

THURSDAY JULY 6, 2023

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

## FORT JACKSON CELEBRATES ...

AMERICA'S 247TH BIRTHDAY



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# Army marks 50th anniversary of all-volunteer force

By **CORINNE DIONISIO**  
Army News Service

On July 1, 2023, the Army and the nation celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the all-volunteer force. For half a century, the call to serve has been answered with Americans making the choice to represent the highest ideals of service and patriotism through military service.

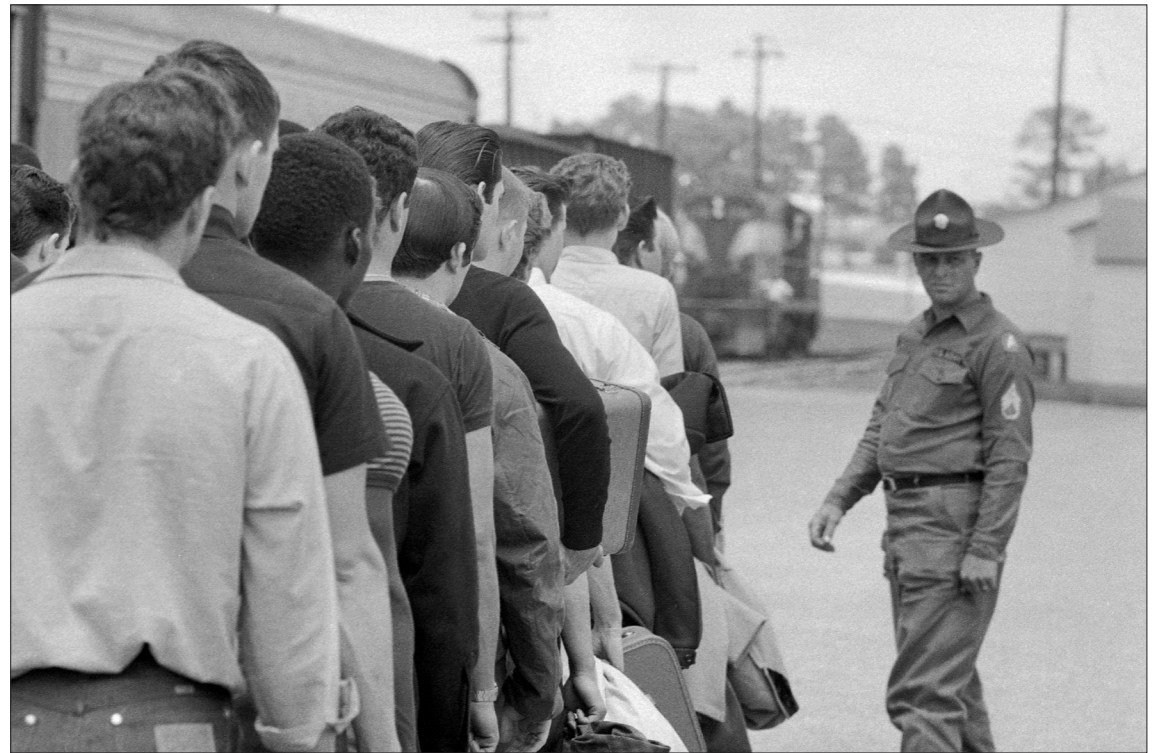
"This year is the 50th anniversary of the all-volunteer force," said Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth during the Army's Birthday Festival. "That is 50 years of selfless service, 50 years of Soldiers from all walks of life volunteering to realize their potential, 50 years of Soldiers being all they can be."

In 1973, the Nixon administration announced the U.S. military would fill its ranks exclusively with Americans that made the choice to serve rather than with draftees. Prior to 1973's all-volunteer force, a near-continuous conscription began with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's activation of the nation's first peacetime draft in support of World War II. That first draft, between November 1940 and October 1946, enlisted over 10 million Americans. The draft was re-adopted in 1948 and continued to exist until it was officially halted on July 1, 1973.

The Army started working

on developing the all-volunteer force well before the draft ended. According to Nicholas Torre, an Army Historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History, in April 1971, a transitional program called VOLAR, named for the new Volunteer Army Program, was successfully implemented at select bases. The program was an experiment designed to increase retention rates and morale among Soldiers and to attract those who wanted to serve. The results were promising. For example, reforms at Fort Carson that aligned with the principles of the program resulted in a 45% increase of reenlistments.

"VOLAR and accompanying initiatives sought to rectify the ills of the Vietnam-era draft-dependent Army," said Torre. The Army wanted to find ways to increase discipline and morale as it moved towards an all-volunteer force. That included improving work environments by focusing on three areas: Army professionalism, day-to-day quality of life and addressing contextual social problems like race-related and drug abuse issues. Today, at the close of the Global War on Terror and with recruitment presenting challenges, there are parallels shared between the inception of the all-volunteer force and the present state. For instance, the Army continues to be a diverse force and a place for equal pay and



*Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress*

**In this historical photo, young men who have been drafted wait in line to be processed into the Army at Fort Jackson.**

treatment.

"Our Soldiers, from the newest private to the most experienced generals, come from all over the country, from many different backgrounds, from multiple demographics, races and ethnicities. And while our Soldiers are as diverse as the nation they serve, we have seen throughout our history that we are strongest when we serve together. At the end of the day, what unites us is our shared

Army values. That and our collective mission to fight and win the nation's wars," Wormuth said.

Our diverse force continues to be united by a common mission, but the Army has also evolved over the last 50 years. Under the draft system, draftees usually served for two years. Today enlistments vary depending on each Soldier's training and career path. Today's Army offers more complex education and training for over 200 career

paths. New innovations in training such as the Holistic Health and Fitness, new approaches towards mental readiness, sleep readiness, physical readiness and spiritual readiness are telling of how today's Army is prioritizing setting up Soldiers for readiness and success.

"No other organization can bring out the best in people like the Army," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville at the Army's Birthday Festival.

## ON THE COVER

**Trainees watch fireworks during Fort Jackson's Independence Day Celebration held on Hilton Field, July 1.**



*Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE*

**See Page 6-7**

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

*"We Make American Soldiers"*

**Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207**

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# Soldier recognized for outstanding service

By EMILY HILEMAN

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

On the last Friday of each month, Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians across Fort Jackson gather for a post awards ceremony where many are recognized for their hard work and dedication. They may receive a coin, and sometimes even an award, from Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Fort Jackson commander.

However, one Soldier at the awards ceremony on June 23 received the Bronze de Fleury, a unique branch-specific award rarely seen amongst the engineer ranks, let alone throughout the Army.

"The only time that this is worn is during engineer functions," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Bell, former first sergeant in 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment. "I had only seen five de Fleury medals before I was awarded mine at my 13-year mark."

According to the Army Engineer Association, "The de Fleury Medal is the highest award for professional excellence in the Engineer Regiment."

The medal is broken down into four orders: steel, bronze, silver and gold; with steel being awarded annually to multiple junior Soldiers and Civilians within engineer regiments, while the Gold de Fleury is typically only awarded to a single person each year and is the highest honor.

"I was honored and overwhelmed," said Sgt. 1st Class Alexis Rodriguez. "I was thinking I didn't deserve this just yet."

But Bell, who nominated him had a different mindset.

"As a staff sergeant, he did more than some sergeants first class and even master sergeants in our regiment do," Bell said.

When Bell arrived at Jackson and gaining his footing as a drill sergeant, he knew that Rodriguez was someone he could rely on to help him learn his job.

"He was always a go-getter. I never saw him complain," Bell said. "Never heard him argue and he was very tactful and professional in how he spoke ... So, I started seeing, even as a peer, that he is very much a team player."

Shortly after, Bell was promoted and became a senior drill sergeant.

"I would task my drill (sergeants) to

do stuff, classes and such, and he would come over from the other platoon and say, 'Hey, I'm done with what I'm doing and it's your duty week. What do you need me to do?' Which was not expected from anyone in the other platoons," Bell said.

When Rodriguez was promoted to sergeant first class, Bell said you could tell that the rank didn't mean anything to him.

"He was always out front," Bell said. "Asking things like, 'What do you need me to do? What can I help you with?' He was very task oriented, very team focused and just a fantastic individual."

After getting to know him, Bell realized work didn't just end at the gates of Fort Jackson in the evening for Rodriguez. During one conversation, Bell was amazed when Rodriguez said he's also been volunteering at a local soup kitchen.

"I was like, 'How do you have time to do all of this?' because he's married with three children and (Rodriguez) said, 'Oh, they come with me. We all do it together.'"

Rodriguez is also a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, a private Army organization for enlisted noncommissioned officers. For a noncommissioned officer to be recommended by their chain of command, their leadership achievements and performance are worthy of special recognition.

Prior to his time as a drill sergeant leader at the Drill Sergeant Academy, Rodriguez taught several MOS courses, different



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

**Sgt. 1st Class Alexis Rodriguez is awarded the Bronze de Fleury by Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, the post commanding general, during the Post Awards Ceremony, June 23.**

from his own specialty such as Concrete and Asphalt Equipment Operator (12V) and Quarrying Specialist (12G). Due to his efforts and thirst for knowledge in engineering, a heavy rock crushing machine was made operable after more than five years of inoperability.

He also served on the U.S. Border Patrol mission, constructing roads, low-water crossings and a culvert along a newly constructed road.

After two stints at the border and working as an instructor at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Rodriguez was assigned to the 20th Engineer Brigade at Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg), North Carolina, where he led his platoon to create Fort Liberty's first ever Airfield Damage Repair Standard Operating Procedure.

"It was the first one ever completed by the brigade and he also did it for the post," Bell said. "Then, it ended up being shared with the other three brigades and the 82nd

Airborne Division. Now it's the standard for airfield damage repair. He did that as a staff sergeant."

"That's still something unique that we do in small airborne units as engineers," Rodriguez said. "You jump out of the plane, land, find your equipment, get the equipment and start repairing the airfield so that (the planes) can land."

Due to his efforts and accomplishments throughout his 11-year career, Bell knew that Rodriguez deserved something and moved quickly to ensure he received an accolade. The time in service required of an engineer to receive the Bronze de Fleury is 10 years, so it was a no-brainer to nominate him for the second order of the de Fleury medal, Bell said.

"He more than earned it," he said. "He's the first person I've recommended this for and if he's the one who sets the standard, I can't see recommending anyone else for the rest of my career. He truly earned this."



# Community Updates

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Death notice

This notice serves as a death notice advisory for all those in possession of the property of Staff Sgt. Jamie E. Contreras Jr, as well as those whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Capt. Kenny A McRae, summary court martial officer with questions or concerns at (803) 626-5905 or via email at: [kenny.a.mcrae2.mil@army.mil](mailto:kenny.a.mcrae2.mil@army.mil)

### Personal Property Announcement

U.S. Transportation Command personal property peak season began in February and will last through September. Once service members receive orders for a permanent change of station, they are required to access Military One-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>.

### 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/eo](http://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/eo).

### 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.

### School Sports Physicals

Moncrief Army Health Clinic will hold school sports physicals every Monday and Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. July 10 to Aug. 9 in the Integrated Health Medical Home, Yellow Team, on MAHC's ground floor. The exams are held for MAHC-enrolled students ages 4 and above in grades PK-12. The walk-in exams are for non-acute issues. Please schedule exams for acute issues with your primary care manager. (Note: students may not be scheduled with the child's PCM). Immu-

nization records and required sports and physical forms must be brought to the examinations.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### FRIDAY

#### Do-It-Yourself Credit Repair Seminar

10-11:30 a.m., Training Support Center (1565 Hall Street), Army Community Service will host a do-it-yourself credit repair class. Tired of paying high interest or being denied credit? Are you planning to purchase a car or home in the future? If so, this class is for you. Learn how to interpret your credit reports, complete disputes with the credit reporting agencies, address collections, etc. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY

#### Football ProCamp

Fort Jackson Youth Sports Park, 5984 Chesnut Road. A free NFL ProCamp hosted by kicker Graham Gano will be held at the Youth Sports Park. The camp is open to boys and girls 6-14 years old, who are dependents of active duty, retirees or Department of Defense civilians. The sign-in tent opens at noon Friday and the camp runs from 1-4 p.m. On Saturday, sign-in begins at 8 a.m. and the camp runs from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is currently open. Contact Darius Lane via email at: [darius.lane2.naf@army.mil](mailto:darius.lane2.naf@army.mil), at the Youth Center to request your registration form. The camp is open to the first 150 youths who register.

### JULY 10

#### DENTAC change of command

11 a.m., Joe E. Mann Ballroom. Col. George Quiroa relinquishes command of Fort Jackson DENTAC to Col. Susan Cebula in a ceremony, July 10.

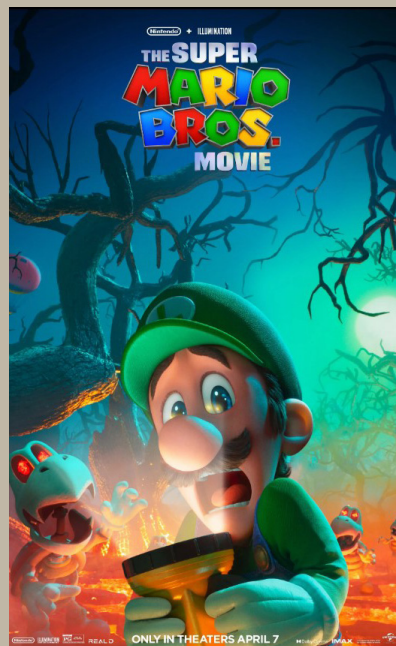
### JULY 11

#### Thrift Savings Plan Webinar

9:30-11 a.m., Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will conduct a Thrift Savings Plan webinar on Microsoft Teams. Do you want to gain a better understanding about the different funds and how they can impact your plan for retirement? Learn the differences between Roth and Traditional accounts, avoiding penalties, withdrawals, latest changes and more. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

### JULY 18

#### Meals in Minutes & Your Budget



## Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

### JULY 7

■ Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13) 6 p.m.

### JULY 8

■ Super Mario Brothers (PG-13) 2 p.m.

### JULY 12

■ Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13) 2 p.m.

● Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.

● Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

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. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

## 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. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style

Questions? Call 751-6739.

### Investing in the Digital Age Webinar

1:30-3 p.m., Army Community Service in partnership with the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission will provide valuable information on the basics of saving and investing, including steps to start to grow wealth and diversification. The webinar, via Microsoft Teams, will also cover the red flags of fraud and crypto currency investment and risks. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

See **EVENTS:** Page 10





Deputy Director and Commandant, Chap. (Col.) James Palmer, Jr. glances at content on the phone with IDF Rabbinate Chief of Staff, Col. (Rabbi) Avner Cohen during the team visit to USA-IRL on June 27.

## IRL, USARCENT host Israeli rabbinate

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

The Institute for Religious Leadership trains chaplains and religious affairs specialists to provide religious service support for our Soldiers wherever they are in the world and provide that religious service support – no matter what religion.

The Institute occasionally trains clergy from other militaries from around the world. South Korea, Serbia, Taiwan, Ghana, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Armenia, Afghanistan, Latvia, Philippines and Bosnia Herzegovina are countries that have sent their soldiers there to train. And the list continues to grow. The most recent country added to the list is Zambia.

Recently, members of another country came to Fort Jackson for a visit.

The IRL, in collaboration with U.S.

Army Central, hosted a team from the Israel Defense Forces that came to Fort Jackson.

The visiting team of three was led by IDF Rabbinate Chief of Staff, Col. (Rabbi) Avner Cohen. He was joined by Lt. Col. (Rabbi) Haim Dov Weissburg and Maj. Aviad Simhoni.

“We are so excited to host our fellow religious partners here at the USA-IRL for the first time,” said Chaplain (Col.) Douglas Swift, USARCENT command chaplain. “We are hoping that they find what our school offers to be useful in our developing partnership. It is extremely vital we nurture religious ties as it increases our support and strengthens our force.”

“The visit with the IDF Rabbis was extremely successful. I appreciate the support from the ARCENT command chaplain’s staff for their assistance in making this happen,” said Chaplain (Col.) James Palm-

er, Jr, IRL deputy director and commandant. “These visits with our international clergy help to build strong partnerships and will bear fruit for years to come and serve the mutual benefit of both nations, their armed forces, and the respective chaplaincies that support those who serve in uniform.”

The team expressed an interest in sharing religious affairs resources, educational and training opportunities between U.S. and the IDF military rabbinate. The desired goal is to develop partnership centered around religious support religious supplies. The team is interested in educational opportunities beginning with short courses.

“Religious support plays an essential role in both of our militaries and this in-person visit at the home of the Army Chaplain Corps furthered our ability to partner with the IDF,” said 1st Lt. Scott Klein, Israel Project Officer for USARCENT.

IDF religious leaders received a campus tour of USA-IRL by program leaders, educators and USARCENT. During the tour, the IDF received a brief on the school course offerings, discussed opportunities for collaboration on logistical supplies in IDF’s region, and reviewed the history of the Army chaplain corps.

The team from Israel arrived June 27 for their visit and met with the USA-IRL team of Palmer, Sgt. Maj. Frederick Cohen, acting senior enlisted advisor, the academy’s Director for the Religious Leadership Academy, Chaplain (Col.) Dan Hardin, and Graduate School Dean, Chaplain (Col.) Roy Myers. Also included was USARCENT Chaplain, Chaplain (Col.) Douglas Swift. The groups sat down together for a light snacks and introductions.

Palmer led the group on a tour of the campus beginning with the auditorium. The auditorium was recently renovated. There are now photos depicting religious support themes. Photos of rabbis are included along the walls of the auditorium.

Next, was a tour of the Fox and Poling Building where Chaplain Basic Officer Candidates receive classroom training. Fox and Poling are the names of two of the four chaplains killed in a German submarine attack on the USAT Dorchester water vessel during World War II. The other two were Washington and Goode. Goode was a rabbi.

The next stop was the Chaplain Corps Memorial Garden. During the tour, an impromptu special moment occurred at the Memorial Wall.

“I was deeply touched when (Rabbi (Lt. Col.)) Haim Dov Weissburg offered a sung prayer in Hebrew to honor American chaplains and religious affairs specialists who’ve been killed in our nation’s wars,” Hardin said. “There was a sense of kindred fellowship that filled the courtyard of the memorial. I look forward to deepening our partnership and friendship.”

They then toured the Army Chaplain Corps Museum. Both groups expressed their appreciation of the meeting and discussion of future possibilities to meet again and work together in the future.

“I can’t wait till I see our rabbis go to this school and learn together with your chaplains,” Cohen said. “Thank you for everyone who invited us here.”

*(Editor’s note: Sgt. Amber Cobena, U.S. Army Central, contributed to this article.)*





Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by EMILY HILEMAN

(Top) Brooks Herring, opening musician, poses before the crowd. (Above) Pfc. Andre Gutierrez, Pvt. Alyssa Patterson and Pvt. Jordyn Ward pose during Fort Jackson's Independence Day celebration. (Right) Guests hold on tight while riding one of the rides in the kid zone, July 1. (Middle right) A trainee carries more than 10 empty pizza boxes to an overflowing trailer. (Far right) Trainees cheer as headliner Blanco Brown sings a tune.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

# Fort Jackson celebrates ...

## America's 247th birthday with fireworks extravaganza

By ROBERT TIMMONS  
AND EMILY HILEMAN  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

It may have been hot, and a little muggy, but it was a welcome relief for trainees in the middle of Basic Combat Training on Fort Jackson.

They weren't out at the Forge or another field training exercise. They were on Hilton Field enjoying a concert, pizza and fireworks – all part of Fort Jackson Independence Day festivities.

Fort Jackson pulled out all the stops for the successful extravaganza including food, beverages and rides for kids. There were even cooling tents to help beat the heat. There were 14 food trucks offering festival staples such as fried Oreos and funnel cakes; and not-so-traditional Bulgogi and ice cream sundaes.

Trainees, however, had food choices all to themselves as well including pre-ordered pizzas. So many pizzas were bought that the empty box-

es overflowed a tractor trailer.

"It's nice, but it's kind of hot. I'm burning up, but I'm from the islands, so I'm used to it," said Pvt. Jaiden Camacho.

For Pvt. Dallas Boyd the day was a good "reliever. It gives me a little of the outside world here, but after this we understand we have to get back to business, but it's a nice little break."

Camacho, Boyd and Pvt. Jacob Jackson are some who also met Blanco Brown, the headlining musician during the celebration.

The fireworks weren't much of a surprise to Jackson, who said he was cued in by friends that it may happen.

"I had a buddy that was split ops last year and came back and said, 'Hey, if you ship out in May, you're most likely gonna get a Fourth of

... AFTER THIS WE UNDERSTAND WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO BUSINESS, BUT IT'S A NICE LITTLE BREAK.

- Pvt. Dallas Boyd  
trainee

July concert.' So, I was expecting it, I just didn't know who would be here, but I'm glad we got somebody good."

Other trainees enjoyed the music as well as the time away from training.

Pvt. Alyssa Patterson was, "Very excited to be able to talk to different companies and platoons and enjoy some freedom time away from basic training and get to have some fun."

The weight of the evening hit Pvt. Jordan Ward during the National Anthem.

"It feels great," Ward said. "We got to salute the flag for the first time tonight during the national anthem that was a big deal. I feel like we're all pretty excited about that. And then just stepping away from the rigorous training and to be able to see normal people doing normal everyday

things and to know like in a few weeks we'll be out in this field graduating, it feels great."

Pfc. Andre Gutierrez agreed saying it is good to have a "little bit of freedom to do our team to enjoy our time ... before we get back into training.

The event wasn't just for trainees and the Fort Jackson community – the post opened its doors to the local community to come and watch arguably the best fireworks in the area.

Haley Anderson, who is friends with musical artist Brooks Herring, who opened the show, said it was easy getting on post.

"Once we went through the main gate, the blue line, takes us right here," Anderson said. The event was "very well organized. Parking, very well organized."

"We're having fun, sitting out with our friends and we're looking forward to seeing the fireworks," she added. "That was a big draw for me. We live in the city, so we can't shoot our own fireworks, so this is great."



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



# WHY I SERVE

## PFC. MIKAYLA FARRELL, 21

*Hortonville, Wisconsin*

"I always wanted to go into the military and the ability to do a higher power of service in regards to my career was the biggest motivator. My grandparents also influenced me."

"I imagined (Basic Combat Training) would be a lot of running, physical training, getting screamed at and mental challenges."

"The most challenging part of BCT has been learning to how to take others opinions and comments and shrug them off and learning how tinteract with so many different personalities."

"Advice I would give to someone planning to join the Army is to just sign the dotted line and join, but come with the highest level of motivation that you can possibly bring."

"My MOS is 09S - Commissioned Officer Candidate. I'm commissioning to be a nurse, because I'm in nursing school."



## PVT. CALEB SKELTON, 18

*Fredricksburg, Virginia*

"Both of my parents are Marines and they told me, 'Do not join the Marine Corps,' so I'm here joining the Army."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be a lot of running, exercising, and being yelled at. It's kind of lived up to those expectations."

"The most challenging part of BCT has been integrating with a group of people that are from all around the world. Everyone has different personalities and you have to learn to work as a unit."

"Advice I would give someone planning to join the Army is to get in shape. A lot of people think you can show up and they'll get you in shape, but you will be left behind at some point."

"My MOS is 27D - Paralegal Specialist. I decided on this MOS because I want to go to law school after college and that's a good way to get in the right line of work."



## PVT. KRISTOFER CLOUD, 19

*Pierce City, Missouri*

"Both of my grandfathers were in the Army. My grandfather on my dad's side was a medic in World War II and Korea, his service influenced me to join the Army."

"I thought Basic Combat Training would be a a lot of physical training, yelling, and smoke sessions."

"The most challenging part of BCT has been all of the studying and getting all of the basic knowledge military personnel have to have."

"Advice I would give someone planning to join the Army is just do it. Join. It's going to be one of the best decisions you'll ever make."

"My MOS is 15T - UH-60 Helicopter Repairer. I did that because I've always loved aviation and wanted to go into that field. Hopefully one day I'll be a crew chief."



## PVT. KALEB KINGERY, 18

*Columbus, Ohio*

"My dad was a combat engineer in the Army and he served for more than 20 years, so I wanted to serve my country like him."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training would be a lot of field training exercises, rifle marksmanship classes and stuff like that. It's been pretty similar to what I imagined."

"The most challenging part of BCT has been the stuff we have to study and memorize."

"Advice I would give to somone planning to join the Army is to look into all of the things you have to study and know beforehand so you have a better idea of what you're getting yourself into."

"My MOS is 91B - Wheeled Vehicle Mehanic. I chose this MOS because I like working on cars."



## SPC. SAMANTHA SWIATEK, 33

*Howell, Michigan*

"My grandfather was in the Navy and he influenced me to join the Army. He's going to be turning 93 soon. He'll be at my graduation and he went to boot camp 79 years ago."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training was going to be a lot of working out, a lot of hurry up and wait and learning a lot of things I didn't know before."

"The most challenging thing about BCT has been shooting and marksmanship. I didn't know anything about marksmanship or shooting rifles before I came here, so that's been the biggest learning curve for me."

"My MOS is 09S - Commissioned Officer Candidate. I chose this MOS because I want to go into leadership."



## PVT. NEVAEH WILLIAMS, 19

*Weatherford, Oklahoma*

"Prior to joining, I worked at a veteran center and I was around veterans all of the time. They influenced my impulsive decision to join."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training was going to be terrible, because of the way the veterans I worked with described it, but I think they were just trying to scare me."

"The most challenging part of BCT has been the mental challenges. As long as you have mental strength, it's okay. It is mentally stressful and draining sometimes, though."

"Advice I would give to somone planning to join the Army is don't overstress it. Take it day by day and minute by minute. Don't overthink what's going to happen. Just go for it."

"My MOS is 68W - Combat Medic Specialist. I chose it because I enjoy the healthcare field."





## Five ways to save on student loans

By **SHAWN M. SMITH**

Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program

Student loan interest resumes Sept. 1 and payments will start in October. Dealing with student loans is a challenge for many but as the old saying goes 'bad news doesn't get better with time.' Avoiding repayment can result in late fees, additional interest charges, and could ultimately hurt your credit rating.

Establishing a plan to address your student loans is critical to getting back on track with your payments. Below are tips you can utilize when restarting your payments.

### Understand what you owe

It is important to have a clear understanding of what you actually owe. Begin by creating a list of your loans, the payment amount, and the servicer. Keep in mind, the servicer and lender may be different.

Review a list of your federal loans on the National Student Loan Data System at <https://nsldsfa.ed.gov/login>. The NSLDS does not provide information for private student loans. Review each individual loan to verify the servicer. Do not assume the servicer is the same for all loans.

Next, conduct a thorough review of your credit reports. Since there is not a website available that contains private loan data you should be able to obtain the information from your credit report. You can request your free credit report from <https://www.annualcreditreport.com>.

### Repayment options

If you are current on your loans or a few payments behind, you may want to consider establishing automatic payments to ensure your payments are made in a timely manner. Simply contact your servicer to discuss setting up the automatic payments; you may receive an interest rate reduction if you pay via automatic debit which could save you hundreds to thousands of dollars over the life of the loan. Ensure you have the required amount of money in your account to avoid an overdraft fee.

If the requested federal loan repayment amount is too high, you may be able to enroll in an income-driven payment plan that may

significantly lower your monthly payments. The goal of these plans - income-based repayment or pay as you earn repayment plan - is to make the payments affordable based on your income and family size. You can learn more about these plans on the Federal Student Aid website <https://studentaid.gov/idr/>.

If you are repaying private loans, you will find minimal repayment assistance. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau created a sample letter you can send to your lender or servicer to request information about repayment or loan modification options. View the sample letter at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/blog/struggling-private-student-loan-borrowers-still-searching-for-help/>.

### Defaulted loans

If your loans are in a default, you may be able to utilize the Fresh Start Initiative or loan rehabilitation. Visit <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/default-fresh-start> for more information about Fresh Start Initiative or <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/default/get-out#loan-rehab> for information about loan rehabilitation. These programs will help you get your loans back in good standing. Call your loan servicer to determine if you qualify for Fresh Start or loan rehabilitation.

### Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

If you are employed full-time with a government organization such as the federal, state, local, tribal governments or the U.S. military or a qualifying non-profit organization you may qualify for PSLE. You can utilize the employer eligibility search engine to see if your employer qualifies for PSLE at <https://studentaid.gov/pslf/employer-search> or visit <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service#pslf-process> for more information about PSLE.

### Seek assistance

If you are a military ID card holder, you can seek assistance by contacting Army Community Service, 751-5256 (option 3) to speak with a financial counselor. Do not let student loan debt overwhelm you. ACS can help you develop a plan of action to get back on track.

## DRILL SERGEANT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### STAFF SGT. TYSHAUNA MOORE

Hometown: Charleston, South Carolina

"What influenced me to join the Army is my parents. My mom retired as a 1st sgt. and my dad retired as a sgt. maj."

"The most rewarding part of my job is being a drill sergeant. Knowing that I've affected change in people makes me proud of what I do. It motivates me and makes me appreciate what I do."

"Advice I would give to someone considering joining the Army is give it a try. You don't know what you're capable of until you try."

"My MOS is 31B - Military Police Officer. I chose it to be different. Everyone else was choosing things like mechanics and supplies and I wanted to do something else."



**ALPHA COMPANY  
2ND BATTALION, 60TH  
INFANTRY REGIMENT**

## June 29 Retirees



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson honored the service of Sgt. 1st Class Phylcia T. Harris and Sgt. 1st Class Ronica R. Moses, during the graduation of 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, June 29.



# Events

Continued from Page 4

## JULY 19 Children’s Theater Club

2 p.m. and 3 p.m., Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. Children will laugh, sing, and act through various theater games, and then work together to produce a storybook play, all within an hour. The club for children ages 3-5 begins at 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. for children over 5 years old.

## JULY 21 Scams & Identity Theft Webinar

10-11 a.m. Army Community Service in partnership with South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, via Microsoft Teams, will share tips to help you protect your identity and finances in support of 2023 National Consumer Protection Week. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

**Stuffed Animal Sleepover**  
Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. Drop off your fluffy friend for a fun night at the library. Check the Library Facebook page (Fort Jackson Library) to see the antics your stuffed animal gets up to after hours, and then pick up your plushie on July 22.

**JULY 25  
Coupon Craze Virtual Workshop**  
10:30-11:45 a.m. Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will host a coupon craze virtual workshop via Microsoft Teams. Learn the art of doubling and tripling coupons, stacking coupons, price matching and more. Get tips on how to prepare for grocery store trips. This is a great opportunity to learn new strategies, meet other coupon users, and share your own ideas. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

**JULY 28  
Open House – Credit Report Review**  
8-11 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m., Army Community Service, 9810 Lee Road. ACS financial counselors will be available during scheduled times on a first come, first served basis to download and review free credit reports for Army personnel. Active-duty Soldiers and their Department of Defense ID card holding Family members will receive their free credit scores. For more information, call 751-5256.

**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.



Courtesy photo

*Head down ...*  
A trainee low crawls through the mud during recent training on the Omaha Beach buddy live fire range. The training helps them learn to work as a team to assault and objective. Recent rains added an element that made the training even more realistic.

**Did you know:** Risk management is the process of identifying and controlling hazards to protect the force and is a continuous process applicable to any situation and environment.

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



# Army invests in civilian workforce

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

Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program hosted the Workforce Wellness Workshop to help the Fort Jackson civilian workforce reset, rebuild, and learn about resources and benefits available to them at the NCO Club, June 30.

"We're going into Military Consumer Month, which is aimed to educate military members on consumer-type issues," said Angela Crossland, financial readiness program manager with Army Community Service.

"It's all about resetting, rebuilding, resilience and looking at your own personal wellness," she said. Crossland was the main organizer for the Workforce Wellness Workshop, the first of its kind at Fort Jackson. "We are looking at doing it again in the future, but we do have other classes all the time. We've just never pulled this combination of classes together before."

Michael Hightower, health educator at the Fort Jackson Armed Forces Wellness Center (formerly the Army Wellness Center) discussed stressors and effective stress management.

"You can't help anybody else if you don't help yourself," Hightower said. "So, we're going to make sure everyone takes care of themselves along the way."

Don't let the name dissuade you from utilizing the wide variety of AFWC resources. AFWC supports all branches of the military as well as family members and Department of Defense civilians.

According to their website, "AFWC provide programs and services that improve and sustain health, performance, and readiness ... delivered by highly trained health professionals."

The Fort Jackson AFWC can be contacted at 751-5256 or visited in person at 4512 Stuart St. Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hightower led all attendees in a deep breathing and relaxation exercise. After a relaxing moment, the workshop dove

headfirst into a special presentation from Mark Youdell, regional outreach coordinator, and Craig Beasley, administrative officer, with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"We have a three-part mission at the SEC," Youdell said. "First and foremost is to protect investors. Second is to maintain fair and orderly markets in the United States. The last thing is to facilitate capital formation."

Youdell educated the group on various investment scams such as Ponzi, Pyramid, and pump-and-dump frauds. He also noted the difference between Pyramid schemes and multi-level marketing businesses.

When referring to MLMs, he said, "They make enough revenue selling the

actual products that it's not a pyramid scheme." He added that if they're advertising a product but make most of their profit in recruiting and registration, it's likely a pyramid scheme.

"Big investment firms advertise. You go to them," Beasley said.

"They don't come to you. Licensed investors also have a fiduciary responsibility, meaning that they have to act in your best interest, not necessarily their company's best interest."

A few other pieces of advice were:

- Trust, but verify. If Social Security, Veterans Affairs, or the Internal Revenue Service contacts and requests personal information for verification, don't give it to them. Hang up, look up their business phone number on their website and call them back to verify it was actually them that called you.

- Before investing, ensure your investment advisor is registered and hasn't been previously sued by the SEC. Advisors are legally required to register with the SEC and are given a unique, Central Registration Depository number. You can verify this information, see customer complaints, and previous employment for them at <https://www.investor.gov/>

- Do your due diligence and re-



**Mark Youdell, regional outreach coordinator for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission briefs attendees on investment scams and how to avoid them at Army Community Service's Workforce Wellness Workshop, June 30.**

search before you invest. Research the product, individual and the business first.

- Be aware of high-pressure sales tactics and "limited time offers."
- Research publicly-traded companies on the SEC's Electronic-Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval system also known as EDGAR. EDGAR provides free public access to corporate information such as registration statements, period reports, and overviews that show a company's business and financial condition.
- Contact Investor Assistance line at (404) 842-7676 for more information

Following the plethora of advice concerning investments and how to avoid scams, Shawn Smith, personal financial readiness specialist with ACS detailed the importance of knowing your investments and retirement options through Thrift Savings Plan and the Government Retirement & Benefits Platform.

Smith elaborated on the role of ACS's Financial Readiness Program and how they can help you prepare for the future.

"We are financial counselors, not advisors. My job is not to tell you how to invest," Smith said. "My job is to get you the information."

Lastly, Dr. Treva Anderson, a master resilience trainer and lead performance expert with Fort Jackson's Ready & Resilient Performance Center led the group in a team wellness and cohesion activity aimed to bring the group closer together to build an environment based on trust and understanding.

"The more we communicate and work together as a team, the better we can serve the military community," Anderson said. "Everything that I do is designed to help the community of Fort Jackson to be ready and resilient."

"We're six months into the year and a lot goes on as far as taking care of clients, but it's also important to take care of yourself," said Crossland. "So, we tried to put together something that touched on different topics such as stress relief, managing your money, avoiding fraud and teamwork. That way, we can all finish out the year strong."

If you missed this training, have no fear. ACS has several programs and services available to military members, their families, and civilians. For more information, visit <https://jackson.armymwr.com/programs/army>, or call 751-5256.



# VICTORY... STARTS HERE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE