

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

PINNING IT ON

EXPERTS PIN ON COVETED SKILLS BADGES



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Army to sunset MilSuite platform

U.S. Army Public Affairs

The milSuite platform — a secure, cloud-based collection of tools for Department of Defense personnel to share information and connect with peers — will be decommissioned on April 30.

On this date, all milSuite products will sunset, including milBook, milUniversity, milSurvey, milTube and milWiki.

After April 30, all milSuite data will be permanently deleted and unrecoverable. Users must personally export or migrate any data they want to preserve to other collaboration capabilities like Army 365 (Teams, SharePoint online).

The data on milSuite will not be automatically transferred to another platform.

Although no single platform fully replicates milSuite's capabilities, existing resources provide similar collaboration, communication and knowledge-sharing functions.

"Innovations in collaboration, knowledge management and communications offer the DoD approved enterprise tools that better support the Army's digital modernization efforts in line with our goal of a globally connected Army by 2030," said Lt. Gen. Jeth Rey, the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff, G-6.

For additional information,



U.S. Army photo

The Army announced the milSuite platforms will cease operations, April 30.

guidance and helpful resources about milSuite sunsetting, go to the milSuite Support Forum.

There you will find milSuite alternatives, including instructions on transferring content out of milSuite.

On this site, you can also access the milSuite Data Collection Points of Contact list.

If you are part of any of the organizations or chains of commands listed in that document and want to ensure your organization is aware of your usage, please contact the appropriate individual(s).

The milSuite team will be available on this site to assist with the process.

"We are focused on helping

milSuite users understand how to download and export their data over the next few weeks," said Tom Curran, milSuite program manager. "We've established weekly workshops every Thursday at 1 p.m. EDT that provide a forum to share information and connect our technical experts with our user community to address any questions they have. We've also established a community page containing details, FAQs and resources across each milSuite platform to assist our users."

Due to the short timeline, it is strongly recommended that milSuite users take action as soon as possible to avoid losing important information.

Retiree Appreciation Days return May 1-3

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Calling all military retirees! There's two weeks left until the Retiree Appreciation Days return.

Fort Jackson Retirement Services Office is hosting a three-day Retiree Appreciation Days event to celebrate your service, May 1-3.

According to the RSO, the annual event has been a treasured celebration of service for 20 years.

There will be activities open to retirees of all branches of service, and retirees will be provided with updated information on benefits and services.

"There are more than 63,000 military retirees in the state of South Carolina and Fort Jackson wants to honor and recognize them," said Regina Harlan, retiree services officer.

May 1

Col. Timothy R. Hickman, garrison commander, kicks off the celebration with a video posted on social media. Retirees are invited to attend the Basic Combat Training graduation ceremony, which starts at 9 a.m. at Hilton Field. The graduation's guest speaker will be retired Lt. Col. Charles (Charlie) Farrell who flew jet fighters with the Marine Corps.

May 2

Retirees can dust off their clubs and participate in the 21st annual retiree golf tournament that starts at 9 a.m. at the Fort Jackson Golf Club.

May 3

A Retiree Health and Benefits Exposition runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Solomon Center. An assortment of health services and informational organizations will be on-site at the expo, including the South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs, and various Fort Jackson activities.

Alethea Harry, Veteran's Readiness and Employment (VRE) Officer with the Columbia VA Regional Office will host a question-and-answer session starting at 10 a.m.

The Exchange and Commissary will have in-store sales beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The ID card office and retirement services office in the 5450 Strom Thurmond Bldg. will be open 9 a.m. to noon to issue ID cards and myPay pin resets.

For more information about the Retirement Services Office (803) 751-5523, or visit: <https://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/retiree-appreciation-days>. Retirees can also download the My Army Post App (MAPA).

See Page 3 for more information about the mobile application.

ON THE COVER

A Family member pins an Expert Infantryman Badge onto a Soldier during the awards ceremony for the post's E3B competition, April 11.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

See Page 6-7

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Commanding General Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood
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Command Information Officer Robert Timmons
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New app helps Jackson 'stay in the know'

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Need a little help getting around Fort Jackson?

Well, help is on the way in the form of a new, user-friendly smartphone application that provides the Fort Jackson community with information and resources.

Fort Jackson has joined many installations across the Army to provide digital resources via the My Army Post App. The app contains resources for newcomers, Soldiers, Families and visitors coming on post for graduations.

MAPA is the new information center for U.S. Army garrisons around the world, replacing the previous (Digital Garrison) app, and is available to download for free on the Google Play and Apple App Store.

Once downloaded, users select their installation from a list and begin accessing resources ranging from current weather conditions, post-wide alert messages, emergency contact numbers, and the hours and locations of facilities.

The user interface is easy to learn. The three lines on the top left

corner of the app take you to the main menu where you can select the installation, access

Army Maintenance

App for work orders, schedule a medical appointment through the MHS Genesis portal and the mil-Connect site for DEERS/ID Section information.

Users will find along the bottom of the app icons for home, explore and newcomers. Clicking on the explore tab takes users to a list of resources and events arranged into categories. Users can swipe left or right in the categories along the top to find what they are looking for.

Newcomers to the installation can click on the icon and it will take them to checklists to help them get up and running on Fort Jackson.

Have a comment to send to Army Training Center leadership? You can find it in MAPA too.

For Families and guests attend-

ing graduation, finding Hilton Field just became easier – MAPA also provides turn-by-turn directions via Google Maps, Apple Maps and Waze.

The app's settings are customizable based on the user's personal preferences to stay informed on closures, how busy a resource is, or other important updates.

Current MAPA features include:

- Real time gate status
- Map directions
- Post wide push notifications (delays, closures)
- Newcomer's information and in-processing checklists
- Installation job openings
- Allows individuals to switch installations when on temporary duty or undergoing a permanent change of station
- Bookmarks for frequently used resources
- Installation directory
- Emergency phone numbers
- Housing resources
- Installation event calendar, and more

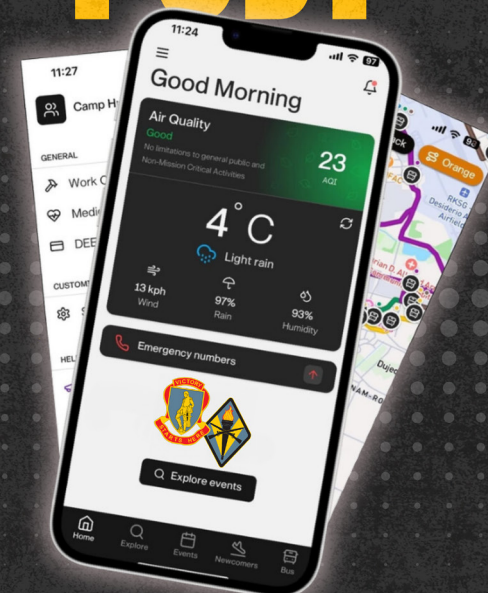
To download the application, scan the QR Code.



XXXXXX
XXXXXX



DOWNLOAD NOW MY ARMY POST



NEAR REALTIME UPDATES

INSTALLATION-WIDE ALERTS

RETIREE INFORMATION

NEWCOMER INFORMATION

EVENTS + MORE

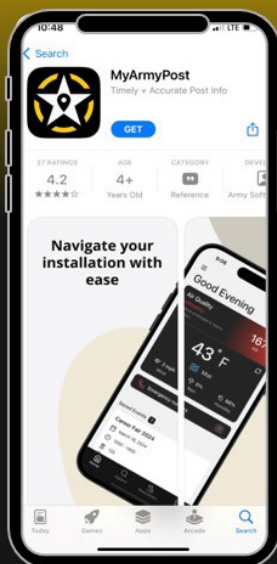
GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store

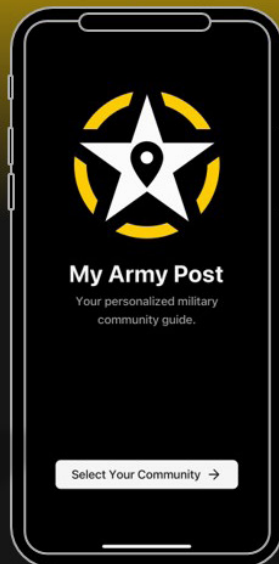


My Army Post App

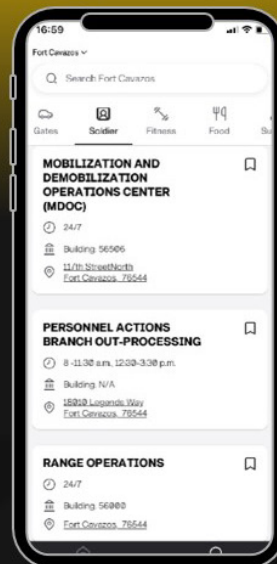
Step 1:
Download the app



Step 2:
Select your base



Step 3:
Stay in the know!



Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday Ball Tickets on Sale

Tickets for the 250th Army Birthday Ball are on sale now. Join Fort Jackson in celebrating the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army at the Army Birthday Ball. The ball takes place at 5 p.m. June 14 at the 1917 Club, 5700 Liberty Division Road. Lt. Gen. Milford “Beags” Beagle, commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, will be the guest speaker. Scan the QR code for more information and to purchase tickets.



Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Your opinion matters. The Army wants to hear from you. Your feedback can make a big difference in the quality of life for Soldiers. The Army is investing significantly in barracks and unaccompanied housing improvements and survey feedback will be used to guide the Army’s efforts to provide quality, safe and secure housing. The completely confidential survey will be emailed from ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com. OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 05/31/2025

Pharmacy updates

Beginning May 1, Moncrief Main Pharmacy and the PX Refill Distribution Center will change schedules. The new hours will be Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on weekends and federal holidays, and closed after 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

New Parents Support Program

Parenting can be a rewarding, yet chal-

FOR PAIN, INJURY, OR AFTER SURGERY
COME SEE

**FORT JACKSON ACTIVE DUTY
MUSCULOSKELETAL
CARE CLINIC**

Same Day Appointments Available!

Moncrief Army Health Clinic, 11th Floor

Call 803-751-2408/2428/2377 to set up your appointment!

Active duty service members who sustained an injury within the last 30 days in the neck, back, shoulder, arm, wrist, hand/finger, hip, knee, leg, ankle, or foot will be able to get an appointment within 24 hours.

lenging, and stressful, often leaving you to feel overwhelmed and alone. Join the New Parent Support Group to get connected with other parents with similar experiences; learn evidenced-based parenting techniques; and discover community resources ready to assist you. The group meets from 4-5 p.m. every Monday until May 19 in the Army Community Services building, 9810 Liberty Division Road. For more information, call (803) 751-6724 or 6325.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

UNTIL FRIDAY

Leave a plant, take a plant

The Thomas Lee Hall “Post” Library is hosting its bi-annual plant swap. Drop off your plants today and pick one up tomorrow afternoon.

TOMORROW

Youth Archery Class

10 a.m. to noon. This class shows youths

ages 8-17 the proper form and technique to safely shoot. Register at Marion Street Station, or call (803) 751-3484.

SATURDAY

Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. to noon, Twin Lakes Park. Join Fort Jackson for an exciting Easter weekend with an egg hunt with more than 2,000 eggs for kids. There will be inflatables at the event. Participants must bring their own basket or bag. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

SUNDAY

Easter Sunrise Service

6:30-7:30 a.m., Family Life Center behind the Strom Thurmond Building. The Religious Support Office is holding an Easter Sunrise Service for permanent party and Family members. For more information, call (803) 751-3121.

APRIL 24

Indoor Soccer Challenge

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

■ The Day the Earth Blew Up: A Looney Tunes Movie (PG)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

■ The Amateur (PG-13)

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

9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Perez Gym. Come try to score a goal and win a prize. Contestants have three chances to score. Adults and children welcome. For more information, call (803) 751-6258.

APRIL 25

CYS Family Fun Fair

4:30-6:30 p.m., Patriots Park. Come and join the fun for the whole family. There will be food trucks, games, rides and more. For more information, call (803) 751-4824.

APRIL 26

Drug Take Back Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Exchange. Fort Jackson’s Directorate of Emergency Services is holding a drug take back day to continue to enhancing the safety of our

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.



The First American Flag accepted by Committee and adopted by Resolution of Congress June 14th 1777 as the National Standard was made by Betsy Ross in 1776 at 232 Arch Street, Philadelphia, in the room represented in this picture. The Committee Robert Morris and Gen. George Ross accompanied by General George Washington called upon this celebrated Woman, and together with her suggestions produced our beautiful Emblem of Liberty.

Courtesy photo

The Betsy Ross flag is a powerful reminder of the enduring symbol of the United States. The flag is depicted here in an illustration by Charles H. Weisgerber called 'Birth of Our Nation's Flag.'

The Betsy Ross flag: A symbol of a new nation

By **HENRY HOWE**
Director, Fort Jackson
Museum Community

(Editor's note: This article is part of a recurring column honoring the Army during the service's 250th birthday)

The Betsy Ross flag stands as a powerful and enduring symbol of the American Revolution, steeped in legend and patriotic significance.

According to popular lore, this iconic flag emerged from the skilled hands of seamstress Betsy Ross, who crafted it at



the request of George Washington in 1776. Little evidence links Ross directly to the flag's creation and relies largely on the testimonies of her descendants. Regardless of the veracity of her role, Betsy Ross's name remains inextricably linked to this early representation of the American flag.

The design of the Betsy Ross flag is ripe with rich symbolism, carefully crafted to embody the emerging nation forged from the 13 original colonies. Displaying 13 alternating red and white stripes, it

captures the struggle for independence.

The vibrant red color represents valor in the face of adversity, the pure white signifies hope and integrity, and the deep blue reflects steadfast loyalty to the cause. In a thoughtful arrangement, the thirteen stars, white against a proud blue background, form a circular pattern, symbolizing the equality and unity of each colony.

Throughout the difficult years of the Revolutionary War, the Betsy Ross flag emerged as a potent icon, inspiring hope

See **FLAG:** Page 9

DOD overdoses drops by 40%

By **C. TODD LOPEZ**
DOD News

The Defense Department released a new report to Congress showing the number of both fatal and nonfatal drug overdoses among service members dropped by more than 40% from 2021 to 2023.

The report also shows that such overdoses are significantly lower within the military than among the broader civilian population.

During the five years covered in the report — calendar years 2019 through 2023 — the fatal overdose rate for service members averaged about 4.4 out of 100,000 service members. Nationally, that number is about 29.2.

The report notes that active-duty fatal drug overdoses reached an eight-year low in 2023, while fatal overdoses involving fentanyl reached a seven-year low.

The department's report to Congress was mandated within the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024. That act requires the department to provide a similar report to Congress for the next four years.

The military community has much lower rates of fatal drug overdoses than the nation at large, the report shows. Any drug overdose or drug use remains unacceptable, as the Defense Department and the military services maintain a zero-tolerance policy regarding drug use.

While fatal and nonfatal overdoses among a variety of drugs are the focus of the report, fentanyl, a synthetic opioid some 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, is highlighted specifically in the report and remains a top concern for the department.

See **DOD,** Page 11



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Experts pin on coveted skills badges

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Seventy-eight Soldiers earned expert skills badges during Fort Jackson's E3B competition, held across the post, April 7-11.

The competition is a combination of three skills badge testing – the Expert Field Medical, Expert Infantryman, and Expert Soldier badges.

“It is without a doubt remarkable to see what the candidates committed over the last three weeks,” said 1st Sgt. Brandon MacKinnon, the chief instructor at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy.

“Congratulations on your ability, over the last three weeks to display an extreme level of grit through both adversity and challenges,” he said.

Candidates for the badges went through two weeks of training before being tested throughout the week. They were required to complete 30 critical tasks and

IT'S A TESTAMENT TO YOU AS
A WARFIGHTING SOLDIER ...

- 1st Sgt. Brandon MacKinnon
U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy

could receive no more than two “no-goes.”

“For some of you it was an easy task, and for some it was your

second, third or even fourth attempt at the prestigious badge,” he said. “It’s a testament to you as a warfighting Soldier, mastering the basic foundational skills of our Army to ensure we enhance our teams, squads, platoons, and even companies to move or maneuver across the battlefields to close in and destroy our enemy.”

The testing is notoriously difficult as roughly 40% of the 189 candidates who began the competition earned badges. Historically, under 50% of those who go through testing earn medals. Forty Soldiers would earn

Expert Soldier Badges; 24 Expert Infantryman Badges and 14 Expert Field Medical Badges.

The Soldiers did exhibit their prowess and will now be looked to “coach, teach, mentor and lead the success of the next group of Soldiers trying to ear their respective badges,” MacKinnon said.

“I now charge each of you to be the stewards of the badge that your earned ...” he added.

The Soldiers showcased the “Army’s drive to be excellent across all warfighting functions,” MacKinnon said.

Each badge required individual, rigorous tests of the Warrior Task and Skills of each Soldier.

Each task tested involved numerous steps that had to be completed in order and in the given amount of time to receive a ‘GO’ and pass on to the next task- with some tasks having multiple steps.

The badges illustrate the Soldier’s competence and lethality.

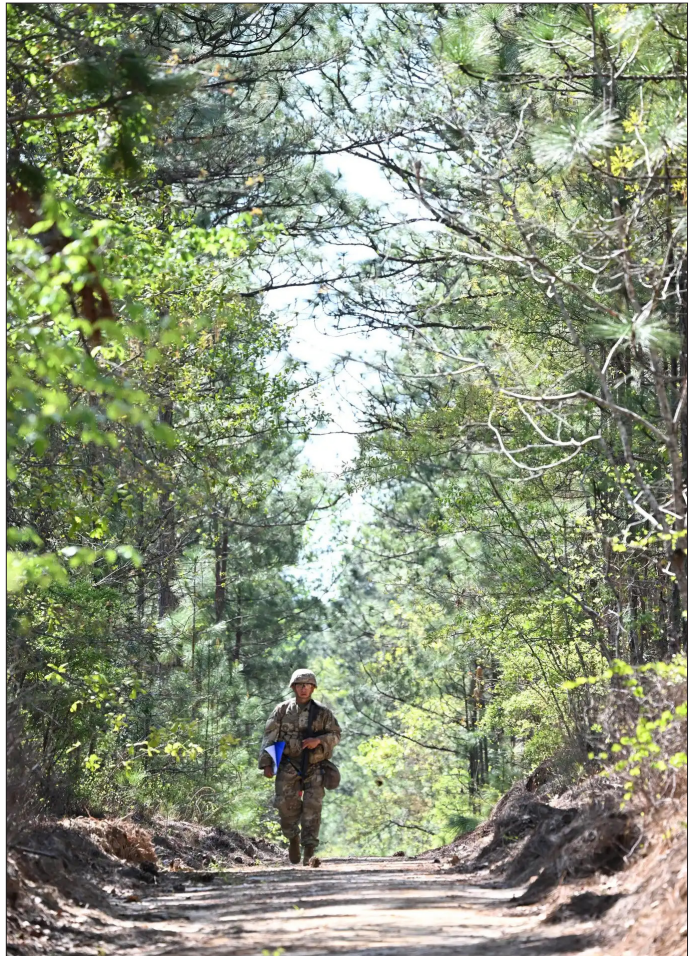


Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo courtesy of the 282D ARMY BAND

(Far left top) Soldiers salute as the National Anthem plays during the ceremony.

(Far left bottom photos) Soldiers go through rigorous and tough testing that helped Soldiers illustrate their competence and lethality.

(Left) A Soldier walks the lonely route to another point during land navigation lanes.

(Above) Sgt. Brooke Hendricks, with the 282d Army Band, has her Expert Soldier Badge pinned on during the April 11 ceremony.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Fair aims to help post

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

Army Community Service hosted a prevention fair on April 10 aimed at helping Fort Jackson and the surrounding community.

The fair was geared to Fort Jackson community to help them with “being healthy, being balanced and preventing some of the things that can stress us out,” said Kamala Henley, Family Advocacy Program specialist.

“Everybody has different issues that they’re dealing with, and we try to bring the resources here so people can be aware of what’s available to them,” she added.

The groups represented at the fair included ACS, Army Substance Abuse Program, the Fort Jackson Library, Armed Forces Wellness Center, and even off-post providers such as Richland 2 School District.

The resources available will help the community be resilient.

For Michael Dumler, an ASAP Prevention Coordinator, one of the most important things people took away from the event was resources. They could come and learn some things “that they didn’t even know existed.”

“There’s a lot of information here for males, females and for the kiddos,” Dumler said.

This was the second prevention fair held on Fort Jackson.



A representative from Richland 2 School District speaks to attendees at the Prevention Fair, held April 10.



(Above) Michael Dumler, Army Substance Abuse Program prevention coordinator, talks to an attendee about the program. Dumler said the event provided a wealth of resources many may not know existed.

(Right) Representatives of various groups speak the event. The fair was to assist Fort Jackson in ‘being healthy, being balanced and preventing some of the things that stress us out,’ said Kamala Henley, Family Advocacy Program specialist.

(Far right) An attendee at the fair speaks to representatives of the Armed Forces Wellness Center. The groups represented at the fair included Army Community Service, ASAP, the Fort Jackson Library, and even off-post providers such as Richland 2 School District.



What to know about Autism Spectrum Disorder

By **IRENA MEHAFFIE**
Exceptional Family Member Program

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurodevelopmental disorder that appears in different forms with varying degrees of symptoms.

ASD often impacts individuals' communication skills, social interactions, and behavior.

Each person diagnosed with ASD experiences their own unique strengths and challenges, thus will require a different level of support.

A diagnosis of ASD can be provided at a young age. It is essential to closely monitor a

child's development and consult with a physician if there are any developmental concerns.

Many support services are available for children diagnosed with ASD.

Based on the child's needs, a physician can submit a referral for speech, occupational, physical and/or Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy services.

In addition, early intervention and special education services are often available through the school district for children with various disabilities, including ASD.

Army Community Service's Exceptional

Family Member Program recognizes the many challenges ASD presents, and how those challenges might be greater for military families.

The ACS EFMP support staff can provide information, referrals and advocacy services to Soldiers with Family members diagnosed with ASD.

EFMP continuously partners and collaborates with military and civilian agencies to maximize support services for military families.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call ACS EFMP office (803) 751-5256.

ACS is here to help

By **ANGELA CROSLAND**
Army Community Service

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program is offering free virtual classes to help you secure your financial future.

These virtual classes provide a convenient and informative way to learn from the comfort of your office or home. Financial planning might seem daunting, but it's an investment in your future and the well-being of your loved ones.

The Social Security Benefits Seminar will be held from 2-3:30 p.m. April 22.

Attendees at the seminar will learn how to maximize your benefits, navigate retirement options, and understand spousal and survi-

vor benefits. They will also be able to speak directly with a representative from the Social Security Administration.

The Estate Planning class will be held from 10-11 a.m., April 29.

Participants will get information on wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and probate. This will help you secure your family's future and gain peace of mind.

Signing up for these classes is easy, just call (803) 751-5256, option 3 to RSVP or to get additional information.

The classes are open to all Department of Defense personnel and family members. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity to take control of your financial well-being.

and patriotic symbol, highlighting America's enduring quest for liberty and the indomitable spirit of its people.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the "Stars and Stripes" as the national flag of the United States.

This remarkable decision marked a defining moment in the evolution of American identity, forever intertwining the flag with the ideals of unity, freedom, and democracy.

Flag

Continued from Page 5

and strengthening the morale of patriots. It served as a unifying banner, representing collective resolve among the colonies as they fought for their freedom.

As new states joined the Union, additional stars found their way into the flag's design, yet the original 13-star version remains an indispensable historical



DOWNLOAD
MY ARMY POST

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

1st Battalion,
34th Infantry
Regiment

**DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE**
Staff Sgt.
Austin Cattera

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Jacklyn Nithan

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Joseph Woodruff

BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Brody Pyles

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Kyla Hughes

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Robert Mellor

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. William Thomas

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Onur Oztas

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Zachary Vangossen

ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Richard Yeeshui

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Aleksei Ruci

Events

Continued from Page 4

neighborhoods by building, strengthening, and reinforcing positive relationships with the community and first responders.

Youth Fishing Derby
8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heise Pond. Join Outdoor Recreation for the annual youth fishing derby. The event is for youths 5-16 years old. Enjoy some food, fish and fun at the event. There is a five pound fish limit. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 29
Maude Leadership Forum
1 p.m., Solomon Center. Maj. Gen. Hope C. Rampy, commander of U.S. Army Human Resources Command ,will be the

guest speaker for the Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Leadership Forum. The event is hosted by the Adjutant General School. For more information, call (803) 751-8440.

MAY 1-3
Retiree Appreciation Days
Fort Jackson is holding retiree appreciation days to honor retirees and celebrate their service to our country. The event will provide updated information on benefits and services. See Page 2 for more information.

MAY 2
National Day of Prayer Breakfast
7:30-8:30 a.m., 1917 Club. Fort Jackson's Religious Support Office is holding a National Day of Prayer Breakfast. To RSVP visit: <https://einventions.afit.edu/inv/index>.

cfm?i=1125697&k=0360400C-7D5E7A.

MAY 10
Charleston Visit
7:10 a.m., Marion Street Station. Join Outdoor Recreation as they observe wild dolphin from a Carolina skiff boat as they cruise to six miles to Morris Island. The trip will also venture downtown for shopping and dining at the historic Charleston City Market. Register by May 1. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-3484.

MAY 15
Fort Jackson Amnesty Day
8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Warehouse Road. Fort Jackson Safety Office is providing an opportunity for individuals to return ammunition and explosives inadvertently kept, found, or stolen without fear or prosecution.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Catholic:
Today: 6 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Tomorrow: 3 p.m. - Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Saturday: 8:30 p.m. - Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - East Sunday

Protestant:
Today: 6p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service - Main Post Chapel
Friday: 6 p.m. - Good Friday Service
Sunday: 6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service - Family Life Center

DID YOU KNOW: While on Fort Jackson, all pedestrians will use paths or sidewalks along roadways and wear reflective outer garments during periods of reduced visibility.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE	FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	CATHOLIC MASS	TUE-FRI	NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
	GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	REVIVE SERVICE	SUNDAY	5 P.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
	HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	POST THEATER
	ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
	JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:15-11:30 A.M.	120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only)
	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. to NOON	WASHINGTON ROAD CHAPEL
	HEATHEN/PAGAN	SUNDAY	8:30-9:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

Hegseth announces additional \$5.1 Billion in DOD spending cuts

By **MATTHEW OLAY**
DOD News

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth signed a memorandum April 10 announcing the cutting of \$5.1 billion in wasteful Defense Department contracts.

“That’s with a ‘B’; \$5.1 billion in DOD contracts for ancillary things like consulting and other nonessential services,” Hegseth said while recording a video of the announcement from his office.

The memo lists some of the cuts, including \$1.8 billion in consulting contracts the Defense Health Agency awarded to various private sector firms, a \$1.4 billion enterprise cloud IT services contract awarded to a software reseller, and a \$500 million Navy contract for business process consulting.

“We need this money to spend on better health care for our warfighters and their

families, instead of \$500 an hour business process consultant,” Hegseth said. “That’s a lot of consulting.”

He also mentioned cutting a \$500 million contract awarded to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency for IT help desk services that are “completely duplicative” of services that the Defense Information Systems Agency already provides.

Additionally, Hegseth said the department is cutting 11 contracts related to diversity, equity and inclusion, climate change, the department’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and related nonessential activities across DOD.

**WE NEED THIS MONEY TO
SPEND ON BETTER HEALTH
CARE FOR OUR WARFIGHT-
ERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ...**

- **Pete Hegseth**
Secretary of Defense

“We are committed to rooting out DEI — root and branch — throughout this department ... (And) I’m going to keep looking,” Hegseth said.

He also announced cuts on the academic front, saying that DOD would be pausing over \$500 million in funding to a pair of universities that “tolerate antisemitism and support divisive DEI programs.”

This is in addition to the \$70 million already cut in funding at three other colleges in the past weeks.

Today’s announcement follows Hegseth’s initial March 20, 2025, announcement that the department would be cutting \$580 million in programs, contracts and grants.

“If you’re keeping score at home, today’s

cuts bring our running total to nearly \$6 billion in wasteful spending over the first six weeks of the Department of Government Efficiency effort here at the Defense Department,” Hegseth said, adding that DOGE’s job is to find wasteful spending at DOD so that the funds can be driven back into the department’s warfighting capabilities.

Hegseth first announced that DOGE would be working within DOD during a recorded, on-camera address he made Feb. 20, 2025, regarding cutting excess and refocusing the department’s budget.

The secretary wound down the April 10 message by thanking DOGE and the people who unpacked and revealed the latest round of savings.

“We’re excited to make these cuts on behalf of you, the taxpayer and the warfighters here at the department,” he said.

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March, the Pentagon increased that presence with a Stryker brigade combat team and a general support aviation battalion, totaling approximately 5,500 new troops.

While visiting the border in Laredo, Texas, March 5, 2025, Hegseth said, “All options are on the table” for how the U.S. would deal with the criminal cartels responsible for bringing illegal drugs, such as fentanyl, into the country.

“We will not accept them controlling that border and poisoning our people with fentanyl,” he said.

In February 2025, the State Department designated eight cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

The redesignation by the State Department means that, for the first time, the U.S. government regards those groups the same way it does ISIS or

al-Qaida. With that consideration, the response can, where needed, be similar to how the U.S. deals with terrorist groups.

The move by the State Department follows one of the president’s many actions on Inauguration Day related to securing the border.

“The cartels have engaged in a campaign of violence and terror throughout the Western Hemisphere that has not only destabilized countries with significant importance for our national interests but also flooded the United States with deadly drugs, violent criminals, and vicious gangs,” Trump said.

The president charged the military with sealing the border and maintaining the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of the United States “by repelling forms of invasion, including unlawful mass migration, narcotics trafficking, human smuggling and trafficking, and other criminal activities.”



Photo by SGT. GRIFFIN PAYNE

Army Sgt. Brandon Byer, from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, assigned to Joint Task Force-Southern Border, conducts a patrol near the southern border, near Fort Hancock, Texas, April 9.

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



A Soldier shoots an azimuth with a compass during land navigation lanes of the Expert Field Medical Badge competition. The EFMB has been combined with Expert Infantryman and Expert Soldier badge testing to create the E3B.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE