THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 2026
THE FORT JACKSON
LEADER
"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE"



JACKSON, GARRISON UPDATES COMMUNITY

Young lemonade entrepreneur gives back to local students

By DR. KERRIE AMMONS
C.C. Pinckney Elementary School

A young community member is proving that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big impact.

Seven-year-old Olive Gillen of Elgin, South Carolina, recently donated school supplies to C.C. Pinckney Elementary School after raising money through a lemonade stand she organized this summer.

When asked why she wanted to donate, Olive said, "Some kids and families aren't always able to buy the school supplies they need, so I had a lemonade stand to raise money to donate to the classrooms."

Olive's inspiration came from a deeply personal experience.

Earlier this year, she underwent surgery to remove a tumor from her abdomen. During her recovery, she witnessed the generosity of others and became more aware of the many ways people may need support.

Inspired by those experiences, Olive decided to create a lemonade stand and use part of her earnings to help students in her community.

Although Olive is beginning her third year of homeschooling, she recognized the importance of supporting local schools and ensuring that all students have the tools they need to learn and succeed.

"Olive is incredibly selfless and has a heart of gold," shared her mother, Kari Gillen. "She is always quick to remind us to be grateful for what we have and to look for opportunities to help others in need."

The donation was warmly received by the staff of C.C. Pinckney Elementary School, where Olive personally delivered the supplies.

Her generosity serves as a reminder that leadership, compassion, and service are not determined by age, but by a willingness to make a difference.



Leader file photo

Olive Gillen of Elgin, S.C. stands in the C.C. Pinckney Elementary School office after donating supplies to the school she purchased after selling lemonade.

ON THE COVER



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Joe Colson, installation safety director, speaks about filing safety claims during a Community Information Exchange held at Victory Hall, Sept. 1. Fort Jackson updated the post during the event.
See Page 3

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

This electronic newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Fort Jackson Leader are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Jackson.

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) 751-3615 or e-mail usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

Commanding General ..... Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood
Garrison Commander ..... Col. David G. Gaugush
Command Information Officer ..... Robert Timmons
Media Relations Officer ..... Nathan Clinebelle
Community Engagements Officer ..... Reginald Rogers

Website: *home.army.mil/jackson/FortJacksonNews*
Facebook: *www.facebook.com/fortjackson*
www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson
X: *www.x.com/fortjackson*
Instagram: *www.instagram.com/fortjackson*

Jackson, garrison updates community at CIE

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Esperanza Romero, Army Community Service specialist, speaks to a Soldier during the 4th Quarter Community Information Exchange, Sept. 1. Post officials announced changes to services offered by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Fort Jackson's garrison commander called on the community to use on post services and facilities during a Community Information Exchange held Sept. 1.

The quarterly event held at Victory Hall was aimed at fostering feedback among the Fort Jackson community and an opportunity for "some transparent and candid conversations."

"We cannot take our facilities for granted," Col. David G. Gaugush said.

"I ask you to use AAFES, (the Commissary), MWR as your first choice, and encourage others to do that as well. And if we fail you in some way, help us hold our system accountable. Let us know. Give us the opportunity to correct it, and then come back and retry us," he added. "We really do need to utilize our facilities, and we need to encourage others to do it and hold ourselves accountable. And hopefully, what we will identify are those things that Fort Jackson actually really does need."

He spoke after Josh Soldan, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation director, announced changes to post operations during updates from on post agencies.

"We've got some changes coming starting Oct. 1, and the first big change is that the auto complex over across from the 1917 Club will close permanently," Soldan said. "Unfortunately, funding is being reduced for MWR in the future, and so we've had to make some really hard decisions going forward."

In addition to that, hours of operation for the 1917 Club buffet, and the Down Range Bar are going to reduce as well.

Soldan and other representatives of various directorates and partners in excellence spoke after Gaugush's short introduction.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Angel Berrios, deputy garrison chaplain, spoke about religious services held on post.

"We are here not only to provide religious support for the trainees, which trust me, that is a lot of what we do, but also our permanent partners here at Fort Jackson," he said. There are multiple services held each week on Fort Jackson including Catholic Mass, non-denominational Christian, gospel, and Jewish services.

Dr. Camille Owen, director of Fort Jackson's Directorate of Human Services, provided updates on services provided including the Transition Assistance Program and Suicide Prevention Month efforts.

