THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026
THE FORT JACKSON
LEADER
"VICTORY ... STAR



CG REFLECTS ON TIME AS JACKSON COMMANDER

81st Readiness Division welcomes new commanding general

By TOMMY CROSBY
81st Readiness Division

The 81st Readiness Division welcomed its newest commanding general as Maj. Gen. Karen S. Monday Gresham relieved Maj. Gen. Patricia R. Wallace during a change of command ceremony on Fort Jackson, September 13.

Lt. Gen. Robert D. Harter, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, presided over the ceremony.

He praised the division's Soldiers and civilian workforce for their achievements under Wallace's leadership and for their unwavering dedication to the Army Reserve.

"This is a great Wildcat day," said Harter. "Thank you, Maj. Gen Wallace, for what you have done here at the 81st. You have taken the Division to a whole new level."

Wallace, who assumed command in July 2024, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve with the Wildcats and lead what she called a remarkable team of professionals.

"Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the Soldiers, civilians and communities we serve," Wallace said. "Your hard work and commitment ensure the 81st Readiness Division successfully delivers the mission and priorities of the Army Reserve. Always remember that what you do matters and is essential to ensuring we are combat-ready."

Harter welcomed Monday Gresham, calling her "an exceptional leader" and "absolutely the right person to advance the mission here at the 81st." He said she and Command Sgt. Maj. Benny L. Hubbard are the right leaders to drive the division forward.

Monday Gresham thanked Wallace for her leadership and said she looked forward to serving the division. She emphasized her commitment to readiness and ensuring the command remains prepared to meet the evolving needs of the Army Reserve.

"I am incredibly honored to join your ranks. I stand ready to lead you, to learn from you, and to build upon the legendary legacy of this unit," said Monday Gresham. "My charge to you is simple: Come to work every single day motivated, focused, and ready to make a difference. I pledge to do the exact same for you. Let's attack our mission and own our shared future."



Photo by MASTER SGT. JESSICA LITTLEJOHN

Maj. Gen. Patricia R. Wallace, outgoing commanding general of the 81st Readiness Division, relinquishes command to Maj. Gen. Karen S. Monday Gresham during the 81st Readiness Division Change of Command ceremony at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Sept. 13.

ON THE COVER



Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, salutes after taking command of the post, Aug. 23, 2024. He will relinquish command in a ceremony at Victory Field, Sept. 25.

Leader file photo

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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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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

Website: *home.army.mil/jackson/FortJacksonNews*
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Jackson marks 25-year anniversary of 9/11 with Patriot Day wreath laying

Story, photo by ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs



Col. David Gaugush, garrison commander, Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Aguayo, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson Drill Sergeant of the Year, and Master Sgt. Sergio Arredondo, Directorate of Emergency Services senior enlisted leader, lay a wreath during Fort Jackson's Patriot Day Ceremony, held Sept. 11 at the Fire Station Headquarters.

"Today marks the 25-year anniversary of 9/11; a day that changed the lives of every American—a day that changed our lives forever," said Col. David Gaugush, garrison commander during Fort Jackson's Patriot Day ceremony. "Our country was never the same, and neither were we."

Gaugush was the keynote speaker at the Sept. 11 event where he would place wreath at the Fort Jackson Fire Station Headquarters.

He was joined by Sgt. 1st Class Edgar Aguayo, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson Drill Sergeant of the Year, and Master Sgt. Sergio Arredondo, Directorate of Emergency Services senior enlisted leader, in laying a wreath during the ceremony.

"After a quarter century, time has placed space between us and the events of 9/11," Gaugush said. "But we can never allow the day when 9/11 comes and passes like another day; or when the video of the planes crashing into the World Trade Center doesn't make us wince, and tear our guts out, or a day when the thought of the attacks doesn't evoke a desire to hunt our enemies and make them pay for their transgressions.

"We need to ensure our children know the story of 9/11, the impact it's had on our lives, how it changed American society, and how out of the ashes rose a stronger and more united Nation."

At 8:46 a.m. the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

"A cowardly group of despicable al-Qaeda terrorists sought to destroy the American way of life, using our freedoms against us, filled with hate, misguided by their extreme religious beliefs, killed 2,977 innocent men, women, and children," Gaugush said.

The terrorist woke the very thing they sought to extinguish, but they had awakened the American people with a vengeance, he said.

Gaugush was a young second lieutenant leading his platoon back from a field training exercise at Fort Lewis, Washington when he heard of the attacks.

"What our enemies failed to recognize was how the American people would respond," he added.

After the attacks, young Americans flocked to the recruiting offices to join in the cause of protecting freedom.

Sept. 11, 2001, is a day everyone can say where they were. They were in grade school, in uniform and in civilian jobs. For many it would spur patriotism and be a call to service.

> WHAT OUR ENEMIES FAILED TO RECOGNIZE WAS HOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD RESPOND ...
>
> - Col. David Gaugush
> Garrison commander

"It was so shocking that we were attacked on our own ground the way we were, that all of us all of us were affected," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Angel Berrios, deputy garrison chaplain.

Berrios was a civilian chaplain at the time ministering to patient in Annapolis, Maryland.

"Sure enough, looking up on the television screens in the hospital, I saw the second plane hit the second tower," he said. It would forever change him.

Capt. Ebony Stone, with the Army Training Center, was in fifth grade at the time and it took a little while for what happened to sink in.

"It really didn't hit me, being that I was so young," she said. "Once I continued to watch, I just started crying because I had just seen all the people losing their lives. I knew I wanted to be a part of something so beneficial to the world and to be able to be a leader and be one of the people to honor our country."

The wreath laying honored New York's "bravest and finest" who went into the World Trade Center as the twin towers burned. It paid homage to the passengers and flight crews of American Flight 77, American Flight 11, United Flight 175, and United Flight 93 who gave their lives. It also honored those killed in the attacks on the Pentagon, and the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, who volunteered for this great Nation.

The ceremony also honored all the innocent victims and those who lost their loved ones and for all the children who lost their mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters on that tragic day.

Stone, who helped set up the event, said remembering was "very important."

"It is an honor just to be remembering those that made that sacrifice," she said.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ID Card Update
Effective immediately the memorandum regarding the issuance of short-term Common Access Cards for Army contractors, dated Feb. 13 2026, is hereby rescinded until further notice. Starting Sept. 14, dependent USID cards will no longer carry the sponsor's rank. Therefore, when a sponsor is promoted to the next higher rank, the dependents cards doesn't have to be updated until its expiration date.

CYS New Hourly Care
Child and Youth Services has extended its hourly care. Reservations can be made two week in advance at a cost of $8 an hour per child. The new hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The care is open to all registered CYS patrons. For more information, call (803) 751-4824.

Training Support Center Closure
The Training Support Center, 1565 Hall Street will be closed tomorrow. For more information, call (803) 751-4619.

Safety Training Opportunites
The Installation Safety Office presents various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to *https://airs.safety.army.mil/default.aspx.* To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your unit safety specialist.
Fort Jackson Safety Office Training: To register visit *https://airs.safety.army.mil*
■ Local Hazards Course: Mondays at 10 a.m. (except holidays) at the Strom Thurmond Building, Room 207
Email your designated safety officer to register for the following courses:
■ Unit Safety Officer Course: Installation Safety Office, Oct. 6-7 (24 seats open); Dec 1-2 (28 seat open)
■ ASMIS 2.0 Workshop Training: Installation Safety Office, Oct. 30 (29 seats open) – Purpose: Assist users with mishap reporting, submission, and completing reports.
Unit Level Safety Training: Please contact your designated safety officer to register for the following courses:
■ Heat Illness PreventionTraining Unit-level, conduct Newcomers' Heat Injury Prevention Training, maintain training documentation. The Fort Jackson Risk Management Guide for Leaders is available in the ATC Safety Office
■ Intermediate Drivers Course: Training for the Intermediate Driver Course is now at the unit level and more information can be found at h*ttps://safety.army.mil/OFF-DUTY/Automobiles/Training-Unit-Safety*
■ Remedial Drivers Training will now be an online course. Registering for the RDT can be completed by going to *https://airs.safety.army.mil*

Army High School Senior Stabilization
Soldiers who have high school juniors and/or seniors can request assignment stabilization. The intent is to provide stability to Soldiers with Family members in their junior and senior years of high school.
Those in graduation year 2029 must apply no later than Sept. 30, while those who graduate in 2030 can apply no earlier than March 1, 2027.
Use a Personnel Action Request to request stabilization no earlier than March 1 of the student's freshman year and no later than the start of the student's sophomore year. Army Human Resources Command will consider late requests on a case-by-case basis, however requests will not be accepted past November of student's application year.
Documents required as attachments for the PAR are:
■ DD Form 1172-2. For AGR Soldiers only, DD Form 1172-2 endorsed by DEERS Verifying Officer.
■ Letter from the school or homeschooling parent, on letterhead stating month and year ofprojected graduation date.
For more information, call the School Liaison Officer at (803) 414-4380 or visit: *https://www.hrc.army.mil/asset/16562.*

Coffee With A Cop
The Fort Jackson Police Department and Provost Marshal's Office invites you to have coffee with a cop at the Starbucks on post starting at 8:30 a.m. last Friday of the month. Come out and meet an officer, ask questions and build trust.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

Suicide Prevention Training: safeTALK
9 a.m. to noon. Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, contractors and Family members 18 years and older are invited to a three hour training on suicide alertness workshop to assist individuals to recognize warning signs and communicate safely with people thinking about suicide. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-2915.

SATURDAY

Horseback Riding at Fort Gordon
Join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation for a horseback trail ride. Novice or Pro, this guided ride will be great for those looking for an outdoor adventure. $75 per person. Must be 7 years and older. Register at MWR Central or by calling (803) 751-3484.

WEDNESDAY

Wellness Wednesday
10-11 a.m., MS Teams. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites you to a virtual presentation to learn more about the services provided by the Army Substance Abuse Program and Financial Readiness Program. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

SEPT. 24

Baby Basics
11 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road. Learn what it takes to care for your newborn during the six weeks and beyond. Newborns don't come with instruction manuals, so learn the basics on how to feed, diaper, bathe, swaddle, and comfort along with developmental milestones. Cost is free but registration is required. For more information, call (803) 751-6325.

SEPT. 25

ATC Relinquishment of Command
9 a.m. Victory Field. The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson holds a relinquishment of command ceremony to formally transfer command of the installation, to ensure the seamless continuity of leadership, and honor Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood's career.

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

SEPT. 19
■ Resident Evil 2026 (R)

SEPT. 23
■ Practical Magic 2 (PG-13)

SEPT. 26
■ Practical Magic 2 (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.*

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 we 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.

Wildcats welcome home honor flight

By MASTER SGT. JESSICA LITTLEJOHN
81st Readiness Division

Veterans journeyed from Columbia Metropolitan Airport to the nation's capital Sept. 12 to visit memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice, returning home later that evening to an unexpected welcome from Soldiers, family members and members of the community.

The flight marked the first Honor Flight conducted by the Central Savannah River Area chapter, providing Korean War and Vietnam veterans an opportunity to visit the memorials in Washington, D.C., built to honor their service and the sacrifices of their fellow service members.

Soldiers from the 81st Readiness Division joined Honor Flight volunteers, families and community members to support the veterans' departure and welcome them home.

Honor Flight is a volunteer-based program dedicated to honoring America's veterans by providing them an opportunity to visit the memorials dedicated to their service in Washington, D.C. The program also seeks to ensure veterans experience the honor, gratitude and community support they deserve.

For many of the Vietnam veterans on Saturday's flight, the trip carried an added significance. More than 50 years after returning home from Vietnam, some had never received the welcome and recognition they deserved.

That changed Saturday evening.

As the veterans returned to Columbia Metropolitan Airport at approximately 8 p.m., Soldiers from the 81st Readiness Division, families, volunteers and community members gathered to welcome them home.

Soldiers stood at attention and rendered honors as the veterans arrived. For some of the veterans, seeing Soldiers salute them became one of the most meaningful moments of the trip. Some veterans even returned the salute.

"Seeing the Soldiers standing at attention and rendering a salute to these veter-

See **HONOR:** Page 9





Leader file photos

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, cheers on participants as they near the finish line of the 2024 5K Run/Walk for the Fallen.







Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood speaks to Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets (top), salutes a formation (middle) and leads the 2026 Victory Week run (bottom).

CG reflects on time as Jackson commander

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, who became the Army Training Center and Fort Jackson commanding general in August 2024 will complete his time as commanding general in a ceremony at Victory Field, Sept. 25, 2026.

Hood, a native of San Antonio, Texas, attended the University of Georgia and graduated in December 1991 with a commission as a chemical officer. He will retire with over 37 years of active federal service and over 41 years of total service (with ROTC Cadet and U.S. Army Reserve Simulataneous Membership Program) in the Army.

He recently sat down to talk about his experiences leading the post dedicated to making American Soldiers where he credits the people of Fort Jackson and the Midlands as being reasons his tenure here was a success.

Q. What's going to be your fondest memory of your time at Fort Jackson?

A. Fort Jackson is unique for many reasons and like most places it starts with the people.

I believe that Fort Jackson is the best two-star position in the Army. There is no bad assignment because of the people, but when I look at all the other places I've been, the community plays a role. Fort Jackson, because much of our installation is inside the city limits of Columbia, and when you look at scale, Columbia and the Midlands, they really are awesome at supporting its military. Whether you're active, guard, reserve, retired, veteran, it's just something different (here). A lot of people don't quite understand Southern hospitality until they experience it, and Fort Jackson kind of reminds me of that too.

Q. How would you say your time here at Fort Jackson rates in compared to some of the other assignments that you've had during your career?

A. I would say once again, Fort Jackson stands alone. Fort Jackson is different based on the different levels of war and the type of organizations that that you serve in. When I look at my time in the institutional domain, whether that was at Fort Leonard Wood multiple times, whether that was here, I'd say this is the best institutional assignment. Additionally, I was stationed at U.S. Central Command down in Florida. I've been stationed at the Pentagon. I had three assignments there. There's more to do in larger cities, but geographically in South Carolina you can be in the mountains in a few hours. You can be in the beaches a couple hours later. Therefore, I rank Fort Jackson very high on my list of duty assignments and locations.

Q. What made your time here at Fort Jackson a success?

A. It goes back to the people. You think about being a commanding general, senior commander and there's a vision. I'm representing the Army at large, strategically, at echelon, but it's the people that have to execute.

Considering the challenges that come along with restructuring, reorganizing, hard decisions have to be made, and a reduction in people. You have less people, but you still have your priorities. You still have your responsibilities, your actions.

So, we had less people, but we didn't necessarily have a reduced workload. It's the people that remind me every day why we do this.

You know, we talk about making American Soldiers here at Fort Jackson, doing our part to generate readiness, and doing our part to make Fort Jackson about excellence.

Whether it's focused on Basic Combat Training, whether it's the Adjutant General, or the Finance, or the Chaplains schools, or the U.S. Drill Sergeant Academy or, Installation Management Command on the AMC side with the Logistics Readiness Center, it didn't matter what, no matter where you look, no matter where you go, even our partners like the Naval Detachment, or when we look at some of the other agencies that are on Fort Jackson, it always comes down to the people.

We have the phrase "mission first, but people always." The people that serve; you can tell their commitment. They're passionate about what they do. If it was about money, I would dare say many would probably pursue something else in life.



Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, touches Staff Sgt. Dillon Hansen's Soldier's Cross during a memorial ceremony held Dec. 10, 2025 at the Century Division Chapel on post.

But no, I really think again, Fort Jackson is successful because of the people.

Q. How would you like your time to be remembered?

A. Making a difference with people, caring for people.

You've heard me in many different forums talking about four tasks: lead, care, train, maintain. Care is the one action verb of the four tasks; that if you get it right, chances are you will lead right, you will train right, and you will maintain the various resources needed to accomplish your mission or be successful.

Whether we're looking at our lines of effort: train and develop leaders, strengthen the profession, ensure quality of life, and engage the community. What's critical? Those same four tasks: lead, care, train, and maintain, and care. Most people that have known me throughout my career, that's been something I've carried with me ever since I was in the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and I think it holds true today.

If people can remember that – it's simple. Four tasks: lead, care, train, and maintain.

That's a good memory because he truly cared about the people, whether they were in military service uniform or dressed in civilian attire - Family members, contractors, people. His audio and video matched.

Q. Where will your career take you next?

A. So we have a house in Florida. We knew at some point we were going to come to the end of military service, so we decided that Florida was going to be our home base. And I can tell you though, if we didn't have our home in Florida, this would have been the location. Whether it would have been in Columbia proper or within the Midlands, there's just so much to offer here in the state of South Carolina. One day we may find ourselves back in this area. But, for right now, Florida is home and South Carolina is our home away from home.

Q. Is there anything that you would like to say to the Fort Jackson community and to the Midlands community at large?

A. I believe simplicity matters, and there's a word gratitude. Another way of saying it is thank you, and you've been very supportive, very responsive to myself, to my Family, and so we greatly appreciate that.

We have been and hope to continue to be part of the team. We won't be in this position again, but at least we consider ourselves as part of the family, and we might be a little more extended just because of the geographical distance from here to Florida.

If there's anything I can do to help, please don't hesitate to reach out. Don't be a stranger. With your Rolodex, with automation, there are so many ways to keep in touch. Again, if I can help, then I certainly would like to be considered how to partner, how to go forward, and still make a difference. So, again, thank you.

I really appreciate the opportunity to serve here, to get to know so many different people, and whether it was fellowship, friendship, in some cases, faith, just within the community, the church that we were part of, I could not have asked for a better to serve.

Salute to Service

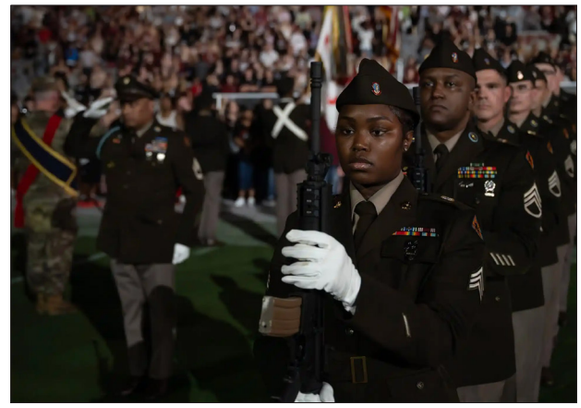
Photos by Nathan Clinebelle

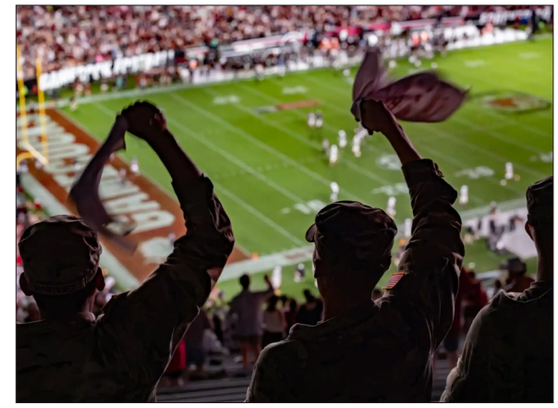
Fort Jackson joined the University of South Carolina in saluting the service of America's men and women in uniform, Sept. 12. Fort Jackson provided the 282d Army Band, a color guard from U.S. Army Medical Activity - Fort Jackson, a rifle salute squad and Soldiers to hold flags during a special half time celebration.

One Soldier said he felt very proud to be a part of this ceremony, which honors our veterans and first responders. "My uncle Larry passed away on 9/11, so I'm very proud to participate as a flag bearer for this event," said Pvt. Darien Webber, with the 369th Adjutant General Battalion.











Honor

Continued from Page 5

ans was one of the highlights of the trip," said 1st Sgt. Travis Blackwelder, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Readiness Division. "They felt truly honored by the recognition, and some even returned the salute."

For Vietnam veteran Senior Master Sgt. Joseph A. Rampino, the reception provided a powerful reminder that his service had not been forgotten.

"After leaving the service, you don't think anyone cares, and then something like this happens, and it's just overwhelming," Rampino said.

Earlier that morning, Soldiers and volunteers arrived at the airport before sunrise to assist with the Honor Flight departure. Beginning at 5 a.m., personnel helped move wheelchairs from storage, stage them for distribution and assist veterans with check-in before the flight departed at roughly 7:30 a.m.

While the morning's mission focused on helping the veterans begin their journey, the evening's homecoming became the priority.

Soldiers in dress uniforms helped create a military presence for the returning veterans, while families, volunteers and community members gathered to greet them.

"It was important to us to have as many people as possible here when these veterans came home," said Sgt. 1st Class Jim Ott, Mission Command Support Group. "For some of our Vietnam veterans, this may be the first time they have ever experienced the kind of welcome home they should have received more than 50 years ago."

For the Soldiers participating in the event, the opportunity to welcome the veterans home was about more than supporting an airport event. It was an opportunity to honor a generation of service members whose sacrifices helped shape the Army and the nation they serve today.

The Central Savannah River Area chapter plans to continue its mission of honoring veterans, with a second Honor Flight scheduled for May 2027.



Photo by MASTER SGT. JESSICA LITTLEJOHN

Soldiers from the 81st Readiness Division welcomes veterans home Sept. 12, at Columbia Metropolitan Airport in Columbia, S.C., following an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Installation offers early voting, absentee and election day information

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson officials want to ensure the community is aware of important voting information such as what constitutes early voting, how to vote absentee and what time to the polls open on Election Day, Nov. 3.

■ **Early Voting**

Any voter can vote early at any early voting center in their county during the early voting period. Go to an early voting center in your county, present your photo ID, and vote using the voting system like you would at your polling place on Election Day.

The early voting period for the statewide general election starts Monday, Oct. 19 and ends Saturday, Oct. 31.

Early voting centers are open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the early voting period.

The polls are closed Sunday, Oct. 25.

Visit the early voting page on scVOTES.gov to find early voting locations in your county.

■ **Vote Absentee**

Return the ballot by mail or personal delivery as soon as possible.

Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Ballots should be mailed no later than one week prior to Election Day to help ensure timely delivery.

Voters must present photo ID if returning an absentee ballot in person.

Additional information about assistance from an Immediate Family Member or Authorized Representative requesting an absentee ballot is available at *scVOTES.gov*.

■ **Vote on Election Day**

Vote at your polling place on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Find your polling place address by checking your *MyscVOTES*.

Don't forget to bring your photo ID to the polling place.

For more information about voting and how to request an absentee ballot speak with your unit voting assistance officer or visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program at *FVAP.gov*.

SALUTING THE CIVILIANS OF THE QUARTER

The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson of third quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 are:



MARGARET SMITH
GS 4-8



MICHAEL CAMACHO
GS 9-13

The two honorees were recognized for their commitment to service and were presented with a Civilian Achievement Medal, a special act award and time off award. Margaret Smith is a legal assitant with the 165th Infantry Brigade. Michael Camacho, is a training technition with the 165th Infntary Brigade.

Events

Continued from Page 4

Oktoberfest
4 p.m., 1917 Club. Are you ready for Oktoberfest? Come experience Oktoberfest firsthand at the 1917 Club, and experience the festivities and fun that comes with Oktoberfest, Fort Jackson style. Volksmarch registration starts at 4 p.m. The festival includes: Volksmarch, a band, German buffet, Kids Zone, games, beer, and brats.

SEPT. 26
Cars and Coffee
8 a.m. to noon, MWR Central parking lot. Back by popular demand, cool cars, hot coffee, and good times. For more information, call (803) 751-5755.

MWR Presents: The Flea Market
8 a.m. to noon. MWR Central parking lot. Come join the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation for a Flea Market. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

SEPT. 27
Auto Craft Closure
The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation thanks customers for their support over the years as the Auto Craft Center closes permanently Sept. 27. For questions, email *FortJacksonMWRRecreation@army.mil.*

SEPT. 29-30
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, contractors and Family members 18 years and older are invited to a two day interactive workshop teaching participants how to recognize, intervene, and create safety plans for individuals with thoughts of suicide. For more information, call (803) 751-2915.

SEPT. 30
ACS Cyber Safety Workshop
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service is hosting a workshop from the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Fort Bragg office. The workshop will guide attendees through current online trends, potential hazards, and real-world safety strategies you can use to protect your children against cyber predators. If you have any questions, call Fort Jackson ACS office at (803) 751-5256. Microsoft Teams meeting Join: *https://dod.teams.microsoft.us/meet/993983949331?p=XqEukPClfi1QZ4xLtc* Meeting ID: 993 983 949 331; passcode: *gh6vj68Q.*



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Thank you for your service

Fort Jackson honored the service of Chaplain (Maj.) Daniel Claypoole, family life chaplain, and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel A Rodriguez, with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, during the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment graduation, Sept. 10.

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
CHRISTIAN NON-DENOMINATIONAL	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL

INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
193RD BRIGADE CHRISTIAN NON-DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
165TH BRIGADE CHRISTIAN NON-DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER
CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	FRIDAY	11-11:30 A.M.	120TH AG BN CHAPLAIN OFFICE (for trainees in 120th only)
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

Pierce Terrace students 'Leap into Learning'

Story, photos by
DR. LORRAINE EMORY
Pierce Terrace
Elementary School

Excitement filled the Pierce Terrace Elementary School gym as students recently gathered for "Leap Into Learning," a schoolwide assembly celebrating what students have already accomplished and encouraging them to commit to learning throughout the school year.

Dr. Sandra Whitaker, Pierce Terrace principal, led the assembly where students actively participated by answering questions and raising their hands.

Whitaker invited students to reflect on what they have learned and experienced since returning to school.

She began by asking students to raise their hands if they had learned about the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pierce Terrace Pledge. She then shifted from academics and school routines to an important part of belonging at school—friendship.

"If you made a new friend so far this school year, raise your hand," Whitaker asked.

The questions also gave students a chance to recognize some of the new skills they are developing at their grade levels.

Turning specifically the school's youngest learners, Whitaker asked the universal pre-Kindergarten students, "Have you learned how to do family-style dining?"

Whitaker responded enthusiastically throughout the assembly as students shared what they had learned and accomplished.

"Good job! That's awesome!" she repeatedly told them, providing positive reinforcement and encouraging students to take pride in their progress.



Students crouch down like frogs, eagerly preparing to take their big 'Leap Into Learning.' On Dr. Sandra Whitaker's count of three, students leaped into the air together and enthusiastically shouted, 'I'm ready!' — showing their commitment and excitement for learning throughout the school year.

The gathering then shifted from reflecting on what students had already accomplished to thinking about what lay ahead.

Whitaker introduced students to the meaning of commitment and challenged them to commit to their learning for the school year. Rather than simply explaining the idea, she invited the entire student body to make that commitment together.

Students repeated after her: "I am curious, I want to know about the world, and I want to grow; I am excited to leap into learning."

The words captured the assembly's central message—that learning begins with curiosity and grows when students are willing to participate, explore, ask questions, and challenge themselves.

But at Pierce Terrace, "leaping" into learning wouldn't be just a figure of speech.

Whitaker asked students to crouch down like frogs and prepare for a schoolwide leap.

As she counted to three, students sprang upward together and enthusiastically shouted, "I'm ready!"

The activity turned a message about commitment into something students could see, hear, and experience.

With one collective leap, students demonstrated their readiness to embrace the opportunities ahead.

The assembly also highlighted that learning involves more than academics. From learning school pledges and classroom routines to making new friends and developing independence, students are building the academic, social and personal skills that help create a strong school community.

As the event came to a close, Whitaker called teachers by name, signaling each class to begin its return to the classroom.

Students then paraded through the school behind their teachers, carrying the assembly's enthusiasm back into their learning spaces.

"Leap Into Learning" gave students an energetic reminder that a successful school year is built one experience, one question, and one commitment at a time.

Most importantly, when asked whether they were ready to take that leap, Pierce Terrace students made their answer unmistakably clear: "I'm ready!"

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Servant leadership

By CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) BARTLEY WILT
1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment

At first glance, the concept of servant leadership seems like a paradox. In a military structure built on strict hierarchies, clear lines of authority, and immediate obedience to orders, the idea of a leader "serving" subordinates might appear to conflict with traditional command. It is easy to mistake rank for privilege rather than recognizing it as a profound responsibility.

However, true servant leadership does not weaken authority; it solidifies it. It shifts the leadership focus from personal status to mission capability and troop welfare.

More than 2,000 years ago, Jesus redefined authority by washing his disciples' feet. In a culture where this dusty, menial task was exclusively reserved for the lowest household servant, the Master knelt to serve—demonstrating that true leaders elevate those they lead.

The core of this philosophy is simple: you lead by putting the needs of your people first. A servant leader does not ask, "What can my team do for me?" but rather, "What do my people need to accomplish the mission, grow professionally, and remain resilient?"

This selfless approach builds unshakeable trust. When service members know their leader is actively fighting for resources, mentoring them for promotion, and looking out for their families, they don't just follow orders out of mere obligation.

They perform out of deep loyalty and shared purpose. In high-stress environments, that trust is the glue holding a unit together.

Servant leadership is highly practical. It means clearing obstacles so your team can do their jobs. It means eating last in the field, ensuring the line is fed before you grab a plate. It involves sharing in physical hardships and taking responsibility when things go wrong, while eagerly passing the credit downward when things go right.

Ultimately, the strength of any unit is not measured by the power of its commander, but by the cohesion of its squad. By serving those you lead, you build a resilient, highly capable team ready to win the nation's wars.

VICTORY... STARTS HER



Staff Sgt. Noel Berges, a drill sergeant assigned to the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, disassembles, reassembles, and conducts a functions check on one of four weapons the competitors are tested on during the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant of the Year competition at Fort Jackson, Sept. 15.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Erin Conway