

THURSDAY FEB. 27, 2025

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SECDEF: Strengthening military by cutting excess, refocusing DOD budget

By **MATTHEW OLAY**
DOD News

During a recorded, on-camera address from the Pentagon Feb. 20, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth discussed his priorities of strengthening the military by cutting fiscal fraud, waste and abuse at DOD while also finding ways to refocus the department's budget.

Hegseth began his remarks stating the Defense Department owes the American people transparency related to steps DOD is taking to accomplish its mission while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

"We shoot straight with you. We want you, the American people — the taxpayers — to understand why we're making the decisions that we're making here," Hegseth said, adding that DOD is working as quickly as possible to execute the priorities of achieving peace through strength by rebuilding the military, restoring the warrior ethos and reestablishing deterrence.

Prior to getting in-depth on issues related to the department's finances, Hegseth cautioned viewers to take anything they've heard and/or read on the topic with a "gigantic grain of salt."

"Ever since I've taken this position, the only thing I've cared about is doing right by our service members — Soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and

guardians," Hegseth said. "In short, we want the biggest, most badass military on the planet."

Hegseth then touched on three areas related to the Pentagon's finances.

First, Hegseth said to tackle excess spending and address the issue of fraud, waste and abuse within DOD, the department would be relying on the recently established Department of Government Efficiency.

"(DOGE is) here, and they're going to be incorporated into what we're doing at DOD to find fraud, waste and abuse in the largest discretionary budget in the federal government," Hegseth said.

He added that DOGE would be given access to systems — with proper safeguards and classifications — to first find redundancies and identify previous priorities not core to the department's current mission and then get rid of them.

"With DOGE, we are focusing as much as we can

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THAT PROTECTS YOU...**

- Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense



Photo by NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS ALEXANDER KUBITZA

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth delivers recorded remarks from his office at the Pentagon, Feb. 20.

on headquarters and fat and top-line stuff that allows us to reinvest elsewhere," Hegseth said.

He then pivoted to the topic of reorienting the defense budget inherited from the previous administration.

Hegseth said beginning immediately, the Pentagon will pull 8% — or roughly \$50 billion — from nonlethal programs in the current budget and refocus that money on President Donald J. Trump's "America First" priorities for national defense.

"That's not a cut; it's refocusing and re-

investing existing funds into building the force that protects you, the American people," Hegseth said.

He also said there are certain areas where funds will not be refocused — border protection, fighting transnational criminal organizations, nuclear modernization, submarine programs, missile defense, drone technology, cybersecurity, core readiness and training and the defense industrial base among them.

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ON THE COVER

A cadet listens intently as Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs answers questions during the Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty LPD Symposium, held Feb. 21.



Photo by **ROBERT TIMMONS**

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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Leader file photo

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School faculty members Charlene Lenker, Amy Watford and Kerrie Ammons place items in gift bags to be given out as part of the school's Read Across America efforts. The school recently was awarded a grant to help students improve their reading skills.

Pinckney receives grant to help reading efforts

Story, photo by ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson's C.C. Pinckney Elementary School has once again received a prestigious grant to help its Read Across America efforts.

"We were awarded \$750 this year from the National Education Association," said Kerrie Ammons, speech pathologist for the school. "So, with that money we have invited a guest author, Dr. Frank Clark, to come and read to our students."

The money will also fund gift baskets given to students who write a poem that, after being scored, is put into a drawing.

"At CCP, each event is thoughtfully designed around student standards," said faculty member Charlene Lenker. "This year, we are excited to focus on enhancing reading and writing skills. To help families understand the purpose behind our events, we include the relevant standards on each flyer sent home."

"This year, we are offering students a unique opportunity to submit their poetry," Lenker added. "Those who participate will be entered into a drawing for a prize basket filled with tools to help them become better readers and writers. These baskets include books, book lights, reading games, pencils, pens, and more."

The money will go a long way to helping the school's efforts to increase students' reading abilities.

Practicing reading and writing is crucial for several reasons, Ammons said.

"Reading and writing are fundamental to effective communication," she said. "They help us express our thoughts clearly and understand others better ... it exposes us to new ideas, cultures, and perspectives, broadening our understanding of the world."

"Strong reading and writing skills are essential for academic achievement. They are the foundation for learning in all subjects.

Many professions require proficient reading and writing skills.

Ammons said being able to communicate effectively in writing can open doors to various career opportunities. In fact, reading and writing can also be therapeutic and reflective as it helps people process experiences, understand their emotions, and grow personally.

Teachers are also rewarded when their students' reading and writing skills improve.

"Helping students see the value in reading and writing can be incredibly rewarding," said Amy Watford, a teacher at Pinckney. "We work hard to connect reading and writing to student interests whether it's sports, fantasy, science fiction, or current events, engaging content can spark a student's enthusiasm.

"We also work to show the connection of reading and writing to real-world applications," she said. "We show how reading and writing are used in everyday life. This could include writing emails, reading instructions, or even understanding social media posts. Highlighting practical uses of reading can make these skills feel more relevant," she added.

The more a student reads the more proficient they get.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday Ball Tickets on Sale

Tickets for the 250th Army Birthday Ball are on sale now. Join us 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.



Safety Courses

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://imc.army.mil/airs/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your Safety Specialist.

■ **Basic Riders Course:** March 25-27 (six seats open); April 8-10 (six seats open); April 29-May 1 (six seats open)

■ **Advanced Riders Course:** April 22 (six seats open) and April 23 (six seats open)

■ **Local Hazards Course:** March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; and April 7, 14, 21, 28

■ **Intermediate Drivers Course:** March 20 (no seats open)*; and April 17 (12 seats open)

■ **Remedial Drivers Course:** May 13 (12 seats open)

■ **Unit Safety Officer Course:** April 1-2 (23 seats open)

* Those wishing to attend this date should still try to attend as there may be last minute cancelations.

Pharmacy updates

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

Victory Fresh

Victory Fresh offers service members, Department of the Army Civilians and their guests healthy alternatives to fast food. Located at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy Dining Facility 9572 Marion Ave. 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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

AER Kickoff Celebration

3-5 p.m., Century Lanes Bowling Center. Come celebrate the kickoff of the 2025 Army Emergency Relief Campaign kickoff with a bowling competition.

Citizenship and Immigration Services Virtual Training

5:30-6:30 p.m., MS Teams. Get all your

questions answered regarding: How to apply for lawful permanent residency (green card) or naturalization/citizenship; how to replace lost or misplaced permanent residency and/or citizenship documentations; how to complete application forms and all supporting documents needed to complete the application; and any other questions you may have. Participants are invited to ask questions that are not case-specific.

Pickleball Tournament

5 p.m., Perez Gym. Come and out show off your pickleball prowess. Sign up at any gym, or call (803) 751-6258

SUNDAY

EFMP day at the Museum

1 p.m., 301 Gervais Street, Columbia, S.c. Connect with other Exceptional Family Member Program families in the community while exploring South Carolina history, see art and natural history and much more. It gives the EFMP families the ability to inspire their imagination and creativity.

TUESDAY

Meals in Minutes & your Budget

10-11 a.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program, in partnership with the Fort Jackson Armed Forces Wellness Center will host Meals in Minutes webinar on Microsoft Teams. Learn how to save calories while also optimizing your budget. AFWC and ACS provides programs and services to improve and/or maintain readiness of the military community. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-5256 (option 3).

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

■ No Showing

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

■ No Showing

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

Scams & Identity Theft

2:30-3:30 p.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service, in partnership with South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, will host a Scams and ID Theft webinar. In today's digital age, it's easy to lose track or make a mistake, leaving you vulnerable to scams and theft. Learn how to protect your assets and your identity from theft. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-5256 (option 3).

MARCH 6

EFMP presentation

10-11 a.m., MS Teams. Join the Fort Jackson Exceptional Family Member Program for a presentation to Provide information

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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.

Students get sweet lesson in dental hygiene

By LORRAINE EMORY

Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Students at Pierce Terrace Elementary School got a sweet but educational lesson in dental hygiene when dentists paid a special visit to give screenings to students. Pre-K, kindergarten, and first-grade students received dental screenings regarding potential dental issues. Then, they finished using cookies and carrots to demonstrate the importance of proper brushing and healthy eating.

The interactive session, led by eight alternating dentists from Hagen Dental Clinic on Fort Jackson, aimed to teach children the basics of oral care in a fun and memorable way.

The students eagerly participated as they first ate cookies, watching how the dark crumbs clung to their teeth—illustrating the effects of sugary snacks. Then, with the help of carrots, the dentists explained how crunchy vegetables can naturally help clean teeth and promote good oral health.

Hagen Dental Clinic wants kids to understand that while treats are fun, they must brush and floss properly to keep their teeth healthy. Using something they can see, like cookie crumbs, helps them grasp why brushing is important.

They also learned about the benefits of drinking water instead of sugary drinks and how visiting the dentist regularly keeps their smiles bright.

Staff members at PTES praised the engaging approach, noting that hands-on learning helps children retain important health lessons.

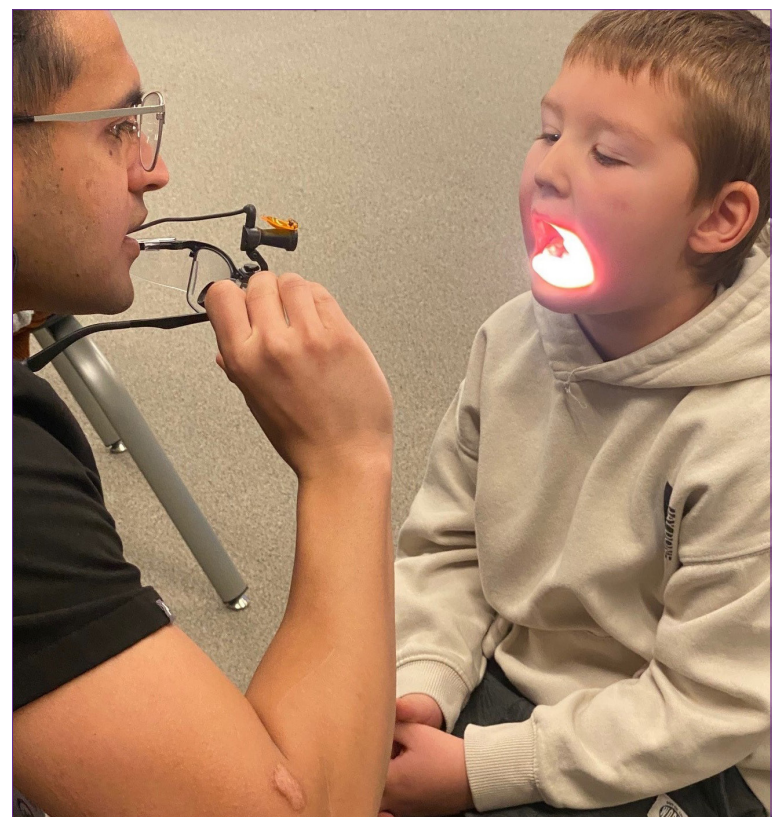
The event wrapped up with students receiving goodie bags containing toothbrushes, floss, and fun activity sheets to reinforce the lessons at home. With big smiles and fresh knowledge, the students walked away, understanding that a healthy mouth starts with good daily habits—and a little less sugar.

The school nurse referred students who did not pass the dental screening for a complete dental examination, and they will need to follow up with their family's dental provider.



Photos by LORRAINE EMORY

Members of a dental team from Hagen Dental Clinic visited students from Pierce Terrace Elementary School and spoke about potential dental issues. The team used cookies and carrots to demonstrate the importance of proper brushing techniques. Students that didn't pass the dental screening were directed to follow up with their family's dental provider.



Symposium starts cadets on ‘journey of leadership’

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

It isn’t always easy to learn how to start a career on the right foot, but Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from schools across the Carolinas visited Fort Jackson Feb. 21 to meet senior leaders at the Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty LPD Symposium to learn just that.

The annual event, first hosted in 2017, allows cadets from various universities and colleges in the areas surrounding Fort Jackson to meet with general officers and get mentoring first hand.

“I put this on my calendar every year because it is one of the most important things that I have done in the last three years,” said Lt. Gen. Donna Martin, Army Inspector General, who has been to multiple LPD symposiums.

The symposium is about “sharing knowledge,” Martin said. “It’s about talking to the next generation. It’s about sharing lessons learned and then finding out what you think leadership is and then answering those questions for you. It’s important that we talk about what leadership is and what leadership is not.”

The symposium began with general and company grade officer panels, before moving to the 1917 Club, where they went through speed mentoring sessions.

Officers and senior enlisted leaders rotated between tables of cadets to speak about their careers and to answer any questions.

Gen. Gary Brito, Training and Doctrine Command’s commanding general, spoke to the cadets virtually.

“Thank you so much for starting this journey of leadership,” Brito said to cadets assembled in Fort Jackson’s post theater. He added the cadets will face challenges in their careers and they are getting the “first foundations” of leadership were being taught in their respective ROTC programs.

Brito stressed the significance of non-commissioned officers in the Army and

how basic military skills form the basis of war-fighting readiness.

He stressed that cadets will be commissioned as second lieutenants who are not expected to “be the best battalion commander in the Army,” but rather the “best second lieutenant who will continue to develop the war-fighting skills and leadership within their respective branches.”

They must continue to develop, Brito just that.

“Do take your job seriously,” he said. “Do continue to improve every single day but also understand that our Army exists to fight and win our nation’s wars. So do take that seriously as you continue to make yourself better and provide the best leadership for those you serve with.”

The generals attending in person were:

Lt. Gen. Donna W. Martin, Army Inspector General

Lt. Gen. David Wilson, Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) William Green, Chief of Chaplains

Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Marsiglia, 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support)

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander

Maj. Gen. Patricia R. Wallace, 81st Readiness Division commander

The event is part of a broader Army strategy to develop leaders and increase lethality and warfighting ability.

Field Manual 6-22 states, “Army leaders are the competitive advantage the Army possesses that technology cannot replace nor be substituted by advanced weaponry and platforms. Today’s Army demands trained and ready units with agile, proficient leaders. Developing our leaders is integral to our institutional success today and tomorrow.”

FM 6-22 adds that developing leaders is “an important investment to make for the future of the Army because it builds trust in relationships and units, prepares leaders for future uncertainty, and is critical to readiness and our Army’s success.”



(Top left) Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets listen as Gen. Gary Brito, Training and Doctrine Command commander, speaks during the symposium.

(Above) Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, speaks to a group of cadets during a speed mentoring session held at the 1917 Club, Feb. 21.

(Left) Col. Chesley Thigpen, Adjutant General Corps chief and AG School commandant, speaks about the training officers receive.

(Left middle) A guidon bearer from South Carolina State University’s ROTC program stands at ease while awaiting the arrival of the official party.

(Far left) Lt. Gen. Donna Martin, Army Inspector General, explains the importance of the leadership symposium during a general officer panel, Feb. 21.

Soldier jumps on grenade for comrades, survives

By **KATIE LANGUE**
DOD News

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



While several Medal of Honor recipients heroically threw themselves on top of grenades to keep their comrades safe, very few survived. Army Sgt. John Philip Baca is one of those few. Baca didn't think twice about trying to save his fellow Soldiers in Vietnam. After a long recovery upon his return, he received the nation's highest medal for valor.

Baca was born on Jan. 10, 1949, in Providence, Rhode Island. He was still a baby when the family moved to Boston. At some point, his parents split up. When his mother remarried when he was 10, she moved Baca and his two sisters, Kathy and Judy, to Stockton, California.

By the mid-1960s, they moved to San Diego. Baca went to Kearny High School, which he graduated from in 1967. However, he said in a 2003 Library of Congress Veterans History Project interview that he was often truant and had some visits to juvenile hall, so when he was drafted into the Army in 1969, it was probably a good thing for him.

"I didn't really understand what was going on," he said of his knowledge of the Vietnam War at the time.

After basic training, Baca was shipped to Vietnam in mid-July 1969 and assigned to Company D of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. He was part of a heavy weapons platoon, initially serving as a mortarman before joining a recoilless rifle team.

On Feb. 10, 1970, Baca, then a specialist 4th class, and his platoon volunteered to go with another platoon on a night mission near Quan Loi in Phuoc Province, along the Cambodian border. The first platoon was sent to investigate a trip wire that had gone off ahead of his unit's main position. Quickly, they came under intense enemy fire from concealed positions along the trail.

Baca knew his recoilless rifle team could help the besieged patrol, so he led them through a hail of gunfire to a place where they could fire back within the first patrol's defensive perimeter. Just around that time, a fragmentation grenade landed in their midst.

"It's like time stopped," Baca remembered. "All these thoughts go through my mind, and I knew it was going to go off."

He said he pushed his best friend, Art James, out of the way and warned the rest of the men around him before he unhesitatingly covered the grenade with his steel helmet and fell onto the explosive device, just as it went off.

"It was like slow motion. I just kind of slowly fell on top of it," Baca said. "My whole life flashed through me, and my

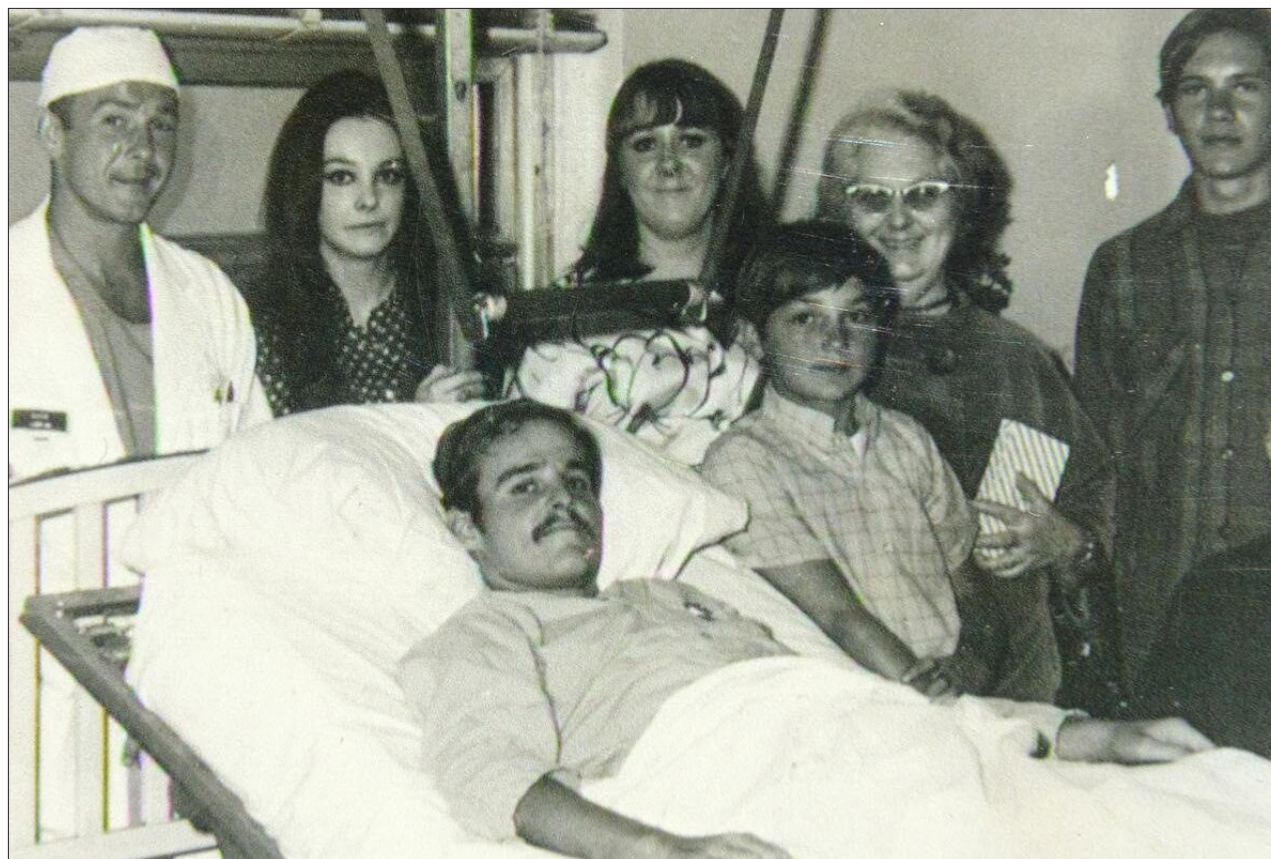


Photo courtesy of JOHN BACA

Spc. 4th Class John P. Baca, a Medal of Honor recipient, receives hospital treatment for gruesome injuries after jumping on a grenade to save his comrades in Vietnam in 1970.

childhood. It was like my mom and my sisters were right in front of me."

The next thing he knew, he was lying on his back.

"I thought I was severed in half. There was no pain," he told the Veterans History Project. "From what I heard, I guess the lieutenant grabbed me by the shirt and pulled me out so they could clear the area."

He said he initially felt a peace and comfort before awareness came back to him.

"I always go back to that moment. I laugh and I cry, just knowing I've been so close to death," Baca said.

While some of the other Soldiers were injured, Baca's actions saved eight men from serious injury or death. Baca was quickly flown by medevac to a military hospital, then transferred to Japan for more serious treatment. He was eventually sent to a naval hospital in San Diego and underwent several surgeries.

Baca spent nearly a full year in hospitals to treat his many wounds. He was discharged from the Army as a sergeant, one day before the anniversary of his heroics.

Baca was notified in early 1971 that he was to receive the Medal of Honor.

In 1973, shortly after his mother passed away unexpect-

edly, Baca took a job at the Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs as a benefits counselor. After a few years, he left the job to attend college at Southern California College in Costa Mesa, California; however, he didn't finish his education. He took a few jobs after that, including as a ski instructor, and he moved around a bit, from the East Coast to Washington state.

Baca eventually settled back in San Diego and bought a fishing boat. He said in his Veterans History Project interview that he returned to Vietnam in 1990 with James, the friend he fought with, and a few other people. Over the course of two months, they helped build a friendship clinic.

"We worked alongside the North Vietnamese. I was 12 kilometers outside Hanoi. ... They just befriended us and loved us," Baca said of the visit. "I saw the love that those people have and the crap that they've gone through. ... I'm glad I went back."

Back in the U.S., Baca's heroics have been remembered in the places he's lived.

Baca has spent the past few decades working with Gold Star families and various veteran- and military-related causes.

DOD will find, bring home loved ones

By **C. TODD LOPEZ**
DOD News

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency held one of the largest-ever family member updates in its history Feb. 22 in Sacramento, California.

Some 380 Gold Star families attended to learn how the agency is proceeding in efforts to repatriate the remains of service members who never returned home from the Vietnam War, the Korean War or World War II.

Around the nation, the DPAA holds several family updates each year so the families of service members who went missing in action can meet with officials one-on-one to discuss the details of their cases. Since 1995, DPAA has conducted these family updates, reaching more than 31,000 family members through face-to-face meetings.

Nearly 82,000 service members still remain unaccounted for from conflicts dating back to World War II. According to

DPAA, 71,981 service members are missing from World War II, 7,444 are missing from the Korean War, 1,573 are missing from the Vietnam War, and 126 are missing from the Cold War.

Finding those service members and bringing them home is the sacred duty of the DPAA, said Fern Sumpter Winbush, the principal deputy director of DPAA.

“Not only is this mission a sacred obligation, but it’s a moral imperative,” she told families. “The agency exists because there are unaccounted for ... there are men and women who gave their ultimate all. We serve the families because you are the ones that are still here. You are relying on us because we’re the only ones that are doing this mission. We’ll continue to put (the) mission first. We’re not going to accept defeat. We’ll never quit, and we’re never going to leave a comrade behind.”

Winbush told family members that the DPAA mission would take recovery operations to 33 territories and countries this year. The

ability to do that requires building relationships with nations around the world to earn the trust needed to gain access. It’s something she said the agency will continue to work on. Right now, she said, there are 10 ongoing missions in Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

Winbush also stressed to families in attendance the importance of getting family member DNA on file.

“We can’t make an identification unless we have something to compare it to,” she said. “For many of the unaccounted-for, we don’t have the proper family reference samples on file. This is one way we work to collect them.”

Also, she noted the number of young people attending the family member update and stressed how important it is that families keep other family members aware that a family member who served overseas never returned home and that the DPAA is still looking for them.

“We need third, fourth, and

even fifth-generation families to stay on top of their loved one’s loss,” Winbush said. “We don’t forget ... we have all of the records. But it’s critically important that you stay on top of it so that the story can continue to be told.”

She said it’s common for DPAA to call families with a notification that a loved one has been found, only to find that some families were unaware or don’t believe what they are being told.

“They don’t know this mission exists,” she said. “They don’t believe that we’re still searching for their great, great uncle (or) father ... from World War II,” she said. “We’ve got to keep all of the families involved.”

As part of the family member update, the DPAA also unveiled its annual poster, which will be used later this year to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Sept. 19, 2025.

This year’s poster was created by artist Jeannie Huffman, the

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SECDEF

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The secretary then turned to his third topic: the reevaluation of the Defense Department’s probationary workforce.

Hegseth pushed back on recent reports that DOD would do across-the-board cuts of all probationary employees.

He said leaders are reevaluating probationary employees “carefully and smartly,” and future manning decisions would be based, in part, on quality of performance.

“We’re starting (cuts) with the poor performers among our probationary employees because it’s common sense that you want the best and brightest,” Hegseth said.

“So, when you look at headcount, we’re going to be thoughtful; but we’re also going to be aggressive up and down the chain to find the places where we can ensure the best and brightest are promoted based on merit,” he continued.

Hegseth added DOD will implement a hiring freeze to take time to identify better hiring practices as they relate to finding the most “hard charging” employees that are central to the department’s core warfighting mission.

The secretary finished his remarks by returning to the topic of transparency and the value he sees in communicating directly to the people.

“Our warfighters and taxpayers deserve no less, and we’ll keep reporting back to you from time to time on what we’re seeing,” Hegseth said.



Happy Retirement

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Fort Jackson saluted the careers of Sgt. 1st Class Shameeka A. Jones from the 1st Engineer Brigade out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; and Earnest P. Woodhouse from the 415th Sustainment/Readiness Center (LRC) at Fort Jackson; and Cheryl L. Woodhouse from the Columbia Recruiting Battalion, during the Basic Combat Training graduation ceremony Feb. 20.

Events

Continued from Page 4

on what resources, and services available to family of children and adults with special needs and/or disabilities in the surrounding community. For more information, call (803) 751-5256 (Option 3).

Investing in the Digital Age Webinar

9-10:30 a.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service, in partnership with the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission will provide valuable information on the basics of saving and investing, including steps to start to grow wealth and diversification. Webinar, via Microsoft Teams, will also cover the red flags of fraud and crypto currency investment and risks. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-5256 (option 3).

MARCH 8 Offshore Fishing Trip

5 a.m., Marion Street Station. Join Outdoor Recreation on a trip to Hilton Head, S.C., for a deep sea fishing trip. The trip will go 3-5 miles offshore for black sea bass, macerel, black drum, red fish, bluefish and maybe even a shark. 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. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

FJ Memorial Bataan Death March

6 a.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. Honor the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II. Participants can select from a full route 26.2 miles or honorary route 14.2 miles. A 35-pound rucksack is optional both male and female. The first 25 to register online get a free t-shirt. Registration begins March 1, but is no required to attend. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

MARCH 22-23

Spring Family Campout

4 p.m. March 22 to 10 a.m. March 23, Twin Lakes Park. This family-friendly overnight primitive camping event will include these fun activities: games, fishing, s'mores, connect four, arts & crafts and more. Rental items available: tents, cots, sleeping bags and more. Event costs \$20 per adult and \$15 per child. For information and to sign up, call Marion Street Station at (803) 751-3484.

MARCH 27

Arm Wrestling Competition

5:30 - 7 p.m., Vanguard Gym. Come out and try your hand, or arm, in the Sports and Fitness Arm Wrestling Competition. For more information, call (803) 751-4256.

APRIL 5

Youth Golf Fun

9 a.m. to noon, Fort Jackson Golf Club. Youth golfers will go through three stations available (Putting, Chipping & Driving range). Please bring clubs (not required to participate). Pre-registration

March 31. For more information and to register call (803) 751-4344.

APRIL 18

Youth Archery Class

10 a.m. to noon. This class shows youths ages 8-17 the proper form and technique to safely shoot. Register at Marion Street Station, or call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 19

Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. to noon, Twin Lakes Park. Join Fort Jackson for an exciting Easter weekend with an egg hunt for kids with more than 2,000 eggs. There will be inflatables at the event. Can you find the golden ticket? Participants must bring their own basket or bag. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 25

CYS Family Fun Fair

4:30-6:30 p.m., Patriots Park. Come and join the fun. There will be food trucks, games, rides and more.

DID YOU KNOW: Carbon-monoxide is deadly. It is an odorless, colorless gas produced by burning any type of fuel (gas, oil, kerosene, wood, charcoal). Ensure proper ventilation when burning fuels.

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.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
	GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	REVIVE SERVICE	SUNDAY	5 P.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
	HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	POST THEATER
	ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
	JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:15-11:30 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	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



Photo by SENIOR AIRMAN KATHY DURAN

Service members assigned to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency prepare to conduct an honorable carry ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Jan. 28, 2025.

DOD

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daughter of Navy Cmdr. Edward James Jacobs Jr., a Vietnam War pilot who never came home. He went missing Aug. 25, 1967, while piloting an RA-3B Skywarrior aircraft over the Gulf of Tonkin in North Vietnam.

When her father left for Vietnam, Huffman was only two weeks old. She was just five months old when her mother learned her father went missing. She said her father had been able to hold her as an infant before he deployed for the war, but there's no record of that for her to look at today.

"One thing that kind of bothers me ... I have no photos of that," she said. "I wish I had a picture of him and me, and I don't."

I WISH I HAD A PICTURE OF HIM AND ME, AND I DON'T ...

- Jeannie Huffman,
Artist and Gold Star family member

Back in 2018, Huffman attended her first DPAA family member update in Greensboro, North Carolina. There was not a lot of information then about recovery efforts for her father, and this was because her father had been put into a non-recoverable status.

Huffman's husband, Dave, explained what had happened.

"In 1993, when previous iterations of what's now the DPAA (were) charged with the mission, there was an order that came out to try to touch as many sites as possible," he said. "They got in a boat and went out to the grid coordinates of the last known location of the airplane and

said there's no visible wreckage."

That finding resulted in Jacobs and the crewmen he was with being deemed unrecoverable — which stood until January 2024. However, the two did their own research and were later able to convince DPAA to begin anew in an effort to find Jeanie Huffman's father.

"We had a meeting with the DPAA in Washington, D.C., and we presented our research and investigation to them in November of 2023, and they revisited his case, and now his case and the two crewmen that were with him have all been changed from non-recoverable to active pursuit," Dave Huffman said.

This year's DPAA annual poster is not Jeannie Huffman's first for the agency. However, it is the first time one of her works will be used as part of the agency's official National POW/MIA Recognition Day commemoration.

HOW ARE YOU TRAINING FOR?



COMING MARCH 8

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN MARCH 1 - JUNE 14



AER CELEBRATES THE U.S. ARMY'S
250 YEARS OF BRAVERY AND SERVICE

HONORING THE PAST 1775 - 2025 SECURING THE FUTURE



VICTORY... STARTS HERE



A drill sergeant candidates rappels down Victory Tower as a part of the graduation requirements for the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy.

Photo by STAFF SGT. DANA CLARKE