

THURSDAY MAY 25, 2023

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."



# DRILL SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

TOP DRILLS SQUARE OFF IN TITLE BOUT



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# Jackson rows into summer on recycled rafts

By **EMILY HILEMAN**

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson recycled an old favorite to help kick off the start of summer and the re-opening of Weston Lake.

“We started it prior to the flood of 2015,” said Lisa McKnight, hazardous substance program manager and environmental training coordinator. She added the purpose is to increase community involvement, enjoy the many resources available at Fort Jackson and, of course, reusing and recycling previously-used materials in creative ways.

Nine years ago, when the Recycle Regatta was in full swing, teams found themselves in the middle of a lake in a boat that didn't look like it would hold two people, let alone help them float across the finish line.

Fast forward to May 20, 2023, and again, teams found themselves on rafts with paddles, struggling and striving to get their make-shift rafts across the finish line.

Each self-propelled raft was constructed with previously used materials, minus bonding materials such as tape or rope. All rafts had to be named, have a handmade “vessel in distress” flag and be able to carry at least two crew members.

“We made (our boat) out of two plastic drums and four jugs that we attached to the sides for outriggers,” said Christy Pollock from the Directorate of Public Works En-



**Mark Merritt and Christy Pollock, Directorate of Public Works environmental engineers pose with their recycled first place trophy following the Recycle Regatta, May 20.**



Photos by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

**Mark Merritt and Christy Pollock, both environmental engineers with the Directorate of Public Works, paddle their makeshift raft. Their raft, constructed with two previously used plastic drums and four jugs, secured their first place win at the Recycle Regatta on Weston Lake, May 20.**

vironmental Division. Pollock, along with her teammate Mark Merritt, won the Recycle Regatta boating competition in a boat they constructed for Col. Ryan Hanson, the garrison commander.

“You can always find creative uses of reusing and recycling materials in ways that maybe you may not expect,” Merritt said. “I think that’s what this is about.”

McKnight agreed, saying the purpose was to keep things out of the landfill and to see how much fun you can

have with things that you already own.

If you missed all of the action, don't fret. “We are planning on starting around the same time next year,” McKnight said. “Getting a little more boats out there and get a little more community involvement. So, we're hoping to have more and get as good as we were in 2014.”

The next recycling event is the shred day on June 13. For more information, contact the Fort Jackson Recycling Center at 751-4208 or Lisa McKnight at (803) 319-4618.

## ON THE COVER

**Staff Sgt. Devin Sorensen with the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, reports to the members of the board during the Fort Jackson Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition.**



Photo by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

**See Page 6-7**

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Duncan, senior enlisted advisor for the 193rd Infantry Brigade, passes the unit colors during a ceremony held May 16 in the Joe E. Mann Ballroom on post. Duncan took responsibility of the brigade from Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Wirth during the ceremony.

## 193rd welcomes ‘right’ Soldier at right time

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

“Today’s a great day,” said Col. Scott White, 193rd Infantry Brigade commander. “It’s a celebration of a tremendous accomplishment and a farewell to an incredible command sergeant major and his family, and the welcoming of another ...”

White was speaking of the change of responsibility between Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Wirth and Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Duncan, held May 19 in the Joe E. Mann Ballroom. The brigade said farewell to Wirth and welcomed Duncan at the ceremony.

White said change in the Army is “continuous, purposeful and necessary” to keep

the “flame burning bright to illuminate the path” of improvement to the service.

The command sergeant major ensures a commander’s intent is “navigable, meets mission and does not degrade the unit and maintains the unquestionable standard our Army demands and deserves,” White said.

He lauded Wirth as the “finest command sergeant major, most effective battle (buddy), and a true friend.”

He also called for the brigade’s new senior enlisted advisor to “reenergize the brigade and focus on its families, investing in our cadre and continuing to refine training so that it remains basic and creates a product that is ready to fight and win our nation’s wars.”

Duncan is no stranger to the training

mission as he was previously the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment senior enlisted advisor.

“I look forward to our future together, John,” White added. “This brigade will amaze you. I promise you. You’re the right man for the right job at the right time.”

Wirth agreed Duncan was the prime choice as his replacement.

“I’ve heard numerous times unceremoniously quote ‘you are the right leader at the right time.’ I cannot agree more,” Wirth said. “Just hearing a few of your conversations with the brigade commander, brigade staff and a few of the battalion CSMs during our transition. You definitely are the right CSM I’m handing this responsibility to.”

In turn Duncan thanked Wirth – and his new boss.

“I have a great amount of respect for you,” he said. “Over the past few years watching you handle the job of brigade sergeant major. I hope that I can display some of the same patience, competence and interpersonal tact that I’ve seen you practice.” To White he said he couldn’t have a better more transparent and open boss and that he is looking to work with him.

Duncan said to the Soldiers of the Bayonet Brigade that their “reputation precedes you as professionals who master the basics and take pride in your jobs ... I look forward to working diligently for all of you to ensure you can accomplish our primary mission to make American Soldiers.”

# Community Updates

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Personal Property Announcement

U.S. Transportation Command personal property pre-peak season began in February and will last through September. Once service members receive orders for Permanent Change of Station, they are required to access Military Once-Source for customer support resources to arrange household goods shipment. <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-housing/moving/pcs-and-military-moves/>. For more information, contact the Fort Jackson Personal Property Office 751-5137/5138. Soldiers and Families can find personal property programs overview information and TSP ratings on the customer facing dashboard, <https://www.ustranscom.mil/dp3/index.cfm#overview>.

### Employment Readiness Seminar

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Army Community Service invites military spouses to an employment readiness seminar. The seminar includes classes on interviewing skills and resume writing. Come meet AAFES and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center representatives, who are looking to hire military spouses. The seminar takes place the last Thursday of every month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at 9810 Lee Road. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 751-5256.

### 248th Army Birthday Ball Tickets

Tickets for the Association of the U.S. Army's 248th Army and 106th Fort Jackson Birthday Ball, scheduled for June 10, are available through <https://ausafjpcarmybdyball2023.eventbrite.com>.

### Equal Employment Opportunity

Looking for Equal Employment Opportunity information? Can't find the latest EEO newsletter? You can find the information you need at: [home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/eo](http://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/eo).

### Retirement Services Office relocation

The Fort Jackson Retirement Services Office has moved to Room 117 in the Strom Thurmond Building. Walk-in hours are: Monday through Friday from 8-9:30 a.m. and 3-4:30 p.m.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### JUNE 3

#### Powerlifting Clinic

10-11:30 a.m., Vanguard Gym. Want to get stronger? Want to maximize your weightlifting prowess? Come to a Powerlifting Clinic at Vanguard Gym. For more information, call 751-5839.

### JUNE 7, 14

#### Pre-driver's Life Skills Class

5-7 p.m., Auto Crafts Center. Prepare first-time driver's to properly care for a vehicle. Basic automotive skills will be covered in this two-part course. Limited space available, ages 14 and older, \$30 per class, class includes oil change on students' family vehicle. For more information or to register, call 751-5755/7061.

### JUNE 9

#### Spouse Federal Resume Workshop

9:30-11:30 a.m., Army Community Service Building, 9810 Lee Road. Are you seeking federal employment? Come learn everything you need to know about: transitioning from private industry to the federal government; writing a correct federal resume; creating effective Knowledge Skills and Abilities; answering "Self-Assessment Questionnaires; "formatting your resume to be noticed by reviewers; interviewing; and tracking the progress of your application. Topics covered are: USAJobs account, position classification standards and functional guides; breaking down the vacancy announcement adjusting your experience to the vacancy; self assessment questionnaire; and military spouse preference. Registration is required. Call 751-5256 to reserve a seat.

### JUNE 15

#### Garrison Change of Command

8:30 a.m., Victory Field. Col. Ryan Hanson will relinquish command of the Fort Jackson garrison to Col. Timothy R. Hickman in a ceremony on Victory Field.

### JUNE 17

#### Army Birthday Relay Race

7 a.m., U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy. Celebrate the Army's Birthday with a traditional relay race with teams of four. This is a Commander's Cup event. For more information, call 751-5869/3096.

### JUNE 24

#### 1,000 lbs. Club competition

8 a.m., Vanguard Gym. Test your strength levels. If you love to lift, why not compete in the sport of weightlifting in the 1,000 lbs. Club competition?

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

**SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO**  
[usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil)

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

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible.

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names. Questions?

### JULY 1

#### Independence Day Celebration

Hilton Field. Gates open at 4 p.m. Enjoy an exciting variety of food trucks and children's carnival rides, live music, beer tents and of course, fireworks.

### JULY 29

#### Natural Body Building Competition

6 p.m., Solomon Center. You've worked hard through proper diet and exercise to sculpt your body. Reap the rewards of your hard work. Divisions available for competition are Men's Natural Builder, Men's Natural Physique, Women's Natural Builder, Women's Natural Physique, Women's Bikini, Masters' Natural 41-49, and Grand Master Natural 50+. Register by June 15. For more information, call 751-3700.



## Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

### FRIDAY

■ The Covenant (R) 6 p.m.

### SATURDAY

■ Big George Foreman (PG-13) 2 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (PG-13) 2 p.m.

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

### AUG. 11, SEPT. 8

#### Spouse Federal Resume Workshop

9:30-11:30 a.m., Army Community Service Building, 9810 Lee Road. Are you seeking federal employment? Come learn everything you need to know about: transitioning from private industry to the federal government; writing a correct federal resume; etc. Registration is required. Call 751-5256 to reserve a seat.



(Above) Col. Warren A. Stewart, Moncrief Army Health Clinic commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kimberly N. Nieves, stand together during an assumption of responsibility ceremony, May 19. (Left) Nieves stands at attention during a ceremony held in the Joe. E. Mann Ballroom.

## Moncrief 7 signs on to Fort Jackson net

Story, photos by  
**EMILY HILEMAN**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

“Sgt. Maj. Nieves, I can’t tell you how excited I am that you’re here,” said Col. Warren A Stewart, Moncrief Army Health Clinic commander. “There’s just something about having a command sergeant major with your experience, your background and your credibility that’s just going to take us to another level. I’ve been waiting for it forever. I need you as a teammate.”

Stewart was speaking to Command Sgt. Maj. Kimberly N. Nieves, the senior enlisted advisor who assumed responsibility of Moncrief Army Health Clinic, May 19 in a ceremony at the Joe E. Mann Ballroom. Moncrief’s previous Command Sgt. Maj. Erin L. Hicks, retired from active duty and

relinquished responsibility January 12.

“We are lucky to have Sgt. Maj. Nieves as our sergeant major,” Stewart said. “While I’ve only known her for a couple of weeks, I have quickly come to realize she is professional and extremely engaged in making us better already.”

He highlighted her experience with the Human Resources Command and applauded the noticeable respect she received from other sergeants major at a leadership conference they attended.

“The fact that (the other sergeants major) were so engaged with you, lets me know that I am in good hands. That we are in good hands,” Stewart said.

Nieves is familiar with both Army Medical Command and Training and Doctrine Command, having previously served as the Force Health Protection Sergeant Major, an



Command Sgt. Maj. Kimberly N. Nieves, speaks after assuming responsibility for Moncrief Army Health Clinic, May 19.

emergency room department noncommissioned officer-in-charge and as a senior drill sergeant.

“It is crucial to maintain continuity, but it’s just as vital to welcome change,” Nieves said. “I look forward to serving alongside you and this great organization and shining a light on what we do best – readiness and Army medicine.”

To her new team, Nieves relayed her excitement about the opportunities this assignment will bring and how the command will ensure “that we put people first and remember that the warfighter is at the center of all we do,” she said. “We will continue to strive for excellence and be the military medicine premier health clinic in the east and be the trusted and relevant enabler of excellence.”



Staff Sgt. Marqueaveus Murray answers questions asked by a panel of sergeants major at the formal board during the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition. Questions were based on a wide array of topics that are pertinent to Basic Combat Training, leadership and decision-making skills.



# Top drills square off in title bout

Story by **EMILY HILEMAN**  
 Photos by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**  
 Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Drill sergeants spend 10 weeks teaching, molding and mentoring civilians from various cultures, backgrounds and walks of life. The daunting task of transforming ordinary civilians into Soldiers is not one for the faint of heart. Drill sergeants are some of the most skilled noncommissioned officers the Army has to offer, but which of them is the best of the best?

Fifteen drill sergeants from across Fort Jackson's training brigades and the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy are competing in the annual Drill Sergeant of the Year competition from May 22-25 to answer that very question and receive the coveted belt. The winners don't just get a fancy belt and a title, though.

"You are the face of the drill sergeants for your particular center of excellence," said Staff Sgt. Devante McLean, the 2022 U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy's Drill Sergeant of the Year. "You are the also the voice of the drill sergeants. You are the one who is going out and checking on their mental health."

McLean said the winner of the competition doesn't just act as the voice of all drill sergeants, but they also "check on training and make sure everything is being executed" properly in the training environment. Needless to say, the boots they're all seeking to fill are colossal.

"To me, the best drill sergeant is a well-rounded Soldier," said Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl, a senior drill sergeant with 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment. "That's something the Army is moving towards ... the total Soldier concept, a jack of all trades."

The competition is one that tests drill sergeants not only mentally and physically, but it also tests their stamina and character.

"First and foremost, they are experts at their craft. (They're) testing their ability not only mentally, but physically as well," McLean said. "It also tests their character, because they're going to be tired for days in a competition and they still have to perform at that high level and execute at a higher standard."

Although exhausted, the true purpose of being a drill sergeant was not lost on her.

"Our primary role is to teach them the basic skills they need to be a Soldier ... We teach everything – drill and ceremony, weapons. Basically, just shoot, move, communicate and kill," she said. "One of my favorite things to teach, though, is about the Army itself, because there's more to life than just basic training."

Buhl said she enjoys teaching new Soldiers how to become a good leader, how to get promoted and other aspects of the Army that many may not even realize are part of the life of a Soldier.

Due to their role as educators and trainers in the way of the American Soldier, the competition focuses heavily on teaching and educating trainees during three "round robin" events.

During these events, the competitors rotate to different stations every 15 minutes. Each station tests their knowledge and ability to train and educate to-be Soldiers on weapons, drill and ceremony, survival techniques and methods, first aid and many other critical areas covered during BCT.

Although none of the material and activities are new, it doesn't make them any less challenging.

"I've done all of this before," said Staff Sgt. Jake Mrzena, an Army Reserve drill sergeant and competitor. "It's just that they keep you busy, busy, busy."

The action-packed schedule keeps the drill sergeants on their toes and pushes their endurance and physical capabilities.

"Everything has been challenging," said Staff Sgt. Brenda Vargas, a competitor and drill sergeant from 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment. "Just the mental preparation matched with the physical part of it, all meshed together. That's what makes it extremely challenging."

The winners will be announced during an awards ceremony later today, but for now, drill sergeants will continue proving themselves throughout the competition to win the coveted title of Drill Sergeant of the Year.

THE BEST DRILL SERGEANT IS A WELL-ROUNDED SOLDIER ... A JACK OF ALL TRADES.

- Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl  
 2nd Battalion,  
 60th Infantry Regiment  
 Senior Drill Sergeant



Staff Sgt. Jake Mrzena works his way through the Confidence obstacle Course as part of the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition. Fit to Win is one of the many physical obstacles drills sergeants must overcome in the competition.



(Above) Drill sergeants must show competency and excellency in a variety of tasks during Drill Sergeant of the Year competition. Activities include physical fitness tests and training, ruck marching, obstacle courses and teaching basic combat skills.



## WHY I SERVE

## INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

**PVT. JEAN C. GARCIA MEDINA, 22**  
Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico



"My cousin influenced me to join the Army. He is in the Marine Corps."

"I thought Basic Combat Training would be challenging physically and mentally."

"The most challenging part of BCT was dealing with people who don't want to listen."

My advice to someone planning to start BCT would be "that no matter how difficult the situation is, always keep the Army values present and always do your best."

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist. I selected this MOS due to its close relationship with social work, which is the profession I was studying before I joined the Army."

**PVT. DANIEL AVINA, 19**  
Phoenix



"Seeing my brother represent the Army was one of the main reasons why I joined. I wanted to be a part of it after I saw the discipline and professionalism during my brother's graduation from Basic Combat Training three years ago."

"I started watching videos of BCT, I found so many videos of drill sergeants screaming at trainees and doing corrective actions. I was so worried about not being physically prepared or being able to graduate BCT."

"I had a baby before coming into to the Army and not being there for him and my Family was the most difficult part of BCT."

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist. When I chose this MOS, I didn't like it. I thought I was going to be in the church all day. Now that I have learned and have more information about what I'll be doing, I like my MOS."

**PFC. STARR A. SANDLE, 19**  
Atlanta



"The person that influenced me to join the Army was my granddaddy. Although he probably wanted me to attend college, I knew that he would be more proud to know I'm doing big things."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be full of challenging events and full of obstacle courses. In my experience, it was plenty of challenges that I fought through."

"The most physically challenging part of BCT was surprisingly the gas chamber, but every day was a mental game. Working with others can get hard at times with so many different emotions and dealing with my own."

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist. I didn't choose this MOS, it chose me. I am glad it did, because this MOS will give me the opportunity to open up and communicate better with others and also give guidance."

**PVT. ADELA YENIFER RUIZ ALANIS, 21**  
Fort Myers, Florida



"My parents and Family influenced me (to join the Army) because I wanted to make my parents proud and my Family is also in the Army. So, I wanted to follow in their footsteps."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be emotionally stressful and I thought the drill sergeants were going to be extremely mean. I didn't always feel motivated, but it was still a good learning experience."

"The most challenging part of BCT was not being able to speak to or see my Family."

"If you are religious, pray and get closer to God. Also, talk to your battle buddies, because it really helps to talk to someone," is advice I would give to someone planning to start BCT.

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist. I chose this MOS to get closer to God and help people."

**PVT. A'GAURIS MCLAURIN, 24**  
Columbia, Mississippi



"My father and younger brother influenced me to join the Army. My dad is a veteran and served nine years in the Army. My younger brother is currently serving his fourth year at Fort Bliss."

"I expected (Basic Combat Training) to be a very tough experience both mentally and physically. To be honest, it has been a tough journey, but I am very proud of myself for all of the obstacles I have overcome."

"The most challenging part was working as a team. Because whenever someone did something wrong, everyone was punished for it."

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist. I chose this MOS to help others, because I've had a rough life and without the help from God, Family and friends, I would not be in the position that I'm in. So, if I can honestly get through to people then that would be worth more than \$1 million."

**PFC. ZION DIXON, 23**  
Old Bridge, New Jersey



"My passion and zeal to help people is what influenced me to join the Army."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be challenging. The reason is because of all the shows and movies I'd watch that would pertain to military content. They portrayed it as tough and hard."

"The most challenging part of BCT was land navigation. As a Soldier, I found I had difficulty in locating the different coordinates on the map, but eventually got the concept."

"The advice I would give someone going through BCT is to enjoy and embrace the process. There will be moments when it's going to be terrible, but if you stay strong and go through the process, you will succeed."

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist because I went to college for ministry leadership and I love to connect with people spiritually."

To read more why Soldiers serve visit: [home.army.mil/jackson](http://home.army.mil/jackson)

## May 18 retirees



Photo by NATHAN CLINBELLE

The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson honored the service of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Edward Ewing and Sgt. 1st Class Joel T. Leopard, during the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment graduation, May 18.

# Commissaries help patrons prepare

Defense Commissary Agency

Fort Jackson community members must prepare for hurricane season that starts June 1. Meteorologists are literally running out of names to tag the number of severe storms that have occurred over the past three years.

Although the hurricane forecast for 2023 is expected to be slightly lower than last year, the Defense Commissary Agency advises its patrons to be ready for the unexpected and use their benefit to save money on their emergency supplies, said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director.

“It’s too late to wonder what you have on hand for an emergency when the hurricane has shut everything down,” Saucedo said. “However, if you take the time to create a disaster plan before the storm hits then you can use your commissary benefit to help you save at least 25% on your supplies.”

From April through Oct. 31, DeCA’s severe weather promotional package includes discounts on the following items: beef jerky and other assorted meat snacks, soup and chili mixes, canned goods, powdered milk, cereals, batteries, airtight bags, weather-ready flashlights, tape (all-weather, heavy-duty shipping and duct), first aid kits, lighters, matches, lanterns, candles, hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes. Specific items may vary from store to store.

The North Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 to Nov. 30 and covers the North Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. Tornado season is April to July.

The Accuweather forecast for 2023 calls for 11-15 named storms, four to eight of which will be hurricanes, with one to three of the hurricanes potentially being category 3 or higher (winds exceeding 111 mph). The weather service also forecasts a below average season of about 1,055 to 1,200 tornadoes hitting the United States during 2023.

Whether it’s Mother Nature or a man-made crisis, emergency preparedness offi-

cial encourage prior planning with a disaster supply kit that includes the following items:

- Water – at least one gallon daily, per person (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)
- Nonperishable foods – canned meats, fruits, vegetables, dried fruits, nuts, raisins, cereal, crackers, cookies, energy bars, granola, peanut butter, and foods for infants and the elderly (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)
- Paper goods – writing paper, paper plates, paper towels and toilet paper
- Writing utensils – pens, pencils (manual pencil sharpeners), markers
- Cooking items – pots, pans, baking sheets, cooking utensils, charcoal, a grill and a manual can opener
- First-aid kit – including bandages, medicines and prescription medications
- Cleaning materials – bleach, sanitizing spray, and hand and laundry soap
- Toiletries – personal hygiene items and moist wipes
- Pet care items – food, water, muzzle, leash, carrier, medications, medical records, and identification and immunization tags
- Lighting accessories – flashlights, batteries, candles and matches
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Duct tape, scissors
- Multipurpose tool
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates and insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Maps of the area
- Blankets or sleeping bags

For more information about disaster preparedness, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

National Safety Month

# PRIDE IN OWNERSHIP

How involved are you in your organization's safety program?  
Building a positive safety culture means every individual is engaged and doing their part to mitigate risk in all they do.  
*It's your safety program – be proud of it.*

U.S. ARMY

For more information visit <https://safety.army.mil>

# Army, Marines join forces for concert

By 1ST. SGT. DAVID NEWCOMB  
282nd Army Band

Unity. Defense. Readiness. These themes permeated the first Armed Forces Day 73 years ago and continue today. The brave men and women who defend this Nation may wear different uniforms, but they serve under the same flag. On May 20, Fort Jackson's 282nd Army Band was joined by members of the Parris Island Marine Band to honor this legacy with a concert on the S.C. State House steps.

"We're excited to entertain the local community while highlighting the unique and strategic contributions of Fort Jackson and Parris Island to our nation, where American Soldiers and Marines are made," said Lt. Col. Claudia Peña, Headquarters, Headquarters Battalion commander. The 282nd falls under that battalion. The concert was attended by members of the community, trainees from Fort Jackson, and military veterans, and included inspirational remarks by Brig. Gen. Jason Kelly, Fort Jackson commander.

Fort Jackson and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island represent the largest

THE TWO BANDS  
COLLABORATED  
TO PLAY IN  
BEAUFORT,  
S.C. THIS PAST  
MARCH.

Army and Marine presences in South Carolina and share a common purpose: they hold the sacred honor of molding civilian men and women into Soldiers and Marines. Parris Island trains 19,000 new Marines each year, representing 60% of all Marines trained. Similarly, Fort Jackson trains 60% of all new Soldiers, or about 45,000 each year.

The two military posts have collaborated previously when the Parris Island Marine Band invited their Army colleagues down to their hometown Beaufort's Waterfront Park to perform a joint concert in spring of 2022, and again in March of this year.

"Our past performances in Beaufort have been widely celebrated," said Chief Warrant Officer Mark Pellon, musical director of the Parris Island Marine Band. "In a community that has a large quantity of veterans, our performances have rein-



Photo by REGINALD ROGERS

Members of the 282nd Army Band and the Parris Island Marine Band strike up a tune during a joint Armed Forces Day concert held on the S.C. State House steps.

vigorated the zeal of many of our local heroes, as well as inspired younger generations to value service, honor, and patriotism."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Pick, 282nd Army Band said he wanted to bring this spirit of collaboration and unity to Columbia.

"The Army eagerly embraced an extraordinary partnership with the U.S.

Marine Corps, as we performed an exceptional Armed Forces Day concert for our community," he said. "This collaboration symbolizes the unity and camaraderie that defines our Armed Forces, allowing us to showcase our shared values and commitment to excellence."

Leaders from both services hope to make this concert an annual event to honor all servicemembers.

**Did you know:** All Army safety accidents or injuries should be reported to the Installation Safety Office or the Army Training Center Safety Office. Call 751-2541 for the Installation Safety Office, or 751-7553 to reach the ATC Safety Office, or use the online mishap reporting tool.

| WORSHIP SCHEDULE                                   | DAY     | TIME              | PLACE                |
|--|---------|-------------------|----------------------|
| FAITH GROUP  | DAY     |                   |                      |
| CATHOLIC MASS                                      | SUNDAY  | 9:30-10:30 A.M.   | MAIN POST CHAPEL     |
| CATHOLIC MASS                                      | MON-FRI | NOON              | MAIN POST CHAPEL     |
| GOSPEL SERVICE                                     | SUNDAY  | 10:30 A.M.        | DANIEL CIRCLE CHAPEL |
| GENERAL PROTESTANT                                 | SUNDAY  | 11 A.M. TO NOON   | MAIN POST CHAPEL     |
| INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING                             | DAY     |                   |                      |
| ANGLICAN   | SUNDAY  | 9-10 A.M.         | LIGHTNING CHAPEL     |
| CATHOLIC MASS                                      | SUNDAY  | 8-9 A.M.          | SOLOMON CENTER       |
| PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE                    | SUNDAY  | 9:30-10:30 A.M.   | SOLOMON CENTER       |
| THE BRIDGE (PROTESTANT)                            | SUNDAY  | 8:30-9:30 A.M.    | ANDERSON CHAPEL      |
| CHURCH OF CHRIST                                   | SUNDAY  | 10:30-11:30 A.M.  | MAGRUDER CHAPEL      |
| HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE                        | SUNDAY  | 8:30-10 A.M.      | MAGRUDER CHAPEL      |
| ISLAMIC SERVICE                                    | SUNDAY  | 8-9 A.M.          | DANIEL CIRCLE CHAPEL |
| JEWISH SERVICE                                     | SUNDAY  | 10:15-11:30 A.M.  | LIGHTNING CHAPEL     |
| THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF<br>LATTER DAY SAINTS | SUNDAY  | 10:30 A.M. - NOON | ANDERSON CHAPEL      |

# How ‘RAD:’ in-person retiree expo returns

By **EMILY HILEMAN** and **TOM BYRD**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson re-introduced armed forces retirees to many benefits and programs during the first in-person Retiree Appreciation Day expo held since 2020 at the Robert B. Solomon Activity Center, May 20.

“It’s very important that we return to the in-person because we have been COVID-bound for the last three years,” said Regina Harlan, Fort Jackson’s retirement services officer.

RAD activities were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19. Activities partially resumed in 2021 and 2022, but in a drive-thru format, mirroring many other activities during the height of the pandemic.

During the drive-thru RAD event, retirees received “RAD Bags” which were full of useful information from various supporters and contributors, but vital services to retirees such as dental, medical and optical screenings were unavailable.

Harlan said more than 30 exhibitors such as Army Community Service, Palmetto Animal Assisted Life Services and several other entities dedicated to the care, treatment, and quality of life of veterans and military retirees flocked to the Solomon Center for the return of the RAD expo to “bring updates, benefits and services to our retiree community.”

In addition to several entities distributing information and benefits to the retirees, Mark Overberg, the Army’s director of retirement services, traveled to Fort Jackson from the Pentagon to check on retirees and speak to the crowd.

Overberg said it’s important for him to be on the ground, seeing and talking to veterans because the best way to find out if we need changes to policy and to see how our veteran population is doing is to come out and simply talk to them.

“We definitely want to keep a connection with all veterans,” Overberg said. “But retirees are a special case ... they

are the folks who have served the longest and they have additional benefits.”

If you’re planning to retire soon, you may already be behind the power curve, Overberg said.

“I recommend Soldiers prepare for retirement three years before they want to retire,” he said. “On our website, we have

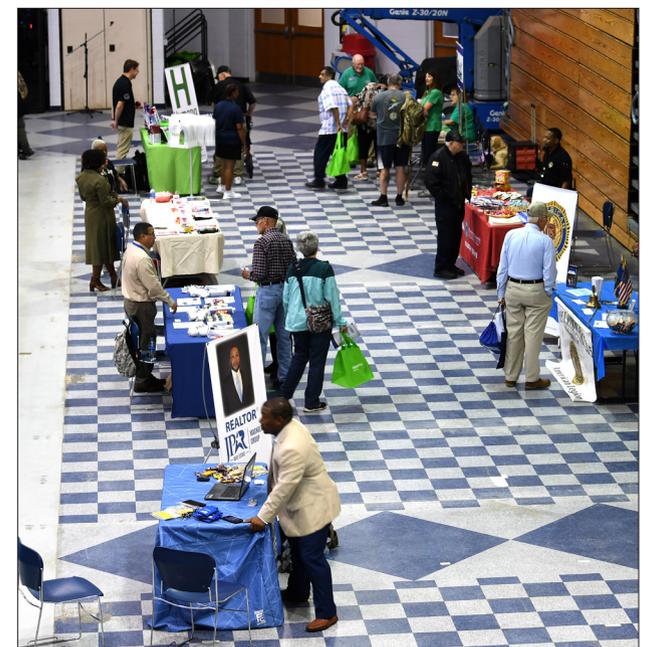
a retirement planning toolkit that walks them through 36 months before through six months after retirement.”

For this toolkit and more retirement resources and information visit their website at [soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement](https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement) or contact the Retirement Services Office at 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd, Rm 117.



Photos by TOM BYRD

**Retirees attend the Retiree Appreciation Days retiree expo at the Solomon Center, where they gathered information about programs that can help them.**



VICTORY...  
STARTS  
HERE

