THURSDAY, JULY 31, 25
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DRILL SERGEANT CANDIDATES GET FITTED FOR ICONIC HEADGEAR





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DOD moves forward with Permanent Change of Station overhaul

By SENIOR AIRMAN IAIN STANLEY PCS Joint Task Force

The Defense Department's Permanent Change of Station Joint Task Force is taking decisive steps to stabilize the military move process following the termination of its contract with HomeSafe Alliance, June 18, 2025.

During a press briefing last week, Army Maj. Gen. Lance G. Curtis, task force commander, stated that the decision was made after HomeSafe Alliance failed to meet contract performance standards, resulting in widespread missed household goods pickups and miscommunication with service members.

"When a service member is worried about their household goods, they are not focused on the mission," Curtis said. "That is unacceptable. We are here to restore trust and ensure that no military family feels alone during their move."

The PCS JTF comprises more than 110 personnel from across all service branches and is now overseeing the transition back to the DOD's Tender of Service program as they work toward streamlining the future of military moves. Curtis emphasized that this program is familiar to most military families and is already supporting the majority of summer moves

Approximately 450 active shipments initially scheduled under HomeSafe Alliance remain in transit. According to task force officials, local transportation offices are now directly managing these moves in coordination with the task force. Service members impacted by the transition are encouraged to contact their transporta-



Photo by KARI HAWKINS

A family unloads their vehicle during a permanent change of station move, July 25, 2022. The Permanent Change of Station Joint Task Force, established in May at the direction of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, collaborates with members of the U.S. Transportation Command, military service branch representatives, Office of the Secretary of Defense personnel and commercial household goods moving industry representatives to improve how PCS moves are conducted

tion office or call (833) MIL-MOVE (833-645-6683) for assistance.

In response to the ongoing challenges, the PCS JTF established a 24/7 call center staffed by military personnel with first-hand PCS experience. This capability is expected to be fully operational by Aug.

1, 2025. Until then, the call center is proactively identifying at-risk shipments and reaching out directly to service members to resolve issues before they escalate.

"This is not just a logistics problem; it's about people," Curtis said, adding that rank is "immaterial," and his team is fo-

cused on providing all service members with the support they deserve.

The department is also reviewing longterm changes to the Defense Personal Property Program and plans to deliver strategic reform recommendations to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth by Sept 5.

ON THE COVER

A drill sergeant candidate adjusts her headgear as she and her class near the day when they will become full-fledged drill sergeants.



Photo by SGT. 1ST
See Page8 CLASS DANA CLARKE

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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ACS offers tips for back to school savings

By ANGELA CROSLAND

Army Community Service

Back-to-school season is here, and with it comes the annual challenge of equipping students for success without breaking the bank. Careful planning and a little savvy shopping can significantly reduce financial strain. South Carolina families have an extra advantage: the annual tax-free weekend!

Strategic Shopping: Planning is Key

Before hitting the stores (or browsing online), take inventory. What supplies from last year are still usable? What items are needed versus wanted? A detailed list, categorized by student and subject, prevents impulse purchases. Consider collaborating with other parents – a bulk buy on common items like pencils, paper, and glue sticks can lead to substantial savings.

Don't underestimate the power of comparison shopping. Utilize online tools and store flyers to identify the best deals. Many retailers, such as AAFES, price match, so don't hesitate to ask. Look beyond the big box stores; discount retailers and dollar stores often carry essential supplies at significantly lower prices.

Beyond the Basics: Creative Cost-Cutting

Think creatively about reducing costs. Gently used text-books and school uniforms can be excellent alternatives to buying new. You can even sell clothing items that are too small to second shops to get a little extra cash. Check with school parent groups or online marketplaces for local buy/sell/trade opportunities. For clothing, consider hand-medowns from older siblings or cousins.

Repurposing is another effective tactic. Old binders can be reused with new covers. Leftover wrapping paper can create colorful book covers. Encourage students to personalize existing supplies to extend their lifespan.

South Carolina's Tax-Free Weekend: A Significant Benefit

Mark your calendars! South Carolina's tax-free weekend for back-to-school supplies will be held tomorrow through Sunday. This annual event allows shoppers to purchase qualifying items – including school supplies, clothing, shoes, and certain computer products – without paying state sales tax.

Qualifying items typically include:

School supplies: pens, pencils, notebooks, binders, crayons, etc.

Clothing: shirts, pants, dresses, shoes (priced under \$100 per item).

Computers & related items: computers, printers, software (under \$300).

Important Note: The South Carolina Department of Revenue publishes a detailed list of qualifying items each year. Be sure to check their website (https://www.dor.sc.gov/) for the most up-to-date information.

By combining thoughtful planning, creative cost-cutting strategies, and taking advantage of South Carolina's tax-free weekend, families can navigate back-to-school shopping with confidence and ensure students are well-equipped for a successful academic year. For more tips, contact Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program at (803) 751-5256, option 3.



Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATC Change of Responsiblity

Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs will transfer responsibility for Army Training Center and Fort Jackson to Command Sqt. Mai. William M. Shoaf in a ceremony held on Victory Field at 9 a.m. Aug. 15.

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.

- Advance Riders Cours: Tuesday, (4 seats open); Sept. 9 (6 seats open) ■ Basic Riders Course: July 29-31 (0 seats open); Aug. 19-21 (0 seats open); Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (3 seats open)*
- Intermediate Drivers Course: Aug. 15 (7 seats open); Sept. 18 (25 seats
- Local Hazards Course: Every Monday at 10 a.m. (except holidays)
- Remedial Drivers Course: Aug. 12 (12 seats open)

Additional training not associated with the link above:

- Unit Safety Officer Course: Tues- Youth Sports Registration day-Wednesday (0 seats open)*; Oct. 7-8 (20 seats open)- send your designated Safety Officer an email to register
- Heat Illness Prevention Training: Every Monday at 1 p.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Room 207.
- * 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.

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

UNTIL - AUG. 8

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

UNTIL-AUG. 28

Intramural Basketball

The games are on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 and 7

p.m.. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

SATURDAY

Back to School Color Run

Youth Sports Complex. Come out and celebrate the beginning of the new school year with the annual color run. The first 100 youths registered receive a free t-shirt. For more information, call (803) 751-7451.

TUESDAY

National Night Out

6-8 p.m., 6532 Marion Ave. Come out and learn more about the Fort Jackson Police Department during the National Night Out event that brings law enforcement and the community together. There will be food, games, a dunk tank, K9 demonstration and more.

National Night Out 5K

5 p.m., Patriots Park. Sports & Fitness partners with Fort Jackson Police Department's National Night Out event with a 5K run/walk added to the festivities. Great fitness opportunity for the whole family. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

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 a 70-foot boat for a five-hour fishing trip. The boat offers shaded and seated fishing areas, restrooms, and even has snacks and drinks

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

■ The Pickup

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6

- Fantastic Four: The First Steps (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.

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 registration and more information, call (803) 751-3484.

AUG. 9-10

Dog Days at the Waterpark

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Palmetto Falls Water Park. Bring Fido to Palmetto Falls to wallow in the water. Dogs vaccinations must be current. Season pass holders are allowed one dog per pass. Non-pass holders \$10 per dog. For more information. call (803) 751-4796.

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

THE FORT JACKSON

SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO

usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@ army.mil

Deadline for events to be included in the Community Updates is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will we be able to accept an article for publication the following

Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible.

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style.

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.



Painting by WILLIAM A. SMITH

The painting 'The Chaplain at Valley Forge,' by artist William A. Smith, depicts Gen. George Washington, his chaplain and Soldiers praying at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War.

Army chaplains mark 250 years of ministering to Soldiers

By C.TODD LOPEZ DOD News

The Army recently celebrated its 250th birthday — two and a half centuries of defending the nation since standing up, June 14, 1775. Not long after, on July 29, 1775, the Army Chaplain Corps was established to provide ministerial support to those Soldiers.

"The members of today's Army Chaplain Corps are sustaining and enriching a sacred legacy, which our predecessors began building even before our nation was founded in 1776," said Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) William Green Jr., the 26th Army chief of chaplains. "Gen. George Washington requested that chaplains be added to the Army to meet Soldiers' religious and spiritual needs, and to support good morals and morale."

At the request of Washington, the Continental Congress authorized one chaplain for each regular regiment of the Continental Army, Green said, adding that many of the militia regiments that served alongside those in the Continental Army also had chaplains.

Today, he said, the role of the Army Chaplain Corps remains as important as it was 250 years ago. The Chaplain Corps has evolved to include more than 3,000 chaplains, nearly 3,000 religious affairs specialists, more than 500 chaplain candidates and more than 50 directors of religious education across the regular Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. They continue to provide important religious support and advice on spiritual matters to Soldiers of all ranks.

"Our U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is the most multifaceted and capable chaplaincy

in history, and we will remain so, to support our Army's preparations to win during multidomain and large-scale combat operations in the years ahead," Green said. "Our corps is a unique branch of the total Army that remains a necessary, critical contributor to our nation's success on the battlefields of the future, just as it was on the battlefields during our nation's war for independence."

Army Chaplain (Capt.) Bryce A. Wiltermood, a Protestant chaplain assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, didn't start out as an Army chaplain. Back in 2005, he enlisted in the Army as an indirect fire infantryman serving in the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 101st Airborne Division.

"It was a four-year enlistment," he said.

See CHAPLAINS, Page 11

DOD lengthens Korea tours

By KENJI THULOWEIT Army News Service

Are you coming up on orders for Korea?

The Department of Defense has approved changes to the length of tours for accompanied and unaccompanied Soldiers coming to South Korea.

The implementation of a new 3-2-1 tour model for Soldiers arriving in South Korea begins Oct. 1. This policy extends the standard accompanied tour length from 24 months to 36 months, while unaccompanied tours will now be 24 months.

Soldiers wanting to bring their Family to Korea who are disapproved for an accompanied tour may serve a 12-month dependent-restricted tour. A 12-month tour can be authorized only when a commander cannot accommodate a requested accompanied tour.

The primary objective of the 3-2-1 tour policy is to enhance operational continuity, mission readiness and align Korea tours with those of most other overseas locations. By extending the duration of accompanied and unaccompanied tours, the DOD and U.S. Forces Korea aim to reduce personnel turnover allowing Soldiers to build more cohesive teams, gain deeper cultural integration and a better understanding of the operational environment. This continuity is expected to lead to more effective mission execution and improved quality of life for Soldiers and their families, according to Eighth Army leaders.

"Shorter tours do not provide the necessary consistency and experience to support readiness and deterrence," said Brig. Gen. Dale S. Crockett, Eighth Army, acting

See KOREA, Page 9

Jackson hosts Civil Air Patrol encampment

Photos by Robert Timmons

Fort Jackson recently hosted the 2025 South Carolina Wing Civil Air Patrol Summer Encampment as part of its community outreach program.

The weeklong event was aimed at instilling discipline while also increasing character development, team leadership. It also helped increase their aerospace knowl-

The would learn team building exercises and even tackle the Fit to Win course.

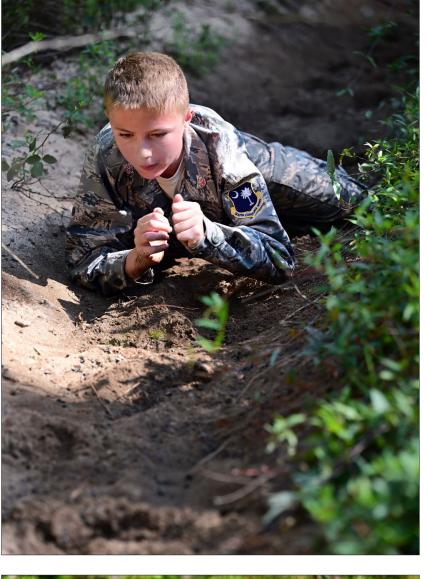
According to the Civil Air Patrol website, the group is made of "vigilant citizen volunteers who search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster, and work to keep the homeland safe."

The CAP is also an auxiliary to the U.S. Air Force.



















One Step Closer

Candidates get fitted for iconic headgear

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Dana Clarke

Drill sergeant candidates with the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy's Sixth Platoon, "Immortals," of Class 018-25, got fitted for their campaign and bush hats July 29. It is the day when they are one step closer to becoming a drill sergeant.



Department of Public Health reminds community of vaccines

Moncrief Army Health Clinic

August is National Immunization Awareness month. As you prepare for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year and Fall weather, the Fort Jackson Department of Public Health raises awareness by reminding people in our community that recommended vaccines across the lifespan offer the greatest protection against serious illness.

According to the South Carolina Department of Public health (2025), South Carolina had at least 150 outbreaks in 2024, including the flu and COVID. Most of these outbreaks occurred in schools and nursing home settings, affecting people who are the most vulnerable to complications. In addition to the recommended vaccines, staying up to date on all vaccinations, washing your hands regularly, and staying home when you sick are all effective ways to reduce illnesses.

The Department of Public Health is preparing for the 2025-2026 Influenza (flu) season. The US Centers for Disease Control and nation for anyone aged six months or older, ideally by the end of October, but people can continue to get vaccinated as long as the flu poses a threat. Annual flu vaccination is the first and most important action recommended to reduce the risk of the flu and its potentially serious outcomes (especially in children younger than five and adults 65 years and older).

Prevention recommends annual flu vacci-

How the flu spreads:

- People with the flu can spread it to others mainly through droplets created when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.
- It is possible to spread the flu to others before you know you are sick and when you have symptoms. Some people can be infected with the flu virus but have no symptoms. During this time, those people may still spread the virus to others.

"Our families are the cornerstone of everything we do," said Crockett. "They support our heroes and deserve the support of our Army. They'll get it here with expanded state-of-the-art facilities, the stability to succeed academically, personally, and professionally, and the opportunity to enjoy all Korea has to offer."

The current Korea tour policy for Soldiers was established decades ago. Quality of life for Soldiers and family members have significantly improved in Korea.

Along with the country having a high-income, technologically advanced economy, much investment has been made in Army garrisons throughout the peninsula, to include Camp Humphreys, which is now the largest overseas Army installation in the world with new family housing, large DODEA schools and recreational amenities.

The 3-2-1 tour policy will be phased in starting October 1, 2025, with full implementation anticipated by October 2027.

Service members currently stationed

How to prevent the flu:

- Getting an annual flu vaccine is very important to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community against flu. Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of developing serious flu complications (children younger than 5 years, people of any age with chronic medical conditions like asthma, or other breathing or lung problems, heart disease or a weakened immune system).
- Preventive measures include avoiding people who are sick, covering your cough or sneeze, washing your hands (using alcohol-based hand sanitizer if washing is not possible), and staying home if you have flu-like symptoms (fever, chill, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, muscle/body aches, headaches, fatigue).

For more information on recommended vaccines (1) talk to your healthcare provider or visit the Moncrief Army Health Clinic Immunizations website at https://moncrief.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Preventive-Care/Immunizations (2) visit https://dph.sc.gov,

Tour Length Normalization Effective October 1, 2025 36 - Month Command Sponsored Tours For Single Soldiers For Single Soldiers For more information scan QR code or command sponsorship cannot be supported.

in South Korea will not be affected by this change. However, those arriving after the implementation date will be subject to the new tour lengths.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

DRILL SERGEANT OF THE CYCLEStaff Sgt.
Dale Adams

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Karin Labadorf

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Spc, Malik Hussie

BRAVO COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE Pfc. Quincy Stinger

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLEPvt. Navayiah Aaron

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Armonie Jones

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Kendall Bond

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Nihgel Scott

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLEPvt. Jhevaunie Johnson

SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Leah Johnson

Soldier of the cycle Spc. Rodney Gause

Korea

Continued from Page 5

commander. "The conditions-based 3-2-1 tour model will enhance our readiness and lethality by increasing our interoperability with our ROK partners and keeping our personnel engaged in effective and purposeful training. By reducing the frequency of assignment turnover, the model minimizes readiness gaps for ongoing missions, critical coordination, and team dynamics, ensuring we are always ready to fight tonight."

The flexibility of the conditions-based model allows commanders in South Korea to tailor assignments to unit needs and operational demands. It will enhance training, reduce turnover and improve mission continuity, while offering Soldiers satisfaction through stability, meaningful professional development, and provide commanders the ability to better lead units and manage talent, according to U.S. Forces Korea and Eighth Army leadership.

Additionally, 3-2-1 aims to balance mission demands and family needs, reduce family separation and ensure readiness for successful deterrence and operational success from the unit to the strategic level.

Events

Continued from Page 4

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. Shredding papers with your personal information provides a level of insurance against identity theft and misuse. For more information, call (803)751-4208.

Love & Money Matters

10 a.m. to noon, MS Teams. Army Community Service and the Religious Support Office hold a workshop to teach effective communication strategies



and address common money issues in relationships. Learn to set SMART goals as a couple that can lead to wealth buil-

ding and a stronger relationship. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-5256 (option 3).

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. For more information and to register, call (803) 751-3484.

AUG. 19

Thrift Savings Plan Seminar

10-11:30 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road, Rm. 119. . Do you want to gain a better understanding of the Thrift Savings Plan, and about how the different funds



impact your plan for retirement? Learn the differences between Roth and Traditional accounts, avoiding penalties, withdrawals, latest changes and more! Registration is required. For more information or to regis-

ter, call (803) 751-5256 (option 3).

AUG. 20-22

Kickball Tournament

Hilton Field Sports Complex. The "Just Kicking It" Kickball Tournament. will take place at Hilton Field Sports Complex. Aug. 20 at 6 p.m., 6:45 p.m. Aug. 21; and 5:30 pm. Aug. 22. A Department of Defense ID card is required to register. An interest meeting will be held on Aug. 19 at the Solomon Center. Letters of Intent must be turned in by Aug 19. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

AUG. 26

Intramural Golf League

Fort Jackson Golf Club. An Intramural "ParTee" Golf League begins Aug. 26 and a Department of Defense ID card is required to register. The Letter of Intent deadline is Aug. 19 and an interest meeting will be held Auig. 25. For more information, call (803) 751-3096.

SEPT. 5

Lunch and Learn with Sew and Heal

11:30 a.m., Bldg. 9810 Liberty Division Road. Join this class to use sewing as a coping skill and make a small craft. This event is part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For more information, call (803) 751-2915.

SEPT. 10

SafeTALK Seminar

9 a.m., Bldg. 9810 Liberty Division Road. You are invited to attend this seminr taught by the S.C. Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities. The objective of the seminar is to share ways to be alert of someone thinking of suicide and how to connect them with resources. This event is part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For more information, call (803) 751-2915.

SEPT. 13

Beaufort Tour

7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd. Join Army Community Service for a newcomer's orientation "area tour" to Beaufort, South Carolina. For more information and to register, call (803) 751-5256.

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** 10:30 A.M. KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL SUNDAY HEDOL **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 TTME **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 NORSHIP** 9-10 A.M. **CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL** HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE **SUNDAY** 11 A.M. to NOON SOLOMON CENTER (1st and 3rd Sundays) SOLOMON CENTER (2nd and 4th **GOSPEL SERVICE SUNDAY** 11 A.M. to NOON 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 THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS **SUNDAY** 10:30 A.M. to NOON CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL



Photo by ELIZABETH FRASER

Chap. (Maj. Gen.) William Green, the 26th Army Chief of Chaplains, and U.S. Army Chaplains Corps Regimental Sgt. Maj. Meaghan Simmons participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., July 25. The ceremony was one of three events that ANC and Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall held to honor the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps' legacy before its 250th birthday, July 29.

Chaplains

Continued from Page 5

"In those four years, I spent 18 months in combat zones as a mortarman. I went to Iraq ... multiple deployments, but a total of 18 months."

Following his initial enlistment, Wiltermood left the regular Army, transferred into the Army Reserve and completed a degree in psychology. But by that time, he said, he was thinking about donning the uniform again.

"I knew I wanted to continue serving, but I wanted to serve, I guess, in a different aspect," he said. "If I had to pinpoint it, it was from just really good chaplains that made a big impact on me. And so, after prayer and talking with my wife about it, this was a calling that I just pursued, kind of toward the end of getting my bachelor's degree ... (I) went from force." there and got my master's in divinity."

After completing his master's degree, Wiltermood reenlisted in 2016 as an Army chaplain.

He is back on the front lines, this time without a weapon but instead ministering to the Soldiers who do the fighting.

"I've had a few more deployments," he said. "I went into combat zones in Iraq, Syria and Jordan. The chaplain is there to provide for this free exercise of religion for the troops, but also to advise commanders. Some key responsibilities or roles for chaplains include conducting religious support, spiritual or emotional care to the troops ... advisement is a big one, crisis response, casualty care, taking casualties, and just general resilience and readiness to ... Soldiers. (Through) spiritual fitness events or counseling or helping to prevent suicide ... the chaplain is a commander's tool to help ready the

The best chaplains seek out Soldiers, Wiltermood said; they don't wait for Soldiers to come to them.

"I think the chaplain should be out there and provide opportunities ... whether on a patrol or gate guard, the shooting range, or PT in the morning," he said. "Wherever Soldiers are, the chaplain should be there building relationships of trust."

Wiltermood said he plans to stay in the Army for as long as he can and continue to serve Soldiers wherever the Army sends him.

"I think ... after 20 years of Army service, I kind of see ... a little bit of myself in each (Soldier)," he said. "I think what everybody needs is ... a nonjudgmental, listening ear, someone who shows up, someone who's willing to listen and to just be a calming presence and a reminder of the holy."





VICTORY...

STARTS



A drill sergeant leader adjusts the headgear of a drill sergeant candidate with U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy Class 018-25, July 29.

Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS DANA CLARKE