"Mr. Timothy Jones (TAP chief) will have a lot of information to put out for TAP, and I know he sends monthly reports to the brigade command team on your service members that are eligible (to begin processing). We don't want the Soldier leaving or transitioning out without getting pertinent information that they need."

Jones along with other representatives had tables along the back of the room with pertinent information for the community.

Joe Colson and Rashaan Brown from the Installation Safety Office spoke about the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and motorcycle safety.

Colson called on unit leaders to ensure they contact his office prior to contacting OSHA.

"They should call my office first or call Vince Washington or Tamika Turner or Jeffrey Wolfe or Dwight Jackson," Colson said. "You should call one of those offices. That should be the first thing you do when you find a hazard in your workplace."

Washington, Turner, Wolfe and Jackson are safety officers on Fort Jackson.

Brown talked about the proper wear of protective gear while riding a motorcycle.

All riders on Fort Jackson must have a DOT-certified helmet, eye protection, long sleeves, pants, shoes that come above the ankles and should wear reflective gear, Brown said.

"High visibility gear is highly recommended," Brown said. "Okay, it's not required in the regulations or anything like that, but it is recommended that way visibility on and off posts is able to be seen by everybody."

Representatives from Fort Jackson Family Homes spoke briefly about upcoming events and new homes they are about to open.

James Harper, FJFH project manager, called on the community to be aware of construction along Burke Road and to follow commands of flagmen in the area.

Whitney Campbell, with the Army, Air Force Exchange Service, spoke about job opportunities with the company.

Lisa Ray, assistant commissary officer at the Fort Jackson Commissary spoke about upcoming sales while Susan McPherson with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce talked about upcoming events in the Midlands.

Slides with information about upcoming events can be found at: *https://home.army.mil/jackson/my-fort/for-families.*

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

120th Construction
Contractors will install a storm drain on Washington Road for the future Reception Battalion from Sept. 7-11. Drivers should expect delays and follow detour signs.

Palmetto Falls & Legion Pool Hours
The pools are open weekends only. Palmetto Falls: Saturday noon to 8 p.m., Sunday 1-7 p.m. Legion Pool: Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 1-6 p.m. The pools will be closed for the year after Labor Day.

TA deadlines approaching
Fiscal Year 26 tuition assistance deadline is coming soon:
■ Army TA deadline is 8 p.m. Sept. 7.
■ All TA requests must be submitted and approved by the year-end deadline. Counselors are not authorized to create manual TA Requests (TARs).
■ Soldiers may continue to create TA requests for courses beginning in FY27 (Oct. 1 and beyond). TA may be requested from seven to 60 days prior to the term start date. All TA requests must be approved no later than seven days prior to the first day of class.

Training Support Center Closure
The Training Support Center, 1565 Hall Street will be closed Sept. 18. For more information, call (803) 751-4619.

Gate 5 Hours
Fort Jackson's Gate 5 off Leesburg Road is now open in the evening until 6 p.m. The new hours for Gate 5 are Monday through Friday 5-8 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.

Safety Training Opportunites
The Installation Safety Office presents various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to *https://airs.safety.army.mil/default.aspx.* To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your unit safety specialist.
Fort Jackson Safety Office Training: To register visit *https://airs.safety.army.mil*
■ Local Hazards Course: 10 a.m. Mondays (except holidays) in the Strom Thurmond Building, Room 207.
On July 27 the Combat Readiness Center temporarily halted all motorcycle training for the Army; due to lack of approved Army Traffic Safety Training Program funding,
Please email your designated safety officer to register for the following classes:
■ Unit Safety Officer Course: Fort Jackson Safety Office: Oct. 6-7 (27 seats open)
■ ASMIS 2.0 Workshop Training: Fort Jackson Safety Office, Oct. 30 (29 seats open) – Purpose: Assist users with mishap reporting, submission, and completing reports.
Unit Level Safety Training: contact your designated BDE/BN Safety Officer to register:
■ Heat Illness Prevention (HIP)/ASOHMS Training: Unit-level, conduct Newcomers' Heat Injury Prevention Training, maintain training documentation.
Note: The Fort Jackson Risk Management Guide for Leaders is available in the ATC Safety Office
■ Intermediate Drivers Course: Unit-level training for the Intermediate Driver Course is now at the unit level and more information can be found at *https://safety.army.mil/OFF-DUTY/Automobiles/Training-Unit-Safety*
■ Remedial Drivers Course: Unit-level, On-line course, sign-up at registration link, email will be sent with instructions to complete the training.
■ Remedial Drivers Training will now be an online course. Registering for the RDT can be completed by going to *https://airs.safety.army.mil*.

Library Hours
The Thomas Lee Hill (Post) Library is now open Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday-Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and closed on Sundays, federal holidays, and federal holiday weekends.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MONDAY
Intramural Flag Football
Fort Jackson's Intramural Flag Football league begins play. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

WEDNESDAY
Exceptional Family Member Program
10-11 a.m., MS Teams. Fort Jackson community is invited to attend a virtual presentation with ACS Soldier and Family Readiness Group and Family Advocacy Program. There will be an overview of these programs to include information and resources. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

SEPT. 10
Veterans Virtual Career Fair
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Online. Military veterans and spouses can connect directly with state agencies during the Veterans Virtual Career Fair scheduled for Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants can connect with recruiters who value military service. Advance registration is required to attend the free event. Veterans, register today at: *bit.ly/2026SCVVCF.*

1,000 lbs. Club Competition
5 p.m., Coleman Gym. Come out and test your strength during various workout and win a coveted shirt. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

SEPT. 11
Patriots Day Ceremony
8:35 a.m., Fort Jackson Firestation Headquarters. Fort Jackson conducts a Patriots Day Wreath Laying Ceremony to recognize and honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The ceremony is open to the Fort Jackson community. All Fort Jackson units are encouraged to attend.

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

SEPT. 5
■ The Dog Stars (R)

SEPT. 9
■ Spider-Man: Brand New Day (PG-13)

SEPT. 12
■ No Showing

● 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.*

SEPT. 14
Sidewalk Repair
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Liberty Division and Inchon roads intersection. Contractors will be repairing sidewalk ramps and ADA pads. Drivers should prepare for delays and find alternate routes.

SEPT. 17
DSOY Awards Ceremony
1917 Club. The U.S. Army Transormation and Training Command names the top drill sergeants during a ceremony held in the Solomon Center.

SEPT. 18
Suicide Prevention Training:

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 we 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.

Army laser blasts drones

By C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

Service members assigned to Joint Task Force Southern Border recently used the Army Multipurpose High Energy Laser system to stop three hostile, unmanned aircraft systems deemed a threat. They were believed to be linked to drug cartels.

"The successful defeat of these adversarial drones is a direct testament to the readiness, vigilance and technological edge of the (joint task force)," said Army Maj. Gen. Curtis Taylor, Joint Task Force Southern Border commander. "By integrating layered countermeasures alongside advanced directed-energy capabilities like this laser system, we have made it clear that we will not tolerate hostile surveillance."

The operation marks the first use of the laser system to defeat cartel-linked drones along the southern border.

Using directed-energy weapons, such as this, is part of the future of warfare, a War Department official said.

"The future of warfare obviously is going to include mass attritable drones," the official added.

The department will procure hundreds of thousands of drones as soon as next year, as well as counter-UAS technology, including directed-energy systems.

"The department is proliferating directed-energy technology to protect the homeland and the southern border," the official said. "And (U.S. Northern Command and Joint Task Force Southern Border are) deploying these capabilities to take out any ... cartel drones that are doing incursions at the border."

Directed-energy weapons, such as lasers, can be used to take out both drones and incoming cruise missiles, at a much lower cost than using more expensive kinetic weapons like missiles. Developing scaled directed energy weapons systems, such as what was used at the border, is one of the department's six critical technology areas.

See **DRONES:** Page 9

MWR CENTRAL PRESENTS
UPCOMING EVENTS



FLAG FOOTBALL
INTRAMURAL LEAGUE
HILTON FIELD SPORTS COMPLEX | GAMES STARTS AT 6PM
SIGN UP INFORMATION CALL 803-751-3700
SEPT 07

SEPT 19
HORSEBACK RIDING
FORT GORDON TRAILS | 8AM-3PM
PRE-REGISTRATION IS RECOMMENDED
TO SIGN UP CALL 803-751-3484





OKTOBERFEST
THE 1917 CLUB @4-8PM | VOLKSMARCH | BUFFET | LIVE MUSIC
TO SIGN UP FOR THE VOLKSMARCH 803-751-3933
SEP 25

SEPT 26
FLEA MARKET
MWR CENTRAL PARKING LOT | 8AM-12PM
STALLS FOR SALE CALL 803-751-3484



SCAN FOR DETAILS ON EACH EVENT

U.S. ARMY MWR
SOLDIERS · FAMILIES · RETIREES · CIVILIANS

Hundreds join Danish Air Force ruckmarch

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

A voluntary ruck march is taking the Army by storm. There has been thousands of Soldiers around the world taking part in a ruck march called the Royal Danish Air Force Flyver March.

Fort Jackson is no different.

Participants from all across South Carolina came out to put on at least a 25-pound ruck and walk 20 kilometers in an untimed event, Aug. 29.

The march was officially established by the Royal Danish Air Force in 2021 as an annual ruck march open to military and military support civilian personnel, with medals awarded for completion.

> SOLDIERS REALLY ENJOY HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETING THAT IS NOT MANDATORY ...
>
> - Capt. Thomas Graybeal
> Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion

This year unlike other years' marches Soldiers will be allowed to wear the medal for completing it, said Capt. Thomas Graybeal, executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion.

In March, the ribbon was authorized for wear on the Army uniform.

That is a big deal because "there might not be a lot of opportunities for badges here," Graybeal said.



Service members walk during the early morning hours while completing the Royal Danish Air Force Flyver March. Soldiers, cadets, civilians and even Coast Guardsmen joined in the event.

It wasn't just Soldiers from Fort Jackson who participated as Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets, airmen, civilians, and even Coast Guardsmen strapped on rucks to give it a go.

"Soldiers really enjoy having an opportunity doing something that is not mandatory," Graybeal said. "This event is entirely voluntary to participate."

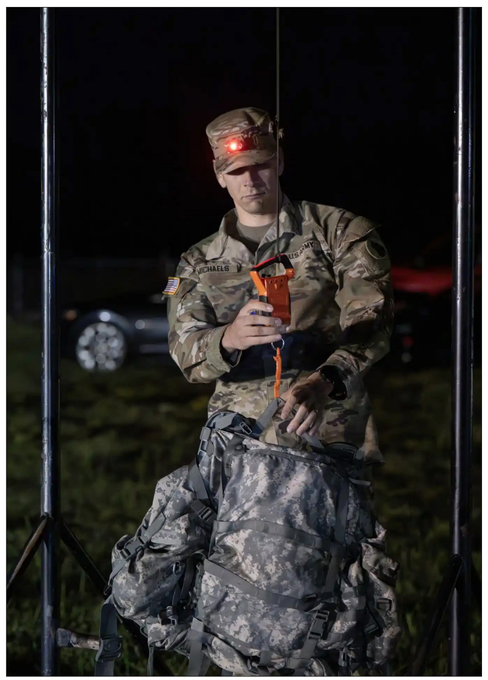
Jack Caylouny and Ganny Ruebenacker, cadets from Clemson University, were excited to have completed the march.

"It was a cool opportunity through our school," Caylouny said. "I thought it would be really cool to do something hard with my boys – coming out here and doing the best I can."

"I didn't want to pass up the opportunity," Ruebenacker said. "It was an experience."

The two cadets are used to 12 kilometer ruck marches as they are required to them regularly at school. Caylouny said he "loves" ruck marches and the adrenaline he gets once its completed.

"If you are not going uphill and not challenging yourself you are not getting better," Caylouny said.



A Soldier weighs his ruck sack prior to starting the Royal Danish Air Force Flyver March, Aug. 29



A group of service members, including a contingent of Coast Guardsmen, walk together during the 20-kilometer march. Soldiers are allowed to wear the ribbon on their uniforms.



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

A cadet joins in the march. 'Soldiers really enjoy having an opportunity to do something that is not mandatory,' said Capt. Thomas Graybeal, one of the organizers of the event.



Photo by AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. MONIQUE BRIGHT

Civilian contractors secure rigging to a containerized nuclear power reactor during staging operations at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., Feb. 13, 2026. The Army announced five nuclear vendors will be placed at five locations across the country.

Army selects vendors, sites for nuclear micoreactors

Army Communication and Outreach Office

The Department of the Army is announcing today that the Janus Program has selected five nuclear energy vendors, and five initial locations.

In partnership with the Department of War Innovation Unit, the Army is awarding up to a combined $2.2 billion to own, construct, and operate nuclear microreactors on military installations. These vendors will deliver safe, secure, and reliable nuclear power, strengthening the Army's ability to project power globally, while supporting the revitalization of American industrial capacity and technological leadership.

With the private sector funding expected along with these government dollars, the Army expects more than 20 total nuclear microreactors will be built and operated across Department of War installations.

The five selected vendors and installations are as follows:

Antares Nuclear, Inc. – Fort Bragg, North Carolina

BWXT Advanced Technologies, LLC – Fort Campbell, Kentucky

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems – Fort Hood, Texas

Radiant Industries, Inc. – Fort Benning, Georgia

Westinghouse Government Services – Fort Drum, New York

"Since launching the Janus Program, our mandate from President Trump and Secretary Hegseth has been clear: secure the power our warfighters need to train, deploy and win," said Dan Driscoll, Secretary of the Army. "Awarding these contracts accelerates our ability to deliver safe, reliable baseload power directly to our installations. We are building the energy resilience necessary to project combat power globally, without relying on potentially vulnerable external grids."

"The Janus Program is grabbing the baton from Project Pele and the (Department of Energy's) Reactor Pilot Program," said Dr. Jeff Waksman, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment. "We are seeking not just reactors capable of turning on for a brief demonstration, but rather systems able to deliver power with high-capacity factors for years of operation. The Janus Program will be a complete success when and only when we have assisted multiple nuclear companies in developing truly reliable and affordable nuclear microreactors which they can sell to other buyers beyond just the military."

After gathering technical and operational information from industry via an Area of Interest released by DIU, the Army down-selected potential industry awardees for negotiation of Other Transactions Authority-based agree-

See **NUCLEAR,** Page 9

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Count your blessings

By CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) ANGEL BERRIOS
Deputy Garrison Chaplain

"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why is it so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." (Psalm 42:5)

I heard a comical illustration:

After a one-year voyage on Noah's Ark, the two elephants were getting out of the Ark, walking down the plank. Grumbling - the one turned to the other and said, "What a terrible trip! It rained the whole time!"

Perspective would be a good title for this illustration. Was that elephant way off or what? If only he/she had known what had actually happened, or why it all happened. We must realize and understand that God is not only omniscient (having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all things), but that He also has everything in and under control. The Bible says that not even a sparrow falls to the ground without Him knowing about it. I submit that for this reason, we can place our trust and confidence in Him for everything and always.

A proverb that comes to mind is 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

A specific difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is that a Christian trusts God and the non-Christian doesn't. Yes, this is a lifetime process, but it's a necessary one that will define our character and dictate our conduct.

An old church hymn comes to mind as I finish up this devotional, Count Your Blessings. Below are the lyrics which inspired the above thought:

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.
Count your blessings,
name them one by one, Count your blessings,
see what God hath done! Count your blessings,
name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.
So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be disheartened, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Let us continue living for God wholeheartedly, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts. We serve an Awesome God!

Drones

Continued from Page 5

The other areas include: applied artificial intelligence, biomanufacturing, contested logistics technologies, quantum and battlefield information dominance, and scaled hypersonics.

"(Directed-energy systems are) low cost per shot, with deep magazines and they can come out against drone swarms," the official said. "That's something that's different than a traditional kinetic system. It's good for the cost-exchange ratio because ... it's better than us firing a $2 million missile at (an inexpensive) drone."

The use of directed-energy weapons on drones is also in line with the department's counter-drone effort, the official noted.

By integrating layered countermeasures alongside advanced directed-energy capabilities like this laser system, we have made it clear that we will not tolerate hostile surveillance."

Army Maj. Gen. Curtis Taylor, Joint Task Force Southern Border commander

In June, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth visited White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, where he observed a variety of directed-energy systems in operation, including the first milestone test of the Golden Dome for America.

"Cutting-edge directed energy was harnessed, and the Dynamic Defense Autonomous Defeat system flawlessly and autonomously cued, targeted and eliminated a multitude of incoming threats," the secretary said. "This test was executed on schedule and dynamically defeated every threat. I watched our elite warfighters integrate with next-generation technology to stop incoming drones and cruise missiles dead in their tracks."



U.S. Army photo

Joint Task Force Southern Border personnel use the Army Multipurpose High Energy Laser system to engage and defeat three hostile unmanned aerial systems along the U.S. southern border, Aug. 25, 2026.

In July, the War Department awarded two agreements under the Joint Laser Weapon System program to advance the next-generation cruise missile and unmanned aerial system defense architecture.

The agreements have an initial award value of $86 million and a total program ceiling of $847 million. The Joint Laser Weapon System program is meant to transition directed-energy capabilities from demonstration prototypes into field-ready, production-oriented platforms.

Nuclear

Continued from Page 8

ments. A decision board and panel of top nuclear and technical experts from the Department of Energy, national laboratories and representatives across the services provided deeply rigorous input on the technical risks, financial situation, and management capabilities of the solutions. The close collaboration with technical experts and service representatives ensured selected vendors would provide solutions to enhance energy resilience for specific operational needs at the installations.

"When DOE created an authorization pathway for the demonstration of advanced reactor designs, we quickly began to realize how valuable these technologies could be for fortifying our national defense infrastructure," said Assistant Secretary of Nuclear Energy Ted Garrish. "We are honored to work in lockstep with the Army to leverage nuclear energy innovation in support of our country's military operations at home and abroad."

The alignment of these vendors with Army installations represents the culmination of a year-long effort to evaluate and prioritize installations based on a multitude of factors from energy needs to seismic and hydrological considerations, all with a primary focus on safety.

As the Janus Program moves forward, it is intended that these vendors will also site nuclear technologies on other service installations for continued energy resilience across the entire DOW. Additional Army and other Service sites will be announced at a later date. The Army continues to drive towards the September 2028 target outlined in President Trump's Executive Order 14299 for operation of a first reactor, regulated by the Army, on a military installation.

"The Army is leading the nation in its return to nuclear preeminence via the Janus Program," said Jason Craft, Janus Program manager. "Our selected industry awardees represent the most viable technologies to achieve this capability, setting conditions for both installation energy resilience and operational energy solutions."

"We need more power. We need it delivered faster and cheaper, and we need it to be more reliable," said Owen West, director, DIU. "With Janus, DIU is assisting the Army's micro reactor build — speeding military energy production to protect the nation."

Collaboration with utility providers is essential to the success of Army's nuclear power strategy and the Janus Program.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment

DRILL SERGEANT OF THE CYCLE
Sgt. 1st Class Blake Cruz

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Ariya Bolden

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Reddi F. Johnson

BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Garrett Zollinger

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Jonah Harrison

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Raleon Moore

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Tomi Fabri

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Rachel Dejonge

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Stefan Postman

ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Braelyn Walker

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Allan Bailor

Events

Continued from Page 4

safeTALK
9 a.m. to noon. Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, contractors and Family members 18 years and older are invited to a three hour training on suicide alertness workshop to assist individuals to recognize warning signs and communicate safely with people thinking about suicide. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-2915.

SEPT. 19
Horseback Riding at Fort Gordon
Join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation for a horseback trail ride. Novice or Pro, this guided ride will be great for those looking for an outdoor adventure. $75 per person. Must be 7 years and older. Register at MWR Central or by calling (803) 751-3484.

SEPT. 23
Wellness Wednesday
10-11 a.m., MS Teams. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites you to a virtual presentation to learn more about the services provided by the Army Substance Abuse Program and Financial Readiness Program. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

SEPT. 25
Oktoberfest
4 p.m., 1917 Club. Ready for Oktoberfest? Come experience Oktoberfest firsthand at the 1917 Club, and experience the festivities and fun that comes with Oktoberfest, Fort Jackson style. Volksmarch registration starts at 4 p.m.

SEPT. 26
Cars and Coffee
8 a.m. to noon, MWR Central parking lot. Back by popular demand, cool cars, hot coffee, and good times.

The Flea Market
8 a.m. to noon. MWR Central Parking Lot. Come join the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation for a Flea Market. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

SEPT. 29-30
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. oldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, contractors and Family members 18 years and older are invited to a two day interactive workshop teaching participants how to recognize, intervene, and create safety plans for individuals with thoughts of suicide. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-2915.



Courtesy photo

Suicide prevention

Staff Sgt. Maylene Santos, suicide prevention liaison with 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, stands behind a Suicide Prevention Month table. The Army is raising awareness of the services available to the community throughout September during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

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

INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
193RD BRIGADE CHRISTION NON-DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
165TH BRIGADE CHRISTIAN NON-DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER
CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	FRIDAY	11-11:30 A.M.	120TH AG BN CHAPLAIN OFFICE (for trainees in 120th only)
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

Army unveils SixPac ammo packaging

By TYLER BARTH
Army News Service

Blending lightweight polymers with a rugged steel shell, the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center's new SixPAC system marks a groundbreaking leap in small caliber ammunition packaging, one intended to reshape how munitions are used by Soldiers.

The SixPAC, named as such because it was intended for 6.8mm, is comprised of two lightweight polymer ammunition containers — or PACs — contained within a steel outer pack. Following successful implementation with 6.8mm, the system is planned for adaptation across multiple legacy small caliber ammunition production lines.

This initiative serves as the first major overhaul of small caliber ammunition packaging since World War II. Supply chain vulnerabilities, rising costs and a need to prepare for tomorrow's military operations in varied climates necessitated a re-evaluation of current munitions packaging.

The SixPAC is designed to have a lighter tactical inner pack, which will widen its manufacturing base and increase logistical efficiencies.

The SixPAC is highlighted by the lack of a traditional wood wirebound box overpack, which frequently required remediation, had to be assembled manually and was susceptible to mold. It also removes reliance on chemical wood preservative treatments, thus reducing environmental impacts and the possibility of a supply chain disruption.

The SixPAC's polymer inner pack provides a reduced weight, easier transport, and is also more efficient to manufacture using automation. The steel outer pack reduces the logistical footprint by allowing more containers and ammunition per pallet and has a notably larger supply base than its legacy wood counterpart.

According to the project's tech lead, Senior Scientific Technical Manager for Packaging Jason Runell, SixPAC was partially derived from a desire to do away with the wirebound box but was above all done in pursuit of modernization to face present-day logistics, portability and supply chain challenges. His team tested several materials and received feedback from various user communities before landing on a polymer inner pack and a steel outer pack.

This decision, he added, comes out of necessity — polymer isn't yet as proven in the U.S. military as it is in other countries. Uniquely however, the U.S. must be ready to engage at any time and fights in various climates, all with their own difficulties and needs. In order to meet military standards, polymers have to hold up no matter the locale, even after years of storage.



Army News Service photo

The Army's new SixPac ammunition carrier is made of polymer to reduce weight.

The specific polymer developed on earlier container efforts has considerable potential, noted mechanical engineer and polymer designer Edward Lucas, but the team will keep the door open if anything more advantageous is developed.

"It's a developing field, and polymers are unique — you can modify them, include additives that improve impact performance, stiffness or dimensional stability. You can add more ingredients to the cauldron and your potion will come out different trading some characteristics for others," Lucas said.

Several designs are in development, with inner tactical polymer containers expected to weigh about half of the legacy steel M2A2.

This weight savings on the tactical pack will result in a reduced load for an already weight burdened soldier.

The weight decrease will also be advantageous particularly on weight-sensitive platforms such as light watercraft and aircraft. Weight affects whether these platforms can launch to begin with and plays a part in its agility should the platforms be forced to engage.

Beyond this, the injection molding process for these inner packs will offer supply chain advantages. More than 800 injection molders within the United States are likely capable to create these packs, creating competition, slashing costs and lowering barriers to entry for new suppliers.

Additionally, polymer inner packs can be produced largely through injection molding, where most components are formed in a single custom mold and do not require large dedicated fabrication lines. Because the same press can be used for other products simply by swapping molds, polymer production requires a much smaller footprint and less dedicated tooling.

Soldiers got their hands on the SixPAC for testing throughout 2024 and 2025 and gave valuable feedback, much of which was positive.



VICTORY... STARTS HERE



Pvt. Anaa M. Griner, from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, leads the battalion in recitiing the Soldier's Creed during the unit's Basic Combat Training graduation, Aug. 27.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE