

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY IS HERE."

COMMUNITY, POST MEET ONE-ON-ONE



www.facebook.com/fortjackson



GARRISON: www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson



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



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

Army plans to eliminate programs not contributing to lethality

By **DAVID VERGUN**
DOD News

The Army Transformation Initiative will reexamine all requirements and eliminate unnecessary ones, prioritize initiatives that contribute to lethality, and empower leaders to take risks and learn from failure, said Army Secretary Daniel P. Driscoll during a hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee in Washington.

In a May 1, 2025, letter to the force, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy A. George, who also testified stated the service was implementing the initiative as part of a comprehensive transformation strategy, consistent with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's, April 30, 2025, directive titled Army Transformation and Acquisition Reform.

"The Army Transformation Initiative will make us into an Army that is lean, agile and relentlessly focused on empowering its Soldiers. We need to get rid of what we don't need, acquire what we do and chisel our organization down to a lean, lethal fighting machine," Driscoll said.

The secretary added that he believes the Army "has become calcified" and suffered from years of inefficiencies, slow-moving processes and wasteful spending. He cited program lobbyists and bureaucrats for overtaking the Army's ability to prioritize Soldiers and warfighting.

Driscoll said Ukraine and Israel exemplify how readily available technology can disrupt battlefield dynamics and what happens when change is embraced, noting, "They are demonstrating why our Army needs to transform now and that we can't waste even a single minute."

George said commercial technology is rapidly evolving — especially artificial intelligence and autonomous systems — and it is impacting the character of war.

"We understand that we must transform to stay ahead of our adversaries, and we need to get better by 2026 and 2027, not by 2030," he said.

George told lawmakers that the Army will cancel obsolete and unneeded programs and procure modular, open system architecture designs that can be repeatedly updated.



Photo by STAFF SGT.ALEXANDER NIEVES

Secretary of the Army Daniel P. Driscoll poses with Soldier from Company B, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment during a visit to Fort Jackson. Army senior leaders recently spoke to lawmakers about the service's transformation initiative, June 18.

ed. The service also intends to consolidate its headquarters and implement effective, modern business systems.

Driscoll and George both cited recruiting successes, noting the Army met its annual recruiting goal four months ahead of schedule.

"Our recruiters, Soldiers and families are inspiring fellow Americans to step up during a time of global uncertainty and complex threats. They are the very best our nation has

to offer," Driscoll said.

George said the Army's most productive recruiting period is the summer months, and he expects a significant increase in recruits added to the ranks before the end of this fiscal year.

"Our Army is a professional team that remains focused on its warfighting mission, and young Americans want to be a part of it," the general said.

ON THE COVER

A member of the Fort Jackson community speaks to members of the Installation Housing Office during a Community Information Exchange / Housing Town Hall

June 24. See Page 3.



Photo by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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

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

The Fort Jackson Leader is distributed online. To submit articles, story ideas or announcements, write the Fort Jackson Leader, 3330 Century Division Ave., Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, or call (803) 751-3615 or e-mail usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

Commanding General Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood
Garrison Commander Col. David G. Gaugush
Command Information Officer Robert Timmons
Media Relations Officer Nathan Clinebelle
Social Media Manager Veran Hill

Website: home.army.mil/jackson/FortJacksonNews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fortjackson

www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson

X: www.twitter.com/fortjackson

Instagram: www.instagram.com/fortjackson

Community, post meet one-on-one

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson took a different approach to reaching the community during a combined Community Information Exchange and Housing Town Hall, June 24.

In the past, the two were held separately and didn't include an opportunity to speak one-on-one with directorates, activities and leaders.

"We really believe that Fort Jackson should be an assignment of choice, so we are excited to take some time out today," said Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander.

Some of the changes were made in hopes of capturing "a greater audience in person," he said of the event.

Slide show presentations were replaced with brief introductions and the opportunity to meet and ask questions directly to the directorate representatives.

It was also an opportunity to meet Col. David G. Gaugush, garrison commander, who took command June 17. He said he was looking forward to working with the community.

The slide show presentation are available for viewing at: <https://home.army.mil/jackson/my-fort/for-families>.



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE



(Top) Col. David G. Gaugush, garrison commander, welcomes attendees to the combined Community Information Exchange and Housing Town Hall, held June 24 at the 1917 Club. He said he is 'definitely' looking forward to getting to know and working with each and every one in the community.



(Far left) Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, speaks briefly to the community about upcoming events. He invited the community to the upcoming July 4th celebration. 'We invite you to come out, take advantage of the various activities such as live music and fireworks.'

(Left top) Matt Shealy, Directorate of Public Works director, answers a question from a community member.

(Left) A service member meets representatives from an on-post activity. The event was a combination of a community information exchange and housing town hall.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Estate Notices

Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Eby

With deepest regret to the family of the deceased. Staff Sgt. Phillip Andrew Eby, a Soldier assigned to the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort George G. Meade, Md. died on May 31 in South Carolina. Anyone with claims of indebtedness to or by the estate of Phillip Andrew Eby must contact Capt. Tyler Wojtasinski, the Summary Court Martial Officer, no later than July 1, at (808) 435-3073 or email tyler.j.wojtasinski.mil@army.mil to settle any outstanding issues.

Master Sgt. Damon Holmes

This notice serves as a death notice advisory for all those in possession of the property of Master Sgt. Damon Holmes, as well as those whom the deceased is indebted, or those indebted to the deceased. Please contact Capt. Nicholas J. Hartman, Summary Courts Martial Officer, with questions or concerns at (803) 751-1078 or via email at nicholas.j.hartman4.mil@army.mil.

Safety Training

The Installation Safety Office presents various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to the website <https://airs.safety.army.mil/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your safety specialist.

- Basic Riders Course: July 29-31 (5 seats open)
- Advanced Riders Course: July

8 (6 seats open)

- Intermediate Drivers Course: July 22 (20 seats open)
- Local Hazards Course: Every Monday at 10 a.m. (except holidays)
- Remedial Drivers Course: July 8 (12 seats open)
- Unit Safety Officer Course: July 8-9 (22 seats open); Aug. 5-6 (25 seats open)

* Safety officials encourage those wishing to attend in case of no shows.

Victory Fresh

Victory Fresh offers healthy alternatives to fast food. Victory Fresh offers Grab and Go entrees, a Build Your Own Power Bowl station, Hot BBQ bar, and brick oven pizzas during lunch hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Grab and Go items are available during extended hours and breakfast is available from 7-9:30 a.m. Victory Fresh helps patrons manage fueling their bodies in a healthy way, within the time constraints of an on-the-go lifestyle.

Summer Reading Program

Join the Thomas Lee Hall "Post" Library for this year's Summer Reading Program: "Level Up at Your Library." Sign-up for SRP to read, log minutes, and receive prizes. Programs will be held all week long. Coloring sheet contests will last throughout June and July. Registration began June 1.

First Friday Golf

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, invites you to join him for First Friday Golf the first Friday of every month. This is a Captain's Choice event

and will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Jackson Golf Club. You may enter your own team or sign up as a single and be paired with a group. Entry fee is \$45 for FJGC members and \$55 for non-members. The entry fee includes applicable greens fee, user Fee, cart, prizes, and a boxed lunch. Register by calling the pro shop, at (803) 562-4437.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

1,000 lbs. Club

5:30-7 p.m., Vanguard Gym. Come out and test your strength to earn a coveted 500/1,000 lbs. shirt. Lifting events are back squat, bench press and deadlift. Register at any gym, or call (803) 751-3700.

TOMORROW

DENTAC Change of Command

10 a.m., Joe E. Mann Ballroom. Col. Susan M. Cebula will relinquish command of Dental Health Activity-Fort Jackson to Col. Yat H. Ma in a ceremony.

JULY 1 - AUG. 8

Youth Sports Registration

Registration for tackle football, flag football, cheerleading, soccer and cross country begins. For more information and costs to register, call (803) 751-7451.

JULY 4

Independence Day Celebration

4 p.m., Hilton Field. Open to the public. Gates open at 4 p.m. with live music beginning at 5:30. Music includes the 282d Army Band, (rock and pop), Aden Webb, (country & rock) and SYR (Celtic folk

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

- Heads of State (PG-13) Free Showing

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

- Elio (PG)

- 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.

rock). There will be food trucks, amusement rides and fireworks.

JULY 6-12

Club Beyond

Club Beyond, an approved ministry partner here at Fort Jackson is taking high schoolers and middle schoolers to overnight camps this summer to Carolina Point Young Life Camp in North Carolina. The trip is for military teens who have just completed 9th-12th grades. If you are interested in participating, register at [cb114.younglife.events/2025-carolina-point-week-7-cb114hs](https://younglife.events/2025-carolina-point-week-7-cb114hs). For more information, call the Club Beyond Fort Jackson Community Director at (256) 794-2623.

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.

DOD leaders laud success of Operation Midnight Hammer

By **MATTHEW OLAY**
DOD News

During a press conference at the Pentagon June 22, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, lauded the success of the U.S. Central Command's overnight strike on three Iranian nuclear facilities.

Dubbed "Operation Midnight Hammer," CENTCOM deployed multiple combined assets to inflict significant damage at the sites of Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan.

"The order we received from our commander in chief was focused, it was powerful, and it was clear. We devastated the Iranian nuclear program," Hegseth said at the outset of his remarks, also noting that the operation did not target Iranian troops or citizens.

"Initial battle damage assessments indicate that all three sites sustained extremely severe damage and destruction," Caine told the media.

After proceeding quietly and with minimal communication for 18 hours from the U.S. to the target area, the first of seven B-2 Spirit stealth bombers dropped two 30,000-pound GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator "bunker buster" bombs at the Fordo site Saturday at approximately 6:40 p.m. EDT, Caine said.

The initial mission package also included several decoy aircraft that flew west over the Pacific Ocean as "a deception effort known only to an extremely small number of planners and key leaders here in Washington and (CENTCOM headquarters)," Caine said.

Such tactics were also used in support of the main strike package of aircraft.



Photo by NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS ALEXANDER KUBITZA

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Dan Caine participate in a press briefing at the Pentagon, June 22, 2025.

"The U.S. employed several deception tactics — including decoys — as the fourth and fifth generation aircraft pushed out in front of the strike package at high altitude and high speed, sweeping in front of the package for enemy fighters and surface-to-air missile threats," Caine said.

Following the initial strike on Fordo, the remaining B-2s went on to deploy their ordnance, eventually totaling 14 MOPs hitting the targeted areas.

This was the first operational use of the GBU-57 MOP, Caine noted.

In addition to the MOPs, Caine said a U.S. submarine operating in CENTCOM's area of responsibility launched more than two dozen Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles at key infrastructure targets at the Isfahan site, bringing the overall total of precision-guided weapons employed during the operation to approximately 75.

Caine stated there was no detectable retaliation to the strikes.

"We are unaware of any shots fired at

the package on the way out. Iran's fighters did not fly, and it appears that Iran's surface-to-air missile systems did not see us," he said, adding, "Throughout the mission, we maintained the element of surprise."

Both Hegseth and Caine shared praise for the military personnel who worked to execute the mission.

"I want to recognize the pilots who flew those bombers, who flew those refuelers; (they're) warriors. I want to recognize the sailors on those destroyers, in those subs, on those carriers; (they're) warriors, all of them," Hegseth said, also recognizing soldiers who conducted air and base defense.

"Every American involved in this operation performed flawlessly," he added, also giving recognition to the Israeli government for its contribution to the positioning and preparation of the effort.

"This was a complex and high-risk

See **DOD**, Page 9

Army quickens SUAS fielding

PEO Aviation

The Army is rapidly advancing capabilities in the Short-Range Reconnaissance, SRR, program by deploying cutting-edge small uncrewed aircraft systems, SUAS, to Transformation in Contact brigades.

These modernized systems amplify combat power and lethality, improve troop survivability and give commanders real-time intelligence on the modern battlefield.

Col. Danielle Medaglia, UAS Project Manager, highlighted the importance of the Army's approach.

"The technology across the UAS environment is evolving at a rapid pace," Medaglia said. "Therefore, in parallel to fielding the next tranche of SRR we are already working on future capabilities, leveraging new mature technology and quickly iterating on Soldier feedback."

"Continuous iteration and integration of new technology, multi-vendor awards and continuous competition ensures we can field the most capable and cost effective UAS, at scale, that aligns with Soldier needs."

SRR systems are integral to modern warfare. Equipped with advanced sensors, these SUAS provide real-time intelligence, reconnaissance, and target acquisition, empowering commanders with swift decision-making capabilities. Acting as force multipliers, they enable precise fires, support ground operations with timely information, enhance operational flexibility, and crucially, improve troop survivability by detecting threats and identifying safe routes.

Equipping of Next-Generation SUAS Capabilities

The Army continues to use a

See **ARMY**, Page 11



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

✓

ALLOWED ITEMS


WATER


CHAIR WITH UMBRELLA


BEACH WAGON


SMALL SUN SHELTER


SUNBLOCK/COVERS


★ ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

✗

PROHIBITED ITEMS


CAMP TENTS


COOLERS


TENTS/CANOPIES


WEAPONS OF ANY KIND AND/OR ALCOHOL


NO CONTROL VIDEO CAMERAS OR RECORDING DEVICES


PETS (CERTIFIED SERVICE ANIMALS ONLY)


ILLEGAL DRUGS/NARCOTICS


★ ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH

Get ready ...

Fireworks are one week away

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Are you ready for some fireworks? There's only a little over a week before Fort Jackson launches its vaunted fireworks display. Hilton Field will open at 4 p.m., July 4 for patrons to arrive. Fort Jackson's friends and neighbors are invited to celebrate the Nation's independence at the Fort Jackson 4th of July Celebration. The event is free and includes a kid's zone with carnival rides, fireworks, and live music from artists Aden Webb, Syr, DJ B-SAM, and the 282d Army Band. Food trucks and drink tents will have food and beverages available for purchase. Below is some information about the event:

- Those coming from off-post are asked to use Gate 4, Boyden Arbor Road to access Hilton Field.

- Everyone age 18 or older must possess a valid state or government issued identification card for entry. The vehicle driver must possess a valid driver's license, valid proof of insurance and a valid registration. "Before you pack up and head out - remember you can't bring camp tents, coolers, tents/canopies, illegal drugs, cameras or recording devices; and absolutely no weapons of any kind or alcohol," said Robert Timmons, post spokesman. "Your furry friends will need to stay at home unless they are certified service animals." But, won't it be hot? Yes, it will be, but you can bring chairs with umbrellas, small sun shelters, beach wagons and water. "Please ensure you are hydrated before you arrive," Timmons added, "and make sure to wear sunblock and adequate coverings." All items are subject to search.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

The 282d Army Band plays during Independence Day celebration at Fort Jackson in 2024. The band will highlight an eclectic blend of music at the post July 4 celebration this year.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS



Leader file photo

Trainees immerse their arms in cold water to help regulate their body temperature. Another way to regulate body temperature is by maintain proper hydration levels.

Commentary: Maintain fluid levels during hot weather

By KEVIN JONES
Army Combat Readiness Center

As a kid, I was into sports and played basketball in the park during summers in the Bronx. Back then, my coaches always warned me to stay hydrated. That's advice I should've incorporated into riding my motorcycle.

I was living in California and rode my motorcycle as often as I could. A friend and I planned to meet and ride in the mountains east of San Diego one Saturday in August. The temperature was 101 F, typical for a mid-summer day. I was wearing all the proper personal protective equipment, including my motorcycle jacket.

We started riding about 10 a.m. and before long, I was feeling light-headed. Although I hadn't drank any water since the previous day, I just thought this feeling was due to the hot weather. When we stopped to get gas, I bought a soda. Later, I'd wish that I'd bought water.

As soon as we resumed riding, I began feeling light-headed again. We were in the mountains going through a series of curves at a pretty good clip when we came upon a two-lane road. My friend took off down the road, but I decided to slow down and found myself behind an older couple driving

uphill at maybe 25 mph. As I was following them, the effects of my dehydration set in, causing me to pass out and hit the guardrail. As I did, I apparently woke up and put out my right arm to catch myself. When the bike fell, it shattered the ulna bone in my right arm and the radial bones in my hand. I didn't realize my arm was broken until I tried moving it. I wouldn't wish that pain on my worst enemy.

A few drivers stopped to help and eventually called the California Highway Patrol. When I finally stood up, I realized how close I'd come to being killed. I'd only survived because I was riding slowly when I hit the guardrail. Had I been riding any faster, I'd have gone over the guardrail and down a 175-foot cliff onto some jagged rocks.

I was taken to the hospital, where doctors placed two rods and 14 screws in my arm. It took 50 staples to close the wound. Due to the bones not healing properly, I had to go back for another surgery five months later. Four months after that, I had a third operation where doctors did a bone graft by taking marrow from my hip and putting it in my arm. The pain was excruciating.

In the state of California, if you black out while operating a vehicle, your driving privileges are au-

See **HOT**, Page 9

XXXXXX
XXXXXX



DOWNLOAD NOW
**MY ARMY
POST**



**Want to know more
about the July 4
celebration?**

Visit Pages 6-7 and check
out the Fort Jackson Face-
book page at: www.facebook.com/FortJackson

DOD

Continued from Page 5

mission, carried out with exceptional skill and discipline by our joint force,” Caine said, also noting that the mission demonstrated the “unmatched reach, coordination and capability of the U.S. military.”

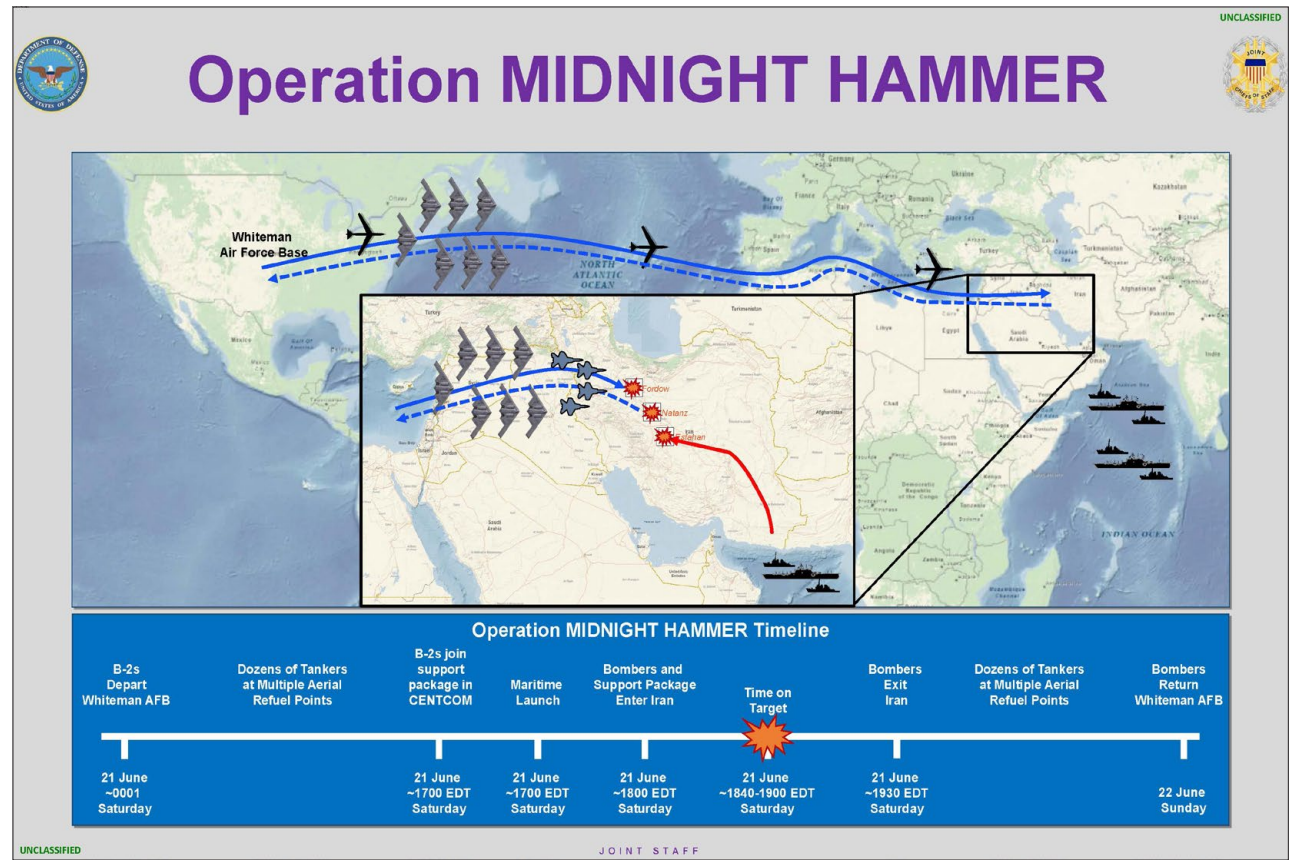
“In just a matter of weeks, this went from strategic planning to global execution,” he said, adding that he concurs with President Donald J. Trump’s assessment that “no other military in the world could have done this.”

When asked about the overall intent of the strikes, Hegseth said the mission was specifically focused on preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

“This mission was not, and has not been, about regime change. The president authorized a precision operation to neutralize the threats to our national interests posed by the Iranian nuclear program and (in support of) the collective self-defense of our troops and our ally, Israel,” he said.

As to the potential for Iran attempting retaliation for the U.S. strikes, Caine said CENTCOM is operating under elevated force protection measures throughout the Middle East region and that any retaliation by Iran or its proxies would be “an incredibly poor choice.”

“We will defend ourselves. The safety of our service members and civilians remains our highest priority,” he said.



Hot

Continued from Page 8

tomatically revoked. The Department of Motor Vehicles revoked my driver’s license because of my blackout, and I had to get a CT scan and be interviewed by a physician. It was later determined my incident occurred because I was dehydrated. After the results of the CT scan and the documentation from the physician, my driver’s license was reissued.

As a youth, I was taught the importance of staying hydrated. It was a lesson I had to relearn the hard way as an adult and I’m glad I survived to tell my story. Before I take any long rides now, I not only make sure my bike’s fluid levels are where they should be, I make sure mine are too.

Keep Your Cool

With all the possible mishap causes when riding, it is easy to overlook the danger of becoming dehydrated. Yet, if it’s important to stay properly hydrated when you train and fight, why would it be any less important while cruising down the

road? Here are some tips to help you ride safely.

- Drink plenty of water before and during your ride. Avoid coffee, tea, soda or sports drinks with caffeine or sugar, as they promote dehydration. However, sports drinks that don’t have caffeine or sugar can be helpful in maintaining your electrolyte balance.

- Consider wearing a hydration system that will allow you to sip water as you ride.

- Exposing your skin to the sun’s heat and wind will accelerate dehydration. Instead, wear riding clothing designed to both cover and keep you cool.

- Wear your helmet to reduce the effects of the hot wind and help retain body moisture.

- Schedule rest stops so you can get out of the heat and into air-conditioning.

- Ride during the cooler parts of the day, such as the early morning or late afternoon.

(Editor’s note: For more information on motorcycle and heat safety visit: www.safety.army.mil, or contact your unit safety officer. The Installation Safety Office can be reached at (803) 751-2541.)



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Thank you

Fort Jackson honored Regina Harland’s 34 years of service during the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment Basic Combat Training graduation, June 18. Harland is no stranger to retirement as she organized the post’s Retiree Appreciation Days events.

Events

Continued from Page 4

JULY 11
165th Change of Command
9 a.m., Victory Field. Col David Uthlaut relinquishes command of the 165th Infantry Brigade to Col. Joshua M. Betty.

JULY 12
Private Weapons Day
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Range. Shooters can shoot at targets between 25-200m. Paper targets, spotting scopes, tables and chairs are provided. Patrons can shoot rifle or pistol at a day rate or on an hourly rate. Pre-register at Marion Street Station. For more information, call (803) 751-3484. For information about registering your weapon, call (803) 751-6019.

JULY 15-AUG. 28
Intramural Basketball
The interest meeting and letter of intent deadline for the Summer Intramural Basketball League is July 11. in Solomon Center. The games are on

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 and 7 p.m.. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

JULY 19
Fort Jackson 10-miler
5 a.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-3700.

JULY 24
Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
6 p.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. Games begin July 24 and letters of intent are due July 23. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

JULY 27
Special Worship Service
9:30 and 11 a.m., Solomon Center. The Religious Support Office is hosting a special worship service with a special message by Will Graham, and worship music will be played by The Afters. For more information, call (803) 751-3121.

JULY 27-31
Club Beyond
Club Beyond, an approved ministry partner here at Fort Jackson is taking high schoolers and middle schoolers to

overnight camps this summer to Rockbridge Young Life Camp in Virginia. The is for ,ilitary teens who have just completed 6th- 8th grades. If you are interested in participating. register at *cb114.younglife.events/2025-rockbridge-wk-11-cb114ms*. For more information, call the Club Beyond Fort Jackson Community Director at (256) 794-2623.

AUG. 9
Outdoor Fishing Trip
5 a.m., Marion Street Station. Travel to Hilton Head, S.C. with Outdoor Recreation Team and fish 3-5 miles offshore for black sea bass, mackerel, black drum, red fish, bluefish and maybe even a shark. Climb on board the 70-foot boat for a five-hour fishing trip. The boat offers shaded and seated fishing areas, restrooms, and even has snacks and drinks for sale on board. Transportation and coolers will be provided. Cost (\$95 per adult) covers transportation, license, bait and tackle. Preregistration required at Outdoor Recreation. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

AUG. 9-10
Dog Days of Summer
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Palmetto Falls Water

Park. Bring Fido to Palmetto Falls to wallow in the water. For more information, call (803) 751-4796.

AUG. 12
Shred Day
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Recycle Center. . Come and shred all types of paper with sensitive information will be accepted, but NO classified documents. For more information, call (803)751-4208.

AUG. 16
Edisto River Tubing
7 a.m., Marion Steet Station. Join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation and enjoy a relaxing trip tubing down the Edisto River. This journey will last two hours. Trip costs \$45 per person price includes transportation, rentals and shuttle service. Personal coolers are allowed. For more information and to register, call (803) 751-3484.

SEPT. 20
Fort Gordon trail ride
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for a horseback trail ride at Fort Gordon, Ga., horse stables. Novice or pro, this guided ride will be great for those looking for an outdoor adventure.

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.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
	INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
	CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
	HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER (1st and 3rd Sundays)
	GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER (2nd and 4th Sundays)
	ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9:30-10 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
	JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only)
	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. to NOON	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

DOD boosts Southern Border mission through SkillBridge

By C. TODD LOPEZ
DOD News

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth recently signed a memorandum that provides additional assistance to the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection divisions through enhancements to the Defense Department's own SkillBridge program.

SkillBridge gives retiring and separating service members the ability to conduct on-the-job training in the private and civil sectors so they can successfully transition on behalf of a grateful nation.

"Recognizing the importance of leveraging talent and furthering our commitment to work with DHS, the department is expanding opportunities for transitioning service members to support southern border activities, particularly through the SkillBridge program, which provides real-world job experience during their final 180 days of service," Hegseth's May 28, 2025, memo reads.

Under the secretary's direction, military departments will encourage service members considering participation in the SkillBridge program to seek internships, apprenticeships or on-the-job training with either ICE or CBP.

While opportunities with ICE and CBP have existed for five years, the department's focused promotion of specifically ICE and CBP as SkillBridge opportunities is new, said Michael Miller, the director of DOD's military-civilian transition office.

"Typically, the department does not recommend to service members any specific post-separation career field," he said. "Instead, we inform them. We provide them the skills to navigate the employment arena, and we then leave them to identify their post-separation career field independently."

However, Miller said that as a result of the national emergency at the southern border in January, DOD is increasing its support to DHS, including through SkillBridge. In turn, SkillBridge gives America's best the opportunity to continue their selfless-service and continue to give



U.S. Army photo

Soldiers conduct a joint patrol alongside a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth recently signed a memorandum providing more assistance through the SkillBridge program.

back to the nation.

"We will advertise and prioritize the opportunities to participate with the CBP and ICE," he said, adding that DOD is working with DHS to develop focused information highlighting those opportunities.

The secretary has also told the military services that when service members choose to participate in SkillBridge with ICE or CBP, the services should approve those requests to the maximum extent possible.

By encouraging participation in SkillBridge with ICE and CBP, the Defense Department provides those agencies with access to its most valuable asset — its people. It also gives DHS the incredible opportunity to fill its ranks with the best and brightest personnel who may one day, after completing their SkillBridge training and separating from the military, find employment within DHS and be available to support the southern border mission.

SkillBridge is a DOD effort to assist service members in transitioning more successfully from military life into the civilian workforce. After service members complete the Transition Assistance Program and before separating from the military, they can also apply to par-

ticipate in SkillBridge as a way to gain skills and experience needed for civilian employment — and they do it while still receiving pay from the military.

As part of SkillBridge, service members can spend up to 180 days before their separation from service with one of approximately 6,900 partner businesses and agencies to learn job skills in nearly 10,000 areas to assist them in preparing for civilian employment. In many cases, the same business or agency may offer the service member a job upon completion of their participation in the program.

"We have high rates of employment. With some programs, 90-95% go straight into employment," Miller said. "The rates we get are way above industry standard for almost any other type of training program."

He said SkillBridge partners are well-vetted and have a variety of solid training plans in place to ensure that a service member's time with them is well spent.

"We check the history of their company; we go through a vetting process," Miller said. "Once that's done, they will develop training plans for the different opportunities they want to offer, and we'll approve those training plans as well."

Army

Continued from Page 5

multi-vendor approach to drive competition and deliver technology at the speed of relevance.

"The rapid deployment of Tranche 2 SUAS to our combat teams is a testament to our commitment to providing Soldiers with the most advanced tools available," said Brig. Gen. David Phillips, Program Executive Officer, Aviation. "These systems are not just about technology; they are about enhancing our operational capabilities and ensuring the safety and effectiveness of our troops on the ground."

In April, PEO Aviation's UAS Project Office responded to an urgent request to deploy Tranche 2 SUAS to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division in support of their rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson, Louisiana.

Demonstrating the Army's ability to rapidly equip its forces, Skydio X10D systems were delivered to the 1st Brigade Combat Team under the Army's Transforming in Contact 2.0 initiative within one month of the request. Additionally, Teal Drones' Black Widow system is preparing to field. Both Skydio and Teal will support Army Transforming in Contact brigades in developing and refining tactics, techniques and procedures for employing networked reconnaissance and surveillance systems against emerging battlefield threats.

The Army's Vision for the Future of SRR

The deployment and evaluation of these are part of a larger Army initiative focused on Transforming in Contact — evaluating uncrewed aircraft systems and aligning personnel and tactics with new technologies. The Tranche 2 system is built upon Soldier feedback with improvements such as enhanced autonomy, a new ground control station and modular architecture.

The Army remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen Soldier lethality, creating a force that can dominate in large-scale combat operations across multiple domains.

"The modern battlefield is changing. I think we've seen that," said Gen. Randy George, Chief of Staff of the Army, during a recent interview. "We've learned a lot over the last year and a half with our transformation in contact. So, this is bottom-up innovation that we know we need, and we know we've been watching what's happening on the modern battlefield."

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



A trainee with 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, takes a knee during a recent field training exercise. The unit is scheduled to graduate July 10.

Photo courtesy of 1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT