

THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2026

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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NEW CLOTHING ISSUE POINT OPENS



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War Department extends invitation for vaccine refusers to return

BY C. TODD LOPEZ
Pentagon News

Service members forced to leave the military for refusing to take the COVID-19 vaccine now have an extra year to return to the service, if they so choose, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said March 20.

In 2021, Pentagon officials issued a mandate that forced service members to either be vaccinated for COVID-19 or forced out of the military. Over the course of 500 days, nearly 8,000 active-duty and reserve service members were involuntarily separated for refusing to take the vaccine. Many others left voluntarily when their enlistments ended.

Last year, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order regarding reinstating service members discharged under the department's COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

Following that executive order, the War Department invited those service members to return and pick up where they left off. Part of that direction included correcting the records of some service members who were discharged with a less than honorable service characterization. Some service members — those involuntarily separated solely for refusing to take the vaccine — were and are still eligible to receive some kinds of compensation.

That initial invitation closes out next month. Now, the War Department is extending the deadline to April 1, 2027, giving those service members an extra year to decide whether they want to continue serving.

"While I am proud of our efforts over the past year, our obligations to make

things right are not yet complete," Hegseth said in a video posted today to social media. "I am therefore extending the application of the department's reinstatement and return to service guidance established last April."

To encourage the return of experienced and dedicated service members, the active-service obligation for individuals returning to service under this guidance is now reduced from four years to two years, Hegseth said.

That change, he said, isn't just for former service members who choose to return over the next year. Barring a few exceptions, those who have already returned and incurred a four-year service obligation will need to serve only two years.

"This change reflects our confidence that returning (service) members will make an immediate and positive impact and aligns our reinstatement policy with the needs of both the service members and the military services," Hegseth said.

While the military services have already reached out to service members who were separated under the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, the secretary has instructed the services to reach out again to reassess interest in the new offer.

"Given this policy modification, and to ensure that everyone whose career was cut short under the COVID-19 vaccine mandate receives the respect they deserve, I direct the secretaries of the military departments — the Army, the Navy and the Air Force — within 60 days, to once again recontact those who have not rejoined already and inform them of this new information and this new opportunity," the secretary said.

A Simple Observation, or a Single Report, can lead to actions that may STOP a terrorist attack



SEE SOMETHING – SAY SOMETHING

What to Report

- Date and time activity occurred
- Where activity occurred
- Physical descriptions of the people involved
- Description of the vehicle(s) involved
- What type of activity
- Describe what you saw or heard
- Provide pictures if you took any

Who to Report to

- Military Police
- Local law enforcement
- Security forces
- Chain of Command
- Army Counterintelligence

Fort Jackson MP Desk (803) 751-3115

ON THE COVER

Army nameplate, flags and patches sit lined up ready to be issued to recruits at the new Central Initial Issue Point, March 24. The new CIIP officially opened its doors, March 23.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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STEAM week sparks curiosity, discovery at Pierce Terrace Elementary



Courtesy photo

Kendra Baker smiles as she concludes the ‘Fireworks in a Glass’ STEAM activity, showcasing the colorful reaction. At the same time, students observe how density and liquids interact in this engaging, hands-on science demonstration.

By DR. LORRAINE EMORY
Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Students across Pierce Terrace Elementary School spent the week exploring science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics during the school’s STEAM Week, where hands-on experiments and collaborative activities transformed everyday learning into exciting discovery.

Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of classroom and lunchtime demonstrations designed to encourage prediction, observation, problem-solving, and teamwork.

The themed activities allowed students to experience real-world scientific thinking while applying skills from multiple subject areas.

Dr. Sandra Whitaker, Pierce Terrace principal, emphasized the purpose behind the week’s events, stating, “The events during STEAM Week support students’ learning through data, exploration, and experimentation.”

The week began with students preparing for the highly anticipated Sink-or-Float experiment.

In classrooms, students examined a variety of objects—from golf balls and pinecones to toy cars and seashells—and recorded their predictions about whether each item would sink or float in water. Teachers collected student ballots and tallied the predictions, preparing the data for later analysis.

On Tuesday, students observed a colorful science demonstration titled Color-Changing Flowers, in which white carnations placed in dyed water slowly absorbed color through their stems. The activity introduced students to plant science concepts while encouraging careful observation and scientific questioning.

“Throughout the week, students have particularly enjoyed watching their flowers turn from white to the color of food coloring that was added to the water,” Whitaker said, highlighting one of the students’ favorite visual experiments.

Engineering and teamwork took center stage during the Cup Stacking Engineering Challenge, where students collaborated to build towers from plastic cups. The activity challenged students

to think critically about balance, stability, and design while working together to achieve a common goal.

Wednesday’s lunchtime demonstration, Fireworks in a Glass, captivated students as food coloring burst through a layer of oil and water. The experiment illustrated how liquids of different densities behave when combined, helping students visualize complex scientific principles in a simple, engaging way.

Students also had the opportunity to explore engineering design by building catapults using popsicle sticks, rubber bands, plastic spoons, and pompoms to launch small objects. The activity encouraged experimentation as students adjusted their designs to improve distance and accuracy.

Mathematics took the spotlight on Thursday during the Birthday Season Pie Chart activity. Students sorted themselves into groups based on their birth season—winter, spring, summer, or fall—and worked together to create large pie charts representing their data. Classes then compared results to determine which season had the most and fewest birthdays, practicing counting, graphing, and data interpretation.

The week concluded with the much-anticipated Big Sink or Float Demonstration. Students gathered to observe the water tests of the predicted objects. As each item sank or floated, results were added to a large class graph, allowing students to compare their predictions with the actual outcomes.

Whitaker added, “Making predictions and testing those predictions was also a highlight—both with the flowers and with the sink-or-float demonstration,” reinforcing how the scientific method was embedded throughout the week’s learning experiences.

The week’s activities were deliberately planned to help students develop prior knowledge, make predictions, observe results, and analyze data across several disciplines, according to the STEAM Activities 2026 agenda.

By the end of the week, students had experienced science not simply as a subject, but as an exciting process of questioning, exploring, and discovering.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gate 5 Hours Update

The hours for Gate 5 will change to 5-8 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. starting Wednesday.

Exchange Parking Lot Repairs

The Directorate of Public Works has scheduled and coordinated for the Exchange and Gate 2 Shoppette parking lots to be repaired. The repairs begin today and are scheduled to be completed near the end of April with most work conducted at night to mitigate disruption to operations. Barricades will be used to mark the work area. For more information, call (803) 724-8925.

Safety Training Opportunities

The Installation Safety Office presents various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to the website <https://airs.safety.army.mil/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your Safety Specialist.

■ Advanced Riders Course: April 10 (5 Seats)

■ Basic Riders Course: April 14-16 (4 Seats)

■ Local Hazards Course: Every Monday at 10 a.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Rm. 207

GSA online Training & Registration for drivers' improvement: link - <https://www.improvelearning.com/gsa/>

■ Intermediate Drivers Course: On-line (provide your Safety Officer with your certificate upon completion).

■ Remedial Drivers Course: On-line (provide your Safety Officer with your certificate upon completion).

Additional training not associated with the registration link. To register contact your designated safety officer.

■ Cold-Weather Illness Prevention training: Every Monday at 1 p.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Rm. 207.



On-Site Hourly Care at MWR Central

7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Registration is available on-site and costs \$8 per hour per child, with a three-hour time limit. Parents have to remain on-site while using Solomon Center facilities. Walk-ins are welcome on space available basis. To make reservations, call (803) 751-4824.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

Free Throw Challenge

5-7 p.m., Coleman Fitness Center. Sports and Fitness presents a gym monthly challenges. Show your skills and join the challenge. For more information, call (803) 751-6272.

WEDNESDAY

Community Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall. The Fort Jackson community invited to attend a lunch with food, fellowship, fun and a brief inspirational message. The lunch is held the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, call (803) 751-3979.

APRIL 2

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 available resources on and around Fort Jackson. For more information, call Army Community Service at (803) 751-5256.

APRIL 4

Easter Egg Hunt

Noon to 2 p.m., Twin Lakes Park. Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation presents the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Come enjoy our annual egg hunt filled with eggs, inflatables, themed activities, and special appearance from the Easter Bunny. This is a free event. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 5

Easter Sunrise Service

7-7:30 a.m., Main Post Chapel front lawn. Fort Jackson's Religious Support Office hosts the annual Easter Sunrise Service. This service is for permanent party service members and their families. In keeping with Army tradition, service members

Fort Jackson

Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

MARCH 28

■ Scream 7 (R)

APRIL 1

■ Ready or Not 1: Here I Come (R)

APRIL 4

■ Hoppers (G)

- 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.

are encouraged to wear the Army Service Uniform (blues with necktie).

APRIL 6 - MAY 15

Youth Sports Summer Basketball

Want to learn how to play basketball and start off a hoops career? Join Youth Sports for its Summer Basketball program. Ages 3-4 cost is \$30. Ages 5-15 cost is \$50. For more information, call (803) 751-7451.

APRIL 20

Cyber Safety Workshop

10 a.m. and 1 p.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road, Room 166. Army Community Service invites you to a Cyber Safety Workshop aimed at protecting children from cyber threats. For more information, call

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.

Army updates retention program

By **SGT. ZACK A. STINE**
Army News Service

The Army has implemented significant updates to its retention program in fiscal year 2026, reinforcing a performance based approach that directly benefits soldiers who maintain high standards, develop critical skills and commit to long-term service.

The Army is shifting its reenlistment bonus program to a performance-based model that prioritizes readiness and individual merit by linking financial incentives to a Soldier's achievements and their role in a critical military occupational specialty.

While reenlistment remains open to all eligible Soldiers, the bonus amounts will now be determined by Army requirements and individual performance, ensuring top talent is retained in essential positions to build a more agile and capable force.

"The primary mission of the revamped program is to maximize precision and quality in retention to meet end strength goals and drive readiness," said Col. Angela Chipman, chief of the Army military personnel accessions and retention division. "This approach allows the Army to better recognize and retain soldiers who consistently perform at a high level."

For Soldiers who train hard, seek growth and take pride in their work, the updated system offers clearer returns on effort.

Under the FY26 framework, the Army will reduce reliance on short-term extensions and place greater emphasis on longer reenlistment contracts, reflecting the Army's increased investment in advanced skills and long-term readiness.

At the center of the updated retention program is the Quality Tiered Incentive Program. The system evaluates soldiers within cohorts of the same rank and MOS using a standardized, data-driven approach.

QTI measures performance across three weighted categories: physical fitness, technical expertise and command assessment that factor into a Soldier's tier placement.



Photo by MATTHEW RYAN

A Soldier from 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, trains with drones at Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Army opens online marketplace to ease drone acquisition

Army Public Affairs

The Army launched the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Marketplace on March 24 — a new digital storefront designed to get trusted, cutting-edge drone technology into the hands of Soldiers faster than ever before. This digital one-stop shop will allow Army units, government partners and allied nations to efficiently procure vetted UAS solutions.

Developed in collaboration with Amazon Web Services and the Army Enterprise Cloud Management Agency, the digital storefront features tools that allow users to compare system functionalities, provide direct feedback and place orders with ease.

"The UAS Marketplace is a prime example of how the Army is transforming its acquisition processes to be more agile, competitive and effective," said the Honorable Brent G. Ingraham, the Army Acquisition Executive. "By lowering barriers to entry and part-

nering with a wider range of industrial innovators, we are building a more resilient and responsive defense industrial base, which is essential for equipping our force and deterring our adversaries."

The marketplace is more than a digital storefront. It marks a major shift from traditional, slower acquisition methods and is a key part of the Army's goal to transform its procurement process. By creating a competitive and transparent environment, the platform will foster innovation, broaden the industrial base and provide a wider range of drone capabilities to meet the evolving demands of the modern battlefield.

Soldier trains with new drones at JRTC

"The success of this marketplace directly demonstrates the power of the Portfolio Acquisition Executive construct to deliver tailored capability faster and more efficiently," said Maj. Gen. Clair Gill, the Portfolio Acquisition Executive for Maneuver Air.

"It represents a pivotal shift in our acquisition mindset and is a cornerstone of Army Aviation's modernization strategy. This new agility allows us to equip our Soldiers with the unmanned technologies they want and need to maintain overmatch on a complex battlefield."

"The UAS Marketplace is a direct response to the evolving needs of our Soldiers on the ground," said Mr. Rodney Davis, the Capabilities Program Executive for Aviation. "By creating a dynamic and competitive environment, we are not just buying drones; we are delivering versatile and advanced aerial capabilities that will give our formations a decisive edge in multi-domain operations."

Project leaders emphasized that the marketplace is purpose-built to deliver capability faster than ever before, directly supporting Army modernization efforts and the strate-

See **DRONE:** Page 9

New clothing issue point opens at Fort Jackson

By TOM CONNING
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Initial-entry trainees into the Army who tramp through corridors of the Clothing Initial Issue Point, or CIIP, on Fort Jackson, S.C. won't remember much about the building. If they're lucky, they may recall a few trivial moments of their time at the 120th Adjutant General Reception Battalion (the author speaks from experience) like chugging a two-quart canteen full of water, having a drill sergeant scream in their faces or getting their first high-and-tight haircut.

Command Sgt. Maj. Derrick Braud from South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' command team, who processed into the Army at the same reception battalion in 1997, viewed the CIIP during a construction site visit, Feb. 18, 2026.

"Other than general impressions, I don't remember very many details," Braud said. "I remember the general layout of the buildings because we walked in between them every day but only saw the inside of each building space once."

However, that doesn't mean the building isn't important to these future Soldiers and the warfighting mission that happens day-after-day on the post near Columbia, South Carolina

"The new facilities should provide even better efficiency and flexibility for the staff that will translate for a better experience for new Soldiers, even if they don't remember the details," Braud said. "These new facilities will make the behind-the-scenes support more effective and smooth the process for new Soldiers and the team from drill sergeants to (Department of the Army) Civilian professionals that welcome them to the Army."

The CIIP is part of Charleston District USACE's Phase I construction project that's redesigning the 120th Battalion's area. District staff and its contractors are also building a new dining facility and optical lab, which should open later this year.

"If the CIIP hadn't finished on time, it would have impacted Fort Jackson's ability to in-process soldiers and delayed Phase II," said Lt. Col. Todd Mainwaring, Charleston District commander. "Luckily, everyone came to the table with a solution-oriented mindset, and we were able to meet everyone's objectives."

"This summer, we'll see a lot of movement as the last portion of Phase I finishes—a brand new dining facility—and several Phase II structures come online."

The new facility is the gateway for the Soldiers before they start Basic Combat Training. Here, dedicated civilian staff issue gear like boots, uniforms, cold-weather equipment and associated accoutrements.

For the past 40-plus years at Fort Jackson, this happened in four separate buildings throughout the reception battalion's footprint.

Now, thanks to the upgraded 99,539 square foot facility (about the size of a large supermarket) built by Charleston District, USACE that opened its doors March 23, everything, even the excess supplies, is under one roof. That, plus other upgrades, will make in-processing much more efficient for the staff and the Soldiers.

The upgraded building provides approximately 30% more warehouse storage because it has vertical units to take advantage of the height of the new building, said Michael Heckman, Supply and Services Division chief with Fort Jackson's Logistics Readiness Center.

Additionally, the new space can fit 20% more Soldiers in boot fitting area, he added.

The new design also improves the flow because it has a centralized checkout area.

These efficiencies may only shave small bits of time for an individual soldier, but it should give the U.S. Army those small chunks back. If multiplied by the number of total soldiers through the facility – more than 45,000 per year – the Army can prioritize that time and other resources towards building lethality and cohesive teams training at Fort Jackson.

Phase II for the project includes a processing center, new battalion headquarters, trainee barracks, a medical clinic and more. Charleston District engineers anticipate they will complete those by 2031.

"The Charleston District has such talented people that bring incredible energy to their work," said Mainwaring. "It's that type of drive that pushed this over the finish line and delivered a critical facility to support Fort Jackson's strategic mission," he continued.

Charleston District's Military Construction program is responsible for design and construction for the Army, as well as operation and maintenance, including sustainment, restoration and modernization for the Army, Air Force, and other Department of War agencies.

Recognizing that Soldiers, Civilians and families should have the best quality of life possible, the U.S. Army is reviewing the full range of its care, support, and enrichment programs.



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Recruits at the 120th Adjutant General (Reception) Battalion, receive their initial clothing issue at the Clothing Initial Issue Point, or CIIP, March 24. The 99,539 square foot facility officially opened its doors, March 23.





Courtesy photo

The Army officially received a groundbreaking H-60Mx Black Hawk helicopter, extensively modified to fly with or without a pilot at the controls.

Army gets first upgraded Black Hawk

Capability Program Executive,
Aviation

The Army officially received a groundbreaking H-60Mx Black Hawk helicopter upgraded for autonomous or piloted flight. This next-generation optionally piloted vehicle begins a rigorous testing phase, marking a pivotal moment in the Army's push to build a safer, smarter and more versatile helicopter fleet for the future.

This achievement is not an overnight success. It is the result of more than a decade of pioneering work in autonomous flight. The technology at the heart of this helicopter originated from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Aircrew Labor In-Cockpit Automation System program. The ALIAS program began over 10 years ago. It was founded on the visionary goal of creating a removable kit for existing aircraft, which would provide a high degree of automation. The goal was to reduce the complexity of flying, enhance safety and allow pilots to focus on higher-level mission tasks.

A military aircraft manufacturing company partnered with the research agency on this effort. As a direct result, the company developed technology that

enables rotary and fixed-wing aircraft to be flown with and without people on board. After years of successful demonstrations on both commercial and military aircraft, the technology has matured. It is now a reliable system, ready for formal military evaluation.

At its heart, this is no ordinary Black Hawk. The revolutionary technology serves as the aircraft's powerful flight control and autonomy system. Functioning like a highly advanced digital co-pilot, the system can manage the most complex tasks of flight, from take-off to landing. This allows the helicopter to perform missions completely on its own or with a remote crew supervising from a secure ground station, offering unprecedented flexibility.

This advanced capability is delivered through the ALIAS optionally piloted vehicle kit. This comprehensive package includes the system's autonomy mission manager, which serves as the brain of the operation, and a software development kit. The SDK is a crucial feature that allows third-party software and new sensor technologies to be integrated, opening the door for continuous innovation. This kit approach provides

See **BLACK HAWK:** Page 9



TENANT

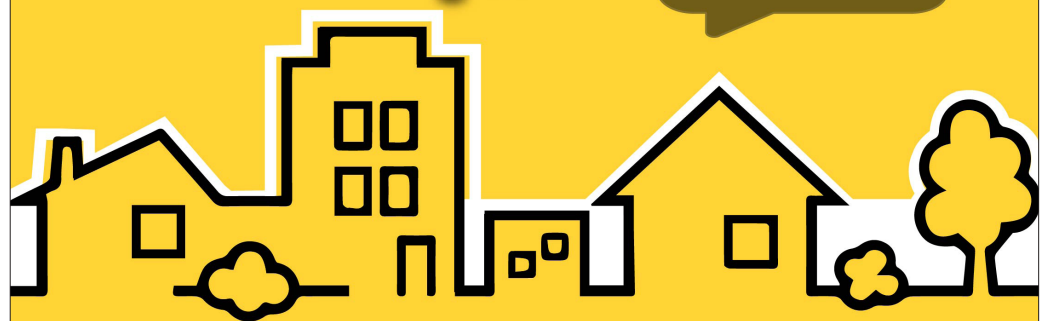
SATISFACTION SURVEY

2 MAR 2026 - 1 MAY 2026

Your Army Wants to
Hear from You!

*Completely confidential

Your Opinion
Matters!



The completely confidential survey will be emailed from
ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com.

For additional questions, please contact your local **Army Housing Office**.

OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 08/31/2028

Drone

Continued from Page 5

tegic goal of achieving drone dominance.

“The UAS Marketplace is a transformative approach to acquisition,” said Col. Danielle Medaglia, the Army’s Project Manager for UAS. “By fostering competition and innovation, we are ensuring that Soldiers

have access to the most advanced technologies to meet their mission requirements. This strategy is about delivering capability at scale and at speed.”

The Army is also leveraging the UAS Marketplace to accelerate the delivery of innovative UAS solutions to Allies and foreign partners. As it matures, this free-market approach to UAS procurement will strengthen international partnerships and streamline Foreign Military Sales processes by delivering mis-

sion-specific unmanned systems at the speed of relevance.

The Army will display the UAS Marketplace in booth #711 at the 2026 Association of the United States Army Global Force Symposium and Exposition in Huntsville, Alabama, March 24-26.

The Army will also host a Marketplace Showcase on April 14, prior to the Army Aviation Association of America’s Warfighting Summit. Visit Sam.gov for more information.

Black Hawk

Continued from Page 8

a critical pathway to adapt sophisticated autonomy to existing aircraft, significantly reducing the time and cost required to field this game-changing technology across the fleet.

A key part of this upgrade is replacing the helicopter’s traditional mechanical flight controls with a modern fly-by-wire electronic system. This makes the aircraft significantly more stable and easier to handle, particularly in challenging conditions with low visibility. By automating difficult maneuvers, the system dramatically reduces pilot workload, allowing the crew to focus less on the mechanics of flying and more on managing the critical mission at hand.

In the coming months, Army test pilots and engineers will put the optionally piloted Black Hawk through its paces. These tests will check how well the aircraft can be controlled from the ground. They will examine how well the aircraft performs complex, real-world mission scenarios independently. The Army will also evaluate how this technology can keep soldiers safer and more effective.

This single helicopter leads a much broader vision. It is the primary testbed for the Army’s Strategic Autonomy Flight Enabler program. The goal of SAFE is to develop a universal and scalable autonomy kit. This kit could be installed across the Army’s entire fleet of Black Hawk helicopters and integrated into future aircraft designs.

Partners in Texas are collaborating on the ALIAS autonomy technology. The state is sponsoring a multiyear autonomy testbed effort through Texas A&M University’s George H. W. Bush Combat Development Complex. This effort uses modified UH-60L Black Hawks. The aim is to determine the value of autonomous aircraft for wildland firefighting and related state missions.

By proving this technology, the Army aims to unlock a new era of aviation that will not only save lives but also ensure that critical missions can be completed under any circumstance. The delivery of the first optionally piloted Black Hawk is a tangible step toward a future in which technology and Soldiers work together.

ATC Civilians of the Quarter

U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson would like to recognize the Alan Charles and Shamekia Dash as the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 Civilians of the Quarter.

Charles with the 165th Infantry Brigade, and Dash with G4, were recognized for their commitment to service and were presented with a civilian achievement medal and time off award.



ALAN CHARLES
(GS-8 AND BELOW)



SHAMEKIA DASH
(GS-9 AND ABOVE)



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Happy Retirement

Fort Jackson saluted the service of Maj. Barry Wall, from the Directorate of Emergency Services, during the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment’s graduation, March 19.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE’S HONOREES

3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

DRILL SERGEANT OF THE CYCLE
Staff Sgt. Nathan Madden

ALPHA COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. David Henrie

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Patrick O’Brien

BRAVO COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Leanna Totten

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Grayden Cravens

CHARLIE COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Amy Tarelton

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Christopher Harris

DELTA COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Emily Cardenas

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Carlos Silva Parrilla

ECHO COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Coleman Barnhill

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Dylan Root

Events

Continued from Page 4

(803) 751-5256.

APRIL 24 Family Fun Fest

5 p.m., Patriots Park. Come join Child, Youth Services for the annual Family Fun Fest to celebrate the Month of the Military Child.

APRIL 25 Youth Fishing Derby

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heise Pond. Come join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation for the a Youth Fishing Derby. Youths ages 5 to 16 are welcome to come try and catch a whopper in Heise Pond. There will be prizes for heaviest fish and five fish limit total weight. The pond will be stocked so come join us for some fishing, food, and fun. Register at the check tent on the day of the event. This is a free event. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

Youth Golf Clinic

8 a.m., 3652 Inchon Road. Youths ages 6-18 are invited to a free youth golf clinic. Limited space is available so sign up is

required. Golf clubs will be provided.

APRIL 30 Cornhole Challenge

5-7 p.m., Perez Gym. Show your cornhole skills in this gym monthly challenge. For more information, call (803) 751-6272.

MAY 1 Mother's Day Paint and Sip

Army Community Service brings you this event where moms and kids can bond while creating masterpieces together. Space is limited. For more information, call (803) 751-5256

MAY 2 Magic Show

3 and 7 p.m., Down Range Bar. Magician and comedian Michael Kent is coming to the Down Range Bar for free shows. There will be two shows.

MAY 5 Shred Day

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Recycle Center. All types of paper with sensitive information will be accepted, but no classified documents. Shredding papers with your personal information provides a level of insurance against identity theft and misuse. For more information, call (803)751-4208.

MAY 8 Fort Jackson Prayer Breakfast

7:30-8:30 a.m., 1917 Club. The Fort Jackson community is invited to join the Religious Support Office to celebrate the National Day of Prayer as a community of faith. The dress code is military duty uniform, or civilian business casual. For more information, call (803) 751-6326.

MAY 13 Amnesty Day

8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Warehouse Avenue. Fort Jackson is holding an Ammunition Amnesty Day. Come turn in any ammunition up to .50 cal with no questions asked. Any Soldier or civilian can freely turn in or report location of amnesty ammunition without having to provide personal information. Individuals will not be prosecuted or punished for turning in the munitions. For more information, call (803) 751-2541.

MAY 23 Weston Lake Beach Opening

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation partners with the Directorate of Public Works to host the Recycle Regatta. Paddle Boats, Paddle Boards, Kayaks, Canoes will be free to use. Games and Beach Access. For more information, call (803) 751-5253.

Holy Month Services

Passover – Wednesday, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel (Trainees have priority... RSVP required)

Maundy Thursday

Catholic – April 2, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

Protestant – April 2, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall

Good Friday

Catholic – April 3, 3 p.m., Main Post Chapel

Protestant – April 3, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

Easter

April 5 (regularly scheduled services)

Sunrise Service, 7:30 a.m., Main Post Chapel (Permanent Party. Event held outside of Main Post Chapel entrance)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	MONDAY-FRIDAY	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
JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER (1st and 3rd Sundays)
GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER (2nd and 4th Sundays)
ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9:30-10 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only)
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. to NOON	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

BCT 101:

Rifle Marksmanship - Back up iron sights

Photos by Nathan Clinebelle

Every Soldier must be able to shoot, move, communicate and survive. From week 1 on, trainees become familiar with their assigned weapon.

They will spend countless hours on different ranges developing their skills as a marksman. Before they can graduate they must qualify with their weapon using back up iron sights, engaging targets up to 300 yards away.



VICTORY... STARTS



A trainee fires his rifle down range during basic rifle marksmanship training using iron sights. Trainees are taught how to fire using optics and iron sights during Basic Combat Training.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE