

THURSDAY, JAN. 16, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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Carter's legacy honored with full military splendor

By MAJ WES SHINEGO
DOD News

Former President Jimmy Carter, the nation's 39th chief executive, returned to Washington last week in a final procession that fused his unique connection to the city with the enduring pageantry of American military honors.

From his early White House days — when he balked at the presidency's ceremonial norms — to his final trip to the capital — where he received the full pageantry of a state funeral — Carter's journey underscores how deeply he shaped, and was shaped by, the city he once sought to reform.

Carter's final Washington homecoming began Jan. 7 in Georgia, where crowds gathered to pay respects during a departure ceremony at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta. Pallbearers from the Joint Armed Forces Body Bearer team escorted Carter's remains, while the 282nd Army Band — performing in support of Joint Task Force-National Capital Region — played "Amazing Grace" and "Blessed Assurance."

The motorcade delivered Carter's body to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, where four Ruffles and Flourishes, a rendition of "Hail to the Chief," and a 21-gun salute honored the former president. Moments later, pallbearers carried Carter's casket to the aircraft loader as the U.S. Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence Band played "Nearer My God, to Thee."

Army Maj. Gen. Trevor J. Bredenkamp, commander of JTF-NCR, — charged with escorting the former president's family



Photo by AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. GABRIELLE WINN

Soldiers of the 282d Army Band support the State Funeral of former President Jimmy Carter at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta, Jan. 4, 2025. Carter, who was also a 2002 Nobel Peace Prize recipient for his humanitarian efforts, passed away Dec. 29, 2024, at his home in Plains, Ga., at the age of 100.

throughout the proceedings — reflected on the honor he and the nearly 4,000 service members who supported the task

force share.

"State funerals demand synchronization across dozens of subordinate units

and adjacent commands," Bredenkamp

See **CARTER'S:** Page 11

ON THE COVER

A sign points potential attendees to the Education Fair held in the 1917 Club, Jan. 15. Educational institutions and trade schools from local, state and national levels were at the event.

See Page 6-7



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Changes coming to motorcycle safety courses

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Riding motorcycles is a high-risk endeavor, and the Army works to mitigate the dangers of riding with motorcycle safety courses offered by the Installation Safety Office.

Safety officials recently reiterated the necessity for the roughly 150 riders on post to take these courses and to show up when they sign up.

The bottom line: those who sign up for the course need to show up for the registered course, not showing up or not properly deregistering cost not only the army monetarily but it's a loss of training opportunity for those Soldiers seeking or needing the training.

"In the past we had six slots and if four of the six slots were filled we could conduct training that is no longer the case; we must have a minimum five students for the Basic Riders Course and Advanced Riders Course to conduct training," said Robert Weigand, installation safety specialist. "Now we cannot have the training unless at least five Soldiers are physical in the course. If we have three show-up, we must reschedule the motorcycle training in lieu of being charged for unfilled seats."

Soldiers, or Department of the Army Civilians, who want to take a class, but the course register shows the course is full should show up as a standby; it is likely they can get in as a standby due to a last-minute cancellation or a no-show.

As with all registered military classes attendance is important to Soldier readiness and Yes, no-show Names are reported back to the chain of command.

The Basic Rider Course is mandatory for all military motorcycle riders to attend now service members must complete an eCourse located on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation website prior to sitting for classroom instructions; they must also wear the same personal protective equip-



Leader file photo

A rider flashes a V for Victory sign as he rides his motorcycle during a mentorship ride. Post safety officials recently reiterated the necessity for motorcycle riders to take safety courses and to show up when they sign up.

**IF ON OUR OFF-DUTY TIME WE
HAVE A MOTORCYCLE MISHAP
ITS GOING TO HINDER OUR
READINESS**

**- Vince Washington
Safety Specialist**

ment as in their training when riding on or off post. Each rider will receive a motorcycle safety foundation card, which they must carry with them at the completion of the BRC or whenever riding on or off post. They must also wear a DOT-approved motorcycle helmet, long sleeve shirt or jacket,

long pants, above the ankle footwear and gloves.

"The safest (helmet) is the full face," Weigand said. "If they don't have a full face or a visor, then they should wear shatter resistance, or wrap around glasses."

According to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, the motorcycle safety program creates positive behavior and serves as a force multiplier that supports a commander's motorcycle mishap prevention program and augments the Army's Progressive Motorcycle Program.

Motorcycle safety is important to mission readiness.

"If on our off-duty time we have a mo-

torcycle mishap its going to hinder our readiness," said Vince Washington, Army Training Center safety specialist. "Motorcycle training is very important for those Soldiers that are riding to make sure they are properly trained so they are available for duty."

Department of the Army Civilians are encouraged to attend the classes when spaces are available.

The next Advanced Riders Class will be held Feb. 27. Class dates can be found in the events section of the Fort Jackson Leader. For more information on the courses, contact the Installation Safety Office at (803) 751-7233.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Strength & Themes Assessment

Fort Jackson needs your assistance. Take the Community Strengths & Themes Assessment to share with leaders your thoughts and views on improving our community's quality of life, health, and readiness, and available programs and resources. To access the survey visit:

<https://phpubapps.health.mil/Survey/se/25113745498E6FB5>, or scan the QR code.



Aerobics Classes Update

All aerobics classes have been moved to Perez Fitness Center until further notice.

Moncrief update

Beginning Dec. 23, 2024, the ability to schedule appointments through the MHS Genesis portal is no longer available. Patients will still be able to use the portal to message providers, request prescription refills, check tests results, etc. MAHC is working on a new, more convenient way to schedule appointments. Until then, patients can still call (803) 751-CARE/2273 to make an appointment.

Career Path Decide

Soldiers will be required to review the Career Path Decide. CPD is a decision support tool provided by the Defense Department. The tool helps service members identify, prepare for and increase their employment qualifications. This can help them as they transition from military

service to the civilian workforce. The tool can identify best-fit careers based on military occupation, education and experience. Service members can find the right credentials and/or degree programs to fill their experience and education gaps. The tool can help them prepare marketable careers and make them even more qualified in their current career. Not only is the CPD an excellent tool to guide education and career decisions, CPD is a requirement for all members wanting to use Military Tuition Assistance. Soldiers must complete the following three actions: (1) complete the CPD, (2) participate in a ArmyIgnitED briefing and (3) receive counseling by an education counselor about the CPD results before an initial Military Tuition Assistance request will be approved.

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.

■ Unit Safety Officer Course: Feb. 4-5, 2025 (21 seats open)

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. Food costs \$15 per person, \$15 for a to-go meal. Short order menu available! Soul Food Thursday Buffet, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., is also \$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, or order from our short order menu on Chow Now.

POV Sales Lot

The lot, operated by Auto Craft Shop, is located at the corner parking lot of the Strom Thurmond Building off Marion Avenue. 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. For more information, call (803) 751-5755.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

UNTIL FEB. 14

Youth sports registration

Registration for youth sports is open for until Feb. 14. Soccer: ages 2-4, \$30, ages 5-14, \$50. Volleyball: ages 7-12, \$50. Track & Field: ages 5-15, \$50. Flag Football: ages 7-15, \$50. Baseball: ages 9-12, \$50. Softball: ages 9-12, \$50. For more information, call (803) 751-7451.

JAN. 22-23

Big 3x3 Basketball tournament

The post will hold a three on three basketball tournament at Coleman Gym Jan. 22-23. The deadline to register is Jan.

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

■ No Showing

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

■ One of Them Days (R) 2 p.m.

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

20. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

JAN. 30

Indoor Rowing Competition

5:30 p.m., Vanguard Gym. Think you are the fastest rower? Come and find out. This authentic indoor rowing competition will crown the fastest individual and teams. Participants will have the option to participate individually or in teams of two and four. Individuals row to 750 meters while teams row to 2,000 meters. You can register at any gym. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

JAN. 31

Free Friday Zoo Day

3:30-5 p.m., Riverbanks Zoo. Join The

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.

President honors seven Soldiers with nation's top valor award

By **JOE LACDAN**
Army News Service

Three U.S. Soldiers overcame the odds to rescue their comrades against enemy fire and another four fought valiantly against enemy forces.

President Joe Biden honored the sacrifices of those seven Soldiers from the Korean and Vietnam Wars in a White House ceremony Jan. 3, presenting the Medal of Honor to the families of six late Soldiers and one living recipient.

Each of the honored helped save the lives of Soldiers by risking their own lives against enemy attacks. During battles in the Korean War, Gen. Richard Cavazos, Pvt. 1st Class Charles Johnson, and Pvt. Bruno Orig each rescued wounded Soldiers, while Pvt. 1st Class Wataru Nakamura and Cpl. Fred McGee bravely led attacks against daunting odds. Spc. 4th Class Kenneth David, the only living recipient will be also presented with the Medal.

During the Vietnam War, David and Capt. Hugh Nelson Jr. rescued comrades injured by enemy attacks. Nelson, Nakamura, Johnson and Orig eventually died in action from their heroic efforts.

Then-1st Lt. Richard Cavazos



During a battle near Sagimak, Korea, when enemy fire began to overwhelm his company, Cavazos obeyed orders to withdraw his men. But Cavazos alone returned to his outpost to search for missing Soldiers in June 1953.

Cavazos, for whom the Army renamed Fort Hood, Texas in his honor, had just led his company on a raid, but enemy fire forced him to withdraw and regroup. Cavazos found five injured U.S. troops which he brought to safety amid enemy fire. He set them on a hill to be rescued by friendly forces.

Cavazos again would put himself in harm's way to rescue another group of injured Soldiers, and returned a few times more until he cleared the battlefield of the

injured on the morning of June 15. Finally Cavazos accepted medical aid after he had brought as many Soldiers to safety as he could. The now late Cavazos would go on to become a four-star general and commander of U.S. Army Forces Command.

Then-Pvt. 1st Class Kenneth David



On May 7, 1970, in Vietnam's Thua Thien Province, a fierce enemy attack injured or killed several Soldiers in David's unit, including mortally wounding his company commander.

As enemy rounds continued to fly towards the injured, David, a radio operator, sprang into action. David fearlessly defended his fallen comrades by attacking enemy forces with a barrage of automatic weapons fire, repeatedly diverting the enemy bullets away from the injured and towards his position.

Although David sustained injury, David continued to engage the enemy, even drawing fire away from medical evacuation helicopters so that the wounded could be rescued.

Pvt. 1st Class Charles Johnson



On the night of June 11, 1953, Johnson suffered injuries from a grenade and artillery fire during a heavy raid by Chinese forces. Despite his injuries, Johnson rendered aid to the more seriously injured Soldiers. Johnson, a rifleman with Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, dragged the injured to safety while fighting enemy combatants and risking further injury to himself.

Johnson then searched for weapons and rearmed members of his unit. Finally Johnson placed himself in front of enemy fire to shield his unit, promising to hold off the attack and eventually saved the lives of as many as 10 Soldiers.

Johnson would die the next day near



Photo by HENRY VILLARAMA

President Joe Biden presents the Medal of Honor to former Army Spc. Kenneth J. David during a ceremony at the White House, Jan. 3, 2025.

Chorwon, North Korea, while fighting hostile forces. Johnson, a native of Millbrook, New York, was drafted into the Army in 1952.

Cpl. Fred McGee



When an enemy attack injured his squad leader and several members of his unit on June 16, 1952, McGee, a machine gunner, quickly assumed command of his unit. During the battle near Tang-Wan-Ni, Korea, McGee then moved his squad forward to neutralize an enemy machine gun that had been attacking another platoon. After McGee's machine gunner suffered mortal injuries, McGee returned to his post as gunner. The Ohio native followed orders to withdraw his squad but remained behind. Amid the onslaught of enemy machine gun fire, he moved an injured Soldier out of

harm's way.

McGee, an Ohio native earned two Purple Hearts for his actions during combat on Hill 528 and was later inducted into the Purple Heart Hall of Fame. His Silver Star award will be upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

Pvt. 1st Class Wataru Nakamura



In the early morning hours of May 18, 1951, near P'ungch'on-ni, Korea, enemy forces ambushed Nakamura as he made his way to repair a communications line.

Nakamura alone attacked the enemy with a bayonet, destroying an enemy machine gun and driving enemy forces out of friendly bunkers. After rearming himself, he killed three enemies and wounded another, before suffering mortal wounds from an en-

Right this way ... to the Education Fair

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Representatives from 54 educational institutions were on Fort Jackson Jan. 15 to take part in the post's Education Fair held in the 1917 Club.

The fair was held to "encourage Soldiers to continue their education and also to give them the opportunity to meet schools that are on post, but also others that are not on post," said Veronica Fields-Cox, post education services officer.

The fair also let the community know what educational opportunities there are.

It shows "the community that there are schools available to them throughout the country, not just what is on post," Fields-Cox added.

There were a variety of institutions at the fair including professional colleges, but also trade schools as well.

"In today's society you really need those extra skills," Fields-Cox said, "not necessarily the professional skills, but you need higher education to make you a better candidate for whatever job opportunities you want to go for."

"If you want to own your own business, you need to have those skills to operate that business. So continuing your education not only affects you, makes you a better person to pursue your dreams, but also if you have a family and better serve them and be a role model to any children you may have."

Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs knows the value of education and the discipline it takes to succeed. These would translate to the schools could have better students.

IN TODAY'S SOCIETY
YOU REALLY NEED THOSE
EXTRA SKILLS ... TO MAKE
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FOR WHATEVER JOB OP-
PORTUNITIES YOU WANT
TO GO FOR.

- Veronica Fields-Cox
Education services officer

"I went to a very expensive liberal arts college in Pennsylvania ... and realized I was not disciplined enough, pulled the rip cord and got out of college because I knew I was going to have a lot of debt and nothing to show for it," he said the educational institution representatives at the beginning of the fair.

The Army instilled the discipline he needed to excel in his educational endeavors.

"I treated it like a military operation, and I succeeded," he added.

Ochs went from dropping out of

college with a 2.7 GPA to earning an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree with a 4.0 in every class and then earning a master's degree with a 3.9 GPA.

The fair is not the only educational assistance the Army Continuing Education System offers.

"We have financial aid seminars, we have academic counselors," Fields-Cox said. "If you're not sure what you want to do, you can come talk with them, and we can lay out an educational plan for you. For the Soldiers, they have tuition assistance that they don't to pay back - \$4,500 a year to go to school."

She added that Soldiers should take advantage of these educational opportunities while they are in uniform.

"It's just better to continue your education while you're in the military, because you get those tuition assistance benefits and once you get out, you no longer have them," she said.

For more information, call (803) 751-5341.



Representatives from the 54 institutions at the Education Fair ready their tables for attendees.



Representatives of the 54 educational institutions attending the Fort Jackson Education Fair held Jan. 15 in the 1917 Club. speak to prospective students.



Veronica Fields-Cox opens the Education Fair with a few words.



Erin Vance-Brown with Military OneSource listens as Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs describes how the discipline Soldiers have makes them prime candidates to be exemplary students.



A Soldier speaks with a representative of a local university during the Fort Jackson Education Fair held Jan. 15.

Army helps financial readiness

By SHANNON COLLINS
Army News Service

As the new year begins, Soldiers and their Families have a fresh opportunity to take charge of their financial well-being. With a variety of free programs offering education and counseling services, the Army is equipping families with the tools they need to achieve financial readiness and support mission success throughout the year.

Financial Frontline

Financial Frontline is a service that provides Soldiers and their families with comprehensive support, including access to financial education and free counseling services.

Through their services, Soldiers can find specific information based on milestones such as pre- and post-deployment, PCS, divorce and marriage, promotions, new child, continuation pay and disabling sickness or condition pay. They can also see the policies for blended retirement, the transition assistance program, the financial readiness program, pre-separation counseling and more. There are also links to the military spouse money mission with advice for how Army families can share money advice with their children and to the Army survivor outreach services program.

The site also includes information about the Thrift Savings Plan, combat zone tax exclusion, paying off student loans, estate planning, free credit monitoring and understanding credit.

Financial Readiness Program

The Financial Readiness Program offers information, finance calculators, online training and other tools on this site run through Army MWR. The site also has fact sheets and links to federal, state and territory benefits as well as a resource locator to find locations where benefits services are provided in each state and territory.

The Financial Readiness Program is available at every installation through Army Community Services. They offer Soldiers classroom training and individual counseling sessions on several topics, including how to save and invest money, how to establish savings goals, debt elimination strategies, and saving for emergencies.

MilSpouse Money Mission

The goal of this site is to educate and empower military spouses to help them make financial choices. The team provides certified financial planner professionals. They provide free financial education and resources

FINANCIAL READINESS PROGRAM



through blogs, financial tips, videos and more.

Taxes are just one of the many items financial readiness counselors can help Soldiers and their families with on installations

Military One Source

Through Military One Source, all service members and their families, regardless of service branch, can receive personal financial management counseling. This includes National Guard and Reserve.

Counselors can go over finances and suggest ways to pay down debt. They can also teach savings techniques, checking account management, investing and making a family budget. They can provide information on consumer rights and make appropriate referrals to military and civilian resources responsible for resolving credit report complaints. They can provide support and information on the Savings Deposit Program and TSP.

Military Wallet

The Military Wallet is a personal finance and benefits website for military members, veterans and their families. It has information about VA disability compensation, the veterans benefits guide, TSP, the VA home loan and post-9/11 GI Bill.

The site also has links to VA disability pay charts and social security disability for veterans.

Army Family Web Portal

The Army Family Web Portal hosts a variety of computer-based courses for Soldiers and their families that offer insights into consumer affairs and personal financial management.

For more information on the Army's financial readiness resources, Soldiers and their Families are encouraged to visit Army Community Service or call (803) 751-5256.

Military fighting fires in California, ready to do more

By C. TODD LOPEZ
DOD News

The Defense Department now has 500 active-duty troops and a variety of equipment on standby to assist with the wildfires in California, said the deputy pentagon press secretary.

"As announced by the president, 500 active-duty personnel currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, are preparing to support requests from federal and state authorities with route clearance, commodity distribution, search and rescue, rotary wing, airlift and general support, as requested," said Sabrina Singh during a briefing Jan. 10.

Those 500 active-duty personnel are from the Marine Corps, she said.

March Air Reserve Base, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles, is also now serving as a staging base for efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Singh also said that a defense coordinating officer and support element are being activated as well.

The department is also preparing some 10 Navy-provided helicopters with water delivery buckets to assist with aerial fire suppression, Singh said. Those Navy helicopters, along with aircrew, are coming from California's Naval Station North Island, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

"Under a long-standing memorandum of agreement with CAL FIRE, active-duty units in Naval Region Southwest are prepared to provide aircraft and aircrew to support the firefighting efforts," Singh said. "These units are trained and annually certified by CAL FIRE to provide supplemental firefighting capability when requested by the state of California and approved by the (secretary of defense.)"

More than 800 National Guard personnel from California, Wyoming and Nevada are already on the ground or have been activated to provide assistance. The Guard is also operating 10 helicopters for firefighting and search and rescue operations.

"This number is expected to increase over the next 24 hours," Singh said.

Additionally, eight Modular Aerial Fire Fighting Systems, or MAFFS-equipped C-130 aircraft are being activated under state authorities. The first two, Singh said, began operations Jan. 10, while the remaining six were expected to be ready by Jan. 12.

Review helps ensure troop competitively paid

By **DAVID VERGUN**
DOD News

Every four years, the Defense Department conducts a complete review of the principles and concepts of the military compensation system — the Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation. In addition to DOD, the review includes the Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Public Health Service.

The 14th QRMC released its report Jan. 15.

President Joe Biden directed the 14th QRMC to study five topics and the secretary of defense added a sixth topic at the request of the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“The goal of the QRMC is to ensure that service members are paid competitively alongside their civilian peers, and that they can afford the necessities of life, and that their total benefits package is sufficient to attract and retain the service members DOD needs,” said a senior defense official.

“This is important because we know through long-standing research and lived experience, that when the department prioritizes the basic needs of its service members and families that they’re better able to focus on their mission to defend the nation, and this requires a competitive compensation package, both to incentivize that next generation to serve, as well as (retain) very specific military skill sets,” said the senior defense official.

The QRMC is considered an independent body of work with a director who works with federally funded research and development centers to conduct the QRMC’s research.

“The 14th QRMC found that the department’s compensation package is strongly competitive with the civilian labor market. However, there are some areas for improvement that will ultimately benefit service members, their families and the department,” the senior defense official said.

The department has accepted these recommendations in full and will endeavor to implement them over the next few years, the official said.

This is the first QRMC to examine the impact of dual-income households on military retention decisions, including how aspects of military life, such as permanent change of station moves, separation from the service and child care access affect a military spouse’s ability to pursue a career, the official said.

In 2002, the 9th QRMC determined that, in order to attract the service members it needs, DOD should pay service members at the 70th percentile of comparable civilians. This means that if you looked at 100 comparable civilians and service members of the same age, education and so on, service members are paid more than 69 of the 100 civilians on average.

“That premium reflects some of the unique aspects of military life,” a second senior defense official said, meaning hardships that civilians don’t generally experience.

The 14th QRMC reviewed the regular military compensation for all ranks and recommended increasing it to the 75th percentile, the second senior defense official said.

The 14th QRMC also recommended improved communications with service members and others regarding their total compensation package, the second senior defense official said.

For example, it is important that DOD communicate to its potential recruits and to its members that basic pay is not the only element of military compensation. The compensation package includes things such as free dental and health care, incentives for child care, a generous Thrift Savings Plan, a traditional retirement plan and a generous leave program, said the first senior defense official.

“There are a lot of elements of the compensation package that members might not be thinking of. ... Our retention is really high, so I’m thinking that the longer members serve, the more fully they understand the value of the total compensation package,” the second senior defense official said, adding that this could be an important tool for recruiting.

The three core findings of the 14th

QRMC are:

- The military compensation package is strongly competitive with the civilian labor market.

- Reducing pay volatility and variability and improving data quality will benefit service members and the department, and the QRMC has recommended some improvements in data collection and processing to improve the predictability of pay and compensation.

- Targeted noncash compensation may offer better returns on investment for service members and military families than increases in basic pay and compensation.

The eight recommendations of the 14th QRMC are:

- Updating the regular military compensation benchmark from the 70th to the 75th percentile.

- Improving communications with service members regarding their total compensation package and its comparative quality to comparable civilians.

- Improving “constructive credit” afforded to lateral entrants who join the military with already established and much needed skill sets, such as surgeons.

- Updating the methods used to calculate basic allowance for housing.

- Updating the method used to calculate both contiguous United States and overseas cost-of-living allowance adjustment rates.

- Reviewing deployed entitlements every five years.

- Exploring additional retirement savings options for military spouses.

- Instituting a regular quality-of-life or quality-of-service review to examine areas such as housing, health care, child care programs, and Morale Welfare and Recreation programs.

The report was delivered to the president and congressional armed services committees. The report was also shared with interagency partners and military and veteran service organizations. The first senior defense official explained that, while they can implement some of the QRMC’s recommendations immediately, others will take several years to implement, and some will require congressional support to implement.

Honor

Continued from Page 5

enemy grenade.

Nakamura, a native of Los Angeles, volunteered to join the Army in 1944 after the government ordered his family and other Japanese Americans to live on internment camps.

Capt. Hugh Nelson Jr.



On June 5, 1966, after an enemy attack forced Nelson to crash-land his Huey helicopter near Moc Hoa, Vietnam, Nelson would make the ultimate sacrifice for his crew as they lay trapped inside the

aircraft.

Amid enemy rounds flying toward him, Nelson pulled out his crew chief. The captain then freed his trapped gunner while being hit by enemy fire. Nelson used his own body to shield the gunner from enemy fire, eventually succumbing to his injuries from the onslaught.

Nelson’s sacrifice allowed an injured crew member to signal for help and the eventual rescue of the three crew members.

Pvt. Bruno Orig

After returning from another mission, Orig witnessed fellow Soldiers being wounded from an enemy attack on February 15, 1951 near Chipyeong-ni, Korea.

Orig rushed to the aid of his comrades, leaving himself vulnerable to enemy attack. Orig and Soldiers from the command post pulled the injured Soldiers to safety. Then Orig took control of a machine gun to suppress enemy fire preventing a single casualty from a nearby friendly platoon and killed several enemies.

Fellow Soldiers later found Orig, deceased near the machine gun. Orig, a native of Honolulu, comes from a line of veterans who served in World War I and World War II as his father, step-father, and brothers all served in the military.



Events

Continued from Page 4

Exceptional Family Member Program for free Fridays at the Zoo for Richland and Lexington residents. Proof of Residency is required showing you reside in Richland and/or Lexington County. Call (803) 751-5256 to RSVP.

FEB. 9 Private 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 an hourly rate. Pre-register at Marion Street Station: \$25 per person for all day (four hours), \$10 per person per hour (pre-register), \$15 per person per hour (day onsite/cash only). No automatic or .50 cal weapons allowed. The event

is open to all authorized ID card holders 12 and older. Those under 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

FEB. 22 Charleston Brews Cruise

9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Marion Street Station. Join Outdoor Recreation for a guided drinking tour downtown Charleston. Snacks and bottled water are provided. Coolers will be on the bus for storage. Must be 21+ Patrons cannot register over the phone if they have never been to Marion Street Station. For more information, visit Marion Street Station, or call (803) 751-3484.

FEB. 25 Shred Day

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5671 Liberty Division Ave. Come and bring your paper, cardboard, magazines, containers, steel cans, newspapers and writing paper to the Fort Jackson Recycling Center on shred day. The event is open to all De-

partment of Defense ID card holders. No classified documents and those with large metal clips will be accepted.

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, mackerel, 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.

Fort Jackson 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.

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 26 Youth Fishing Derby

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heise Pond. Join Outdoor Recreation for the annual youth fishing derby. The event is for youths 5-16 years old.

DID YOU KNOW: Risk management is the process of identifying and controlling hazards to protect the force and is a continuous process applicable to any situation and environment.

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

Carter's

Continued from Page 5

said. “Each ceremonial component—from planning to completion, whether in Georgia or the capital—is meticulously planned and I couldn’t be prouder of each service member who contributed to honoring the late commander-in-chief.”

“We’re a joint force,” said Navy Rear Adm. David J. Faehnle, whose responsibilities as JTF-NCR’s Deputy Commander include coordinating task force support during the six-day ceremony.

“At a task force, we’re used to operating together, whether it’s Navy, Army, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or Space Force,” he said. “It really comes down to good communication, clarity on the sequence of events, and robust rehearsals.”

On arrival to Joint Base Andrews, the Joint Force Honor Cordon greeted the late President with full military honors while the U.S. Air Force Band performed “Abide with Me.”

During a special ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial, Carter’s casket transferred from hearse to caisson. The event featured a formation of Midshipmen, the U.S. Navy Band, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, and Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Adm. Yvette M. Davids, recalling Carter’s own arrival at Annapolis in 1943 and paying homage to the former President’s Naval career.

Immediately following the casket transfer, a funeral procession unfolded along Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, retracing the route that Carter walked after taking his inaugural oath in 1977. Representatives from The Old Guard stood at attention while a horse-drawn caisson progressed at a measured pace.

At the Capitol Plaza, the U.S. Army Band greeted the late president with another rendition of “Hail to the Chief,” and performed “God of Our Fathers” and “O God Our Help in Ages Past.” Here, Carter’s casket was carried up the East Steps, accompanied by the Special Honor Guard, family members, and surviving cabinet officials from his administration.

In the Rotunda, members of Congress, the Vice President, Supreme Court justices and invited guests gathered for a ser-



Courtesy photo

Soldiers of the 282d Army Band support the State Funeral of former President Jimmy Carter at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta, Jan. 4. Carter, who was also a 2002 Nobel Peace Prize recipient for his humanitarian efforts, passed away Dec. 29, 2024, at his home in Plains, Ga., at the age of 100.

vice. The Naval Academy Glee Club sang “My Country, Tis of Thee” and “Eternal Father, Strong to Save,” before the Senate and House chaplains delivered an invocation and benediction. House Speaker Mike Johnson, Senate Majority Leader John Thune and Vice President Kamala Harris offered eulogies and placed wreaths near the casket, acknowledging Carter’s achievements — including his focus on human rights, conservation efforts and community-driven values.

As the ceremony concluded, the late president’s casket was set on the Lincoln Catafalque at the Rotunda’s center. There, Carter’s body laid in state through the evening of Jan. 8, allowing mourners from the public to pay their respects.

In the wake of his presidency, he recalled the White House as simultaneously hospitable and intimidating — a place of daily routine for presidents but an almost sacred museum of the nation’s story. That sense of

gravitas anchored Carter’s term. Throughout his presidency, Carter believed the White House — with all its storied artifacts — was just on loan to him for a brief chapter.

The district had rarely seen a president like Jimmy Carter when he first arrived in 1977. Unlike many of his political colleagues, Carter grew up in a modest home, faced the hardships of the Great Depression and worked alongside Black sharecroppers on his family’s peanut farm.

That upbringing led him to reject excesses. Known for his cost-saving measures, Carter broke from the norms set by his predecessors. He sold the presidential yacht, enrolled his daughter in the district’s public school system, and chose simple southern meals over Washington’s upscale offerings.

Despite the initial culture shock of life in the capital, Carter pressed on, steadfast in his desire to lead with principle. His years in Washington produced lasting accom-

plishments: he signed the Camp David Accords and reimagined the role of the presidency in forging honest relationships with both Congress and the American people.

That chapter ended, and with JTF-NCR’s support, Washington poured forth every means of respect and gratitude. Elite service members assigned to the Joint Ceremonial Honor Guard stood watch over the president through Jan. 8, while lines of citizens snaked along barricades, braving freezing temperatures to pay their respects.

Though the pageantry on display during Carter’s funeral may appear at odds with the late president’s understated approach to the office, Faehnle explained how the proceedings were tailored to meet the former commander-in-chief’s intent.

“While state funerals seem to emphasize pomp and formality, President Carter viewed his ceremony as an opportunity to embrace the American people,” Faehnle said.



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Representatives from educational institutions and prospective students meet at the Education Fair held Jan. 15 at the 1917 Club.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS