

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8, 2025

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Army kicks off 250th Anniversary at Rose Parade

DOD News Service

The Army kicked off its 250th birthday celebration at the 136th Tournament of Roses Parade, where its "This We'll Defend: 250 Years of Service" float highlighting various eras of Army history rolled through Pasadena, California.

A parade float with large statues of soldiers rolls down a parade street.

The parade's theme of "Best Day Ever!" provided a fitting backdrop for the float, which featured artistic figures representing Army icons.

Artistic figures on the float included Gen. George Washington; Mary Ludwig Hays, better known by her nickname of Molly Pitcher; Col. Robert Shaw; Maj. Walter Reed; Pfc. Joseph Oklahombi; Charles "Chief" Anderson; and Lt. Col. Harold Moore Jr.

Ushering in the modern era of the Army and riding on the float were Staff Sgt. Joseph Murtaugh and Staff Sgt. Daisy Balbuena as well as several of the Army's Soldier athletes, such as Army Capt. Sammy Sullivan.

Other soldiers walking alongside the float wore historic uniforms, including soldiers assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as "The Old Guard." The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps played traditional march music, and a custom musical piece, arranged by Sgt. 1st Class Sara Corry (D.M.A.) and recorded by The U.S. Army Band, known as "Pershing's Own," accompanied the float during the parade, capturing the spirit of the Army from the Revolutionary War to present day.



Photo by STAFF SGT. ANTONY J. MARTINEZ

Soldiers from the Old Guard's Commander In Chief's Guard and Fife and Drum Corps, march alongside the 2025 Army Rose Parade float in Pasadena, Calif. Jan. 1. The CinC and FDC took part in the 136th Rose Parade along with other Army Units that were hand picked to help tell the Army's story of the last 250 Years during the New Years Day Parade.

The parade also featured troopers assigned to the Horse Cavalry Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division, commemorating the

era when horse-mounted soldiers were vital to Army operations through World War II.

The Horse Cavalry Detachment has participated in the Tournament of the Roses almost every year since 1996.

ON THE COVER

Trainees load their bags onto a bus taking them to the Columbia, S.C. train station, Dec. 17, 2024. They were loading their bags onto the first bus to depart Fort Jackson for VBL. See Page 6-7



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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IRL set to celebrate 250 years of Army chaplains

By MEL SLATER

Institute for Religious Leadership

A quarter of a millennia is not a long time when speaking of the universe, but it's a significant amount of time when speaking in terms of a human life. This year the Army and its Chaplain Corps celebrate 250 years in service to the nation.

The central theme for the Army celebration is "This We'll Defend." The central theme for the Chaplain Corps celebration is "Celebrating 250 Years of Sacred Service."

Since the Army's establishment in 1775, Soldiers, Families and Army civilians have supported our nation, bearing true faith and allegiance to the country, the U.S. Constitution, the Army, their units, and fellow team members.

"As we prepare for our future we also reflect on our past. 'This we'll defend' was first used as a battle cry by the Continental Army. Today it reminds us that our Army's purpose is clear: To fight and win the nation's wars," said Gen. Randy A. George, Chief of Staff of the Army. "We remain committed to honing our warfighting skills, enforcing standards and discipline and living the values that have defined our Army culture for the past 250 years."

The Army has a rich legacy. One year older than the nation it defends, the Army has dedicated itself to fighting and winning the nation's wars for 250 years. As we celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States Army, we reflect on that rich history and legacy of service, sacrifice, and dedication. From the Revolutionary War to present-day missions, our Soldiers have consistently demonstrated their resolve to defend freedom at home and abroad.

The Chaplain Corps is part of that 250-year history and legacy.

"Our Corps was established just six weeks after our Army was established on June 14, 1775," said Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) William "Bill" Green, Jr., Army Chief of Chaplains. "General George Washington requested that chaplains be added to the Army to meet Soldier's religious and spiritual needs and to support good morals and morale. The Continental Congress responded authorizing one chaplain for



Courtesy photo

The Chaplain at Valley Forge by William A. Smith is painting that depicts Continental Army Gen. George Washington with his chaplain and Soldiers at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. The painting combines the early beginnings of both the Army and the Chaplain Corps as we celebrate 250 years of service to the nation.

each regular Army regiment of the Continental Army."

The Chaplain Corps was established on July 29, 1775 and 218 chaplains served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Army chaplains have participated in every major conflict involving the United States since. The Chaplain Corps has eight recipients of the Medal of Honor. Chaplain Emil Kapaun is a recipient from the Korean War. He is also on the pathway to Catholic sainthood.

Today's Total Force Chaplain Corps includes more than 3,000 chaplains, nearly 3,000 religious affairs specialists, more than 500 chaplain candidates, more than 50 directors of religious education, and nearly 100 other Department of the Army civilians.

Chaplains are professional military religious leaders who are individually endorsed and authorized to serve in the Army by distinctive civilian religious organizations. They contribute to Army

readiness by providing religious and spiritual support to America's Soldiers and their Families while assisting commanders in ensuring their right to the free exercise of religion.

The Chaplain Corps' religious affairs specialists are enlisted Soldiers who assist chaplains in the performance of their religious support duties. Before 1909, chaplains had the support of fellow Soldiers, but it was not until December 28 of that year that chaplain assistants were officially authorized.

Chaplain assistants became religious affairs specialists on Oct. 1, 2017, acknowledging their expanding capabilities in navigating a complex and religiously influenced global landscape.

The Chaplain Corps team is rounded out by Army civilians who provide mission-essential support to the Army by serving as a workforce of talented, qualified people filling critical noncombat positions. Those civilians include the Corps'

directors of religious education.

The Army's first director of religious education was hired at Fort Liberty in 1948, bringing technical expertise and professional leadership to Army religious education programs.

Since 1948, the career field has expanded across the Army, with more than 50 directors of religious education now serving 40 installations around the world, supporting the free exercise of religion, and building Army spiritual readiness.

Our country's leaders have always viewed religious support to our military as an indispensable necessity.

In 1775, George Washington said, "We need chaplains." During his years as president, he added, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to

See **CHAPLAINS:** Page 10

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.



Victory Fresh Holiday Hours

Victory Fresh will reopen Jan. 13, 2025.

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.

ID Card Section Update

The Fort Jackson ID Card Facility located in Room 109, Bldg. 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd., services walk-in customers from 8-10 a.m. Monday through Friday. All appointments are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office closes at noon on the first and third Thursday of each month for mandatory training. It is closed on all federal holidays.

Education Center Re-Opening

Education Center Re-Opening

The grand re-opening of the Education Center will be held Jan. 15 after the Education Fair.

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 ArmyIgnitedED 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)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY

MLK Fun Run

8 a.m., Marion Street Station. Join the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation for a run in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr..

Eudora Wildlife Safari

9:30 a.m., Marion Street Station. Join Outdoor Recreation for a visit to Eudora Wildlife Safari, the first drive through safari in South Carolina. Explore wildlife with more than 300 exotic animals during a three-mile drive through Safari Park. Trip costs \$25 per person. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

JAN. 15

2025 Spring College Fair

9 a.m. to noon, 1917 Club. Come out and meet college representatives and learn about professional and trade programs offered. There will be more than 50 representatives from on-post, local and regional educational institutions across the country. It is free to attend with no registration required. For more information, call (803) 751-5341, or (520) 691-4472 or email usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.dhr-jacksonedcenter@army.mil.

JAN. 31

Free Friday Zoo Day

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

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

■ Flight Risk (R) 2 p.m.
Free Showing

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

■ Moana 2 (PG) 2 p.m.

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

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 on-site/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.

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~~~~~

## Post welcomes Hood as new commander

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

*(This article is part of a series that looks back at events that happened at Fort Jackson in 2024.)*

Fort Jackson and the Army welcomed Maj. Gen. Daryl Hood and honored the leadership of Maj. Gen. Jason Kelly during a change of command ceremony on Hilton Field, Aug. 23, 2024.

Hood took command of the Army Training Center and Fort Jackson from Kelly during the ceremony.

Lt. Gen. David J. Francis, Training and Doctrine Command deputy commander, and Center for Initial Military Training commander, who presided over the ceremony called the Soldiers on the field “the absolute engine of what makes American Soldiers.”

What Fort Jackson does is inspiring, he said, in part do to the efforts of Kelly in the past and Hood in the coming years.

“Yesterday on this very field, over 1,200 young Americans became American Soldiers in front of about 10,000 parents, grandparents, relatives and friends,” Francis said. The 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment graduated Basic Combat Training, Aug. 22, 2024. “The pride of every one of those 10,000 was palpable and truly inspiring.”

That is no accident, he said. It was because of Kelly’s leadership over the past few years. These efforts of Fort Jackson leaders ensure “that the U.S. Army remains ready to fight and win now.”

“Jason, your ability to form meaningful connections with community leaders, peers and subordinates resonate through your tenure here.”

That tenure included the Future Soldier Preparatory Course as an answer to the nation’s recruiting challenge; the successful graduation of more than 60,000 trained Soldiers; the creation of Forge 2.5; and the introduction of foundational skills in the BCT program of instruction.

Hood is “ready and honored” to take the reins of Fort Jackson, Francis said.

“Lead us to new heights and I’m confi-



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**Maj. Gen. Daryl Hood, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson commander, receives the post colors from Lt. Gen. David J. Francis, Center for Initial Military Training commander, during a ceremony Aug. 23, 2024.**

dent you’ll bring the same level of passion, vision and leadership,” he said. “The future of our Army starts right here with you.”

Hood in turn said it isn’t about him, but the leaders and Soldiers standing on the field behind him.

“So, to all the Soldiers and leaders standing on the field, to include the band, that’s the team out there that gets the job done, along with drill sergeants and support staff that makes each day a success,” he said during the ceremony.

“It’s not about me. It’s not about Daryl Hood,” he added. When you put your left hand on the U.S. Army on your uniform it is about authority and the tape on the right side is each of us individually identifying who we are. “It’s not about Hood ... It’s about this nation and submitting to what

the Army needs us to do.”

“I’m just being thankful and honored and privileged that I can be a part of that and let the audio and video match.”

After the ceremony Hood spoke a few moments about what the assignment means to him.

He comes to Fort Jackson from the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland where he commanded the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives Command.

“Hey, it’s not about me. It’s about something greater than me and me being a part of it,” he said. “So, I’m excited to know that at my age, I still have the opportunity to spend time around inspired men and women, sons and daughters of our American people.”

## Three inducted into hall of fame

By **FORT JACKSON**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

*(This article is part of a series that looks back at events that happened at Fort Jackson in 2024.)*

Three prominent Fort Jackson fixtures were enshrined in the post’s hall of fame in a ceremony held June 6, 2024 in the 1917 Club.

The members are a short list of the “who’s who that have supported our vision, mission and goals for the future of our beloved installation,” said Col. Mark Huhtanen, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson deputy commanding officer during the ceremony.

Retired Col. Joseph McLamb, retired Col. Michael Molosso and retired Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald Meyers joined a select group of individuals who have made many sacrifices to the installation and “dedicated themselves to betterment of our installations and others to ensure that Fort Jackson remains relevant today and well into the future,” Huhtanen said.

McLamb took his enshrinement humbly.

“I want you to know that I don’t deserve to be in the ... hall of fame,” he said. “All you have to do is look at the names of the people who have already been inducted into this to know that I don’t belong in this club. I’ve never done anything for Fort Jackson that wasn’t my duty – and I didn’t do that perfectly.”

“And frankly, on those days, it was just a joy because of the people who surrounded me.”

McLamb was both DCO and a brigade commander on post before retiring and became the chief of staff for the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs. As DCO he was the touchpoint of the post’s outreach efforts. He is also the secretary of the Sportsman Club.

Molosso, was a commandant of the





Pvt. Nebue Abebe places a backpack over his shoulder as he prepares to check in for his flight home from Columbia Metropolitan Airport in Columbia, S.C., Dec. 18, 2024.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE  
A trainee has his ID card scanned as he processes through the Solomon Center Dec. 18, 2024 en route to going home for the holidays on Victory Block Leave.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE  
Trainees stand in line waiting to enter a processing node on Fort Jackson prior to their loading buses to take them to their flights home, Dec. 18, 2024.



Photo by VERAN HILL

Trainees load a bus taking from the Solomon Center Dec. 18, 2024 on their first step home for Victory Block Leave. Some departed the post early Dec. 18 and and through Dec. 19, 2024. Commercial buses will take them to the Columbia Metropolitan Airport; Charlotte Douglas International Airport; Columbia Amtrak station; and many will be going home with their families in privately owned vehicles.



Photo by VERAN HILL

Pvt. Tate Pritz, recent graduate of 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment poses with his Family at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, Dec. 18, 2024. Tate and other Fort Jackson Soldiers went home for two weeks to spend time with their families and friends during Victory Block Leave. Other than seeing his Family, Tate said, he's was 'most excited about eating some Buffalo Chicken Dip, I've been craving the dip.'

~~~~~Year in Review~~~~~

Soldiers head home for the holidays

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

(This article is part of a series that looks back at events that happened at Fort Jackson in 2024.)

The holiday season has always been a time to spend with family and friends.

For Soldiers going through Initial Entry Training in December it means being part of a unique Army experience of going home during training.

Roughly 8,000 trainees departed Fort Jackson Dec. 18-19, 2024 for Victory Block Leave, also known as holiday block leave or exodus. It allows trainees and cadre alike to take a breather from training and head home to be with their families.

For those going home it's also a cause for excitement.

"Some may say, 'Wow, it's block leave. It's Christmas time. I'm so excited to go back home and tell the story of what it's like going through (Basic Combat Training),' and they are so excited to go home," said Maj. Gen. Daryl Hood, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson commander.

It is also special for drill sergeants to see the trainee's excitement while heading home.

"It's rewarding because you get to see the product of your work, and then they get to share that with their Families during holidays," said Sgt. 1st Class Rashard Neal, with Company B, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment.

For Pvt. Yadiel Castro, one of

I'M MOST EXCITED ABOUT EATING SOME BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP.

- Pvt. Tate Pritz
Recent BCT graduate

the first trainees to depart Fort Jackson, it's a time for him to rest and refresh.

"It feels amazing," he said as he waited to board a bus for the Columbia Amtrak Station. "I feel like it helps us get some more energy and come back stronger and finish training."

Castro's unit, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, is in the sixth week of a 10-week training cycle.

Pvt. Nebue Abebe said he was "looking forward to spending time with friends and family" and possibly buying junk food.

Pvt. Tate Pritz, a recent graduate of 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, was yearning for special food too.

Other than seeing my Family, Pritz said, "I'm most excited about eating some Buffalo Chicken Dip, I've been craving the dip."

While it may be tempting to overeat during the holidays, trainees must remember they will start training again once they return in early January.

"When they leave and take the two-week break, we want them to continue to exercise, enjoy mom and grandmom's cooking, try to do it in portion size, but don't just

stay there for the whole time and do nothing because when you come back, we are going to continue back with our physical regime," Hood said.

Pvt. Joslyn Robinson, another 1st Bn. 34th Inf. Regt. grad said, "It's been a long 10 weeks of training, and I'm excited about rekindling with family and friends before my training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma." Robinson will be heading there after leave to start Advanced Individual Training as a 13U – Field Artillery Recruit.

While VBL is good for trainees, cadre and leaders benefit from it too.

"For those on permanent party, much like myself, we're excited to go see our Family and friends and spend time with them," said Hood.

Staff Sgt. Brittney Echols, a drill sergeant who was at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport in Columbia, South Carolina, helping trainees to get on their flights agreed.

It's time for doing things with "Family that we don't get to usually do when on the trail," she said.

Drill sergeants can work long hours with few breaks, so block leave is a welcomed respite.

"Like I said the hours are very long," Echols said. "So just taking our Family out, you know, and doing things that makes them happy makes us happy. So, we can kind of reset for the next job."

(Editor's note: Veran Hill contributed to this article.)


~~~~~Year in Review~~~~~

# Post holds resiliency stand-to

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

*(This article is part of a series that looks back at events that happened at Fort Jackson in 2024.)*

“Part of resiliency, in addition to being able to bounce back or to recover, is to also be able to cope and navigate your way around problems when they are small enough to be managed,” said Aljournal Franklin, moderator for a speakers panel during Fort Jackson’s Resiliency Stand-To held Oct. 3, 2024.

The installation held the two-day Stand-To Oct. 3-4 to expose Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and others on post to on- and off-post agencies that can help increase their ability to bounce back during a crisis.

“In most units when something bad happens, we do a stand down and look at everything we did wrong and how we could prevent it,” said Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs while opening the Stand-To at the Drill Sergeant Timothy Kay Soldier Performance Readiness Center. “We wanted to get ahead of that by providing resources to those who need it before an incident happens. You know, it’s about prevention, but with the blessing of (Holistic Health and Fitness), it’s about getting better physically, emotionally, spiritually, mentally.”

The five domains of H2F are physical, spiritual, mental, sleep and nutrition.

Ochs called on the community to look out for each other especially those who couldn’t make it to the Stand-To.

“So please help that person,” he charged the community. “You know your people far better than I ever will.”

Ochs added resiliency isn’t just targeted at drill sergeants, but “our civilian employees here, our contractors, our Family members, all these resources are available to anybody that can get through the gates.”

After Ochs spoke, attendees joined a small group circuit that included pullups, hand-release pushups, two 20-lbs dumbbell carry and cardio machines.

“Personally, it is important to me because I want the Fort Jackson community to know there is a resource to help them in every situation they’re facing,” said Theresita Moses, Army Substance Abuse Program manager and Stand-To lead planner. “They do not have to go through anything alone. As a community we can help make each other stronger.”

For 1st Sgt. Nickolas Reed with the 193rd Infantry Brigade the workout was a good start to the day.

“All the events today are good things to help cad-

re, drill sergeants (know of the events) around post which really opens your eyes,” Reed said.

The workout session was followed later Oct. 3 with the speaker’s panel Franklin moderated.

The panel was comprised of

■ Breanna Kay - Gold Star widow of drill sergeant Kay

■ Keith Allen - U.S. Army Master Resilience School director

■ Kimberly Richardson - chief executive officer, Widows of Opportunity, South Carolina

■ Mark Casper - chief executive officer, Tech 4 Troops

■ Maj. Erin Stone - Non Physical Domain Lead, Holistic Health and Fitness, Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Each panel member spoke about their experiences with resiliency and how they or their agencies helped them bounce back.

Kay said resiliency first took a role in her life in July 2021 when her then boyfriend was diagnosed with cancer for a second time.

“At that point my whole world was turned upside down,” she said. “We were actually dating at that time. So, it was at that point I had to make a decision do we move forward and get married, or do I stay behind and just leave this relationship. So that is probably the first point where resiliency came into my life.”

She said they made the decision during his battle that he was going to go down fighting - a battle he fought tooth and nail. The SPRC was named after him because doctors said he wouldn’t have made it as far as he did without his physical regimen.

Kay said the physical regimen her late husband went through while fighting cancer “from my experience it can be the difference between life and death. It gave me an extra 14 months based on the physical capacity he maintained.”

She found there were people at Fort Jackson who would help support her.

Her story was one of the many shared at the panel. For more information and to watch the panel in its entirety visit: <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson/videos/1968655593645172>.

The Stand-To ended Oct. 4 with classes aimed at helping individuals build resiliency. They were “Mindfulness and Meditation” provided by the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy; a finance class from Army Community Service financial specialists; bingo with SHARP and MEO office; a unit cohesion class; and a nutrition class.

~~~~~Year in Review~~~~~

Team Meadors joins Team Jackson

Story, photo by
ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

(This article is part of a series that looks back at events that happened at Fort Jackson in 2024.)

“You are getting an accomplished and proven leader in Col. Tim Meadors,” said Maj. Gen. Jason E. Kelly to troops of the 193rd Infantry Brigade, June 21, 2024.

Meadors took command of the Bayonet Brigade that day from Col. Scott White in a ceremony at Victory Field on post. A change of command ceremony is part of a long-standing tradition first codified in Gen. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben.

Von Steuben was a Prussian military officer integral to the development of the Continental Army into a professional fighting force during the American Revolution.

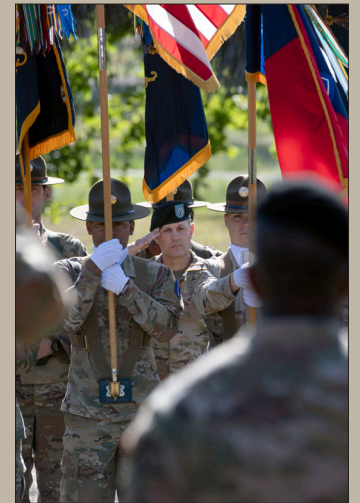
“I have spent time with him,” Kelly added. “Rest assured you’re getting another good one. Tim we’re all thrilled to welcome you and your Family to the community.”

The brigade dates back in 1922.

It played an important role in the battle of the Ruhr pocket during World War II, and during the invasion of Panama in 1989.

The unit started training on Fort Jackson in January 2007.

Meadors has a distinguished career after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York in 2001. He has served in the 3rd Infantry Regiment (Old Guard), commanded 1st Battalion, 5th



Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Duncan, senior enlisted leader for the 193rd Infantry Brigade salutes during a change of command ceremony that saw Col. Timothy Meadors take charge of the unit.

Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He has deployed multiple times in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Meadors inherits a “remarkable group,” Kelly said.

“Together you will continue to achieve and push boundaries of innovation,” he said. “But let there be no confusion about ... the strength of our Army, the strength of this brigade. With our Soldiers and with our Families, and the unwavering support of the nation give the incentive to get it right every day and all the time.”

“It’s always been and always will be all about the dedicated team that worked so hard to make things happen here.”

The team Meadors now leads is charged with turning civilians into Soldiers in 10 weeks.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

SECARMY visits Jackson

Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth speaks to Soldiers during her visit to Fort Jackson, Sept. 25-26, 2024. She also spoke at the 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment graduation, Sept. 26.

~~~~~Year in Review~~~~~

## Weimer speaks about leadership at Maude series

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

*(This article is part of a series that looks back at events that happened at Fort Jackson in 2024.)*

The Army's top enlisted Soldier spoke to Fort Jackson Soldiers and leaders during the Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Leadership Lecture Series, Oct. 1, 2024.

The series, sponsored by the Adjutant General School, celebrates Maude's "love of Soldiers and devotion to the Army was at the core of his commitment to duty."

According to the event program, Maude's success in launching the "Army of One" campaign demonstrated his own

passionate belief that service to the Nation was the noblest of endeavors, as well as his broad understanding of the human spirit seeking for something greater than self.

Maude was the senior ranking service member killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attack on the Pentagon.

"It is an opportunity for prominent leaders, community leaders and senior leaders in the Army to come and share their thoughts on leadership," said Col. Chesley Thigpin, AG School commandant and chief of the AG Corps as he introduced Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer.

He spoke about many aspects of lead-

ership and answered questions from the audience.

Weimer is the Army Chief of Staff's personal adviser on matters affecting the enlisted force. He devotes the majority of his time traveling throughout the Army to observe training and interact with Soldiers and their Families. He sits on a variety of councils and boards that make decisions affecting enlisted Soldiers and their Families and routinely invited to testify before Congress.

"The number one thing about your leadership is do people trust you? Because if they don't trust you, you have no influence," said Weimer, the 17th Sergeant Major of the Army.

## January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness month

By **CHARLENE DAVIS**  
Army Public Health Nurse

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness month, which aims to raise awareness of cervical cancer and promote information on prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, and cure. This month also strive to urge women, trans men, and nonbinary individuals to take their gynecological health seriously. Most individual may ask how to start, well screening for early detection of abnormal cervical cancer cells will be the start. As most cervical cancer is a preventable disease. This screening can be performed by having a Pap test completed by a provider.

Screening with a Pap test (Pap Smear) for the human papillomavirus and HPV vaccination are proven tools for reducing the burden of cervical cancer. Providers are looking for abnormal cells when conducting a pap smear. According to the George Washington University Cancer Center Training and Technical Assistance Program, if cervical cancer cells look abnormal but are not yet cancerous, it is called cervical pre-cancer. These cells may be the first sign of cancer that develops later.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that women should start getting Pap tests every three years, beginning at the age 21.

From 30 to 65 years of age, the USPSTF recommends combination screening: the Pap test alone every three years; a high-risk HPV test alone every five years or contesting with both every five years.

Testing isn't recommended for most women over 65.

Human papillomavirus is a common virus that can be passed through skin-to-skin contact, most often during sexual activities. HPV is highly contagious and the most common viral sexually transmitted infection in the United States. Roughly 14 million people get the infection each year. Most people are not aware that they have the disease.

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IRL

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subvert these great pillars.”

George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the Army during World War II, would later state, “The Soldiers heart, the Soldier’s spirit, the Soldier’s soul are everything. Unless the Soldier’s soul sustains him, he cannot be relied on and will fail himself and his commander and his country in the end.”

The core competencies of the Chaplain Corps are to nurture the living, care for the wounded and honor the fallen.

The Chaplain Corps continues adapting, to address emerging faith

requirements while supporting multi-domain operations.

The goal of Army birthday communication and events is to increase public awareness and appreciation of the U.S. Army’s enduring opportunities, readiness, and values by highlighting the achievements of past and present Soldiers and civilians.

From Jan. 1 to Dec.31, 2025, leaders and Soldiers at unit, installation, headquarters, and Army levels will celebrate the 250th birthdays of the Army and the Chaplain Corps.

IRL will host Chaplain Corps Regiment birthday activities at “The Heart and Home of the Army Chaplaincy” at Fort Jackson in July.



Photo by PAUL STAMPS

A modern-day chaplain serves Soldiers in the field. This year marks the Chaplain Corps 250 years of service to the nation.

DID YOU KNOW: All portable heaters must be inspected, authorized, and permitted annually to use within a government facility.

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 |



## Hall

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Adjutant General School and after his retirement from the Army, served as AG School deputy commandant for 15 years. He was also the president of the Fort Jackson Retiree Council for more than 17 years.

He said he too didn't deserve the honor, but taking care of retirees was a seminal point in his life.

"I didn't realize how important that really was," he said about leading the Retiree Council. "I didn't realize how important it is to communicate with our retired population. I didn't understand how important it was to keep an eye on surviving spouses and ensuring they're getting the care and know the type of support they can get. I didn't realize how important that particular aspect of the lifecycle of our Army really was."

Meyers served as an instructor at what was then known as the Army Chaplain School and then held various assignments at the 81st Readiness Division and is currently the president of the Fort Jackson Sportsman Club.

"As I reflect back over the last two years, I've been leading the Fort Jackson Sportsman Club and being their leader and champion, I'm eternally grateful for the leaders who served before me and have taught me so much," Meyers said during the ceremony.

He thanked those in his career who helped him and elaborated on how God directed him to be the leader of the club.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. James Walthes, who was unable to attend the ceremony, was inducted into the hall of fame later that month.

## Awareness

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According to Cleveland Clinic, you can reduce your risk for HPV by getting screened and tested regularly, practice safe sex and protecting your partners if tested positive for HPV.

There are more than 30 strains that can affect your genitals, like genital warts. Certain strains (most often type 16 and 18) are known to be the cause of cervical cancer. The best way to protect against HPV is to get vaccinated before

~~~~~Year in Review~~~~~

Bomb's Away: 2ID Soldier wins long drive competition

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

(This article is part of a series that looks back at events that happened at Fort Jackson in 2024.)

For one sniper team leader in the 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, hitting a golf ball wasn't for distance. He found out July 22, 2024 that hitting a golf ball a long way can become far more lucrative.

Brendan Ridge won the Military Long Drive Championship held at Fort Jackson, South Carolina with a drive of 348 yards.

Twelve active duty, retired, or reserve service members from around the country competed at the event. As winner of the military championship, Ridge automatically qualified to compete in the open division at the World Long Drive Championship, Aug. 8-11, 2024 in Atlanta.

He also received \$10,000 for his win.

"It feels bad to say it, but I was here just to kind of see what was going to happen because I mostly play regular golf," the staff sergeant said. "So, I was kind of open minded and the win is a huge surprise."

Ridge had to win competitions at his post to qualify for the finals, and then had to battle some heavy hitters from across the services including Mikael Dubois – an Air



Brendan Ridge, a sniper team leader in the 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., raises the World Long Drive cup after winning the 2024 Military Long Drive Competition held at Fort Jackson, S.C., July 22, 2024.

Force pilot who won the last Military Long Drive Championship held at Fort Jackson in 2019.

"After I graduated college, I wanted to play a lot of golf," said the infantryman with four years in service. "I just didn't know this was an opportunity for the military specifically, or never really thought to go into it or regular golf. I'm glad I discovered it."

Ridge met Dubois on the driving range before the first round that, he professed,

helped calm him down for the tournament.

"He told me that getting balls in play matters a lot and just have fun with it," Ridge said. "I think going into it with that attitude, loosened me up. Once I started getting balls in the grid and knowing that I was getting out there, like 310-320 yards, I figured I might have a shot at this."

According to the WLD, the event is the ultimate, full-throttle competition to see who can hit a golf ball the farthest.

becoming sexually active. Gardasil 9 is the only vaccine available in the U.S. that protect against nine of the 12 high risk HPV strains.

This vaccine can be given to adolescents starting at the age of nine.

According to Cancercontroltap, receiving the vaccine well before there is skin to skin contact in the areas of high infection risk, allows the body more time to produce the strongest immune response against HPV when the vaccine is given in this age range. You can ask your provider if they recommend you get vaccinated.

Reading this article can feel overwhelming and scary but that's okay. This is an opportunity to speak to your provider either if you assigned at Moncrief Army Health

clinic or other community clinics about your health and any questions you may have regarding cervical cancer and HPV.

Take this opportunity and the start of the new year to be the advocate you need for your health.

Write questions that you have regarding your health and note the symptoms you are experiencing so you can have an interactive conversation with your provider. Health care providers are the best to help you start your healthy journey with health and not the internet. Internet can cause panic, especially if the source is not reputable. Cheers to a New Year with a healthy life.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/features/cervical-cancer.html>.

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



The 282D Army Band playing holiday tunes for C.C. Pinckney Elementary School students at Fort Jackson during the school's Caroling in the Corridors event, Dec. 19, 2024. The band walked through the school halls playing tunes such as 'Feliz Navidad' as the students sang and cheered.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS