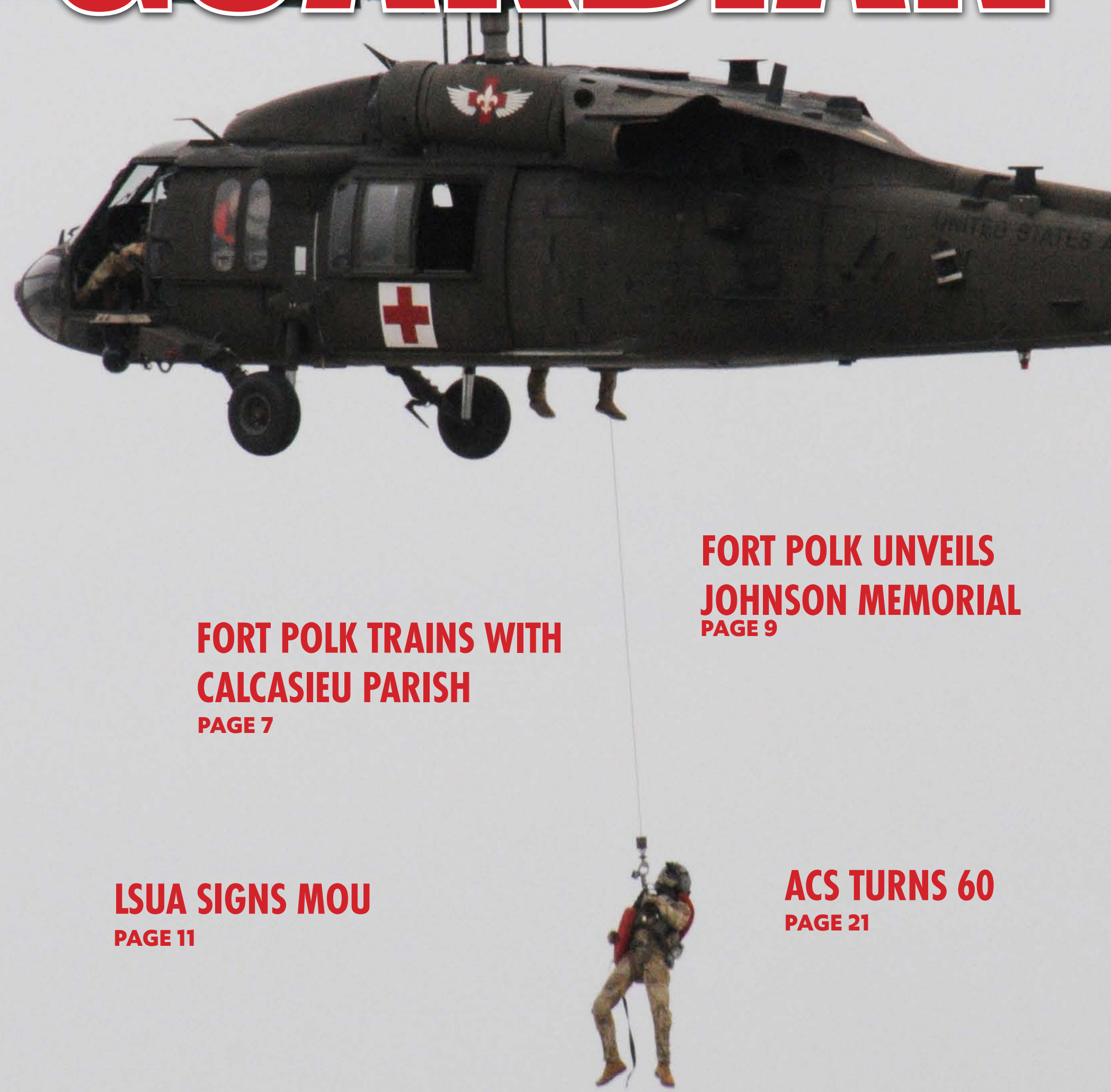
JRTC AND FORT POLK

JULY 31 VOL. 52, NO. 15

GUARDIAN



FORT POLK UNVEILS JOHNSON MEMORIAL
PAGE 9

FORT POLK TRAINS WITH CALCASIEU PARISH
PAGE 7

LSUA SIGNS MOU
PAGE 11

ACS TURNS 60
PAGE 21

CONTENTS

July 31

Outside the gates 04
Events happening off post around the local community

Discover Louisiana 05
Hop on the boudin trail

Training with parish partners 07
Fort Polk trains with Calcasieu Parish

Unveiling memorial 09
Honoring Sgt. Henry Johnson

Expanding education 11
Fort Polk signs MOU with LSUA

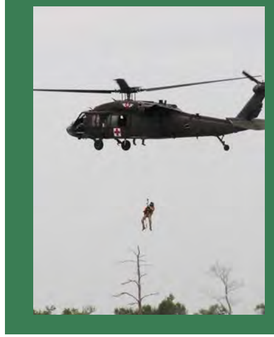
Antiterrorism prevention 13
See something, say something

Back to school 15
New four-day hybrid calendar

Hot weather safety tips 19
Learn to stay cool and protect yourself

Happy birthday 21
ACS celebrates 60 years

Summer fun 31
Main Post Chapel hosts VBS



COVER PHOTO

Soldiers with Fort Polk's 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, conduct water rescue training from a parking lot near the Calcasieu River with members of the Calcasieu emergency services community July 17. (U.S. Army photos by Chuck Cannon)

7
Fort Polk trains with Calcasieu Parish

9
Fort Polk unveils Johnson memorial

11
LSUA signs MOU

21
ACS turns 60

JRTC AND FORT POLK
Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl
Commanding General
Col. Adam Barlow
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 Polk, LA 71459-5060
Voice 337-531-4033
Fax 337-531-1401
Fort Polk Homepage
home.army.mil/polk/

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 Polk. The Guardian can be found on the JRTC and Fort Polk website at home.army.mil/Polk and the JRTC and Fort Polk Facebook page at @JRTCandFortPolk/. 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 Polk.

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

OUTSIDE THE GATES

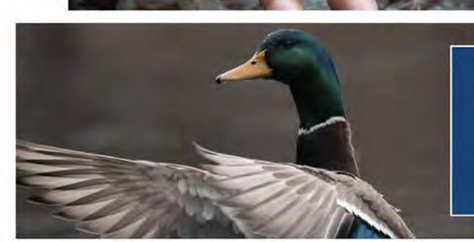
OFF POST EVENTS

2 Aug. — **Back to School Pool Party**
DERIDDER, LA.
Click for more info

5 Aug. — **National Night Out**
DERIDDER, LA.
Click for more info

10 Aug. — **Krewe's Back to School Bash**
LAKE CHARLES, LA.
Click for more info

13-17 Aug. — **Delcambre Shrimp Festival**
DELCAMBRE, LA.
Click for more info



23-24 Aug. — **Gueydan Duck Festival**
GUEYDAN, LA.
Click for more info

NO ARMY OR FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED.

Discover Louisiana

LOUISIANA CAJUN BOUDIN TRAIL

The Cajun Boudin Trail puts you on the path to discovering Louisiana's best boudin and other regional specialty items, be they pork chop sandwiches, beef jerky, cheesy boudin balls, specialty sausages, cracklin, smoked meats, plate lunches, stuffed chickens, or chili dogs.

The area in and around Lafayette, La. is the indisputable center of all things boudin.

Lafayette even holds the annual Boudin Cookoff in October, where the top boudiniers come together to show off their skills.

As you venture through the area seeking to sample the many varieties and unique recipes, the award-winning boudin masters of Cajun Country are happy to present you with the fruits of their culinary prowess.

Of course, folks in Cajun Country don't just hang their hats on boudin, and you should eagerly sample some of the other traditional and creative regional foods they're baking, smoking, frying, or pouring.

After all, when you head a little off the beaten path in search of authentic food, there's no reason to stop for just one item.

Ready to take a ride on the trail? Visit the link below for more information:

www.cajunboudintrail.com/default.html

Boudin

"boo-dan"

A type of Cajun sausage, popular in Louisiana, traditionally made with pork, rice, and seasonings, stuffed into a casing. It's a versatile dish, often enjoyed as a snack or part of a meal.

Fort Polk partners to train with Calcasieu emergency Services

Soldiers with Fort Polk's 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, conduct water rescue training from a parking lot near the Calcasieu River with members of the Calcasieu emergency services community July 17.

(U.S. Army Photos by Chuck Cannon)

Fort Polk uveils memorial honoring Sgt. Henry Johnson

(U.S. Army Photos by Antoine Aaron)

Fort Polk, LSUA sign MOU expanding education

By Adam Lord
LSUA

FORT POLK, La — Louisiana State University of Alexandria signed a Memorandum of Understanding with United States Army Garrison at Fort Polk on July 16, formally establishing an educational partnership to serve military personnel, families, retirees and the broader Fort Polk community.

Through this strategic collaboration, LSUA will extend affordable, high-quality educational opportunities directly to the installation, enhancing academic access and supporting military readiness.

Under the agreement, Fort Polk's Education Services Office will work closely with LSUA staff to facilitate Soldiers' access to Army tuition assistance and provide necessary space for administrative personnel, faculty and classroom instruction.

Classes will primarily be offered during off-duty hours, prioritizing military members and their families, with additional enrollment capacity open to others as available.

Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, emphasized the significance of the partnership for the military community.

"It's another opportunity for our Soldiers to get an education," Curl said. "The more opportunities, the better."

LSUA Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil said the agreement carries both educational and patriotic significance.

"Our mission is to educate the region, enhancing workforce development for our communities," Coreil said. "However, partnering with Fort Polk holds a deeper meaning due to our profound respect for military service. LSUA is dedicated to supporting Soldiers and their families by ensuring they have exceptional educational opportunities that honor their sacrifices. It's a higher calling beyond our fundamental educational mission."

Col. Adam Barlow, Fort Polk garrison commander, noted the benefits of having LSUA onsite.

"Having LSUA classes at Fort Polk ensures that our Soldiers and families can access quality education without leaving the installation," Barlow said. "This partnership makes Fort Polk an even more attractive and resource-rich environment, providing valuable educational experiences that directly support promotions, career advancement and future employment opportunities. It's truly a win-win."

This partnership underscores LSUA's commitment to serving the educational needs of Central Louisiana, particularly those who serve our nation.

For more information about educational opportunities available at LSUA, visit **explore.lsua.edu**.

Fort Polk leadership talk with representatives from LSUA about the Memorandum of Understanding and their new educational partnership. (U.S. Army Photo Chuck Cannon)

Col. Adam Barlow (left), Fort Polk garrison commander, and Dr. Paul Coreil, Louisiana State University at Alexandria chancellor, sign a Memorandum of Understanding establishing an educational partnership to better serve Soldiers and family members at Fort Polk. (U.S. Army Photo Chuck Cannon)

Fort Polk leadership stand with representatives from LSUA and the Fort Polk Education Center after signing a Memorandum of Understanding July 16. (U.S. Army Photo Chuck Cannon)

STOP TERRORISM IN ITS TRACKS

By Mitchell Smith
ID-Readiness antiterrorism officer

The Army has designated August Antiterrorism Awareness Month. It's a great opportunity to train, educate and increase overall awareness.

People need to be vigilant because violent extremism poses a critical threat to the homeland and U.S. military operations overseas.

Acts of violent extremism undermine the rule of law and the protection of human and civil rights. The threat is not limited to a single political, religious, or ideological background. Regardless of its motivation, violent extremism can have devastating effects on both civilian and military communities alike.

Examples include:

•On New Year's Day, January 2025, a man rammed into and shot people in New Orleans, Louisiana, resulting in 15 fatalities and numerous injuries.

•An attempted Mass Shooting took place in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in January 2025.

•An active shooter shot three people outside of a Salvation Army in Blue Island, Illinois, June 2024.

•President Trump's assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania, July 13, 2024.

These and others are attempts of violent extremism. This isn't a new phenomenon, rapid changes in online communications continue to evolve the threat. Violent ideologies and propaganda are now more accessible than ever, making it more difficult to identify and stop extremists before they act. To prevent terrorism, people have to stay ahead of the terrorists and be on guard for violent extremism in their own community.

A wide variety of domestic violent extremism movements pose a threat to the U.S.

Some individuals become active members in groups (terrorist organizations, hate groups, etc.) and act within their affiliated group's purview. Others, however (often referred to as "lone wolves"), don't have direct connection with a specific group, but are inspired by the group's rhetoric or group-sponsored violence.

An example took place in San Bernardino, California, when 14 people were killed and 22 seriously injured.

The perpetrators were violent extremists inspired by jihadist terrorist groups, but not directed by such groups and not part of any terrorist cell or network.

Nonetheless, affiliating with any specific group or espousing extremist beliefs does not mean an individual will commit violent acts.

Police and local law enforcement, members of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk community leaders, friends, families, co-workers, teachers, retirees and community services play an important role in preventing vulnerable individuals from entering on the path to radicalization and violence. Education, promotion of awareness and dialogue are important tools for prevention.

The overarching theme for 2025 is adapting antiterrorism to the evolving global security environment. This cross-cutting theme seeks to address antiterrorism resilience and risk management in support of Army readiness. The 2025 focus areas are to help guide commanders on how to recognize and report suspicious activity, and actions to take to prevent terrorist activities.

This year, the focused themes include community resilience, antiterrorism's role in supporting Army readiness, risk management and setting conditions for the future.

The AT Branch will also focus their efforts on heightening awareness and vigilance to protect the JRTC and Fort Polk community from acts of terrorism. Focused Antiterrorism Awareness Month themes throughout the month of August are:

•Suspicious Activity Reporting for Standalone Facility Protection (1st Quarter)

•Improving Host and Partner-Nation Information Sharing (2nd Quarter)

•Data Analytics in Support of Risk Management and Enhancing Joint Analytic Real-Time Virtual Information Sharing System (3rd Quarter)

•Leaders' Role in Antiterrorism (4th Quarter)

The goal is for all Soldiers, civilians and family members to understand the concepts, principles, roles, responsibilities and suspicious activity reporting procedures.

Fort Polk's AT Awareness and iWatch programs were launched last year. The iWatch mission is to get the word out to Soldiers, families, civilians and contractors about how they can help prevent terrorism and protect the Fort Polk community.

To do that, the Fort Polk community will see antiterrorism posters, brochures and other visual aids during AT Awareness Month.

Its presence at different venues will ensure that every Soldier and family member knows what suspicious behavior and its indicators are and understands the importance of always reporting suspicious activities.

The purpose is to educate and inform the Fort Polk community about terrorist threats and teach them to take actions to detect and deter terrorists by reporting all suspicious activities. Many people have noticed something that raised their suspicions and made that simple call to 726-7801-2677. To those concerned heroes, we say thank you. It only takes one report to prevent something atrocious.

Antiterrorism representatives will be available to answer any questions regarding AT Awareness and iWatch, as well as handing out brochures and other items that remind us to stay vigilant.

Every member of the Army community plays a part in this fight. Preventing terrorism is possible by increasing awareness and vigilance. If every individual recognizes and reports suspicious activities, the Army team will succeed together.

If you have any questions regarding AT Awareness and iWATCH, call 520-692-3478 or email mitchell.smith3.civ@army.mil or Mr. Adam Lynn at 520-692-3394, email; adam.t.lynn.civ@army.mil. Remember, if you See Something ... Say Something! Report all suspicious activities to 531-COPS (2677).

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Vernon Parish School Board implements hybrid four-day calendar

By Angie Thorne
Fort Polk Public Affairs Office

FORT POLK, La. — The 2025-2026 school year will bring an innovative change as Vernon Parish Schools introduce a hybrid four-day school schedule. The board voted to approve the new schedule at the April 8th school board meeting.

The hybrid schedule means there will be both five-day weeks and four-day Tuesday through Friday weeks throughout the school year. Many schools are switching to true four-day school weeks and the school board looked at all the peer review research before making this change.

Before the change was made, school board polling data showed that approximately 80 percent of school employees were in favor of the new four-day hybrid calendar. Additionally, parents were polled through the Parent Square mobile app and a majority of parents who participated in the poll were in support of the hybrid calendar.

The new calendar starts in August. The school weeks that include Monday school days take place on these dates:

- Aug. 11, 18, and 25
- Sept. 8, 15, 22, and 29
- Nov. 10 and 17
- Dec. 15
- March 23
- April 13 and 20

Joey Bartz, Vernon Parish School Board personnel director, said the school calendar will start the year with full five-day weeks. The four-day weeks, when students are off on Mondays, will begin after the Labor Day holiday. Full five-day weeks will usually coincide with weeks preceding long holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring break, and two weeks during the state testing period.

"There are several reasons we chose Monday, but one of the largest was that it is our highest absentee day for both students and teachers," Bartz said.

He explained the change in the school calendar mostly boils down the positive financial impact adopting the hybrid calendar would have.

"We had to get creative with cost cutting measures and are conservatively projecting to see somewhere in the neighborhood of $1-$1.5 million in savings and reimbursement by utilizing the hybrid calendar. Most of these savings will come via the meal reimbursement program, our energy audit program and a projected lowered cost with our substitute teacher payroll." Bartz said.

There were other benefits as well.

The change in schedule was an additional opportunity to feed students before they head home from school.

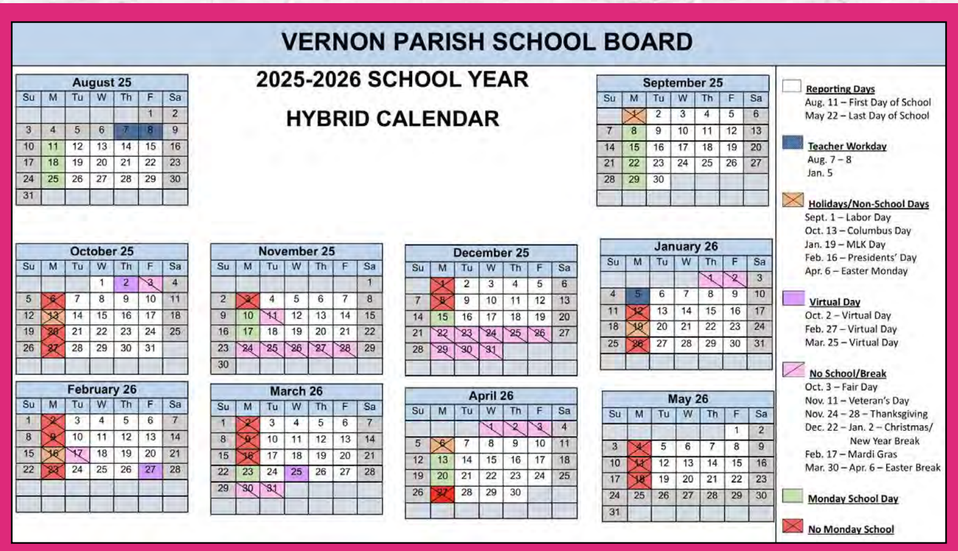
"We were able to extend the instructional school day by just 5 minutes to bring on a third meal option that the USDA pays for. This will allow students to have breakfast, lunch and a late afternoon snack before they go home, which they did not get before," Bartz said.

The hybrid schedule won't have an academic impact.

"Vernon parish is a top 10 school district as far as academic standing — we don't see this changing. People can be assured we won't sacrifice our academic standards," Bartz said. "We will be monitoring the situation closely, but we aren't expecting that the four-day calendar will change the high level of academic achievement we strive for."

Bartz said their military families have also made it known they would like to spend more time with their kids, especially considering the training and deployments that are part of military life.

"That was another benefit of going to a four-day hybrid calendar. This will give military families extra time with their children, and we hope it will help with their overall quality of life," Bartz said. For more information call 337-239-3401.



Vernon Parish schools offer free breakfast, lunch

By KPLC

VERNON PARISH, La. — The Vernon Parish School Board has confirmed that all students in Vernon Parish schools will continue to receive free breakfast and lunch during the 2025-2026 school year.

VPSB said this is thanks to the Community Eligibility Provision, a funding option under the National School Lunch Act that allows schools to provide free meals to all students. Funding is determined by a formula that includes data from sources such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, which means families do not need to submit applications reporting household income. The CEP benefits both students and schools.

VPSB shared that when children's nutritional needs are met, they can concentrate on learning rather than on hunger, leading to increased attentiveness in class, improved attendance and fewer disciplinary issues.

According to VPSB, the CEP promotes equity by eliminating out-of-pocket food costs for families and reducing the stigma associated with school meal programs. It also decreases administrative burdens by eliminating the need for meal applications, simplifying the counting and claiming process, and reducing unpaid meal charges.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT UPDATING YOUR INSURANCE

1. Have an insurance checkup with your agent once a year, well before hurricane season, whether you own or rent.
2. Make sure you have flood insurance that must be obtained separately and has a 30-day waiting period to take effect.
3. Visit floodsmart.gov to learn about your flood risk and flood insurance options for your area.
4. Prepare your home and vehicles according to your specific insurance policies to ensure damages are covered.
5. Know where your insurance documents and contact information are located. Take them with you if you evacuate.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit
weather.gov/hurricanesafety

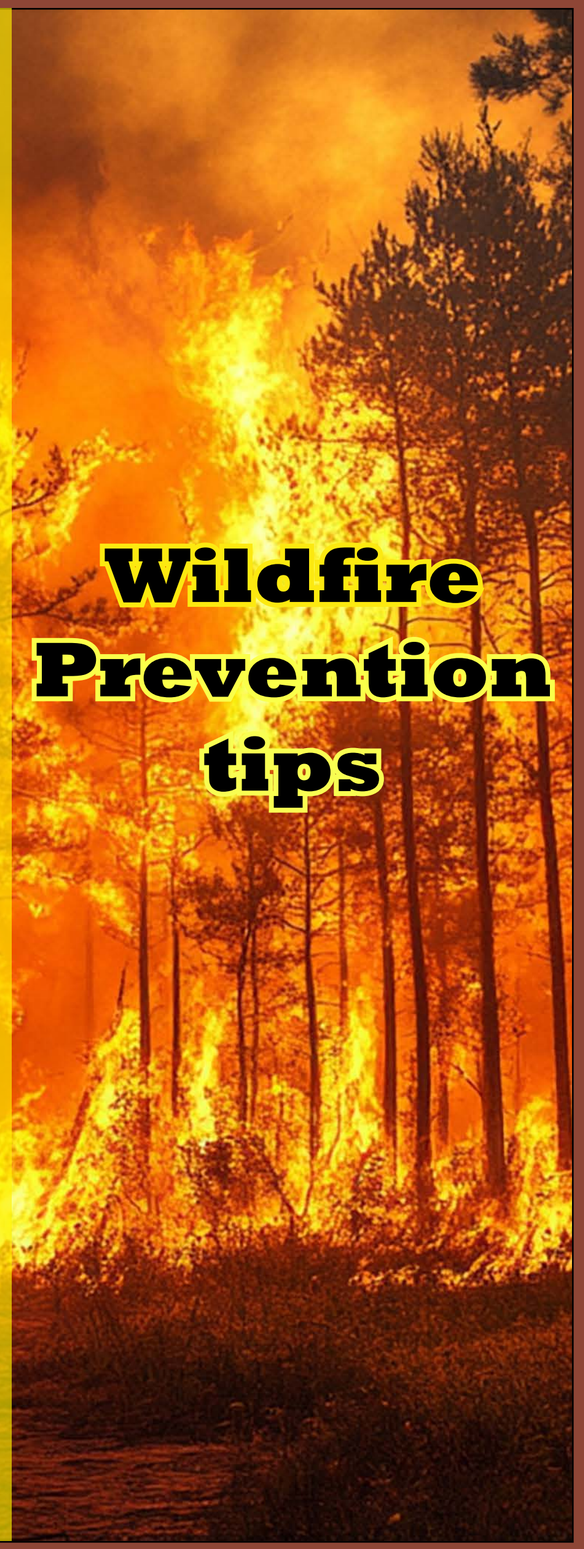
5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT STRENGTHENING YOUR HOME

1. Keep trees around your home trimmed well before a storm to prevent damage from broken branches.
2. Shop now for tested and approved window coverings to put up when a hurricane approaches. See flash.org.
3. Bring loose outdoor items such as patio furniture inside. They can blow around and cause damage to homes.
4. Secure all doors on your property. Remember that the garage door is usually the most vulnerable.
5. Move your car inside a garage or to another secure location.

For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit
weather.gov/hurricanesafety

HOT WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

Wildfire Prevention tips



1. Check weather and drought conditions, which can affect the flammability of vegetation.
2. Build your campfire in an open location and far from flammables.
3. Douse your campfire until it's cold.
4. Keep vehicles off dry grass.
5. Regularly maintain your equipment and vehicle.
6. Practice vehicle safety.
7. Check the tires, axels and bearings on your trailer.
8. Keep sparks away from dry vegetation.
9. Check conditions and regulations before using fireworks or consider safe alternatives.
10. Cautiously burn Debris, but never when it's windy or restricted.

Happy 60th Birthday
to

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE
ACS
Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

U.S. ARMY

AIRBORNE

(U.S. Army Photos by Karen Sampson

BJACH nurse recognized as DHA Civilian of the Quarter

By Jean Clavette Graves
BJACH PAO

FORT POLK, La. — Cyndi Boone, a registered nurse at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, was recognized as the Defense Health Agency Civilian of the Quarter during a monthly awards ceremony July 3 at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

With more than 15 years of service at BJACH and nearly three decades in the nursing profession, Boone's career has spanned nearly every corner of the hospital — from inpatient care and family medicine to forensic nursing and referral management.

Boone began her time at BJACH in the Progressive Care Unit, a high-acuity inpatient ward that managed telemetry patients and post-operative recoveries. She later supported the transition of the Family Medicine Clinic to a Patient-Centered Medical Home model, served as a virtual health care coordinator, and worked in the Soldier Centered Medical Home.

Today, she serves as a nurse consultant in managed care, helping patients navigate complex referrals, TRICARE authorizations and specialty care through the civilian network.

"You never know what burden someone is carrying when they call," Boone said. "Sometimes it's a medical issue, sometimes it's something more personal. When they reach me, they can rest assured they're talking to someone who will advocate for them."

In addition to her primary duties, Boone is one of three certified Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examiners at BJACH. Over the past several years, she has devoted more than 1,600 hours of on-call time, providing professional, compassionate care to individuals impacted by sexual assault and mentoring new forensic nurses across the installation.

"It's one of the most meaningful roles I've ever had," she said. "From the moment they walk into the ER, we're with them — making sure they're supported, respected and never alone."

Her commitment extends beyond any one department. Boone frequently steps in to assist during staff shortages across BJACH — in the emergency room, labor and delivery, family medicine and more.

"Cyndi goes above and beyond to ensure patient care remains a top priority," said Sabrina Cobb, Boone's supervisor. "She mentors others, supports mission readiness, and leads by example — all without ever asking for recognition."

Boone said her approach to nursing has always been rooted in service.

"I've got a servant's heart," she said. "That's just who I am. You treat people the way you'd want your family to be treated."

Cyndi Boone, a registered nurse and nurse consultant in the managed care department at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, earns the Defense Health Agency Civilian of the Quarter award. (U.S. Army Photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

Cyndi Boone, a registered nurse and nurse consultant in the managed care department at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, meets with a patient July 9 at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk. Boone helps beneficiaries navigate TRICARE referrals, authorizations, and continuity of care with civilian providers. (U.S. Army Photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

Whether supporting a patient through a challenging diagnosis or helping a new nurse learn the ropes, Boone said she feels honored to serve the Fort Polk community.

"As long as I'm able, I'll keep doing what I can to help," she said. "I'm grateful to be here — and grateful to be part of a team that cares this deeply."

TriWest

PATIENT PORTAL

Register for an account to manage referrals by your PCM for off-post specialty care

- ✓ Download Referrals
- ✓ Authorizations
- ✓ View Provider Directory
- ✓ Case Management

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT HTTPS://TRICARE.TRIWEST.COM/EN/BENEFICIARY TO REGISTER YOUR ACCOUNT OR LOG IN. REFERRALS ARE LOCATED IN THE NOTIFICATION SECTION.

Military, VA leaders meet to strengthen health care access

By Jean Clavette Graves and Tammie Arnold
BJACH PAO and Alexandria VA Health System Public Affairs Officers

ALEXANDRIA, La. — Leaders from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital and the Alexandria VA Health Care System met July 18 to explore opportunities for collaboration aimed at improving access to care for veterans and active duty service members across Central Louisiana.

The preliminary engagement brought together clinical and administrative leaders from both facilities to discuss shared goals, exchange capabilities and lay the foundation for future partnerships that support medical readiness and high-quality patient care.

Topics discussed included shared staffing and training opportunities, inpatient mental health and outpatient care collaboration, potential surgical and dental resource sharing agreements, and support for high-risk behavioral health patients transitioning from active duty to the VA system. Active-duty service members, veterans, and their families can benefit from expanded access, reduced wait times, and more coordinated care through joint-use facilities.

"This partnership is about more than facilities and resources — it's about ensuring our Soldiers and Veterans receive the best care possible, when and where they need it," said Col. Patrick Miller, commander of Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital. "By working together, we're not only improving access to care across Central Louisiana, but also reinforcing the foundation of medical readiness that supports the entire force."

The Department of Defense is committed to working with the Department of Veterans Affairs through resource sharing and Joint Incentive Fund programs. Sharing resources improves access to the healthcare for service members, veterans, and their families.

The collaboration aligns with the Department of Veterans Affairs' broader priorities outlined by Secretary Doug Collins and Veterans Health Administration leadership, including improving the transition from active duty to veteran status, creating stronger marketing strategies for a new generation of veterans, and increasing memorandums of understanding between the VA and the Department of Defense.

"Our common mission is to care for those who have served and those who continue to serve," said Peter C. Dancy Jr., medical center director of the Alexandria VA Health Care System. "We are excited to pursue partnership opportunities with Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital that further our ability to become the health care provider of choice for veterans — and by extension, support a seamless transition for active duty Soldiers."

Leaders from Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital and the Alexandria VA Health Care System gather for a group photo July 18 outside Building 1 on the Alexandria VA Campus. The teams met to explore partnership opportunities that improve access to care, strengthen behavioral health services in Central Louisiana, and support a seamless transition from active duty to veteran care for service members. (U.S. Army Photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

The leadership teams agreed to reconvene in 30 days at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital to further refine potential areas of cooperation, assess feasibility and begin laying the groundwork for formal agreements.

Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital is located on the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk and supports the medical readiness of Soldiers, Families and beneficiaries throughout the region. The Alexandria VA Health Care System provides a full range of services to veterans through its central campus and affiliated community-based outpatient clinics.

AAFES celebrates 130 years of mission essential support

By Travis Day
AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS – The Army & Air Force Exchange Service celebrate its 130th anniversary of serving those who serve July 25.

Since the United States Department of War's General Orders No. 46 directed commanders to establish a post exchange in 1895, the Exchange has constantly evolved to function as a force multiplier for the Nation's ever-changing military mission.

America's PX system was created to centralize the supply of items of necessity and convenience formerly provided by traveling merchants who regularly sought to sell goods to Soldiers at inflated prices.

As the U.S. prepared to enter World War II, the War Department significantly upgraded the Exchange system and the Army Exchange Service was born in 1941. Seven years later, it was renamed the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, following the establishment of the Air Force as its own branch of Service in 1947.

As a Department of Defense non-appropriated fund instrumentality that primarily uses its own revenue from sales to support its operations, the Exchange has provided critical services in more than a dozen wars and military operations, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

Today, the Exchange manages a diverse portfolio of Quality-of-Life services, nationwide and in more than 30 countries and territories. Each line of business is designed to strengthen military readiness, recruiting and security. For example, the Exchange received Congressional approval to introduce the Exchange Credit Program in 1979, protecting service members from predatory lending that often targeted military communities.

The MILITARY STAR® card now creates more than $470 million in annual value through proprietary terms and promotions exclusive to authorized cardholders.

In addition to tax-free savings and military exclusive pricing on name brand merchandise at PXs, BXs and **ShopMyExchange.com**, the Exchange brings name brand restaurants, health and wellness services, convenience stores, gas stations, Military Clothing Stores, self-service 24/7 stores, telecom services and more to America's military installations around the world.

"The hard-earned Exchange benefit is a brilliantly designed virtuous circle that delivers tangible value to our Nation's military mission and the heroes who serve and have served with distinction," said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull. "As Team Exchange reflects on this incredible organization's many successes over the past 13 decades, we remain fully focused on instituting effective and efficient improvements to continue going where our troops go for the next 130 years."

With 100% of earnings going back to the military community, shopping the Exchange makes life better for service members and families. In the last 10 years, the Exchange has provided more than $15 billion in value to the military community.

Post traders, Chattanooga, Tenn., 1871. Post traders, who replaced unscrupulous sutlers, were business owners who paid the War Department for the rights to open their shops on military bases.

Army & Air Force Exchange Service delivers essential support during deployment

By Karrington Bradley
AAFES.com

DALLAS – The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is dedicated to bringing critical Quality-of-Life support and the best tastes of home to deployed service members.

For 130 years, the Exchange has served warfighters worldwide with tax-free goods, food and services no matter the location, risk or challenge.

The Nation's heroes on the front lines in deployed locations such as Iraq, Qatar, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan and the UAE rely on vital Exchange resources for readiness, resiliency and lethality. In 2024, the Exchange provided support to more than 92,000 service members across 12 countries during military exercises.

"The Exchange's comforting tastes boost morale during deployment," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Rich Martinez, the Exchange's senior enlisted advisor. "No other retailer goes where the troops go to keep them ready and resilient."

The Exchange's We Go Where You Go mission encompasses multiple lines of business including department stores, malls, Express convenience stores, name-brand restaurants and services, the Exchange Credit Program and other Quality-of-Life support such as bakeries, water plants and meals at Department of Defense Education Activity schools overseas. In the last 10 years, the Exchange has delivered $15 billion in value for the military community.

For deployed service members, the MILITARY STAR card is especially valuable. Cardmembers in good standing with valid deployment orders to qualifying contingency locations receive a reduced APR of 6% and are not required to make monthly payments.

The Exchange operates several Reel Time Theaters at contingency locations, including Ali Al Salem Air Base, Camp Arijan and Camp Buehring in Kuwait and Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, offering first-run movies and free advance showings of major films year-round. Visit **https://www.aafes.com/exchange-stores/Movie-Guide/** for theater information, movie listings and showtimes.

To learn more about the dining options, services, businesses and more that are available at specific Exchanges worldwide, visit **ShopMyExchange.com** and click "Find a store" at the top right to search by city or installation name.

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 Polk Police Traffic Division at 337-531-1806, 6675 or 2675.

2004	Infinity	G35	5369
2015	Chevrolet	Camero	4295
2017	Lincoln	MKZ	9372
2012	Land Rover	Land Ranger	2214
2005	Honda	Civic	6295
1994	GEO	Tracker	0139
2007	Ford	F150	7785
2012	Mazda	4 door sedan	4400
2000	Ford	Mustang	8551
2008	BMW	328 I	8939
1999	Chevrolet	Cavalier	9858
2018	Chevrolet	1500	1719
2007	Chevrolet	Corvette	0062
1998	Chevrolet	1500	3778
2013	Volkswagen	Passat	5583
2013	Ford	Explorer	4256
2008	Volkswagen	Rabbit	6258
2008	BMW	X3	7084
2001	Chevrolet	1500	7554
2009	KIA	Optima	2570
1996	Chevrolet	1500	6380
2001	Suzuki	MC	1786

Suicide Prevention

Fort Polk Main Post Chapel hosts VBS

(U.S. Army Photos by Karen Sampson)

INSTALLATION SERVICES FAIR

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

AUG. 7

4:30-6 P.M. AT THE WARRIOR CENTER

ORGANIZATIONS

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

SERVICES

General Powers of Attorney, extreme weather notifications sign-up and professional photos

Childcare provided for service members, families and attendees

**Not available for organization employees working a booth*

Complimentary food will be available!

For more information call 337-353-1694

Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk

U.S. ARMY

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE ACS Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

Army Community Service & Prevention Center

Mobilization Deployment & Stability Support Operations

Training Schedule July 2025 - December 2025

Key Contact
July 1st @ 5pm-6:30pm
July 2nd @ 1pm-2:30pm
August 4th @ 5pm-6:30pm (V)
August 5th @ 1pm-2:30pm (V)
September 8th @ 5pm-6:30pm (V)
September 9th @ 1pm-2:30pm (V)
October 6th @ 5pm-6:30pm (V)
October 7th @ 1pm-2:30pm (V)
November 3rd @ 5pm-6:30pm
November 4th @ 1pm-2:30pm

Informal Funds
July 14th @ 5pm-6:30pm
July 15th @ 1pm-2:30pm
August 11th @ 5pm-6:30pm (V)
August 12th @ 1pm-2:30pm (V)
September 15th @ 5pm-6:30pm (V)
September 16th @ 1pm-2:30pm (V)
October 14th @ 5pm-6:30pm (V)
October 15th @ 1pm-2:30pm (V)
November 12th @ 5pm-6:30pm
November 13th @ 1pm-2:30pm

Care Team
July 23rd @ 9am-12pm
August 20th @ 9am-12pm
September 24th @ 9am-12pm
October 22nd @ 9am-12pm
November 19th @ 9am-12pm

CFRR
July 3rd @ 9am-12pm
August 6th @ 9am-12pm (V)
September 10th @ 9am-12pm (V)
October 8th @ 9am-12pm (V)
November 5th @ 9am-12pm

All Classes with a (V) will be held virtually!

RSVP Required! Scan QR Code to register

December classes are by request only!

*No childcare provided for classroom training at this time.

All classes held at ACS
1591 Bell Richard Ave, Bldg. 920
520-706-2552 or 726-780-1073

INCOMING SOLDIERS

WELCOME TO JRTC AND FORT POLK

For **FREE** transportation to **FORT POLK** please call
(337) 718-8820

or SCAN CODE

IN-PROCESSING STAFF DUTY DESK
CALL (726) 780-2160

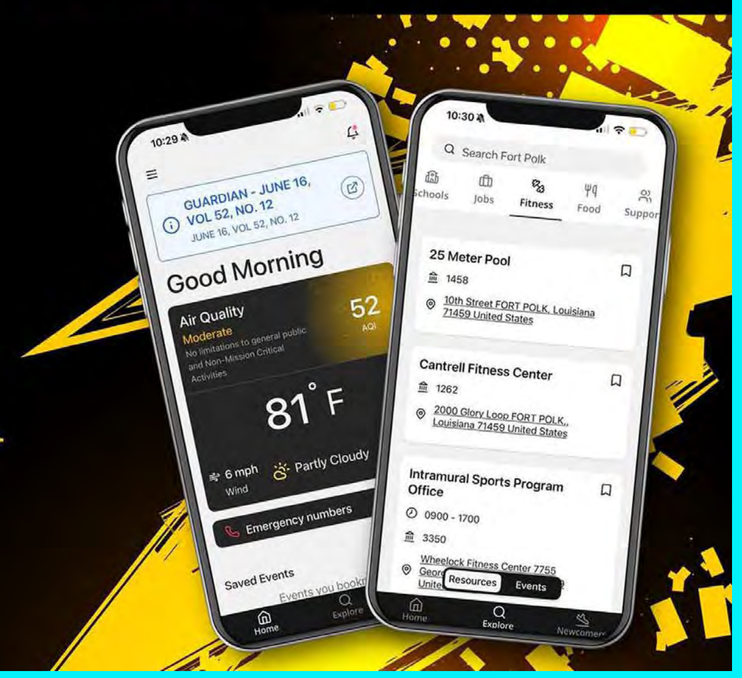
JRTC ROTATIONAL TRAINING UNITS (RTU) CALL (337) 653- 3488

NATIONAL GUARD AND ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS CONTACT YOUR UNIT FOR TRANSPORTATION

Stay in the know at Fort Polk with

MY ARMY POST APP

- Upcoming events
- Weather alerts
- Gate hours and information
- Maintenance orders
- Fitness facilities
- Dining and more!



GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Fort Polk power generation ribbon cutting ceremony

Held Aug. 5 at 11:45 a.m. on Fort Polk's Power Generation Field —

Go north on Chaffee Road and take a left (on to a dirt road) just past the ra

The U.S. Army, together with Corvias, a trusted infrastructure and resiliency partner to the military and higher education, is unveiling the completion of a 13-megawatt power generation project at Fort Polk. The initiative — which provides energy benefits to more than 1,800 military homes via a $29 million investment — is part of a broader effort to enhance U.S. Army energy security, independence, and readiness.

TRANSITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EMPLOYERS DAY

Aug. 12
9 a.m.-noon
Fort Polk Library and Education Center
7460 Colorado Ave. Bldg. 660

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

- Navy Federal Credit Union
- Air Streams/ERA Solutions
- Texas Dept of Public Safety
- Ochsner Health Center

POC: Christopher Ausbun
Transition Services Manager
VOIP: (726) 780-1016
email: christopher.m.ausbun.civ@army.mil

POC: Clifton Hill
Transition Services Specialist
Office: (337) 531-4621
VOIP: (726) 780-1017
email: clifton.hill.civ@army.mil

TRANSITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EMPLOYERS DAY

Aug. 26
9 a.m.-noon
Fort Polk Library and Education Center
7460 Colorado Ave. Bldg. 660

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

- Federal Bureau of Prisons at FCC Pollock
- FCC Oakdale (Bureau of Prison)
- Air Streams/ERA Solutions
- First Command

POC: Christopher Ausbun
Transition Services Manager
VOIP: (726) 780-1016
email: christopher.m.ausbun.civ@army.mil

POC: Clifton Hill
Transition Services Specialist
Office: (337) 531-4621
VOIP: (726) 780-1017
email: clifton.hill.civ@army.mil

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Talking Point #4

Skill Bridge/ Career Skills Program

Army Career Skills Program (CSP) and the Department of Defense (DOD) SkillBridge program are both initiatives that aim to assist transitioning service members in gaining civilian job skills and improving their employment prospects. CSP providers have agreements in place with Army Garrisons and must meet strict program outcomes of 85% graduation rate, 100% interview rate and 90% job offers to ensure programs are effective and provide quality careers. DoD SkillBrigde program is a broader initiative that encompasses all branches of the military. It allows active-duty service members to participate in civilian job training and internships during their last 180 days of service.

TRANSITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Find out more at
armytap.army.mil

IGH Teen Academy Walk/Run

IGH Teen Academy hosted a two mile walk/run July 25. Fort Polk teens and members of the community met at the Magnolia Express to participate in the event. (Courtesy photos by Wesley Fairchild)