

THURSDAY MAY 15, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

JACKSON HOSTS 55TH SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES



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Service leaders discuss budget, combat readiness

By **DAVID VERGUN**
DOD News

The Army is building a force that is leaner, more lethal, and better equipped to operate in contested domains with speed and precision, said Army Gen. James J. Mingus, vice chief of staff of the Army, who testified on a panel during a House Armed Services Committee subcommittee hearing on military readiness.

He said that under the “transforming in contact” initiative, the Army is enhancing its tactical networks and rapidly fielding unmanned aerial systems, counter-UAS and electronic warfare systems.

In the last 10 months, TiC delivered 11 new capabilities and technologies to specific units within the 101st Airborne, 25th Infantry, 10th Mountain and 34th Infantry divisions. Mingus expects the effort to expand to more units throughout the next two years.

He said the Army Transformation Initiative, which is part of TiC, allows the service to restructure formations and dominate future battlefields while advancing the development and delivery of critical capabilities and end programs that no longer deliver value.

“Under ATI, we are accelerating the delivery of our new M1E3 (Abrams) tank, our next future vertical lift (aircraft) and the next generation command and control. We’re closing the long-standing gaps in counter-UAS, expanding integrated air defense, and bringing long-range hypersonic capability this year,” Mingus added. The general said ATI also includes a plan for more efficient funding and fielding for those systems to keep pace with operational demand and



Photo by STAFF SGT. DANA CLARK

A drill sergeant leader at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy checks to ensure a candidate's hat fits correctly.

technological advancement.

Other Army initiatives he discussed with lawmakers included organic industrial base modernization efforts to ensure systems and munitions are produced and sustained at scale, new housing and barracks construction, and updated dining facilities to provide more nutritious options and improve soldier fitness.

Mingus said recruiting remains a priority even after the Army exceeded its goal in fiscal year 2024 with over 55,000 soldiers entering the service. This fiscal year's recruiting target is 61,000 Soldiers, with over

56,000 already signing up.

Regarding the budget, he said the Army is being asked to do more with less, adding, “With no budget increases to offset inflation and reduced buying power, the rising costs of pay and allowances consume our top line.”

Navy Adm. James W. Kilby, vice chief of naval operations, also testified and agreed with Mingus about the need for consistent and predictable funding, calling it “foundational” to improvement efforts.

Kilby said the service set a goal of making 80% of its ships, submarines and aircraft combat-ready by Jan. 1, 2027. To do that, he

said it is reducing maintenance delays and improving manning, training, modernization and sustainment.

“We are seeing progress,” he said, adding that last year, the Navy increased surface ship depot maintenance from 41% on time to completion to 68%.

The Navy is also focused on recruiting and retaining talent. Kilby said it is committed to attracting and developing Americans who can innovate, solve hard problems and dominate in combat.

Last fiscal year, the Navy recruited over 40,000 sailors — the most since 2003 — and is currently on pace to exceed this fiscal year's recruiting goals.

Kilby said the Navy is also working on reducing wait times at child development centers and improving housing.

Marine Corps Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, said that over 30,000 Marines are forward deployed, with the vast majority of them in the Indo-Pacific region.

Mahoney said he is concerned about the lack of amphibious ship availability, which inhibits littoral mobility and sustainment of forces. He is also concerned about the budget.

However, he is not concerned about the recruiting mission, noting that the Marine Corps attained its recruiting mission last fiscal year and will do so again this year without compromising standards.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Adrian L. Spain, deputy chief of staff for operations, said the Air Force stands ready to defend the nation, despite having “the oldest airplanes, the smallest force, and with fewer monthly flying hours than at any point in our history.”

ON THE COVER

Maj. Gen. Daryl Hood, Fort Jackson commander, and members of the South Carolina law enforcement community, raise the Special Olympics torch high May 9.



Photo by **ROBERT TIMMONS**

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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Jackson hosts 55th Special Olympics Summer Games

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

When Maj. Gen. Daryl Hood, Fort Jackson commander, and members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run raised the torch to light the Olympic Cauldron, May 9, it signified the 55th year the post hosted South Carolina's Special Olympics Summer Games.

The Summer Games were not held during the COVID pandemic.

"It is such a great opportunity for community partnership," said Kara Harmon, director of communications for the Special Olympics of South Carolina, as throngs of athletes and their families waited outside the Solomon Center for the torch to arrive.

"Having Fort Jackson host us year after year is just so nice," Harmon said.

According to the SOSC, its mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

HAVING FORT JACKSON HOST US YEAR AFTER YEAR IS JUST SO NICE ...

- Kara Harmon
Special Olympics of South Carolina

"Our athletes bring so much joy and light to the world, and for them to be able to come out and show the community exactly what they're made of is awesome," Harmon said.

The athletes competed in a variety of games including bowling, swimming and powerlifting, May 9-11.

Fort Jackson Soldiers and civilians volunteered to help the games in many ways including judging events, helping set up the venues and moral/emotional support.

Hundreds of trainees gave a raucous cheer to the Special Olympians as they entered the Solomon Center on post. Hood welcomed the athletes and the 282d Army Band provided music.

During the opening ceremony, Sue Manor, SOSC executive vice president, encouraged the athletes to "make some memories with your families and enjoy every single moment. This is the kind of weekend you'll look back on for a long, long time."



Maj. Gen. Daryl Hood, Fort Jackson commander, welcomes Special Olympians to Fort Jackson.



Special Olympians chant, 'USA, USA,' during the opening ceremony of the 2025 Special Olympics of South Carolina's Summer Games.



A volunteer leads athletes from the Special Olympics of South Carolina's Area 1 into the Solomon Center.



Chaplain (Col.) Stan Smith, a volunteer, leads athletes from the Special Olympics of South Carolina's Area 6 into the Solomon Center.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ID Card Office Closure

The Fort Jackson ID Card Office is currently closed due to ongoing service disruptions with the DMDC. This closure affects all scheduled appointments and the issuance of new ID cards. Rest assured, as soon as the DMDC system is restored and operational, all current and previously scheduled appointments during this period will be honored without exception. The Fort Jackson ID Card Office is actively monitoring the situation and will provide timely updates as new information becomes available. Your patience and understanding during this unforeseen disruption are greatly appreciated. The ID Card Office is committed to resuming normal operations as quickly as possible.

Moncrief Closing

All Moncrief services, including the pharmacy and the appointment call center, closing early on June 12 for internal training. EMS will remain open to take emergency calls.

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. OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 05/31/2025

Safety Training

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.

- Basic Riders Course: May 27-29 (0 seats open)* ; June 24-26 (0 seats open)*; July 29-31 (5 seats open)
- Advanced Riders Course: July 8 (6 seats open)
- Local Hazards Course: Monday
- Intermediate Drivers Course: Today (10 seats open); June 12 (8 seats open); July 22 (20 seats open)
- Remedial Drivers Course: July 8 (12 seats open)
- Unit Safety Officer Course: June 3-4 (9 seats open); July 8-9 (22 seats open)

* Safety officials encourage those wishing to attend in case of no shows.

Victory Fresh

Victory Fresh offers healthy alternatives to fast food. Victory Fresh offers Grab and Go entrees, a Build Your Own Power Bowl station, Hot BBQ bar, and brick oven pizzas during lunch hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Grab and Go items are available during extended hours and breakfast is available from 7-9:30 a.m. Victory Fresh helps patrons manage fueling their bodies in a healthy way, within the time constraints of an on-the-go lifestyle.

Water Quality Report

Fort Jackson’s 2024 Water Quality Report is now available. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. If you would like a paper report, call (803) 790-7288 to pick up a copy.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

Fort Jackson Amnesty Day

8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Warehouse Road. The 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 score-sheet and do this challenging workout of

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, MAY 17

- Minecraft (PG)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

- Warfare (R)

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

the day, where competitors must run a mile, due 100 pullups, 200 pushups, 300 squats and run another mile.

MAY 24-26

Waterpark Memorial Day Opening

11 a.m., Palmetto Falls Waterpark. The Fort Jackson waterpark will open for Memorial Day weekend. For more information, call (803) 751-4796.

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. There will be paddle boats, paddle boards, bounce, houses, games and beach access. For more information, call (803)

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.



Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

This tricorn hat was worn by General John Stark during the Battle of Bennington in Vermont on Aug. 16, 1777. It is currently displayed at the Morristown National Historical Park.

Why did the Continental Army wear the tricorn hat?

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)

The triangular-shaped hat, known as the tricorn, is a distinctive symbol of the Continental soldier during the American Revolutionary War.

While it may seem uncomfortable and impractical by modern standards, the tricorn served both practical and cultural purposes in the 18th century. At that time, the tricorn was a common fashion choice in both Europe and the American colonies.

When the Continental Army was es-

tablished in 1775, it naturally adopted styles familiar to its soldiers and officers, many of whom had previously served in British colonial militias.

This choice allowed the tricorn to maintain military tradition while also reflecting contemporary civilian fashion.

From a practical standpoint, the design of the tricorn addressed the needs of soldiers. The wide brim of the hat could be pinned on three sides to form its characteristic triangular shape, which helped divert rainwater away from the face. This feature was particularly useful during

combat, as it allowed soldiers to maneuver with their muskets without the brim obstructing their movements, thereby enhancing their efficiency during drills, marches, and battles.

As the war continued, shortages of proper uniforms led many Continental soldiers to seek alternatives. Some wore tattered or homemade versions of the tricorn, while others opted for simpler round hats or leather caps.

Despite these variations, leaders like Gen. George Washington advocated for a standardized appearance among troops to promote discipline and pride.

Overall, the tricorn was favored by Continental soldiers for its practicality, familiarity, and significant connection to the era.



MOH recipients talk about medal

By MATTHEW OLAY
DOD News Service

Of the 3,536 Medals of Honor presented since its establishment in 1861, only 61 recipients are alive today, and only a handful of them come from the U.S. special operations forces community.

Three of those SOF recipients attended a panel discussion at Special Operations Forces Week 2025 in Tampa, Florida.

Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Thomas P. Payne, retired Army Master Sgt. Earl D. Plumlee and Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew O. Williams shared experiences and lessons learned from their heroic actions during an hourlong conversation that emphasized the importance of trust, mentorship and resilience in leadership.

All three men explained what being a Medal of Honor recipient means to them on a personal level.

"Every time we put the medal on, it's a gracious gift to sit here and talk about it," said Williams, who received the medal for his actions of valor during Operation Commando Wrath in Afghanistan in 2008.

He added that a surprising number of people are unaware of the medal's significance.

"And that significance has nothing to do with the guy wearing it, or the action that they took; but it's the idea that you're willing to put yourself and your life on the line for the guys (to the) left and (to the) right of you," he said.

Plumlee, who received his medal for saving numerous lives by mounting a successful counterattack under heavy fire against Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan in 2013, explained that he shared

See **MEDAL**, Page 11

Training brigades welcome new CSMs during change of responsibility double header



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

(Above) Command Sgt. Maj. James M. Cox, senior enlisted leader for the 165th Infantry Brigade, receives the unit colors from Col. David Uthlaut, brigade commander, during a change of responsibility ceremony held May 9 at Victory Field. The two Basic Combat Training brigades on Fort Jackson held changes of responsibility ceremonies that day.

(Top left) Cox salutes Uthlaut for the first time as the brigade's senior noncommissioned officer. Cox is no stranger to the brigade having been the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment command sergeant major.

(Left) The 165th Infantry Regiment color guard stands at attention during the change of command ceremony that saw Cox take over responsibility for the unit.

(Above) Command Sgt. Maj. William P. Clancy II, senior enlisted leader for the 193rd Infantry Brigade, receives the unit colors from Col. Timothy Meadors, brigade commander, during a change of responsibility ceremony held May 9 at Victory Field. Clancy took responsibility for the brigade in the second of two change of responsibility ceremonies that day.

(Top right) Clancy salutes Meadors for the first time as the brigade's senior noncommissioned officer. Clancy previous was the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion command sergeant major.

(Right) Meadors and the incoming and outgoing senior enlisted leaders salute the flag during the ceremony.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Future drills get muddy

Photos by Staff Sgt. Dana Clark

The 3rd Platoon, 'KNIGHTS,' Class 013-25 at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, tackled the Fit to Win obstacle course, May 9. They gave it their all and didn't hold back — finishing strong and getting plenty muddy along the way.



Night 'glows' during literacy celebration

Story, photo by JARRETT MITCHELL
C.C. Pinckney Elementary School

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School students and families joined their teachers and staff on a Glowing Literacy Night filled with fun activities.

Students enjoyed a variety of engaging games, captivating read-aloud, and glow-in-the-dark activities that inspired a love for literacy in both children and adults.

The literacy night was a glowing celebration of reading and learning. Families enjoyed a variety of exciting activities, including a book wallpaper photobooth, book walks, decoding secret messages in special mysteries, glow rooms for unscrambling sentences, scavenger hunts for synonyms, Scrabble boards, and Boggle games.

Special guests read aloud captivating stories, and there was a scholastic book raffle table and the school bookfair to explore. Teachers enthusiastically managed the activity tables and facilitated lively discussions between parents and students, helping children develop critical literacy skills. Our glowing Literacy Night truly highlighted the school's dedication to literacy education.



Family members and C.C. Pinckney Elementary School interact with faculty at a raffle table during the school's Glowing Literacy Night in honor of Month of the Military Child

Into retirement: Honoring their service



Fort Jackson honored the service of Lt. Col. James R. Malli-coat, from the Leader Training Brigade, who retires after 23 years of service.



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Fort Jackson honored the career of Maj. Eric D. Nails, from U.S. Army Central during a ceremony held May 8. Nails retired after 20 years of service.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

1st Battalion,
13th Infantry
Regiment

**DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE**
Staff Sgt. Louis Dekany

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Joseph Johns

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Brianna Brown

BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Ian Little

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Cameron Burris

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Joshua Schmitt

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Jacob Juarez

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Brock Emmerich

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Xavier Frederick

ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Anastacia Winter Crow
Suing

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Patrick William
Sandquist

Events

Continued from Page 4

751-5253.

MAY 27
Safe Talk Class

9 a.m. to noon, Training Support Center. Join us for a safe talk class to indentify people with suicidal thoughts and connect them with help. Anyone including family members, friends, community member can attend. For more information, call (803) 751-2915

JUNE 5
Wine & Yoga

5:30-7:30 p.m., Inchon Lake Park. Sip on a drink while practicing Yoga helps lessen anxiety, create a more relaxed body and of course ... fun. It is well known that wine relaxes the body and mind. To register or for more information, call (803) 751-3700.

JUNE 7
National Whitewater Center

Trip
7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Marion Street Station. Join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation for a day of adventure at the U.S. Whitewater Center. The trip includes white-water rafting, zip lines, rock climbing, mountain biking and more. The cost is \$60 per person and includes transportation. Must be 8 years or older. Patrons must register at Marion Street Station. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

**JUNE 14
Strongman/Strongwoman Competition**
10 a.m., Vanguard Gym. What a great way to celebrate the Army's 250th birthday. There will be five fun, exciting and challenging events to test your strength. There will be prizes for males and females in all weight classes. Sign up and weigh-in at Perez Gym, Vanguard Gym or at the Sports Complex by June 12. For more information, call (803)751-5839.

JUNE 21

Juneteenth Fun Run
8 a.m., Palmetto Falls Water Park. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

**JULY 4
Save the Date**
4 p.m., Hilton Field. Mark your calendars. Fort Jackson's 4th of July Celebration will be held July 4 at Hilton Field. There will be food trucks, games for children, and the best fireworks in the Midlands.

**JULY 12
Private Weapons Day**
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Range. Shooters can shoot at targets between 25-200m. 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 Marion Street Station. All weapons must be registered on post. No automatic weapons or .50 cal allowed. Age 12 and up; 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Open to all authorized ID card holders. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.



SAVE THE DATE

FORT JACKSON'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

GATES OPEN 4PM @HILTON FIELD

JULY 4, 2025





DOWNLOAD MY ARMY POST APP TODAY

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.	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	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

MOH

Continued from Page 5

his ceremony with two other recipients, both of whom received the medal posthumously.

“That really brought some gravity,” he said.

He also explained that, with credible eyewitness testimony being a requirement for receiving the medal, many SOF personnel may be just as deserving of such an award but will never receive the recognition.

“I know a lot of guys who have done very heroic things, but it’s not captured and provable, (so) there’s no medal for it,” Plumlee said.

“It’s humbling, and I like to say that I’m wearing (the medal) for (the U.S. Special Operations Command) and vast amounts of operators who have done very heroic things for very little recognition, and (who) just went back to work the next day,” he added.

“Just letting the medal be a part of my life (has) required me to grow up,” said Payne, who received his MOH for saving 70 hostages with little regard for his own life during a 2015 rescue operation in Iraq.

“It’s just a process to live up to the standard of wearing the Medal of Honor, which is hard — every single day — and so, it’s a ‘beautiful burden,’” Payne added, quoting his friend and fellow recipient, retired Marine Cpl. Kyle Carpenter.



The three men also spoke about their shared passion for continued service following their time in uniform.

Plumlee said he gets the most out of inspiring others to serve their country.

“I love talking to people (who) were not thinking about serving — or if they’re dabbling in it — and really, you know, mentoring (them) and lighting that fire,” Plumlee said, adding that the country is always in need of men and women to sign up for military service and “take ownership of the country.”

“Every politician’s speech and every successful business is built on the bedrock of the security that the (Defense Department) provides,” he said.

Williams also said he enjoys encouraging others to serve, if not in the military, then in some other manner that benefits the country.

“One thing that really shocked me when I received the medal ... was how much I enjoyed talking to other people about it and just perpetuating the values that we stand for ... especially service, and how important service actually is,” Williams said.



Photo by MARINE STAFF SGT. CUTLER BRICE

Left to right: Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Thomas Payne, retired Army Master Sgt. Earl Plumlee and Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Williams discuss leadership, resilience and their military careers during a panel at Special Operations Forces Week in Tampa, Fla., May 7.

“I like just talking about that — engaging specifically with kids and students — and going to schools and hoping to provide a little bit of a glimmer of hope for our country,” he added.

Payne said SOF operators like himself and the others on stage have lots of friends buried at Arlington National Cemetery in

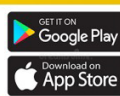
Virginia, and that he and his fellow SOF veterans are fortunate to be alive.

“I’ve just tried to live an extraordinary life in honor of my teammates ... We’re on ‘plus time’ now,” he said, adding that, despite having been medically retired from the Army, he continues to find ways to serve his country.

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Congrats!

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson recognizes Roldolfo Osasio, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment (GS-8 and below) and Jody Peeler, G-8 (G-9 and above) as Department of Defense civilians of the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2025. The two were presented with a Civilian Achievement Medal and time off award.



RODOLFO OCASIO

GS-8 and below
3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry
Regiment



JODY PEELER

GS-9 and above
Army Training Center and
Fort Jackson, G-8

VICTORY... STARTS



Drill sergeant candidates, with 3rd Platoon, 'KNIGHTS' of Class 013-25, get muddy as they go through the Fit to Win obstacle course, May 9.

Photo by STAFF SGT. DANA CLARK