

THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 2026

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

JACKSON SHREDS SAFELY, SECURELY

SHRED DAY
0900-1400



www.facebook.com/fortjackson



GARRISON: www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson



@FortJackson



@fortjackson

SECDEF reenlists 100 Guardsmen on the National Mall

By C.TODD LOPEZ

Defense News

More than 100 National Guard personnel from nine different states gathered in front of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington Jan. 6 to recite the oath of enlistment and extend their service contracts.

Those guard members — from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and West Virginia — are among the more than 2,600 guardsmen currently serving in Washington, at the behest of President Donald J. Trump, in support of the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force mission.

The task force stood up in August 2025, after the president declared a crime emergency in the nation's capital.

Washington is safe again — thanks to the work of the thousands of guard personnel who have volunteered for the mission over the past six months, Hegseth said.

About a dozen people wearing camouflage military uniforms stand in formation, raising their right hands; two American flags wave in the background.

"What you've accomplished on your mission in this city is historic, life-changing, actually," he said. "Anybody who arrived in this city in 2024, early 2025, knows exactly what we walked into — a city full of crime, graffiti, lawlessness. The folks that lived here kind of got used to it, but visitors showed up and asked what happened to the capital."

Crime is down in the district, Hegseth said, both visitors and residents feel safe again, and it's because National Guard members are working hand-in-hand with local law enforcement and federal partners to secure the city and make it safe and beautiful.

"This is a brand-new city; a fundamentally different city," he said. "President



Photo by NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS ANTHONY KUBITZA

The Army is looking for Soldiers, specialists to sergeants major, for the new 40D-Tactical Space Operations Specialist.

Trump promised to deliver that. I talk about it. The Army talks about it. Your leadership talks about it. You guys do it every day ... that gives assurances to the people that live here, the people that are visiting here, and you provide a capital that Americans deserve, that the world should see. You should be extremely proud."

For a year now, Hegseth said, the U.S. military has seen phenomenal recruiting numbers — numbers that indicate young Americans want to sign up to serve their country. But just as important as recruiting numbers, he said, are retention numbers. When service members reenlist, it means the War Department and military services are doing things the right way, in terms of mission and providing the right kind of sup-

port to service members.

"It's a great sign," the secretary said. "It's a great sign of your leadership. It's a great sign of belief in the mission. You've got good leaders ... taking care of you. And that's the view that we've had from the department from the beginning. ... We're going to ask you to do tough things, but we're also going to ensure that we have your back the entire time in every way that we can."

While addressing the guardsmen, Hegseth pointed out the significance of where their reenlistment was happening — right at the center of a handful of landmarks that represent the very ideals U.S. military personnel are sworn to protect.

"When I heard there was some reenlistments, I said, let's pile them all up — as

many as we can — and do it as a group to show to the American people how dedicated (and) together we are to this beautiful mission, this beautiful city (and) this beautiful country," Hegseth said.

This year, the United States commemorates 250 years as a nation, and Hegseth pointed out monuments that represent the nation's history — each visible to those in attendance.

As he spoke, he pointed to the Washington Monument, representing the father of the nation, George Washington; the Lincoln Memorial, representing the American president who kept the nation together despite having endured a brutal civil war; the U.S. Capitol, where the laws that define a nation are written; and finally the White House, where the words that are written in the Capitol become the nation's laws.

"Our job is to be willing to raise our right hand and defend it all," Hegseth said. "There's laws that are made, declarations that are made, and then there are men and women who defend (them). That's exactly what you do."

Army Sgt. Christian N. Brown, a public affairs specialist assigned to the Mississippi National Guard, was one of those reenlisting in the frigid cold on Friday morning. He's been in the Army for seven years, he said, and he's been on mission in Washington since September 2025, as part of Joint Task Force Magnolia, which comprises units from the Louisiana and Mississippi National Guards supporting the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force.

Being able to reenlist with the secretary of war administering the oath, he said, means a lot, as does his military service.

"I'm very proud to be both in the Mississippi National Guard and to be in the Army," Brown said. "I joined when I was 19; I didn't expect much when joining, but I've actually found a family here with the military, and I love my job."

ON THE COVER

Fort Jackson community members line up to drop off shreddable papers at the Fort Jackson Recycle Center, Feb. 10, for the post's Shred Day. The event allows patrons to shred papers safely.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS
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

Commanding General	Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood
Garrison Commander	Col. David G. Gaugush
Command Information Officer	Robert Timmons
Media Relations Officer	Nathan Clinebelle
Social Media Manager	Veran Hill
Contributing Photographer.....	Sgt. 1st Class Dana Clarke

Website: home.army.mil/jackson/FortJacksonNews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fortjackson
www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson

X: www.twitter.com/fortjackson

Instagram: www.instagram.com/fortjackson

SECDEF reenlists 100 Guardsmen on the National Mall

By C.TODD LOPEZ

Defense News

More than 100 National Guard personnel from nine different states gathered in front of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington Jan. 6 to recite the oath of enlistment and extend their service contracts.

Those guard members — from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and West Virginia — are among the more than 2,600 guardsmen currently serving in Washington, at the behest of President Donald J. Trump, in support of the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force mission.

The task force stood up in August 2025, after the president declared a crime emergency in the nation's capital.

Washington is safe again — thanks to the work of the thousands of guard personnel who have volunteered for the mission over the past six months, Hegseth said.

"What you've accomplished on your mission in this city is historic, life-changing, actually," he said. "Anybody who arrived in this city in 2024, early 2025, knows exactly what we walked into — a city full of crime, graffiti, lawlessness. The folks that lived here kind of got used to it, but visitors showed up and asked what happened to the capital."

Crime is down in the district, Hegseth said, both visitors and residents feel safe again, and it's because National Guard members are working hand-in-hand with local law enforcement and federal partners to secure the city and make it safe and beautiful.

"This is a brand-new city; a fundamentally different city," he said. "President Trump promised to deliver that. I talk about it. The Army talks about it. Your leadership talks about it. You guys do it



Photo by NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS ANTHONY KUBITZA

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth hosts a reenlistment ceremony for members of the U.S. National Guard at the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C., Feb. 6.

every day ... that gives assurances to the people that live here, the people that are visiting here, and you provide a capital that Americans deserve, that the world should see. You should be extremely proud."

For a year now, Hegseth said, the U.S. military has seen phenomenal recruiting numbers — numbers that indicate young Americans want to sign up to serve their country. But just as important as recruiting numbers, he said, are retention numbers. When service members reenlist, it means the War Department and military services are doing things the right way, in terms of mission and providing the right kind of support to service members.

"It's a great sign," the secretary said. "It's a great sign of your leadership. It's a

great sign of belief in the mission. You've got good leaders ... taking care of you. And that's the view that we've had from the department from the beginning. ... We're going to ask you to do tough things, but we're also going to ensure that we have your back the entire time in every way that we can."

While addressing the guardsmen, Hegseth pointed out the significance of where their reenlistment was happening — right at the center of a handful of landmarks that represent the very ideals U.S. military personnel are sworn to protect.

"When I heard there was some reenlistments, I said, let's pile them all up — as many as we can — and do it as a group to show to the American people how dedicated (and) together we are to this beautiful

mission, this beautiful city (and) this beautiful country," Hegseth said.

This year, the United States commemorates 250 years as a nation, and Hegseth pointed out monuments that represent the nation's history — each visible to those in attendance.

As he spoke, he pointed to the Washington Monument, representing the father of the nation, George Washington; the Lincoln Memorial, representing the American president who kept the nation together despite having endured a brutal civil war; the U.S. Capitol, where the laws that define a nation are written; and finally the White House, where the words that are written in the Capitol become the nation's laws.

"Our job is to be willing to raise our right hand and defend it all," Hegseth said. "There's laws that are made, declarations that are made, and then there are men and women who defend (them). That's exactly what you do."

Army Sgt. Christian N. Brown, a public affairs specialist assigned to the Mississippi National Guard, was one of those reenlisting in the frigid cold on Friday morning. He's been in the Army for seven years, he said, and he's been on mission in Washington since September 2025, as part of Joint Task Force Magnolia, which comprises units from the Louisiana and Mississippi National Guards supporting the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force.

Being able to reenlist with the secretary of war administering the oath, he said, means a lot, as does his military service.

"I'm very proud to be both in the Mississippi National Guard and to be in the Army," Brown said. "I joined when I was 19; I didn't expect much when joining, but I've actually found a family here with the military, and I love my job."

I've always loved being in the military and being in the Army, and it is such a great honor."

ON THE COVER

Fort Jackson community members line up to drop off shreddable papers at the Fort Jackson Recycle Center, Feb. 10, for the post's Shred Day. The event allows patrons to shred papers safely.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

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

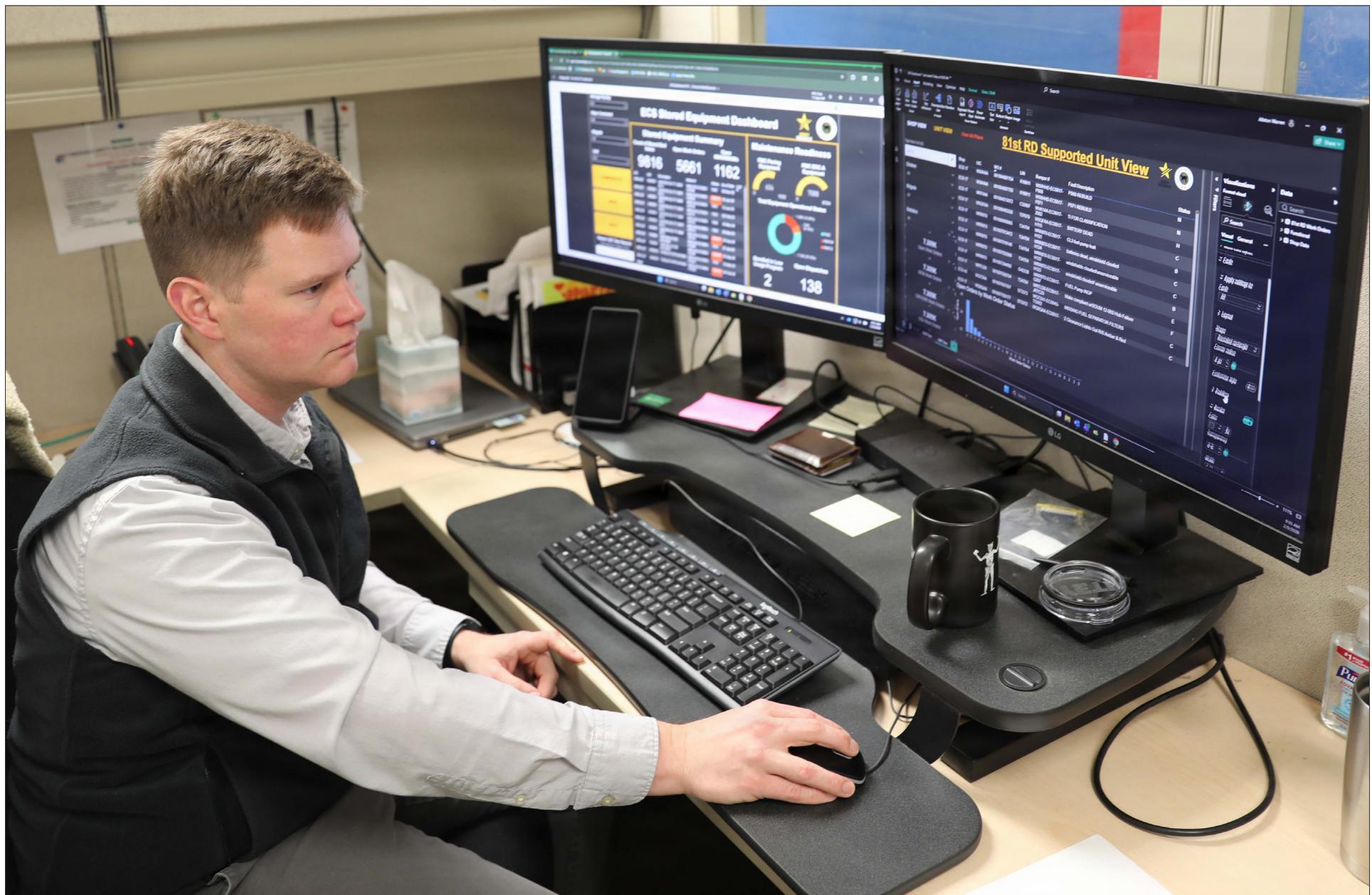
Commanding General	Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood
Garrison Commander	Col. David G. Gaugush
Command Information Officer	Robert Timmons
Media Relations Officer	Nathan Clinebelle
Social Media Manager	Veran Hill
Contributing Photographer.....	Sgt. 1st Class Dana Clarke

Website: home.army.mil/jackson/FortJacksonNews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fortjackson
www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson

X: www.twitter.com/fortjackson

Instagram: www.instagram.com/fortjackson



Allston Warren, a logistic management specialist with the 81st Readiness Division, created a Department of War award-winning program using Power BI. His dashboard allows commanders and noncommissioned officers at all levels to see the real-time status of equipment readiness throughout the 81st RD footprint.

DOW names 81st's Warren as a winner of business showcase

Story, photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS

TOM WADE

81st Readiness Division

The Department of War recently recognized Allston Warren from the 81st Readiness Division as one of 10 winners from their Power Business Intelligence Showcase held in January.

Power BI is a Microsoft business intelligence tool that analyzes data from sources such as power point, excel and other large

scale data models to draw inferences on that data collected.

In beating out nearly 100 submissions and 36 finalists, Warren was recognized for creating a Power BI dashboard which allows commanders and non-commissioned officers at all levels to see real-time status of equipment readiness at Equipment Concentration Sites throughout the 81st RD footprint which includes nine southeastern states and Puerto Rico.

"I was asked to build a product using

Army Vantage to pull in data from systems such as GCSS-Army aimed at being much more user friendly than it has in the past," Warren said.

"My product shows, at the various ECS's, their full inventory and its current maintenance readiness status one click away for that commander or non-commissioned officer wanting to track it," he added.

Ten winners were selected across four key pillars: the technical skill demonstrated in its construction, the clarity and effective-

ness of its data visualization, its measurable impact on the mission, and the presenter's ability to tell a compelling, data-driven story.

"Vantage and large-scale data are the way forward," Warren concluded. "We at the 81st are trying to lead the way by staying up to date with the latest and greatest technologies to provide the best information to commanders and Soldiers on the ground who need it to stay abreast to all the changes coming forward."

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Heart Month

Moncrief Army Health Clinic is proud to celebrate American Heart Month throughout February and invites everyone to join us in recognizing this important cause. This month's theme, "Be the help until help arrives," highlights the life-saving impact of early action and basic life support. Our team will be available to demonstrate basic life support skills on Tuesday at the Mini Mall from noon to p.m., and Feb. 24 at the Commissary from noon to 1 p.m. Stop by, learn a skill that can save a life, and help us make heart health a priority this February.

Lifeguard Certification postponed

Lifeguard certification classes are postponed until further notice. For more information, call (803) 751-4796.

AER Scholarship Opportunity

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

Safety Training Opportunities

The Installation Safety Office presents various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to the website <https://airs.safety.army.mil/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your Safety Specialist.

- Advanced Riders Course: March 13 (4 Seats); April 10 (5 Seats)
- Basic Riders Course: Feb. 24-26 (4 Seats); March 17-19 (5 Seats)

- Local Hazards Course: Every Monday at 10 a.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Rm. 207

GSA online Training & Registration for drivers' improvement: link - <https://www.improvlearning.com/gsa/>

- Intermediate Drivers Course: On-line (provide your Safety Officer with your certificate upon completion).

- Remedial Drivers Course: On-line (provide your Safety Officer with your certificate upon completion).

Additional training not associated with the registration link. To register contact your designated safety officer.

- Cold-Weather Illness Prevention training: Every Monday at 1 p.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Rm. 207.

On-Site Hourly Care at MWR Central

7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Registration is available on-site and costs \$8 per hour per child, with a three-hour time limit. Parents have to remain on-site while using Solomon Center facilities. Walk-ins are welcome on space available basis. To make reservations, call (803) 751-4824.

Sunday Funday

Come out to Century Lanes Bowling Center every third Sunday of the month for Sunday Funday and enjoy \$2 games and \$2 shoe rentals. For more information, call (803) 751-6138.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TUESDAY

EFMP Playgroup

10-11:30 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road. The Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program is holding an EFMP Playgroup to provide parents and children under 5 years old

with special needs time to socialize, interact with peers, and learn about EFMP family support services and resources at Fort Jackson. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

FEB. 21

Fort Gordon Trail Ride

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

FEB. 24

Intramural Volleyball League

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

How to Spot Job Scams Seminar

10 a.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service hosts an online seminar aimed at helping the community navigate the job hiring process. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

FEB. 26

AER Kickoff Ceremony

3-5 p.m., Century Lanes Bowling Center. Come out and celebrate the kickoff of the 2026 Army Emergency Relief Campaign. The event kicks off the beginning of the campaign that officially begins March 1. Enjoy a friendly unit-to-unit bowling tournament. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

CIF Partial Closure

The Administration Office and the Per-

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

FEB. 14

- GOAT (PG)

FEB. 18

- GOAT (PG)

FEB. 21

- 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple (R)

- 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.

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

FEB. 28

Privately Owned Weapons Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Range. Shooters can shoot at targets between 25m and 200m. Paper targets, spotting scopes, tables and chairs are provided. Patrons can shoot rifle or pistol at a day rate or on an hourly rate. Pre-register at Outdoor Recreation-\$25 per person for all day (4 hours) \$10 per person per hour (pre-register), \$15 per person per hour (day on-site/cash only). All weapons must be registered on post. No automa-

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

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

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

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

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

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.

Program aims for drone dominance

By C. TODD LOPEZ

Pentagon News

The War Department announced Feb. 3 the selection of 25 vendors who will help the department achieve its goal of getting some 300,000 drones into the force, both quickly and inexpensively, by 2027.

Those companies will compete in the first phase, or "gauntlet," that makes up the department's Drone Dominance Program — an acquisition reform effort designed to rapidly field low-cost, unmanned one-way attack drones at scale.

This first gauntlet begins Feb. 18 when program participants will bring unmanned aircraft system prototypes to Fort Benning, Georgia. There, participants will teach military personnel how to use those prototypes, and then military operators will use them to complete various mission scenarios, including an evaluation on their ability to find, lock on and destroy a target.

By the end of the first gauntlet, vendors will be scored on the systems, and up to 12 of the 25 vendors will be invited to produce their drones, at scale, for the department.

As part of the first phase, the selected 12 vendors will produce a total of 30,000 units, at an average price of \$5,000 for each, and deliver by July.

Over the course of three additional gauntlets — a total of four in all — the number of vendors will go down from 12 to five, the number of drones ordered will increase from 30,000 to 150,000, and the price per drone will drop from \$5,000 to just \$2,300.

The Drone Dominance Program will do two things: drive costs down and capabilities up, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said in a video posted to social media late last year.

"We will deliver tens of thousands of



Courtesy photo

Parents assist their child during the Family Fun and Fundamentals after-school event held, Feb. 6.

Event highlights family, fundamentals

By LORRAINE EMORY
Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Classrooms at Pierce Terrace Elementary School were full of energy, Feb. 6, as Kindergarten teachers, parents, and students came together for Family Fun and Fundamentals, an after-school event designed to strengthen the connection between classroom learning and home experiences.

Rather than rotating through multiple stations, families were invited to select one of four focused learning sessions to attend together.

Each session was led by Kindergarten teachers and offered hands-on, make-and-take activities that parents could easily recreate at home using everyday materials. The approach allowed families to slow down, engage deeply, and experience learning side by side.

"This spring, Pierce Terrace Elementary

School is providing make-and-take learning sessions during which parents and their children engage in curriculum together," said Dr. Sandra Whitaker, school principal. "They are an opportunity to connect school and home in meaningful ways that support student learning."

One session, Why Games Matter in Learning, highlighted how play-based activities can build critical thinking, memory, communication, and confidence. Teachers demonstrated how everyday household items such as paper plates, dice, and cereal can support counting, phonics, and sight-word practice in ways that feel natural and fun for young learners.

Families could also choose Grocery Store Adventures, a session focused on turning routine errands into rich learning opportunities. Teachers showed parents how grocery shopping can reinforce kindergarten math and literacy skills by having children count items, sort foods, read

labels, compare prices, and expand vocabulary while encouraging children to take on meaningful helper roles.

Another option, Fun Learning at Home with Magazines, Grocery Ads, and Flyers, emphasized the value of free, accessible print materials. Parents learned how to use ads and magazines for letter hunts, sentence building, basic math, fine motor development, and creative projects, reinforcing that effective learning does not require expensive resources.

The fourth session, Board Games Help Kids Learn, focused on how family board games strengthen social, reasoning, and language skills. Led by Kindergarten teacher Ms. Cassandra Carlson, the session highlighted how turn-taking, rule-following, problem-solving, and communication naturally develop through gameplay. Families also learned how to create simple

See DOMINANCE: Page 9

See FAMILY: Page 9

Jackson shreds safely, securely

Photos by Robert Timmons

The post held its quarterly Shred Day, Feb. 10, to help the community safely and securely get rid of its old documents. The event helps eliminate desk clutter and documents containing personally identifiable information, or PII. Shredding documents gives a person a level of security they wouldn't have if they threw their papers in the trash.





Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Riegel, a U.S. Army Marksman instructor, trains Soldiers assigned to the 25th Infantry Division during M7 rifle training at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Jan. 21, 2026. The U.S. Army Marksman Unit supports M7 fielding by reinforcing proven marksmanship fundamentals that enhance lethality and build confident, capable Soldiers.

Marksman team increases lethality

**Story, photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS
TIMOTHY HAMLIN
U.S. Army Marksman Unit**

Soldiers assigned to the 25th Infantry Division trained at the Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in January on the Army's newest service rifle, the M7, with instructors from the U.S. Army Marksman Unit providing hands-on support focused on marksmanship fundamentals.

The instructors worked alongside soldiers to reinforce proven shooting techniques that apply across weapon systems and assisted with ongoing M7 fielding efforts alongside program partners.

"We are working with instructors from [the program executive office] and [the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command] to assist in the net fielding efforts and provide marksmanship instruction and guidance to both the students and instructors as they field the next generation

squad weapon," said Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Deal, team chief for the U.S. Army Marksman Unit Service Rifle Team, adding fundamentals remain critical when soldiers transition to a new platform.

"It's hard to say what fundamentals matter the most. They're all equally important, but establishing a consistent and stable position, consistent head placement, proper sight alignment, and trigger control are going to make shooting a new weapon system a lot easier," Deal said.

According to Deal, competition-style training exposes shooters to stressful and unfamiliar scenarios that highlight their strengths and weaknesses.

"(It) can help Soldiers' combat effectiveness by putting them into new scenarios they may not have been in before and putting them under the stress of time, speed or accuracy to assess their level of training and where there may be room for improvement," he said.

Deal emphasized that consistency must come before speed, especially for developing shooters.

"It's hard to start fast and figure out what you're doing wrong versus slowing things down, assessing fundamentals and building up speed and distance (over time)," he said.

The training course is focused on non-commissioned officers returning to their units.

"The NCOs are getting familiarized with the weapon systems and optics so they can go back and train other NCOs, officers and their soldiers, and begin proper marksmanship training," Deal said, adding that the long-term goal is to sustain improvement across Army units.

"They're going to transfer that knowledge to their soldiers and peers and hopefully make improvements to their marksmanship programs that carry over into better practices and increased lethality," he said.

Developers, recruiters refine accessions software

**By ZORAN RADUKA
U.S. Army Recruiting Division**

The U.S. Army is bridging the gap between software development and recruiting to modernize how the nation's next generation of Soldiers enters the force.

Developers from the Army Software Factory embedded with Recruiters from the Indianapolis Recruiting Battalion Jan. 29-30 to conduct a Soldier-Centered Design Exercise for the Accessions Information Environment. The collaboration brought together a joint team from the USAREC AIE Functional Team, the AIE Program Executive Office, Deloitte, and the Army Software Factory to ensure the Army's digital transformation works for noncommissioned officers in the field.

The goal is to streamline operations and secure more future Soldiers into the accession pipeline. For Maj. Donald Ingham, product manager for the FutureSoldier.com component of AIE, the mission of this new program is to address "enlistment apprehension."

"If the user experience we're giving to these 18-to-24-year-olds is more similar to something from the 1950s than a modern company, it leads to fewer people following through," Ingham said.

AIE is designed to replace the legacy Army Recruiting Information Support System. By creating a singular, retrievable record, the Army hopes to decrease the redundancy of applicants re-entering data multiple times.

Operating out of Austin, Texas, the Army Software Factory relies on rapid, iterative development. Ingham noted that while his team usually interviews local recruiters in Texas, the unique rollout of AIE required a boots-on-the-ground approach in Indiana.

"Having regular touchpoints with users helps you level-set between what you think you're supposed to be doing

See **SOFTWARE:** Page 11

Dominance

Continued from Page 5

small drones to our force in 2026, and hundreds of thousands of them by 2027."

Through the program, funding will allow for the manufacture of some 340,000 small UAS to combat units over the course of two years.

After that, it's expected that American industry's interest in building drones, as a result of the program, will have strengthened supply chains and manufacturing capacity to the point that military services will be able to afford to buy the drones they want, in the quantity they want and at a price they want, through regular budgeting.

Last year, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order outlining how the United States would up its drone game in both the commercial and military sectors, including how it would deliver massive amounts of inexpensive, American-made, lethal drones to military units, so they can amplify their own combat capabilities.



Photo by ALEXANDRA BROUGHTON

An airman holds a drone during training. The Department of War has accelerated a program allowing the U.S. military to acquire drones quickly and cheaply.

Family

Continued from Page 5

board games at home using household items, encouraging weekly family game nights that build connection while supporting learning.

New Kindergarten teacher Jaymee Sigafose said the evening exceeded expectations. She shared that she "was happy to see so many families come to this event," adding, "We were able to show families how to incorporate learning at home through activities with everyday items."

Students also expressed excitement about the shared experience. Kindergarten student G. Arrowood summed up the heart of the event, saying his favorite part was, "get(ing) to do stuff with my family."

"The Kindergarten Fun and Fundamentals session was a fun event during which parents and children engaged in activities that support student learning," Dr. Whitaker said.

Parents were left with practical tools, ready-to-use materials, and increased confidence in supporting learning at home. "One parent commented to me that the ideas presented were easy to implement at home and much more fun than simply quizzing his child on sight words," Dr. Whitaker added.

By opening its doors after school hours and inviting families into purposeful learning experiences, Pierce Terrace Elementary continues to reinforce the idea that education thrives most when schools and families work together.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Into the sunset

Fort Jackson celebrated the service of Maj. Warren Washington, from U.S. Army Central at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and Sgt. 1st Class Dameon Dugar from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion during the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment graduation held Feb. 5.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment

DRILL SERGEANT OF THE CYCLE

Staff Sgt. Ryan Toole

ALPHA COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Jaden Harris

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Kani Reddick

BRAVO COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Gage Cooper

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Warren Alcantara

CHARLIE COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Christian Santos

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pfc. Madison Jankowiak

DELTA COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Joshua Dallas

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Spc. Mustafa Karapinar

ECHO COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Noah Cooper

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Ashorry Green

Events

Continued from Page 4

tic weapons or .50 cal allowed. Participants must be more than 12 years old, with those under 17 must be accompanied by an adult. The event is open to all authorized Department of Defense ID card holders. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at (803) 751-3484.

MARCH 3

Community Information Exchange

2 p.m., 1917 Club. The Fort Jackson community is invited to join Fort Jackson leadership for a community information exchange. Attendees will be able to ask questions to leaders and meet representatives of on-post agencies face-to-face. For more information, call (803) 751-1711.

MARCH 4

Community Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall. The Fort Jackson community invited to attend a lunch

with food, fellowship, fun and a brief inspirational message. The lunch is held the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, call (803) 751-3979.

MARCH 12

SSI Change of Command
1 p.m., SSI Auditorium. Col. Jason Edwards, Soldier Support Institute commander relinquishes command of the unit. For more information, call (803) 751-8011.

MARCH 14

Memorial Bataan Death March
5 a.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. Come out and ruck to remember those who died in the Bataan Death March during World War II. There are two distance options available: 26 and 14 miles. A 35 lb. rucksack is optional. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

Offshore Fishing Trip

9:15 a.m. Join the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation on fishing trip to Charleston, S.C.. Venture on a charter fishing boat for a four-hour fishing trip where you may catch sheepshead,

black drum, red fish, and even a shark. Groups of six or more will be split across different boats. Outdoor Recreation provides transportation and cooler. The trip costs \$180 per person and covers transportation, license, bait and tackle. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

MARCH 17

EFMP Arts and Crafts

4:30-5:30 p.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road. The Army Community Service Exception Family Member Program is hosts a time to socialize, meet members of the community and express self through arts and crafts. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

MARCH 21-22

Spring Family Campout

4 p.m., Twin Lakes Park. This family-friendly overnight camping event will have fun activities such as games, s'mores making, arts & crafts and more. Rental items available: Tents/cots, sleeping pads, cook stoves/pots and pans. The event costs \$17 for children under 13, and \$22 for those over 13 years old. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

Holy Month Services

Ramadan – Feb. 18 – March 19

Eid – March 21, 8 a.m., Lightning Chapel (Trainees will celebrate during the regularly scheduled service)

Ash Wednesday

Catholic – Feb. 18, noon and 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

Protestant – Feb. 18 8:30-9 a.m., Zimmerman Auditorium USA-IRL (non-Eucharistic) and noon to 1 p.m., Lightning Chapel (Eucharistic)

Purim – March 3. 11:30 a.m., Century Chapel

Passover – April 1, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel [Trainees have priority... RSVP required]

Maundy Thursday

Catholic – April 2, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

Protestant – April 2, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall

Good Friday

Catholic – April 3, 3 p.m., Main Post Chapel

Protestant – April 3, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

Easter – April 5 (regularly scheduled services)

Sunrise Service, 7:30 a.m., Main Post Chapel (Permanent Party. Event held outside of Main Post Chapel entrance)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	MONDAY-FRIDAY	NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER (1st and 3rd Sundays)
GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER (2nd and 4th Sundays)
ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9:30-10 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only)
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. to NOON	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

Software

Continued from Page 8

and what you're actually supposed to be doing," Ingham said. "I've never been a recruiter or a company commander. Consistently interacting with the people using our products helps them be useful."

While previous development focused on the applicant, the team is now pivoting to perfecting the recruiter's experience.

This includes a management dashboard that allows station commanders to view their population in "batches" rather than individual files.

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Gunter, station commander for the Indy North Recruiting Station, said the shift toward automation is overdue. He noted that AIE is designed to recognize qualification levels faster and reduce manual entry through new document-upload features.

"The ingenuity of this system al-

lows us to recognize applicant qualification levels much faster than before," Gunter said. "It's time for us to have a system that not only does a lot of the work for us but works for us to alleviate the time spent on processing."

As the exercise concluded, the consensus among the developers and recruiters was clear: collaboration is the only way to deliver a finished product.

"It's been great to see so many developers come in, train us, and then stay for our involvement throughout the entire process," Gunter said. "I'm excited to see where this goes."

The AIE system remains in a phased refinement period as developers continue to integrate feedback from recruiters across the force.

The platform is scheduled to have the enlisted mission requirements operational later this year, marking a total shift in how the Army identifies and enlists the next generation of Soldiers.



Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS DANA CLARKE

Special honors

Drill sergeants line the halls during a ceremony at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy where 17 received the coveted pistol belt after earning the title of drill sergeant leader. DSLs are charged with training the Army's drill sergeants.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

OFFICIAL NONPROFIT OF THE U.S. ARMY

Individually we have constituted, charmed, and constituted, by the Laws of Nature, and of Nature's God, certain unalienable Rights, among which, are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that Governments long established, should not be changed for轻率的, but that the People have a Right to alter, or to abolish them, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Empowering Soldiers, Enhancing Lives

2026 Annual Campaign

EST. 1942

ARMY
EMERGENCY
RELIEF

March 1 - June 14

FORT JACKSON'S CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF AT 3 P.M.
FEB. 26 AT THE CENTURY LANES BOWLING CENTER

VICTORY... STA HERE



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment recite an oath during the unit's Family Day ceremony held Feb. 4.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE