

THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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THERE AND BACK AGAIN



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Army establishes AI career path

U.S. Army Communication and Outreach Office

The Army has established a new career pathway for officers to specialize in artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), formally designating the 49B AI/ML Officer as an official area of concentration. It advances the Army's ongoing transformation into a data-centric and AI-enabled force.

Full implementation of the new career field will be phased. The first selection of officers will occur through the Army's Volunteer Transfer Incentive Program (VTIP) beginning January 2026. The officers will be reclassified by the end of fiscal year 2026.

"This is a deliberate and crucial step in keeping pace with present and future operational requirements," said Lt. Col. Orlandon Howard, Army spokesperson. "We're building a dedicated cadre of in-house experts who will be at the forefront of integrating AI and machine learning across our warfighting functions."

Initially, the 49B AOC will be open to all officers eligible for the VTIP. Those with advanced academic and technical backgrounds in fields related to AI/ML will be particularly competitive candidates. The Army is also exploring expanding this specialized field to include warrant officers in the future.

Officers selected for the 49B AOC will undergo rigorous graduate-level



Photo by CPL. MICAH WILSON

Soldiers conduct drone test flights and software troubleshooting. The Army recently established new career paths for artificial intelligence and machine learning.

el training and gain hands-on experience in building, deploying, and maintaining the Army's cutting-edge AI-enabled systems. Their primary role will be to operationalize these advanced capabilities across the range of military operations.

The strategic purpose of this new MOS is to provide the Army with a core group of uniformed experts who can accelerate the integration of AI and machine learning. These specialists will apply their talents to a wide range of applications, including:

- Accelerating battlefield decision-making: Enabling commanders

to make faster, more informed decisions in complex environments.

- Streamlining logistics: Optimizing supply chain and maintenance operations.

- Supporting robotics and autonomous systems: Fielding and managing the next generation of battlefield robotics.

"Establishing the 49B AI/ML career path is another key investment to maintain our decisive edge as an Army," said Howard. "Ultimately, it's about building a force that can out-think, outpace, and outmaneuver any adversary."

Student named SC speech ambassador

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School

We are proud to announce that C. C. Pinckney Elementary School's second grade student Silas Cotterman has been selected as a recipient of the South Carolina Speech and Hearing Association Ambassador Award—a special honor that recognizes growth, perseverance, and advocacy in communication and learning.



Silas Cotterman

Silas was nominated for this award by Dr. Kerrie Ammons, Speech Language Pathologist, in recognition of his effort, resilience, and progress in developing communication skills. The SCSHA Ambassador Award highlights students who demonstrate engagement and determination while participating in speech language services, and Silas's selection reflects both his commitment as a learner and the strong support he receives from his educational team.

Speech language pathologists play an important role in helping students build the communication skills needed for academic success and social confidence. The early elementary years are especially important for strengthening listening, speaking, and language abilities, and recognition such as this celebrates the positive impact of early intervention and meaningful support.

As part of this honor, Silas will be invited in May to meet the Governor of South Carolina when the Governor signs the annual Better Speech and Hearing Proclamation for the state. This special opportunity highlights the importance of speech, language, and hearing services for children and families across South Carolina and allows young learners to see how advocacy can make a difference.

Silas will also be formally recognized at the South Carolina Speech and Hearing Association Convention, held at the end of January 2026.

ON THE COVER

Trainees load buses at the Solomon Center as they head to the various departure nodes as they head home on Victory Block Leave. They started to leave Dec. 15 and returned Jan. 2.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Army standardizes drill sergeant headgear to campaign hats

By **HUNTER RHOADES**

Center for Initial Military Training

Beginning Jan. 2, all brave volunteers will be greeted by the iconic campaign hat, as the Army has canceled all future procurement of the women's bush hat and authorized the campaign hat to be worn by all current, and future, drill sergeants.

"There's a single standard when screening and certifying noncommissioned officers for service as a drill sergeant, a single standard that we hold all serving drill sergeants to, and moving forward, there will be a single standard drill sergeant uniform" said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McMurdy, senior enlisted advisor to the commanding general of the Center for Initial Military Training. "Drill sergeants are the standard bearers for the Initial Military Training environment, and we solicited, consolidated, and incorporated their feedback to improve the Drill Sergeant Program moving forward."

Drill sergeants are noncommissioned officers within the Army tasked with building the next generation of warfighters every day. These NCOs epitomize the Army Values, live the Warrior Ethos, and instill discipline in the individuals who volunteer to serve within the world's greatest fighting force.

These NCOs are authorized to wear the campaign hat and the Drill Sergeant Badge to identify themselves as masters of all Skill Level 1 Tasks and some of the nation's most qualified Soldiers placed in positions of responsibility tasked with transforming volunteers into Soldiers.

The campaign hat's origin dates to 1872, when American Soldiers wore the hat to protect themselves against sun, wind, and rain. In 1964, the Army established the Drill Sergeant Program and authorized the campaign hat as the official headgear of currently serving drill sergeants. In 1971, the Chief of Staff of the Army approved the expansion of the Drill Sergeant Program to include female soldiers. In February 1972, six Women's Auxiliary Corps NCOs were enrolled in the Drill Sergeant School (now known as the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy) located at the Army Training Center, Fort Jackson.

Upon their graduation from the Drill Sergeant School, these six NCOs were authorized to wear the "women's drill sergeant hat" designed to model the Australian bush hat.

Since 1964, over 142,000 NCOs have proudly served as drill sergeants, with over 38,000 of those donning the bush hat.

Sgt. 1st Class Sarah Escarcega, 2023 Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia Drill Sergeant of the Year said she is glad to see the standardization occurring.

"When I was the Maneuver DSOY, the bush hat distinguished female drill sergeants who were held to the same



Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS DANA CLARKE

Staff Sgt. Joanna Romero, a drill sergeant leader assigned to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, tries on a campaign hat at Fort Jackson, Nov. 24, 2025. The campaign hat became the official drill sergeant hat for females, Jan. 2.

standard as their male counterparts yet had a separate uniform", Escarcega said. "Standardizing the headgear for all drill sergeants is directly aligned with every other standard that NCOs are held to when they serve as drill sergeants. I'm glad that Army Senior Leaders decided to

listen to current and past drill sergeants to move away from the bush hat and continue putting our people first".

Annually, CIMT conducts multiple surveys of cur-

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Education Center is back

We are back. The Education Center's services are fully operational. Soldiers do not need to make an appointment for counseling services. Walk-In customers are welcomed. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday.

The Biggest Loser

The annual Biggest Loser wellness program began Jan. 5. The program is a 90-day starter program customized to help you on your wellness journey and costs \$60. Participants can choose from the following categories: weight loss; fitness and performance; and lifestyle change. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

Spring Sports Registration

Registration is now open for the 2026 spring sports season. The costs are baseball/softball: (ages 9-12) \$50; flag football: (ages 7-15) \$50; soccer: (ages 2-4) \$30; ages (5-14) \$50; track: (ages 5-14) \$50; and volleyball: (ages 7-12) \$50. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-7451.

1917 Club Hours

The 1917 CLUB is open Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday and Friday 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Short order menu available. Soul Food Thursday Buffet takes place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meals cost \$15 per person and \$15 for a to-go meal. Come and join us for a wide variety and different choices every day on our lunch menu, featuring all your favorites including our heart-healthy options plus a full salad and dessert bar. Don't pass up our Southern Style Fried Chicken. Call (803) 743-6525 for delivery or take-out.

POV Sales Lot

The POV Sales Lot, operated by Auto Craft Shop, located at the corner parking

lot of the Strom Thurmond Building off Marion Ave. Here you can sell your vehicles, boats, trailers, recreational vehicles, and motorcycles. You must have a government ID or be the immediate family member of a government ID Cardholder, proof of registration and insurance to park on the POV Sales Lot. The cost is \$25 per vehicle for 30 days and this includes being advertised on the Fort Jackson Auto Craft webpage.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY

Bounce House Bonanza

9 a.m. to noon, MWR Central at the Solomon Center. Want to stay warm this winter and let out your energy? Join Outdoor Recreation at MWR Central-Solomon Center for hours of jumping and sliding during our Bounce House Bonanza. Pre-register at MWR Central or by calling (803) 751-3484. The event costs \$7 per person, \$10 for walk ins.

TUESDAY

Indoor Ultimate Frisbee Tournament

6 p.m., MWR Central at the Solomon Center. Coaches/players interest meeting are held until Monday. A valid Department of Defense ID card required to participate. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

JAN. 15, 22 AND 29

Infant Massage Class

10-11:30 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road. Army Community Service's New Parent Support Program is hosting an infant massage class series for parents and babies. Discover the power of touch and strengthen the bond with your baby through our Infant Massage Class Series. This four-week program will guide parents in learning techniques to help soothe, comfort, and connect with their little ones. Registration is required as spots are limited. For more information, or to register, call (803) 751-6325

JAN. 21

2026 Winter Education and Career Fair
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1917 Club. Come out and visit with over 60 employers with vacant positions and educational institutions. This event is free.

JAN. 22

Can't Dodge This Dodgeball Tourney
MWR Central at the Solomon Center. Participants must have a Department of Defense ID card to participate. A letter of intent is due prior to participation meeting held Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. Sign-up sheets are available at all gym facilities. For more information or to sign up, call (803) 751-3096 or (803) 751-3700.

JAN. 24

Privately Owned Weapons Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Range. Shooters can shoot at targets between 25m and 200m. Paper targets, spotting scopes, tables and chairs are provided. Patrons can shoot rifle or pistol at a day rate or on an hourly rate. Pre-register at Outdoor Recreation-\$25 per person for all day (4 hours) \$10 per person per hour (pre-register), \$15 per person per hour (day on-site/cash only). All weapons must be registered on post. No automatic weapons or .50 cal allowed. Participants must be more than 12 years old, with those under 17 must be accompanied by an adult. The event is open to all authorized Department of Defense ID card holders. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at (803) 751-3484.

JAN. 31

Magician/Comedian Show

3 p.m. and 7 p.m., MWR Central. Magician and comedian Michael Kent is coming to MWR Central-Solomon Center. There will be two shows. 3 p.m. matinee which is free for children and a 7 p.m. show for adults. The show costs \$10.

FEB. 5

Fort Jackson

Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

JAN. 10

■ Mercy (PG-13)
Free Showing

JAN. 14

■ Highest to Lowest (R)

JAN. 17

■ 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple (R)

- All shows start at 2 p.m.
- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

Post Newcomers Orientation

8 a.m., 1917 Club. This orientation is mandatory for all Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians arriving at Fort Jackson. Spouses are encouraged to attend. This will be a great opportunity for spouses to receive first-hand information about the valuable available resources on and around Fort Jackson. For more information, call Army Community Service at 751-5256.

FEB. 21

Fort Gordon Trail Ride

8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fort Gordon, Georgia. Join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation for a horseback trail ride at the Fort Gordon Horse Stables. Novice or pro, this guided ride will be great for those looking for an outdoor adventure.

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.

Year in Review

Jackson enjoys National Night Out

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This article is part of a retrospect of main events on Fort Jackson in 2025. The full article can be found at: <https://www.army.mil/article/288731>)

Post law enforcement and the Fort Jackson community came together Aug. 5 at Patriot Park during National Night Out.

National Night Out is celebrated on the first Tuesday in August, aimed at bringing law enforcement and the community closer together.

The annual event is “a national-level community building campaign to improve the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve,” said John Hughes, director of Fort Jackson’s Directorate of Emergency Services.

It is also “an opportunity to build trust and bonds,” said Col. David Gaugush, garrison commander. (It also provides an avenue for the community to) “express gratitude and thanks for what law enforcement does and what for their sacrifices on behalf of us and our Families.”

Hughes agreed saying interacting with the public is “the most critical thing we do.”

“It’s about building trust,” he added. “Without that trust, there’s no partnership and there’s no ability for us to effectively police the installation.” of Outdoor Recreation’s rental check out recently closed it doors.

“Safety and security is a shared responsibility,” Gaugush said. The community requires the assistance of law enforcement to do be safe and secure, and law enforcement requires the cooperation of the community.

Representatives from on and off post law enforcement agencies were on hand to greet the public.



Leader file photo

Col. David G. Gaugush salutes after assuming command of U.S. Army Garrison - Fort Jackson during a ceremony held June 17, 2025 at Victory Hall on post.

Post welcomes new garrison commander

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This article is part of a retrospect of main events on Fort Jackson in 2025. The full article can be found at: <https://www.army.mil/article/286510>)

Fort Jackson welcomed Col. David G.

Gaugush as garrison commander in a ceremony, June 17.

Gaugush took command from Col. Timothy Hickman in an event held at Victory Field.

Gaugush comes to Fort Jackson from Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he was chief of staff for the 1st Special Forces

Command (Airborne).

He officially began his first tour at Fort Jackson when he received the garrison colors from William Kidd, director, IM-COM-Training Directorate.

The main portion of the change of command ceremony is the passing of the garrison colors. The colors are the commander’s symbol of authority, representing his responsibilities to the organization. The garrison colors are present wherever the garrison commander is.

“Competence is not enough,” Kidd said during the ceremony. “You have to be the best, doing your best each and every day, and the best is what Fort Jackson got from Col. Hickman. Fort Jackson is about people, for people, producing people for the Army, and his leadership focused on people.”

Hickman invested in his team to build a “high-performing team,” Kidd added.

Gaugush is now in charge of every day operations of the installation, and overseeing the civilians who keep the post’s infrastructure running. The garrison is run by “skilled, dedicated hands of (Department of the) Army Civilians, contractors and volunteers” who operate the post.

“We warmly welcome Col. Gaugush and his wife, and their Family to the IM-COM team and to the helm of the garrison here at Fort Jackson,” Kidd said to the new commander.

New faces in new places

Jackson welcomed new commanders in 2025





Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

VBL is like home for the holidays

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

There were many firsts at Fort Jackson in 2025 including the first back-to-back change of responsibility ceremonies. But, it was the first holiday season away from home for the trainees and recruits on post.

They would stop training in December to head home for the holidays in the Army's tradition of holiday block leave, or as it's called at Fort Jackson, Victory Block Leave.

In a letter to trainees' Family member back home, Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, and Post Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Shoaf wrote they were, "pleased that your aspiring Soldier can return home and spend this holiday season with Family and friends."

They began heading home Dec. 15. While some trainees and cadre went home, some did not for a variety of reasons. Those who stayed behind were given an experience that was as close to home as possible.

The surrounding community played an important part in helping those trainees feel at home for the holidays.

As part of the Adopt 2 Soldiers program, Midlands residents took trainees into their homes for a home cooked Christmas dinner. The USO also assisted in giving them a memorable break through parties at Camp McCrady.

The trainees also visited a light show in Lexington, South Carolina, strolled through a festively-lighted Segra Field and Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia.

The holdovers were thankful to be treated so warmly.

Pfc. Fortune Arijo said she was "very grateful" because a lot of people "don't have family or friends and have to spend the holidays by themselves."

It made her "realized how much gratitude I have," she added. "because not very many people have the opportunity that we have as Soldiers."

For Spc. Kiroles Youkem it helped him grow closer to his fellow Soldiers.

"We are like a family together," he said. "We get together and celebrate Christmas together ..." He added it meant a lot to celebrate Christmas together as a family.

Trainees and cadre returned to Fort Jackson Jan. 2 to begin training again.

(Clockwise from top left) Trainees file past volunteers to receive bottles of water and other goodies as they wait at the Solomon Center for transportation home for Victory Block Leave, Dec. 15.

Soldiers who didn't head home for the holidays receive hot chocolate during an event held in their honor. Volunteers and the employees from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation helped the holdovers to have a memorable holiday at Fort Jackson.

Holdovers are served a traditional Christmas dinner.

Trainees collaborate to put together a puzzle during a Christmas party held at Camp McCrady. The surrounding community played an important part in helping trainees feel at home during the holidays by hosting them in their homes. The holdovers were also treated to various holiday light displays across the Columbia, S.C. area including the Riverbanks Zoo, Segra Park and Saluda Shoals Park.

Year in Review



Leader file photo

Post Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Shoaf salutes Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Aug. 15, 2025..

Jackson welcomes Shoaf as post sergeant major

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This article is part of a retrospect of main events on Fort Jackson in 2025. The full article can be found at: <https://www.army.mil/article/288002>)

Fort Jackson welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Shoaf, home to South Carolina and as its senior enlisted leader during a ceremony held Aug. 15 on Victory Field.

Shoaf assumed responsibility for the Army Training Center and Fort Jackson from Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs.

The ceremony was bittersweet as Shoaf was welcomed into Team Jackson while Ochs bid farewell.

Shoaf, from North Augusta, South

Carolina, officially took over after receiving the unit colors from Fort Jackson Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood.

The passing of the colors is the first official act Shoaf will complete as Fort Jackson's senior enlisted advisor.

Hood said the ceremony is "truly a representation of a transition," and that he is "very pleased" to be part of Team Jackson.

"It's been my privilege and pleasure to see your phenomenal efforts ... that didn't just start when I arrived, but happened back on March 10, 2023, when you assumed responsibility," said Hood to Ochs during the ceremony. "I do want to say, thanks so much for being my battle buddy, for being on that is not only

my advisor, but can also help me to check the azimuth and adjust as necessary.

Even though it was tough seeing Ochs go, Hood said he was "excited" for Shoaf taking over.

"I'm excited for you," said Hood who presided over the ceremony. "I've known your background and your reputation. You know, at this level, your character precedes you just like your reputation ... Your assignment history certainly speaks volumes in and of itself."

Shoaf enlisted in the Army as a military policeman in 1997. He has held multiple leadership positions in his career including first sergeant, battalion and brigade command sergeant major, and regimental command sergeant major for the Military Police Corps Regiment.

MWR Central opens

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This article is part of a retrospect of main events on Fort Jackson in 2025. The full article can be found at: <https://www.army.mil/article/288731>)

MWR Central opened in the Solomon Center to large crowds and fanfare, Sept. 19.

Col. David Gaugush, garrison commander, said the location is to be the hub of where our Soldiers, their Family members, our veterans, retirees and the thousands of visitors each week can spend quality time with their Families.

He said Fort Jackson was excited about reopening Andy's Gym that expanded the fitness footprint on post.

"What is unique about this is that we are offering on-site, hourly childcare," he added. This is in response to challenges across the Army where "families are burdened by the fact its challenging for them to go and take care of themselves, while doing the parent-child hand-off. We are offering the opportunity for them to have their children be looked after while they are here getting a good workout."

The reopening is part of the post's focus to offer the best quality of life for service members and their families.

We have taken several "disaggregated facilities and services across the installation and brought them to a more centralized location where they can be more easily accessed," he added.

The services that moved into MWR Central includes Outdoor Recreation rental check out. Marion Street Station, the former home of Outdoor Recreation's rental check out recently closed its doors.



Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS DANA CLARKE

Staff Sgt. Vanessa Ortiz, a drill sergeant leader assigned to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, adjusts her campaign hat at Fort Jackson, Nov. 24, 2025. The campaign hat became the official drill sergeant hat for females, Jan. 2.

Hats

Continued from Page 2

Currently serving drill sergeants and drill sergeant candidates on ways to improve the Drill Sergeant Program.

Some of the consolidated data since Fiscal Year 2023 indicates:

- Roughly 70% of the drill sergeants surveyed expressed a desire to switch from the bush hat to the campaign hat.

- More than 60% of drill sergeants surveyed believed that the campaign hat had a more professional appearance compared to the bush hat.

In recent years, manufacturers have struggled to provide a quality product of bush hats that meet the Army standard and to date no industry partner has been willing to accept the contract to produce more. This problem has been plaguing the female drill sergeant population for nearly a decade, forcing the Army to solicit feedback from the force on ways to improve.

As the 2010 U.S. Army Reserve DSOY Sgt. Maj. Melissa Solomon is glad to see the standardization occurring.

“When I served as the DSOY, the bush hat distinguished female drill sergeants that successfully completed the course and served honorably with their

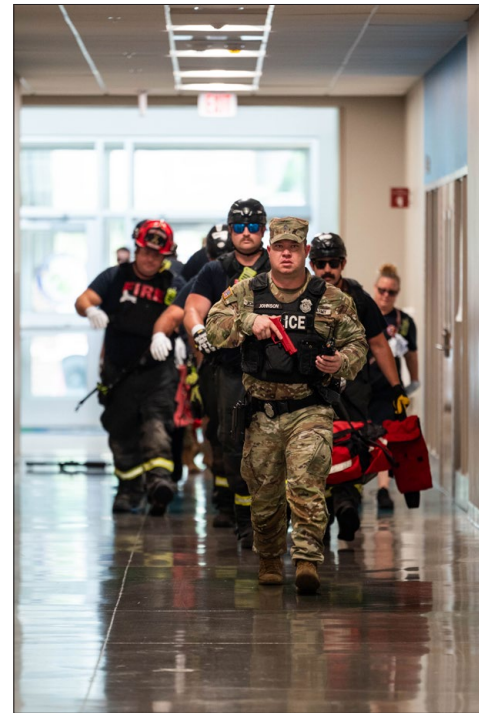
male counterparts. With deep respect to the bush hat history, I believe a change is necessary to mitigate product quality issues I witnessed first-hand as the Drill Sergeant Academy deputy commandant and reinforce uniformity during the critical transformation of a civilian into a Soldier.”

Consolidated data beginning in 2023 informed U.S. Army Transformation and Training Command, who, with support from the Program Executive Office Soldier, presented a solution to the Army Uniform Board. The 158th AUB convened in 2025 and decided to recommend the unified drill sergeant campaign hat. The AUB’s annual process ensures issued uniforms align total force requirements.

Female drill sergeants currently serving on the trail are authorized to draw two campaign hats to wear with a single effective date of Jan. 2, 2026. This change eliminates trainee confusion and enables an efficient and effective transition from civilian to Army warfighter.

“Every member of society understands the importance of the U.S. Army drill sergeant and the iconic headgear associated with the time-honored position as a symbol of excellence,” said Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Matlock, the Army’s 2024. “This single standard will eliminate any confusion among the training population, the American public, and cadre regarding all standards for serving as a drill sergeant.”

Year in Review



The post’s memorable 2025 included many events including a full scale exercise (left), an E3B competition (middle), and a loud, raucous Independence Day celebration (bottom).

There were also multiple changes of command/responsibility where new leaders took the charge of ensuring the Army’s readiness.

Families were also celebrated in multiple events throughout the year.



What are off-limits establishments, where are Fort Jackson's?

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Did you know there are places in the surrounding community that are off-limits to Soldiers assigned to Fort Jackson?

It is highly recommended that all retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees stay away from these establishments.

Fort Jackson's Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board, chaired by the garrison commander and comprising representatives of various agencies on post, including law enforcement, staff judge advocate, public affairs, fire and safety, and health officials, makes recommendations to the post commander to add businesses to the list.

Commanders can place establishments off limits if there is a history of misconduct, crime or other behaviors that would be detrimental to the good order and discipline of our military members.

According to Army Regulation 190-24 "Off-limits restrictions should be invoked only when there is substantive information indicating that an establishment or area frequented by Armed Forces personnel presents conditions, which adversely affect their health, safety, welfare, morale, or morals."

There are a wide variety of reasons an establishment can be placed off limits including violent crimes, illegal alcohol sales, predatory lending and unfair business practices.

The AFDCB goes through a specific process before



placing an establishment on the list. First, the board must receive a complaint. Then, board members of local authorities conduct an investigation and mail a memorandum to the offending company, informing it of the problems it causes and potential ramifications if it continues to do so.

The business owner may submit a rebuttal, meet the board or change the behavior.

If the company fails to respond, it goes on the list.

Businesses on the list are:

- Richland Terrace Apartments, 1212 Metze Road, Columbia, SC 29210
- Rumba VIP Night Club, aka Club Tropicana, 1745 Decker Blvd, Columbia, SC 29206
- Harbour Landing Apartments, 7625 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209
- Lake Shore Apartments, 7645 Garners Ferry Road,

Columbia, SC 29209

- Club Kandyland, 1700 Block, Percival Road, Columbia, SC 29206

- Faces Lounge, 1709 Decker Blvd, Columbia, SC 29206

- Darrell's Place, 1727 Percival Road, Columbia, SC 29223

- Unlicensed bar/club, 6912 Cabin Creek Road, Hopkins SC 29061

- Hookah on the River, 2700D Broad River Road, Columbia SC 29210

- Exquisite Events Center, 2700A Broad River Road, Columbia SC 29210

- Tropical Breeze Bar and Grill, 1004 Zimalcrest Dr., Columbia SC 29210

- My Place, 7720 Claudia Dr., Columbia SC 29223

- Rose Gold, 2219 Broad River Road, Columbia SC 29210

- Tropical Breeze Bar and Grill, 3722 River Drive, Columbia SC 29201

Military personnel observed in off-limits establishments are in violation of a lawful general order and are subject to apprehension for violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Conduct. Off-limits establishments are also prohibited from advertising on the installation. For more information, call the Directorate of Emergency Services at (803) 751-1682.

The AFDCB meets again Jan. 13.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP

CATHOLIC MASS
CATHOLIC MASS
GOSPEL SERVICE
GENERAL PROTESTANT
REVIVE SERVICE
JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE

DAY

SUNDAY
MONDAY-FRIDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
FRIDAY

TIME

9:30-10:30 A.M.
NOON
10:30 A.M.
11 A.M. TO NOON
5 P.M.
6-7 P.M.

PLACE

MAIN POST CHAPEL
MAIN POST CHAPEL
KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
MAIN POST CHAPEL
MAIN POST CHAPEL
CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING

CATHOLIC MASS
PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE
CHURCH OF CHRIST
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE

DAY

SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY

TIME

8-9 A.M.
9:30-10:30 A.M.
9-10 A.M.
11 A.M. to NOON

PLACE

SOLOMON CENTER
SOLOMON CENTER
CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
SOLOMON CENTER (1st and 3rd Sundays)
SOLOMON CENTER (2nd and 4th Sundays)
LIGHTNING CHAPEL
LIGHTNING CHAPEL
120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only)

GOSPEL SERVICE

SUNDAY

11 A.M. to NOON

ANGLICAN
ISLAMIC SERVICE
JEWISH SERVICE

SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY

9:30-10 A.M.
8-9 A.M.
10:30-11:30 A.M.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER DAY SAINTS

SUNDAY

10:30 A.M. to NOON

CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL



Leader file photo

Soldiers speak with prospective employers and educational institutions during a Fort Jackson Education and Career Fair.

Career, Education Fair set for Jan. 21

By **TIMOTHY JONES**
Transition Assistance Program

Fort Jackson will hold its next Career and Education Fair, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 21, at the 1917 Club, located at 5700 Liberty Division Road.

This highly anticipated event is being coordinated by the Transition Assistance Program, Army Continuing Education System, and Army Community Service. The fair is open to the entire community and offers a unique opportunity for individuals to explore career and educational pathways.

The Career and Education Fair is designed to connect transitioning service members, veterans, military spouses, and the broader community with valuable resources to support their professional and academic goals. The event is projected to feature 40 employers and 30 educational institutions, providing attendees with a diverse range of opportunities to engage with organizations dedicated to helping individuals succeed in their next chapter.

Participants will have the chance to meet representatives from local, regional, and national companies offering employment opportunities across various industries. Additionally, colleges and universities will be present to share in-

formation on degree programs, certifications, and other educational options. Whether you are seeking a new career, considering higher education, or exploring professional development opportunities, this event is tailored to meet your needs.

The Career and Education Fair reflects Fort Jackson's commitment to supporting the military community and fostering connections that lead to meaningful opportunities. By bringing together TAP, ACES, and ACS, the event ensures a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of attendees.

Mark your calendars for Jan. 21 and join us at Fort Jackson for this exciting event. Whether you are transitioning out of the military, seeking new opportunities, or looking to expand your education, the Career and Education Fair is the perfect place to start. Don't miss this chance to take the next step toward your future.

Across grade levels, PTES students demonstrated that learning is at its best when it blends creativity, exploration, and academic standards. Whether counting handprint lights or painting snowy scenes, these young artists are not only celebrating the season—they are lighting up their school with curiosity and pride.

Turning financial resolutions into results

By **SHELTON THELISMON**
Army Community Service

As members of the military and Department of the Army civilian workforce, being goal-oriented is part of our culture. We are trained to identify an end state and apply discipline and effort to achieve it.

However, setting our minds on a task does not automatically mean we will accomplish it or accomplish it to standard.

A useful exercise is to reflect on the financial resolutions we set on Jan. 1, 2025. Were those resolutions achieved? If not, why? What obstacles prevented progress? What can we do differently in 2026?

While not all encompassing, three common reasons explain why financial resolutions fall short.

First, resolutions are often disconnected from a long-term vision.

A resolution should support where you ultimately want to go, not exist in isolation. When annual resolutions are not tied to long term goals, they become distractions rather than enablers of success.

Think of this like land navigation. Finding individual points means little if you fail to account for returning to the start point within the allotted time. As author Stephen Covey wrote, we must begin with the end in mind.

If your long-term goal is to retire from the military with financial security, but your resolutions do not include contributing consistently to your Thrift Savings Plan or an Individual Retirement Account, your actions are not aligned with your vision.

Second, resolutions are not broken into measurable goals.

We are familiar with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time Bound) goals, yet we often overlook measurability in practice.

Continuing the land navigation analogy, we do not simply set an azimuth and hope for the best. Are we tracking our pace count? Are we using attack points to confirm we are on course?

Financial goals work the same way. If your resolution is to maximize your TSP (\$24,500 in 2026), the measurable goal becomes determining how much you must contribute each pay period and monitoring progress throughout the year.

Lastly, resolutions are often too rigid.

Discipline is critical, but life is dynamic. Missions change, and so do personal circumstances. Just as terrain does not always match the map, financial plans must adapt. If a major life event occurs, such as the birth of a child, it may be necessary to adjust contributions or reprioritize goals.

Flexibility is not failure. It is realism.

As you set or revisit your financial resolutions this year, ensure they are aligned with your long-term vision, translated into measurable goals, and flexible enough to adjust when circumstances change.

Financial success is rarely about perfection. It is about consistent progress over time.

For morning information on setting and achieving financial goals, call Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program at (803) 751-5256 or visit 9810 Liberty Division Road.

Photo Studio appointment process explained

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The Fort Jackson Photo Studio is open and there may be some confusion how to set up an appointment. The Visual Information Ordering Site has sunset, and Fort Jackson does not currently support requests through the Army Enterprise Service Management Platform. All those wishing to set up an appointment must email the Fort Jackson Photo Studio at fortjacksonphotostudio@army.mil. Walk-ins are not accepted.

The photo studio is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30 a.m. and from 1-3 p.m..

Exception: On the first Thursday of each

month, the studio will be closed from 1-2 p.m.

Please make your appointments in 20-minute increments (i.e., 9 a.m., 9:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m., etc.) If your proposed time is already taken, your appointment will be moved to the next available slot and you will receive a confirmation request.

The Photo Studio is available for command (head & shoulders) photos only. Department of the Army photos (3/4 length) are not being scheduled/taken due to no system being available to upload them.

Photos for drill sergeants in Basic Combat Training units are taken at MVP Studios. Those photos must be requested at MVP Studios, across from Perez Gym.

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



American and Army flags adorn a wreath during the Wreaths Across America event held at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery, Dec. 13, 2025.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE