

THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2023

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

# VICTORY ... STARTS WITH SPORTS

## POST CELEBRATES 106TH BIRTHDAY



[www.facebook.com/fortjackson](https://www.facebook.com/fortjackson)



GARRISON: [www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson](https://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson)



[@FortJackson](https://twitter.com/FortJackson)



[@fortjackson](https://www.instagram.com/fortjackson)



# DOD's commitment to a safe summer

by LLOYD F. AUSTIN III  
Secretary of Defense

The summer season is quickly approaching, and with it comes the warmer weather and longer days that allow for greater opportunities to travel and enjoy recreational activities. As we renew our summer traditions and take well-deserved leave, we must prepare ourselves and engage our people to ensure we exercise sound judgement and focused leadership to lessen the vulnerability of our uniformed, civilian, and contractor workforce to unique summertime hazards. The preservation of our force is paramount. One loss is too many.

Each year the period known as the "Critical Days of Summer" - between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day - proves to be one of the most dangerous times for the members of our force. Last year during this time, we lost 68 Service members, most to motor vehicle accidents.

When traveling on roads and highways, be aware and attentive and commit to not driving impaired or distracted. Remember that wearing your seatbelt is not only mandatory but it is also the number one way to reduce your risk of serious injury and death in an automobile



Austin

accident.

This summer, I encourage you to have fun with family and friends, while also keeping safety and risk management as an integral part of your plans, both on and off duty. Look out for one another, plan ahead, maintain awareness, and always follow fundamental safety protocols. Together we can support and protect the safety and health of our people and save lives.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to our Nation. I wish you and your families a responsible and enjoyable summer season. With our collective focus on safety, we can ensure we maintain the readiness required to meet our objectives.

# Officials: Prepare now for hurricane season

By EMILY HILEMAN  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The Atlantic hurricane season began June 1 and continues until Nov. 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted a 40% chance of a near normal season, but what does that mean?

Although the Midlands may feel safe from hurricanes at just over two hours from the nearest coastal city, the area is not completely out of the woods. In 2015, a cold front formed into a storm near the Florida-Georgia border. This storm collided with moisture from Hurricane Joaquin over the Bahamas, and resulted in historic flooding in the Midlands.

Even if a hurricane makes landfall in Florida, the aftermath can create a series of storms, rains, floods and even tornadoes hundreds of miles inland. Luckily, once a hurricane moves inland, it can't draw on the heat energy from the ocean. This lack of heat weakens the storm and rapidly reduces its rating and affects.

**When do hurricanes affect South Carolina the most?**

If weather conditions line up just right, hurricanes are possible at any time of year.

"South Carolina is mostly affected by hurricane activity in September," said Ray Domenech, emergency manager for Fort Jackson. "Hurricanes are predictable and suffering can be reduced by preparing and by listening to the weather forecast."

**What does Fort Jackson do to prepare for hurricanes?**

Fort Jackson reviews and distributes the Severe Weather Emergency Action Plan, conducts exercises, publishes a Hurricane Season Guide and more, Domenech said. On top of ensuring the safety of the Fort Jackson community, it also serves as a safe haven for sister services stationed along the South Carolina coast.

"There are five safe havens on Fort Jackson which are activated and managed in accordance with the Safe Havens Operations Plan," he said.

Well before the hurricane makes landfall, the Fort Jackson Emergency Management Program informs the community as soon as a hurricane is located by the National Hurricane Center, Domenech said.

"We send updates as the hurricane changes category or direction and as it gets closer to South Carolina," he added.

**What can I do to prepare for hurricanes?**

If this is your first hurricane season, it can be scary, but preparation is key. The first thing to do if you have a Common Access Card is ensure you're enrolled in the Alert! Notifications system at <https://alertservices.csd.disa.mil/> Domenech said. Also download the Digital Garrison app, which does not require a CAC, to stay up to date on all Fort Jackson news and updates.

Next, develop an action and communications plan. Write down emergency phone numbers and post them on the refrigerator and save them in your cell phone. Mark a designated meeting place in case of phone outages and

See **HURRICANE:** Page 9

## ON THE COVER

Lt. Col. Claudia Pena, Headquarters, Headquarters Battalion commander, cheers during a Post Run celebrating Fort Jackson's 106th birthday, June 5.

See Page 6-7



Photo by TOM BYRD

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"We Make American Soldiers"

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

This electronic newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Fort Jackson Leader are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Jackson.

All editorial content of the Fort Jackson Leader is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Jackson.

The Fort Jackson Leader is distributed online. To submit articles, story ideas or announcements, write the Fort Jackson Leader, 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd., Rm. 227, Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, or call (803) 751-6739 or e-mail [usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil)

Commanding General ..... Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly  
Garrison Commander ..... Col. Ryan M. Hanson  
Public Affairs Officer ..... Tom Byrd  
Command Information Officer ..... Robert Timmons  
Editor ..... Emily Hileman  
Social Media Manager ..... Nathan Clinebelle

**Website:** [home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/FortJacksonNews](http://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/FortJacksonNews)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/fortjackson](http://www.facebook.com/fortjackson)

[www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson](http://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/fortjackson](http://www.twitter.com/fortjackson)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/fortjackson](http://www.instagram.com/fortjackson)



# Not your average summer camp

**Story, photos by EMILY HILEMAN**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson is no stranger to cadets in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, but this week it saw an influx of cadets of a different kind – more than 500 high school students arrived June 3 to participate in a six-day leadership and teamwork building opportunity called Junior ROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge.

“We’re challenging them,” said retired Command Sgt. Maj. James Sypher. “We’re bringing all these kids together from different schools and none of the cadets here have any of their instructors as cadre, so it’s a great opportunity to have them share their experiences with each other and learn new things.”

The cadets arrived and received their first taste of Army life by in-processing and receiving their official safety brief. Students were placed in one of four companies, and they were intentionally separated from many of their peers, their cadre, and worst of all for them – their cell phones.

“We took their cell phones away Sunday,” said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Brown, safety officer for phase one of JCLC. “So, they have to talk to one another and before they leave here on Saturday, they have phone numbers that they put in the notebooks we give them and they may have made lasting friends, sometimes forever.”

Although the first day and night may be lonely for cadets, Brown said they quickly start to find solace in their teammates who are experiencing the same thing, much like what happens to Soldiers in Basic Combat Training.

“If you’re lonely and I’m lonely, I’m going to go over and say something to you and the bond starts right there,” he said.

Beginning Monday morning and continuing through Thursday evening, students participate in a variety of activities seen by typical trainees at Fort Jackson such as the Confidence Course and the Teamwork Development Course. More unique activities are also sprinkled throughout their week at Fort Jackson such as archery, canoeing and Science,



**A Junior ROTC cadet from Barnwell High School in Barnwell, S.C. clings to one of the many obstacles on the Confidence Course during the Junior ROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge, June 5. Cadets from across South Carolina attended the six-day leadership challenge.**

Technology, Engineering and Math activities.

Nearing the end of an action-packed week, cadets are given another taste of military life as they participate in a mandatory fun event, also known as Org Day. During Org Day, students gather, eat, laugh and exchange experiences with peers from their own schools they were separated from as well as new friends made through the five-day experience.

After a long week of physical and mental challenges designed to strengthen the students’ leadership and communication abilities, they graduate and return back to their homes, forever changed by the experiences they received on Fort Jackson.



**A Junior ROTC cadet negotiates an obstacle during the Junior ROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge, June 5.**



# Community Updates

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Personal Property Announcement

U.S. Transportation Command personal property pre-peak season began in February and will last through September. Once service members receive orders for Permanent Change of Station, they are required to access Military Once-Source for customer support resources to arrange household goods shipment. <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-housing/moving/pcs-and-military-moves/>. For more information, contact the Fort Jackson Personal Property Office 751-5137/5138. Soldiers and Families can find personal property programs overview information and TSP ratings on the customer facing dashboard, <https://www.ustranscom.mil/dp3/index.cfm#overview>.

### Employment Readiness Seminar

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Army Community Service invites military spouses to an employment readiness seminar. The seminar includes classes on interviewing skills and resume writing. Come meet AAFES and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center representatives, who are looking to hire military spouses. The seminar takes place the last Thursday of every month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at 9810 Lee Road. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 751-5256.

### Equal Employment Opportunity

Looking for Equal Employment Opportunity information? Can't find the latest EEO newsletter? You can find the information you need at: [home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/eeo](http://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/eeo).

### Yoga Classes

Yoga classes are offered to Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and Family Members at the Drill Sergeant Timothy Kay Soldier Performance Readiness Center 7:30 a.m. Tuesdays; 6 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays; and 11:45 a.m. Thursdays.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### TOMORROW

#### Spouse Federal Resume Workshop

9:30-11:30 a.m., Army Community Service Building, 9810 Lee Road. Are you seeking federal employment? Come learn everything you need to know about:

transitioning from private industry to the federal government; writing a correct federal resume; creating effective Knowledge Skills and Abilities; answering Self-Assessment Questionnaires; formatting your resume to be noticed by reviewers; interviewing; and tracking the progress of your application. Topics covered are: USAJobs account, position classification standards and functional guides; breaking down the vacancy announcement adjusting your experience to the vacancy; self assessment questionnaire; and military spouse preference. Call 751-5256 to reserve a seat.

### Money & Mindsets Webinar

1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program in partnership with the Ready & Resilient Performance Center will host a “Money & Mindsets” webinar on Microsoft Teams. This webinar will dive into an individual's mindset regarding managing money, effective self-talk, and goal setting. This is a great opportunity to learn about self-motivation, setting and achieving goals that will help you improve the management of your personal finances and achieving financial goals. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

### JUNE 10

#### Offshore Fishing Trip

5 a.m., Marion Street Station. Outdoor Recreation's popular fishing trip is scheduled. Space is limited so register early by calling 751-3484. Travel to Hilton Head, South Carolina with your Outdoor Recreation team and fish three to five miles offshore for black sea bass, mackerel, black drum, red fish, bluefish and maybe even a shark. Climb on board the 70-foot fishing boat for a five-hour fishing trip. This boat offers shaded and seated fishing areas, restrooms, and even has snacks and drinks for sale on board. Outdoor Recreation will provide the transportation and coolers for you to transport your catch back home. The \$90 fee covers transportation, license, bait, tackle, and trip. Registration required at Marion Street Station.

### JUNE 12-14

#### Green to Gold briefings

Noon to 12:45 p.m. and 4-4:45 p.m., Education Center, Rm. B302. Soldiers interested in earning an Army officer's commission while completing their undergraduate degree or earning a master's degree, unit leaders and mentors interested in helping

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

**SEND ALL  
SUBMISSIONS TO**  
[usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil](mailto: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. Questions?

their Soldiers are invited to attend ROTC briefings. For more information, call (803) 554-9987.

### JUNE 14

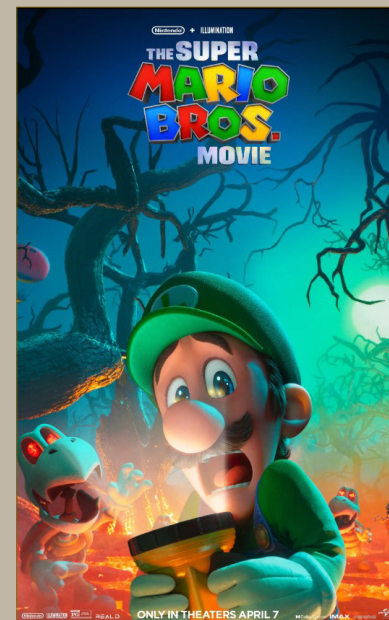
#### Pre-driver's Life Skills Class

5-7 p.m., Auto Crafts Center. Prepare first-time driver's to properly care for a vehicle. Basic automotive skills will be covered in this two-part course. Limited space available, ages 14 and older, \$30 per class, class includes oil change on students' family vehicle. For more information or to register, call 751-5755/ 7061.

### JUNE 15

#### Garrison Change of Command

8:30 a.m., Victory Field. Col. Ryan Hanson will relinquish command of the Fort



## Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

### TUESDAY

■ Super Mario Brothers (PG) 2 p.m.

### SATURDAY

■ Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (PG-13) 2 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

■ Super Mario Brothers (PG) 2 p.m.

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

Jackson garrison to Col. Timothy R. Hickman in a ceremony on Victory Field.

### JUNE 17

#### Army Birthday Relay Race

7 a.m., U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy. Celebrate the Army's Birthday with a traditional relay race with teams of four. This is a Commander's Cup event. For more information, call 751-5869/3096.





(From left to right:) Army Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Thomas L. Solhjem along with Fort Jackson Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly; Deputy Chief of Chaplains and Institute for Religious Leadership Director, Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) William Green; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for South Carolina, Kevin Shwedo; IRL Commandant and Deputy Director, Chaplain (Col.) James Palmer, Jr.; IRL Command Sgt. Maj. Evelin Montealegre; and Chaplain Corps Regimental Sgt. Maj. Meaghan Bicklein cut the ribbon outside at the entrance to the building, June 1.

## Chaplain Corps officially opens Institute for Religious Leadership

**Story, photo by MEL SLATER**  
Institute for Religious Leadership

Greek philosopher Heraclitus is given credit for the quote that says, “The only constant in life is change.”

The U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership officially opened during a ribbon cutting ceremony on the campus grounds, June 1. The institute was formally known as the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School. All Army chaplains and religious affairs specialists are trained at the institute.

“The U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School and our association with TRADOC began in 1973. That’s a long time and it served a purpose. I don’t want us to leave here today with this USACHCS being a bad thing, no. Let’s just give it up for The U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School,” said Army Chief of Chaplains, Chap. (Maj. Gen.) Thomas L. Solhjem during his program remarks. “It was a change that was needed for the future’s sake. For generations that would follow. With USA-IRL, this is may be our 1973 moment.”

The change was a long time coming. Change requires patience.

The initiative to transform the Chaplain

School began in 2016. The Office of the Chief of Chaplains began taking steps to reform the Chaplain Corps to meet Army readiness needs in support of Force 2025 and beyond.

The IRL was established to meet the new challenges.

The ribbon cutting portion of the ceremony was held outside with the rest of the ceremony held inside due to the weather.

Solhjem along with Fort Jackson Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly; Deputy Chief of Chaplains and IRL Director, Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) William Green; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for South Carolina, Kevin Shwedo; Commandant and IRL Deputy Director, Chaplain (Col.) James Palmer, Jr.; IRL Command Sgt. Maj. Evelin Montealegre; and Chaplain Corps Regimental Sgt. Maj. Meaghan Bicklein cut the ribbon outside at the building entrance.

“This place, we cut the ribbon just a few minutes ago, but this place really is designed as a campus and more than a collection of buildings,” Green said to those in attendance. “This campus represents a commitment to excellence and a dedication to supporting the spiritual well-being and readiness of the

Army’s people. And it is a place where we will nurture the next generation of religious leaders.”

Kelly spoke about the importance of the chaplain in the units he commanded.

“Chaplains come here to develop and master the skills they’ll need to support the commanders they’ll advise,” Kelly said. “I’ve been a commander in 10 of the last 13 years. And I’ve yet to lead an organization where the Unit Ministry Team was not vital to unit success. This leadership lab, this institute is no different. It’s here that we’ll craft the leaders who will bring out the best in their unit and their Soldiers.”

Shwedo, guest speaker for the event, said this is more than a name change. Shwedo, is also a retired Army officer with 32 years of service and was the Army Training Center at Fort Jackson deputy commander.

“Are we going to go ahead and take what was, a general course on soldierization skills and take it to the next level which is religious leadership?” Shwedo said. “I will tell you from my perspective this will be the most significant change that we have seen in a lifetime because it’s a mindset change, it’s not just the change of a school, it’s a mindset change. Are we going to establish a common

baseline of values that permeate the Army? Because I will tell you that our values come from you guys, period, end of report.”

Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Army Reserve, Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Andrew Harewood and retired Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Robert Pleczkowski were also in attendance.

Over the years since its beginning on March 3, 1918, the institute has moved 16 times. The school landed at Fort Jackson in 1996. Fort Jackson has been the home of the institute for the longest period. As part of the transformation in name, the structure of the organization and the campus landscape has also seen changes.

The organization, now comprised of the Religious Leadership Academy, the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, the Graduate School, and the Religious Support Operations Center, was designed to enhance the investments we make in developing strategic leaders for our Corps, and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of religious support delivery.

The Chaplain Corps Museum is also seeing changes. The museum is closed for renovations. This is the first-time changes have been made in 20 years. It is expected to reopen in July.



# Victory starts ... with sports

## Post celebrates 106th birthday

Fort Jackson began celebrating its 106th birthday starting June 5 with a post-wide run. Throughout the week, units squared off in a variety of sporting events including cornhole (top right), dodgeball (bottom right), volleyball (below center), basketball (below) and flag football. The birthday celebration also included a Columbia Fireflies baseball game, an organizational day, and the Army Brithday Ball.



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Trainees watch the Columbia Fireflies play the Salem Red Sox during a game recognizing Fort Jackson's 106th birthday at Segra Park, June 6.

## Jackson has a ball at the park

By VERAN HILL  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Soldiers from Fort Jackson and the Columbia Recruiting Battalion took time out to enjoy a night of Columbia Fireflies baseball and camaraderie to recognize Fort Jackson's 106th birthday at Segra Park, June 6.

More than 500 Soldiers assigned to the 165th Infantry Brigade attended the game which pitted the Columbia Fireflies against the Salem Red Sox. The Soldiers who are entering their final week of Basic Combat Training were free to enjoy hotdogs, chips and soft drinks.

The game featured numerous activities and highlights that were geared toward keeping the spectators engaged. Spectators watched as future military members received their Oath of Enlistment, while current Soldiers renewed their current contracts by reenlisting before hundreds in attendance. Noncommissioned officers of the 165th Inf. Bde. provided the color guard for the event, while the National Anthem was sung by Cpl. Alexis Monroe with the 282nd Army Band.

The 282nd Army Band also serenaded those in attendance with a concert in the stadium's rotunda. The band played popular music before the game, with hopes of exciting the crowd.

Officials with the Fireflies said the organization was honored to show its appreciation to Fort Jackson's military members.

"Providing games like today gives the Fireflies an opportunity to show appreciation to the military," said Ashlie DeCarlo, Columbia Fireflies Director of Marketing.

For the past seven years, the Fireflies have hosted military appreciation games throughout the year. Soldiers assigned at Fort Jackson provide color guard and musical support during numerous home games.

"We are thankful to the Soldiers at Fort Jackson and the military in the community," DeCarlo said.

The Oath of Enlistment was administered to 10 reenlisting Soldiers and five future Soldiers by Col. Mark E. Huhtanen, Fort Jackson deputy commander, during pregame activities. The game's first pitch was thrown by Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick E. Ochs, and Pvt. Kyjah Ishaya, a trainee with 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, who was identified as the youngest Soldier in attendance.

The night with the Columbia Fireflies ended with a 7-1 victory for the Fireflies.

"The atmosphere is great, and I just love it all," said Pfc. Alexander Collins, with the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment. "It's good to hear the band performing and it was so cool to watch Soldiers being recognized when they reenlisted."





# WHY I SERVE

## 4TH BATTALION, 39TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

### PFC. CHRISTOPHER LETT, 22

Monroeville, Alabama

"Life experiences influenced me to join the Army. I felt this would keep me on the right road to success and teach me to be more disciplined. My older brother also had a big influence on my decision" to enlist.

"I honestly thought Basic Combat Training would be a lot harder than it was. A lot of things have changed over the years that I wasn't aware of, so the corrective training was easier, as well as my drill (sergeants) being more of mentors."

"The most challenging part was maintaining focus throughout BCT. This is my first time being away from my Family and friends. So, adjusting was hard for me because I'm not really a social person in the outside world."

"My MOS is 42A - Human Resources Specialist. I just wanted to do something a little easy to get a feel for the Army before I change my MOS."



### PVT. ALEXANDER MATHIES, 21

St. Cloud, Minnesota

"My father influenced me to join the Army. He was Special Forces in the Nigerian Army."

"I thought there would be more corrective training and a lot more rucking in Basic Combat Training."

"The hardest part of BCT was being away from home. I relied heavily on my battle buddies to get through the tough times."

"The most challenging part of BCT was working as a team. 'One is none and two is one.' You are as fast as your slowest person. Working together as a team was pretty challenging from the start, due to the fact that people are from different backgrounds."

"My MOS is 88M - Motor Transport Operator. I chose this because the Army will provide me with a commercial driver's license and I wanted the shortest MOS."



### PFC. JENIFER BARRIOS, 27

San Germán, Puerto Rico

"Personal growth motivated me to join and be part of the Army. I wanted to change my lifestyle to ensure the well-being of my future generations."

"The purpose of Basic Combat Training is to create the best Soldiers to defend an entire nation. I imagined BCT was going to be a lot of strength training, but thanks to my effort and dedication, I got the most out of the process."

"The most difficult part of BCT was understanding the value of teamwork and the importance of being resilient at all times."

"My MOS is 25U - Signal Support Systems Specialist. I chose this job because one of the most important things in the Army is communication and I understand I can save lives with this job."



### PVT. GAVIN CRUZ, 19

Dededo, Guam

"Joining the Army was always my dream growing up. Also, I told my Family that I will one day join the Army. So, of course, I couldn't lie."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be exactly what it was. I never once thought it was going to be easy. I pictured it to be exactly what I went through."

"The most challenging part was being recycled due to COVID. It did set me back a lot, so there were times where I started questioning myself on why I joined."

"Advice I would give someone planning to start BCT is to stay motivated, never let anything get in your way. Stay committed and disciplined. If it seems like your work is not being noticed, you're wrong. Most of all - keep going!"

"My MOS is 42A - Human Resources Specialist. I chose this MOS because I thought about how it would help in my Army career."



### PFC. CARLOS MEJIA, 24

Los Angeles

"The reason I joined the Army was to make my mother proud."

"I pictured Basic Combat Training to be a lot like what I see in the movies, but it was nothing like it."

"The most difficult thing was being away from my Family."

"Advice I would give to someone planning to start BCT is don't doubt yourself, believe in yourself and always have the reason you joined the Army in the back of your mind."

"My MOS is 91D - Tactical Power Generation Specialist. I chose this MOS to have a career outside the Army."



### PFC. CRISTIAN ELOSEGUI, 21

Phoenix

"My grandmother influenced me to join the Army. She always believed in me and supported me even in my darkest times. It was time I took control of my life and became a better person. I know she's smiling from heaven and I hope I've made her proud."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be a challenge physically. I didn't imagine it would be even more challenging mentally. I've grown so much mentally and physically here at BCT and I'm incredibly grateful."

"My MOS is 42A - Human Resources Specialist. I chose this MOS because I wanted a career that I could not only pursue in the Army, but would be easily transferable to the civilian side, if I decide to get out of the military."





## Hurricane

Continued from Page 2

make sure all family members know the plan and their role. Locate the nearest emergency shelter and map out different routes you can take to get there from your home and places of work.

Check out Ready Army at <https://ready.army.mil/> for resources and ideas to develop a proper plan. Ensure that pets, special needs, young children and elderly family members, are considered when developing your plan.

The third step to proper hurricane preparation and safety is to build an emergency preparation kit. Kits should include two gallons of water per person per day for three days (That means a family of four would need a minimum of 24 gallons of water), nonperishable food items for at least

three days, important papers (e.g. driver's license, birth certificates, passports, medical insurance documentation, etc.), first aid kit, cash in small denominations and a battery operated radio with spare batteries, just to name a few items.

Individuals should also be aware if you're in a flood-prone area and know the location of the nearest medical facility as well as the closest emergency shelters.

"Hurricanes are predictable," Domenech said. "Suffering can be reduced by preparing and by listening to weather forecasts. Lives have been lost due to lack of preparation and negligence."

Luckily, that means lives can easily be saved with proper knowledge and some preparation. Domenech added that individuals should listen to television or radio weather channels as well as keep an eye on your local news to stay abreast of current information.

## SALUTING THIS BCT CYCLE'S HONOREES 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment

**ALPHA COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Alexander Mathies

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Sailiam Khim

**BRAVO COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Jenifer Barrios

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Gavin Cruz

**CHARLIE COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Carlos Mejia

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Cristian Elosegui

**DELTA COMPANY  
SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Dylan Wallace

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Christopher Lett



**SGT. 1ST CLASS CONNOR  
GRECHEN**  
DRILL SERGEANT  
OF THE CYCLE

## Garrison employee greets new drill sergeants

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

They say the Army is a small place and that everyone knows everyone. It truly is a small world since a good deal of Department of the Army Civilians are retired officers and senior noncommissioned officers.

Someone knows someone, or they know somebody who knows them.

That is the case for Dr. Scottie Thomas, a management analyst with the post's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. Thomas is a virtual fixture of the Fort Jackson landscape who has worked for years on post in both the PAIO and Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

PAIO provides oversight of assigned programs; conducts analytical reviews; monitors Army baseline standards; captures and enables implementation of best business practices; and identifies, tracks, and orchestrates reporting of performance measures.

Most probably don't know that he once sported a brown round drill sergeant hat and belt as the commandant of the Drill Sergeant School.

Thomas was invited by Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Jackson, current commandant of the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, to speak at the school's graduation, May 31.

Jackson called Thomas an "amazingly phenomenal role model" who has served in every NCO leadership position including a recruiter, drill sergeant, and the 23rd commandant of the Drill Sergeant School.

Thomas spoke to the graduating class saying the skills they learned at the academy will be put to the test "immediately."

They are graduating a course "with a bunch of technical and tactical skills ... used to train the future force in the basis of becoming a Soldier," he said. When the drill sergeants travel back to where they came from, they are not "gonna go back to business as usual. You are now a U.S. Army drill sergeant and things will be different."

Thomas said after the graduation there are many benefits to graduating as a drill sergeant as it "will enhance your career. When you have a chance to be a physical manifestation of the Army's values, standards, and principals to an entire generation, nothing is more rewarding.

The experience was humbling he said, "to be asked, as a former commandant, to speak to those drill sergeants."

He added his time as commandant was the "single most rewarding position I held in my career ... the enduring impact drill sergeants have on Soldiers in Training was deeply satisfying."



**Dr. Scottie Thomas, management analyst with Fort Jackson's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, sits next to Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Jackson, commandant of the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, May 31 at the Post Theater. Thomas, the 23rd commandant of the Drill Sergeant School, was the guest speaker at the DSA graduation.**



Events

Continued from Page 4

**JUNE 20**  
**Meals in Minutes & Your Budget** 9-10 a.m. Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program, in partnership with the Fort Jackson Armed Forces Wellness Center will host Meals in Minutes webinar on Microsoft Teams. Learn how to save calories while also optimizing your budget. AFWC and ACS provides programs and services to improve and/or maintain readiness of the military community. Registration is required. Registration is required. For more information or to register, please call 751-5256/6749.

**JUNE 22**  
**Sharpening Your Focus** 9:30-10 a.m. The USAG Civilian Workforce Development Program and the Master Resilience School are partnering to offer the Leader/Workforce Development Training “Sharpening Your Focus when Dealing with the Task at Hand” training class. The training will provide information on how to change the focus away from counterproductive thinking to enable greater concentration and focus on the task at hand. For more information or to register, email [usarmy.jackson.id-training.mbx.usag-civilian-wfd@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.jackson.id-training.mbx.usag-civilian-wfd@army.mil) or call 751-7535/6736.

**JUNE 24**  
**1,000 lbs. Club competition** 8 a.m., Vanguard Gym. Test your strength levels. If you love to lift, why not compete in the sport of weightlifting in the 1,000 lbs. Club competition?

**JULY 1**  
**Independence Day Celebration** Hilton Field. Gates open at 4 p.m. Enjoy an exciting variety of food trucks and children’s carnival rides, live music, beer tents and of course, fireworks.

**JULY 3**  
**Intramural Golf** Letters of intent for intramural golf are due. This is a commander’s cup event, two-person teams and open to active-duty Soldiers only. For more information call 751-3906/5839. Play starts at 5 p.m. July 11 at the Golf Club.

**JULY 29**  
**Natural Body Building Competition** 6 p.m., Solomon Center. You’ve worked hard through proper diet and exercise to sculpt your body. Reap the rewards of your hard work. Divisions available for competition are Men’s Natural Builder, Men’s Natural Physique, Women’s Natural Builder, Women’s Natural Physique, Women’s Bikini, Masters’ Natural 41-49, and Grand Master Natural 50+. Register by June 15. For more information, call 751-3700.



Photo by KARLYN BOLER

Scouting success ...

The Fort Jackson Girl Scout Troop culminated the end of a great Girl Scout year May 31 by elevating two Brownies and one Cadette at a bridging ceremony at Semmes Park. The troop also took an overnight trip June 3-4 as a reward for selling more than 8,000 boxes of cookies. For more information on joining, contact Troop Leader Karlyn Boler at [KarlynBoler@gmail.com](mailto:KarlynBoler@gmail.com) or message Girl Scouts of Fort Jackson Troop 3379 on Facebook.

**Did you know:** You may have to survive on your own for several days after a disaster. You may need to have your own food and water. Ready.gov states a disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

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.	DANIEL CIRCLE CHAPEL
	GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
	ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	THE BRIDGE (PROTESTANT)	SUNDAY	8:30-9:30 A.M.	ANDERSON CHAPEL
	CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	MAGRUDER CHAPEL
	HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	MAGRUDER CHAPEL
	ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	DANIEL CIRCLE 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. - NOON	ANDERSON CHAPEL



# Course now offers dual track opportunity

By **LT. COL. RANDY READY**  
Center for Initial Military Training

A new modification to the Army's Future Soldier Preparatory Course is providing recruits who need help in meeting the Army's accession standards another option to overcome potential barriers to service.

Based on the initial success and data gathered during the prep course pilot, which only allowed recruits to participate in either the academic or fitness tracks, recruits are now able to enroll in both tracks of the course.

"The initial results from the Future Soldier Preparatory Course have been promising and have given thousands of young men and women a chance to join our ranks," said Lt. Gen. Maria Gervais, the TRADOC deputy commanding general. "This modification to the course is going to increase the quality of individuals entering basic training and provide additional opportunities for our Nation's youth to serve in our all-volunteer force."

From August 2022 to early May 2023, more than 8,500 students have attended the course, of which 6,188 students have already graduated and shipped to basic combat training.

In the academic track, 95% of students moved up at least one test category and increased their test score by an average of 18 points. In the fitness track, 87% of students graduated within their first four weeks, with an average weekly body fat loss of 1.7%.

## Eligibility and Process

The dual-enrolled program is open for individuals looking to enlist in the active-duty Army, Army Reserves, and National Guard. Recruits enlisting into the Army through this program are eligible to receive the same pay, bonuses, and incentives as all other recruits.

Recruits in the dual-enrolled option must have a high school diploma or equivalent, an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test score between 21-49, and a body fat percentage between 2-6% over the Army accession standard based on gender, age, and height/weight.

All dual-enrolled recruits will first attend the academic track of the Future Soldier Preparatory Course.

Dual-enrolled recruits with an ASVAB score of 21-30 will start in the academic track at Fort Jackson, and have up to 90 days to test into a higher test category, with opportunities to test out every three weeks.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**Based on the initial success and data gathered during the Future Soldier Preparatory Course pilot, the Army will now offer recruits the opportunity to do both the academic and fitness tracks. 'The initial results from the Future Soldier Preparatory Course have been promising,' said Lt. Gen. Maria Gervais, the Army Training and Doctrine Command deputy commanding general.**

These individuals will enlist as a delayed trainee and will have their enlistment contract renegotiated upon testing into a higher test category and provided a Military Occupational Specialty based on aptitude scores and needs of the Army.

Recruits enlisting in the dual-enrolled program with an ASVAB score of 31-49 will start in the academic track at Fort Moore, Georgia. (formerly Fort Benning) for up to 30 days and have one opportunity to score into a higher test category. Recruits in this track who improve at least one test category may be able to renegotiate their contract and receive the incentives offered in their

new test category. If they qualify for a priority or shortage MOS, they will be offered the opportunity to select the new MOS based on the needs of the Army.

Upon completing the academic track, all dual-enrolled recruits will have their body fat percentage measured. Those whose body fat percentage is within 2% of the Army accessions standard will move directly to basic training. Those who still exceed the 2% standard will move to the fitness track at Fort Jackson for a maximum of 90 days.

Recruits will not move to basic training until their body fat percentage is within 2%

of the Army accession standard based on gender, age, and their height/weight.

The Army will continue to assess and scale the prep course to ensure we are successfully preparing and building quality recruits.

"We are confident given the right instruction and professional support these recruits will be able to perform successfully and meet or exceed the standards expected of every Soldier," stated Gervais. "We will continue to find innovative ways to unlock a prospective Soldier's potential without sacrificing the quality needed across our force."



# VICTORY... STARTS HERE

