JRIG AND FORT JOHNSON

NOV. 4 VOL. 51, NO. 21

CHECKING IN WITH 3RD BCT, 10TH MT DIV PAGE 7

> HIGHLIGHTING FIRE TRAINING

TAKE IMPACT AID PROGRAM SURVEY PAGE 41

CELEBRATING RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY PAGE 43

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Housing Town Hall



COVER PHOTO

pc. Issaic Billings, an infantryman from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), pulls security during an engagement with the opposing force, as part of Operation Lethal Eagle24,1, April 25, 2024, on Fort Campbell, *Kentucky. Operation Lethal Eagle is a 21-day rigorous training* exercise designed to train individual and unit lethality, prototype Army initiatives, and build mastery of large-scale, longrange air assault capabilities. See full story on page 7. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Spc. Zachery Blevins)



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Trick or Treat Trail





Retiree Appreciation Day



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.





Corvias



Neighborhood Turkey Hunt Is Back!

Turkey Hunt Rules

- Furkeys will only be hidden in
- Take a selfie with the turkey in his hiding spot before moving him
- Turkey and Selfie must be brought into the Neighborhood Center to claim prize
- Only one winner per household

Neighborhood Turkey Hunt

Every Friday in November at Fort Johnson neighborhoods

Fort Johnson residents, would you like to own one of these adorable plush turkeys? Well, the Neighborhood Turkey Hunt is back! Every Friday in November at 3:30 p.m., we'll post a clue on where you may be able to find one.

This event is only open to residents who live on Fort Johnson and is not open to the public.*



unday

runch

Veterans Day Ceremony

Nov. 7, 10 a.m. at the 1/5 Aviation Hangar

Fort Johnson will be holding its annual Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 7 at the 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment hangar from 10-11 a.m. A reception for veterans will be held at 9 a.m. before the ceremony.

We invite the community in joining us in honoring our veterans.

Wine and Tapas

Nov. 8, 6-9 p.m. at The Forge Bar and Grill Enjoy a night of sophistication and elegance with an array of tapas to compliment any wine! This event will be held at The Forge on Nov. 8 from 6-9 p.m.

The cost is \$35 per ticket and \$50 for a pair of 2 tickets.

Reservations required. Please call 337-531-7668 or 531-4661 to place your reservations.

Shreksgiving

Nov. 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Warrior Center

Get ready to "do the rawr!" at Friday Night Live: Shreksgiving. Join us at The Warrior Center (we tried having it at Shrek's swamp, but he wasn't too happy with that) Nov. 22 for food, games, music, prizes and an ogre-all fantastic time!

This is event is free and open to persons 18+.

















OUTSIDE THE GATES **OFF POST EVENTS**



NO ARMY OR FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED

Discover Poussound



AVERY ISLAND

Click for more info







The birthplace of TABASCO® brand pepper sauce, Avery Island has been owned for over 180 years by the interrelated Marsh, Avery and McIlhenny families.

Lush subtropical flora and venerable live oaks draped with wild muscadine and swags of barbe espagnole, or Spanish moss, cover this geological oddity, which is one of five "islands" rising above south Louisiana's flat coastal marshes.

The island occupies roughly 2,200 acres and sits atop a deposit of solid rock salt thought to be deeper than Mount Everest is high. Geologists believe this deposit is the remnant of a buried ancient seabed, pushed to the surface by the sheer weight of surrounding alluvial sediments.

Today, Avery Island remains the home of the TABASCO[®] brand pepper sauce factory, as well as Jungle Gardens and its Bird City wildfowl refuge. The Tabasco factory and the gardens are open for tours.



(Photos by Chuck Cannon)







ENNY

Army brigades embrace change, test new tactics



Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) conduct vehicle preparations in anticipation for the large-scale, long-range air assault as part of Operation Lethal Eagle 24.1, April 21, 2024, on Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Truesdale)

Soldiers assigned to the Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Combat Aviation unload an Infantry Squad *Vehicle from a CH-47* Chinook in Greenville, Tennessee, Oct. 7, 2024. The Soldiers are supporting Hurricane Helen relief efforts in North Carolina and Tennessee. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Spc. Matthew Wantroba)





Col. James Stultz, commander of the 2nd Mobile Brigade Combat Team, briefs generals and the press about the capabilities of the 101st Airborne Division's command post during a training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center on Fort Johnson. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Joyner)

By Christopher Hurd Army News Service

WASHINGTON — In eastern Europe, Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division work alongside North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies as they transform into one of the Army's newest formations — a light brigade combat team.

The change is part of the Army's Transforming in Contact effort, where brigades are adapting their formations and getting new technology into the hands of Soldiers so they can experiment, innovate and be ready to fight on the modern battlefield. Soldiers can then provide real-world feedback allowing the Army to make necessary adjustments.

"Everything we do [with transforming in contact] is grounded in one simple principle and that is increased lethality for our formations," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Ryan, Department of the Army assistant deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7. "There is nothing that will survive contact better than more lethal, more agile, more strategically and tactically mobile formations."

As part of the switch, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, also known as Patriots, has focused on experimenting with organizational structure.

The brigade decentralized its sustainment support battalion to make it less vulnerable to detection and enemy fire. They also created three strike companies with ground reconnaissance scouts, short and medium-range drones, unmanned aerial weapons, mortars, counter-unmanned aerial systems and electronic warfare teams.

All three companies are training in Europe, and the brigade is gathering new equipment for them to test when they go on a Joint Multinational Readiness Center rotation to Bavaria in January.

That wasn't the only change. The Patriots are using a fleet of Infantry Support Vehicles to help Soldiers navigate complex terrain. The nine-seat utility vehicle helps the brigade as they transform into a light formation.

"That's going to provide some really enhanced mobility for us, allow us to reposition troops, and equipment on the battlefield very rapidly in ways that light infantry formations haven't been able to do over the ground up to this point," said Col. Joshua G. Glonek, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander.

The Patriots are one of three brigades taking part in phase one of the transformation initiative that started in spring 2024. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also known as Screaming Eagles, is another.

The Screaming Eagles completed two rotations this year at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, Louisiana, as well as a 21-day field training exercise called Operation Lethal Eagle.

Throughout the year, the Screaming Eagles ex-

perimented with their structure as they became the Army's first mobile brigade combat team, capable of increased agility to accommodate the service's shift to large-scale operations.

That mobility comes from using approximately 200 Infantry Squad Vehicles to carry Soldiers and equipment.

The 101st also added a multifunctional reconnaissance company for target acquisition, counter reconnaissance, and security and set up an anti-tank platoon as well as a robotics platoon for human-machine integration. These changes were incorporated into the brigade's three infantry battalions.

Transforming in Contact not only applies to organizational structure but also experimentation with new technology.

During their rotations at the training center, the Screaming Eagles used drones and electromagnetic decoys to draw enemy fire. They also experimented with multiple networked communication technologies during their field training exercise.

The Screaming Eagles passed what they learned onto the Patriots as they tested the improved command and control capabilities while on deployment.

Glonek said this is allowing the brigades to dynamically change the way they communicate and deal with enemy interference. It's also allowing them to use command posts that are less detectable and more survivable.

He added the Patriots are in the process of adding unmanned aerial systems to every level of the brigade as they head into their upcoming combat training center rotation.

The 2nd Light Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, the other brigade in phase one of the initiative, took part in the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center rotation earlier this month in Hawaii.

The training tested the brigade and the Army's ability to operate effectively across multiple domains, including land, air and cyber.

"We are using JPMRC and our warfighter exercise in December to validate our transformation in contact construct with the 2nd Light Brigade Combat Team along with those lessons learned from 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain Division," said Maj. Gen. Marcus Evans, 25th ID commanding general. "Innovation never stops at our level. We are in a relentless pursuit of excellence and strive to get 1% better every day."

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George recently announced phase two of the transformation initiative will include two divisions, the 101st and 25th as well as two armored brigade combat teams, two Stryker brigade combat teams, and additional formations from the National Guard and Army Reserve. This effort is set to occur in fiscal year 2025 and include every Army warfighting function.



Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) act as an opposing force during an engagement with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), as part of Operation Lethal Eagle 24.1, April 25. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Zachery Blevins)



Left: Spc. Brendan Nicholas, an infantryman assigned to the 25th Infantry Division prepares to launch a Skydio X10D Drone during Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 25-01 on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Oct. 5, 2024. The Joint Pacific... (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brenden Delgado)

Below: U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Johnson, Louisiana, watch an artillery demonstration during exercise Defender Europe 2024 near Rovaniemi, Finland, May 17. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ian Valley)



THE SONS OF THE **AMERICAN LEGION INVITES YOU TO**

ANNUAL VETERANS MONDA

NOVEMBER II, 2024

7:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

* * * * * * * * * * * *

A special complimentary breakfast for all veterans and their spouses will be served on Monday, November 11th at the AMerican Legion Hall on Hwy 112. This annual breakfast event is hosted by the SOns of the American Legion.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Reservtions are NOT required but are appreciated.

EARL BOS 337-463-7984 JOHN MARCELLO 337-247-1339

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THIS YEAR A SPECIAL FOCUS

LAKE CHARLES **VETERANS OUTREACH** EVENT No one left behind...

A free event for Veterans, Service Members and Families

Hosted by the City of Lake Charles and the Mayor's Armed Forces Commission.

Information and Resources Available Include: VA Programs, Veteran Service Organizations, Mental Health Counseling, Health Screenings, Financial and Job Assistance Programs, DEERS and many more.



ON THE LAKEFRONT

GUEST SPEAKER- CDR ELIZABETH NEWTON, USCG MARINE SAFETY UNIT LAKE CHARLES

Lake Charles **Event Center** 900 Lakeshore Dr.

Saturday, November 9, 2024 10am-2pm

For a list of recommended documentation to bring, please scan QR code below



LAKE (HARLES

LOCAL VETERANS DAY **CELEBRATIONS**

Fort Johnson Tree Rescue Team trains to save Soldiers, equipment

By Angie Thorne

Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Fort Johnson is in the business of training the best, to be the best. That includes paratroopers — Soldiers trained to conduct military operations by parachuting directly into an area of operations. When paratroopers train at Fort Johnson, there's always a chance, they could go off course and get caught in the pine forests surrounding their son." landing area.

When that happens, they are lucky because Fort Johnson's has one of the only established Tree Rescue Teams in Installation Management Command standing ready to help Soldiers when their parachute gets tangled in a tree.

James McArthur, Fort Johnson Fire Department fire inspector and member of the Tree Rescue Team, said the team has committed themselves to rigorous training to ensure their preparedness for any rescue, recovery, or standby mission at a moment's notice.

"Over the past 36 months, the Tree Rescue said. Team has undertaken 20 missions, demonstrating exceptional skill and courage in each instance. Their achievements include the successful rescue of 13 Paratroopers and the recovery of 16 military drones valued at \$848,000," said McArthur. "That saves the Army a lot of money."

"Furthermore, they have provided standby operations for more than six thousand paratroopers, ensuring their safety during critical moments."

Capt. Brandon Monte, fire fighter and a member of the Tree Rescue Team, said the team is compiled of all volunteer fire fighters. It's an additional duty that guys raise their hand for

"As soon as they are hired, we let them know about the team. They don't have to join us, but if they would like to, they can," Monte said. "Between saving lives and equipment, it's one of the most vital missions we serve on Fort John-

Though the team may not get called out every time there is a jump, the larger the jump, the more likely the call.

"If it's a big jump, we will be on standby. If there are 250 or more Soldiers jumping, we will head out there with a team of six," Monte said. "They take into account that someone is going to get injured or stranded."

Jumps can have as many as two thousand Soldiers parachuting at night.

as 20 people stranded at one time. With only six people, we are out there a long time," Monte

To help keep the fire fighters in top form and ready to go when needed, they conducted training Oct. 30.

Lt. Col. Joshua Larson, 519th Military Police Battalion commander, stopped by to watch and thank the Tree Rescue Team for doing what they do every day on a regular basis, as well as going the extra mile to do this specific training.

"At the end of the day, what you do saves lives and protects property," Larson said.



Jacob Baggett, fire fighter, climbs a pine tree as part of tree rescue training. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)

"With missions that large, We've had as many



Members of the Tree Rescue Team and Directorate of Emergency Services look on as fire fighters train by climbing trees. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



Steven Lungran (above), fire fighter, and C.apt. Brandon Monte, fire fighter, train climbing a tree to rescue a tangled paratrooper. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



James McArthur, fire inspector, decends from a pine tree during tree rescue training?. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)

Fort Johnson Tree Rescue Team members

Mathew Ward Brandon Monte **James McArthur** Jodie Stokes Gabriel Derksen Aaron Davies

Blaine Burrus Chris Rainer Melissa Rubio Andrew Miner **James Hawkins** Nathan Jacobs

Steve Lungrin Daniel Good Dave Lawson Evan O'Neal Jacob Baggett



SPECIAL FORCES Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson

Office 893 Louisiana Ave. Building 4918

Special Forces recruits take part in early morning physical training. (U.S. Army photos by Angie Thorne)





U.S. Army Special Operations







Recruiting 910-297-9552 270-363-7280





TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Talking Point#





A: The Transition Assistance Program is a commander's program and a Soldier's responsibility.

TAP provides information and training to ensure transitioning Soldiers, Department of Army civilians, retirees, Soldiers' family members and caregivers are prepared for their next step in life - whether pursuing additional education, finding a job in the public or private sector or starting their own business. TAP is administered locally at JRTC and Fort Johnson at the Education Center, 7460 Colorado Ave., building 660, or the Army's 24/7 Virtual Center if a Soldier is located more than 50 miles from a TAP center. The mandatory components of TAP are applicable for Soldiers who have at least 180 continuous days or more on active duty; this includes National Guard and Reservist serving on Title 10 status.



changed, or omitted, to protect the innocent. might be a broken finger, rib and chest pain, On Oct. 22, at about 9 a.m., I arrived at the Aland a busted nose, inside and out. len Parish Civic Center to set up a table for Fort Although I bled a bit, I didn't feel too bad, but Johnson representatives as part of a career shortly afterward most all the above began to fair for area high school students. After a quick hurt. recon of the premises and an introduction to A school nurse from across the street the individual in charge of the proceedings, I came and doctored my scrapes and suggestheaded back to my car to secure our props for ed x-rays. I gutted it out for another couple of the event. hours before heading to the hospital.

diving platform.

When I was stationed at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, our airborne Soldiers were taught the four points of contact for a PLF - parachute landing fall — when they hit the ground after a jump — feet, side of knees, hip and shoulder muscle. When I hit it was knees, chest, palms and face.

As I lay sprawled across the pavement like We had a laugh, I got a new bracelet and watch: It took a licking and kept on ticking. an armadillo just plowed over by an 18-wheeler, moved back to my seat in the waiting area. a couple of thoughts occurred to me. First, was I alive? Second, how was I going to explain my checked me out and sent me for X-rays and an fall to my spouse, Susan, without watching her MRI, both capably accomplished by two won- about what I just told her and then spewing it fall out in hysterical laughter? derful techs.

and helped me to my feet.





Find out more at armytap.army.mil

Writer realizes ballet not in future

Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. - The story you're about to read is true, although I will admit to a bit of exaggeration in its telling.

The names — for the most part — have been

As I neared said car, I did not notice there was a 2-inch curb that was camouflaged with blue paint in my direct path. When the toe of my right foot made contact with the curb, I launched forward with all of the style and grace of an elephant going off a 30-foot

The first answer was "Yes!" I was alive. Fortunately, two young men were across the street and saw the entire episode. They hustled to my side, determined I was not likely to die soon,

The second answer was I told Susan on the phone so I didn't have to see her reaction, al-

though I imagine after I hung up, the tear-producing laughter commenced and she uttered something along the line of, "I can't let that idiot go anywhere by himself anymore."

After my rescue by the two young strangers, I went to the restroom to examine my injuries: Two skinned knees, two skinned palms, what

> The young ladies at the hospital check-in were wonderful - all I had to do was sign and date a couple of forms. A hospital bracelet was placed on my arm and I was told I would be called back shortly.

As I sat watching the TV, I happened to glance down at the bracelet and was surprised to see a female's name, that identified the said female as being in her 20s. I casually moved back to the check-in

and said that while I was flattered they thought I looked in my 20s, it might be difficult for me to my new knee — I had my right knee replaced pull off the female role.

Doc's return with the results of the tests. While enough. I was waiting a nurse came in to see if I was still alive and told me she was pretty sure I was going to make it.

son and his crew called to see if I was OK. Af- self." I guess that's better than laughing.



Cannon

ter telling him what happened I felt sure I had a good indication of his mother's reaction - he busted out laughing. I thanked them for their concern and said I'd keep them posted.

When Doc returned with the prognosis it was a fractured finger and bruised nose and ribs. All in all it could have been a lot worse.

What I did learn through this ordeal is that a career in ballet is probably not in my future, and in June — is apparently as good as a Timex

What I will always wonder is what Susan's The next phase went smoothly as an ER doc reaction was after our phone call. I have this vision of her taking a drink of soda, thinking out of her nose. Just so she doesn't slip and I was taken back to my ER room to await the fall - one uncoordinated goof in the family is

Writer's note: Upon returning home my spouse said she did not laugh. She said, "I At this point in my adventure my youngest thought, he's got to retire before he kills him-





















The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson held its annual Louisiana Hayride Oct. 19 at Warrior Field. Attendees participated in a variety of fall-themed activities, including cookie decorating, a pumpkin patch, hay rides, axe throwing, face painting, bounce houses, balloon animals, military spouseowned business markets and more. (U.S. Army photos by Porsha Auzenne)

FIRST STEPS TO ALL HALLOWS EVE IS MWR TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL





19



The Trick or Treat trail, sponsored by the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Army Community Services, took place at Warrior Hills Golf Course, Oct. 18. The event gave Fort Johnson families their first chance to get out and have fun leading up to the installation's annual Halloween celebrations.



Photos by Karen Sampson

FORT JOHNSON SAFETY ALERT

!!! INSTALLATION-WIDE BURN BAN !!!



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INSTALLATION BURN BAN ISSUED DUE TO CONCERNING DRY CONDITIONS

FORT JOHNSON – Effective immediately, due to the extremely dry conditions statewide Fort Johnson, has issued an installation cease and desist order for all private burning.

Private burning shall only be allowed by permission of the Department of Emergency Services (DES) Fire Department.

This order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

This ban shall not apply to prescribed burns by the Department of Public Works, by those trained and certified by DES-Fire Department, or by those who conduct prescribed burning as a "generally accepted agriculture practice".

The use of barbeque grills is allowed however, fire pits and campfires are prohibited on the installation.

Violations of this order could result in criminal penalties.

- Applies to all "private" burning unless it is approved by **DES-Fire**
- Prohibits the use of fire pits, and campfires on the installation

!!! INSTALLATION-WIDE BURN BAN !!!



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Fall Heritage Reunion

On Oct. 26, Fort Johnson held its 17th Annual Fall Heritage Reunion at the Main Post Chapel to recognize local heritage families. Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, Fort Johnson commanding general, spoke with heritage family members and expressed his gratitude for them and their ancestors' sacrifices more than 80 years ago. Reverend Billy Nash, president of the organization of heritage families associated with Fort Johnson was guest speaker. (U.S. Army photos by Porsha Auzenne)

STARBASE, fire department team up to teach science behind fire fighting







Alex Rivera, fire inspector with the Fort Johnson Directorate of **Emergency Services Fire Depart**ment, interacts with fifth grade students from Vernon Middle School as he teaches them the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math based science behind fighting fires. (U.S. Army photos by Angie Thorne)



g Town Hall **Checking in with House**



Fort Johnson leadership traversed the streets of Palmetto Terrace Oct. 28 during a Housing Town Hall. They talked to residents and checked to see if they were happy with their housing. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)

Signing Red Ribbon Week proclamation

Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, signs the Red ribbon Week Proclamation Oct. 21 as Johnny Bevers, Fort Johnson deputy to the garrison commander, waits his turn to sign. Red Ribbon Week is held Oct. 23-31. Red Ribbon Week, hosted by the Army Substance Abuse Program, provides unified and visible prevention efforts to help eliminate the use of drugs. The week is an opportunity for Fort Johnson leadership and community members to demonstrate their commitment to drugfree lifestyles and parents to have impactful conversations with their military kids about the risks of substance abuse.. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)

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	ŪNK	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







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Contact CYS at 337-531-1955 for more information!

Occupational Therapy specialist earns national professional credentials

BJACH Public Affairs Officer

FORT JOHNSON, La. - Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital proudly recognizes the achievements of Spc. Andrew Wesbrock, an occupational therapy specialist at the Joint Readiness Training recently earned civilian credentials through the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

Army brat, enlisted in the infantry right after high school and said an injury, requiring tendon reconstruction surgery, sidelined his infantry career and forced him to reclass or leave the military.

"My recovery and rehab took several months and introduced me to the field of occupational therapy," he said. "I chose to reclass as an OT specialist because it seemed interesting, I enjoyed my try-level knowledge to begin personal experience as an OT patient, and I knew I would earn a degree at the end of my training."

Alpha Company, 264th Medical Battalion at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, said becoming a 68L occupational therapy specialist is difficult but rewarding.

"If anyone is looking for a medical military occupational specialty that has direct translation to the civilian sector and potential employment, this job would absolutely be one of them," he said. "Our 36-week didactic and clinical program is accredited by the Council for Occupational Therapy Education."

Yoo said OT specialists in the Army are held to a higher standard of regulatory requirements and professional development through continuous education.

legacy and heart of the Army's high guality care to all BJACH ben-68L program," he said. "He was the distinguished honor graduate when he was a member of Alpha 264. He completed all assigned tasks to the highest standard every time."

Yoo said Soldiers who successfully complete the requirements for this MOS will earn an accredited associate degree from The

By Jean Clavette Graves College of Allied Health Sciences, in coordination with Uniformed Services University.

"We usually encourage our students to pursue a national certification exam, administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, during their second phase of training," he Readiness and Fort Johnson, who said. Our program has a 75% firsttime pass rate, so our students are well-prepared." he said.

Lynn Foster, client management specialist for the NBCOT said the Wesbrock, a self-proclaimed exam is four hours long and includes 190 questions.

> "All fifty states, plus the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico require that an individual take and pass the COTA exam after graduating college before they can get a license to practice in the civilian sector," she said.

> "By passing the exam and becoming certified, Spc. Wesbrock has proven he has required enworking in the field."

Mai. Caleb Johnson, chief of rehabilitation services at BJACH Capt. Han Yoo, commander, said obtaining this certification speaks to Wesbrock's commitment to his patients and profession.

> "BJACH employs intelligent, highly qualified and motivated Soldiers, like Spc. Wesbrock. They are driven to provide high quality patient care consistent with the industry standard," he said. "The COTA credential is not an easy exam. It takes dedication and work to learn the required content and implement it within the clinic."

> Johnson said he's proud of Wesbrock and the entire rehab department.

"Our Soldiers embody the 'Be, Know, Do' philosophy," he said. "They desire to become the best at their individual craft. They strive I would never get better, but I did, "Spc. Wesbrock carries on the to be lifelong learners and provide and now I get to help others." eficiaries."

> Wesbrock said he loves being an occupational therapy specialist the field when he leaves the military.

> "I am proud knowing I make a positive impact on my patients' journey to recovery," he said. "I was



Spc. Andrew Wesbrock, an occupational therapy specialist from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, makes a resting hand and wrist brace for one of his patients. Wesbrock recently earned civilian credentials through the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.(U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

Wesbrock said taking the exam and earning the COTA credentials is important.

and looks forward to continuing in pert in the field," he said. "Now I can take more courses and be- tirees, and family members) with a come certified in other areas like referral. strength coaching, pool therapy and nutrition."

Wesbrock plans to leave the milthat guy who was hurt and thought itary and return to Texas next year.

"I still have a way to go to prepare for my military transition," he said. "In Texas, to obtain a license, I will also need to pass a state exam."

The BJACH Occupational "It shows that you are an ex- Therapy Department sees all beneficiaries (active-duty Soldiers, re-

> To find out more about how to become an occupational therapy specialist (68L) visit https:// www.goarmy.com/.

BJACH celebrates newest expert field medical badge recipients

BJACH Health Promotions

ment for those who earn it."

munity.

ment," he said.

combat readiness.

EFMB exemplifies excellence.

well

"Both of these Soldiers have displayed the character and attributes of professional Soldiers, warriors and leaders since their arrival to BJACH," he said. "They have made us extremely proud!" Wallace said other badge holders helped

her prepare. "People who already hold the badge helped us prepare by teaching us tactical combat casualty care, simulating lanes and providing insight," she said. "As a junior officer, I knew earning the badge was a good way to set myself apart from my peers." Wallace said the experience was challeng-

By Jean Clavette Graves

FORT JOHNSON, La. – Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital welcomes home two of the U.S. Army's newest Expert Field Medical Badge holders to the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson.

2nd Lt. Isella Wallace, chief of the patient administration division, and Spc. Jacob Babcanec, a physical therapy specialist at BJACH. both earned the award during the EFMB lanes Oct. 22-25, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

There were 46 candidates from 19 units and nine military installations who participated in the event. Only 21 earned the badge.

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy McCoole, from Reynolds Army Community Hospital, was the noncommissioned officer in charge the event.

"The EFMB is known for its demanding standards," he said. "Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in a wide range of medical and soldiering skills, including combat lifesaving techniques, land navigation and warrior tasks. The high failure rate makes it a significant achieve-

McCoole said earning the EFMB is difficult and highly respected within the military com-

"Earning the badge indicates Soldiers like Wallace and Babcanec are well-prepared to provide medical care in a combat environ-

The skills tested for the EFMB are crucial for

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry D. White II, senior enlisted advisor at BJACH, said earning the

"I couldn't be prouder of 2nd Lt. Wallace and Spc. Babcanec. They both exhibited determination and grit. They both received 'No Blood' which means they passed all tasks on the first attempt," he said. "Spc Babcanec also came in first with the fastest time of two hours and 23 minutes on the 12-mile ruck march."

White said Wallace and Babcanec represented BJACH during the Medical Readiness Command-West Best Squad competition as



Spc. Jacob Babcanec, a physical therapy specialist from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, evacuates a casualty. Babcanec earned the expert field medical badge Oct. 26, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (Staff Sgt. Dylan Donnelly, health care sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 434 Field Artillery Brigade, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division)



2nd Lt. Isella Wallace, chief of the patient administration division from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, performs tactical combat casualty care with combat lifesaver, Sgt. Christian Styron, 75th Field Artillery Brigade. Wallace earned the expert field medical badge on Oct. 25, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (Staff Sgt. Dylan Donnelly, health care sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 434 Field Artillery Brigade,1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division)

ing and rewarding and recommends other pursue it.

Babcanec said he is honored to hold the badge.

"To me this badge represents expert knowledge in my field as a medical professional," he said. "I believe as a Soldier it's my duty to be competent in my military occupational specialty, as well as army field medicine. It is surreal to hold this badge knowing that so many have strived to acquire it.'

Babcanec said he is ready to face new challenges and teach the next generation of EFMB holders.

"I would tell others interested in earning this badge to give it a shot, you have nothing to lose and all to gain," he said. "If you work hard and stay focused it is more obtainable than you think."

To learn more about EFMB visit the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence's website: https://medcoe.army.mil/efmb



THE FLU VACCINE IS AVAILABLE TO **BENEFICIARIES 6 MONTHS AND OLDER** BY APPOINTMENT ONLY CALL 337-531-3011



Are you overwhelmed by food labels? Do you want to make healthier food choices but not sure where to start?

Join the BJACH Nutrition Care Experts at the JRTC & Fort Johnson commissary from 8-9 a.m. on the first or third Friday every month to learn how to navigate the grocery isles to optimize your nutrition for improved health.

Open to all DoD ID Card Holders Scan QR CODE to send and email us for more information and to reserve your spot!



Subject: Commissary Tour usarmy.johnson.medcom-bjach.list.nutrition-care@health.mi



AudioCare Prescription Refill Number Effective November 1, 2024 the refill line number will change to (337) 386-1386





7.4 million



NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN **HERITAGE MONTH**

NOVEMBER

Check out this Native American Indian Heritage Month video https://www.defense.gov/Multimedia/Videos/videoid/941604/

574

The nation's American Indian and Alaska Native population alone or in combination with other race groups in 2023.

The number of federally recognized Indian tribes in 2024.

120,476

The number of single-race American Indian and Alaska Native veterans of the U.S. armed forces in 2023.

Guest reader brings personal touch to Story Time



Col. CI Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, reads "Trick or Treat Crankenstein," written by Samantha Berger and illustrated by Dan Santat for a special Halloween Story Time at Allen Memorial Library, Oct. 29. (U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)

BOSS Soldiers volunteer to help keep things scary, fun





Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers members volunteered at the Child and Youth Services Haunted House and Carnival Oct. 25 and 26 at the Fort Johnson Youth Gym. (U.S. Army photos courtesy BOSS)



By Antoine Aaron Public Affairs Office

texture.

The versatility of roux plays a pivotal role in distinguishing different gumbo styles. Roux is cooked until it achieves varying degrees of color and flavor, ranging from a light blonde cook can put their own spin on it. to a rich, dark brown. Each shade brings its own character to the gumbo pot. A dark roux, typically favored in Cajun gumbo, requires patience and skill. It is cooked slowly, sometimes

béchamel sauces or chowders. of étouffée. stews.

flair.

time but is worth the effort. vy-based dishes. quires careful timing. vage it.

Roux and the art of gumbo

A Southern tradition

FORT JOHNSON, La. - Gumbo, a cherished dish in Southern cuisine, is more than just a meal; it's a cultural standard, especially in Louisiana, where the debate over its preparation can ignite culinary wars among home cooks. At the heart of gumbo is roux, a simple combination of fat and flour, but its significance in the dish is profound, shaping both flavor and cuisine.

olate color. This process transforms the flour, among generations. imparting a nutty flavor that is the backbone of a robust gumbo.

Creole gumbo often opts for a lighter roux or even no roux in it altogether. Instead, it leans on the natural sweetness of fresh vegetables like bell peppers, onions and tomatoes. This style embraces a brighter flavor, reflecting the cul- it's a celebration tural influences of the Spanish, French, and Af- of culture, tradition, rican traditions that have blended in Louisiana

For many, the choice between a dark or light roux comes down to personal preference and regional influences. The beauty of gumbo is that it is not one size fits all. It's adaptable. Each enjoying a bowl at

The preparation of roux also speaks to the each spoonful is communal aspect of gumbo. Often, families a taste of Louisigather around the stove, sharing stories as ana's rich culinary they stir the pot. This social ritual is as import-heritage.

for up to an hour, until it reaches a deep, choc- ant as the dish itself, fostering connections

As the debate over the "right" roux con-

tinues, one thing remains clear: Gumbo is more than just a recipe: and personal expression. So, whether you're stirring a pot in your kitchen or a local restaurant,



1. White Roux - This roux is cooked just long enough to remove the raw flour taste, staying pale and smooth. It's often used for creamy dishes like

2. Blonde Roux - A light golden color develops as the flour and fat cook together a bit longer. Perfect for macaroni and cheese or lighter gravies, this roux adds a subtle richness.

3. Peanut Butter Roux - Named for its color, this roux begins to develop deeper, nutty flavors. It works beautifully in light stews and some versions

4. Light Brown Roux - You'll notice a caramel hue and an enhanced nuttiness at this stage. This roux is ideal for crawfish étouffée and other Cajun

5. Medium Brown Roux - The roux is now a deep copper color with richer flavors. Use it in hearty stews or a sauce piquante for that distinct Cajun

6. Dark Brown Roux - One of the most popular stages for gumbo, this roux offers a bold flavor with a smooth texture. Be patient! This one takes

7. Chocolate Roux - As the roux darkens to the color of chocolate, the flavors become even bolder. This stage works best in gumbo and gra-

8. Black Roux - This roux is almost black, teetering on the edge of being burned. It's used for extra-rich, bold dishes like seafood gumbo but re-

9. Burned Roux - If your roux smells acrid and turns too dark, it's time to start over. Burned roux will make the whole dish bitter, so don't try to sal-



Fort Johnson hosts First in Fitness

Fort Johnson hosted the fourth annual First in Fitness competition Nov. 1 at Perez Field. Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, Fort Johnson commanding general, helped kick things off as students from schools across Vernon Parish gathered to compete in events that promote and encourage exercise and a healthy lifestyle. (U.S. Army Photos by Shelby Waryas)













Community members discuss AFAP issues

Delegates representing the Army Family Advocacy Program brief Fort Johnson's command team, Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl and Command Sgt. Maj. Oracio Peña, about actionable resolutions to consider towards improving social, environmental and economic trends affecting Soldiers and families resident to the installation during a working group hosted by Army Community Services at the Warrior Center, Oct. 31 at Fort Johnson, La. (U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)









A state of

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JRTC & Fort Johnson

INSTALLATION RESOURCES FOR SUCCESSFUL WASTE MANAGEMENT

HOUSING BULK ITEM S DISPOSAL MAP

🛧 BULK ITEMS DISPOSAL

6528 Holmlund Street For assistance call (337) 537-5021/5055 Operating hours are M-F 0800-1700 Installation military housing residents are authorized to dispose of bulk items into the roll off located at Corvias Warehouse. The site is marked "RESIDENTIAL WASTE ONLY."

QRP/ RECYCLING CENTER

Building numbers 3620 & 3622 located at the intersection of Georgia and Maine Avenues. For assistance call (337) 531-7556 M-F 0800-1600

8300 BLOCK - SOLID WASTE CONSOLIDATION POINT

For assistance call 337-535-1155 M-F 0800-1530

Providing Soldiers, families, civilians and contractors installation guidelines to dispose solid waste, restricted items, bulk items, hazardous materials and recyclables properly.

CORVIAS WAREHOUSE AND RECEIVING

For assistance call 337-535-1155 M-F 0800-1530



RESIDENTIAL WASTE UNLT.

CANTONEMENT DUMPSTERS

To request dumpster or recycle dumpster or to have one removed call (337-525-1155 0800-1530 M-F Dumpster lids and doors must remain closed (Louisiana regulations Title 33, Part VII, reference 507.D).

HAZARDOUS CONDITION?

A near miss is an event that could have caused a serious injury / illness, but didn't.

A hazardous condition is a condition that could cause an incident resulting in harm or damage.

Before reporting, if you can safely eliminate the hazard yourself, please do so. If you are not able to safely address the hazard, clearly mark the hazard to communicate it to others and report it.

Report near misses and hazards to your supervisor or Unit Safety Officer (USO), or use the DA Form 4755 to report directly to the Garrison Safety Office. You can provide your contact informa



As a team, our end goal is to correct safety issues, learn from reporting identified hazards, including near misses, and help change the safety culture throughout the Garrison.

Let's Protect ourselves and each other from Preventable Hazards!









WHAT IS ASOHMS AND WHY IS IT **IMPORTANT?**

ASOHMS sets performance-based criteria for a managed safety and health system to promote effective worksite-based safety and health. The four main cultural elements of ASOHMS are:

- Ownership Leadership and Employee Involvement
- - what we measure

<*......*

Service-based concepts and a Servant Leadership-based Culture are integral framework components in the Army Safety and Occupational Health Management System (ASOHMS). Organizational culture drives changes and improves working conditions, morale, and safety throughout the Garrison.



TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN

Six inches of moving water can knock you down

One foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away

You never know who you'll run into at Fort Johnson



especially during hours of limited visibility

Not all PT is conducted on designated PT routes. Slow down and use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather

 Organizational Structure Support Communication - Drives Change Information Systems – Manage

WHAT'S



- Establishing clear lines of communication
- · Creating an environment that allows for
- reasonable employee access to leaders
- · Setting the example of safe and healthful behavior · Ensuring all workers are provided high quality safety and health protection and clearly defining responsibilities in writing
- · Encouraging and enforcing "Near Miss" reporting



Employee Involvement and Responsibilities:

- Participate in safety and health problem identification and
- resolution. Participate in all aspects of SOH program. Notify supervisors of hazardous conditions and practices
- · Participate in committees, audits and investigations
- Demonstrate understanding of basic elements of ASOHMS
- Take immediate corrective action upon identification of a hazardous condition or act that could result in personal injury and / or damage to equipment
- Stop any operation or process that would immediately endanger life, health, or property

CULTURE IS THE KEY

- PROMOTESAFETY AS A COREVALUE IN EVERYDAY WORK AS COMPARED TO A PRIORITY
- ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK
- RATHER THAN A "TO DO LIST"



Leaders work with employees through a process called "Plan-Do-Check" This process enables improvementdevelop, implement & continuously improve our systems and processes.





ASOHMS Capability Objectives

Leadership Engagement/Employee Participation

Investigate & Report Mishaps

Safety and Occupational Health **Training & Promotion**

Inspections & Assessments

Hazard Analysis & Countermeasures

Health Protection& Readiness

🕏 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat, Report) **Explosives Safety Education Program**

All individuals who discover abandoned, unattended or discarded ammunition and explosives, potential unexploded ordnance or a potential explosive hazard should use the Army's 3R process:

1 - **RECOGNIZE:** When you may have encountered a munition or potential unexploded ordnance and recognize it is dangerous

2 - RETREAT: Do not touch, move or disturb the munition or unexploded ordnance. Carefully leave the area, informing other personnel in the area of the situation and evacuating the area

3 - REPORT: Report any and all ammunition, explosives and suspected unexploded ordnances immediately to the Directorate of Emergency



Services by dialing 531- COPS (2677) or 911. Report as much information as you can like location, description (size/color)

Contact the Garrison Safety Office at 531-SAFE (7233) for more information



SEMI-ANNUAL Joint Readiness Training Center & Fort Johnson **QUALITY OF LIFE CONFERENCE**



Education • Housing • Child Care • Health Care • Army Spouse Employment • MWR - Recreation

Care for Our People
Build Readiness
Cucceed in our JRTC and Fort Johnson Campaigns **Commanding General's Priorities**

DEC. 9 FROM 10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<u>Welcome – 10-10:05 a.m.</u>

QoL Progress Overview / Recap Last Conference - 10:05-10:10 a.m.

<u>Spouse Employment – 10:10-11:00 a.m.</u>				
Brief 10:10-10:20 a.m.	Feedback 10:20-10:40 a.m.	Review / Present 10:40-11:00 a.m.		
<u>Healthcare – 11:00-11:50 a.m.</u>				
Brief 11:00-11:10 a.m.	Feedback 11:10-11:30 a.m.	Review / Present 11:30-11:50 a.m.		
Lunch (1 hour) -11:50 a.m12:50 p.m.				
Support and Resilience – 12:50-1:40 p.m.				
Brief 12:50-1:00 p.m.	Feedback 1:00-1:20 p.m.	Review / Present 1:20-1:40 p.m.		
<u>Financial Readiness – 1:40-2:30 p.m.</u>				
Brief 1:40-1:50 p.m.	Feedback 1:50-2:10 p.m.	Review / Present 2:10-2:30 p.m.		
PCS Moves and Orders – 2:30-3:20 p.m.				
Brief 2:30-2:40 p.m.	Feedback 2:40-3:00 p.m.	Review / Present 3:00-3:20 p.m.		
Feedback/Closing Remarks – 3:20 - 3:30 p.m.				
This is an event for Soldiers, civilians, retirees and family members to participate in, and provide feedback or suggestions on the state of QoL on Fort Johnson.				

Seating is limited. RSVP via https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/b2aLekaeJF?origin=lprLin or email kayla.l.moore16.civ@army.mil NLT Nov. 25 Event location will be the Warrior Center!











DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2024

🧐 🙀 🐝

PLYWOOD HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST

Military Parents Can Help Their Children's School Increase Funding Through Impact Aid Survey

Directorate of Prevention. **Resilience and Readiness**

WASHINGTON. - Schools near military installations receive less local funding, and military parents can do something about it—and it takes less than five minutes!

Most public schools receive about 90% of their funding from state and can count, the more money they relocal governments. More than 80% of the local funding schools receive comes from local property taxes. Schools in communities with tribal or federal land, like a military installation, receive less local funding because property owned by the federal government is tax-exempt. These schools simultaneously see an increase in enrollment of federal and military-connected students, further funds. straining resources.

In 1950, Congress created the Impact Aid Program, which provides annual grants to help recoup some of the tax revenue lost and to support schools with Federal or military-connected children. Every year in late October or early November, schools send out the Federal Impact Aid Survey, which military-connected Families must complete and return to their children's school.

The Impact Aid Survey allows the school to count the number of federal and military-connected students

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Take the Impact Aid Impact Aid Program Survey today!

who attend their school. This count is required to be able to apply for Impact Aid grants.

The school may send a hard copy of the survey home with students, Pre-K to Grade 12, or parents may be asked to fill out the survey online through the school's parent portal. The more military-connected students a school ceive from the U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid Program.

It only takes a few minutes, and all the information is confidentially processed by the school. Army Families PCS every day, so the count changes from year to year. It is mission critical for your child's school to have the highest count each year to increase their access to Impact Aid Program

Impact Aid is a critical source of funding for schools near military installations, especially those with a significant number of military-connected students.

The funding is deposited into the general fund and its use is unrestricted. This means your local schools can use the money on everything from academic programs, to supplies, to hiring teachers.

Help your military child get the best possible education, find your school's Federal Impact Aid Survey and fill it out today



Celebrating Retiree Apreciation Day







Fort Johnson hosted its annual Retiree Appreciation Day Nov. 2. Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, Fort Johnson commanding general, welcomed retirees and helped cut the cake at the opening ceremony held at In and Out Processing. Retirees went on to talk to vendors, renew IDs, get health information from BJACH and play golf. (U.S. Army Photos by Angie Thorne)

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