, military deputy to AMC’s supply chain management division, briefed the SkyFoundry initiative, which is expanding the Army’s ability to manufacture small unmanned aerial systems and components as

industry ramps up production.

“This is an investment in a capability, but it is not limited to drone production,” Crocker said. “As industry and the supply chain catches up, we can use this same innovation to start producing the next thing the Soldier needs.”

A recurring theme throughout the conference was the need for additional partnerships with private industry.

Lawrence and other speakers encouraged attendees to think beyond traditional models and explore new approaches.

“The bottom line is the timing of this is critical,” said Liz Miranda, AMC deputy to the commanding general, during closing comments. “We need to have a good plan that will transform our OIB into the capabilities our Army needs going forward. You all are bringing those solutions and helping us move forward.”



Photo by JOSEPH LEE

Lt. Gen. Gavin Lawrence, Army Materiel Command’s deputy commanding general gave opening comments for the Organic Industrial Base Site Investment Conference, Jan. 13–15, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



Mildred Aiken, a career skills coordinator with Fort Jackson's Transition Assistance Program, speaks with a Soldier during the 2026 Winter Career and Education Fair held Jan. 21 at the 1917 Club. There were 40 perspective employers and 30 educational institutions at the event.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS