

THURSDAY APRIL 2, 2026

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADERS

"VICTORY ... STAYS"



# 1-61 SALUTES ITS VIETNAM VETS



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



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



@FortJackson



@fortjackson

# It's tax time, what should service members know?

BY C. TODD LOPEZ  
Pentagon News

With Tax Day, April 15, quickly approaching, service members have options for help filing their 2025 taxes, including assistance with navigating changes to tax rules, such as those enacted as part of last year's One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

First off, said Susan E. Mitchell, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council, service members can file their taxes late, if needed, due to deployments or other issues.

"There are long-standing tax filing extensions that apply just to service members," she said. "If they are stationed outside the United States and Puerto Rico, they get an automatic two-month extension to June 15."

That extension means not only filing two months later but also paying any due taxes two months later.

Beyond that, Mitchell said, all service members, no matter where they are stationed, can ask for an additional extension to Oct. 15.

However, that extension is only for filing — any tax due still needs to be paid on time to avoid late filing penalties.

"And then of course, for anyone who's deployed to a combat zone, the deadline for filing and paying taxes is generally extended for the period of their service in the combat zone, plus 180 days," she said.

Some of the changes service members might encounter this year include an increase in the standard deduction for single, married and head of household filers and an increase in the contribution limits for 401(k) plans.

If family members work in the civilian economy, from 2025 through 2028, taxpayers may deduct tips and overtime pay. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act also changed the reporting threshold, increasing it to \$20,000 in gross payments and 200 or more trans-

actions annually on payment apps for the sale of goods and services.

If they're able, service members can prepare their own taxes using resources exclusively from the Internal Revenue Service. But Mitchell said Military OneSource also provides special tax preparation software, MilTax, for service members.

"The great thing about the MilTax program, if they decide to do it on their own, is that the service members also have available to them tax consultants by phone 24/7 if they have questions when they're completing their tax returns," she said.

Also, on some installations, there are volunteer income tax assistance sites where service members can get in-person tax preparation assistance.

Mitchell cautioned service members to be on the lookout for unethical tax preparation services.

"There are a lot of scams out there," she said. Scammers often target people by impersonating the IRS to try to get them to share personal information, by phone, text and email.

"It's important to know that the IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers in these ways," she added.

Mitchell recommends that if service members have their taxes prepared off base

and are due a tax refund, they wait to receive that refund rather than take a refund anticipation loan from their tax preparer, because the fees can be high.

"Generally, the IRS aims to get a refund back to you within 20 days," she said. "And if service members can just wait for those 20 days and not take that loan, they'll get their entire refund back instead of having to pay a fee out of the refund."

Also, under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, starting July 5, parents of children under 18 with a Social Security number can open an investment account called a "Trump Account" in their child's name.

"The great thing about these accounts is that parents and employers, and relatives of the child, can contribute up to \$5,000 per year to the account until that child reaches the age of 18," she said. The government will also deposit an initial \$1,000 into accounts for eligible newborns.

"These are assets that are allowed to grow tax-free, although recipients have to pay taxes on the gains when the money is withdrawn," Mitchell said. "And after the child turns 18, the account is generally treated as a traditional (individual retirement account) and it's subject to the same rules as other traditional IRAs."

## ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. Johnathan Hoekstra, a drill sergeant with 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, salutes after a wreath was laid at the battalion's Vietnam Memorial, March 31.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

See Page 3

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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, 3330 Century Division Ave., Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, or call (803) 751-3615 or e-mail usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

Commanding General ..... Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood  
Garrison Commander ..... Col. David G. Gaugush  
Command Information Officer ..... Robert Timmons  
Media Relations Officer ..... Nathan Clinebelle  
Community Engagements Officer ..... Reginald Rogers  
Contributing Photographer..... Sgt. 1st Class Dana Clarke

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

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

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

X: [www.x.com/fortjackson](http://www.x.com/fortjackson)

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



Staff Sgt. Joseph Htway, Company E., 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, and retired Maj. Leigh Blood lay a wreath at the 1-61st's Vietnam Memorial, March 31. Lt. Col. Colin O'Toole, 1-61 commander, said the event was held to 'honor those who gave some and those who gave all.'

## 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry salutes its Vietnam veterans

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

**F**irst Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment paid a solemn tribute to the service and sacrifice of Roadrunners who fought in Southeast Asia during a wreath laying at the unit's Vietnam Memorial March 31.

"Today we have the honor of standing in the presence of these men, these warriors and their Family to rededicate this monument and reaffirm our commitment to their legacy," said Lt. Col. Colin O'Toole, 1-61st commander, about the Vietnam vet-

erans at the event. "These men of the 1-61 faced insurmountable odds and hardships and created a bond forged through adversity and dedication to themselves and each other."

O'Toole said they were there to "honor those who gave some and those who gave all."

He added the monument was a "testament" to the determination of the battalion every day.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Htway from Company E, 1st Bn., 61st Infantry Regiment, and retired Maj. Leigh Blood placed the wreath at the foot of the memorial.

The wreath is a symbol of the 1-61st's enduring gratitude and was laid in memory for those who fell, in honor of those who returned, and in recognition of all the sacrifices made by those who served in the battalion.

"It is quite the honor and very emotional for me," said Blood, who was chosen by the veterans present to place the wreath. "I didn't know the individuals we are honoring, but we are all connected with a shared experience of that time."

He said he was the last person from the unit to leave Quang Tri, Vietnam.

The battalion traces its lineage to 1917

when the regiment was organized and later assigned to the 5th Infantry Division and deployed to Europe during World War I. In 1921 the regiment was inactivated at Camp Jackson. The unit was again activated at Fort Carson, Colorado in 1962 and again assigned to the 5th Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment was organized as a mechanized infantry battalion and deployed to Vietnam in 1968.

Today the unit is conducting the Future Soldier Preparatory Course for individuals that need to either raise their academic scores of lower their body fat percentages to qualify to enter Basic Combat Training.

# Community Updates

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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 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. Drivers are advised to refrain from parking there overnight. For more information, call (803) 724-8925.

### Storm Drain Repairs

The Department of Public Works will begin repairing storm drain culverts on parts of roads across Fort Jackson starting April 6. The roads and dates of repairs are:

- Liberty Division Road (Monday to May 1)
- 5th Division Rd (May 20 to June 7)
- Marion Avenue & Cherborough Street (June 8 - 30)

Detour signs will be placed near the repair areas and motorists should expect longer travel time due to road closure and plan accordingly. The schedule is subject to change based on weather, but updates will be provided throughout the repair. For questions, call (520) 671-8550.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### TODAY

#### SAAPM Kickoff Event

11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Darby Field. Fort Jackson invites you to the 2026 Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month kick off "Pull Towards Prevention Day" event. Fort Jackson proclamation signing, cake cutting ceremony, along with food trucks, speakers, games, and dank booth. Bring your families out to pull towards prevention and stand together to stop sexual assault and harassment within our communities.

## SATURDAY

### 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.

## SUNDAY

### 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 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 8

### EFMP - Wellness Wednesday

9-9:30 a.m., MS Teams. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites the Fort Jackson community to attend an informational presentation on information about the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

## APRIL 15

### EFMP - Wellness Wednesday

9-10 a.m., MS Teams. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites the Fort Jackson community to join a virtual presentation providing information on respite needs across the lifespan for all personal caring for a child or adult who has special

needs. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

## 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 (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

## Fort Jackson

## Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

### APRIL 4

- Hoppers (G)

### APRIL 8

- The Bride (R)

### APRIL 11

- Eternity (PG-13)

- 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.

while creating masterpieces together. Space is limited. For more information or to register, 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. 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. evening show.

## 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

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.

## A look inside Jackson's Dept. of Public Health

By **CHARLENE DAVIS**  
Department of Public Health

As we recognize National Public Health Week from April 6-12, we're highlighting the dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to protect our community. Here at Fort Jackson, the Department of Public Health is the cornerstone of our installation's readiness and well-being. It serves as a key force multiplier, ensuring the health and safety of everyone from trainees to permanent party personnel and their families.

Public health is the foundation of a thriving society. Unlike individual medical care, its mission is to prevent disease, promote wellness, and ensure everyone has access to essential resources. When we invest in public health, we invest in the strength, resilience, and future of our entire community.

The Fort Jackson DPH is indispensable to this mission. Through proactive prevention, rigorous inspections, and dedicated care, the DPH is fundamental in protecting the force and ensuring our Soldiers are healthy and ready to train, deploy, and fight. This work is a critical investment in the long-term health and readiness of the United States Army.

The DPH consists of seven distinct sections, each with a vital mission to keep Fort Jackson safe and healthy.

**Community Health Nursing:** This team serves as the front line of preventive medicine for the installation. They promote population health, work to mitigate the spread of disease, and stand ready to respond to any emerging health threats.

**Army Hearing Program:** Preserves a critical sensory aspect of combat effectiveness, this program ensures all personnel are audibly fit for duty. The team processes every trainee before Basic Combat Training and maintains the hearing readiness of our permanent party.

**Environmental Health:** Your safety is EH's priority. This section guarantees safe

See **HEALTH:** Page 9



*Courtesy photo*

**Pierce Terrace students work aduring the Little Learners Family Fun Lab, using simple, hands-on materials to build fine motor skills and demonstrate how learning activities can be easily recreated at home.**

## 'Little Learners' enjoy interactive after-school program

By **DR. LORRAINE EMORY**  
Pierce Terrace Elementary School

At Pierce Terrace Elementary School, the Universal Prekindergarten program continues to demonstrate that early learning reaches far beyond letters and numbers. Through hands-on experiences, meaningful family involvement, and intentional instruction, young learners are developing the essential skills needed for lifelong success.

A standout component of the program is the "Little Learners Family Fun Lab," an interactive after-school event designed for UPK students and their families.

The event welcomed parents into the classroom, where they engaged in simple, hands-on activities alongside their chil-

dren, many of which can be easily recreated at home using everyday materials.

"I think the event was successful," said UPK teacher Patricia Jolly. "The parents were surprised to see how easy it is to incorporate the skills into their daily life," she added, noting that most activities required little to no cost.

One of the featured learning stations, led by UPK teacher Audrey Jumper, focused on social-emotional learning. Students practiced identifying emotions by using handheld mirrors and emotion cards, matching facial expressions to what they observed in their own reflections.

The activity encouraged students to explore what different feelings look like in a fun, engaging way.

Afterward, students transitioned to

a drawing station, where they created drawings to express how they felt. This allowed them to communicate emotions in a meaningful, developmentally appropriate way. Families observed both parts of the activity and took home the materials, reinforcing learning beyond the classroom.

Emotional regulation remains a central focus of the UPK program, helping children recognize, understand, and manage their feelings.

Students develop skills such as expressing emotions appropriately, practicing calming strategies, and building empathy, which are key components of both academic success and positive social interactions.

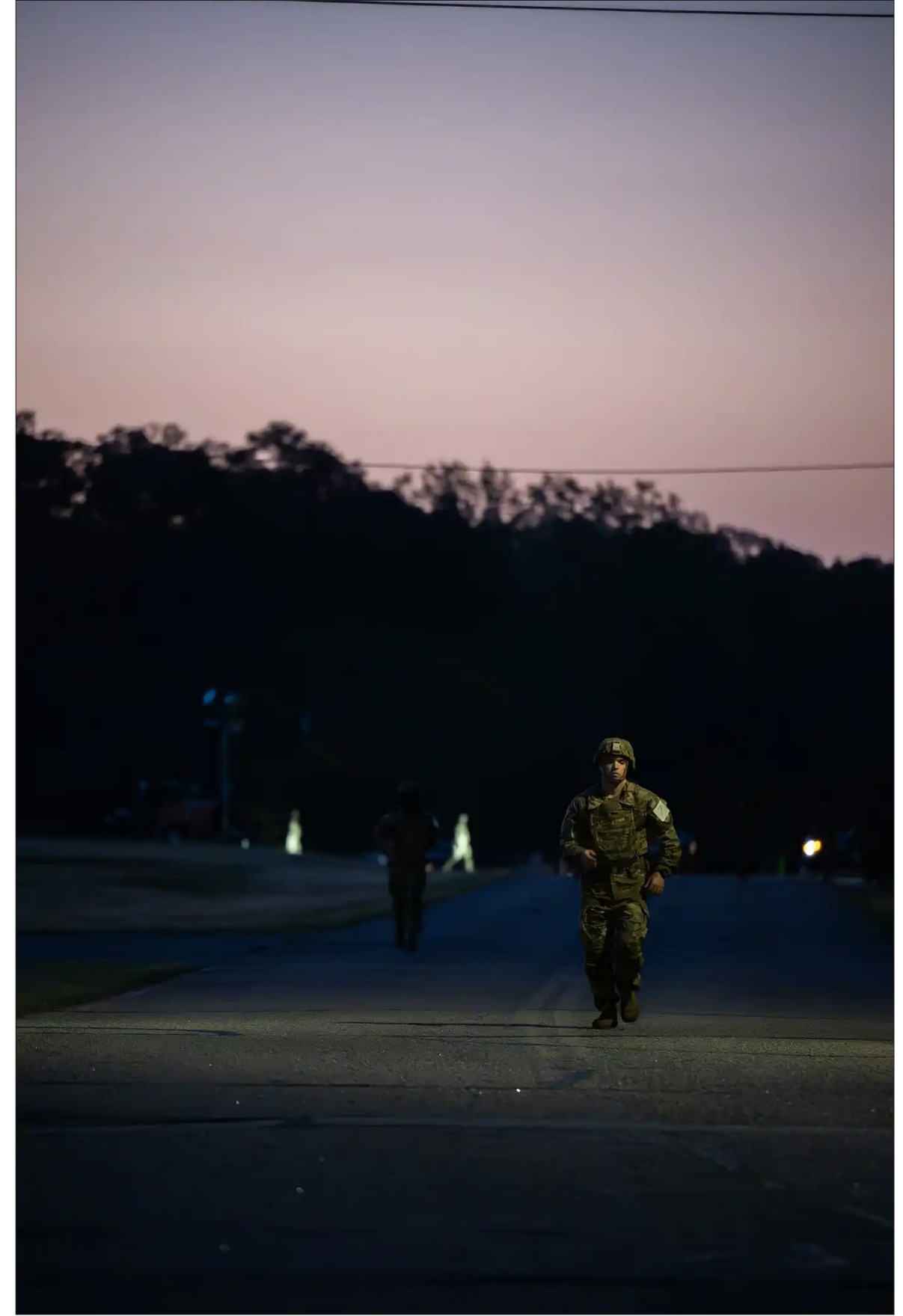
See **LEARNERS:** Page 9

# Experts in Action

Photos by Nathan Clinebelle

Soldiers from across the installation have been training up for a chance to prove their mastery of the necessary skills to earn one of the three expert badges. The Expert Infantryman, Expert Soldier, and Expert Field Medical badges, known collectively as E3B, push Soldiers to their limits both physically and mentally over five days of testing.

Testing ends tomorrow after a 12-mile ruckmarch.



## Jackson raises child abuse awareness in April

### Family Advocacy Program

Throughout April, Fort Jackson and the Army are raising awareness of child abuse.

Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time for our military community to reaffirm its commitment to protecting children, strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect.

At Fort Jackson, where Soldiers train and families serve alongside them, child safety is a shared responsibility that directly impacts readiness, resilience, and mission success.

The Army recognizes that strong Families build strong Soldiers. Stressors such as deployments, high operational tempo, and frequent relocations can place added pressure on parents and caregivers. That's why the Army Family Advocacy Program is a critical resource for prevention, education, and intervention.

FAP offers a range of services designed to support Families at every stage. These include parenting classes that provide practical tools for managing stress and child behavior, new parent support programs for expectant and new caregivers, and family life skills education that promote healthy communication and relationships. In times of need, FAP also provides counseling services, safety planning, and coordinated support for Families experiencing crisis.

According to Military One Source, "When a child or teen trusts you enough to share the scariest parts of their life with you, such as the trauma of abuse, you owe it to them to find the help they need to stay safe. Calling FAP to report a suspicion of abuse is



**ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**ACS**  
Real Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

**JOIN OUR CYBER SAFETY WORKSHOP!**

ALSO AVAILABLE ON TEAMS!  
PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM CYBER THREATS

The rise of digital technology has changed daily life, especially for young digital natives active on social media. It's essential to recognize the risks and safety concerns tied to their growing online presence. Here's what you can look forward to:

- + Best practices for online internet safety
- + Discover Informational tools
- + Learn how to help children set safe boundaries
- + Gain resources and support services

Guest Speaker  
Supervisory Special Agent Alexandra Jennings  
Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC)  
Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID)

**APRIL 20, 2026**  
**10:00 AM AND 1:00 PM**  
RM 166, 9810 LIBERTY DIVISION RD.  
THE ACS BLDG  
CALL 803-751-5256 FOR MORE DETAILS

not about getting anyone in trouble. It's about keeping a child or teen safe."

Prevention starts with awareness and everyday actions. Checking in on fellow Soldiers and neighbors, offering support to overwhelmed parents, and knowing the signs of child abuse and neglect can make a life-changing difference. Everyone in the Fort Jackson community plays a role in creating a safe environment where children can grow, learn, and thrive.

If you are concerned about a child's safety or need support, help is available.

You can contact the Fort Jackson Family Advocacy Program at (803) 751-5256. In case of emergencies, call 911 or report concerns to local law enforcement.

Together, we can stand strong against child abuse and ensure every child in our Army community is protected.

*(Editor's note: This information includes elements of AI-generated content, which were reviewed and edited by relevant Department of War personnel to verify appropriateness and compliance with DOW policies and guidance.)*



U.S. ARMY

# 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

## Learners

Continued from Page 5

In addition to emotional growth, PTES incorporates family-style dining into daily routines. During mealtimes, students practice independence by serving themselves, sharing with peers, and engaging in conversation.

This approach builds confidence, responsibility, and healthy habits that extend beyond the classroom.

Students also strengthen fine motor skills, which are essential for tasks such as writing, cutting, and manipulating small objects. Activities like stringing beads and using classroom tools help develop coordination and hand strength, laying the foundation for future academic work.

Equally important are gross motor skills, which involve larger movements such as running, jumping, balancing, and

coordination.

Through active play and structured movement activities, students build strength, body awareness, and confidence, supporting both physical development and readiness to learn.

Together, these elements—family engagement, social-emotional learning, independent routines, and both fine and gross motor skill development—create a well-rounded approach to early childhood education at PTES.

By focusing on the whole child and equipping families with practical, non-cost strategies, the UPK program ensures that students are prepared not only academically, but socially, emotionally, and physically.

Pierce Terrace Elementary continues to show that when schools and families work together, even the youngest learners can build a strong foundation for lifelong success.



*Courtesy photo*

**A Pierce Terrace Elementary School student practices balance and coordination during a gross motor activity, confidently stepping through an obstacle course with encouragement from a teacher.**



*Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE*

## Good luck

**Fort Jackson saluted the career of Maj. Terrence Crimiel, from U.S. Army Central at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C., during the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment graduation, March 26.**

## Health

Continued from Page 5

living and working conditions through rigorous inspections of all barracks, dining facilities, gyms, pools, and childcare centers. They also ensure the potability and safety of our installation's water supply.

**Industrial Hygiene:** This team protects our entire workforce by conducting comprehensive hazard assessments, managing air quality, performing ergonomic evaluations, and overseeing hazardous material inventories in compliance with all federal laws.

**Occupational Health:** Safeguarding our civilian and military workforce, this section manages all OSHA-mandated medical surveillance exams, occupational certification exams, and preplacement exams for prospective hires.

They are also the primary responders

for all staff needlesticks and bloodborne pathogen exposures.

**Health Physics (Radiation Safety):** The Health Physics office ensures the safe and compliant use of radiation in all medical operations, protecting Soldiers, staff, and patients.

By overseeing the installation's Health Physics program, managing regulatory compliance, providing radiation safety training, and advising command on radiological risk, this team provides essential oversight for both ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.

**Armed Forces Wellness Center:** This center empowers our community to build and sustain healthy lifestyles that enhance personal and mission readiness. It provides evidence-based health promotion programs, such as fitness assessments, tailored exercise programs, stress management coaching, and nutrition counseling, to facilitate readiness and resiliency for all active-duty service members, their families, retirees, and DA Civilians.

# Events

Continued from Page 4

more information, call (803)751-4208.

## MAY 6

### EFMP - Wellness Wednesday

9-10 a.m., MS Teams. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites the entire Fort Jackson community to attend the Maintaining Your Well-Being: Personally and Professionally workshop. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

## 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.

## Yoga in the Park

9-10 a.m., Twin Lakes Park. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites you to a free relaxing hour of yoga. For more information, call (803) 751-4208.

## MAY 12

## Creative Journey

5-6:30 p.m., Art Center Parks and Recreations, 1227 Taylor Street, Columbia, S.C. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites families to explore the world of art through an interactive hands-on experience that helps individuals with exceptional needs find calming and creative ways to express themselves through designing and creating artwork. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

## 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 larger items make prior coordination by calling (520) 671-8504. 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 during the opening. Paddle Boats,

Paddle Boards, Kayaks, Canoes will be free to use. Games and Beach Access. CYS Kids Zone with Bounce Houses and Crafts. Live Music from the 282nd Army Band. Food and Beverage sales available. For more information, call (803) 751-5253.

## Palmetto Falls Opening

The wait is finally over. Join us for opening day at Fort Jackson Palmetto Falls Water Park. For details on season passes, call (803) 751-4796.

## MAY 28

### Run to Remember

6 a.m., Darby Field. A Memorial Day event honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military, reflecting on their sacrifices and the freedom they secured for the nation. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

## MAY 29

### Skills Challenge

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

## JUNE 18

### Juneteenth 5K run

Save the date for Fort Jackson's Juneteenth 5K.

## Holy Month Services

### Maundy Thursday

**Catholic** – Today, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

**Protestant** – Today, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall

### Good Friday

**Catholic** – Tomorrow, 3 p.m., Main Post Chapel

**Protestant** – Tomorrow, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

### Easter

Sunday (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

## Arr, Matey! Pierce Terrace transforms into pirate adventure

By **DR. LORRAINE EMORY**  
Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Pierce Terrace Elementary School transformed into a lively pirate adventure March 26, as first-grade students and their families gathered for the engaging, interactive “Treasure Your Learning” event.

The after-school experience is designed to strengthen the connection between school and home by blending academic skills with hands-on fun—complete with eye patches and a pirate-themed atmosphere that delighted students from start to finish.

Students proudly wore pirate eye patches as they rotated through learning stations led by the first-grade teaching team. The event focused on reinforcing key reading and math skills in creative and memorable ways, allowing families to see firsthand how learning happens in the classroom.

One of the highlights of the evening was “Phonics with Movement,” led by first-grade teachers Brian Raye and Roland Benavidez.

The fast-paced, highly engaging activity had students actively connecting sounds to movement, reinforcing phonics skills through kinesthetic learning.

The session was so dynamic that many parents chose to step back and watch their children in action, observing their confidence and independence as they participated.

Another station, “Sound Mapping Sight Words,” presented by Monica Trojanowski and Jessica Lacey, focused on



*Courtesy photo*

**A first-grade student and her family work together during the pirate-themed “Treasure Your Learning” event**

helping students break down and decode frequently used words.

This strategy supports reading fluency and comprehension, equipping students with the tools to recognize and understand words more efficiently.

Math skills were also brought to life through “Walk the Plank,” led by Heather Mihuta.

In this activity, students practiced number sense, men-

tal math, and flexible thinking as they solved problems in a fun, pirate-themed setting. The interactive approach encouraged students to think strategically while building confidence in their mathematical abilities.

The event was made possible not only by the first-grade team but also by additional staff members who helped guide families, distribute materials, and kept the event running smoothly. From handing out pirate eye patches to serving white cheddar puffs at the end of the evening, staff worked together to create a welcoming and memorable experience for all.

Families expressed appreciation for both the creativity and the purpose behind the event.

Parent Charles Watret said, “It’s awesome to see him enjoy his time here,” reflecting the joy many students experienced.

Parent Katie Bascome added, “It’s fun with the kids’ stuff and doing things right after school—it makes it special for her.”

To further support learning at home, a table of resources was available for parents. The handouts included recommended reading materials organized by reading level, along with suggested books available at local libraries. These resources provided families with practical tools to continue building their children’s skills beyond the classroom.

By combining academic instruction with engaging, themed activities, the “Treasure Your Learning” event demonstrated how meaningful learning experiences can be both effective and enjoyable.

## ACS helps navigate financial uncertainty

By **ANGELA CROSLAND**  
Army Community Service

In times of economic uncertainty, with volatile stock markets and the rising cost of living, it’s natural to feel a sense of anxiety. However, by staying informed and utilizing available resources, you can maintain your composure and navigate these challenges effectively.

Recent market volatility can be unsettling, but it’s important to maintain a long-term perspective with your investments.

Remember, it’s time in the market, not timing the market. Financial experts often advise against panic-selling during a downturn, as this can lock in losses.

Instead, it can be a time to review your financial roadmap and ensure your portfolio is diversified across various asset categories like stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents.

This strategy helps protect against significant losses, as different asset classes react differently to market conditions.

Rising prices, especially at the gas pump, directly impact household budgets. To counter this, simple adjustments like combining errands into a single trip, observing speed limits, and ensuring your vehicle’s tires are properly inflated can improve fuel efficiency. Reviewing your monthly budget to identify areas where you can reduce spending is another practical step.


During stressful times, it’s crucial to focus on what you can control. Limiting exposure to constant news cycles, practicing relaxation techniques like deep breathing, and staying connected with family and friends can significantly reduce anxiety.

By leveraging the valuable resources here at Fort Jackson and focusing on a long-term financial strategy, you can confidently manage your finances and well-being. Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program can assist active and retired Soldiers, their family members and Army civilians with personal finance needs. Counselors can help with devising a budget to help navigate financial uncertainty.

To speak with a counselor, call (803) 751-5256 or visit 9810 Liberty Division Road.

# CARRY ON SMARTLY

Starting April 6, the Commissary will charge for single-use bags.



# VICTORY... STARTS HERE



A trainee lays down covering fire as his teammate advances towards the enemy during buddy team drills at the Omaha range. Trainees learn to move, shoot, communicate and survive on today's modern battlefield.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE