

THURSDAY MAY 7, 2026

THE FORT JACKSON LEAD

"VICTORY ... S

'ALL ABOUT YOU'

CEREMONY CAPS MILITARY CHILD MONTH



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Pierce Terrace students explore the world during career day

By **DR. LORRAINE EMORY**

Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Pierce Terrace Elementary School transformed into several hubs of exploration and discovery on April 29, as kindergarten and first-grade students participated in an engaging, interactive Career Day. The event was designed to introduce young learners to a variety of professions while helping them connect their classroom learning to real-world opportunities.

Throughout the week leading up to the event, guidance counselor Danita Roey laid the foundation for student learning in her specialist classes.

"Students are learning new careers that they weren't aware of previously—through play and bingo," Roey shared. Using Career Bingo as a fun and interactive tool, students began to understand what jobs and careers are and how they impact the world around them.

The morning session featured a strong partnership with Fort Jackson Medical Activity, where several departments—including dental, radiology, occupational therapy, laboratory services, physical therapy, and nutrition—provided hands-on learning experiences. Students eagerly participated in activities such as brushing a large dental model and viewing slides through a high-powered microscope, giving them a close-up look at careers in healthcare.

Librarians from Fort Jackson's Thomas Lee "Post" Hall Library also joined the session, highlighting the importance of reading and literacy as foundational skills for any profession.

"Career Day welcomed the initiation

of our counseling lesson for classroom guidance," Roey said. "This week, students have learned what a job or career is and are thinking about what they want to be when they grow up."

To support the event's success, 1st Lt. Hayleigh Smith assisted in coordinating participation from FJ MEDDAC, helping ensure a wide range of career fields were represented.

Adding a creative and inspiring touch, musician Johnny McElven shared his musical talents by playing the bass guitar, demonstrating how passion and skill can evolve into a meaningful career. As students rotated through each station, they not only learned about different professions but also gained insight into essential skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

The afternoon session expanded students' exposure even further, featuring careers from Riverbanks Zoo, Sesquicentennial State Park, beekeeping, coaching, museum curation, sales, food inspection, and the Fort Jackson Veterinary Clinic. Army Community Service also hosted a station to educate students about on-post services and introduce careers in childcare and



Courtesy photo

Students take a closer look at science during the Pierce Terrace Elementary School Career Day as Fort Jackson's Moncrief Army Health Clinic Laboratory Department provides a hands-on experience with a high-powered microscope.

babysitting.

"We reviewed various careers and explored what each occupation does and how they help others," Roey said. "Students shared their learning through fun and play." Her approach helped reinforce the day's experiences, allowing students to make meaningful connections between what they observed and what they learned in class.

By the end of the day, students had explored multiple career clusters while begin-

ning to recognize their own strengths and interests.

Through hands-on experiences, community partnerships, and engaging instruction, Career Day at the school sparked curiosity and inspired students to begin imagining their futures. By connecting foundational academic skills—such as reading, writing, and math—to real-world applications, PTES continues to prepare its young learners for success both in and out of the classroom.

ON THE COVER

A noncommissioned officer with Moncrief Army Health Clinic, marches across the stage during the Month of the Military Child closing ceremony at C.C. Pinckney Elementary School, April 30. See Pages 6-7



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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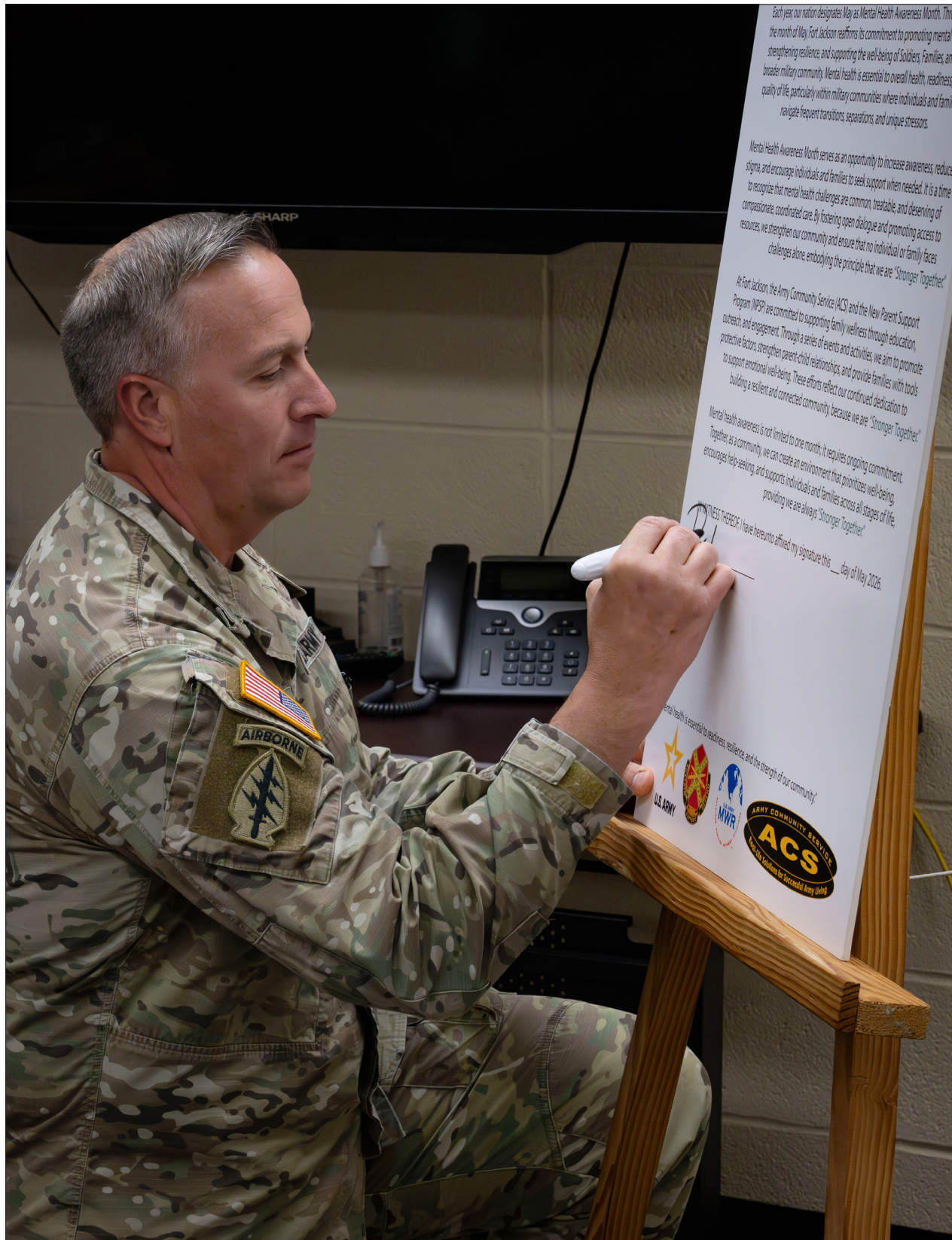
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Post raises mental health awareness throughout May



Col. Dave Gaugush, garrison commander, signs a proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month. The proclamation is commitment by the installation to raise awareness of military health issues and to reduce the stigma of seeking help.

Story, photo by ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson committed itself to raising awareness of mental health issues during at proclamation signing at the Army Community Service building, May 1.

“Our community is not immune from mental health-related issues whether it is dependents or service members,” said Col. Dave Gaugush, garrison commander, moments before he signed the Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation. “People develop conditions over time that unfortunately have a significant impact on their lives and the lives of their families.

“I know the struggle is real for a lot of folks.”

He added that the proclamation signing was putting appropriate emphasis and attention on ways to make people’s lives better.

“Today’s proclamation is a commitment to our service

**MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH
HAS BEEN OBSERVED
IN THE U.S. SINCE
1949.**

members, to our spouses and to our children and their extended family,” said Shaven Smith with the Army Community Service. “Each of these groups carry a unique experience. Whether it be challenges or their

strengths, they all form together to be a foundation of our military life.”

Mental Health Awareness Month is also about resiliency.

“We talk about resiliency a lot,” Smith said, “but it is not built in isolation. It is built through connection, support, and shared understanding. So let’s make this month about service and reminding other to seek help when they need that help.”

Seeking help is not a sign of weakness, said Kamala Henley, Family Advocacy Program specialist.

We can help “our units by checking on the person to our left,” she said. “Seeking help is a sign of strength and a foundation of our mission readiness. We have to take the stigma out of asking for help.”

The Army has many programs to help the total Army Family including the ACE (Ask, Care, Escort) program that encourages the intervention of others.

Army Community Service has teams dedicated to providing comprehensive advocacy and prevention to the entire Fort Jackson community. ACS can be reached at (803) 751-5256.

Another avenue for help is Military One Source where Soldiers can call, text or email for information or to get help. For more information, visit www.militaryonesource.mil.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gate 5 Hours

Fort Jackson's Gate 5 off Leesburg Road is now open in the afternoon until 6 p.m. The new hours for Gate 5 are Monday through Friday 5-8 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.

Privately Owned Weapons Range

The post is exploring the potential development of a Privately Owned Weapons Range at Fort Jackson and are requesting community input to help assess interest and overall need. Your feedback is essential in determining whether this capability would be beneficial to Soldiers, Families, and authorized users on the installation. The results of this survey will directly inform future planning and decision-making efforts. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey using the following link: <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/7MaSpA2qva>. Deadline for completion is May 21. For more information, call Dr. Scottie Thomas at (803) 751-2494

Storm Drain Repairs

The Department of Public Works began repairing storm drain culverts on parts of roads across Fort Jackson, April 6.

The roads and dates of repairs are:

- 5th Division Rd (May 20 to June 7)
- Marion Avenue & Cherbourg Street (June 8 - 30)

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TOMORROW

Fort Jackson Prayer Breakfast

7:30-8:30 a.m., 1917 Club. The Fort

Jackson community is invited to join the Religious Support Office to celebrate the National Day of Prayer as a community of faith. The dress code is military duty uniform, or civilian business casual. For more information, call (803) 751-6326.

Yoga in the Park

9-10 a.m., Twin Lakes Park. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites you to a free relaxing hour of yoga. For more information, or to register, call (803) 751-5256.

SATURDAY

Privately-owned Weapons Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Range. Come out and bring your privately-owned weapon and shoot your rifle or pistol at paper targets between 25 and 200 meters. No automatic weapons or .50 cal allowed. For more information, or to sign up, call (803) 751-3484.

SUNDAY

Mother's Day Brunch

1917 Club. Celebrate a Magnificent Mothers' Day, featuring a delicious array of breakfast and lunch food with omelet and waffle station, carving station, delightful fresh fruits, salads and much more... Limited seating, reservations required. Now accepting reservations and payment in advance. Make your prepaid reservations early. Last day to purchase is 6 May. (803) 751-3933.

MONDAY

Creative Journey

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

MAY 13

Amnesty Day

8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Warehouse Row. Fort Jackson is holding an Ammunition Amnesty Day. Come turn in any ammunition up to .50 cal with no questions asked. Any Soldier or civilian can freely turn in or report location of amnesty ammunition without having to provide personal information. Individuals will not be prosecuted or punished for turning in the munitions. For larger items make prior coordination by calling (520) 671-8504. For more information, call (803) 751-2541.

MAY 14

Retiree Appreciation Day One

7:30 a.m., Col. Dave Gaugush, garrison commander, kicks off the post's Retiree Appreciation Days with a recorded message played on the Garrison Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson>. This is followed by a continental breakfast at the 1917 Club and a salute to retirees during the Basic Combat Training Graduation.

MAY 15

RAD Golf Tourney

9 a.m., Fort Jackson Golf Club. This year's event will kick off with a welcome from a Fort Jackson Retiree Council member. The tournament will be played on the Wildcat Course. Entry fee includes all golf fees, prizes, and a post tournament meal. Register your team today, or sign up as a single, and the FJGC PGA Professional will pair you with a group. Register your team by signing up at the Golf Club, calling the FJGC golf shop at (803) 562-4437 or by email at fortjacksongolfclub@gmail.com.

MAY 16

Retiree Health and Benefits Expo

9 a.m. to noon, MWR Central at the Solomon Center. This year, Fort Jackson Garrison Commander, Col. Dave Gaugush, will open the EXPO with welcoming

Fort Jackson

Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

MAY 9

- The Devil Wears Prada 2 (PG-13)

MAY 13

- The Super Mario Galaxy Movie (PG)

MAY 16

- Jack Ryan: The Ghost War (R) Free Showing

- 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.

remarks. Moncrief Army Health Clinic will provide health screenings and counseling booths. A host of other agencies will be represented. ID Card services will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the Strom Thurmond Building, while the Exchange and Commissary hold special sales.

MAY 23

Weston Lake Beach Opening

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation partners with the Directorate of Public Works to host the Recycle Regatta during the opening. Paddle Boats, Paddle Boards, Kayaks, Canoes will be free to use. Games and

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.

DOW launches PPA website

By MAJ. MATTHEW VISSER
Army News Service

The War Department's Personal Property Activity has officially launched its new website, *PPA.mil*, creating a centralized digital hub designed to better support DOW personnel and industry partners as they navigate the moving process.

The new platform serves as the definitive single source of truth for all parties involved in supporting global household goods and vehicle shipment, in-transit storage and non-temporary storage. It replaces previously fragmented platforms by providing a modernized, user-friendly experience that focuses on clarity, accessibility and efficiency.

Designed with warfighters in mind, the website provides step-by-step moving guidance and checklists for every stage of the relocation process. It also includes resources on permanent change of station moves, personally procured moves, overseas shipments and guidance for filing claims and shipping privately owned vehicles. It also includes a centralized library of printable tools and guides that help warfighters and their families prepare for their move.

Army Maj. Gen. Lance Curtis, Personal Property Activity commander, said that the website reflects the organization's commitment to improving the relocation experience by offering greater accessibility to military families.

"Our service members and their families deserve a relocation experience built on trust, quality and support," Curtis said.

The Personal Property Activity exists to ensure every move receives quality service throughout the process. Curtis said the website is a critical step forward in delivering on its commitment to give warfighters and their families a single, authoritative place to find the information they need.

In addition to customer resources, the website introduces an industry and government resource center — a dedicated portal for transportation service providers, personal property shipping offices, personal

See **PPA:** Page 9



Courtesy photo

Capt. Travis Sloffer, a military attorney with Fort Jackson's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, speaks to C.C. Pinckney Elementary School during Law Day, May 1.

C.C. Pinckney honors American law

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School

Building on a long-standing tradition of civic education, the Fort Jackson Office of the Staff Judge Advocate partnered with C. C. Pinckney Elementary School to celebrate Law Day 2026, bringing lessons of citizenship and justice directly to the installation's youngest learners.

This year's national Law Day theme, "The Rule of Law and the American Dream," emphasized the legal framework that safeguards freedom and opportunity for all Americans.

The theme, selected by the American Bar Association, highlights the principle that no one is above the law, and that a fair and consistent legal system is essential to protecting individual rights and ensuring that merit and hard work can lead to success.

The highlight of the celebration was a

presentation by Capt. Travis Sloffer, the event's guest speaker and a military attorney with the Fort Jackson's OSJA.

Drawing on his professional experience, Sloffer explained how the law functions in real life and why civic responsibility matters. He encouraged students to see themselves not only as learners, but as future contributors to a just society—one in which fairness, accountability, and respect for the law make it possible for everyone to pursue their dreams.

Dr. Kerrie Ammons said the event reflects a broader educational mission within the Department of War Education Activity.

"Law Day aligns with DOWEA's renewed focus emphasizing the development of students as informed, responsible citizens," she said. "Events like this help our learners understand how character, civ-

ic responsibility, and respect for the rule of law support their ability to achieve the American Dream."

The celebration extends beyond the assembly through the annual JAG-sponsored Law Day poster contest, which invites CCP students to create original artwork showing how the rule of law supports the American Dream in their own lives.

Law Day, originally established in 1958 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, is observed each year on May 1 to recognize the vital role of law in American society.

Through its continued partnership with the Fort Jackson JAG office, C. C. Pinckney Elementary remains committed to helping military-connected students understand that the rule of law serves as the foundation for opportunity—ensuring that fairness, responsibility, and perseverance shape the future for all.

‘This month has been all about you’

CCP ceremony caps military child month

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

“This month has been all about you, and you deserve it,” said Dr. Taminika Shadd, principal of C.C. Pinckney Elementary School to her students at an assembly celebrating the end of the Month of the Military Child.

The month was highlighted by many events across post and at Department of War Education Activity schools on post recognizing the efforts of military children. MOMC events at the school included a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Day; an activity day where they got to interact with Soldiers; and a lunch on the lawn where they ate lunch with their parents.

“All month long we shared stories, wore purple ... and recognize something important – that military kids serve too,” said Brian Perry, superintendent of DOWEA’s South Carolina-Fort Stewart community.

The month-long celebration was first held in 1986 to recognize the role children play in military families.

“Since that time, every April, schools and communities around the world pause to say, ‘We see you, we appreciate you and we celebrate you,’” Perry said. “The truth is military children deserve to be celebrated, not just in April, but all year long.”

Military children face many obstacles uniquely attributed to being in a military family. They are often uprooted after only a few years in one place only to face uncertainty in their new surroundings.

“Moving can be hard,” Perry said. “Starting at a new school takes courage. Walking into a classroom where you don’t know anyone yet, sitting down at the desk and introducing yourself takes bravery.”

These experiences help military-connect children to be understanding of others.

“You know how to include others because you understand what it feels like to be the new kid,” Perry said. “That is a special kind of strength.”

Shadd echoed Perry’s sentiments and called on her students to reach out to others.

“I want to encourage you to continue to sup-

port one another” said Shadd, who leads one of two elementary schools on the installation. “How you do that is to be a good friend when someone new comes to school. Remember, they’ve probably been to several schools in the same year, just like you.

“Be a good friend to them. If they are playing alone, go and invite them to play with you and your friends ... When someone looks uncomfortable, try to make them feel comfortable. Be there for one another the way you want someone to be there for you.”

A color guard from Moncrief Army Health Clinic presented colors at the event, while second grade teacher Paula Favor sang the National Anthem.

Perry called on the children to be resilient and gave them a few words of advice.

“Here’s what’s important to remember: Your story matters, whether your story includes traveling the world, making new friends, learning new languages, eating crawfish in Louisiana, or building a new home here at C.C. Pinckney. Each experience has helped shape who you are today.”



Paula Favor sings the National Anthem.



Brian Perry, superintendent of the Department of War Education Activity South Carolina - Fort Stewart community, speaks during the event.



C.C. Pinckney Elementary School sixth graders Dylan Harold and Charlotte Jackson (along with other students) raise their hands during a ceremony honoring the end of the Month of the Military Child. Brian Perry, superintendent of the DOWEA South Carolina - Fort Stewart community, told the students ‘Your story matters.’

Army, industry announce 'Right to Integrate' events

Army Public Affairs

Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll and leaders from Anaduril, Boeing, General Dynamics, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Palantir, Perennial Autonomy, and RTX announced May 5 that they will "sprint" to conduct a series of combined Army and defense industry partnered hackathon events to integrate critical military technology systems.

This 'Right to Integrate' hackathon, or R2I, is an Army-Industry partnered sprint that will ensure offensive and defensive weapon systems, and business systems across the Army, can collectively integrate, share data, and communicate with each other.

Historically, multiple systems from multiple manufacturers have struggled with cross-platform integration - creating competing information silos inside operational Army units. Building on the success of the approach for Next Generation Command and Control for open architecture, this hackathon sprint, possibly the largest in human history, will have profound impacts.

"We've known for a long time that our systems, weapons, and sensors need to talk to each other so that we can dominate the battlefield," said Driscoll. "The war in Ukraine showed the world that speed matters and an open architecture construct is highly effective in high-intensity warfare. We haven't been moving fast enough. The U.S. Army, along with our great defense industry partners, will lead this effort on behalf of our nation and ensure that we remain the dominant fighting force on the planet."

Historically, the Army has paid defense companies for exquisite war-fighting systems, with a siloed approach to procurement and program management both inside the government and within the defense sector itself. Unfortunately, these rarely communicated with each other and required additional costs, time, and field service engineers to manually integrate the information or systems. These manual integrations were often bespoke and frequently failed. This time-consuming and expensive process is no longer sufficient for the Information Age.

"We cannot fight from a swivel chair across multiple disaggregated systems anymore. We must integrate at the speed of digital information, and leverage the technologies of our time, like agentic artificial intelligence, drone swarms, and cyber weapons. I'm incredibly grateful for the rapid and wholehearted support these companies have shown us. There are no better defense industry partners in the world than in the U.S.," Driscoll said.

The idea for this initiative is not new; however, it became a reality for the world as Ukraine's existential threat drove their modular open system architecture command and control system to effectively integrate drones, sensors, and shooting platforms in a single system. By mandating that all entrants meet the criteria of exposing their Application Pro-



Army News Service photo

Pfc. Grant Wolfe (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Khamlanokaew, Tactical Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operators, both assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, use the Lattice system during Ivy Sting 4 on Fort Carson, Colorado, Feb. 2, 2026. The Army and industry leaders announced May 5 that they would 'sprint' to host hackathon events.

gramming Interface (API), the Ukrainian military quickly and effectively integrated information across all platforms. The Army started in this direction with NGC2 and is now expanding to a broader array of systems.

"Soldiers don't have time to wait while systems that should already be talking to each other get patched together on a battlefield," said Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Christopher LaNeve. "It's a wicked problem, and R2I puts our industry partners and our Soldiers in the same room to solve it as rapidly as possible. That's what the American Soldier deserves."

While this initiative helps the Army and broader military, it is also beneficial for the defense industry and non-traditional vendors as it increases competition, improves integration of new technology, and ensures a single company isn't required to bear the burden of this change. As this is happening simultaneously for all participants, everyone benefits, but no one more than the American Soldier.

"We've seen the cost of integration approach zero in the commercial space - especially with software systems with open interfaces and architectures," said Dr. Alex Miller, Chief Technology Officer for the Army. "We have seen standards come and go in the department for decades, but are still beholden to sub-par implementation, close and proprietary interfaces, or systems that lack the flexibility to adapt over time."

"MOSA has shifted from a verb - how we do things - to a noun. How companies find ways to use their architecture," Miller said. "We are setting conditions to where being open is industry's ticket to participate. If you do not expose your interfaces and your documentation, you will not be able to join the ecosystem. This will be especially true for autonomous systems."

The first event will be held at Fort Carson, Colorado, in

PPA

Continued from Page 5

personal property processing offices and government stakeholders to access a repository of the latest advisories, business rules and operational guidance.

The website supplements Military One Source, which will continue to host PPA fact sheets and useful information and replaces the previous Defense Personal Property Program management office website.

Army Col. Mike Ashton, Personal Property Activity director of operations, emphasized the importance of the new platform.

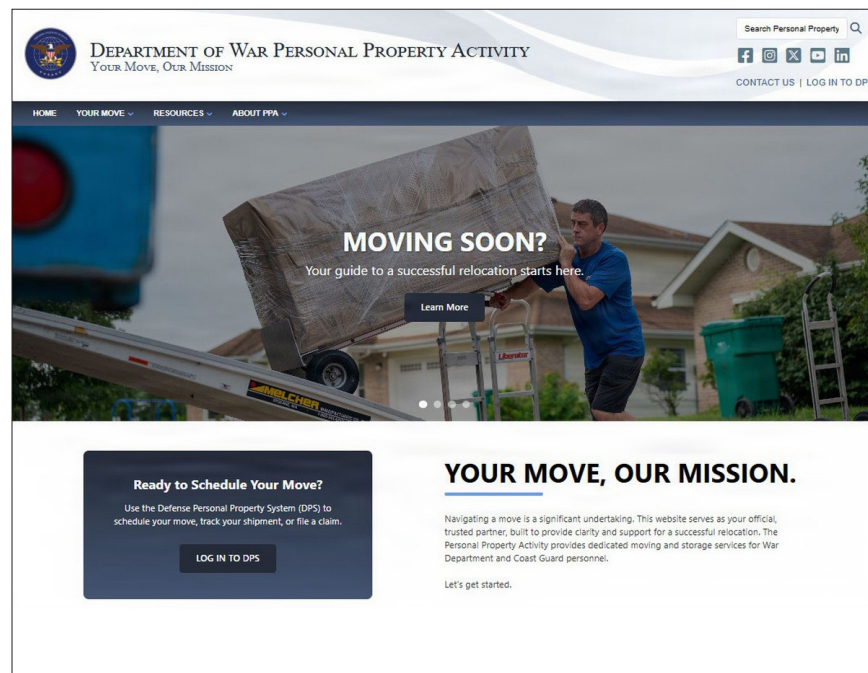
"This website is an investment in how we communi-

cate and operate across the Personal Property Activity enterprise," Ashton said. "By consolidating our guidance into one website, we improve access to information and create a stronger, more connected system for military families, our field offices and our industry partners."

The website is a living resource, and users are encouraged to provide feedback to ensure the platform continues to evolve and meet their needs.

The Personal Property Activity call and operations center will be available 24/7 from May 15 to Sept. 15, to support the peak permanent change of station moving season.

It can be reached at PCS-CallCenter@mail.mil and 1-833-MIL-MOVE.



Courtesy photo

The Department of War recently launched a Personal Property Activity website aimed at helping service members to plan their next Permanent Change of Station move. The website supplements Military One Source and replaces a previous personal property website.

Industry

Continued from Page 8

the coming weeks. Anduril, Boeing, General Dynamics, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Palantir, Perennial Autonomy, and RTX are all supporting with dozens of pieces of technology and equipment, as well as engineers and scientists, to join Army leaders, Soldiers, and technical experts.

During the sprint, the companies will sign a statement of support for the Army's integration efforts, for both current systems and future systems still in development. The statement highlights that the hackathon sprint will be carried out at no cost to the Army.

At the heart of this initiative lies a vital Army-Industry partnership united by a single purpose: warfighter supremacy. By breaking down barriers and working shoulder-to-shoulder with industry leaders, the Army is ensuring an interconnected, adaptable force. This joint effort is essential to achieving true decision dominance, allowing our Soldiers to sense, decide, and strike faster than any enemy force in future combat operations.



Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS DANA CLARKE

Motivation

Drill sergeant candidates with Classes 011-26/012-26 cheer on one of their own while going through the Fit-to-Win obstacle course.

DOW research shown at lab day

By C.TODD LOPEZ
Pentagon News

Dozens of scientists and engineers from around the War Department attended the annual Pentagon Lab Day May 6, where they showcased what the best and brightest minds are creating in the nation's most advanced research labs.

Some of the technology on display included bacteria that make concrete. Other highlights were lasers that can bend to increase the lethality of energy weapons at longer distances and a robot dog equipped with 3D mapping technology.

"It's great to have our science and technology enterprise represented here," said Emil Michael, undersecretary of war for research and engineering, who opened the event. "It's one of the most exciting parts of research and engineering. I'm looking forward to seeing everything you guys have built. ... We're working on labs and making sure we're efficient and have the right authority to do more, better [and] faster."

Joseph Jewell, the assistant secretary of war for science and technology, said the department aims to improve labs moving forward.

"We're currently engaged in an assessment of the labs, a review, to kind of see what the landscape is," he said. "Although we haven't released the results yet, one of the huge outcomes is that we know that our defense labs are the link between purely academic research and technology that benefits the warfighter."

The first Pentagon Lab Day was held in 2015, as an ongoing outreach campaign that ties together science and technology efforts across the department.

Events

Continued from Page 4

peddle boats, paddle boards, kayaks and canoes will be free to use. There will also be a CYS Kids Zone with bounce houses and Crafts. Live Music from the 282d Army Band. Food and beverage will be sold too. For more information, call (803) 751-5253.

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

MAY 28
Run to Remember
6 a.m., Darby Field. A Memorial Day event honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military, reflecting on their sacrifices and the freedom they secured for the nation. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

MAY 29
Skills Challenge
5-7 p.m., Coleman Fitness Center. For more information, call (803) 751-6272.

Stronger Together Community Fair
4-6 p.m., MWR Central at the Solomon Center. Army Community Service's New Parent Support Program is holding a day of wellness in support of Mental Health Awareness Month. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

Family/Volunteer of the Year
3:30 p.m., Down Range Bar. Fort Jackson will recognize outstanding volunteers during the Leaders Call May 29. Nominations will be accepted until May 15. Nominations for Volunteer of the Year can be submitted for four categories (youth, retiree, active-duty military, and family member/civilian). All nomination must be endorsed by the 06-level commander of the unit/organization for processing. Nominations forms are located at <https://jackson.armymwr.com/programs/army-volunteer-corps>, and click the "Make a Difference in Our Community"-Volunteer tab. For more information, call (803) 751-5444

JUNE 2
Community Information Exchange
2 p.m., 1917 Club. Fort Jackson wants to hear from you. The Fort Jackson community is invited to come and find out about post happenings. For more information, call (803) 751-1711.

CARRY ON SMARTLY

DeCA will no longer charge for single-use plastic or paper bags.



Reusable bags are still available for purchase. Enjoy easy, affordable shopping with us.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	MONDAY-FRIDAY	NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
193rd Brigade PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
165th Brigade PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	11 A.M. to NOON	SOLOMON CENTER
CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
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

MOH recipient identified, buried 80 years later

By **KATIE LANGE** and
DAVID VERGUN
Pentagon News

More than 80 years after his death, Medal of Honor recipient Army Capt. Willibald Bianchi's remains were identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and on May 2, he was buried in his hometown alongside his parents and his sisters.

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth paid tribute to the U.S. military's prisoners of war and personnel missing in action during a ceremony commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Pentagon, Sept. 19, 2025. Last year, the agency identified the remains of 231 service members, including Bianchi. His family attended the ceremony and met with Hegseth.

Bianchi was born March 12, 1915, in New Ulm, Minnesota, to Joseph and Caroline Bianchi.

As the only boy, Bianchi was often called upon to help his dad with daily tasks. Sadly, Bianchi's father died in a farming accident when he was still in high school, so the teen had to quit school to take over the farm and support his family in his father's absence.

Eventually, however, Bianchi completed his schooling at the University of Minnesota Farm School in St. Paul. Afterward, he enrolled in South Dakota State University to major in animal science. While there, he played football and was active in ROTC. He also worked as a janitor and as a furnace mechanic to pay his way.

In June 1940, Bianchi graduated and was commissioned as an Army second lieutenant. As soon as he could, he requested to be sent overseas because he wanted to see action, according to the Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial website.

Soon enough, he got his wish. In April 1941, Bianchi was sent to the Philippines to serve with the 45th Infantry and the Philippine Scouts — a group of native troops trained by U.S. Soldiers to fight off Japanese aggression.

Unfortunately, that training didn't happen quickly enough, as the Philip-

pine Scouts saw some of the very first action of World War II in the Pacific. On Dec. 7, 1941 — the same day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor — the enemy also bombed Clark Field, an Army air base on the island of Luzon. Soon after, the Japanese invaded, forcing Allied troops to withdraw to the Bataan Peninsula and to Corregidor Island to hold off the enemy until the U.S. Navy could bring supplies and reinforcements.

On Feb. 3, 1942, Bianchi's unit was on the western part of the peninsula when a rifle platoon of another company was ordered to wipe out two strong enemy machine gun nests. Then-1st Lt. Bianchi volunteered to go with them and lead some of the men.

He was wounded seriously during the fighting and spent a month recovering from his wounds before returning to duty and being promoted to captain.

On April 9, 1942, the Philippines fell to the Japanese. Bianchi and about 75,000 other American and Filipino Soldiers were captured as prisoners of war. They endured the famous Bataan Death March across 65 miles of terrain, during which they were brutally abused. Bianchi moved among the marchers to lift their spirits and keep them going.

Bianchi spent time in several POW camps, each of which had horrible living conditions. At each one, Bianchi continued his role as caretaker, bartering with their captors for food for himself and other starving prisoners. "Many servicemen wrote to Bianchi's mother following the war, telling her that they owed their lives to her son," according to the Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial website.

By December 1944, Allied troops had begun to retake the Philippines, so the Japanese started transferring all their POWs to the mainland using what survivors referred to as "hell ships" due to the extremely harsh conditions they endured on them.

Bianchi was on the Enoura Maru when it was attacked and sunk by American aircraft.

His remains were identified in August 2025.



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Drill sergeant candidates help each other go through the Fit-to-Win obstacle course. They gave 100% effort as they went through 18 obstacles at the course.

Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS DANA CLARKE