

GUARDIAN



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ATTENTION

The Fort Johnson community should take note of the elimination of paper passes for Real ID Act compliant driver licenses at all Access Control Points and the Visitor Control Center starting June 15. The installation electronic access control system has a unique feature that allows a pass to be tied to a Real ID driver license. The Visitor Control Center will employ this cost saving feature to eliminate the use of paper passes issued to Fort Johnson visitors with a Real ID license. Visitors with a standard driver license, state ID, passport, etc. will continue to receive paper passes to access the installation. Sponsored personnel and contractors will continue to receive an AIE pass card with photo; furthermore, use of the VCC kiosk and online pass request, will still produce a paper pass with photo. This change is projected to have little to no impacts to visitor processing times.

During VCC closures, ACP 1 (main entrance) and ACP 7 (Alligator Lake) can issue or extend passes after hours.

VCC — 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; Saturday-Sunday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

ACP (gate) standard hours:

ACP 1 (main gate) — Open 24/7 and all federal holidays.

ACP 2 (University Parkway and Highway 467 North) — Open from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed weekends and federal holidays.

ACP 5 (Highway 467 South and Highway 10) — Open from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; open Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and closed Sunday and federal holidays.

ACP 6 (Chaffee Road at North Fort housing) — Open from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and closed on Sunday and federal holidays

ACP 7 (K Avenue and Alligator Lake) — Open 24/7 and on all federal holidays.

ACP 8 — Closed



**JRTC and
Fort Johnson**
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Gardner

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Col. CJ Lopez
Garrison Commander
Keith Houin
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Cover photo: 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, 5th battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, Alpha Battery, led by Staff Sgt. Austin McCall, signals the firing of cannons to commemorate fallen Soldiers during Fort Johnson's Memorial Day celebration May 23. (U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)



Fort Johnson **honors**, remembers fallen heroes

By **PORSHA AUZENNE**
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson held its annual Memorial Day ceremony May 23 at Warrior Memorial Park. Veterans, active-duty military units, Gold Star Families, government officials and the local community gathered to pay respects to the nation’s fallen heroes.

First observed after the Civil War, Memorial Day was initially called “Decoration Day” because Families gathered to remember lost loved ones by decorating grave sites with flowers or flags — a traditions which continues today.

The installation memorial wreath was laid by Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner, Fort Johnson commanding general and post Command Sgt. Maj. David P. Hanson with assistance from Sgt. 1st Class Trakinya S. Johnson.

The wreath is a representation of America’s fallen heroes from 1775 to the present.

“We’ve gathered here today with solemn hearts and a shared purpose — to remember and honor the brave men and women who’ve made the ultimate sacrifice, and service, to our country,” Gardner said as the ceremony’s keynote speaker.

“Memorial Day is a sacred occasion because it’s a time to reflect on the profound courage and selflessness of those who’ve laid down their lives to protect the freedoms we hold dear.”

Upon completion of Gardner’s address, the ceremony concluded with the traditional rendering of honors to America’s fallen heroes. A formal



Spc. Christopher E. Sorto, bugler for the Memorial Day ceremony, performs Taps. (U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)

21-gun salute, the playing of Taps and the raising of colors from half to full staff. The playing of Taps serves to honor those who have freely given their lives in defense of the nation and helped liberate and ensure the continuing freedom of millions of people around the world.



Gold Star Families view the Global War on Terrorism monument after the ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Porsha Auzenne)



Pfc. Nicholas R. Houston, flag detail for the ceremony, stands at parade rest. (U.S. Army photo by Porsha Auzenne)

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson Soldiers

2003

SPC Cedric L. Lennon
CPL Tomas Sotelo Jr.
PFC Corey L. Small
SPC Zeferino E. Colunga
SPC Levi B. Kinchen
PFC Sean A. Silva
SSG Christopher W. Swisher
SSG Linda C. Jimenez
PV2 Rey D. Cuervo

2004

SSG Craig Davis
SGT Patrick S. Tainsh
PFC William C. Ramirez
PFC Clayton W. Henson
PFC Marquis A. Whitaker
PFC Michael A. Mora
SPC Robert L. Du Sang
SSG Gina R. Sparks
SGT Andrew W. Brown
CPL Cory M. Hewitt
ILT Christopher W. Barnett
SGT Craig L. Nelson

2005

SSG Christopher J. Babin
SGT Bradley J. Bergeron
SFC Kurt J. Comeaux
SGT Huey P. Fassbender III
SGT Armand L. Frickey
SGT Warren A. Murphy
SSG William F. Manuel
SSG Robert W. Sweeney III
SGT Brett D. Swank
SGT Michael S. Evans II
SGT Christopher J. Ramsey
SSG Jonathan R. Reed
SGT Seth R. Trahan
SSG Nicholas J. Olivier
SGT Paul M. Heltzel
SGT Lee M. Godbolt
SGT Isiah J. Sinclair
2LT Clifford V. Gadsden
SGT Robin V. Fell

2005

SGT Bernard L. Sembly II
SFC Peter J. Hahn
SGT David J. Murray
PFC Christopher R. Kilpatrick
SGT Howard P. Allen
CPL Jeremiah W. Robinson
MAJ Marino G. David Jr.
SGT Marshall A. Westbrook

2006

SSG Bryan A. Lewis
SSG Andrews J. Contreras
SGT Robert P. Kassin
SSG Robert J. Chiomento
CPL Jason A. Lucas
SGT Kenneth E. Bostic
SGT Carlos E. Pernell
SGT Michael D. Rowe
CPL Andy D. Anderson

2007

SGT Jason A. Schumann
SGT Austin D. Pratt
PV2 Daren A. Smith

2008

SGT Timothy M. Smith
SGT Joseph A. Richard III
SGT Marcus C. Mathes
SGT Mark A. Stone
SPC Jeffrey F. Nichols
SFC David R. Hurst
PV2 Jenelle F. King
SSG Matthew J. Taylor

2009

SSG Carlo M. Robinson
SGT Rickey D. Jones

2010

PFC Devon J. Harris
1LT Scott F. Milley
SGT Edward H. Bolen

2011

PFC Ira B. Laningham
SGT Ethan C. Hardin
SPC Omar Soltero
SPC Rudolph R. Hizon
SPC Christopher G. Stark
SSG Chauncy R. Mays
SGT Travis M. Tompkins
SGT Keith T. Buzinski
PFC Brandon T. Pickering
PFC Jonathan M. Villanueva
SSG Matthew D. Hermanson
PFC Carlos A. Aparicio
PFC Cody G. Baker
SPC Nicholas P.W. Bernier
SGT Rafael E. Bigai Baez
SPC Richard C. Emmons III
SSG Michael J. Garcia
SPC Dennis James Jr.
PFC Gil I. Morales Delvalle
SGT Christopher P. Soderland
1LT Andres Zermeno
SPC Adrain G. Mills

2017

SPC Alexander W. Missildine

Surrounding Community's Soldiers

SGT Adam Wilkinson
SGT Stefan Smith
SGT Al'Kai la Floyd
CPT Aaron Istre
SSG George Draughn



Honoring those who gave their all

It is always an honor for Fort Johnson to participate in the Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony. Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson commanding general, was the guest speaker at the event held May 27. (U.S. Army photos by Shelby Waryas)



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
U.S. ARMY!



#ARMYBDAY

249 YEARS!
14 JUNE 2024



HONORING THE PAST,
DEFENDING THE FUTURE



BRIEFS

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND TEEN CENTER

YOUTH FOR UNITY

EVERY WEDNESDAY
4:30PM - 5:30PM

YOUTH MUST BE REGISTERED WITH MST TO ATTEND!
CALL (337)531-1992 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

FREE **TOP GUN**

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

MAKS ARMY AIRFIELD

-AIRFIELD HANGAR 4262-
JUNE 7, 2024 - 6 PM

Recommended for adults only! Parental Guidance required for children to attend!

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR ROWING COMPETITION

HOME OF HEROES FUNCTIONAL FITNESS CENTER

JUNE 8TH, 2024
9AM - 11AM

PRIZES FOR 1ST 2ND AND 3RD PLACE

2000 METERS TIMED

REGISTRATION WILL BE AT HOME OF HEROES!

Class is held at ACS, building 320
 Please call 337-531-7087 to register!

ACS
 Army Community Service

SPOUSE-2-SPOUSE

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

★★★

JUNE 11, 2024 AT 9 AM

Do you want to help incoming spouses?
 ACS is offering a new training to Fort Johnson spouses!

GARRISON COMMANDER'S

2-GUN SHOOT

Ages 15+
 Materials permitted:
 3 magazines/weapon system & minimum of 150 rounds suggested

JUNE 22, 2024

*Provide your own firearms, holsters, magazines & ammo!

8 AM - SIGN-IN BEGINS
 8:30 AM - SAFETY BRIEF
 9 AM - SHOOTING BEGINS

\$30 PER PERSON

Equipment limited to rifles & pistols!

PLAY TOWN & CAFE

Block Party

June 27, 2024 11 am - 3 pm

\$3

DOOR PRIZES!
 Indoor & outdoor activities!
 Food & beverages available to purchase.



THINGS TO DO

4TH ANNUAL
SWLA PRIDE FEST
 JUNE 7 - 9TH, 2024
 FOOD * MUSIC * FUN * VENDORS * ART * & MORE!
 WWW.CASTAWAYSBIGLAKE.ORG

Sunflower Festival & Trail
 June 15, 2024
 in Gilliam, LA

JUNE YOGA UNDER THE OAK
 JUNE 8 & 22
 9 AM TO 10 AM

Imperial Calcasieu Museum
 Lake Charles, La.

Donaldsonville JUNE TEENTH MUSIC FESTIVAL
 LIVE MUSIC | FOOD | DRINKS
 JUNE 15
 LOUISIANA SQUARE
 300 RAILROAD AVENUE

Mayor & Mrs. Nicholas E. Hunter and the Mayor's Armed Forces Commission invite you to the 16th Annual

Patriot's Ball

Saturday | June 29
 L'Auberge Grand Ball Room
 777 Avenue L'Auberge | Lake Charles, LA 70601

Social 5:00 | Dinner 6:00

Attire
 Civilian: Coat & Tie/Formal
 Military: Mess Dress, Class A, or Coat & Tie

Live Entertainment by
 Leauxcal

Tickets may be purchased at: Eventbrite.com
 or CHRISTUS Ochsner SWLA Foundation, 5200 Nelson Rd. Bldg. J, Lake Charles

This event is open to any person who loves, supports, and defends his or her country with devotion.

BEAUREGARD Watermelon Festival

<p>Thursday, June 27</p> <p>5:00p to 10:00p Gates Open 7:00p BWF Mutton Bustin' (\$25 Pre-Entry)</p> <p>OUTDOOR PAVILION 5:15p Presentation of Festival Queens 5:30p Learn to DANCE: Watermelon Crawl 6:00p KIDS Melon Voice (11 years & Under) 7:00p Melon Voice Singing Contest</p> <p>Friday, June 28</p> <p>12:00p to 11:00p Gates Open 2:00p Children's Pig Scramble (\$5 Entry Fee) 5:30p Business Challenge Goat Roping 6:30p Watermelon Goat Roping</p> <p>OUTDOOR PAVILION 12:00p Opening Ceremony & Cutting of the Melons **12:00p KJAE 93.5 Live Broadcasting 12:30p Celebrity Seed Spitting 1:00p Community Seed Spitting 1:30p Watermelon Float Parade 3:00p Watermelon Magic Class **3:30p KVVP 105.7 Live Broadcasting 3:30p Learn to DANCE: Watermelon Crawl 4:00p KIDS Melon Voice (11 years & Under) 5:00p Melon Voice Singing Contest 5:45p Farmers Tan Contest 6:00p Clifton Swamp Band 8:00p Kylie Frey 7:00p Swine Show (Livestock Barn)</p>	<p>Saturday, June 29</p> <p>10:00a to 11:00p Gates Open 10:00a to 3:00p Antique Tractor Show 3:30p Children's Pig Scramble (\$5 Entry Fee)</p> <p>OUTDOOR PAVILION 10:00a Welcome by Festival Queens 10:15a Canning Contest Winners Announced 10:30a Watermelon Weiner Dog Derby **11:00a KJAE 93.5 Live Broadcasting 11:30a Bullfrog Races by Crawfish To Go 12:00p Watermelon Growers Contest 12:30p Seed Spitting Contest 1:00p Watermelon Eating Contest 1:30p Learn to DANCE: Watermelon Crawl 2:00p Bouncing Watermelon Races 2:30p Watermelon Relay Race 3:00p Melon Mullet Contest **3:30p KVVP 105.7 Live Broadcasting 3:30p Baby Watermelon Crawl Contest 4:00p Watermelon Magic Class 4:30p KIDS Melon Voice (11 years & Under) 5:00p Melon Voice Singing Contest Final Round 6:00p Neil Terry 8:00p Laine Hardy</p> <p>9:00a Market Goat & Sheep Show (Livestock Barn) 1:00p Breeding Goat & Sheep Show (Livestock Barn)</p>	<p>Saturday, June 29</p> <p>ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES 6:00a Watermelon 5K Fun Run/Walk Registration; Walk starts at 7:00a Walk-up registration located behind festival grounds on Mel Branch Drive. 10:00a Antique Tractor Show 10:00a Watermelon Classic Truck Show 3:00p Tractor Parade</p> <p>PARTICIPATION All contests are open to the public. Online Registration Available. All contests are open to walk-ups. Growers and Canning participants should bring their completed creations to the outdoor pavilion for entry. For details, visit beauregardwatermelonfestival.com</p> <p>Got Kids? Check out our KIDS' GAME & ACTIVITY TENT Brought to you by Christway Church Thursday 5:00p to 8:00p Friday 12:00p - 8:30p Saturday 10:00a - 8:00p</p> <p>Admission \$5 Each Ages 3 & Under Free **Free Admission with Military ID</p> <p>**Saturday PM \$10 Admission from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Everyone must pay admission, excluding 3 years & under.</p> <p>Located at: Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds 506 West Drive DeRidder, La 70634</p>
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LOUISIANA FUN. SUGARTOWN SWEET!
 Entertainment that can't be beat!

Breaking ground at Fort Johnson's future Joint Operations Center

By **ANGIE THORNE**
Public Affairs

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Fort Johnson leadership, dignitaries and representatives grabbed shovels and hardhats before digging up a shovel of dirt to signify breaking ground at the sight of the installation's future Joint Readiness Training Center Joint Operations Center May 28.

As the U.S. Army's premier joint training facility, JRTC provides realistic, relevant and rigorous training to units preparing for assigned missions and deployments.

Once complete, the new JOC will modernize and standardize JRTC and Fort Johnson's command and control, network and audiovisual capabilities in support of rotations.

Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson commanding general, spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Gardner remarked that it was a big crowd and he thanked everyone for attending. Gardner also thanked the Corps of Engineers for getting the project over the hump so it could begin.

"This has been a long time coming," he said. "These buildings that we have been using are not as young as JRTC, in fact, they are all significantly older" he said.

That's why Gardner said several senior commanders and a lot of other folks have had a vested interest in making this project a reality.

"Frankly, for the last two years, I have been searching for any forcing function I could to make sure that this thing would finally come to fruition," Gardner said. "I appreciate all the operations group, installation and community support in getting us this far."

Construction was awarded to Sauer Construction, based out of Jacksonville Florida, March 8 and is scheduled to be completed by October 2027.

"It won't be complete tomorrow, but this JOC is going to help get us to that next level with everything under one roof," said Gardner.

The facility will consolidate four existing buildings into one — the Operations Center, Operations Group Headquarters, Plans/Exercise Maneuver and Control and Ops Group, will all be consolidated in the new JOC.

The building will encompass 97,248 square feet and will be divided into two wings. The West wing is slated to be the Ops Wing and the East wing will be the Administration Wing.

Nathan Jernigan, Director of Public Works, said the Joint Operations Center is Fort Johnson's epicenter for all things having to do with rotational training units.

"This new facility will equip Fort Johnson with a state-of-the-art infrastructure providing for effective and efficient mission command



Fort Johnson leadership, dignitaries and representatives take part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson Joint Operations Center. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson commanding general, said a few words before the groundbreaking at the site of the future Joint Operations Center May 28. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)

and control of the monthly rotations," Jernigan said.

Construction of the new JOC is a culmination of more than 10 years of planning and concept development. Jernigan said the Directorate of Public Works, along with numerous stakeholders on and off the installation, have spent that time executing planning and concept development for the new facility.

"As this project moves into the design phase, our DPW master planning team will be working alongside our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and design team partners to transform

the concept into a constructable product, and by late fall, we'll begin seeing physical construction within the North Fort footprint," he said.

The total cost of the project is \$116 million. Gardner said this wasn't just your typical put in a request and wait for approval situation.

"It took a lot of folks at Forces Command, Headquarters, Department of the Army and, frankly, Congressional support from representatives representing this area to make this project a realization," Gardner said. "In the end, it's going to be a fantastic facility."

Quality of Life conference sparks ideas, solutions

Fort Johnson hosted a Quality of Life Conference May 20 at the Warrior Center. Soldiers, Family members and the Department of the Army civilians worked with Fort Johnson leadership to brainstorm creative solutions to quality of life issues in key areas such as education, child care, housing and more. (U.S. Army photos by Angie Thorne)



3rd BCT, 10 Mtn Div in the news

Brigadier general **talks** 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, training, deployment

By **GABE WALKER**
Public Affairs

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Being a general means you have a past filled with experiences, training and commands meant to hone the knowledge and skills necessary to get the job done, no matter the mission.

Brig. Gen. Kendall J. Clarke, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, deputy commander, operations, is no stranger to the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson and his latest mission is a bit easier to master thanks to those connections.

From 2003–2006, Clarke served with Operations Group, Joint Readiness Training Center Fort Polk, as platoon senior tactics trainer, task force senior logistics trainer and operations group logistics officer. He returned to Fort Polk in 2017 to serve as deputy commander, Operations Group, followed by commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, from July 2018 to June 2020.

As the current 10th Mountain Division (LI), Fort Drum, New York, deputy commander, Operations, Clarke returned to Fort Johnson to assist with the 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div deployment in support of Operation Resolve.

Clarke made time to answer a few questions about the deployment with the Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office.

Q: What is your role in the deployment?

A: Clarke

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mtn Div is deploying to the Eastern Front with our NATO partners and allies, deterring further Russian (advances) and reinforcing the NATO flank in eastern Europe. I'm here to assist with the brigade's deployment by checking on Soldier readiness and solving any issues that pop up to facilitate a rapid and smooth deployment. That includes Soldier welfare, equipment movement to port and ensuring the rear detachment is set up and ready to take care of Soldiers and Family members. This brigade is one of the most deployed brigades in the Army since its inception in 2004-2005.

Every one of this brigade's commanders, to include myself, has deployed the Brigade during his tenure. Being a former 3-10 brigade commander and having established relation-

ships with the installation and surrounding communities allows me to solve problems and ensure a smooth, speedy deployment. Established relationships are a force multiplier in our Army.

Q: What is your role as deputy division commander?

A: Clarke

I would say 90% of my role as deputy division commander is getting things done for Soldiers. I create an atmosphere for brigade commanders and colonels to win and succeed. I'm not a part of our brigade commander's chain of command. I extend and ensure execution of Maj. Gen. Gregory K. Anderson's, commanding general, 10th Mountain Division (LI), Fort Drum, New York, command intent. I have the autonomy to go where I am needed to help. Being a former brigade commander helps me know where to go and how to help brigade commanders succeed.

Q: What's a typical day's battle rhythm for you?

A: Clarke

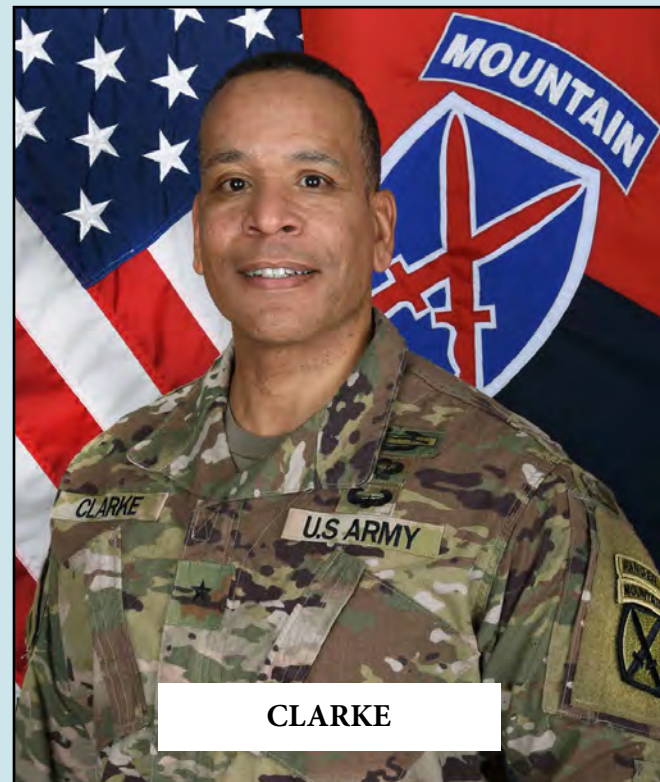
Every day there are briefings and meetings. My focus is training management and training readiness. I discovered our leaders are good and actually overproduce in these areas — so

much so that Soldiers are not trained to do "white space training" — which is the time that exists between a scheduled training event and activities that allows leaders the opportunity to conduct additional training or address specific tasks that are not covered in regular training schedules.

I help leaders see how to use this time to conduct training that is needed but not formally added to the training schedule. It's the time part of training management and training readiness that pays off for the individual Soldier and small teams.

I find time each day to talk with junior leaders and Soldiers. I visit training areas and talk to unit leadership, but I also want to know how our junior Soldiers are doing, so I sit and talk with privates and corporals to find out things like where they are from, their likes, dislikes and hobbies, what young Soldiers think of the Army and their future plans and goals.

I take this information back to the division commander, command sergeants major and



other leaders. We use the information to determine how to make training and Soldier's quality of life better.

Q: How has your perspective changed now that you are a brigadier general and deputy division commander?

A: Clarke

The principles are the same, but the philosophy is different. The Army is about people. It's critical to nurture and provide a positive environment. Generals lead more through influence — how to make things better. I find out where friction points are and build good ideas and relationships that collapse friction points. I use a tool that I call "Handcon." That means going out to see people in their environment. I try to build relationships by shaking hands and talking to people, be it Soldiers, peers, subordinates and enterprise folks, as well as local communities and the governments surrounding us.

I ask people about themselves and tell them the Army story. Find out what works well and doesn't work and see how we can expand on the good and eliminate the bad. It's a lot easier if I meet folks at their workplace and find out what their personal and professional likes and dislikes are.

Listening and building relationships is key to taking care of Soldiers and accomplishing our mission.

3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division is one of the most deployed units in the U.S. Army. The Brigade has strong, capable, highly trained leaders and Soldiers we can deploy and who can fight across the globe anywhere and anytime. I know the brigade is going to perform well and safely return to Fort Johnson.



Jones takes command of Fort Johnson Dental Health Activity

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES

Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Fort Johnson Dental Health Activity has a new leader following a change of command ceremony at Warrior Field May 22.

Throughout military history, unit colors have marked the position of the commander on the battlefield and served as a rallying point in times of confusion. Today, the colors symbolize the authority of command. During change of command ceremonies, the passing of the colors represents the transfer of authority between commanders.

In front of military and local leaders, dental professionals, Family and friends, Col. Ann Behrends, relinquished command to Col. Suzanne Jones, charging her with the responsibilities and authority to lead the organization.

Col. Stefan Olpinski, commander, Dental Health Command, West, and host of the ceremony, said Fort Johnson's DENTAC is a key component of the DHC, W and thanked the Soldiers, civilians and contract staff for their compassionate commitment to providing world-class dental care for the Army.

Olpinski said Behrends leaves behind a legacy of service, dedication and unmatched success.

"The accomplishments of the Fort Johnson Dental Health Activity are a direct reflection of Ann's leadership and commitment to her team," he said. "Nothing happens by chance. It takes great leadership to forge a cohesive and highly accomplished team."

Olpinski lauded Behrends for tackling challenges head on.

"The Fort Johnson Dental Health Activity is a shining star in our region," he said. "Under Col. Behrends leadership, the team has improved systems and procedures, despite staffing shortages and budget cuts, resulting in the delivery of more than \$5 million worth of dental readiness. Her team also expertly prepared 3rd Bridge Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, for deployment by increasing their dental readiness to more than 95 percent."

Olpinski welcomed Jones to the DHC, W family.

"Suzanne has a rare and successful blend of transformation leadership coupled with superior management skills that will assure success in every undertaking," he said. "Col. Jones understands that building cohesive teams and readiness are top priorities and this DENTAC can be confident that they are getting an out-



Col. Suzanne Jones, commander, Dental Health Activity, Fort Johnson, salutes Capt. Nicholas Reece, the commander of troops, at the conclusion of the Fort Johnson Dental Health Activity change of command ceremony at Warrior Field May 22. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

standing commander."

Behrends thanked her husband, her dental health team and the JRTC and Fort Johnson leadership for their support during her tenure.

"This past year has gone by quickly," she said. "I hope I have left the organization a little better than I found it."

Behrends, who is retiring from active-duty service, said she was grateful to leave on a high note from her favorite duty station.

"I feel truly blessed to end my Army career at Fort Johnson," she said. "I spent four years here as a staff prosthodontist.

That assignment remains, to this day, one of my favorites. I was so thankful to come back here, even if it was only for a year."

Behrends wished Jones good luck and assured her the team at Fort Johnson would take care of her.

"To all the DENTAC Soldiers and civilians, thank you for fighting the good fight. You show up every day and take care of Soldiers," she said. "Col. Jones, you are gaining a great team and I know I'm leaving them in good hands with you."

Jones said she was honored and privileged to lead the dental health team at Fort Johnson. She remarked that as a young high school graduate, college was not a priority.

"One day, I found myself taking a prerequisite English course at a local community college and a professor encouraged me to pursue a four-year degree," she said. "No one had ever really said that to me, and looking back I know he presented me with an opportunity I had never envisioned for myself. Fast forward and here I am humbly before you as a reminder that you never know what impact you may have on others. So be a good mentor to someone and as you climb the ladder remember to reach back, and pull someone up with you."

Jones said she wakes up every morning and is honored to serve the country and vowed to serve the Fort Johnson community to the best of her ability.

"Thank you for the warmest of welcomes," she said. "God bless America."



United Service Organization aims to assist Fort Johnson Soldiers, Families

By PORSHA AUZENNE
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The United Service Organization has officially initiated services at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson.

Since 1941, the USO has led the nation in serving its men and women in the U.S. military and their Families. The organization assists service members from the moment they join the military to their transition back to the civilian community.

Yuri Grijalva-Perry, Fort Johnson USO transition specialist, maintains a Fort Johnson USO office situated in the Army Community Service, building 920, and is currently offering USO Transition program support. Transition specialists, like Grijalva-Perry, develop personalized action plans for active duty, Reserve, National Guard and military spouses and help them take full advantage of services and resources, as well as offering professional development services throughout the duration of military service and as they prepare for life post-military.

Grijalva-Perry believes having a personalized action plan for employment, education (including leading online learning platforms like Skillsoft and Coursera), financial readiness, mentorship and veterans affairs benefits, is a great benefit to the Fort Johnson community.

The USO Transition program is just the beginning of what the USO wants to offer the Fort Johnson community. Grijalva-Perry explained what the future holds for the program.

"We're definitely aiming to have a center here at Fort Johnson in the future. We're excited about those plans because we want to bring additional resources, services and training to the community. Eventually, I would like to coordinate a USO watch party as well," she said.

“

“[THE USO] TRULY, GENUINELY CARES ABOUT EVERYBODY THAT COMES THROUGH THOSE DOORS. IT’S BECAUSE OF THEM THAT I GOT THE JOB.”

-KRISTIN R.

USO TRANSITION PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

USO offers approximately 14 programs to service members and their Families. These programs, such as those listed below, will be available once the new USO Center opens:

- USO Military Virtual Programming** — this program collaborates with celebrities and partners worldwide to conduct virtual base visits, engage in live discussions, offer live performances and make one-on-one calls with service members.

- USO Reading Program** — service members can read and record books before deploying. This ensures their children a bedtime story from halfway around the globe.

- USO Mobile Program** — a USO center on wheels focusing on delivering USO programs and services where there is no facility.

- USO Care Package** — this program provides service members with a connection to home through a snack or toiletry care pack-



Yuri Grijalva-Perry, Fort Johnson United Service Organizations transition specialist.

age designed to suit their needs best.

Grijalva-Perry expressed how it feels to help the service members and spouses of Fort Johnson.

"I'm happy to support the military community because I understand the challenges of transitioning as a military spouse myself. My family must move every two or three years to a new duty station," she said. "We just want to bring you as much peace of mind as we can and support you with resources to help you successfully move to the next chapter of your life."

For more information about USO visit <https://www.uso.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/theUSO/>.

For more information about the USO Transition Program visit <https://www.uso.org/programs/uso-transition-program>.

For more information about Fort Johnson's USO contact Yuri Grijalva-Perry at yperry@uso.org.

USO | Transitions

GET READY FOR YOUR NEXT JOURNEY...

AND THE NEXT.

FREE support for every step of your career.

- Financial Wellness
- Education
- Mentorship
- Employment
- Access to VA Benefits

Start your journey today:
[uso.org/transition](https://www.uso.org/transition)

learn more



Housing town hall

Fort Johnson held its monthly housing town hall in the Maple Terrace Neighborhood May 20. Fort Johnson leaders and garrison and CORVIAS representatives reached out to residents to discuss concerns and ask questions about housing. (U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)



TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

TIP #3



Tornadoes could be obscured by rainfall or come at nighttime. Do not wait until you see or hear the tornado, it may be too late.



ARMY FAMILY CHILD CARE (FCC)

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
Higher starting income!
Opportunities to increase your income!*
Training included!



Own your Own Business & Make a Difference

by Providing Quality & Affordable Child Care

Benefits:

- \$1,000 recruitment or relocation bonus**
- Paid training
- Opportunities to increase your income with training & education
- Business that moves when you move
- Stay at home with your children & earn an income at the same time
- Expedited background check clearance process

A career in Family Child Care awaits you!



Your Child's Home Away from Home.
www.ArmyMWR.com/FCC

*Earnings will be based on Provider status and number of children in care **Conditions apply

FORT JOHNSON FAMILY WELCOME

JUNE 14



BRIEFERS

- Corvias
- Army Housing Office
- CYS
- DFMWR
- ACS
- CPAC
- Spouse Employment
- Staff Judge Advocate
- BJACH
- Humana/Tricare
- Religious Support Office
- DPTMS



Corvias



EVENT DETAILS

The JRTC and Fort Johnson commanding general and garrison commander invite our Fort Johnson Families to join them for our monthly Family Welcome event. The event provides Families the opportunity to meet leadership and hear about some of the outstanding programs and services offered on the installation. Childcare will be provided.

LOCATION: Family Readiness Center (1590 Bell Richard Ave.)

TIME: Bus Tour @ 8 a.m., Briefing @ 9 a.m.

(Please arrive between 7:45-8 a.m. in order to be seated for the bus tour)

RSVP: Please RSVP by June 13 via text or call 337-353-1694



JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF ARMY HERITAGE MONTH

AND

Army Birthday

JUNE 14, 2024
BAYOU THEATER
10 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE DAD

JUNE 15, 2024
EVENT STARTS AT 11 A.M.

GIFT
BASKET
RAFFLE

SPIN THE
WHEEL
FOR
PRIZES

FORT JOHNSON MAIN EXCHANGE
7742 COLORADO AVENUE



JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATE FREEDOM JUNE 19

Juneteenth: A Second Independence Day Honoring the End of Slavery

By ANTOINE AARON
Public Affairs

FORT JOHNSON, La. — As Americans prepare to celebrate the 4th of July, marking the nation's independence from British rule, many will also observe another significant day in history: Juneteenth, often referred to as the "Second Independence Day."

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, highlighting the nation's commitment to human freedom and extending the promise of liberty to Black Americans.

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the Civil War entered its third year, declaring all enslaved people in Confederate states to be free. However, it was not until June 19, 1865, that Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Texas and enforced this proclamation, securing the freedom of over 250,000 enslaved Black individuals. This momentous event is now celebrated annually as Juneteenth.

The courageous service of Black soldiers in units like the 10th Colored Infantry and XXV Corps played a crucial role in the Civil War, paving the way for widespread military service by Black men and solidifying the war's



gains. Recognizing the need for a constitutional basis for emancipation after the war, Congress passed the 13th Amendment in 1865, abolishing slavery in the United States.

"Juneteenth represents not only the commemoration of the end of slavery in America more than 150 years ago, but the ongoing work we have to do to bring true equality and racial justice into American society," said President Joe Biden. In 2021, Juneteenth was officially designated the eleventh federal holiday.

The Army honors Juneteenth as part of its legacy, remembering the role of Black Soldiers in liberating enslaved people throughout the Confederacy. Soldiers are encouraged to observe the holiday, reflecting on its significance.

If you are near a Juneteenth celebration, take part. They serve as a reminder of the ongoing efforts to achieve equality and racial justice in the United States, honoring the sacrifices and contributions of those who fought for freedom.

COMMENTARY

JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY
JUNE 19

ALLEN PARISH
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
4th annual Allen Parish Juneteenth Celebration at the Allen Parish Civic Center in Oberlin. Parade starts at 10 a.m.

BEAUREGARD PARISH
SATURDAY JUNE 15
Juneteenth Jubilee: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Beauregard Parish Fair Grounds Exhibit Hall., Live performances start at 6 p.m.

CALCASIEU PARISH
SATURDAY, JUNE 15
Juneteenth Freedom Fest: Noon to 8:30 p.m. at the Lake Charles Event Center Coliseum. Parade rolls at 10 a.m., and live music begins at 12:15 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16
Juneteenth Worship Service: 10 a.m. at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 3007 Enterprise Blvd. in Lake Charles.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19
Senior Bingo: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the MLK Center, 2009 N. Simmons St. in Lake Charles.
Family Day: 1 to 7 p.m. at KPC Hall, 2625 Opelousas St. in Lake Charles.
Fireworks: Dusk at the Lake Charles Event Center.



Army recognizes June as National **Pride** Month

U.S. ARMY

In June, the Army recognizes LGBTQ service members and civilians for their service to the Army and the nation. Pride Month is a nationally recognized observance celebrating the LGBTQ community, its advocates and allies by promoting community, unity and pride. The selfless and dedicated service of LGBTQ Army Soldiers and civilians make our military stronger and the nation safer.

Throughout June, the Army joins the nation in paying tribute to the LGBTQ community. The selfless and dedicated service of brave LGBTQ Army Soldiers and civilians have made our military stronger and the nation safer.

Throughout history, LGBTQ Soldiers and civilians have bravely served and defended our country, often despite personal challenges and barriers to service.



U.S. ARMY

National Pride Month

“If you’re fit and you’re qualified to serve, and you can maintain the standards, you should be allowed to serve.”

— HON Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense



Army MWR Library 2024 Summer Reading Program

Enjoy free activities at your local Army MWR Library for children, teens, and adults that encourage and support a love of reading.



Scan QR code or visit
ArmyMWR.com/read



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SUMMER READING PROGRAM
on Military Installations Worldwide



No federal endorsement implied.

Eagle Scout candidate establishes U.S. Flag retirement boxes

By KAREN SAMPSON
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Ryan Barnett Jr., a senior patrol leader and an Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scouts of America, Fort Johnson Troop 124, took part in a ceremony to place an official U.S. Flag retirement box at the Fort Johnson Visitor's Center May 22.

Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, spoke at the ceremony and said many community members do not take the time or know the process required in retiring a flag. He said the boxes the aspiring Eagle Scout has established will allow residents to drop off their old, worn flags, which will undergo a respectful and dignified retirement process following the U.S. Flag Code.

"Ryan took on an essential job by finding a way to dispose of our national colors," Lopez said.

He also noticed abandoned newspaper boxes on the installation and thought they could be refurbished and repurposed instead of budgeting for building materials and new boxes. The boxes were originally used for old print Guardian newspaper distribution. Ryan worked with the Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office to get permission to repurpose the abandoned boxes to use for his project.

The flag retirement boxes are Ryan's capstone project in pursuing his Eagle Scout rank, which requires the completion of a significant community service project.

"The drop box has forms people can fill out on-site or digitally," Ryan said.

The form states information about the flag, such as where it was flown and for how long.

In addition to the Fort Johnson box, there were boxes placed in the New Llano and Anacoco municipalities.

With the help of the scouts in Troop 124 and his research and footwork to meet local authorities, Ryan said the project took about 70 hours to accomplish.

"I am deeply appreciative of the support from my parents, the members of Troop 124 and the mentors at JRTC and Fort Johnson who assisted in forging connections with members of the community who, in turn, helped make this project a reality," he said.

Emphasizing the collaboration behind the project, Ryan said he approached the mayors of both towns and the leadership at Fort Johnson and made his case about the need for the boxes and what they offered the community.

"The Boy Scouts instill in us the importance of honoring the U.S. flag and respecting its retirement. Ryan's project recognizes the need for this type of education in our community," said April Barnett, Ryan's mother and committee chairperson for the BSA Troop 124.

Underlining the initiative's significance, she recounted how Ryan overcame numerous



Ryan Barnett, an Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scouts of America, Fort Johnson Troop 124, stands in the bed of a truck as he helps Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, and fellow boy scouts carry an official U.S. Flag retirement box to its new home at the Fort Johnson Visitor's Center May 22. (U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)



This is the official U.S. Flag retirement box located at the Fort Johnson Visitor's Center. If you have an old flag that needs to be retired, please use this box or the others located in New Llano or Anacoco. See the map on the following page. (U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)

challenges, including a limited budget and the search for a sustainable project, demonstrating his determination and commitment to the cause.

"Ryan was able to effect change in the community," Barnett said.

She said she was proud of that, as well as the way he has successfully navigated each step of the process to this point.

In order to complete the project and become an Eagle Scout, Ryan must maintain the boxes for one year.



Members of Fort Johnson leadership, local officials and Boy Scout Troop 124 cadets and Family, stand next to the new official U.S. Flag retirement box placed at the Fort Johnson Visitor's Center May 22. (U.S. Army photo Antoine Aaron)



Eagle Scout candidate, Ryan Barnett Jr., Boy Scouts of America, Fort Johnson Troop 124, says a few words before placing a U.S. Flag retirement box at the Fort Johnson Visitor's Center May 22. (U.S. Army photo Karen Sampson)

U.S. Flag Drop Box Map



Got flags you're looking to retire? See this map for drop box locations and support our Boy Scout Troop 124!

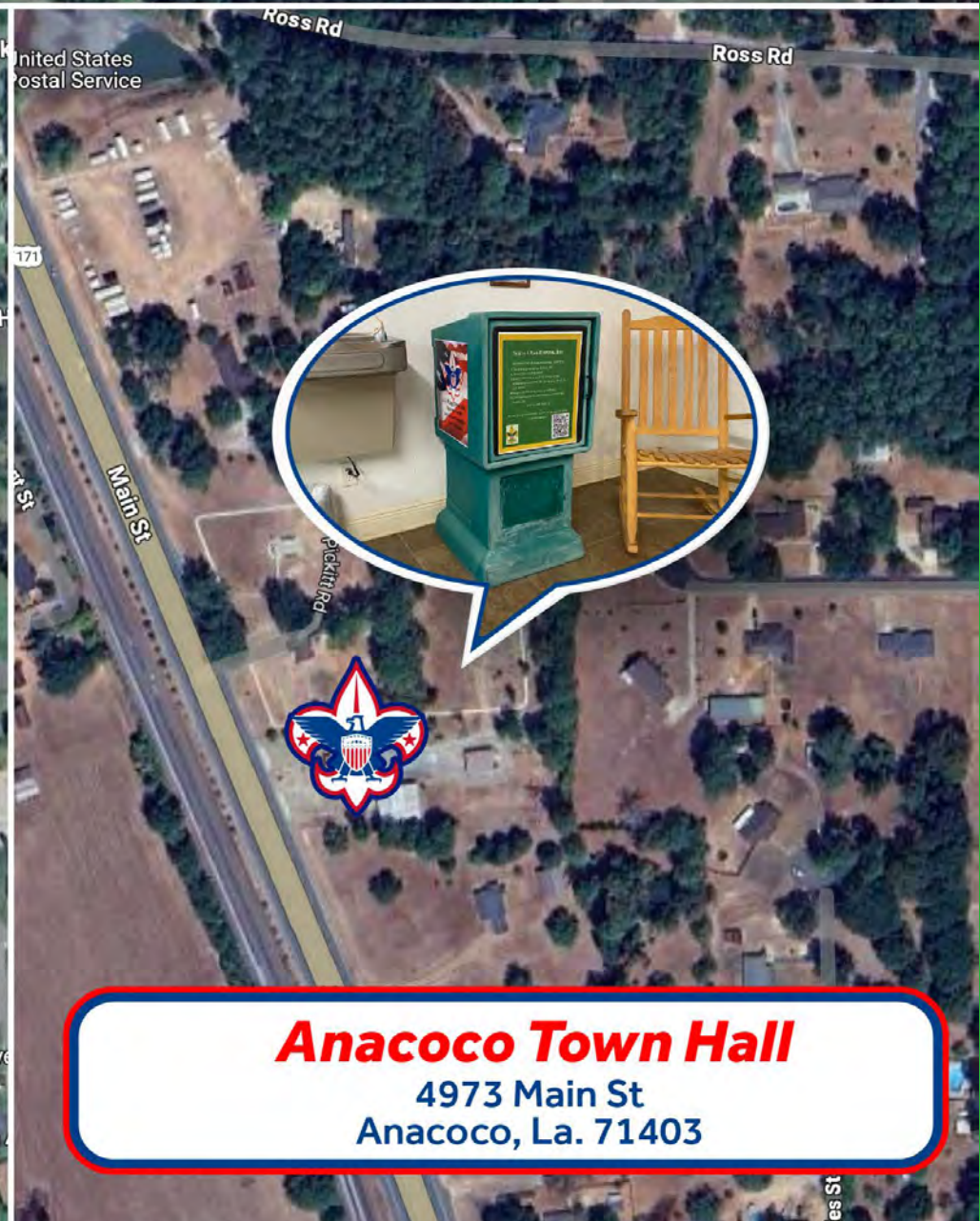
Flag retirement information sheet



Fort Johnson Visitor Center
Outside the main gate (by the weighing station)



New Llano American Legion
426 Vernon St.
New Llano, La. 71461



Anacoco Town Hall
4973 Main St
Anacoco, La. 71403

BOSS

Enhancing the Morale and Welfare
of Single Soldiers



Fort Johnson BOSS hosted a sewing class at the Arts and Crafts Center. The Soldiers learned to cut, pin, and sew together their very own BOSS apron. (Courtesy BOSS)

By SHAWNA MACIAS
Public Affairs Office Intern

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program was founded in 1989 as a resource for single soldiers, single parents and geographic bachelors (Soldiers whose military Family lives in a different location from the service member).

BOSS's mission is to enhance the quality of life for its members through opportunities that range from enjoying recreational activities to learning about essential life skills.

The program also gives Soldiers the chance to help Fort Johnson and local communities beyond the gates through volunteer work. Every branch of the U.S. military, including the National Guard and reserves on active orders, can participate in BOSS and can become a member by asking their unit's representative. At Fort Johnson, single Soldiers can also head to their local "Home of Heroes" recreation center, 2165 Ninth St., to sign up.

Queenie Otemai, acting BOSS president, said Soldiers in the program can earn promotion points, create fun and exciting memories and refocus on self-care.

She emphasizes how vital it is to take care of Soldiers and their physical and mental well-being.

"Soldiers far and wide face different inner battles than the average person and BOSS can be an invaluable resource to our military service members," Otemai said. "The program also creates an atmosphere that steers Soldiers from feeling lonely and unmotivated. It can also keep them out of trouble."

The recreational fun found at BOSS can include everything from karaoke, gaming and cookouts to heading to New Orleans for shopping or a basketball game.

On a more serious note, BOSS volunteer opportunities can include helping out the Grace Soul Soup Kitchen in DeRidder, the Humane Society in Leesville, Fort Johnson main post chapel community garden and more. Volunteering can give Soldiers a sense of giving back while hanging out with fellow Soldiers and other people they can relate to.

Whitney Cockerham's role as Fort Johnson



Fort Johnson BOSS hosted a CPR and First Aid Class at the 50M Pool. All the Soldiers who attended the class were certified basic first aid and CPR. Thank you to Taylor Newnen and her staff for ensuring all the Soldiers were properly trained and educated. (Courtesy BOSS)

BOSS administrator is to advise and train the new BOSS council in addition to acting as a liaison for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and outside directorates.

She said the program is inclusive and offers a diverse range of opportunities.

"We have events for everyone from outgoing Soldiers who love to be social, to introverts who enjoy events like gaming, painting and movies," Cockerham said.

Improving quality of life for Soldiers is crucial.

"Life skills like cooking and cleaning, socializing and improving relationships with comrades enhance a Soldier's physical and mental health. Life skills can also include improving their professional growth by helping them practice their knowledge through the use of mock boards" Cockerham said.

The support of chain of command is also imperative to a Soldier's well-being.

"We have some amazing command teams that have allowed their Soldiers to take part in BOSS events. We encourage command to con-

tinue working with and helping their Soldiers by allowing them to participate in BOSS events that are healthy, productive, engaging and beneficial for their Soldier's professional and personal development." Otemai said. "It's essential for Soldiers to complete their mission, while also engaging in an outlet to boost their morale."

Spc. Tyler Bryant, a single soldier and BOSS representative for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mtn Div, remembers when he first joined the program.

"I would sign up for events and sometimes I wouldn't show up because I had anxiety. But that's something BOSS understands. When a soldier comes to us, we're always going to be welcoming," Bryant said.

That welcoming attitude is important as single Soldiers move to a new duty station, which can be difficult and lonely. BOSS provides opportunities for Soldiers to get out of the barracks and become part of a community.

For more information, contact your local BOSS representative or call 337-531-5870 for more information.

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.

1994	Ford	F250	3432
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	0491
2002	Pontiac	Grand Prix	1285
1995	Dodge	1500	8277
2016	Jeep	Patriot	9883
2005	Buick	LeSaber	7593
2001	GMC	Yukon	6444
2010	Hyundai	Genesis	5409
UNK	UNK	Utility trailer	N/A
2016	Hyundai	Elantra	3891
2008	Yamaha	R6	5446
2016	Yamaha	R3	2153
UNK	UNK	Boat trailer	UNK
UNK	UNK	Kayak trailer	UNK
UNK	UNK	Boat trailer	UNK
UNK	UNK	M/C trailerBoat	UNK
2001	Ford	F150	0450
2000	Ford	Ranger	3852
2006	Nissan	350Z	4586

Happy Summer!

Cool down with a sno cone at the pool!

Come join us for a free sno cone the first 3 Fridays in June from 3-5

**Palmetto: Friday, June 7th
Dogwood: Friday, June 14th
Maple: Friday, June 21st**

Contact your Community Office for more details.
Look forward to seeing you there!

Corvias
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



***Father's Day is June 16th!
Celebrate Dad with a customized coloring sheet all about him!***

Stop by your Community Center during the week of June 10th and pick up a poster to decorate as a gift for dad!



Corvias
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

REMINDER:

POOLS ARE OPEN!

Fort Johnson Family members took advantage of their pool privileges at the Dogwood Terrace Community Center. Parents and kids alike play and have a good time as the weather heats up. The summer fun took place May 20. (U.S. Army photos by Shawna Macias)

