

GUARDIAN

JOINT READINESS
TRAINING CENTER
FORT JOHNSON



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Maj. Gen. Gardner bids **farewell** to Fort Johnson

By **ANGIE THORNE**
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner relinquished command during a ceremony held at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson June 6.

The audience, filled with Fort Johnson leadership, state and local representatives, Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, friends and Family, looked on as the command and colors were passed to Post Command Sgt. Maj. David Hanson for safe keeping until Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl assumes command.

Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Smith, deputy commanding general, U.S. Forces Command, was the reviewing officer.

Smith said it was a pleasure to be here to honor this command team (the Gardners) who have led the national treasure that is JRTC and Fort Johnson.

“Thank you for being a wonderful Army Family,” he said.

Fort Johnson is about forging the warrior spirit.

“That’s exactly what happens in these pine forests, swamps and drop zones,” Smith said. “It is clear this warrior spirit matters in our formations. The most important thing we do when we aren’t at war is to train for war. There’s no better place to do this than JRTC and Fort Johnson.”

Smith said it takes a special type of leader to guide this organization.

“The last two years that leader has been Dave Gardner. As the Army updated all of our doctrines, he and his team started the process of cementing them into our formations. You have to build those skills in our Soldiers. Dave has done that in spades,” Smith said.

Smith said in addition to training, as senior commander, Gardner, along with his Garrison command team and local, state and federal leaders, had to ensure this very complex and dynamic premier training platform was the right place to



From left: Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner, outgoing commanding general of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, engages in a handshake with Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Smith, U.S. Forces Command deputy commanding general, during his relinquishment of command ceremony June 6 at Warrior Field. (U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)

train, raise a Family, deploy from and come home to.

“He didn’t do it by himself. He did all this with teamwork and in harmony with the many other organizations you see here today. That’s just the special type of leader he is,” Smith said.

As Gardner relinquished command of JRTC and Fort Johnson, he reflected on his time here and gave credit to Fort Johnson’s leadership, Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians for the many successes and responses to challenges during his time at Fort Johnson.

“I am filled with immense gratitude to have been a part of something so special in our Army. This is a place where excellence is not just an aspiration, but a daily reality,” Gardner said. “JRTC is a great place to train, live and deploy from because of the exceptional Soldiers, civilians and Families who live and work here.”

JRTC and Fort Johnson is a premier combat training center focused on preparing America’s Soldiers for the complexities of modern warfare.

In Gardner’s time here, training

has pushed 10 to 11 rotations a year with brigade combat teams, special forces groups, rangers, functional brigades and battalions and division headquarters in the training audience.

“You have led them through force on force, live fires and constructive wraps under the 21st Airborne Division here or from their home station,” Gardner said. “You’ve helped stand up the Joint Pacific Training Center by forming a teammate relationship with the 196th Infantry Brigade during rotations in Alaska and Hawaii. You’ve pushed the rotational units with realistic employment of electronic warfare, information operations, unmanned system and artificial intelligence, but you didn’t hold on to your



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JRTC and Fort Johnson Col. Mark Andres

Acting Commanding Officer

Col. CJ Lopez

Garrison Commander

Keith Houin

Acting Director of Public Affairs

Public Affairs Staff

Angie Thorne

Command Information

Jeff England

Public Affairs

Chuck Cannon

Community Relations

Porsha Auzenne

Public Affairs

Gabe Walker

Operations

Antoine Aaron

Public Affairs

Karen Sampson

Public Affairs

Shawna Macias

Public Affairs Intern

Editorial Offices

Building 4919, Magnolia Street

Fort Johnson, LA 71459-5060

Voice 337-531-4033

Fax 337-531-1401

Fort Johnson Homepage

home.army.mil/johnson/

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The Guardian can be found on the JRTC and Fort Johnson website at home.army.mil/johnson and the JRTC and Fort Johnson Facebook page at [@JRTCandFortJohnson/](https://www.facebook.com/JRTCandFortJohnson/). Guardian archives can also be found on the JRTC and Fort Johnson website.

Links to the Guardian are also included in all-users emails to government email users and by request to non-military units.

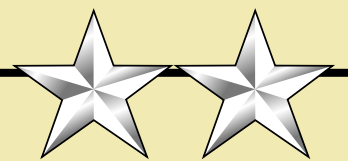
All editorial content of the Guardian is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson. For more information on Fort Johnson units and happenings visit the [@JRTCandFortJohnson](https://www.facebook.com/JRTCandFortJohnson/) Facebook page.



Cover photo: Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson outgoing commanding general, passes the colors to Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Smith during his relinquishment of command ceremony June 6 at Warrior Field. (U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)



Farewell



Continued from page 1

operations like they were trade secrets, rather you shared them broadly with the Army in a large scale combat operations symposium and every day in every rotation, giving more than 1,000 Army junior leaders an opportunity to learn. You helped units come here and beat us at our own game so they would be better prepared to defeat our enemies. I am proud of you all."

Beyond the training, Fort Johnson has made strides in the installation's quality of life for Soldiers and Families.

Ribbons were cut on four refurbished barracks, the North Fort Fire Station, Play Town & Café, Toledo Bend renovations and more,

not to mention breaking ground on the largest consolidated child development center in the Army and the new Joint Operations Center.

"In the last two years, you have planned, executed and overseen \$220 million of construction projects, readied us to withstand Louisiana storms and worked with local first responders and the National Guard to protect our communities and prevent the loss of a single life during wildfires. You did an excellent job."

Gardner said it was sad day for him and his Family as they said farewell.

"It has been an honor and privilege to be Warrior 6."



Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner passes the colors to Smith. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Smith addresses the audience during his speech. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



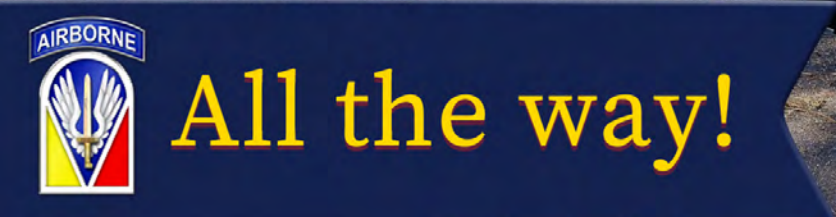
Thirteen cannons are fired during the honors portion of the ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Chuck Cannon)



Eeve Gardner, left, spouse of Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner, receives a bouquet of flowers from Sgt. Kyla Byrd. (U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)



Thank You and Farewell to Maj. Gen. David W. Gardner





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!**

PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS

SFC GUESS JR. POOL

SCHEDULING:
Lessons must be scheduled in advance! TUESDAY - FRIDAY
Participants must be 3 years or older.
All students must be potty trained!

\$15/30 min

Contact (337)531-1988 for more information!

INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE

JUNE 22, 2024
ALLIGATOR LAKE | 10 AM

Adults: \$15 | Children (7-11): \$10

Participants must be 7 years or older!

DISCLAIMER: YOU MAY GET WET!

Payment/registration can be taken day of event, online, or at Wheelock Fitness Center

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!

Register on-site, or call (337)353-0528 during hours of operation.

LOOKING FOR A JOB? NEED HELP TO PREPARE? WE GOT THE RESOURCES FOR YOU!

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Proven Solutions for Successful Army Living

HIRING EVENT

AND PREPARATION WORKSHOPS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 337-531-6922**

**Preparing for a Hiring Event Workshop
10am - 12pm
JUNE 20, 2024**

**Hiring Event
10am - 1pm
June 25, 2024**

PLAY TOWN & CAFE

Block Party

June 27, 2024 11 am - 3 pm

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

\$3



19th Annual BEAUREGARD Watermelon Festival
BEAUREGARD PARISH FAIRGROUNDS
DERIDDER, LA
WWW.BEAUREGARDWATERMELONFESTIVAL.COM

**SATURDAY
JUNE 29, 2024
@ 8:00 PM**
GENERAL ADMISSION ONLY
NO RESERVED SEATING

Laine Hardy

**A BOLD, NEW
Experience for
JULY 4TH!**

**Avoyelles
Arts & Music
Festival**

**July 4 @ Paragon Casino
10 a.m.-8 p.m.**

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.

**RED RIVER
BALLOON RALLY**

JULY 12-13
LOUISIANA DOWNS | BOSSIER CITY

**MOVIES
WITH THE
Mayor**

Rosa Hart Theatre
Lake Charles Event Center

Free Admission
Doors Open 4:30 • Show Begins 5:00

Saturday, July 6 THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE

Saturday, July 20 TOY STORY 4

Saturday, August 10 PIXAR SHORTS

Below the movie listings are three movie posters: 'The Great Mouse Detective', 'Toy Story 4', and 'Pixar Short Films'.

249TH BIRTHDAY

Honoring our past, defending our future: 249th U.S. Army birthday

By KAREN SAMPSON
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The Fort Johnson community gathered at the Bayou Theater to celebrate the U.S. Army’s 249th birthday and observe Army Heritage Month June 14.

Guests honored the oldest and largest service branch in the U.S. military and recognized the contributions of past and present members who pledged to serve.

The U.S. Army was established on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress established the Continental Army to unite the 13 colonies in their fight for independence from Great Britain.

“The U.S. Army guaranteed we would have one country,” said Col. Mark Andres, acting commanding officer of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson.

“The Army’s Birthday isn’t just a date; it is the thing that has tied us together as Americans from the very beginning,” Andres said. “We owe a debt of gratitude to those early patriots who, through their bravery and unity, forged a path of independence. Their legacy is our inheritance, courage and inspiration.”

Throughout its history, Andres said the Army has been a steadfast guardian of America’s values and way of life.

“Our Soldiers embody the very best of America,” Andres said. “They are resilient, resourceful and relentless in pursuit of their mission.”

Andres asked for a volunteer from the audi-



From left: Col. Michael Jeffries, garrison chaplain, retired Lt. Col. Mark Leslie, Pvt. Noah Wright, Post Command Sgt. Maj. David P. Hanson and Col. Mark Andres, acting commanding officer of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, celebrate the U.S. Army’s 249th Birthday June 14 with a cake cutting at the Bayou Theater. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)

ence to share what the Army’s birthday meant to them. Pvt. Brianna Randell, a military police officer from the 519th Military Police Battalion, stood to give her answer.

“When I think about the Army birthday, I think about my own transition from civilian to Soldier and how hard that was,” Randell said.

She commented on the support she received from fellow Soldiers who recently graduated with her from Army Basic Training and her

military police qualification course at Fort Leonard Wood.

“I am given an Army family; I didn’t know I would get brothers and sisters,” she said. “I also think of walking in the footsteps of those who came before me.”

Army Heritage Month, established in 2019 by former Army Secretary Mark T. Esper as part of the Military Equal Opportunity Program, celebrates diversity as a strength and a key component of the Army’s cohesion and success.

According to Esper’s directive, the month’s purpose is to promote Army values, foster a culture of equity, recognize diversity within the Army and more.

“The United States Army is one of the most respected institutions in the country,” said Mark Leslie, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security director.

“Be proud of being a Soldier and represent this institution well,” Leslie said. “Every time you walk out that gate you are an ambassador for the Army.”

Leslie asked the rhetorical question, “What makes the Army so great?”

“When you join the Army, it doesn’t matter what race, gender, ethnicity, religion, background, socioeconomic class you come from, or how much money your family has,” Leslie said. “You know what matters and your team knows what matters. Combat is the greatest

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Birthday

Continued from page 6

equalizer in the world. Competence, commitment and character are the traits that make your reputation in this Army.”

Competence in your craft, commitment to your team and character in your deed and word are your most valuable assets, he added.

Leslie said the Army holds its people dear and puts them first.

“Our Army has an amazing future ahead of it,” Leslie said. “I served in uniform for thirty years. I went from a 17-year-old private to a lieutenant colonel and loved every minute of it. I can’t say the old adage ‘every formation a parade, every meal a feast and every payday a fortune’ is exactly true — I can say with full confidence that I worked with the best people from all walks of life, from all over the nation and forged lifelong friendships — and you will as well.”



JRTC and Fort Johnson’s 249th Army Birthday cake. Sitting beside it are ceremonial cutting sabers. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



Col. Mark Andres, acting commanding officer, discusses the significance of the 249th Army Birthday and Heritage Month to the audience. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



Retired Lt. Col. Mark Leslie, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security director, speaks at an observance for Army Heritage Month and celebrating the 249th Army Birthday. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



Pvt. Brianna Randell, 519th Military Police Battalion, tells what the U.S. Army’s birthday means to her. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



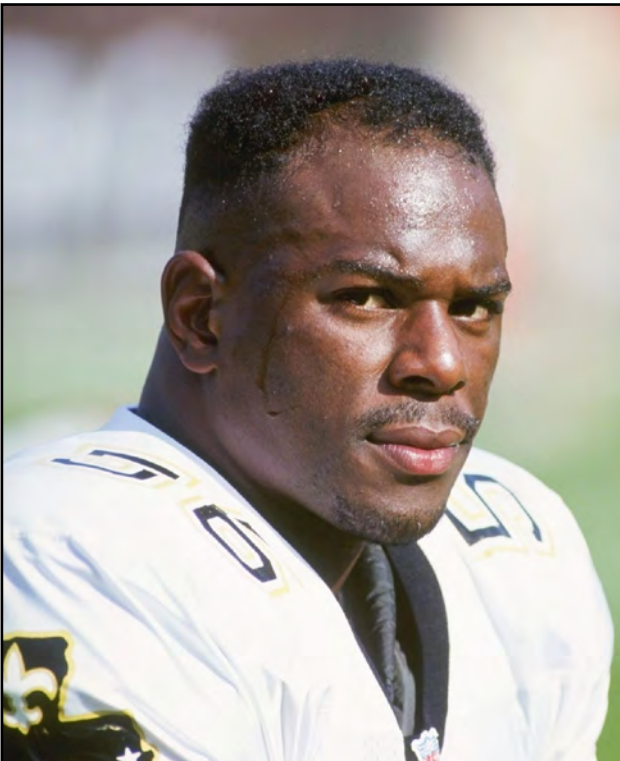
Retention team awarded

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Tiffony Nealond and the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson retention team. Neoland was recognized as the installation's retention noncommissioned officer, while the entire retention team was awarded the U.S. Forces Command Guardian of Freedom Retention Award for the fiscal year of 2023. The award was given for achieving the highest cumulative retention rate in all assigned mission categories in category 4. The retention team also received the Guardian of Freedom Reserve Component Transition Award for demonstrated excellence in the management of a reserve component program and being the top direct reporting unit overall for the fiscal year by achieving 108%. (U.S. Army photos by 1st Lt. Ianthe V. Cho)



Pat Swilling meet and greet

New Orleans Saints Hall of Famer Pat Swilling visited Fort Johnson June 13, where he held a meet and greet at the main Class Six. Swilling, who made five Pro Bowl appearances during his career and was named the National Football League Defensive Player of the Year in 1992, signed autographs and held conversations with members of the community.



OTTO GREULE/GETTY IMAGES



PORSHA AUZENNE/GUARDIAN



PORSHA AUZENNE/GUARDIAN



PORSHA AUZENNE/GUARDIAN

Maks Army Airfield chief **recognized** for positivity, leadership

By **PORSHA AUZENNE**
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Cody Bratton, Air Traffic Control Maintenance chief at Maks Army Airfield, was awarded the Stalwart Award June 4.

Stalwart Award winners for the 2023 fiscal year were recognized during the U.S. Army Installation Management Command’s annual Garrison Command Team Conference in San Antonio.

According to IMCOM, the Stalwart Award is given to Soldiers and civilians who distinguish themselves among their supervisors and peers by going above and beyond expectations, professionalism and unwavering dedication by providing the utmost customer service to Soldiers, Families, civilians and their community.

Bratton, and his team, are responsible for planned preventative maintenance and continuous operation of radar, communications, automation and navigation in support of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson’s air traffic control.

“Our primary business is flight safety,” said Bratton, “not only for our warfighters and military partners, but also for the commercial and general aviation traffic that utilize our delegated sector of the National Airspace System.”

Due to his leadership and technical ingenuity in building a close-knit, responsive team at the airfield, Bratton was honored by IMCOM as one of the 2023 Stalwart Award winners.

He and his team have significantly increased Maks Army Airfield’s sustainability and capability.

“Like many teams, ours routinely faces a multitude of challenges that affect both day-to-day operations and long-term mission goals,” Bratton said, adding how he strives to take a



From left: Lt. Gen. Omar Jones, commanding general of U.S. Army Installation Management Command, presents the Stalwart Award to Maks Army Airfield supervisory electronics technician Cody Bratton. Bratton was awarded for exceptional professionalism June 4 at the Garrison Command Team Conference in San Antonio. (U.S. Army photo courtesy U.S. Army Installation Management Command)

proactive stance, mitigating obstacles within his reach and empowering his team members as independent decision makers.

“This strategy has increased the overall capability and resilience of Maks Army Airfield. It is difficult to not feel a little bit of imposter syndrome, especially when I consider previous awardees from Fort Johnson that I greatly admire including Nathan Jernigan, Betty Beinkemper, and John Fuselier. I hope to continue



to make this awesome garrison team proud,” he said.

Bratton was also recognized for his unique approach to problem solving and positive energy, which have enabled the installation to continuously improve the quality of service to its customers.

When Bratton found out he’d be receiving the award, he said it was incredibly humbling and rewarding to be honored as an IMCOM Stalwart.

“This recognition is a testament to the great work and dedication of not just myself, but also my entire team of air traffic control electronics technicians and supply professionals,” he said.

“Of course, our mission would not be successful if it were not for the excellent support from IMCOM, the leadership of the garrison command team, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and Maks Army Airfield.”

When asked how he would use being a Stalwart Award winner to influence others and how it would impact his career, Bratton said he believes the honor provides a platform to inspire and motivate others. It has also afforded him an opportunity to network with other professionals.

Additionally, Bratton says, he and his fellow Stalwart awardees are working with IMCOM leadership to advise, as well as develop solutions to a variety of challenges faced across the enterprise.



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 trailer	UNK
2001	Ford	F150	0450
2000	Ford	Ranger	3852
2006	Nissan	350Z	4586

SUN SAFETY SUMMER SKIN PROTECTION



Event Location: Main Exchange Mall

Monday - Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Summer Vendor Market will be held the 2nd and 3rd weeks of June, July, and August.

Summer

Vendor Market



EXCHANGE

Calling all local Vendors, Makers, and Artists for the opportunity to set-up a kiosk at Fort Johnson's indoor mall during peak hours.

\$5 flat fee per day.

For set-up information:
Jessica Goodman
337-537-1792 ext 222
goodmanjd@aafes.com

Fort Johnson 2024 Hurricane Preparedness

DIRECTORATE OF PLANS, TRAINING,
MOBILIZATION AND SECURITY

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30. As Fort Johnson continues to take precautions to keep Soldiers, civilians and Family members safe, it is important to prepare for severe weather incidents, natural disasters and other unforeseen emergencies.

Are you ready?

Take action today to be better prepared for when the worst happens. Understand your risk from hurricanes and begin preseason preparations now. Make sure you understand how to interpret forecasts and alerts, and know what to do before, during and after a storm. If you live in hurricane-prone areas, you are encouraged to complete these simple preparations for hurricane season.

The 2024 hurricane season is expected to have above-normal activity due to a confluence of factors, including near-record warm ocean temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, development of La Nina conditions in the Pacific, reduced Atlantic trade winds and less wind shear, all of which favors tropical storm formations. The 2024 season forecasts a range of 17 to 25 named storms. Of those, eight to 13 are forecast to become hurricanes, including four to seven major hurricanes with maximum sustained winds of 111 miles per hour or greater.

Know your risk: wind & water

The first step of preparing for hurricanes is to know your risk. Find out today what types of water and wind hazards could happen where you live. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Impacts from wind and wa-

ter can be felt hundreds of miles inland and significant impacts can occur regardless of the storm's strength.

Know if you live in an area prone to flooding or if you live in an evacuation zone and identify any structural weaknesses in your home.

Prepare for hurricane season

Avoid having to rush through potentially life-saving preparations by waiting until it's too late. Get your disaster supplies while the shelves are still stocked, and get an insurance checkup early, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.

Understand forecast information

Prepare for hurricane season by knowing how to understand forecasts. They can tell you a lot about what is expected, including the storm's paths, rainfall amounts, wind speeds and more.

There is a lot of information available days ahead of a storm and it is important to understand what it means.

Get moving when a storm threatens

Do you know what to do when a storm threatens? Prepare for hurricane season by taking the time now to understand the actions needed when time is of the essence.

Stay protected during storms

Be prepared for hurricane season by knowing what to do during a storm. Whether you've evacuated or are sheltering in place, know what to expect from the hazards you may face. Remain vigilant, stay up to date with the latest forecasts and alerts and continue to listen to local officials.

Use caution after storms

A key part of hurricane preparedness is un-

2024 ATLANTIC HURRICANES


Alberto	Isaac	Rafael
Beryl	Joyce	Sara
Chris	Kirk	Tony
Debby	Leslie	Valerie
Ernesto	Milton	William
Francine	Nadine	
Gordon	Oscar	
Helene	Patty	

derstanding the dangers that remain well after a storm. This is not the time to put your guard down. Nearly half of hurricane fatalities occur after the storm.

Take action today

Are you ready for hurricane season? Take action today to be better prepared for when the worst happens. Understand your risk from hurricanes and begin pre-season preparations now. Make sure you understand how to interpret forecasts and alerts, and know what to do before, during and after a storm. Even if you feel ready, there may be additional things you could do or learn.



For more information, contact Tommy J. Morris at 337-531-4875 or email tommy.j.morris2.civ@army.mil.



TORNADO

SAFETY TIPS

TIP #4



In vehicles or outdoors: when tornadoes are possible, limit your outdoor plans or finish them early. Stay close to a sturdy shelter. If caught outside, find shelter in a ditch or remain in your vehicle and cover your head for protection. Do not take shelter under a highway overpass, where wind speeds can increase due to a tunneling effect. It is best to not put yourself or others in a situation where no sturdy shelter is available.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Is your kit ready?

EXTRA CASH



FLASHLIGHT



RADIO

Battery-powered or hand-crank



BATTERIES



WATER

One gallon per person, per day



CELL PHONE WITH CHARGER

FIRST AID KIT

Necessary medicine



PET SUPPLIES

Food, leash, collar, bowl, etc.



FOOD

Non-perishable, easy to prepare

WATER: ONE GALLON PER PERSON, PER DAY (3-DAY SUPPLY FOR EVACUATION, 2-WEEK SUPPLY FOR HOME).

FOOD: NON-PERISHABLE, EASY-TO-PREPARE ITEMS (3-DAY SUPPLY FOR EVACUATION, 2-WEEK SUPPLY FOR HOME).

FLASHLIGHT.

BATTERY-POWERED OR HAND-CRANK RADIO (NOAA WEATHER RADIO, IF POSSIBLE).

EXTRA BATTERIES.

FIRST AID KIT.

MEDICATIONS (7-DAY SUPPLY) AND MEDICAL ITEMS.

MULTI-PURPOSE TOOL, LIKE A SWISS ARMY KNIFE.

SANITATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS.

COPIES OF PERSONAL DOCUMENTS (MEDICATION LIST AND PERTINENT MEDICAL INFORMATION, PROOF OF ADDRESS, DEED/LEASE TO HOME, PASSPORTS, BIRTH CERTIFICATES, INSURANCE POLICIES).

CELL PHONE WITH CHARGER.

FAMILY AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION.

EXTRA CASH (ATMS MIGHT BE INOPERABLE).

EXTRA FUEL FOR GENERATOR AND CAR.

DEPENDING ON YOUR FAMILY'S REQUIREMENTS, YOU MAY NEED TO INCLUDE: MEDICAL-CARE ITEMS, BABY SUPPLIES, PET SUPPLIES AND OTHER THINGS, SUCH AS EXTRA CAR AND HOUSE KEYS.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES MIGHT INCLUDE TOWELS, PLASTIC SHEETING, DUCT TAPE, SCISSORS AND WORK GLOVES.

Celebrating America's **freedom** with origins of Flag Day

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

“That the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white in a blue field, representing the new constellation.”

This was the resolution adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The resolution was made following the report of a special committee which had been assigned to suggest the flag’s design. A flag of this design was first carried into battle on Sept. 11, 1777, in the Battle of the Brandywine.

The American flag was first saluted by foreign naval vessels on Feb. 14, 1778, when the Ranger, bearing the Stars and Stripes and under the command of Captain Paul Jones, arrived in a French port. The flag first flew over a foreign territory in early 1778 at Nassau, Bahama Islands, where Americans captured a British fort.

Observance of the adoption of the flag was not soon in coming, however. Although there are many claims to the first official observance of Flag Day, all but one took place more than an entire century after the flag’s adoption in 1777. The first claim was from a Hartford, Conn., celebration during the summer of 1861.

In the late 1800s, schools all over the United States held Flag Day programs to contribute to the Americanization of immigrant children, and the observance caught on with individual communities.

The most recognized claim, however, comes from New York. On June 14, 1889, Professor George Bolch, principal of a free kindergarten for the poor of New York City, had his school hold patriotic ceremonies to observe the anniversary of the Flag Day resolution. This initia-



tive attracted attention from the State Department of Education, which arranged to have the day observed in all public schools thereafter.

Soon the state legislature passed a law making it the responsibility of the state superintendent of public schools to ensure that schools held observances for Lincoln’s Birthday, Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day and Flag Day. In 1897, the governor of

New York ordered the displaying of the flag over all public buildings in the state, an observance considered by some to be the first official recognition of the anniversary of the adoption of the flag outside of schools.

Another claim comes from Philadelphia. In 1893, the Society of Colonial Dames succeeded in getting a resolution passed to have the flag displayed on all of the city’s public buildings. Elizabeth Duane Gillespie, a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin and the president of the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania, that same year tried to get the city to call June 14 Flag Day.

Resolutions by women were not granted much notice, however, and it was not until May 7, 1937, that Pennsylvania became the first state to establish the June 14 Flag Day as a legal holiday. Flag Day is a nationwide observance today, but Pennsylvania is the only state that recognizes it as a legal holiday.

Bernard J. Cigrand, a school teacher in Waubeka, Wisconsin, reportedly spent years trying to get Congress to declare June 14 as a national holiday. Although his attempts failed, the day was widely observed.

“Father of Flag Day” honors have been given to William T. Kerr, who was credited with founding the American Flag Day Association in 1888 while still a schoolboy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Both President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations asking for June 14 to be observed as the National Flag Day. But it wasn’t until Aug. 3, 1949, that Congress approved the national observance, and President Harry Truman signed it into law.



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U.S. Flag Drop Box Map



Medical Service Corps officers prepare for anniversary celebration

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES
BJACH Public Affairs

FORT JOHNSON, La. —Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital hosts its 107th anniversary celebration of the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps with a kickoff event establishing the Fort Johnson Chapter of the Silver Caduceus Society June 28 in the hospital’s dining facility.

According to their website, Silver Caduceus Societies are informal organizations established for medical service corps officers to conduct professional and personal development along with serving as an information forum for MSC officers on the advancements in technical, administrative and scientific arenas.

Coordinating the event is 2nd Lt. Isella Wallace, chief of patient administration for BJACH. She is also initiating the establishment of the Fort Johnson chapter for MSC officers at BJACH, 32nd Hospital Center, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment and JRTC Operations Group as an environment for mentorship, networking opportunities and social interaction across the installation.

Wallace said the event and new chapter are open to MSC officers from every unit at Fort Johnson.

“The Silver Caduceus Society focuses on mentorship and leader development,” she said. “Like many new Soldiers, when I moved to Fort Johnson, I didn’t know very many people, let alone any MSC officers. I learned about the group from my company commander. She told me about the organization and has been helping me get the ball rolling on developing a chapter at Fort Johnson for professional development, mentorship, leadership development and networking opportunities.”

Wallace hopes the attendance is high at the MSC anniversary celebration and that the new chapter is well received.



Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital will host the 107th anniversary celebration of the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps with a kickoff event establishing the Fort Johnson Chapter of the Silver Caduceus Society at 2 p.m., June 28 in the hospital dining facility at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

“As MSC officers, we’re able to fill many positions in a wide scope of units, but often don’t get a chance to interact,” she said. “This can be a space where we can discuss challenges we’re facing in our positions and work together to tackle them through different perspectives, experiences and expertise. I hope it can also serve as a space for us to find mentorship and support.”

The June 28 event will include a keynote address, historical video presentation about the medical service corps, team building activities and ceremonial cake cutting.

“Moving forward, we’re open to ideas for monthly activities,” Wallace said. “Some suggestions include bowling, golf scrambles, volunteer and community outreach, sports tournaments, professional development classes and game nights.”

Maj. Gilberto Rodriguez, the chief of operations for Army South and the director of active duty and Silver Caduceus Society liaison for the Silver Caduceus Association board, said he commends Wallace for her efforts.

“Her initiative should inspire other leaders to follow suit and recognize that her actions call for leadership and mentorship within the MSC community,” Rodriguez said. “She identified a need and is taking the initiative to add value to the MSC community, the U.S. Army Medical Department and the Army.”

Rodriguez said the key to a successful chapter is senior leader support.

“Buy-in from local senior leaders, active participation and support from senior MSC leaders and MSC commanders on the installation will ensure a successful chapter,” he said. “Senior leaders must set the tone, prioritize the initiative in the calendar, allocate resources and encourage MSC involvement to ensure success.”

Retired Col. Kim Aiello, pres-

ident of the SCA board of directors, said a chapter at Fort Johnson will enhance the professional development and careers of MSC officers who participate.

“The added value of participating in the SCS chapter of Fort Johnson is pulling together the medical service community,” she said. “It connects those locally who chose to serve in our AMEDD as medical service corps officers.”

Aiello said big credit goes to Wallace in the establishment of the Fort Johnson chapter and offered her assistance and support.

“Joining a professional organization such as the Silver Caduceus offers numerous opportunities for both professional and personal growth. For example, we have just shy of 1,000 members who make up all the tenants of our MSC, from operators, logisticians, pharmacists, optometrists, hospital administrators, comptrollers, aviators and personnel specialists among others,” Aiello said. “This includes our junior officers to our most senior officers who are still serving and those who have either retired or left military service.”

Aiello said joining a professional organization is not just about receiving, but also about serving and giving back.

“Participation in the local SCS chapter expands your social circle, especially for those who are in low density medical service fields or in remote locations like Fort Johnson,” she said. “The ability to link in with those who serve in the same field by just reaching out to one group is the perfect way to connect with fellow medical service officers who will have the same personal and professional interests.”

Maj. John Broussard, deputy commander for administration at BJACH, encourages all MSC officers to join his team on June 28.

“We are looking forward to celebrating the 107th anniversary of our corps and building a strong community across the installation for all medical service officers,” he said. “This event will be a great start to developing lines of communication, professional networking and collaboration across Fort Johnson thanks to the hard work of 2nd Lt. Wallace.”

Fort Johnson Silver Caduceus Society
Medical Service Corps
107th Anniversary

JOIN US

28 JUNE 2024 | 2-4 PM
BJACH DFAC

Celebrate 107 years with colleagues and friends. Learn more about the history of the corps, enjoy a keynote address, team-building activities, and a ceremonial cake cutting!



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**FOLLOW THE SIMPSON COMMUNITY EVENTS
COMMITTEE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR FESTIVAL UPDATES**

Summer Reading Program brings environmental awareness

By KAREN SAMPSON
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The Allen Memorial Library launched its annual Summer Reading Program June 5.

The Summer Reading Program promotes the development of good habits, including protecting the environment.

The theme for this year’s program is “Read, Renew, Repeat,” which is dedicated to educating participants about animals and protecting the environment,” said Bryn Hudson, library technician at Allen Memorial Library.

Joining the many avid readers at the event was a distinguished guest, Smokey Bear, who is celebrating his 80th birthday this year. Smokey shared his valuable insights about forest fire prevention as a posse of park rangers from the Kisatchie National Forest educated the audience on the wildlife, flora and fauna indigenous to the area.

Participants explored displays of foliage samples and touched animal bones and pelts as a ranger brought awareness of Kisatchie National Forest’s many inhabitants and their delicate habitats.

The Summer Reading Program welcomes readers of all ages and reading levels. Readers are encouraged to set a weekly reading goal of 300 minutes, which equals five hours. The registration process is flexible; people can sign up anytime during the six-week program.

Readers can track their progress using Beanstack — an app that can be downloaded to their phones. When they reach their goal, participants are rewarded with a weekly prize. At the end of the challenge, those who have logged in at least 1,800 minutes, which equals 30 hours, are recognized with a certificate of completion and can win bonus prizes in a raffle.

Hudson said the Summer Reading Program does not have a required book list.

“We want people to find something they are excited about reading,” Hudson said. “We want participants to read about their interests.”

Participants can peruse through picture books and read graphic novels, comics, or level-reader books and listen to audiobooks.

“Participants can listen to their siblings or friends read out loud,” Hudson said. “This is popular among teens and adults because it counts for the listener and the reader.”

All the awards and gifts are displayed in a display case in the library’s reception. However, some of the Summer Reading Program’s most valuable benefits, like meeting friends and discovering a beloved book, are invisible but last for years.

The evening’s event drew a substantial crowd for the library and a record-breaking number of registered readers.

“About 200 participants have registered so far in the Summer Reading Program,” said



A Fort Johnson Family picked out free gifts and played games while attending the Allen Memorial Library Summer Reading Program kickoff June 5. (Courtesy Fort Johnson MWR)



Smokey Bear took pictures with the youngest members of the Fort Johnson community at the launch of the Allen Memorial Library Summer Reading Program June 5. (Courtesy Fort Johnson MWR)

Linda Bringan, library director at Allen Memorial Library. “It is the library’s most anticipated event of the year and we are off to an excellent start.”

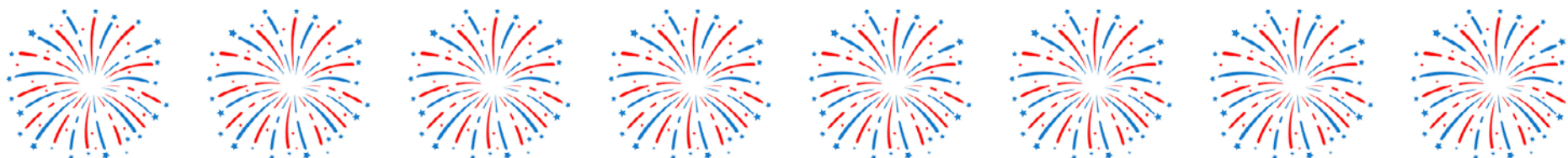
In addition to the Summer Reading Program, the library’s calendar is packed with other programs such as Books and Brews, Storytime and more, each event fostering a love of reading in fun and educational ways that enhance learning, exploring new topics and making summer a time of excitement and engagement for the community.



A representative from the Kisatchie National Forest attended the Summer Reading Program event and highlighted the theme of Read, Renew, Repeat. (Courtesy Fort Johnson MWR)



NEW LLANO FIREWORKS IN THE PARK



THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

BRING YOUR OWN FIREWORKS

6 P.M. – 9 P.M.

MAIN FIREWORKS SHOW STARTS

AT 9 P.M.

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NEW LLANO COMMUNITY PARK
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Garrison Commander's Golf Scramble

Fort Johnson golfers grabbed their clubs and headed the to the Warrior Hills Golf Course June 7 to take part in the Garrison Commander's Golf Scramble. The event takes place the first Friday of each month. (U.S. Army photos by Angie Thorne)



**FREE
EVENT**



Thursday
JULY 4

Lake Charles Event Center
and lakefront



LIVE HEADLINERS

Flamethrowers

7 pm • Arcade Amphitheater



OPENING ACT

Lake Charles Community Band

5:30 pm • Arcade Amphitheater

Scan for all events



**FIREWORKS
OVER THE LAKE**

9:15 PM

ALSO FREE
JULY 3 • 6 PM
U.S. Air Force
Band of the West
Concert





PCS yard sale
 Fort Johnson held a permanent change of station yard sale June 15 at the Warrior Center Parking Lot. Fourteen sellers set up shop with a variety of home goods to choose from. (U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)



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JULY 6, 2024

GATES OPEN AT 5 PM
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 Military Spouse Owned Businesses • Recreational Activities

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