

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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National Museum celebrates Army's 250th birthday

By **DAVID VERGUN**
DOD News

On June 7, 2025, the National Museum of the United States Army opened its "Call to Arms" exhibit, featuring rare Revolutionary War artifacts, accompanied by stories of the battles and the Soldiers who fought in them.

The 5,000-square-foot space contains 285 artifacts, ranging from guns and cannons to powder horns and uniforms.

There are also interactive displays depicting the battles, as well as videos.

When the museum opened, Nov. 11, 2020, it featured several Revolutionary War artifacts.

However, realizing the Army's 250th birthday was on June 14, 2025, Museum Director Tammy Call decided more was needed to fully tell the origin story of the Army.

To increase the size of the exhibit, the museum reached out to historical societies, other museums and private collectors across the nation and around the world to see if they were willing to loan their artifacts, she said.

The museum didn't want just authentic artifacts from the Revolutionary War, which lasted from 1775 to 1783. Instead, it wanted artifacts that were connected to individual stories of the soldiers who owned them. Whether it be weapons, uniforms or other objects, Call said the goal was for the exhibit to tell the stories of all Soldiers, not just generals.

She noted that the process was not only fulfilling professionally, but it also helped the museum create partner-



U.S. Army photo
A display at the Museum of the United States Army highlights the museum's 'Call to Arms' exhibit.



U.S. Army photo
The Museum of the United States Army recently began showing various Revolutionary War artifacts including a pair of pistols used by Gen. George Washington

ships for the future.

Call, a former Army ordnance officer, said she hopes the roughly 800,000 museum visitors a year will see the exhibit and other displays and reflect on the service and sacrifice soldiers have made for 250 years, as well as the reasons people serve.

The National Museum of the United States Army is located just outside the gate at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas.

Parking and entry are free for everyone.

Dozens of volunteer staff are on hand to answer questions. Schools and other groups are welcome to visit without needing advanced reservations.

The "Call to Arms" exhibit will be open until June 2027, when loaned items must be returned.

However, the museum still has its own sizable collection of Revolutionary War artifacts, as well as those from other periods.

ON THE COVER

Trainees celebrate as they run past the reviewing stand at the end of a post fun, held June 9, celebrating Fort Jackson's 108th birthday.

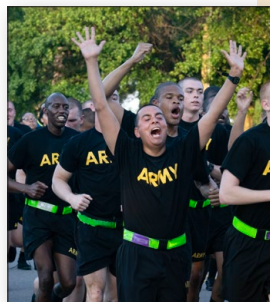


Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

See Page 6-7.

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Library bash kicks off summer reading program

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The library is more than just books and being 'shushed' for being loud. It's a place where children can come participate in cool events and earn incentives for reading.

On June 6, the Thomas Lee Hall "Post" Library kicked off its summer reading program with a bash.

Mariah Lovitk, supervisory librarian, said the Summer Reading Program, which runs from June 1 – July 31, is a way to get "everyone going and excited" to read.

"Every year we host a summer reading program where you read for incentives, like for however many minutes you read you will win a prize," she said.

The Post Library can also be a place for fun throughout the summer as it many different programs and activities for the kids.

"Monday, we have movies, Tuesday we have Creativity Club, Wednesday is Lego Club, Thursday is Story Time and Friday we have partnerships ... like with Outdoor Rec," she added. "One of the favorites is stuffed animal sleepovers."

Even though she is a librarian, she was no stranger to Fort Jackson or the Post Library before working there.

The self-professed "military brat" has been at Fort Jackson for a while.

"My father actually retired from here in 2008," Lovitk said. "This has been home since then."

The Post Library is also a place of fond memories.

"I used to come here to study with one of my class mates," she added. "We would walk up from housing and get a study room ... and do homework then."

The newest generation is also ready to make memories at the Post Library during the Summer Reading Program.

For Kaitlyn Autlaw, a spouse of a drill sergeant in 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, the kick off of the reading program is "good to let the kids get some energy out."

Autlaw has been on post for a year and a half and finds it "hard when you have a drill sergeant for spouse, you kind of feel alone sometimes. It's nice to have other

IT IS A GOOD PLACE
TO MAKE CONNEC-
TIONS AND HAVE FUN
...

- Kaitlyn Autlaw
Family member

people who are in similar situations, and with kids in the same boat, and can come together" at these events.

The library is "a common ground for everyone to meet, especially when they do events during the summer such as Lego Club," she said

"It's a good place to make connections and have fun."

Her kids who like the Lego Club and Story Time "love it."

They are looking to read so much they earn every incentive.

Patrons only "have to do is call or come by to sign up," for the events, Lovitk said. On top of that patrons can go online to sign up as well.



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Youths try to see who can hold a plank the longest during the Thomas Lee Hall 'Post' Library's celebration marking the start of the Summer Reading Program.



Post Library patrons play a game during the reading program kickoff event.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Estate Notices

Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Eby

With deepest regret to the family of the deceased. Staff Sgt. Phillip Andrew Eby, a Soldier assigned to the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort George G. Meade, Md. died on May 31 in South Carolina. Anyone with claims of indebtedness to or by the estate of Phillip Andrew Eby must contact Capt. Tyler Wojtasinski, the Summary Court Martial Officer, no later than July 1, at (808) 435-3073 or email tyler.j.wojtasinski.mil@army.mil to settle any outstanding issues.

Master Sgt. Damon Holmes

This notice serves as a death notice advisory for all those in possession of the property of Master Sgt. Damon Holmes, as well as those whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Capt. Nicholas J. Hartman, Summary Courts Martial Officer, with questions or concerns at (803) 751-1078 or via email at nicholas.j.hartman4.mil@army.mil.

Community Information Exchange/ Housing Town Hall

Do you want to get the most up-to-date information about what is happening on Fort Jackson? Do you have feedback you'd like to give about on post housing? Then come to the 1917 Club June 24 for the Community Information Exchange/Housing Town Hall. There you can sit down face-to-face with post leaders, directorates and Partners in Excellence. The meeting starts promptly at 2 p.m.

For more information, call (803) 751-5670. The event will not be livestreamed or recorded.

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: June 24-26 (0 seats open)*; July 29-31 (5 seats open)

■ Advanced Riders Course: Tuesday (0 seats open); July 8 (6 seats open)

■ Intermediate Drivers Course: June 12 (8 seats open); July 22 (20 seats open)

■ Local Hazards Course: Every Monday at 10 a.m. (except holidays)

■ Remedial Drivers Course: July 8 (12 seats open)

■ Unit Safety Officer Course: July 8-9 (22 seats open); Aug. 5-6 (25 seats open)

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

Tuition Assistance Announcement

It is the Soldier's responsibility to ensure their IPPS-A records are current and accurate before requesting Tuition Assistance. If not, your ArmyIgnitED account will be placed on hold and the Soldier is not allowed to proceed to obtain TA. The Education Center is not authorized to perform any actions such as submitting a manual TA on behalf of the Soldiers when there is an IPPS-A hold on the account.

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.

Summer Reading Program

Join the Thomas Lee Hall "Post" Library for this year's Summer Reading Program: "Level Up at Your Library." Sign-up for SRP to read, log minutes, and receive prizes. Programs will be held all week long. Coloring sheet contests will last throughout June and July. Registration began June 1.

First Friday Golf

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, invites you to join him for First Friday Golf the first Friday of every month. This is a Captain's Choice event and will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Jackson Golf Club. You may enter your own team or sign up as a single and be paired with a group. Entry fee is \$45 for FJGC members and \$55 for non-members. The entry fee includes applicable greens fee, user Fee, cart, prizes, and a boxed lunch. Register by calling the pro shop, at (803) 562-4437.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY

Strongman/Strongwoman

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

■ The Accountant 2 (R)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

■ Final Destination: Bloodlines (R)

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

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 17

Garrison Change of Command

8:30 a.m., Victory Field. Col. Timothy R. Hickman will relinquish command of U.S. Army Garrison - Fort Jackson to Col. Da-vid G. Gaugush.

JUNE 21

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.

June 14 marks Army's 250 years of service to the Nation

By **HENRY HOWE**

Director, Fort Jackson Museum Community

On June 14, 2025, the Army will celebrate a historic milestone, 250 years of defending the nation and upholding the Constitution. Since its founding in 1775, the Army has

stood as a symbol of strength, service, and sacrifice. Born in the crucible of the American Revolution, it began as a collection of colonial militias and has evolved into the most capable and professional fighting force in the world.

From the early battles of Lexington and Concord to the challenging deserts of the Middle East, the Army has been instrumental in shaping our nation's history. Through each crisis and triumph, it has fought valiantly in every major conflict, provided vital support during natural disasters, and stood by our allies, all while protecting American interests both at home and abroad. Time and again, Army Soldiers have answered the call to serve, demonstrating the deepest values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage across generations.

This 250th anniversary is not merely a celebration of our past; it is an acknowledgment of the Army's enduring presence today and its steadfast preparation for future challenges. With access to advanced technology, enhanced training methods, and a relentless commitment to readiness, the Army remains devoted to ensuring safety and security in a complex global landscape.

As our nation takes a moment to reflect on 250 years of extraordinary service, we also look forward with hope and confidence. The Army's mission continues to resonate deeply: to fight and win the nation's wars, to foster peace and stability, and to serve as steadfast guardians of the American way of life. Victory Starts Here.



DOD honors D-Day in Normandy

By **MATTHEW OLAY**

DOD News

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth commemorated the 81st anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy by delivering a speech at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, June 6.

Commonly referred to as D-Day, the invasion — which would prove to be the turning point in the European theater and ultimately lead to the Allies' victory on the Western Front — saw roughly 160,000 troops crossing the English Channel on June 6, 1944, with more than 2 million Allied troops in France just three months later.

"It is a sheer privilege to stand in this cemetery among heroes and before God, an incredible monument to the sacrifices American warriors made on the beaches of Normandy," Hegseth said at the outset of his remarks, adding that the U.S. is very grateful to the French government for dedicating the cemetery's land as a resting place for America's fallen service members.

The secretary spent the early part of his speech recounting the harrowing Allied invasion, stating that "a more daring assault had never been planned."

"The courage it took to do this is unfathomable," he said, noting that the first groups to land on the beach — thousands of young men — lost their lives in a barrage of mortars and machine gun fire.

"But they never let up; our warriors never faltered," Hegseth added. "(With) God at their backs as

See **D-DAY**, Page 9



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

It's a Celebration!

Post holds 'Victory Week,' a weeklong birthday bash

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

"We are going to celebrate this week two birthdays," said Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, before a post run, June 9, "the 108th birthday for Fort Jackson, taking us back to June of 1917, and then the Army's 250th birthday, taking us back to 1775."

He spoke to Soldiers before the first in a week-long series of events called "Victory Week."

"You are part of our history," he said. "You are making history. You're the reason why we have freedom."

Hood said he and Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs were proud of their service.

"We owe you a great tribute," he added before leading a short run. "So this week, while we reflect on birthdays, I'd ask you to pause at some point and reflect on ... the many men and women that served before us, so that we could be here today."

"This week we're going to have a number of activities, starting off today with a great run, and several competitions throughout the week," he said.

The highlights of the week included sporting events, and organizational day with an appearance by the U.S. Army Parachute Demonstration Team, the Golden Knights, and culminating in a ball to celebrate the Army's 250th birthday.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

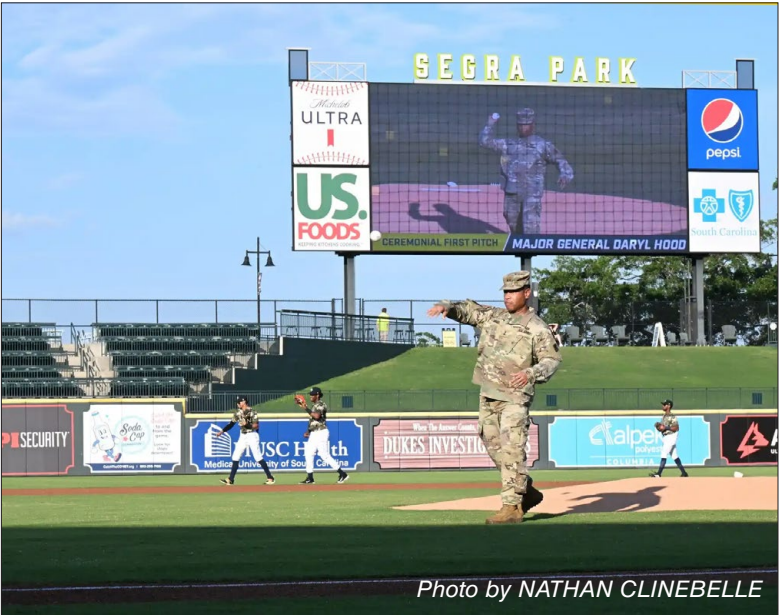


Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Leader file photo

Marilynn Bailey, with Army Community Service talks to a patron about how ACS can help the community. ACS provides financial services to the Fort Jackson community.

ACS offers financial tips to beat the summer heat

By ANGELA CROSLAND
Army Community Service

Summer in South Carolina is amazing – sunshine, beaches, and fun! But all that fun can quickly add up. The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program wants to help you enjoy the season without stressing your wallet. Here are some tips to keep your finances cool while the temperatures rise.

Plan for Peak Energy Costs: South Carolina summers mean high air conditioning bills. Take steps to conserve energy! Utilize programmable thermostats, seal drafts around windows and doors, and consider using fans to circulate air. Run major appliances like dishwashers and laundry machines during off-peak hours (often evenings or weekends) when electricity rates are lower. Check with your utility provider for potential energy audit programs or rebates.

Free & Low-Cost Fun: You don't need to spend a fortune to have a great summer. Fort Jackson offers a wealth of recreational opportunities – take advantage of the pools, gyms, and outdoor spaces! Have you visited Palmetto Falls Waterpark? It's a jewel in our local community. Explore hiking trails, and free community events.

Are you Road Trip Ready? Plan your route and budget for gas, food, and activities before you go. Pack snacks and drinks to avoid expensive convenience store stops.

Back-to-School Sneak Peek: Summer is a great time to start thinking about back-to-school shopping. Keep an eye out for Tax Free Weekend, sales and clearance items now to save later.

Do It Yourself Delights: Instead of expensive entertainment, get creative! Have a backyard BBQ, host a game night, or start a family garden.

Don't Forget Your Budget! Summer spending can easily creep up. Continue tracking your expenses and sticking to your budget. Even small savings add up over time.

The Fort Jackson Financial Readiness Program is here for you! We offer workshops, one-on-one counseling, and resources to help you achieve your financial goals.

Visit us 9810 Liberty Division Road, Fort Jackson or call (803) 751-5256 to learn more. Our services are available to all active and retired Servicemember, their ID Card Family members, and Department of Defense civilians.

Let's make this a summer of fun and financial success.



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- Bookmark common resources
- Resource Alerts
- Events
- Maintenance Requests
- MHS Genesis Login



Download the My Army Post App today

Fort Jackson wants to hear from you!

Speak to post officials at the 1917 Club at 2 p.m. June 24 for a Community Information and Housing Town Hall.



D-Day

Continued from Page 5

they forced their way inland, (Hitler's) Atlantic Wall began to crumble.”

Acknowledging the small group of surviving D-Day veterans attending the ceremony, Hegseth spoke of that generation's fortitude.

“These men — boys, then — were part of those landing forces; they embody the warrior ethos,” he said, adding that theirs is a generation that developed grit during the Great Depression and that they were and are “hard men forged for hard times.”

Hegseth said he thinks people should ask themselves whether they would be able to muster the same courage as those who participated in the Allied invasion. And that an opportunity he had earlier in the day to participate in physical training with U.S. Army Rangers showed him that the country still produces such warriors.

“I got my answer to those questions with the sun rising, with the Ranger Regiment: yes, we do produce such men — still — from far-flung

places, willing to traverse the globe to defend freedom,” he said.

He added that, while participating in PT with the Rangers on Omaha Beach — the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the invasion — the area looked more like an actual beach than a battlefield.

“That's what those men fought for: that we may turn scenes of death into scenes of life; scenes of war into scenes of peace, glorifying Almighty God with our lives and living worthy of their sacrifice,” Hegseth said.

He also pointed out that, while some members of earlier generations went to war in the hopes that future generations wouldn't have to, most fought wars knowing future generations would have to be willing to do the same because “history is not over,” and “evil has not been eradicated from the globe.”

“Good men are still needed to stand up;



Department of Defense photo

A veteran holds his hat during a D-Day ceremony held, June 6, 2025.

America will require such men,” Hegseth said, adding that the entire world requires such brave people to come forward.

The secretary said the U.S. and France share a bond brought about by the sacrifice of all those who fought — including those who lost their lives — during the D-Day invasion.

“Our moment today is an echo; it's an echo of theirs,” Hegseth said.

Victory Week continues

Victory Week continues today through Saturday.

Today:

5:50-7:30 a.m. — Holistic Health and Fitness Circuit at Darby Field

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Volleyball Tournament at Darby Field

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Shooting Competition 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Museum Visits

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Hall Of Fame Lunch and Induction Ceremony at the 1917 Club

Tomorrow:

6:30-9:30 a.m. — Boat Race at Inchon Lake

10 a.m.— CG's Tournament Winner Trophy Presentation at the Fort Jackson Golf Course

10:10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — CG's Victory Week Golf Tournament at the Wildcat Course

Saturday: 250th Army Birthday

9-10 a.m. — Strongman / Strongwoman competition

9-10 a.m. — ARCG Mass Reenlistment event at the 81st Readiness Division Auditorium

5-10 p.m. — 250th Army Birthday Ball at the 1917 Club, Fort Jackson

Victory Week ends with the 250th Army Birthday Ball, where Lt. Gen. Milford H. “Beags” Beagle Jr., Army Combined Arms Center commander, is set to speak.

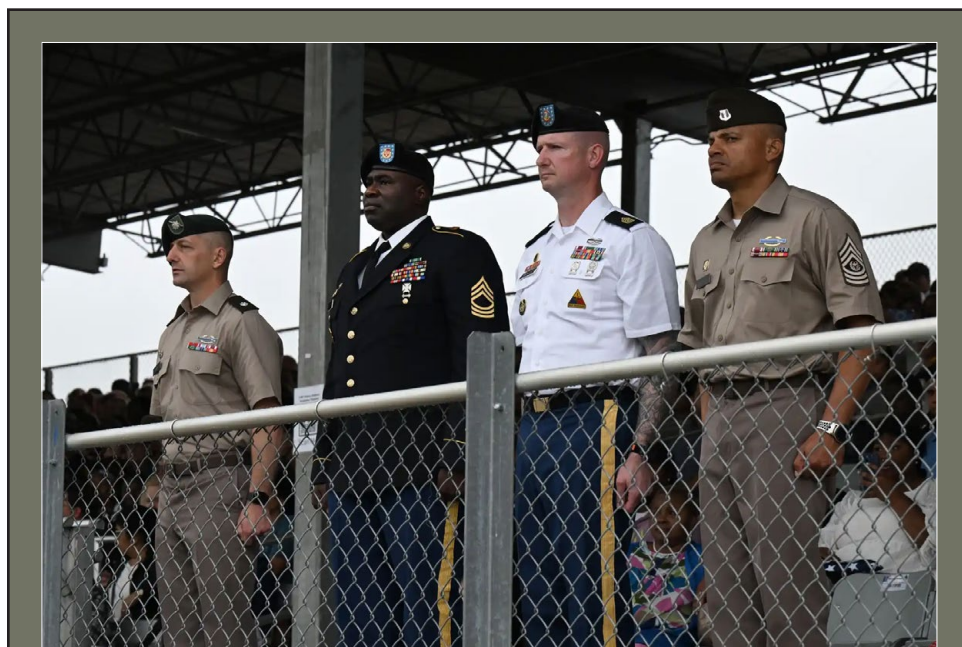


Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Thank you for your service

Fort Jackson celebrated the careers of Sgt. Maj. Bradley Lanchester, from U.S. Army Garrison, and Master Sgt. Felix L. Harvin, with the 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, during the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment graduation, June 5.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry
Regiment

**DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE**

Staff Sgt.

Vivian S. Soryal

ALPHA COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER

OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Michael Slope

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pfc. Michaela Mosley

BRAVO COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER

OF THE CYCLE

Pfc. Camrien Jarmon

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pfc. Jameah Lockhard

CHARLIE COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER

OF THE CYCLE

Spc. Keisha L. Rainer

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pfc. Caleb W. Stegall

DELTA COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER

OF THE CYCLE

Pfc. Leigh Labrie

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pfc. Carl W. Andersson

Events

Continued from Page 4

Offshore Fishing Trip

5 a.m.-5 p.m., Marion Street Station. Travel to Hilton Head, SC with your Outdoor Recreation team and fish three-five miles offshore on a fishing boat for a five-hour trip. Outdoor recreation will provide the transportation and coolers for you to transport your catch back home. Cost covers transportation, license, bait, tackle and trip. Pre-registration is required at Marion St. Station. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

Juneteenth Fun Run

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

JUNE 27

DENTAC Change of Command

10 a.m., Joe E. Mann Ballroom. Col.Susan M. Cebula will relinquish command of Dental Health Activity-Fort Jackson to Col. Yat H. Ma in a ceremony.

JULY 6-12

Club Beyond

Club Beyond, an approved ministry partner here at Fort Jackson is taking igh schoolers and middle schoolers to overnight camps this summer to Carolina Point Young Life Camp in North Carolina. The trip is for military teens who have just completed 9th-12th grades. If you are interested in participating, register at cb114.younglife.events/2025-carolina-point-week-7-cb114hs. For more information, call the Club Beyond Fort Jackson Community Director at (256) 794-2623.

JULY 12

Private Weapons Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Ran-

ge. 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. For more information, call (803) 751-3484. For information about registering your weapon, call (803) 751-6019.

JULY 27-31

Club Beyond

Club Beyond, an approved ministry partner here at Fort Jackson is taking high schoolers and middle schoolers to overnight camps this summer to Rockbridge Young Life Camp in VA. The is for ,ilitary teens who have just completed 6th- 8th grades. If you are interested in participating. register at cb114.younglife.events/2025-rockbridge-wk-11-cb114ms. For more information, call the Club Beyond Fort Jackson Community Director at (256) 794-2623.



SAVE
THE DATE

FORT JACKSON'S
4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

GATES OPEN 4PM
@HILTON FIELD

JULY 4, 2025



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	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
HEATHEN/PAGAN	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	LIGHTNING CHAPEL

Army leaders propose bolstering lethality through transformation

By **JOE LACDAN**
Army News Service

During a hearing with Congress members, the Army's top leaders shared details on the Army Transformation Initiative, which calls for cutting spending on stagnant programs, upgrading equipment and restructuring forces.

In April, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth called on Army leaders to prioritize building lethality and to eliminate unnecessary cost.

Following the success of Ukraine's effective, low cost unmanned aerial systems attacks on Russia's bomber fleet, Secretary of the Army Daniel P. Driscoll stated before lawmakers that the Army needs cheaper solutions to bolster Soldier lethality. Using more than 300 drones in a single swarm attack last week, Ukrainian forces dealt a catastrophic blow to the Russian military.

"At a cost of a mere tens of thousands of dollars, Ukraine inflicted billions in damage, potentially setting back Russia's bomber capabilities for years," Driscoll said June 4. "The world saw in near real time how readily available technology can disrupt established power dynamics. And drones are but one example of a broader shift. The Army needs to keep pace."

As the service prepares to posture its Fiscal Year 2026 budget, Driscoll and Gen. Randy A. George, Army chief of staff, asked Congress for more "agile" or flexible funding to support unmanned aerial systems and counter-UAS initiatives that bolsters the force. The Army's top officer said that the service cannot afford to be locked into a program of record but rather must purchase new technology



Photo by NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS ALEXANDER KUBITZA

Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Randy A. George join "Fox and Friends" to discuss the new Department of Defense memorandum on Army transformation and acquisition reform, at the Pentagon, on May 1. Driscoll and George recently testified before Congress during a House Armed Services Committee June 4.

when available.

"Technology is changing too rapidly," George said. "We've got to be able to buy capabilities, not specific programs."

To restructure the Army into a more efficient, combat ready force, George said that the service would cancel obsolete unnecessary programs that do not contribute to enhancing the lethality of Soldiers, including eliminating a budget request for more Humvees to be added to the service's fleet of vehicles.

In May, the Army stopped funding to the M-10 Booker Tank, citing design flaws and concerns over its deployability. Instead of spending on programs like the M-10, Driscoll said the service will focus on drones and counter drones, "off the shelf"

technology, and strengthening sensors and the Army's network.

The service will also cut funding to the AH-64D Apache attack helicopters, removing Apache battalions from the active component. George said four Apache battalions will remain in the National Guard, which will eventually receive the AH-64 E model. He added that UH-60M Blackhawk, a medical evacuation aircraft, will replace the UH-60L and V models.

Driscoll also proposed giving the service more autonomy on repairing certain equipment immediately instead of waiting on defense manufacturers. Driscoll cited one example, where at one installation Soldiers could not use a piece of advanced technology for up to a year due to a miss-

ing piece. However, the Soldiers learned they could 3-D print the required part at a fraction of the manufacturer cost.

Army also plans to cut 1,000 positions from the Department of the Army staff and will move many Soldiers to more combat-related jobs, George said.

For the first time, the Army Reserve partnered with active-duty Army units in the largest mass exercise of its scale, Mojave Falcon. Beginning May 28, over 9,000 reservists and active-duty Soldiers participated in the mass logistics training moving equipment and supplies across vast distances in northern and southern California.

"When not deployed, our units are conducting tough, realistic training at their home sta-

tions and at our combat training centers," George said. "Our Army is a professional team that remains focused on its warfighting mission, and young Americans want to be a part of it. And this is evidenced by our strong recruiting numbers this year."

The service announced it had met its recruiting goals early, welcoming more than 61,000 new Soldiers to its ranks, despite raising its recruiting goal by 10 percent from 2024.

The service recently began phase two of Transformation in Contact, or TiC, the service's initiative where Soldiers rapidly train, equip and field new technology.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment from Rose Barracks, Vilseck, Germany and 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Stewart, Georgia, will take part in TiC 2.0, which, expands the scale to two divisions and two Stryker brigade combat teams. The Soldiers will incorporate UAS and counter UAS.

In January, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division from Fort Johnson, Louisiana, successfully completed a TiC training rotation as part of Combined Resolve, an annual exercise hosted by U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa.

One TiC brigade that trained in Europe improved to 300 percent more effective in lethal targeting, George said.

"This was a great proof of concept," George said. "It confirmed that our formations are capable of rapidly improving their lethality."

"Transformation in contact taught us some valuable lessons about what our Army should be buying and how we should be buying it, and we're just getting started," George added.

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, salutes as Soldiers run by the reviewing stand at the end of a post run kicking off Victory Week, June 9. The post celebrated its 108th birthday with a week full of various activities, June 9-13.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE