

GUARDIAN

**ARMY MEDIC
SAVES PASTOR'S
LIFE**

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**OPS GROUP
CHANGE OF
COMMAND**

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**MILITARY
WORKING DOG
IN ACTION**

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**MILITARY HEALTH
AND NUTRITION
EXAMINATION
STUDY**

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COVER PHOTO

Military Police Working Dog Handler Spec. Blake Wyatt, assigned to 50th Military Police Detachment Military Working Dog, 519th Military Police Battalion, trains on narcotics detection with MWD Sgt. Alvin, a Belgian Malinois, at a recreational vehicle maintenance lot Aug. 29 at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, La. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



05

Army medic
saves pastor's life



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Joint Operations
Group hosts change of
command ceremony



JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON

Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl
Commanding General
Col. CJ Lopez
Garrison Commander

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For additional information, please visit the @JRTCandFortJohnson Facebook page.

21

Soldiers eagerly volunteer,
support Army-wide health,
nutrition in Military Health
and Nutrition Examination
study



ON POST

Upcoming Events



Coffee with a Cop

Sept. 13, 10 a.m. – noon
at Dogwood Community Center

Coffee with a Cop offers CID agents the opportunity to better understand the local community by providing a relaxed environment that fosters conversation and education.

For more information call 571-456-6157.



Taste of Louisiana

Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. at Building 920

Indulge in authentic, delicious Louisiana dishes while mingling with Fort Johnson's Army Community Service staff. Discover the exciting programs ACS offers and learn how they're making a difference.

Don't miss this opportunity to savor great food and connect with the community!



Family Feud Game Night

Sept. 27, 5:30 p.m. at Building 744

Which Family will be crowned the Family Feud champions? Find out at the Middle School and Teen Center's "Family Feud Game Night!" Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Youth must be registered with MST to participate. For more information call 337-531-1992.



Cowgirls & Cocktails Ladies Night

Sept. 28, 7-9 p.m. at Anvil Bar

Gather your girls, put on your best western gear and meet up at the Anvil Bar for a night of line dancing, bull riding and fun!

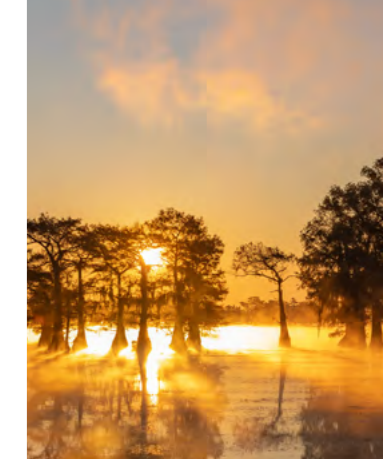
18+ | \$5 entry fee



OUTSIDE THE GATES

OFF POST

EVENTS



13-14
Sept

Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival

NATCHITOCHES, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



13-14
Sept

Mamou Cajun Music Festival

MAMOU, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



19-22
Sept

Louisiana Food & Wine Festival

LAKE CHARLES, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



20-21
Sept

POW/MIA Recognition Day Vigil

DERIDDER, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



28
Sept

Annual Fall Fest

SULPHUR, LA.

[Click for more info](#)

NO ARMY OR FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED.



Army medic helps save pastor's life during sermon

By Antoine Aaron
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — A Fort Johnson Army medic is being hailed as a hero after saving the life of a pastor who collapsed during a sermon at a local church.

On July 19, while visiting a Missions Conference at the Family Worship Center in Leesville, La. for the first time, Fort Johnson Army medic Pfc. Amanda Sanchez watched as Pastor Leon Bachelor, guest speaker of the conference, suddenly collapsed mid-sermon.

As the pastor's wife and others in the congregation ran to his side, Sanchez was able to quickly make her way through the crowd to assist.

Andrew Driggers, an Intensive Care Unit nurse attending the service that day, was already by the pastor's side checking for a radial pulse. Sanchez started checking for a carotid pulse and found none. Recognizing the urgency, they both initiated life-saving measures on the pastor as the congregation prayed. With 911 called but no medical evacuation flights available, Sanchez and Driggers continued cardiopulmonary resuscitation while waiting for paramedics to arrive.

Meanwhile, Driggers wife, Sara, retrieved an automated external defibrillator from the attached school and brought it over. They put the AED on him and cleared everyone back. After administering a shock from the AED, Sanchez and Driggers checked for a pulse, but again, found none. Undeterred, they resumed CPR.

After a couple of minutes, Sanchez checked for a pulse again, and this time, she found one. As they began trying to wake Bachelor up, the pastor took a huge breath of air and began showing signs of recovery.

An ambulance arrived shortly afterwards and



(Left) Pfc. Amanda Sanchez, Fort Johnson medic, receives an Army Commendation Medal from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Command Team for her life-saving efforts of Pastor Leon Bachelor at the Family Worship Center Aug. 9. (Above) Sanchez, center, is awarded a commanding general's coin by Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson commanding general Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, right, and Command Sgt. Maj. Oracio Peña, left.

transported Bachelor to Alexandria for treatment, where he underwent surgery from a major heart attack. Sanchez and Driggers administered CPR to Bachelor for over 10 minutes, but Sanchez said it felt as if it went by quickly.

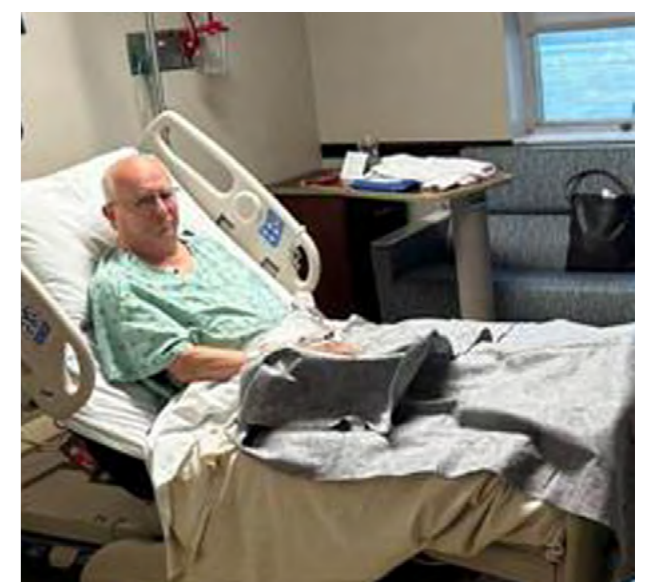
"We weren't sure what to expect when he came to, but according to the Pastor's family and friends in the congregation, he has made a remarkable recovery," said Sanchez, who has been in the medical field for over 17 years.

"It was a very humbling experience because I didn't know him, but he is loved and respected by the people I love and respect. I'm someone that lives by my faith and I do believe that God put us right where we needed to be."

For her actions, Sanchez was honored on Aug. 7 by Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jason Curl and Command Sgt. Maj. Oracio Peña, who presented her with a coin for her efforts.

"When we talk about being prepared in combat, in our jobs and the toughest situations, Pfc. Sanchez proved we can count on her. She's going to be ready when our Soldiers lives are at stake," said Curl.

Two days later, on Aug. 9, Sanchez was awarded the Army Commendation Medal by



Bachelor recovers after being resuscitated from a major heart attack, July 19, in Alexandria, La. (Photos courtesy U.S. Army)

the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Command Team for her life-saving efforts at the Family Worship Center.

Pastor Bachelor, now recovering from his ordeal, is a testament to the quick thinking and skills of those who were in the right place at the right time.

Discover Louisiana



CREOLE NATURE TRAIL



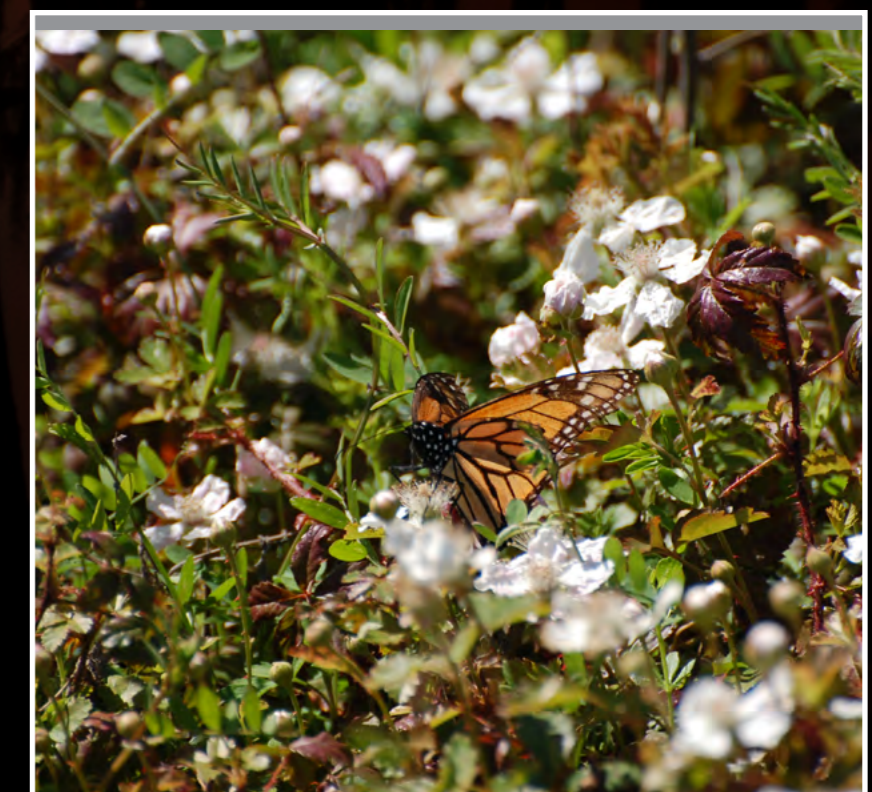
By Chuck Cannon
Public Affairs Office

Louisiana's Creole Nature Trail All-American Road is a 180-mile loop through Southwestern Louisiana offering views of native wildlife, walking trails, Gulf of Mexico beaches, fishing, crabbing, Cajun culture and bird watching.

The loop begins in Sulphur (about 70 miles south of Fort Johnson) and goes south to Holly Beach, east to Oak Grove, and then north to Lake Charles. Along the route, you'll see alligators sunning in ditches and canals, and more than 400 bird species. Time your trip for low tide and search for shells along the beaches. There is even a short ferry ride on the trail.

Walking and driving trails, and observation platforms are free, so pack up and head out for an inexpensive and fun day trip from Fort Johnson.

Directions:
From Fort Johnson, take U.S. Hwy 171 South to DeRidder, then La. Hwy 27 south to Sulphur. Stay on La. Hwy 27 and you will eventually loop back to Lake Charles.







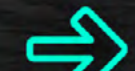
Veterans Resources Fair



Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, was the guest speaker at a Veterans Resource Fair held in the Leesville Event Center, Aug. 27. After informing the veterans in attendance of all Fort Johnson has to offer them and their families, he visited with individual veterans and answered their questions. During the event, certificates were awarded to three individuals for their service to veterans, including Fort Johnson's own Steve "Santa Claus" Humphries.. (U.S. Army photos by Chuck Cannon)

Hurricane Preparedness

Get Moving When a Storm Threatens

-  Protect your home: cover windows, secure doors and loose items
-  Determine sheltering options and consider your pets
-  Ready your go-bag, meds and supplies, charge phone and fill up/charge vehicle
-  Help your neighbors, especially the elderly and other vulnerable people
-  Follow evacuation orders if given



LET'S CELEBRATE!

MILITARY

APPRECIATION

NIGHT

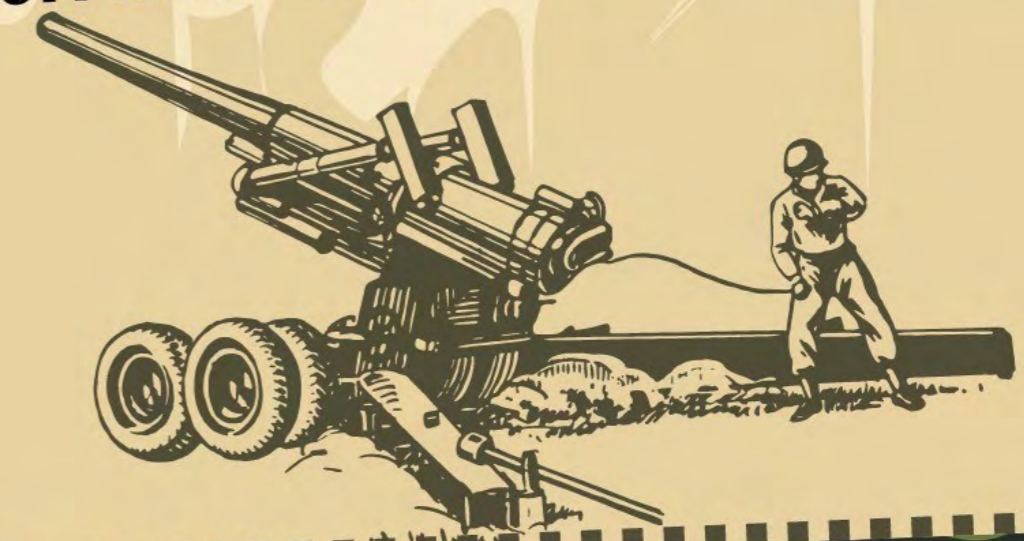
RED DEVILS VS.
NORTHWOOD-LENA

SEPTEMBER
20

7PM

O'BANION
STADIUM

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY GET IN FREE WITH MILITARY ID



JRTC Operations Group changes command

“Warfighting is our number one priority for the team.”

Col. Richard P. Taylor

By Karen Sampson
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group changed command during a ceremony hosted by Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, commanding general, JRTC and Fort Johnson, at JRTC Operations Group Headquarters, Sept. 4, 2024.

Witnessed by Soldiers, civilians and Families, Col. Richard P. Taylor accepted the command's colors from Col. Matthew Hardman, commander of the operations group.

“Col. Hardman's tenure in command of the operations group is nothing short of extraordinary,” Curl said. “Under his guidance, the operations group set the standard of excellence, training the Army's brigade combat teams, ensuring they are ready to fight and win in any combat environment.”

Curl commended Hardman's pivotal leadership and his Family's contributions to the installation community.

Taylor brings a wealth of experience to the JRTC Operations Group table.

“He deeply understands the critical mission that lies ahead,” Curl said.

“I have every confidence that Col. Taylor will build on the strong foundation made by Col. Hardman and the operations team group. I know Col. Taylor will meet this with the same passion and commitment that defines your career.”

Hardman said he felt blessed to have had the opportunity to command the JRTC Operations Group for the past two years.

“From my generation of Soldiers, a generation who spent formative adult years in combat, we peer over the edge of what might come and what might be with a sense of apprehension,” Hardman said.

He said sights, sounds, smells and sensations evoked by combat experiences inform the sense of the future and are a stark reminder of past large-scale wars. Precautions are amplified by the unknown and future technology.

“It's daunting,” Hardman emphasized. “We must be ready.”

“The clock is ticking and there must be a sense of urgency with the efforts,” he said.

The JRTC Operations Group knows what can happen to the untrained and ill-prepared.

“This is our watch and our responsibility to prevent,” Hardman said. “JRTC Operations

Col. Matthew Hardman addresses the audience during his change of command ceremony, Sept. 4, in front of the Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group Headquarters, Fort Johnson, La.



Group prepares Soldiers for the hardest days of their lives.”

Hardman said Taylor was the right commander at the right time for the operations group.

“Warfighting is our number one priority for the team,” Taylor said. “The JRTC Operations Group and subordinate units are comprised of professional warfighters who are confident, technically, and tactically proficient.”

Taylor emphasized that simplicity, humility, audacity, people, efforts, and attitude are the basics of influencing rotational units and shaping their success.

“Thank you for trusting me with this tremendous opportunity to command this exceptional

organization,” Taylor said.

(Far Left) Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson commanding general, passes the colors to incoming JRTC Operations Group commander Col. Richard B. Taylor. (Left) Taylor addresses the crowd, thanking leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility of being the JRTC Operations Group new commander.

(Above) Curl presents Hardman with a Meritorious Service Medal for his hard work, dedication and leadership during his tenure as the JRTC Operations Group commander. (U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MILITARY WORKING DOG



Military Police Working Dog Handler Spc. Blake Wyatt, assigned to the 50th Military Police Detachment Military Working Dog, 519th Military Police Battalion, trained on narcotics detection with military working dog Sgt. Alvin, a Belgian Malinois at a recreational vehicle maintenance lot, Aug. 29, at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, Louisiana.

"This exercise allows us to train in bite-size chunks," Wyatt said as he followed Sgt. Alvin to another nugget-sized bag hidden within a bin of metal.

Wyatt said as a 31K he is working his dream job and will continue to be a K9 handler after his military service.

(U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)

Remembering



PATRIOT DAY
WE WILL NEVER FORGET



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together

National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15, recognizes the achievements, contributions, commitment and service of Hispanic-Americans in the Army.



Carmen Contreras-Bozak - First Hispanic American to serve in the Women's Army Corps



The painting, "Cuidado — Take Care, Bushmasters!" depicts the 158th Infantry Regiment during the Bicol Campaign, Luzon, Philippine Islands, April 3-4, 1945. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Center of Military History.

History

- During the 1950s, the 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "Borinqueneers" demonstrated great courage, and its Soldiers were awarded four Distinguished Service Crosses and 125 Silver Stars, the American Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations for heroic service during the Korean War.
- Thousands of Hispanic volunteers, mostly from the Southwest, fought heroically in the Spanish-American War, including Capt. Maximiliano Luna who was the only Mexican-American officer serving in the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry – the famed "Rough Riders" – at the time.



Hispanic-American Medal of Honor Recipients

Today's Army

- Approximately 170,000 Active Duty Army, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers identify as Hispanic or self-report being of Latin descent. It's estimated that Hispanics or Latinos equal about 18% of the total force. About 10% of the Army's military and civilian workforces are Hispanic.
- One of the U.S. military's largest bases is named after a Mexican-American four-star general, Gen. Richard Edward Cavazos.
- The Medal of Honor, our country's highest military decoration, is bestowed on 44 Hispanic Army

Check VIN numbers

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Division will release the following vehicles to MWR for disposal if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four of their VIN number. If one of these vehicles belongs to you, please contact the Fort Johnson Police Traffic Division at 337-531-1806, 6675 or 2675.



UNK	UNK	Utility trailer	N/A
2008	Yamaha	R6	5446
2016	Yamaha	R3	2153
UNK	UNK	Boat trailer	N/A
UNK	UNK	Kayak trailer	N/A
UNK	McClain	Boat trailer	N/A
UNK	UNK	M/C trailer	N/A
2001	Ford	F150	0450
2000	Ford	Ranger	3852
2006	Nissan	350Z	4586
2013	Kawasaki	650	4040
2004	Cadillac	Escalade	5765
2003	Ford	Crown Victoria	2046
2011	Chevrolet	Cruz	6489

30TH ANNUAL

ROBERTS COVE GERMANFEST

5-6
OCTOBER

ENTRANCE
\$8

BEER - FOOD - LIVE MUSIC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

337-334-8354 WWW.ROBERTSCOVEGERMANFEST.COM INFO@ROBERTSCOVEGERMANFEST.COM

West Louisiana Forestry Festival

Off TO THE Races

OCTOBER 2-6

Wed, October 2 - Buddy Night
Thu, October 3 - Military Day
Fri, October 4 - School Day

at the Vernon Parish Fairgrounds

DISCOVER MORE Savings, One Tap Away!



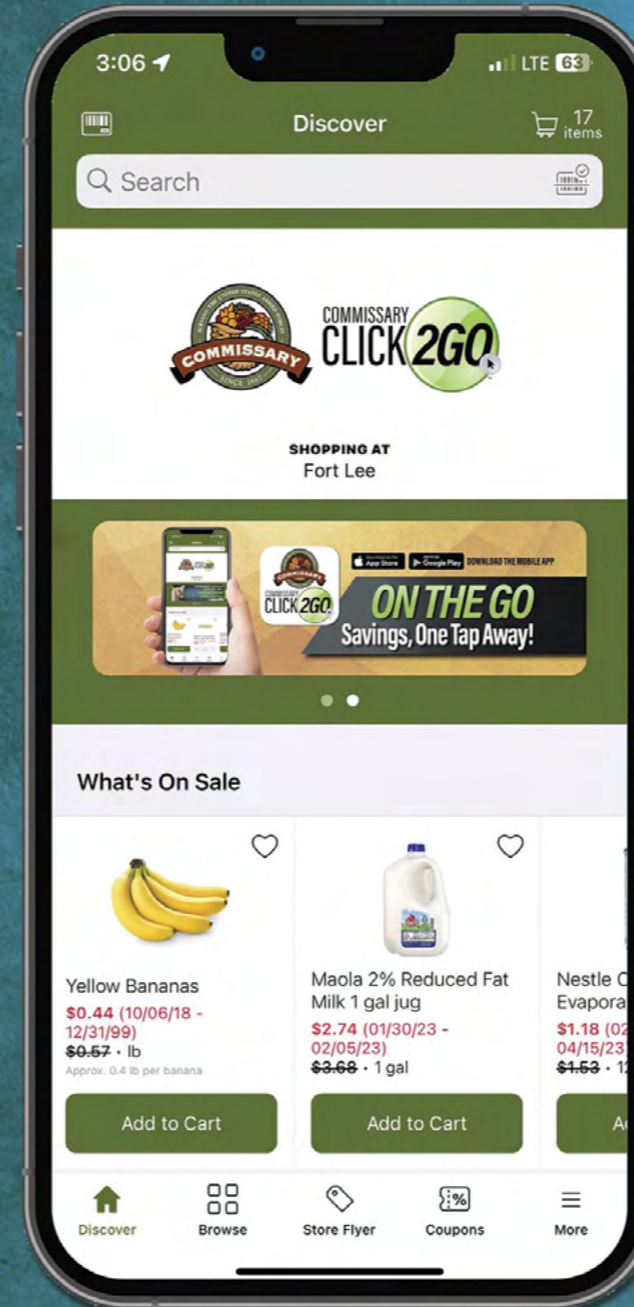
DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play



SMART FEATURES BUILT JUST FOR YOU

- PERSONALIZED SEARCHES
- QUICK ACCESS TO SALES FLYERS
- SEARCH & LOAD COUPONS AND SAVE MORE
- NUTRITIOUS RECIPES AND QUICK MEAL SOLUTIONS
- SCAN AND IDENTIFY PRODUCT BARCODES
- LOCATE COMMISSARY STORES NEAR YOU

MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT INSTANTLY

- MY LISTS
Build & Edit Custom Lists
- MY FAVORITES
Mark & Edit Favorite Items
- REORDER
View Recent or Past Orders & Shopping Lists



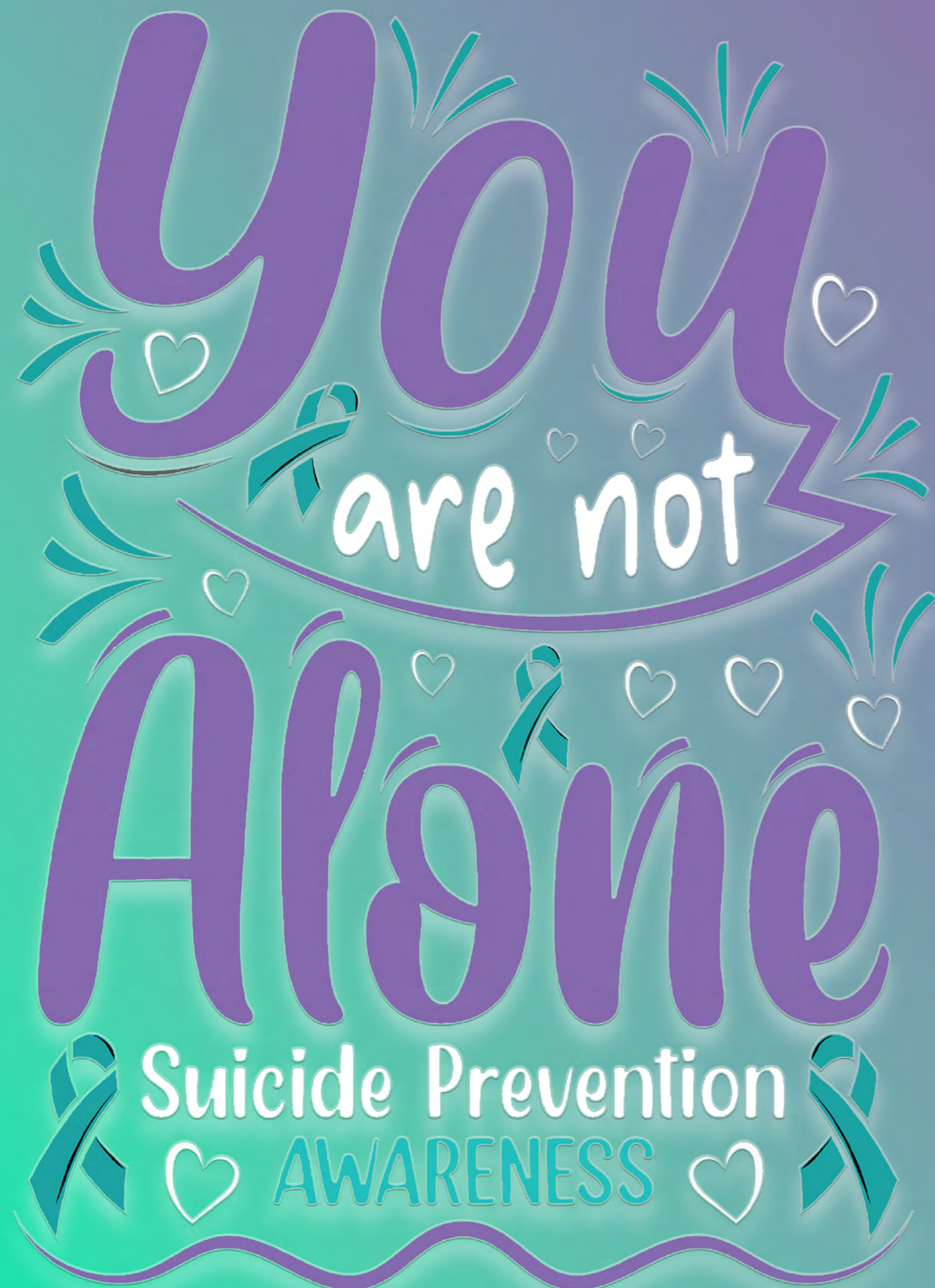
FOR ADDED
CONVENIENCE
Sign in with Face ID!

NEW

NOW YOU CAN SHOP ONLINE WITH SNAP/EBT!

shop.commissaries.com





WARNING SIGNS YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE CONSIDERING SUICIDE

- Feeling like a burden.
- Being isolated.
- Increased anxiety.
- Feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Increased substance use.
- Looking for a way to access lethal means.
- Increased anger or rage.
- Extreme mood swings.
- Expressing hopelessness.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Talking or posting about wanting to die.
- Making plans for suicide.

For more information please contact Christa Zayas at 337-531-6187

For 24/7 help, please call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988



**YOUR
LIFE
MATTERS**





Soldiers eagerly volunteer, support Army-wide health in study

By Jean Clavette Graves
BJACH PAO

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson was the first of multiple installations selected to participate in the Military Health and Nutrition Examination Study Aug. 21 through 24 in the Warrior Mission Training Center.

Modeled after the National Health and Nutrition Examination Study, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control, MHANES is designed to evaluate the dietary intake, nutritional status, cardiovascular health, body composition, metabolic biomarkers, and other measures of Soldiers' health to guide evidence-based screening education and intervention strategies and improve the health of the force.

Capt. Ariel Williams, a registered dietitian and chief of the nutrition care division at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, helped with coordination between the research team and installation leadership.

Williams said, the team from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine and Pennington Biomedical Research Center of Louisiana State University reached out to her in March about the project.

"I worked with the researchers and my chain of command to get approval from the senior mission commander," she said.

"Once approved, I coordinated with a variety of installation entities to ensure they had all the supplies necessary, a suitable location and helped get the word out to potential volunteers."

Williams said she was happy to support such a significant research endeavor.

"This study has the potential to influence military culture by guiding service members toward improved screening, education and intervention strategies that will enhance the health of the force," she said.

Dr. Claire Berryman, principal investigator and assistant professor, along with Dr. Retired Lt. Col. Asma Bukhari, project manager and military liaison for Pennington Biomedical Research Center of LSU, spent the week at Fort Johnson recruiting participants, setting up testing stations and executing the research with their first sample from Fort Johnson.

Bukhari said the national study does not include active-duty military personnel, so this study will capture that population.

"Through this effort, we aim to collect similar comprehensive data related to nutrition and health biomarkers for active-duty servicemen

and women," she said. "This data will allow policymakers to take a proactive approach to developing screenings, identifying risk factors and customizing education and intervention strategies to improve the health of the force."

Bukhari said it worked out well that Fort Johnson was the first data collection site, due to the geographical proximity to Baton Rouge where she and her team are located.

Berryman said they hope to sample 150 individuals from Fort Johnson and 600 total from various Army locations across the country over the course of the two-year study.

"This is our pilot, our first run at it. We want to make sure we work out all the kinks before we bring in 50 people each day," she said. "So, for this initial visit, we're trying for 30 per day, and

(Top Left) The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson was the first of multiple installations selected to participate in the Military Health and Nutrition Examination Study Aug. 21 through 24 in the Warrior Mission Training Center.

Pictured: Dr. Retired Lt. Col. Asma Bukhari, project manager and military liaison for Pennington Biomedical Research Center of Louisiana State University provides instructions on at-home sample collection to participants.



we plan to get 100 more participants when we return in September."

Berryman said the study consists of 14 stations to include height, weight and body composition, blood pressure, variable and resting metabolic heart rate, medication and supplement review along with a comprehensive questionnaire.

"All participants will complete a survey with a variety of demographic, nutrition, and health-related questions. Some participants were given a wearable device during their orientation that will allow us to measure their physical activity and sleep for five days," she said.

Study participants can earn money for participation during their off-duty time.

The compensation is prorated with specified amounts paid for the completion of the first visit, bringing in photos of dietary supplements taken, self-collection of samples, and completing remote dietary intake via an automated on-line tool.

"Once I learned what the study was about, I was happy to participate and know my contribution can help the research team discover ways to improve the health of future Soldiers," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lindsay Moniz, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment.

Spc. Marc Flowers, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, said he learned about the study from his wife who works at BJACH.

"We thought it was a good way to help the Army and earn a little bit of money at the same time," he said. "I hope this helps the Army develop better ways to educate Soldiers about health and nutrition while in training and while assigned to regular units."



Flowers said it's important to understand how nutrition affects performance.

"Understanding how everything we consume affects our body and our overall health is huge," he said.

Spc. Isabell Franco, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division said she agreed to participate in the study to learn more about her own body and biomedical markers.

"I hope this study helps the Army improve physical and mental health care for Soldiers," she said. "From a personal perspective, I believe a holistic approach and learning more about how nutrition affects our overall health is an important research topic."

Franco said learning ways to develop better

health through nutrition can improve the quality and longevity of those who serve.

(Top Right) Dr. Retired Lt. Col. Asma Bukhari, project manager and military liaison for Pennington Biomedical Research Center of Louisiana State University provides instructions on at home sample collection to participants.

(Bottom Right) Bridget Connor, certified medical technologist, and Dr. Jennifer Rood, associate executive director, Cores and Resources from Pennington Biomedical Research Center of Louisiana State University collect, catalog, and process samples during the study. (Photos by Jean Graves)

Road Repairs

at Fort Johnson

By **Kajun Miller**
Directorate of Public Works

In the past four years, Fort Johnson spent \$14.5 million repairing more than 6 miles of roadway. Inherently, this means road construction projects have significantly impacted the drivability and quality of Fort Johnson's roadways.

Fort Johnson will continue to repair roads, further enhancing quality of life on the installation.

The Directorate of Public Works team awarded and started design on 3.25 miles of roadway for approximately \$9 million and is actively working to award up to \$2 million for road repairs in the current fiscal year.




The construction on Texas Avenue, which most drivers encounter daily, is nearly complete and on track to finish on schedule.

Upcoming repairs for the northern section of Texas Avenue and Georgia Avenue are designed to minimize the overall impact on daily traffic. Only one lane on Georgia Avenue will be closed, allowing northbound traffic to continue throughout construction.

The upcoming road repairs for the current fiscal year will focus on Entrance Road, Pennsylvania Avenue and Pennsylvania Loop, addressing much-needed repairs for failing areas along these roadways.



Fort Johnson Road Repairs

-  Constructed Projects
-  Design Projects
-  Future Projects

It's a Pool Paw-ty!

Sept. 30
4-6 p.m.
at all Community Center Pools

Bring your pets and join us for treats, toys and gifts for your pooch!

Corvias
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT





Palmetto Terrace

Sept. 23 | 5 p.m.

Sequence of Events

-  Start at Traycheff Street at 5 p.m. for walking tour
-  Team will take a left on Magnolia Street
-  Right on Busch Street
-  Right on Magnolia Street
-  Right on Nowak Street

 Leadership will open discussion upon completion of walking tour at the Leasing Office. Town hall concludes at 6 p.m.

HOUSING TOWN HALL

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson presents

INSTALLATION

SERVICES
FAIR

OCT. 10
5-6 P.M.
at the Warrior Center

Fort Johnson invites the community to meet leadership and hear about some of the outstanding programs and services offered on the installation.

Food and childcare will be provided!

Organizations include:

Family and Morale, Welfare & Recreation • Human Resources • Garrison Safety Office • Religious Support Office • Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security • Emergency Services • Logistics Readiness Center • Public Works • Staff Judge Advocate • SHARP • Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital • American Red Cross • Equal Opportunity • Master Resilience Training • United Services Organization and more!

For more information call
337-353-1694

25



Coffee with a Cop raises awareness about domestic violence, resources

By Jean Clavette Graves
BJACH PAO

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division hosted its first “Coffee with a Cop” at the Maple Terrace Community Center, Aug. 23.

According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 24 people per minute are victims of sexual assault, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner. Nearly three in 10 women and one in 10 men have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.

While Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital recognizes Domestic Violence Month in October, Special Agent Audra Soles proactively coordinated the event in hopes of reaching military spouses to educate them on resources available in support of domestic violence.

Soles said “Coffee with a Cop” will be a monthly initiative. The next one is scheduled 10 a.m. to noon, Sept. 13, in the Dogwood Terrace Community Center. BJACH will participate in each monthly event to share the many health resources available.

“During my eight years on active duty in the Army, I often found myself unsure of where to go for a variety of different issues,” said Soles. “Once I became a CID agent, I wanted to help by hosting monthly events to bring support agencies together to give the community a better understanding of what we do, offer resources and educate everyone about domestic violence.”

Soles said her goal is to create a safe place for the community to discuss a sensitive topic.

“When I say community, I mean everyone, Soldiers, spouses, and Families,” she said. “I want everyone to feel welcome. Often victims of domestic violence don’t realize they are victims. I hope my presentation, along with those from other agencies who are here, can educate attendees about what domestic violence looks like and provide resources available to them if they or someone they know is trapped in a violent situation.”

Samara Romine, spouse of Pfc. Damian Romine, 710 Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, said she came to learn more about how she can help others.

“I’ve noticed on social media that there are a lot of people around here who are struggling with a variety of situations, and they don’t know what resources are available,” she said.

Romine said she will share what she learned at “Coffee with a Cop” and encourage others to attend next month.

April Draper Davis, chief of Occupational Health Medicine and Army Public Health Nursing, is the sexual assault medical director and provider as well as one of four medical forensic examiners at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital.

Davis said, as a medical forensic examiner, she and her colleagues are on call 24/7 to support the victims of sexual assault.

“I’m here today to ensure our beneficiaries have the resources they need in the event they ever need them,” she said. “A lot of people don’t know that we provide medical care along with domestic and sexual assault exams for anyone

who is a victim of intimate partner violence.”

Davis said at BJACH she can conduct a forensic exam to collect DNA evidence, photograph injuries, provide medical testing and assess any injuries.

Davis said victims can request a sexual assault or domestic violence exam at the emergency room.

“The ER will contact the on-call medical forensic examiner and we will come in and take care of that patient,” she said. “We recommend victims come in as soon as possible.”

Davis said she works closely with CID when incidents occur for both adult and pediatric cases.

Shantell Williams, from the installation Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program office, was on hand to assist with the event.

“When I found out they were doing this initiative, I thought it was a good opportunity for the SHARP program to reach out to a missed demographic,” she said. “We spend a lot of time focusing on Soldiers, but we don’t spend a lot of time focusing on adult family members. Families are an important part of this community and provide support to our Soldiers, so it’s important for us to spend time educating them too.”

Williams said she wants Families to know what SHARP is, what services they offer, and provide a better understanding of how installation agencies work together to support them.

“Working together, with law enforcement, prevention programs, and clinical providers, we can find a way to eradicate or reduce violent behaviors at Fort Johnson,” she said. “A motto we have is “No Wrong Door” and what that means is, if you come to a SHARP office, and we aren’t the service you need, we will ensure that before you leave that office you will be referred to the agency who can assist you.”

Williams said they will provide a warm hand-off and a person-to-person connection to anyone who walks through their door.

Along with the monthly “Coffee with a Cop,” CID will coordinate additional events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Editor’s Note: In Louisiana, medical forensic examinations and related services are free to patients. To learn more visit SAFEta.org.

April Draper Davis, sexual assault medical director and provider for Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, SHARP prevention specialist, Special Agent Audra Soles, CID Fort Johnson Resident Agency, and Samara Romine discuss community resources and domestic violence. (Photo by Jean Graves)



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BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS

UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER



BETTER OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS

SEPT. 2

Soup Kitchen Volunteering

DeRidder Soup Kitchen at 2 p.m.

SEPT. 10

BOSS Meeting

Home of Heroes Recreation Center at 1 p.m.

SEPT. 11

Chopped Cooking Class

Warrior Center at 6 p.m.

SEPT. 16

Jujitsu

Home of Heroes Fitness Center at 6 a.m.

SEPT. 18

What's the Scoop?

Home of Heroes Recreation Center at 6 p.m.

SEPT. 18

Musubi Cooking Class

Warrior Center at 6 p.m.

SEPT. 19

Quality of Life Event

Self Help Store at 6 p.m.

SEPT. 21

***Lake Charles Adventure Trip**

Home of Heroes Recreation Center at 10 a.m.

(Soldiers must pay to attend this event)

SEPT. 24

BOSS Meeting

Home of Heroes Recreation Center at 1 p.m.

SEPT. 27

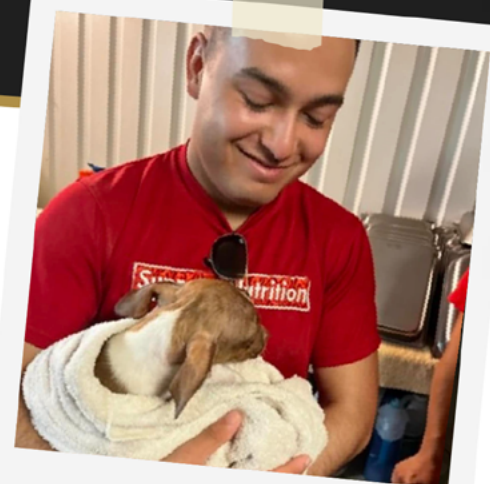
Welding Class

Auto Skills Center at 5 p.m.

SEPT. 28

Humane Society Volunteering

West Central Humane Society at 10:30 a.m.



Questions and feedback

Office of BOSS President: 337-378-3236

BOSS HQ: Located in the Home of Heroes
Recreation Center
2165 9th Street, Building 1455

How to sign up for events

Sign up can be done through
your company BOSS rep, visiting
the HoH Rec Center or by
scanning the QR code →

