

# GUARDIAN



HIGHLIGHTING TURKEY  
FRYING SAFTEY

PAGE 19

MILITARY WORKING  
DOG TRAINING

PAGE 7

VETERANS DAY  
CEREMONY

PAGE 5

SPOUSES CAN TAKE  
FORGING NEW LEADERS

PAGE 20



# CONTENTS

NOVEMBER 18

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>On Post Upcoming Events</b><br>Things to do right here on post                             | 03 |
| <b>Beyond the Gates</b><br>Events happening off post around the local community               | 04 |
| <b>Fort Johnson Veterans Day Ceremony</b><br>Celebrating veterans service                     | 05 |
| <b>Military Working Dog training</b><br>Putting them through their paces                      | 07 |
| <b>Personal tribute to veteran dad</b><br>Daughter highlights pride in her Navy dad           | 09 |
| <b>VFW Post 3106 Veterans Day Ceremony</b><br>Honoring their own                              | 13 |
| <b>Commanding general of Philippine army visits</b><br>Lt. Gen. Roy Galido tours Fort Johnson | 17 |
| <b>Fire Department conducts demonstration</b><br>Learning the don'ts of frying a turkey       | 19 |
| <b>Spouses can take Forging New Leaders</b><br>Start your application today                   | 20 |



## COVER PHOTO

*The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson command team, Brig. Gen. Jason Curl (front left), commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Oracio Pena (back left), post command sergeant major, with Cadet Jillian Huff (right), from Leesville High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, display a wreath in honor of the nation's veterans during a Veterans Day ceremony at 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment Headquarters, Fort Johnson, La., Nov. 7., (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)*

**Correction:** In the Nov. 4 Guardian magazine the AFAP acronym was misinterpreted. The AFAP acronym means Army Family Action Plan.



# 7

**Military Police Working Dog training**



# 19

**Fire Department turkey frying demonstration**



# 13

**VFW Post 3106 Veterans Day Ceremony**



## JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON

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

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Laurel Stone  
Director of Public Affairs  
Keith Houin  
Deputy Director of Public Affairs  
Angie Thorne  
Command Information  
Jeff England  
Public Affairs  
Chuck Cannon  
Community Relations  
Porsha Auzenne  
Public Affairs  
Gabe Walker  
Community Relations  
Antoine Aaron  
Public Affairs  
Karen Sampson  
Public Affairs

## 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/](http://home.army.mil/johnson/)

The Guardian is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Guardian are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Johnson. The Guardian can be found on the JRTC and Fort Johnson website at [home.army.mil/johnson](http://home.army.mil/johnson) and the JRTC and Fort Johnson Facebook page at @JRTCandFortJohnson/. Guardian archives can also be found on the JRTC and Fort Johnson website. Links to the Guardian are included in all-users emails to government email users and by request to non-military units. Editorial content of the Guardian is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson.

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





# ON POST

## Upcoming Events



### 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 ogle-all fantastic time!

This event is free and open to persons 18+.



### Turkey Bowl

*Nov. 26, 11 a.m. at Anvil Field*

It’s back! Get ready to gear up for Turkey Bowl 2024. Units will battle it out in the ultimate game of flag football to see who will be awarded the Commander’s Cup trophy. Come on down to Anvil Field and cheer our incredible teams on!



### BOSS Thanksgiving

*Nov. 28, 6-8 p.m. at Home of Heroes Recreation Center*

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers invites all single Soldiers to join them in a special Thanksgiving feast. If you aren’t able to return home for the holidays or have no one to celebrate with, BOSS is there to ensure our single Soldiers have a family right here at Fort Johnson.

\*This event is open to single Soldiers only.\*



### Snowflake Festival

*Dec. 6-7 at Main Post Exchange*

It’s the most winter-ful time of the year! Fort Johnson’s annual Snowflake Festival returns with exciting activities like ice skating, vendors selling Christmas goodies, music performed by our local school bands and Fort Johnson youth, and so much more. Of course, we couldn’t forget to invite the big man himself, so be prepared for a special visit from Santa and crew. The fun kicks off around 5 p.m.



OUTSIDE THE GATES

# OFF POST

## EVENTS



23  
Nov.

**Cookies with Santa**

NATCHITOCHES, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



23  
Nov.

**Plaid Tidings**

DERIDDER, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



30  
Nov.

**Light Up the Lake Christmas Celebration**

LAKE CHARLES, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



7  
Dec.

**Miracle on Washington Street**

DERIDDER, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



10  
Dec.

**Visit the CPKC Holiday Express**

LEESVILLE, LA.

[Click for more info](#)

NO ARMY OR FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED.



# Fort Johnson celebrates Veterans day

## Fort Johnson community attends Veterans Day ceremony

By Karen Sampson

Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. – Soldiers, families and civilians celebrated U.S. Military veterans at a Veterans Day ceremony held at 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment Headquarters, Nov. 7.

The Leesville High School Band and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps members participated in the event.

Brig. Gen. Jason Curl and Command Sgt. Maj. Oracio Pena, with the help of Cadet Lt. Col. Jillian Huff from the Leesville High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, placed and saluted a wreath in respect to all Veterans.

“On this day, our nation pauses to remember veterans and their willingness to do what others cannot or will not do,” said Mark S. Leslie, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security director at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson. “Our U.S. Military veterans make our nation a shining beacon of hope in the world.”

Leslie said the nation’s veterans have dedicated themselves to military service and continue to save lives on and off the battlefield.

“As we pay tribute, we’re standing on ground rich in history,” said Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, commanding general of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson. “Fort Johnson is a place where, for more than 80 years, generations of Soldiers trained, prepared, and strengthened themselves to answer the call of duty. We honor our veterans today, as Fort Johnson has been at the heart of shaping our nation’s defenders for nearly a century.”

Curl said Fort Johnson is more than just a training base. JRTC is a place where hard decisions are made as the military conducts real-world scenarios. As a result, dedication to service becomes ingrained and the courage to protect the nation is instilled.

“Millions of Soldiers walked this ground, learning how to be Soldiers and fight our nation’s wars,” Curl said. “From the battlefields of World War II and the jungles of Vietnam to the deserts of the Middle East and missions on modern frontlines, those who have trained at Fort Johnson stand ready and prepared to



*Brig. Gen. Jason Curl (front left), commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Oracio Pena (back left), post command sergeant major, walk toward a wreath held by Cadet Jillian Huff (right), Leesville High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. The wreath, in honor of the nation’s veterans, was part of the Veterans Day ceremony at 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment Headquarters, Fort Johnson, La., Nov. 7. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)*

serve in every corner of the globe, bringing honor and strength wherever they go.”

Curl emphasized honoring all who have donned military uniforms.

“Today, we honor all who have worn the uniform, especially those who trained at Fort Johnson,” Curl said. “After serving our country with courage and dedication, many veterans continue to contribute their expertise, wisdom and spirit of service at Fort Johnson.”

“These extraordinary men and women exemplify an unwavering commitment to our nation’s defense and the betterment of our military community,” he said. “Our veterans carry a legacy forged in the crucibles of conflict, tested in diverse terrains, and honed through countless challenges.”

“They have witnessed the transfor-

mation of Fort Johnson from its early days of basic wartime training to its current stature as a pinnacle of military preparation and excellence.”



*Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson commanding general, was the guest speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 7. (U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)*



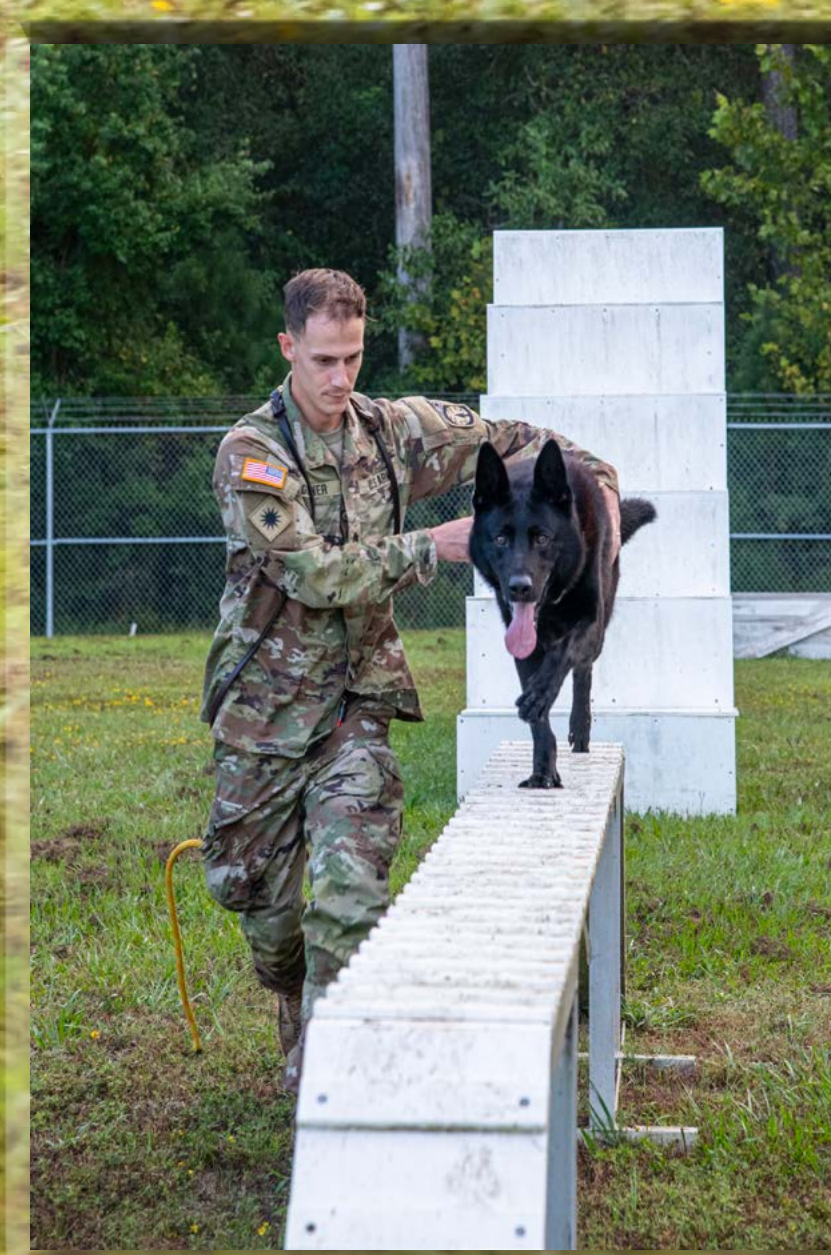
*Retired Army Lt. Col. Mark Leslie, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security director spoke at the Fort Johnson Veterans Day ceremony. (U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)*



# 50th MP MWD patrol, apprehension training



**AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE, THE 50TH MILITARY POLICE MILITARY WORKING DOGS AND HANDLERS EXERCISE PATROL AND APPREHENSION TECHNIQUES AT THE 50TH MP MWD TRAINING FACILITY AT FORT JOHNSON, LA.  
(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY KAREN SAMPSON)**







# Navy veteran daughter pays tribute to father, veterans

**By Porsha Auzenne**  
Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — To be a family member of someone who served, or is currently serving, is an honor. It's important to point to your service member — whether they are a spouse, parent, child or other family member — and let others know you are proud of their service. That's especially true for those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we can be free and live in peace today. There are no words to describe such an immense feeling.

As the daughter of a U.S. Navy veteran, I am grateful to share that honor with other families. My father, Troy Auzenne, served in the U.S. Navy for five years as a petty officer.

"I joined the military because I wanted to serve my country," he said. "At 17, I made the decision as soon as I got out of high school to enlist. Back then, I could've gone to college or gotten a job, but I felt like the military would give me traits in life that I could always use."

He explained what life was like during his time in service.

"After I completed eight weeks of basic training, I went to Advanced Individual Training in Orlando, Florida," he said. "During those six months, I learned to become a torpedo man. After graduation, I was assigned to the USS Emory S. Land in Norfolk, Virginia."



As a torpedomen, my father explained, he and his fellow sailors would load weapons on submarines.

"While on a submarine tender (a type of supply ship), we used a crane to pull up weapons magazines which we would either load onto the sub-

*(Above) My father holding baby me in 1992. (Left) My father during his time in the U.S. Navy.*

marines or take off and put into our storage compartment."

When asked about what Veterans Day means to him, my father said being a veteran means a lot, not only to him, but to all of his fellow brothers and sisters who served the nation.

"We were willing to serve and protect this country we love. That means a lot to me," he said. "When Veterans Day comes around, I love to congratulate people and tell them 'thank you for your service' from the bottom of my heart — especially since I personally know what it's like to serve."

As a Department of Defense civilian, I am happy to work for the same organization my father once did, as we both share the same principles: doing the most we can for our nation. My father did what was necessary to support the Department of Defense mission, and I too took that same vow as a public affairs officer here at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson.

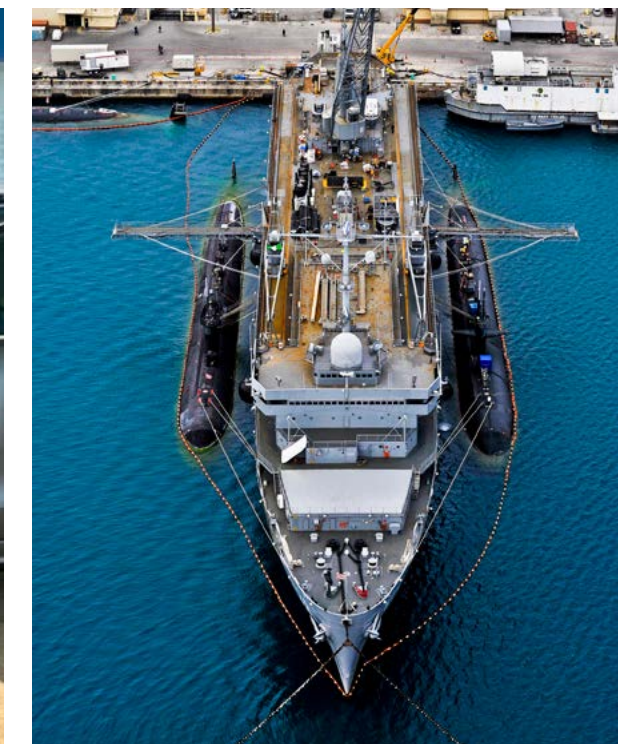
Veterans deserve to be celebrated, honored and thanked both on Veterans Day and year-round.

To our veterans, past, present and future, we cannot thank you enough for your selfless service and sacrifice.

## Commentary



*My father and I today.*



*The USS Emory S. Land. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Daniel Willoughby)*



# HOTH Thrift Shop

When you shop at the Home of Heroes Thrift Shop, you'll find fantastic bargains, but you'll also be contributing to our community, as well as the communities surrounding Fort Johnson. That's because 100% of the proceeds are reinvested into the organization, which benefits our grant program.

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Supporting our local community
- Volunteer program
- Grant program

Thrift Shop hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS EMAIL:  
 Grants - [hohthriftshop.grants@gmail.com](mailto:hohthriftshop.grants@gmail.com)  
 Volunteer - [hohthriftshop.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:hohthriftshop.volunteer@gmail.com)

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

JRTC and Fort Johnson QoL Initiatives

HOUSING
 HEALTHCARE
 CHILDCARE
 SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT
 PCS MOVES

SUPPORT AND RESILIENCE
 EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM
 FINANCIAL READINESS
 MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION
 ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Commanding General's Quality of Life Priorities:  
 Education • Housing • Child Care • Health Care • Army Spouse Employment • MWR - Recreation

Care for Our People • Build Readiness • Succeed 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

Welcome – 10-10:05 a.m.

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

Spouse Employment – 10:10-11:00 a.m.

Brief 10:10-10:20 a.m.      Feedback 10:20-10:40 a.m.      Review / Present 10:40-11:00 a.m.

Healthcare – 11:00-11:50 a.m.

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.m.-12:50 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.

Financial Readiness – 1:40-2:30 p.m.

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=lprLink> or email [kayla.l.moore16.civ@army.mil](mailto:kayla.l.moore16.civ@army.mil) NLT Nov. 25

Event location will be the Warrior Center!



## Fort Johnson Soldiers participate in **Veterans** Day events

**By Chuck Cannon**

Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Veterans Day – Nov. 11—is a day to remember all of those who have served the nation in the Armed Forces. Throughout the United States, and wherever military members are stationed, ceremonies are held to honor these Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and their sacrifices that keep our country free.

Service members are often called upon to participate in these ceremonies as guest speakers, color guard participants or part of static displays to show the local populace what it means to serve in the Armed Forces.

That is the case with Soldiers and leaders at Fort Johnson. Whether it's at local schools, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, or the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Fort Johnson Soldiers will participate this November in ceremonies highlighting the service of heroes past and present.

Events included ceremonies at the following locations:

War Memorial Museum, DeRidder  
East Beauregard High School, Dry Creek  
Merryville High School, Merryville  
Singer High School, Singer  
Rosepine Elementary School, Rosepine  
Anacoco

VFW Post 3106, Leesville  
Lake Charles

National WWII Museum, New Orleans  
Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, said it's crucial for Soldiers to take an active role in the local community.

"Their involvement fosters a strong bond between the military and civilian popula-

tions — Fort Johnson does not exist as the premiere combat training center without our Central Louisiana community," Lopez said. "This connection promotes understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices made by service members, as well as highlights all the support communities inject into helping bolster our nation's defense through the Army."

Lopez said participating in community events also allows Soldiers to share their experiences and skills, contributing to the community's growth and resilience.

"It provides an opportunity to mentor youth, support local initiatives, and engage in service projects, which can have a lasting positive impact," he said. "Moreover, being active in the community helps Soldiers transition more smoothly into civilian life after service. It creates a sense of belonging and purpose, reminding them that they are valued members of society, not just during their service but afterward as well."

When Soldiers work together with their surrounding communities it creates a sense of pride for all concerned.

"We mutually pledge to each other to rendezvous with tomorrow in the best version of ourselves," he said.

As for what it means to be a veteran, Lopez said it encompasses a deep sense of duty, sacrifice and resilience.

"Veterans carry the weight of their experiences and the responsibility of sharing their stories," he said. "They often embody leadership, discipline and commitment to service — values that can inspire others. Being a veteran means having faced challenges, both on and off the battlefield, and using those experiences to contribute positively to society."



Leesville citizens attending the VFW Post 3106 Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11 bow their heads in prayer. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, was the guest speaker for the VFW Post 3106 Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



Citizens applaud at the VFW Post 3106 Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3106 stand as flag bearers at their Veterans Day Ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



The Historic War Memorial Civic Center hosted their annual veterans luncheon Nov. 1 in DeRidder, La. Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, was the guest speaker for the event. The 519th Military Police Battalion presided over the posting and retrieving of the colors. Veterans and their families enjoyed lunch and door prizes. (U.S. Army photo by Porsha Auzenne)



Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3106 stand as flag bearers as wreaths are placed at their Veterans Day Ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Angie Thorne)



**Corvias**  
brings  
neighborhood  
holiday  
fun

### 2024 Neighborhood Reindeer Round - Up

- Reindeers will only be hidden in common areas within neighborhoods
- Take a selfie with the reindeer in his hiding spot before moving him
- Reindeer and selfie must be brought into the Neighborhood Center to claim prize
- Only one winner per household

December  
6th, 13th &  
20th

Corvias  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Watch out for  
weekly clues at your  
Community Center  
and the JRTC and  
Fort Johnson  
Facebook Page!



### Cookies with Santa!

Join us for hot cocoa, cookies,  
crafts  
and more!

Dec. 6  
3-6 p.m.

Palmetto Terrace Community Center

Corvias  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

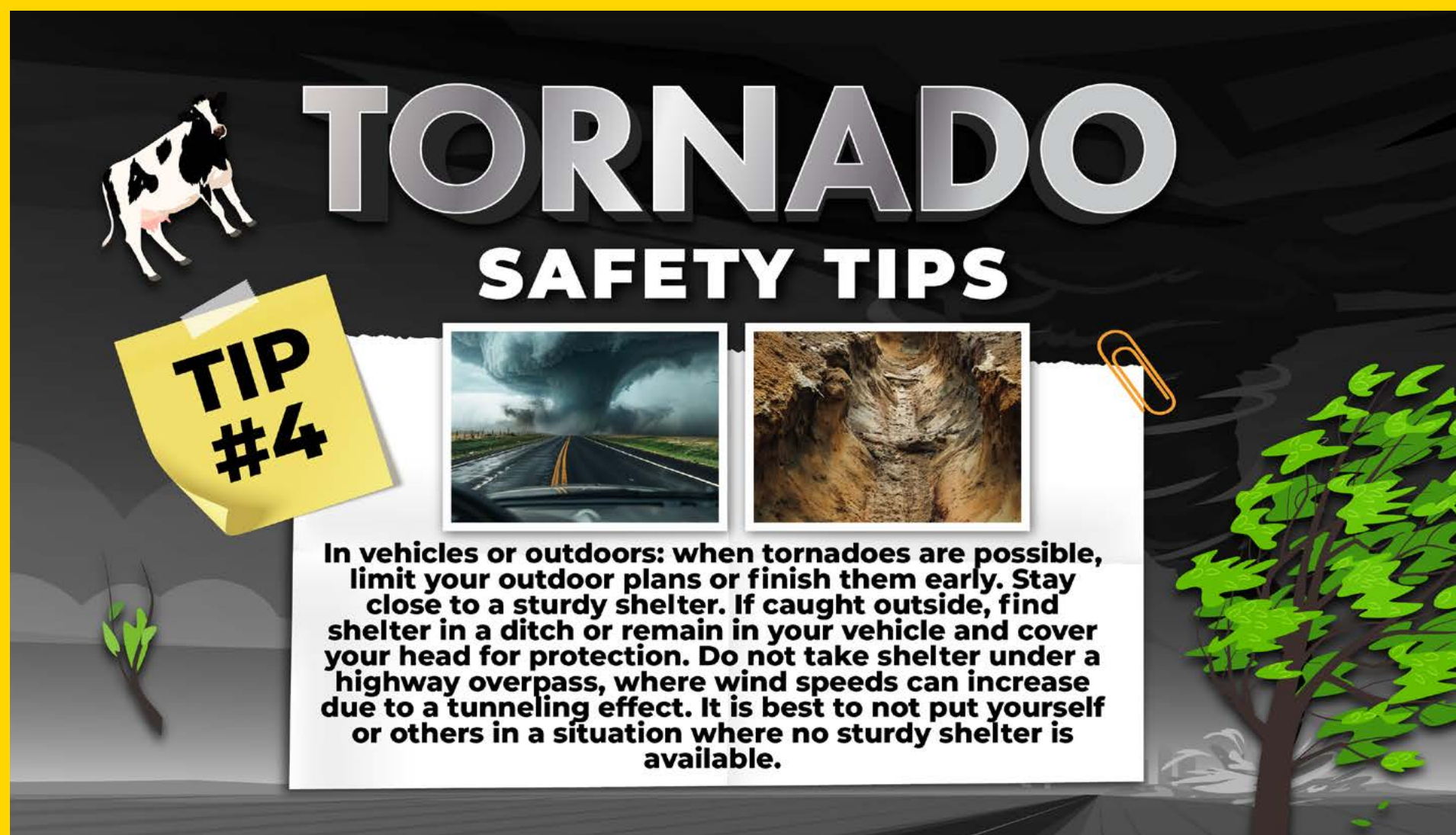




## Your input could mean big \$\$ for local schools

The Impact Aid Survey allows schools to count the number of federal and military-connected students who attend their school. This count is required to be able to apply for Impact Aid grants. It only takes a few minutes, and all the information is confidentially processed by the school. 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!


If you have questions about the survey email [FortJohnson\\_SchoolLiaison@army.mil](mailto:FortJohnson_SchoolLiaison@army.mil) or call 337-531-6673



# 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.



TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# Talking Point #2

## Go Early, Go Often

We strongly encourage service members to enroll in TAP and see one of our counselors at the earliest opportunity. Going early and often to TAP has statistically proven to increase the chance of post-transition success for Soldiers. Soldiers retiring can start at 24-months out from retirement and all other Soldiers doing a normal Expiration term of service (ETS) can start at 18 months prior to transition. We strongly encourage Soldiers to enroll early but MUST begin no later than 365 days prior to transition for those who are transitioning or retiring. Early enrollment supports the deliverable approach to transition. This provides each Soldier the time necessary to effectively plan over time their transition goals and aspirations for an effective shift from military to civilian careers or other suitable options.



Find out more at  
[armytap.army.mil](http://armytap.army.mil)



# Gen. Galido visits Fort Johnson



Lt. Gen. Roy Galido, commanding general of the Philippine Army, and his spouse, Rina Galido, paid a visit to The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson. Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, JRTC and Fort Johnson commanding general, and spouse, Rebecca Curl, greeted Galido and his party as they arrived. During the visit they exchanged gifts and departed on a tour of the installation. Army Soldiers and civilians were available at every scheduled stop to greet Galido and his spouse and explain what they do for the installation, Soldiers and their families.





# Grease flying, fire exploding results of frying frozen birds

By Antoine Aaron  
Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

Fort Johnson, La. — As Thanksgiving approaches, families across the country are gearing up for the annual tradition of a turkey feast. While many will opt for the classic oven-roasted bird, an increasing number of holiday chefs are turning to deep frying for that crisp, golden skin and juicy, tender meat. But before you break out the fryer this year, safety should be your first consideration — because a turkey fryer mishap can lead to serious injuries and property damage.

While deep frying a turkey may seem intimidating, it's not as complicated as it looks. Without taking proper precautions, the process can be dangerous. I had the chance to witness firsthand what can go wrong when safety isn't part of the recipe. A recent safety demonstration with Fort Johnson Fire Inspector Alex Rivera highlighted just how quickly things can spiral out of control when the rules are ignored.

During our experiment, we deliberately made all the common mistakes. The first error: overfilling the pot with cooking oil. The fryer should be filled just enough to submerge the turkey without spilling over when the bird is lowered into the hot oil. As we saw firsthand, an overfilled fryer at high temperatures can quickly lead to dangerous oil spills when the frozen turkey is added.

Next, we used a frozen Cornish hen for our demo — a scaled-down version of what can happen with a full-size turkey. The frozen bird released moisture as it thawed, and when that moisture hit the hot oil, the result was immediate and explosive. The oil splattered more than 10-feet away, accompanied by a burst of flames that shot up at least five feet high. The intensity of the explosion was enough to cause severe burns to anyone standing too close to the fryer. For those of us in the vicinity, it was a stark reminder of how serious this safety issue can be.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, turkey frying accidents cause an average of five deaths, 60 injuries, and more than \$15 million in property damage each year. To avoid becoming part of those statistics, here are some essential safety tips to follow:

1. Buy a factory-built fryer: Homemade fryers can be hazardous and should be avoided. Always use a commercially manufactured unit.
2. Location, location, location: Never use a turkey fryer on a deck, in a garage, or near combustible materials. Make sure the fryer is on a flat, dry surface, outdoors in an open area, and well away from any structures.
3. Dry and thaw your turkey: This is one of the most critical steps. Ensure your turkey is completely thawed and dry before placing it in the hot oil. Any moisture can cause oil to splatter and ignite.
4. Monitor the oil temperature: Always heat the oil to 350-375 degrees and be sure to turn off the burner before lowering the turkey into the oil. This will reduce the risk of splashing.
5. Never leave the fryer unattended: Hot oil can be unpredictable. Stay with your fryer at all times, especially once the turkey is in the oil.
6. Protect yourself and others: Use protective gear such as leather gloves or potholders and keep children and pets at a safe distance. A fire extinguisher, preferably a multipurpose type, should always be on hand.
7. Fire safety: In the event of a fire, don't try to extinguish it with water. The oil will react violently to water, causing a potentially deadly explosion. Instead, clear the area and call 911 immediately. The joy of enjoying a delicious, deep-fried turkey can quickly turn into a holiday nightmare if proper precautions are not taken. By following these safety guidelines, you can help ensure your Thanksgiving remains festive and injury-free.

Remember: the most important ingredient in any deep-fried turkey is not the seasoning, but the safety measures that keep everyone out of harm's way.



# Spouses have opportunity to take valuable class

By Angie Thorne  
Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — It's important to take advantage of every chance you get to learn and prepare yourself for the job market. For military spouses, it can be even more vital.

For those stationed at Fort Johnson, a great way to do that is to take part in The Forging New Leaders Program.

This free, 10-month leader development course — open to active-duty military spouses, DoD civilians (GS 6-11 ((GS-12 by exception)), WG and NAF equivalents) and Soldiers (E-5, E-6, O-1, O-2 and warrant officers) — is designed to develop leadership, communication and project management skills. The class is only one week upfront and a day and a half each month of classroom time.

Stacey Delgado, employment readiness program manager, said the program will provide valuable tools for a military spouse who is just getting into the federal system.

"It helps to provide and prepare new employees for their future assignments with understanding garrison functions, problem solving skills, self confidence in public speaking, installation programs, and so much more," Delgado said.



This ten month program will provide valuable tools for a military spouse who is just getting into the federal system. It helps to provide and prepare new employees for their future assignments with understanding garrison functions, problem solving skills, self confidence in public speaking, installation programs, and so much more.

Forging New Leaders is now accepting applications for the 2025 class. Applications are open from now until Dec. 29 and classes begin Jan. 6. Applications can be found at <https://drive.google.com/.../1DcpEMDDU.../view...>

To register, for more information and to send applications, please email [bobbie.l.parks.civ@army.mil](mailto:bobbie.l.parks.civ@army.mil). If you have further questions please contact the Employment Readiness Program at 337-531-6922.

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson

# FORGING NEW LEADERS

## 2025

Now open to active-duty spouses!



Leesville  
EVENT CENTER  
608 Nolan Trace



Dec. 6 3 pm – 10 pm  
Dec. 7 10 am – 10 pm  
Dec. 8 1 pm – 6 pm

# Jingle & Mingle ICE SKATING RINK



**\$5.00\* – 5 to 11**

**\$10.00\* – 12 & up**

\*taxes & fees are applicable at eventbrite.com

**SANTA & ELF • FOOD • VENDORS • MUSIC  
PIE CONTEST • DOOR PRIZES • INFLATABLES**

*Warm up  
with Free  
Hot Cocoa!*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION :  
CALL US AT (337) 239-2444  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



## SCOUTING FOR FOOD 4 NOV - 17 DEC



We are excited to conduct our Scouting for Food Drive this year. Please join Scouting America Troop 124, Cub Scout Pack 72 and the Fort Johnson Girl Scouts in support of the Main Post Chapel's Food Bank with a donation of food and other items for military families during the challenging Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Canned goods: Tuna, Chicken, Fruits, Veggies, Soups, Chili, Spaghetti, Ravioli, International foods, etc.  
Peanut Butter, Condiments, Spices  
Cereal, Oatmeal, Snack Bars, Pop Tarts  
Baking mixes, Crackers, Cookies  
Sugar, Flour, other baking items  
Instant soups, Ramen, Rice, Pastas, or Beans, etc.  
Powdered Milk, Juices, Coffee, Tea  
Other holiday meal items  
Other items that can help families during the holidays:  
Baby formulas, diapers, wipes, etc. every bit help during this time of year.  
Dog / Cat foods (Can't forget the Furr Babies)

### LOCATIONS:

Main Post Chapel  
Glory Chapel  
All Corvias Community Centers  
AAFES – Main PX, all 3 Shoppettes  
BJACH:  
Entrances A & B  
Perez Youth Sports Field  
Youth Gym (Building #1839)  
Post HQ (Building #350)  
In/Out Processing Building (Building #250)  
Warrior Lanes & The Forge  
Wheelock Gym Cantrell Gym  
Allen Memorial Library / Education Center  
JRTC OPS GRP  
Glass House  
JOC  
BC2  
Geronimo DFAC  
Geronimo HQ  
TF HQs

For more information about  
Scouting For Food or Scouting  
contact

Scout Master Matthew Haller  
337-304-0527  
bstroop124fjla@gmail.com





## ARMY FAMILY CHILD CARE (FCC)

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

Training included!



### Own your Own Business & Make a Difference

*by Providing Quality & Affordable Child Care*

#### Benefits:

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

A career in Family Child Care awaits you!



Your Child's Home Away from Home.

[www.ArmyMWR.com/FCC](http://www.ArmyMWR.com/FCC)

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

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

## Story Time visits Child Development Center



Fort Tracey Turner, a library technician from Allen Memorial Library reads *Foxes and Their Dens*, written by Martha E.H. Rustad, to children at the Fort Johnson Child Development Center, Fort Johnson, La., Nov. 6. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



# Check VIN numbers

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



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

FOLLOW US ON

Text to Image (Beta)

Relink Image

## GET CONNECTED

/JRTCandFortJohnson
 @jrtcandfortjohnson
 @JRTCandFortJohnson

JRTC and Fort Johnson

TURKEY BOWL

Anvil Field

1pm - 4pm

NOVEMBER 26TH



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

# Learn more about how stormwater affects the environment

By Directorate of Public Works

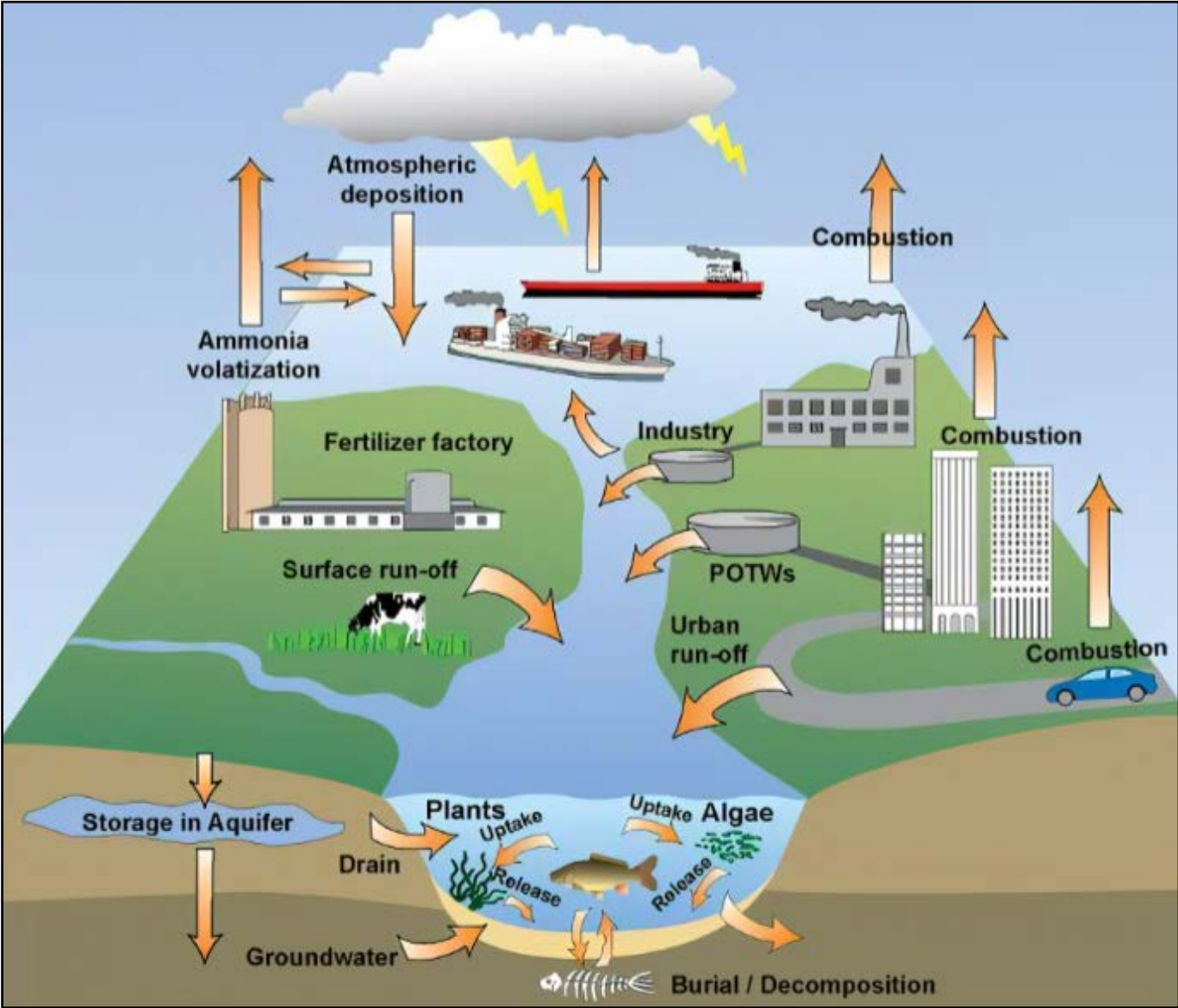
FORT JOHNSON, La. — Non-Point Source Pollution is pollution that doesn't come from a single, identifiable source. Instead, it comes from many diverse sources like runoff from agricultural fields, driveways, pastures, urban areas, sediments or construction sites. Stormwater runoff picks up pollutants as it flows into our storm drains, without the benefit of treatment.

Examples of pollutants that can be found in stormwater can include lawn chemicals, anti-freeze, litter, yard clippings, motor oil and pet waste.

To prevent stormwater pollution, people are encouraged to implement a few best management practices such as controlling erosion, promoting sustainable agriculture, managing stormwater and conserving natural habitats.

Here are a few ways to help:

Folks should properly dispose of trash, report illicit discharges, educate others, never place anything in a storm drain, recycle used oils, use pesticides/herbicides sparingly, pick up pet waste, clean leaks and spills immediately, and dispose of yard waste properly.



## American Red Cross Animal Visitation Program

In times of crisis, be it natural disasters, health emergencies, or just the challenges of everyday life. What many may not realize is the unique power that animals, especially therapy animals, can bring to these situations.

### Meet Daisy

Daisy, a Labrador Retriever, has been a Red Cross volunteer at installations overseas for three years, greeting Soldiers and families wherever they may be. She is available to visit individuals units, motor pools, barracks and other locations for morale and comfort.



Text **"DAISY"** to 208-869-2382 to set up a visit.

For volunteer opportunities please call (318) 484-8083 or email [FortJohnson@redcross.org](mailto:FortJohnson@redcross.org)



# New providers increase women’s health access at Fort Johnson

By Jean Clavette Graves  
BJACH Public Affairs Officer

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital has increased access to care in the women's clinic for obstetric and gynecological health for Soldiers and Families.

BJACH welcomes three new medical providers, specializing in gynecology and obstetrics to the women's clinic. Capt. Christina Bell, Capt. Victoria Conniff, and Capt. Briana Thurmond joined the team in September and have hit the ground running to improve access to care for beneficiaries.

Patient and staff feedback has been positive with interactive customer evaluations. One patient said she had an overwhelmingly positive experience throughout her pregnancy and delivery.

“The doctors and nurses during appointments were amazing,” she said. “Dr. Thurmond was very kind, caring and informative during my delivery and postpartum care.”

A staff member welcomed the new doctors via ICE.

“Dr. Thurmond, Dr. Conniff, and Dr. Bell are approachable, team players,” she said. “We are seeing great things from these ladies, and I know we will continue to see more!”

Bell is the officer in charge of the BJACH OB/GYN clinic. She earned her undergraduate degree from Howard University followed by the Medical College of Georgia.

Bell said delivering babies has always been her childhood dream.

“The female body can do amazing things,” she said.

The fully staffed clinic is great news for the community and for readiness.

“Not only are our female Soldiers incredibly important and deserving of great care but so are the wives, daughters and family members of our active-duty male Soldiers,” she said. “When they know their family is well taken care of, Soldiers can better focus on the mission at hand.”

Conniff, attending physician in the BJACH OB/GYN clinic, joined the team from Kentucky where she earned her undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Louisville.

Conniff said her mom, an intensive care nurse, inspired her to go into medicine at a young age.

“I became interested when I was in high school, and I started shadowing an OB/GYN, who is still a great mentor to me to this day,” she said. “I always thought pregnancy was fascinating. OB/GYN is a great field with a ton of variety. We see patients in clinic, perform major and minor procedures in the operating room,



Pictured from left: Capt. Christina Bell, Capt. Briana Thurmond, and Capt. Victoria Conniff, OB/GYN doctors at BJACH. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

deliver babies and much more. We're never bored!”

In addition to providing obstetric care, the clinic offers gynecological health care maintenance including well women and contraceptive exams.

“As OB/GYNs, we offer such a wide variety of services,” Conniff said. “It’s important to have a fully staffed team to accommodate the labor and delivery clinic and GYN surgery simultaneously, without compromising patient safety.”

Thurmond, attending physician in the BJACH women's clinic, earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Akron and attended the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Thurmond echoed Conniff by saying the full staff ensures the safety of all patients.

“Gaining the trust of women and helping them through some of the most vulnerable times in their healthcare journey is the most rewarding part about my job,” she said.

Thurmond said she enjoys women's health.

“Listening to concerns and educating patients on their health and helping them work toward solutions is what motivated me become a doctor,” she said. “I specifically like the focus on women and how the OB/GYN specialty is so versatile with clinic, surgery and obstetrics.”

BJACH offers a variety of gynecological, obstetrics and pregnancy services by referral to

all TRICARE Prime beneficiaries, as well as a walk-in contraceptive clinic from 8:30 a.m. to noon on the first and third Thursday of each month.

For more information on women's healthcare services visit the BJACH website at [bayne-jones.tricare.mil](http://bayne-jones.tricare.mil).



Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital EENT Clinic

## Optometry & Audiology

NOW SERVING ALL BENEFICIARIES  
5 YEARS AND OLDER

- Active Duty Soldiers
- Active Duty Family Members
- Retirees
- Family Members of Retirees

For an appointment

(337) 531-3276  
or  
(337) 531-3277

# BJACH welcomes new furry, four-legged volunteer

By Jean Clavette Graves  
BJACH Public Affairs Officer

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, in partnership with the American Red Cross Animal Visitation Program, welcomes Daisy, a six-year-old, yellow Labrador Retriever to the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson.

A memorandum of agreement between the Defense Health Agency and the American Red Cross allows animal visitation teams to provide visits to hospitalized patients, staff and others in any military medical treatment facility.

Daisy and her handler, Laurel Stone, are also willing to visit with Soldiers and families at their units, motor pools, barracks, or other locations for morale and comfort.

Stone said she rescued Daisy as a puppy while working in South Korea.

“Daisy is an instant morale booster,” she said. “If someone is experiencing stress, loneliness, or worry, she will naturally gravitate to them. Her very presence can reduce individual or group tension and create common bonds.”

Col. Alisa Wilma, hospital commander and a veterinarian, is excited to have a facility dog at BJACH.

“Daisy’s main job is to simply provide some companionship and comfort to anyone who might be interested in interacting with her,” she said. “We can also call on Daisy if we know there is a particularly stressful situation, or we are responding to a crisis in the community or the hospital.”

Wilma said canine volunteers play a vital role. They increase morale and decrease stress in healthcare workers and patients.

“Trained dogs like Daisy have been shown to lower blood pressure, increase communication willingness, and impact hormonal release that make people feel more relaxed,” she said. “Their presence in our facility can assist in decreasing tension and stress for everyone.”

Wilma said the Red Cross animal visitation program is a proven method to improve staff morale and the patient experience.

“Americans are very fond of dogs, as well as other pet animals,” she said. “Animals bring a refreshing simplicity and unconditional love to ‘work’ with them. No matter how bad your day may be going, Daisy is happy to listen, have someone pet her, or to cuddle with you for a couple minutes. And at the end of that time, you can go back to your duties more relaxed and less stressed. This increases our capacity for empathy with and for our patients.”

Lt. Col. Alexander Ragan, installation director of psychological health, said his team has already put Daisy to work supporting units across post.

“We have used Daisy for traumatic manage-



T.C. Bradford, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital webmaster, enjoys his interaction with Daisy during her recent visit to hospital staff. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)



Daisy, a six-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever, helps calm Angela Karlin ahead of her appointment. Daisy is part of the partnership between Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital and the American Red Cross Animal Visitation Program. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

ment events with units for suicide postvention efforts to increase engagement and connection,” he said. “We have brought Daisy to community events and to meet with Soldiers in the barracks for scheduled visit times designed to bring them out of their individual rooms to socialize in common areas.”

Ragan said facility dogs like Daisy can play a significant role in supporting Soldiers with mental health challenges, such as posttraumatic stress, anxiety or depression.

“Facility dogs offer non-judgmental companionship, which can create a safe, calming presence for Soldiers who may be hesitant to express their emotions or discuss their struggles,” he said. “Engaging with a facility dog can reduce cortisol levels, lowering stress, while increasing oxytocin, enhancing feelings of

connection and relaxation. For Soldiers, this interaction can foster emotional resilience and make them more receptive to therapy by providing comfort and grounding, thus alleviating symptoms of isolation and hypervigilance.”

Ragan said facility dogs help normalize seeking mental health support within a hospital setting by breaking down barriers, creating a more inviting environment, and promoting openness to treatment.

To coordinate a visit with Daisy, send the text: “DAISY” to (208) 869-2382.

BJACH is working on training handlers for another facility dog that will be arriving in early 2025. To learn more about volunteering with the American Red Cross or about the animal visitation program email [FortJohnson@red-cross.org](mailto:FortJohnson@red-cross.org)



# WELCOME, PURE PRAXIS

*Creating Awareness  
Through Proactive  
Training*



## What is Pure Praxis

Pure Praxis trainings combine performance and live interaction to discuss difficult social situations such as consent, sexual violence and peer pressure. Through audience involvement, participants are able to practice creating safe and effective solutions.



## Training Information

### DATE:

03-05 DEC, 2024

### LOCATION:

Bayou Theater, Fort Johnson

### TRAINING TIMES

- 0900-1000
- 1100-1200
- 1300-1400



**THE ENTIRE SHOW IS  
GUIDED BY 'YOU'**

LEARN MORE @  
PUREPRAXIS.COM



# RE-IMAGING CONSENT

*How Healthy Masculinity  
Can Play a Part in  
Healthy Relationships*



Join us as we become more aware of the unhealthy aspects of "dominant stories" related to masculinity and better understand the importance of healthy masculinity through interactive group exercises, role playing and multimedia presentations.

### ADVANTAGES:

- Comprehensive Training
- Community Building
- Develop KSA's Around Healthy Masculinity & Violence Prevention

**TWO SESSIONS EACH DAY 0900 & 1300**  
**DECEMBER 11 0900- Garrison Workforce**  
**1300- Open to all**  
**12TH- Both sessions open to all**



POC for this training is  
shantell.m.williams.civ@army.mil  
For more info on MCSR please  
contact jpage@mcsr.org

Address: 6990 Pennsylvania Loop  
Bldg. 4213 Fort Johnson LA 71459

Connect with Us:

