

THURSDAY SEPT. 21, 2023

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

## #BESTDRILL2023

### ARMY TAGS BEST DRILL SERGEANTS



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# Next walking housing town hall set for Oct. 3

## Leader Staff Reports

As the saying goes, home is where the heart is. On Fort Jackson, commanders strive to make residents' homes the best they can be.

Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander, and Col. Timothy R. Hickman, garrison commander, recently sat down with leaders from Fort Jackson Family Homes to discuss how to make living on Fort Jackson a better experience for all residents.

As the summer permanent change of station season ends there are many new residents in on-post housing. With PCS season there is a higher turnover in housing. These higher turnover rates can cause delays in everything from routine maintenance to longer than expected pre-move-in inspections. Couple this with employee turn-over, labor shortages and continuing supply chain delays, and many housing residents can become frustrated.

Behind the scenes, leaders are working to resolve these concerns.

Meeting with Fort Jackson Family Homes leadership is just one way the command seeks to improve quality of life on post.

"Partnership is a two-way street," Kelly said. "Like any healthy relationship, there's give and take."

Improving resident's experi-

ence with both receiving housing and fixing maintenance issues is a priority for the command and Fort Jackson Family Homes.

"There are hard truths and tough conversations that must be had," Kelly said. "We have a healthy relationship with Fort Jackson Family Homes and Fort Jackson, and we've had good dialogue."

Not only does the command communicate with our housing partner, they also want to hear from the residents themselves.

"I believe there are several opportunities at Fort Jackson to gain feedback from residents and for the garrison and Fort Jackson Family Homes to share where we are, and where we want to go with our on-post housing communities," Hickman said.

One project Hickman is focused on is replacement of 31 legacy homes which will be demolished to make way for new houses.

Hickman recently drove through the housing areas to see first-hand the homes which will be replaced.

The project is expected to begin in 2024.

Hickman also said there are other efforts underway to identify future projects including improvements to playgrounds and exterior painting of quarters.

As for feedback, one tool the command uses are walking town



Photo by VERAN HILL

**Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander, and Col. Timothy R. Hickman, garrison commander, will be walking through the Fort Jackson housing areas, Oct. 3, to speak directly with residents to gain first-hand knowledge of their issues and concerns.**

halls. This allows both commanders to share information and expectations with residents and for residents to ask the experts questions. It also allows residents to show the command some of the challenges they may be facing.

The next walking town hall will take place Oct. 3 from 5-7 p.m. and start on Gaskins Court and end on Thomas Court.

More information and the walking route will be posted on the U.S. Army Garrison Fort

Jackson Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usarmygarrisonfort-jackson](http://www.facebook.com/usarmygarrisonfort-jackson).

"We are collectively committed, and we are working together to make our community the best it can possibly be," Kelly said.

## ON THE COVER

**Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl, drill sergeant with the 193rd Infantry Brigade, was named the Army's Active Duty Drill Sergeant of the Year, Sept. 15.**

**See Page 6-7**



Photo by HUNTER RHOADES

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"We Make American Soldiers"

**Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207**

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# BOSS goes on safari

By **EMILY HILEMAN**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hitched up the wagon and took single Soldiers of all ages that love animals to the Eudora Wildlife Safari Park, Sept. 16.

When a Soldier recommended the safari park to Staff Sgt. Andy Navas, the Fort Jackson BOSS president, he immediately started researching and planning an activity.

"She told me on a weekend and on the next Monday, I went to the office and looked it up," he said. "Most people go through in their personal cars, but when I saw they have a private wagon, I knew we had to do it and it was great. We were all able to interact, talk and enjoy it at the same time."

As the name and mission of BOSS suggests, their goal is to enhance the morale and welfare of Single service members, but that doesn't stop at Soldiers living in the barracks. It is also extended to single parents and service members that are geographically separated from their significant others.

"I saw the BOSS trip through an email from Fort Jackson and I thought it was a great opportunity to bring my little one," said Staff Sgt. Bianca Stuart. "It had animals and I know she loves animals and I personally do too. It seemed like a great way to get away from the installation and get out and have fun."

Stuart, a Human Resources Specialist with 120th Adjutant General Battalion and a single parent, jumped on the opportunity to get away from post and enjoy the experience with her daughter and other single parents.

"Not every activity is single parent oriented, but I try to do as much as I can for them," Navas said. "Even if we're just doing a cookout, bring your kids and there will likely be other kids

as well. It's a good time for them to just have fun, play with each other and maybe even make a new friend."

Following the one-hour trip through the safari with a tour guide, attendees were dropped off at the petting zoo which also included pony rides, a playground and concessions.

"It was a great way to get away from post and have fun with others that also like animals," Stuart said. "You had the petting zoo; you can feed the animals as they approach you and they

have different vendors our here. It's just relaxing."

"When I saw that BOSS was doing a safari, and I've always loved animals," said Spc. Shandell Brown, a frequent attendee of BOSS events, "I knew I had to come out here and see some cool animals, pet and maybe even feed them."

Brown, a single Soldier and Healthcare Specialist assigned to Moncrief Army Health Clinic, said he has attended nearly every BOSS trip since the Edisto River Adventure trip in June.

"I happened to see that they were doing a river trip and I've never done stuff like that with friends or anything," he said. "So, I decided to try it and see what it was like and I just kept coming back."

For those who might still be on the fence about attending BOSS events, Brown advised others to at least try it one time.

"Come out once and have some fun," he said. "If you don't like it, then that's alright, I'll understand, but more than likely you'll enjoy it."

The next BOSS activity is a Concealed Carry Safety Course, Sept. 22. It's an all-day class required for Soldiers to get a South Carolina concealed carry permit. Those interested in the course or other BOSS events should call (803) 629-9781 or email [ftjacksonboss@gmail.com](mailto:ftjacksonboss@gmail.com).

## IT SEEMED LIKE A GREAT WAY TO GET AWAY FROM POST ...

- Staff Sgt. Bianca Stuart  
120th Adjutant General Battalion



Photo by EMILY HILEMAN

**Mrs. Chung, a domestic water buffalo, waits for food pellets during a private safari ride at Eudora Wildlife Safari Park, Sept. 16. Twenty-six attendees from Fort Jackson's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers piled into a wagon and headed into the wilderness to see more than 300 animals present at the wildlife safari park in Salley, South Carolina.**

# Community Updates

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Marion Avenue Closure

The intersection of Marion Avenue and Hampton Parkway will be closed as Army Corps of Engineers contractors begin work on the Victory Fresh parking area adjacent to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy dining facility. Contractors will begin clearing of trees, excavation and installation of storm drains, and construction of a new parking lot. The closure will affect traffic accessing Marion Avenue from Hampton Parkway. Detour and road closure signs will be present in the area. The project is expected to be completed by Oct. 25.

### ArmyIgnitED 101

Are you new to tuition assistance or credentialing assistance? Maybe you are looking for some refresher training. The Fort Jackson Army Continuing Education System is holding ArmyIgnitED 101 briefs every second and fourth Mondays and Wednesdays of each month. The briefing are held virtually, starting at 10 a.m. Mondays, and in person at the Education Center (4600 Strom Thurmond Blvd.) beginning at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. To sign up email your attendance request to [usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bed.mbx.dhr-jacksoned-center@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bed.mbx.dhr-jacksoned-center@army.mil). Walk-ins are welcome.

### Guest Day at the Fort Jackson Golf Club

Fort Jackson Golf Club members are now permitted to bring up to three guests on guest days. Green fees are waived for a member's guest(s), but each guest must pay cart and user fees. Upcoming Guest Days are: Sept. 28; Oct. 5, 14, 20 and 29; Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 26; Dec. 2, 8, 14 and 20.

### Alpine Lodge now open

Renovations are complete and this lodge is ready for: birthday, holiday, retirement, promotion parties, even weddings. Par-

ties, get togethers, you decide. Includes: amazing location, pond (no swimming) overlooking loft, outdoor porch. Full size kitchen (no stove) tables and chairs. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 751-3484.

### Solomon Center game room

The Solomon Center has a new game room with four pool tables, two table tennis tables, two dart boards and TVs. There is also a small snack concession with tables and chairs to sit and relax out of the South Carolina heat. Hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The game room is open until 7 p.m. on family days.

### Water outage

Some buildings on Fort Jackson will have a temporary loss of heating and hot water until 5 p.m. Friday as the Directorate of Public Works installs safety measures at a central energy plant on post.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### FRIDAY

#### EFMP Movie Day

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 9810 Lee Road, Join the Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program for a fun movie day watching a movie and connecting with other families. Open to all families with special needs exceptional family members. Make sure to bring your own blanket or chair. For more information, call 751-5256.

### SATURDAY

#### Flea Market

8 a.m. to noon., Solomon Center. Hurry and reserve your spot. Spaces are available. For more information, call 751-4056.

### 'Do It in Pink' Aerobathon

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Solomon Center. Join us

for this two-hour aerobathon. Early detection saves lives. Dress in pink to work out. Commanders' Cup points can be earned for this event. For more information, call 751-3700.

### SEPT. 25

#### Social Security Benefits webinar

2-3:30 p.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service will host a Social Security Benefits webinar on Microsoft Teams. Webinar will provide detailed information about social security benefits including how you become eligible, early retirement vs full retirement vs delayed retirement, family benefits, etc. This is a great opportunity to get a jump-start on your retirement preparation. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

### SEPT. 28

#### Spouse Employment Seminar

9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Army Community Service building 9810 Lee Road. Come meet your local Civilian Personnel Action Center teams and learn how to use your spousal preference when applying for federal jobs and employment at AAFES. Webster University will also provide an interviewing skills 101 class. Call 751-5256 to reserve a seat

### SEPT. 29

#### Oktoberfest

Ready to Oktoberfest? Come experience firsthand the festivities and fun that comes with Oktoberfest, Fort Jackson style. Check in starts at 4 p.m. with a \$25 registration fee, which includes: beer tasting, snack stops, passport, and t-shirt. Kick-off with International Walk at 4:30 p.m. and the block party starts at 5:30 p.m. For more information and to register for the walk, call the NCO Club at 751-3933.

### Civilian Health and Fitness Fair

Noon to 3 p.m., Drill Sergeant Timothy

See **EVENTS:** Page 10



## Fort Jackson

## Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

### SEPT. 22

■ Expend4bles (R) 6 p.m.

### SEPT. 23

■ Expend4bles (R) 2 p.m.

### SEPT. 20

■ Expend4bles (R) 2 p.m.

● Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.

● Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

## 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 751-6739.

## DOD to not stop looking for POW/MIAs

By C. TODD LOPEZ  
DOD News Service

Nearly 81,000 American service members remain missing after having served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts involving the U.S.

During an event at the Pentagon to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks today reassured the families of service members who never returned home that the Defense Department would never stop looking for them.

"We know that enduring the grief and uncertainty throughout the years is difficult," Hicks said. "Please know that your missing family members are not forgotten. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency works tirelessly to find answers for you, year in and year out. And, each year, we gather on this National POW/MIA Recognition Day to assure you that we remember them and that we will not give up on our mission to account for them."

According to DPAA, in fiscal year 2023, the agency recovered the remains of 127 service members: 88 from World War II, 35 from Korea, and four from Vietnam.

Among those accounted for this year, Hicks said, is Army Air Corps 2nd Lt. Fred L. Brewer — a member of the Tuskegee Airmen. His cousin was in attendance at the event.

"More than seven decades ago, Brewer departed Ramitelli Air Base in Italy to support bombers to their targets in Germany," Hicks said. "On the way, his bomber group encountered heavy clouds. Lt. Brewer attempted a steep rise above them, but his engine stalled causing his plane to crash."

Until last month, Hicks said, Brewer

See POW, Page 11



Courtesy photo

**Concealed carry weapons are not allowed on post regardless if the owner is permitted or not. The weapons must be registered with Fort Jackson, post officials said. According to the Fort Jackson Physical Security Plan, weapons are not able to be stored in vehicles. The public is asked not to bring them on the installation as there is no place for the public to store them.**

## Post reinforces privately-owned weapons policy

By EMILY HILEMAN  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The sights and smells of autumn are in full swing around Fort Jackson, including a favorite pastime of many South Carolinians — hunting.

Deer hunting season has been open since Aug. 15 in game zones three and four in the state, which includes Richland County and the Fort Jackson area.

Fort Jackson has several areas open for hunting and for those who don't hunt live game, Aachen range is also open for shooting on specific days, with the next event being the Second Friday Range Day, Oct. 13.

With more weapons activities open during this time of year, more people will likely bring weapons on post.

If you plan to use one of the hunting areas or Aachen range, make sure you adhere to the Fort Jackson Physical Security Plan and Army Regulation 190-11: Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition and Explosives to avoid any legal issues.

"First things first, the weapon must be registered on post," said Richard Riley, physical security chief. "Anyone using those areas will register the weapon at the Visitor Control Center near the main gate on Strom Thurmond Blvd."

Riley emphasized not to bring any weapons when going to fill out the Fort

Jackson Weapons Registration Form. Instead, know the type of weapon, model, serial number, barrel length, caliber/gauge and the make/brand to fill out the required information.

If it's a little too much to remember or write down, the form can also be found on the Fort Jackson iSportsman website at <https://ftjackson.isportsman.net/hunting.aspx>. Once there, click the "FJ Weapons Registration Form" link on the page to bring up a PDF version of the form.

"The information stays local," Riley said. "It isn't provided to any external agencies. It's used in case officers are responding to an event, so they'll know if there's a weapon at the location."

Weapons storage is another concern for many individuals who plan to use the ranges or hunting areas.

"There is no situation where a person can store any weapons in the barracks, according to regulation, Riley said. "Soldiers in the barracks need to work with their command team to store weapons in the unit's armory."

For Soldiers who live in on-post privatized housing, they can store weapons in their quarters, if the weapons are registered on post.

According to the Fort Jackson Physical Security Plan, weapons are not able to be stored in vehicles. If you plan to attend a range event or use an open hunting area, patrons must go directly to that site, use the site, and then return the weapon to the proper storage area without any other stops in between. This also applies to those who live off-post.

For more information about bringing personally-owned weapons, including non-firearms such as compound bows, reach out to the Fort Jackson Physical Security Office at 751-2005/6019.

# #TopDrill2023

## Army tags best drill sergeants

By **JONATHAN DAHMS**  
Center for Initial Military Training

The 2023 U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve Drill Sergeants of the Year were announced during a ceremony Sept. 15 at Fort Jackson.

After four days of physically and mentally grueling competition, Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl, a drill sergeant with the 193rd Infantry Training Brigade, was named the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year and Staff Sgt. Cody Ramburger, a drill sergeant with the 104th Training Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, earned the title of U.S. Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year.

"I honestly never saw myself standing here," Buhl said. "I've been working so hard the last few months to prepare for this competition, not only the last few months, ever since I became a drill sergeant this has been a dream of mine."

Maj. Gen. John Kline, the commanding general for the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, said the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition is different than other Army competitions in that the winner will continue to advocate for the more than 4,000 drill sergeants across the Army by being assigned to the Center for Initial Military Training the following year.

"This one's different," Kline said. "This competition you have to give back. You have a responsibility. You have a responsibility to inspire, you have a responsibility to educate, and you have a responsibility to listen."

Ramburger said he understands the importance of his new responsibility.

"Winning this competition means I will be representing every single drill sergeant in the United States Army," Ramburger said. "I will set the example for them and be their advocate to

Army leadership."

In a change from previous competitions, this year all competitors received green belts to distinguish them as their respective Center of Excellence or Army Training Center Drill Sergeant of the Year.

"We demand the very best of our Drill Sergeants of the Year," Kline stated. "They represent not only the institution of drill sergeants, but they also represent their installations and will serve as advisors for those commanding generals and command sergeants major."

The competitors were challenged throughout the four-day contest with events designed to test their strength and grit while also testing their ability to coach teach, and mentor new trainees — the primary tenants for all drill sergeants.

Buhl gave credit to the experts from her brigade's Holistic Health and Fitness Performance Team in preparing her for everything the competition threw her way.

"(Holistic Health and Fitness) was there by my side to help me through all five domains of Holistic Health and Fitness," Buhl said. "Not only was I training to be stronger or to be faster, I had my sports dietician create meal plans for me to make sure I was eating properly. I was seeing the occupational therapist to make sure I was getting enough sleep. Ensuring that every aspect of my well-being was taken care of every step of the way."

Winning the competition at Fort Jackson with the Holistic Health and Fitness team and her friends there for the announcement just made taking home the belt that much sweeter.

"I felt like everyone in the world who has ever cared about me was in that room," Buhl said. "It was an amazing feeling to have so many people there to support me. It truly means the whole world to me to earn this title."



Buhl



Ramburger



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl, a drill sergeant with the 193rd Infantry Brigade, crawls through an obstacle at the Fit to Win obstacle course on post. Buhl, was named the 2023 U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year, Sept. 15.**



Photo by SPC. ALEKSANDER FOMON



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**(Above) Staff Sgt. Cody Ramburger, Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year from the 104th Training Division, looks for a point during land navigation testing. (Left) Ramburger runs through a lane at the Fit to Win obstacle course. Ramburger joined Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl as drills sergeant of the year.**



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**Sgt. 1st Class Stepney Srey, a drill sergeant leader, active duty Drill Sergeant of the Year at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, hops over an obstacle at the Fort Jackson Fit to Win obstacle course.**



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Turnipseed, the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy's Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year, pitches a module during round robin testing.**



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl, Army Drill Sergeant of the Year examines her shot grouping.**



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl navigates an obstacle at the Fit to Win course on post.**

**'... I'm just happy.'**

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The unfriendly scowl of a noncommissioned officer staring intently with eyes hidden deep underneath a brown round or green bush hat is a vision most would conjure up when thinking about a drill sergeant.

It certainly would not be a happy smile.

But that is exactly what you get with Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl, the 2023 Drill Sergeant of the Year.

"Honestly, I don't know why I walk around like this," she said after receiving the honor. "Honestly, it hurts my cheeks. I wake up and I'm just happy."

Her smile was evident as she took center stage at the NCO Club on post to receive the honor.

See **HAPPY:** Page 10

# WHY I SERVE

**3RD BATTALION,  
13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**

## SPC. CODY WITHERSPOON, 31

*Charlotte Hall, Maryland*

"My Family influenced me to join the Army. The benefits the military offers Soldiers can't be beaten on the civilian side."

"This is my second time in basic training. I attended Navy boot camp in 2010. There were some differences, but overall, they have the same process."

"The hardest part of Basic Combat Training was leaving my wife and two boys."

Advice I would give to those about to start BCT is "don't try to meet the minimum requirements but aim for the max score on everything."

My MOS is "09S-Commissioned Officer Candidate. I chose this path because it's intimidating and it's the best way to support my Family."



## PFC. AUTUM DAVIS, 19

*Hawkinsville, Georgia*

"I have always wanted to join the military ever since my grandfather started telling me stories of his military experience."

"I imagined that Basic Combat Training would be full of many challenges both mentally and physically."

"It was hard knowing that I could not be there for my Family back home."

"Before coming to BCT make sure you come physically fit, with all the challenges there are, being unfit is the hardest. Also, people will annoy you. Try your best to ignore them."

"My MOS is 25H-Network Communication Systems Specialist. I chose this job because it seemed interesting and new."



## PVT. COALIE EASTERWOOD, 18

*Ohatchee, Alabama*

"What influenced me to join the Army was my work in the medical field."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be both mentally and physically challenging due to the stress of a new environment and trying to perform to the best of my ability."

"The most challenging part of BCT was changing my mental state. I had to learn to adapt and overcome every challenge thrown before me no matter how difficult that task may be."

"My MOS is 68W – Combat Medic Specialist. I chose it because I worked as an Emergency Medical Services technician."



## PFC. DAVID PALMER, 18

*Jacksonville, North Carolina*

I enlisted in the Army because of the "benefits of the Army and I want to become a commissioned officer. I also find it as a good way to help provide for my loved ones."

I imagined Basic Combat Training to be a "bunch of challenges to instill discipline and pride, not just being a bunch of inhumane obstacles, but having challenges to make you question your choice."

"My MOS is 91A-M1 Abrams Tank Systems Maintainer. I chose this MOS because I want to get experience in the field of physics and mechanics."



## PFC. SOLEIL ROSENZWEIG, 22

*Erie, Pennsylvania*

"I was influenced to enlist by my mother to join the Army because she served in the Army when I was a child and she inspired me to follow in her footsteps."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be very difficult and would test me in a multitude of ways."

"The most challenging part of BCT for me was having to adjust to a new environment and unfamiliar faces at the same time."

"My MOS is 68W-Combat Medic Specialist. I chose this MOS because I've always been fascinated with the medical field and hope to work as a surgeon in the Army."



## PFC. SAMUEL THOMPSON, 20

*San Antonio, Texas*

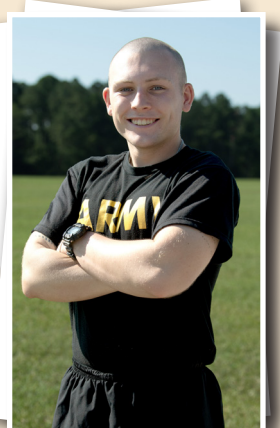
I was influenced to join by "Family traditions and my aspirations to become an aviator and I need to serve my country."

Before I joined, I saw Basic Combat Training as "a set of challenges tailored to making us more disciplined."

"The most difficult part of BCT was learning how to deal with clashing personalities."

"Be adaptive and work to find a common ground with your peers."

I am a "15U-CH-47 Helicopter Repairer. I chose my MOS because I want to be an Army aviator in the future."



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



*Courtesy photo*

Staff Sgt. Joseph Lust supervises members of the Columbia Infantry hockey team rappel down Victory Tower, Sept. 2.

## Columbia Infantry visits HHBN

**By 1st Lt. Marvin Wilkins**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion

Community engagement is not only a tenant of Gen. Jason E. Kelly's "Jackson 5" but it's also the Army's Outreach and Community Relations Department strategy to connect the people and organizations surrounding Fort Jackson to the Soldiers that serve them. On Sept. 2, Company B., Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion opened Victory Tower and the confidence obstacle course to the Columbia Infantry hockey team.

The Columbia Infantry is in a premier league that offers recreational or competitive play with one of their four traveling teams. Columbia Infantry's name derived from

the military presence in Columbia, South Carolina, and have no affiliation with the Army.

In addition to rappelling and completing the obstacle course, the Columbia Infantry conducted an Army physical readiness training, received M4 carbine training, and ate military rations during their visit. While conducting activities, Columbia Infantry got to see Fort Jackson's cadre work and get an understanding of the training that goes into creating the Soldiers who protect our country.



*Courtesy photo*

Cadre and the Columbia Infantry pose at Victory Tower.

## SALUTING THIS BCT CYCLE'S HONOREES

### 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment

**ALPHA COMPANY**  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE  
Spc. Cody Witherspoon

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE  
Pfc. Autum Davis

**BRAVO COMPANY**  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE  
Pfc. Shane Bomar

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE  
Pvt. Coalie Easterwood

**CHARLIE COMPANY**  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE  
Pfc. Francesca Cao

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE  
Pvt. Natalie Thompson

**DELTA COMPANY**  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE  
Pfc. Samuel Thompson

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE  
Pfc. David Palmer

**ECHO COMPANY**  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE  
Pfc. Soleil Rosenzweig

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE  
Pfc. Jawan Jackson



**STAFF SGT NELSON RIVERA**

**DRILL SERGEANT  
OF THE CYCLE**

## 'Be the Light' during Suicide Prevention Month

### Army Substance Abuse Program

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and it is a great time to recognize the importance of suicide awareness.

This may be done by reducing the stigma of talking about suicide prevention and awareness. This should occur on a personal and community level. One can learn tips and resources to help mitigate issues from snowballing into larger concerns.

As a community, we need to work towards building healthy connections. Connections come in a variety of ways to include having casual conversations, sharing common interests with someone else, being authentic, respecting boundaries, and being an active listener. Now pause for a moment and reflect on other ways to connect personally and within the community.

sonally and within the community.

Save the dates for the Fort Jackson Resiliency Fair on Nov. 16-17. This is another opportunity Fort Jackson is investing in our community. Let us embody the Army's theme for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month: "You Are a Light in Somebody's Life."

If you or someone you know are experiencing life stressors, please reach out for help. There are several resources available to assist you. Soldiers can reach out to Behavioral Health by calling 751-2513.

Additional resources for Soldiers and Family Members are Military OneSource, (800) 342-9647, the unit's chaplain, and the unit's Military and Family Life Counselor. If you are thinking of harming yourself, help is available call or text the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline "988."

**YOU**  
are a **LIGHT**  
in **SOMEBODY'S**  
**LIFE**

**CONNECT TO PROTECT, SUPPORT IS WITHIN REACH  
DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT A SUICIDE.**

Happy

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“I don’t have reasons to be sad,” she added. “Of course, there are times when I am sad, but at the same time I want other people to feel happy. I would never want someone to feel sad. So, I just want to be that person that when you see me you can’t help but smile.”

Don’t let the smile fool you, she is “tough as nails.” She has to be firm with trainees.

“Weirdly enough it honestly freaks me out sometimes, but I could be in the office chilling one moment having a great time, and then walk into the bay with all the trainees I become the opposite of what you see today. I am obviously stern; you know but I care for the trainees ... it is definitely a switch that you have to learn to turn on and off.”

She credited her win to the help the Holistic Health and Fitness her unit allowed her access to leading up to the competition.

The five pillars of H2F helped her overcome a tough competition.

“It was a very, very arduous journey waking up early, not getting enough sleep,” she recounted after the ceremony. “Every day your mind is running, you don’t know what



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE  
Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl shoots an azimuth during land navigation testing.

the next task is. You show up and they execute, and you don’t have time to prepare. So, it’s definitely been a long challenging journey. But I’ve woken up every day. I was just ready to go because there was no time to stop.”

Buhl will be heading to Fort Eustis, Virginia where she will work directly with the Center for Initial Military Training “to improve the lives of drill sergeants and the initial training environment in general.”

Events

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Kay Soldier Performance Readiness Center. You are invited to take part in healthy initiatives from each of the Holistic Health and Fitness domains. Bring your own lunch. Free blood pressure and InBody assessments will be available after the event.

**SEPT. 30**  
**Wreath Making Workshop**  
1 p.m. Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. . Want to decorate your door for the fall? Look no further than the Autumn Wreath Making Workshop at the library! It is free and requires sign-up (only 15 slots available). Intended for those over 13 years old. For more information, call 751-4816.

**OCT. 2**  
**Fall Plant Swap**  
Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. Bring plants by Oct. 2-5 during normal Library hours and pop in to pick up a new plant Oct. 6. For more information, call 751-4816.

**OCT. 3**  
**Walking Town Hall**  
5-6 p.m., On-post housing areas. Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander, and garrison leaders will be in

the on-post housing area talking to residents and addressing their concerns.

**OCT. 12**  
**Community Information Exchange**  
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., NCO Club. The fort Jackson community is invited a community information exchange where attendees will hear updates from across across post to include the Armed Forces Wellness Center and Defense Commissary Agency, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and more.

Jewish High Holiday Services

**Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)**  
Sept. 24  
7-8:30 p.m.

Sept. 25  
10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Morning Service

5:30-8:30 p.m. - Afternoon/Concluding Services

(Trainees should arrange for MREs for lunch and dinner)

All services will be held at Lightning Chapel

Did You Know: Every flight of stairs having four or more steps/risers shall be equipped with standard railings or guards to aid with support.

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

## POW

Continued from Page 5

had been one of 26 Tuskegee Airmen whose whereabouts were unknown. Now that he has been recovered, she said, a rosette will be placed next to his name at the Florence American Cemetery in Italy to indicate that he has been accounted for.

The DPAA can't do its work alone, Hicks said. Today, DPAA cooperates with 45 nations to locate missing service members around the world. In April 2021, one of those partners, South Korea, uncovered remains from a battle fought in 1951.

"The remains were carefully exhumed and sent to a lab for testing," she said. "The following October, the ministry turned over those remains to DPAA. After DPAA sent the remains to its own lab for analysis, it was able to identify Army Sgt. Stanley Turba. Soon, his daughter, Sandra, will welcome him home — more than 72 years after he went missing in the Korean War."

Right now, more than 1,200 service members are still missing from the Vietnam War, and Hicks said Vietnam has also been a good partner in helping recover remains.

"During the height of COVID-19, when restrictions prevented our DPAA team from traveling to Vietnam, VVietnamese teams — trained by DPAA — traveled to multiple sites looking for the remains of American personnel," Hicks said.

In March 2021, she said, a team from Vietnam visited the crash site of a U.S. F-4 aircraft, and they recovered the remains of Air Force Col. Ernest DeSoto and Air Force Capt. Frederick Hall.

"Col. DeSoto was given a dignified burial in June, and Capt. Hall will finally be laid to rest next month, on October 10," she said. "These are several of the many stories of those recovered and returned to their families — stories of sacrifice, hope and resolve. For you families of the missing, please know your strength motivates us each day as we do this work and follow through on our solemn and unwavering commitment to achieve the fullest accounting possible of our missing personnel."



By NATHAN CLINEBELLE

### Cutting the ribbon ...

Lt. Col. Claudia Pena, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion commander, cuts the ribbon on a revitalized training facility. Victor's Passage serves as the testing site for all end of cycle testing for Basic Combat Training.

## DOD hosts child care summit to give families, providers voice

By JOSEPH CLARK  
DOD News Service

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy convened a daylong child care summit Sept. 15 to facilitate discussions and capture a broad range of perspectives as DOD officials identify policies that benefit military parents and child care providers.

Ashish S. Vazirani, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said improving access to quality, affordable child care is a critical component of the DOD's focus on taking care of service members and their families.

"When we take care of our people, members of our total force can focus on their mission to defend the nation," Vazirani said as he kicked off the summit in Washington. "Taking care of people's basic needs and improving the quality of life of our people is our mission at (the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for) Personnel and Readiness because our people are our greatest advantage."

"And to be absolutely clear, for a two-in-

come family, child care is a basic need, and we have an obligation to do more to help our service members, civilian employees and their families meet that need," he said.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has prioritized efforts to strengthen support for DOD personnel and family members under his "Taking Care of Our Service Members and Families" initiative.

Improving access to child care is a key part of that effort.

The Defense Department operates one of the largest employer-sponsored child care programs in the U.S., serving more than 160,000 children every year. The program is also recognized as a leader in early child development.

Still, Pentagon officials have said it's imperative to continue to improve access to quality, affordable programs that suit the unique needs of DOD families worldwide.

One woman holds a microphone while women are seated to her right and left at a table on a stage facing a crowd.

"I hope you all know that you've got someone at the very top in your corner ready to fight for the issues that you're

working on and take child care to the very top within the Pentagon," said Grier Martin, assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs.

The summit featured panel discussions with officials overseeing child care policy at the service and department-wide levels and briefings from childhood development experts aimed at generating discussions and gathering ideas for how to improve DOD child care programs.

Walter Gilliam, executive director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska, was among the experts who provided insights into the importance of quality child care.

"Child care is an infrastructure," he said. "It is a core infrastructure for all economies, including the military."

Gilliam highlighted the importance of reliable child care options for working parents and focused on the critically important work that well trained and engaged early childhood educators do in setting children on a lifelong path for success.

He also underscored the importance of supporting the providers themselves.

# VICTORY... STARTS HERE



Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl (in front carrying a rifle) U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year, marches along Fort Jackson during the competition held Sept. 11-15.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE