

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

# THE HUNT IS ON

## JACKSON KIDS CHASE THOUSANDS OF EGGS



[www.facebook.com/fortjackson](https://www.facebook.com/fortjackson)



GARRISON: [www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson](https://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson)



[@FortJackson](https://twitter.com/FortJackson)



[@fortjackson](https://www.instagram.com/fortjackson)



# Post office issues Army birthday stamps

U.S. Army Public Affairs

The U.S. Postal Service to proudly unveil three individual commemorative stamps honoring the 250th anniversaries of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, recognizing the enduring legacy and unwavering dedication of these vital branches of the American military. They are available for pre-order now.

The three Forever stamps commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, each a vital component of the nation's defense. All three branches trace their origins to the Revolutionary War, born from the necessity to secure American independence.

The Second Continental Congress in 1775 recognized the need for a unified military force and established the Continental Army on June 14, the Continental Navy on Oct. 13, and authorized the formation of the Continental Marines on Nov. 10. The Continental forces were disbanded after the war but were re-established in the years that followed when the need for a standing military became clear.

These stamps honor the enduring legacy and unwavering commitment of the men and women who have served and continue to serve. Each branch plays a crucial role in safeguarding American interests, standing as symbols of strength and resilience, upholding core values such as loyalty, duty, honor, and courage.

The Armed Forces stamps are three individual stamp panes featuring the respective symbols of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps against a white background.

Each stamp, designed by Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, also includes the inscriptions "250 YEARS OF SERVICE," "SINCE 1775," and "FOREVER/USA."



As Forever stamps, the Armed Forces stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

## Postal Products

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at [usps.com/shop-stamps](https://usps.com/shop-stamps), by calling (844) 737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic or at Post Office locations nationwide.

For officially licensed stamp products, shop the USPS Officially Licensed Collection on Amazon.

Additional information on stamps, First Day of Issue Ceremonies and stamp inspired products can be found at [StampsForever.com](https://StampsForever.com).

# Army announces new fitness test

U.S. Army Public Affairs

The Army announced the establishment of the Army Fitness Test as the official physical fitness test of record for all Soldiers, replacing the Army Combat Fitness Test, April 21.

The five-event AFT, is designed to enhance Soldier fitness, improve warfighting readiness, and increase the lethality of the force.

The AFT consists of the three-repetition maximum deadlift, hand-release push-up army extension, sprint-drag-carry, plank, and two-mile run. RAND Corporation analysis and Army data from nearly 1 million test records helped inform the new standard.

Phased implementation of the AFT will begin June 1, with new scoring standards for Soldiers in 21 combat military occupational specialties taking effect on Jan. 1, 2026, for the active component and June 1, 2026, for the Reserve and National Guard.

The AFT combat standard is sex-neutral and age-normed. Soldiers serving in combat specialties must achieve a minimum of 60 points per event and an overall minimum score of 350.

The AFT general standard is performance-normed by sex and age groups. Soldiers serving in combat-enabling specialties must attain a score of at least 60 points per event and an overall minimum score of 300.

Implementation guidance and associated execution orders will be released in May.

The change reflects the Army's continued focus on building a physically ready force capable of meeting operational demands in austere environments.

## ON THE COVER

Children make a dash for eggs during Fort Jackson's Easter Egg Hunt held April 19 at Twin Lakes Park. Children hunted thousands of eggs that day.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

See Page 6-7

## 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](mailto:usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil)

Commanding General ..... Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood  
Garrison Commander ..... Col. Timothy Hickman  
Command Information Officer ..... Robert Timmons  
Media Relations Officer ..... Nathan Clinebelle  
Social Media Manager ..... Veran Hill

Website: [home.army.mil/jackson/FortJacksonNews](https://home.army.mil/jackson/FortJacksonNews)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fortjackson](https://www.facebook.com/fortjackson)

[www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson](https://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson)

X: [www.twitter.com/fortjackson](https://www.twitter.com/fortjackson)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/fortjackson](https://www.instagram.com/fortjackson)





# Celebrating together

by Nathan Clinebelle

Roughly 3,200 trainees attended Fort Jackson's consolidated Easter service, April 20. The service normally held at Hilton Field was held in the Solomon Center for trainees. The trainees heard a message on the importance of Easter by Chaplain (Col.) Stanley Smith, Fort Jackson's command chaplain.

Earlier more than 50 permanent party, family members and others from the community attended a sunrise service outside the Family Life Center.



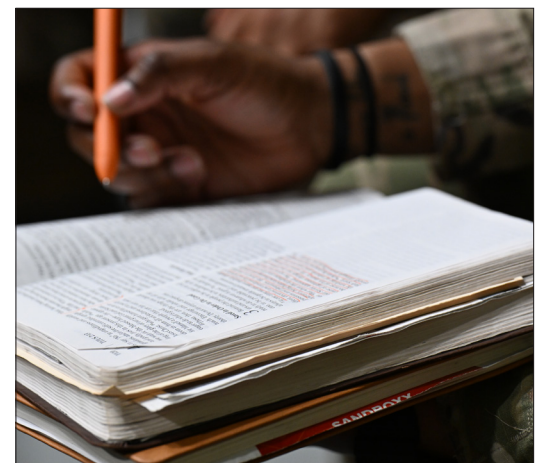
(Top) Trainees celebrate during the combined Easter service.

(Above) Chaplain (Col.) Stanley Smith, command chaplain, delivers an Easter sermon.

(Far right top) A trainee highlights his Bible during Smith's sermon.

(Far right bottom) Trainees pay close attention to the Easter sermon. Roughly 3,200 trainees attended the combined Easter service.

(Right) Chaplain (Capt.) Daniel W. Potter leads worship during the service.





# Community Updates

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Birthday Ball Tickets on Sale

Tickets for the 250th Army Birthday Ball are on sale now. Join Fort Jackson in celebrating the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army at the Army Birthday Ball. The ball takes place at 5 p.m. June 14 at the 1917 Club, 5700 Liberty Division Road. Lt. Gen. Milford "Beags" Beagle, commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, will be the guest speaker. Scan the QR code for more information and to purchase tickets.



### Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Your opinion matters. The Army wants to hear from you. Your feedback can make a big difference in the quality of life for Soldiers. The Army is investing significantly in barracks and unaccompanied housing improvements and survey feedback will be guide the Army's efforts to provide quality, safe and secure housing. The completely confidential survey will be emailed from [ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com](mailto:ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com). OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 05/31/2025

### Pharmacy updates

Beginning May 1, Moncrief Main Pharmacy and the PX Refill Distribution Center will change schedules. The new hours will be Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on weekends and federal holidays, and closed after 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### TODAY

#### Indoor Soccer Challenge

9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Perez Gym. Come try to score a goal and win a prize. Contestants have three chances to score. Adults and children welcome. For more information, call (803) 751-6258.

### TOMORROW

#### CYS Family Fun Fair

4:30-6:30 p.m., Patriots Park. Come and join the fun for the whole family. There will be food trucks, games, rides and more. For more information, call (803) 751-4824.

### SATURDAY

#### Drug Take Back Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Exchange. Fort Jackson's Directorate of Emergency Services is holding a drug take back day to continue to enhancing the safety of our neighborhoods by building, strengthening, and reinforcing positive relationships with the community and first responders.

### Youth Fishing Derby

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heise Pond. Join Outdoor Recreation for the annual youth fishing derby. The event is for youths 5-16 years old. Enjoy some food, fish and fun at the event. There is a five pound fish limit. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

### TUESDAY

#### Maude Leadership Forum

1 p.m., Solomon Center. Maj. Gen. Hope C. Rampy, commander of U.S. Army Human Resources Command, will be the guest speaker for the Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Leadership Forum. The event is

hosted by the Adjutant General School. For more information, call (803) 751-8440.

### APRIL 29

#### Estate Planning Webinar

10-11 a.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will hosts an Estate Planning seminar. This seminar will provide information about the components of an estate plan (wills, trusts, power of attorney, beneficiary designations and health care directives). Registration is required. For more information, or to register, call (803) 751-5256 (option 3).

### APRIL 30

#### Golf Scramble

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

## Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.  
Phone: 751-7488

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26

■ Until Dawn (R)

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

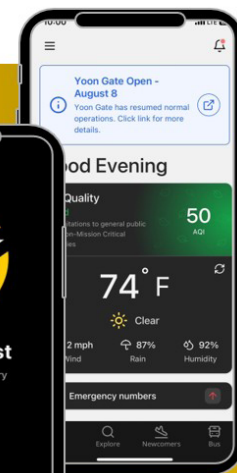
■ The Alto Knights (R)

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

## Download the My Army Post App

### Stay in the know at your Garrison

- Installation Services
- Gate Hours
- Community Events
- Maintenance Requests
- Weather
- Resources
- **AND MORE**



WE ARE THE ARMY'S HOME | [HOME.ARMY.MIL](http://HOME.ARMY.MIL) | [ARMYMWR.COM](http://ARMYMWR.COM)



## 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. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style.

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.



## A Continental Soldier's uniform: a symbol of patriotism

By **HENRY HOWE**

Director, Fort Jackson  
Museum Community

*(Editor's note: This article is part of a recurring column honoring the Army during the service's 250th birthday)*



At the onset of the American Revolution, the chaos of material shortages and transportation challenges compelled many soldiers to make do with what they had, resulting in a colorful patchwork of uniforms across the Continental Army. The men often donned a hodgepodge of mismatched civilian clothing or garments crafted by local artisans, reflecting their resourcefulness in the face of adversity. Yet, amid this eclectic mix, the Army attempted to establish a unified appearance that echoed the disciplined styles of British and French military forces.

By October 1776, the Continental Army introduced a standardized uniform for the soldiers serving in the Continental Line, creating a striking visual identity. These uniforms featured vibrant blue wool coats adorned with contrasting facings, lapels, cuffs, and collars, available in striking shades of red, white, or buff, which were chosen based on their region or specific unit. The blue coats were paired with crisp white or buff breeches, a tailored waistcoat, and the iconic tricorne hat, which became a symbol of their revolutionary spirit.

The infantry units distinguished themselves with blue coats lined in white, signifying their role in battle, while the artillery troops set themselves apart with coats lined in bold red, a vivid contrast to their blue attire.

Beyond their functional purpose, these Continental uniforms transformed into potent symbols of unity and resilience. Soldiers took immense pride in their appearance, for each piece of their attire served as a constant reminder of their noble mission to secure liberty and independence. Despite grappling with supply shortages, enduring the trials of harsh battlefield conditions, and braving extreme weather, these dedicated soldiers remained steadfast in their commitment to the revolutionary cause, embodying the courage and hope that defined their struggle for freedom.



*Illustration by Dan Troiani courtesy of the National Park Service*

**The uniform of a Continental soldier created a striking visual identity that helped instill esprit de corps in the patriot forces during the American Revolution. Soldiers took immense pride in their attire. The red, white and blue of the Continental uniform was a striking contrast to the redcoats of the British Army.**

## DOD honors the Doolittle raid

By **MAJ. WES SHINEGO**  
DOD News

On April 18, 1942, a small group of Army Air Forces aviators changed the momentum of World War II with a single, audacious strike. Known as the Doolittle Raid, this operation — launched from the deck of the USS Hornet — was the first U.S. air attack on Japan's home islands.

Led by then-Army Air Corps Lt. Col. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, the mission was conceived in the wake of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and served as a bold demonstration of American resolve. More than 80 years later, the raid remains a defining example of how courage, innovation and decisive leadership can reshape the course of history.

### A Bold Plan Takes Shape

The raid's origins can be traced to Navy Capt. Francis S. Low, who recognized the possibility of launching medium bombers from an aircraft carrier. At a time when America was still reeling from the Pearl Harbor attack, this concept promised a new way to strike back quickly, surprising an enemy that believed itself impervious to attacks at home.

Doolittle, an accomplished pilot and aeronautical engineer, was the ideal commander to make Low's vision a reality. Operating under tight secrecy, he recruited volunteers and trained them at Eglin Field, Florida, for the unprecedented task of taking off from a carrier deck in twin-engine B-25 Mitchell bombers.

Despite rigorous rehearsals, many believed the plan was too risky. The ship had to sail close enough for the bombers to reach Japan yet remain undetected. Any misstep could leave pilots stranded

See **DOD**, Page 11





## The hunt is on!

Story, photos by Nathan Clinebelle

On April 19, Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation brought back the Fort Jackson Easter Egg Hunt for the first time in several years. The Fort Jackson community swarmed to Twin Lakes Park to enjoy time with family and friends as well as action packed egg hunts.

It was an amazing "EGGperience" at the Fort Jackson Bring Your Own Basket Easter Egg Hunt.

Month of the Military Child events continue with the CYS Family Fun Fair at Patriots Park from 4:30 -6:30 p.m. April 25 and April 26 at Alpine Lodge for the 2025 Youth Fishing Derby.



# Army colonels share stories of resilience at leadership seminar

**Story, photos by STAFF SGT. EVE K. MOORE**  
I Corps Public Affairs

Col. Kenneth Dwyer, Leader Training Brigade commander, spoke of his personal story of resilience and survival with Soldiers from the 62nd Medical Brigade April 7 at French Theater, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

Col. Patrick Miller, who was wounded during a mass shooting at Fort Cavazos, Texas in 2014, also spoke at the event.

Both officers, injured in combat, spoke to Soldiers from across the brigade about leading through adversity. Their experiences illustrated how personal hardship shaped their approach to leadership and reinforced the Army's emphasis on resilience.

Dwyer, a former Green Beret detachment commander, sustained life-threatening injuries in 2006 during Operation Enduring Freedom.

While deployed, he was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade during an enemy ambush. The attack resulted in the loss of his left eye and left hand.

His recovery began with a personal milestone. During a visit from his 3-year-old son, Timothy, Dwyer found new motivation. The desire to once again play baseball with his son became a symbol of his commitment to healing.

"True resiliency is getting up after your worst day and continuing to move forward," Dwyer said.

That mindset drove Dwyer to push through physical and emotional setbacks. His decision to remain in the Army, and specifically in Special Forces, reflected that resolve.

"There was no way I was going to stay down," Dwyer said. "That's just not who I am."

His support system played a key role. Dwyer credited his wife and unit for standing by him as he pursued continued service. Their confidence strengthened his recovery and helped shape his leadership philosophy. He emphasized that modeling resilience for his Soldiers became essential in fostering the same mindset in them.

"If I wanted my Soldiers to be resilient and have a no-quit attitude," Dwyer said. "Then, I needed to display the same."

Miller shared a different but equally harrowing experience. In 2014, during a mass shooting at Fort Cavazos, Texas, he was shot in the abdomen while shielding fellow Soldiers. The bullet damaged his colon, fractured a rib, and lodged near his spine—missing vital organs by inches.

"The bullet missed my vital organs by inches," Miller said. "But what mattered more was not missing my chance



**Col. Kenneth M. Dwyer, Leader Training Brigade, watches as retired Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Scalise speaks during an April 7 leader professional development seminar at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Scalise treated Dwyer's life-threatening injuries during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006 and received a Silver Star for his actions.**

**THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS  
GOING TO STAY DOWN.  
THAT'S JUST NOT WHO I  
AM ...**

**- Col. Kenneth Dwyer  
Commander, Leader Training  
Brigade**

to continue serving."

Supported by family, friends, and medical personnel, Miller began the long process of rehabilitation. His recovery highlighted the role of mental toughness in overcoming trauma and maintaining leadership responsibilities under pressure.

"I didn't know if I'd walk again, but I knew I had to lead again," Miller said. "That was non-negotiable."

His story reinforced the Army's commitment to developing resilient leaders. Like Dwyer, Miller emphasized that support networks and personal determination are essential in navigating the challenges of military service.

The Leader Professional Development seminar hosted by 62nd Medical Brigade aimed to showcase these themes through personal accounts.

By sharing their journeys, Dwyer and Miller provided practical examples of resilience in action—an approach the Army continues to promote in its leadership development efforts.



**Dwyer hugs Scalise during the seminar. Scalise provided life-saving care to Dwyer in 2006.**



## Jackson NCOs volunteer at Dorn VA campus

By D. KEITH JOHNSON  
Dorn VA

Fourteen Army students and an instructor from the Fort Jackson Noncommissioned Officer Academy participated in Operation Gratitude at the Columbia VA Health System's Dorn Campus, April 9.

"The purpose is for us to just give back," said Sgt. First Class Jacqueline Jefferson, the Senior Leader Course Class 003A-25 instructor. "We're going to be in this position one day, where we're going to have to come through here."

Operation Gratitude is a coop-

eration between the NCOA and CVAHCS. Each class volunteers one day during their training.

The students greeted Veterans as they entered and left the building.

They shook hands, talked, and passed out cans of Girl Scout peanuts to any veteran who wanted one. The experience left a positive impression on the students.

"I think getting them out of the ordinary being in uniform and just seeing what life is after the army, I think it's going to dispose them to better things," added Jefferson.

"I love it!" said Sgt. First Class Lakingya Johnson. "Seeing the

people's faces when they come in the door, with a simple good morning and a hello, the veterans and their families are smiling, or they want to tell a story. I think it's beautiful."

Johnson had participated in events like this when she was a recruiter in Texas.

"I get a lot out of this because just the ability to give back for one, and us being able to slow down our day and really understand what these people have done and been through," said Staff Sgt. Karlton Brailsford. "Just seeing where they are now and being able to talk to them, hear them share so many

experiences, that's like one of the best things in the world."

Brailsford was a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson and had brought some basic training Soldiers over for a similar event but preferred the one-on-one interaction with this smaller group.

Jefferson reiterated the main theme about participating as a class. "It's our family first. So, whether you're in uniform or out of uniform, whether you're retired, you're a veteran, we're still going to represent each other as the whole family. And we just want to show people that this is a family-oriented thing. A veteran family."

## Don't weather the financial storm alone

### Army Community Service

Economic uncertainty can be stressful, impacting everything from grocery bills to long-term savings goals. While you can't control the global market, you can take charge of your personal finances. Here are five essential tips to help you navigate choppy financial waters:

1. Budget, Budget, Budget: This may seem obvious, but a detailed budget is your financial roadmap, especially during turbulent times. Track your income and expenses meticulously, identifying areas where you can cut back. Look for subscriptions you don't use, negotiate lower rates on bills, and prioritize needs over wants.

2. Build an Emergency Fund: A robust emergency fund is your financial safety net. Aim for 3-6 months' worth of living expenses. This cushion can help cover unexpected expenses like car repairs or job loss, reducing financial stress during uncertain times.

3. Tackle High-Interest Debt: High interest rates can quickly erode your financial stability. Prioritize paying down high-interest debt like credit cards. Consider balance transfer options or debt consolidation loans to lower your interest rates and streamline repayments.

4. Diversify Your Income: Exploring additional income streams can provide a valuable financial buffer. Consider freelancing, part-time work, or leveraging your skills to generate extra income. This can provide breathing room in your budget and enhance your financial security.

5. Seek Professional Guidance: Sometimes, navigating financial turbulence requires expert advice. The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program at Fort Jackson, offers free and confidential financial counseling to active and retired Service members, their families and Department of Defense civilians. Their financial counselors can provide personalized guidance on budgeting, debt management, investing, and more, empowering you to make informed financial decisions.

### Don't Weather the Storm Alone:

Remember, you don't have to face financial challenges alone. The ACS Financial Readiness Program is a valuable free resource with experienced professionals dedicated to helping you achieve financial stability. You may speak to a counselor by calling (803) 751-5256. By taking proactive steps and seeking support when needed, you can weather the storm and emerge with a stronger financial foundation. The ACS Financial Readiness Program is located at 9810 Liberty Division Road, Fort Jackson, SC.



## SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

### 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment

**DRILL SERGEANT  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Sgt. Diana Mora

**ALPHA COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Samuel Williamson

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Gage Broyles

**BRAVO COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Connor Meadows

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Pierrina Bodang

**CHARLIE COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Ty Howell

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Riley Blauvelt

**DELTA COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. David Norris

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Wyclef Etienne

**ECHO COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Samuel Luzzi

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Matthew Rushing



Events

Continued from Page 4

9 a.m., Fort Jackson Golf Club. Come join the 2nd Annual Stableford Golf Tournament. The tournament starts at 9 a.m. on the Wildcat Course, but check in begins at 7 a.m. The tournament costs \$45 per patron and includes fees, door prizes, breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages. For more information, call (803) 562-4437.

MAY 1-3 Retiree Appreciation Days

Fort Jackson is holding retiree appreciation days to honor retirees and celebrate their service to our country. The event will provide updated information on benefits and services.

MAY 2

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

7:30-8:30 a.m., 1917 Club. Fort Jackson's Religious Support Office is holding a National Day of Prayer Breakfast. To RSVP visit: <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/index.cfm?i=1125697&k=0360400C-7D5E7A>.

MAY 10 Charleston Visit

7:10 a.m., Marion Street Station. Join Outdoor Recreation as they observe wild dolphin from a Carolina skiff boat as they cruise to six miles to Morris Island. The trip will also venture downtown for shopping and dining at the historic Charleston City Market. Register by May 1. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-3484.

MAY 15 Fort Jackson Amnesty Day

8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Warehouse Road.

Fort Jackson Safety Office is providing an opportunity for individuals to return ammunition and explosives inadvertently kept, found, or stolen without fear or prosecution. For more information, call (520) 671-8504.

MAY 22 The MURPH

All day at Perez and Vanguard gyms. Come to any Fort Jackson gym at any time during the day, pick up your scoresheet and do this challenging workout of the day, where competitors must run a mile, due 100 pullups, 200 pushups, 300 squats and run another mile.

MAY 24 Beach Day

Noon to 5 p.m., 4420 Leesburg Road. Join the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Weston Lake to celebrate the beach opening.

FORT JACKSON 2025 RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS

Thursday, May 1, 2025

- 7:30 a.m. Join us online at <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson> to hear the Garrison Commander's Message to the Retirees. 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast at the Club 1917, meal cost \$8
- 9:00 a.m. Basic Training Graduation Ceremony and Salute to Retirees. Guest Speaker Command Sergeant Major (CSM) (Retired) David S. Davenport. Reserved seating under the covered bleachers. Enter Hilton field with VIP parking with pass at the 4<sup>th</sup> Division Road entrance. Arrive not later than 0830, to be escorted to the reserved seating
- To obtain VIP parking pass contact (520) 671-8431 (520) 671-8436.

Friday, May 2, 2025

- The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Golf Tournament will be held on May 2, 2025. This year's event will kick off with a welcome from a Fort Jackson Retiree Council member. The tournament will be played on the Wildcat Course with a 9:00am Shotgun Start. Format is Captain's Choice, Gross and Net Scoring. Cost is \$45-FJGC member, \$55 Authorized Patrons, and \$60-Civilians. Entry fee includes all golf fees, prizes and a post tournament meal. Register your team today or sign up as a single and the FJGC PGA Professional will pair you with a group. Register your team by signing up at the Golf Club or calling the FJGC golf shop at (803) 562-4437.

Saturday, May 3, 2025

- Retiree Health and Benefits Expo at the Solomon Center, 6510 Strom Thurmond Boulevard, Fort Jackson, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. This year's Speaker Ms. Alethea Harry, Veteran's Readiness & Employment (VRE) Officer, Veteran's Affairs Regional Office, Columbia, Ms. Harry will provide updates and a Q&A session at 10:00 a.m. VA claims technicians on site. Moncrief Army Health & Dental Clinics (MAHC) will provide health screenings and counseling booths. There will be a host of other agencies represented.
- 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m. ID Card Services in building 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd, Strom Thurmond Bldg.
- AAFES in Store Sales at the Main PX starting at 9:30 a.m.
- Commissary in Store Sales starting at 9:30 a.m.



DID YOU KNOW: The Army Immersion Cooling System (AICS) is most effective when incorporated into the flow of training and used throughout the training day, in a shaded area.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	TUE-FRI	NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
REVIVE SERVICE	SUNDAY	5 P.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	LIGHTNING 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	10:30-11:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	POST THEATER
ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:15-11:30 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	WASHINGTON ROAD CHAPEL
HEATHEN/PAGAN	SUNDAY	8:30-9:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL





U.S. Air Force photo

**Army Air Corps Lt. Col. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle, left, with the skipper of the USS Hornet, Capt. Marc A. Mitscher. Doolittle led a famous raid over Japan by flying B-25 bombers off the flight deck of an aircraft carrier.**

## Doolittle

Continued from Page 5

over hostile territory. However, Doolittle’s unwavering confidence and careful preparation inspired his crews.

The team he assembled modified the B-25s to extend their range, reduced the weight of the aircraft by stripping unnecessary equipment, and mastered the short-run take-offs that would be critical to success. Their sense of urgency — and willingness to accept great risk — embodied a warrior ethos that refused to accept half-measures.

### Executing the Unthinkable

Steaming toward Japan, the task force commanded by Navy Vice Adm. William Halsey faced an unexpected challenge: a Japanese picket boat spotted them about 150 miles short of the planned launch point. Rather than retreat, Doolittle and Halsey agreed to launch immediately.

The weather was far from ideal, but Doolittle led by example, piloting the first B-25 off the Hornet’s deck. Each subsequent plane followed in close sequence, skimming perilously over the waves before climbing toward Japan.

As wartime journalists later noted, the element of sur-



prise was paramount, and the raid succeeded in striking Tokyo and other targets with minimal opposition.

Though the physical damage inflicted was limited, the psychological impact proved far greater. Tokyo’s sense of invulnerability was shattered; Japanese leadership diverted valuable resources to defend the home islands, a shift that would have consequences in engagements such as the Battle of Midway. In his autobiography, Doolittle observed that part of the raid’s success was sowing doubt about Japan’s ability to protect its people.

### Costs and Consequences

For the raiders themselves, the mission came with a high price. Three men were killed in action, and eight were captured; several of those would be executed by Japanese forces. Chinese civilians also suffered a tragic toll. They were systematically punished by Japan for aiding the raiders, resulting in an estimated 250,000 deaths.

Doolittle, believing the minimal damage inflicted did not justify the cost, initially expected a court-martial. Instead, he was promoted to brigadier general and received the Medal of Honor, illustrating a willingness at the highest levels of

command to recognize bold leadership — even when outcomes were uncertain.

In modern military doctrine, that same spirit is often cited as critical to mission success: trusting trained leaders on the ground to make rapid, difficult decisions and empowering them with the resources to do so.

### Reflections Through a Modern Lens

Today, the Doolittle Raid still resonates as a template for thinking beyond conventional limitations. Leaders across the Defense Department continue to emphasize innovation, operational security and the willingness to act decisively.

Earlier this month, in a speech delivered to midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth described a climate in which individuals are encouraged to take initiative.

“The only thing I cared about ... was to know that my command and my commander had my back,” he said.

That sentiment echoes Doolittle’s own leadership style. He demanded excellence from his volunteers but also trusted them to carry out the mission under challenging circumstances.

Information warfare, still critical in modern conflicts, was also a factor in 1942. The U.S. withheld details of the raid’s origins, and former President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously joked that the planes had taken off from “Shangri-La.” Such deception helped shield the true capabilities of the American fleet.

Today’s strategic focus on deterrence, border security and global power projection all trace back to lessons learned during operations like the Doolittle Raid, underscoring that creativity and secrecy can change the balance of power.

### Legacy of Lethality and Readiness

What Doolittle’s men accomplished underscores a basic truth: the necessity of operational preparedness. Though many of the raiders ended up crash-landing in China or the Soviet Far East, their rigorous training ensured they had the best chance of survival and success.

Modern defense policy continues to advance new capabilities, such as the recently announced F-47 fighter jet, to maintain strategic advantages. Providing warfighters with cutting-edge tools, from advanced aircraft to real-time intelligence, also preserves the same forward-thinking tradition Doolittle championed.

In this light, the Doolittle Raid is more than a historical footnote; it is an enduring model of what can be achieved through skilled planning, bold action and a commitment to mission success.

Even when faced with the unknown, Doolittle’s men demonstrated how disciplined forces can execute operations with precision and daring, operating under clear guidance and with support at the highest levels.

### Continuing the Tradition

As the nation commemorates the 83rd anniversary of the Doolittle Raid, the department honors the legacy of those who flew into danger to strike a critical blow at a pivotal moment.



# VICTORY... STARTS HERE



A trainee from 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, sights in his M4 carbine during a recent field training exercise. Trainees are taught to become lethal warfighters during Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson.

Photo courtesy of 3RD BATTALION, 60TH INFANTRY REGIMENT