

GUARDIAN



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Fall Hybrid Hiring Fair offers employment opportunities

By **ANGIE THORNE**
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. – The Fall Hybrid Hiring Fair and Education Event took place Sept. 21 at the Fort Johnson Education Center. The event was hosted by the Transition Assistance Program whose enhanced hiring events are designed to provide transitioning service members the opportunity to connect with employment and education opportunities. The event was a hybrid in-person and virtual hiring opportunity. Vets4Life hosts the virtual portion of the event through Oct. 21.

Janice Breeland, Fort Johnson TAP director, kicked off the month-long hybrid hiring event with a pep talk to vendors. She encouraged the 30 employers, 10 colleges and seven service providers to help the Soldiers, Family members, veterans and retirees attending the event in any way they could.

Breeland called the hiring fair a connect event.

“We are constantly trying to connect transitioning Soldiers with employers, colleges and service providers. What’s great about this being a hybrid event is that the connection possibilities can continue for the next 30 days through the virtual portion of the event,” Breeland said. “That’s critically important to those who couldn’t make it to the in-person event today.”

Giving Soldiers the opportunity to use both the in-person and virtual aspects of the hiring event enhances the chances for them to be successful in their job-hunting efforts.

“Some Soldiers prefer talking to employers face to face. Others, who are more technologically savvy, prefer the virtual hiring fair,” Breeland said. “The important thing is that we offer them both.”

Stevi Reed, a military spouse, just moved to Fort Johnson and attended the hiring fair to get a better idea of what kind of jobs were available



The in-person portion of the Transition Assistance Program Hybrid Hiring Fair took place Sept. 21 at Fort Johnson’s Education Center.

ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

in the area. She is in the process of getting her medical assistant certification.

“This is a great event. It gives me a chance to see what kinds of opportunities are available in my career field,” Reed said.

One of the employers at the fair Reed would probably have wanted to talk to is the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Hale Richerson, human resources specialist with the Alexandria Veterans Administration Health Care System, was part of the team that made the trip to Fort Johnson to not only seek out potential employees, but also get the word out about what the VA has to offer.

“Our purpose is to take care of veterans and their Families,” Richerson said. “As an employer our goal is to hire the best of the best, which is why we are here. Who better to know and help veterans than the Soldiers that have walked in their boots?”

Richerson was impressed with the turn out for the hiring fair as

well as the number of vendors participating.

“This kind of turn out shows me that businesses and organizations truly care about Soldiers, their Families and the quality of life they lead now and into the future,” Richerson said.

For Soldiers and Family members looking to increase their knowledge before dipping their toe in the job market, colleges were set up among the employers.

Ashley Prejean, Fort Johnson site director for Central Texas College, had a table filled with information to aid those in attendance with questions about furthering their education.

“We are preparing Soldiers in our community to be better educated and qualified for employment as they transition out of the military and beyond,” Prejean said.

Also participating in the fair were vendors like Military One Source. According to its website, military-onesource.mil, the organization’s

Please see **Hiring**, page 2



**JRTC and
Fort Johnson**
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Gardner**

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Garrison Commander

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eGuardian are not necessarily

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The Guardian can be found on the

JRTC and Fort Johnson website at

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included in all-users emails to

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All editorial content of the Guardian

is prepared, edited, provided and

approved by the Public Affairs

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For more information on

Fort Johnson units and

happenings visit the

[@JRTCandFortJohnson](https://www.facebook.com/JRTCandFortJohnson/)

Facebook page.



Cover photo: *Cpl. Michael Donahue and other Fort Johnson security guards train with their pistols at the Leesville Shooting Range Sept. 19.*
(Photo by PORSHA AUZENNE)

Hiring

Continued from page 1

purpose is to provide Soldiers and Families with a wealth of tools, information and resources to support them.

"The best thing we offer is support when they need it," said Derrick Ursin, Military One Source Louisiana consultant. "

Military One Source offers everything from counseling and relationship support to parenting resources and more.

"We want to help increase Soldiers and Family members overall quality of life," he said.

Ursin understood the importance of the hiring fair to the Fort Johnson community.

"It puts employers and support organizations in a centralized location. That takes the tediousness and stress out of looking for jobs and information," Ursin said. "Bringing everyone together like this benefits Soldiers and Families in so many ways."

Spc. Luis Duran, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, will be transitioning out of the military in a few months. He attended the fair to find out what kind of job opportunities he can expect to find when he gets out.

"There are a lot of employers here. It's good to network now and talking to people in person is helpful," Duran said.

However, Duran didn't pin all his hopes on the in-person hiring event. He also plans to participate in the virtual hiring event that continues through Oct. 21.

"It's great that the job fair will continue virtually. That gives me the opportunity to take my time and reach out to employers I'm interested in," Duran said.

Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, attended the hiring fair to thank employers participating in the event and talk to transitioning Soldiers and Family members looking for job opportunities.

"Our transitioning service members made tremendous sacrifices in protecting our way of life and the freedoms we enjoy. Your (employers) efforts today help us reduce the challenges these transitioning service members and their spouses face in obtaining employment," Lopez said. "Your participation in and support of this event speaks volumes about your commitment to our transitioning service members and their spouses. I commend and salute you for considering their unlimited potential brings to the workplace."

Lopez also thanked transitioning service members and spouses for their selfless service, continuous sacrifice and dedication.

"We wish you continued success in your future endeavors," Lopez said.

For more information about the continuing virtual hiring fair call 337-531-1591.



Fort Johnson leadership stopped by the hiring fair to talk to vendors and attendees.

Soldiers, Family members, veterans and retirees attended the packed in-person portion of the hiring fair. The virtual portion takes place online through Oct. 21.



Open house highlights behavioral, mental health resources

By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES
BJACH PAO

FORT JOHNSON, La. — One life lost to suicide is too many. To illustrate this critical point, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital hosted a community-wide Suicide Prevention Month open house Sept. 13 at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson.

The event was set up in a scavenger hunt style to illustrate how targeted care provides clinical and nonclinical resources for behavioral health care.

Resources were staged on every floor of the hospital. Participants leveled up to the different resources depending on need as they navigated the various programs available. One location allowed guests the opportunity to learn more about how targeted care brings together a team focused on enhancing resilience and protects against suicide.

In addition to the BJACH primary and specialty behavioral health services, the open house included representatives from the Alexandria Veterans Affairs Health Care System, Army Substance Abuse Program, Army Community Service, American Red Cross, Ready and Resilient Performance Center, Military and Family Life Counselors, the installation religious support office, as well as Oceans, Brentwood and Longleaf hospitals.

The intent of the open house was to bring in all levels of care and services available to Soldiers and their Families.

Lt. Col. Alexander Ragan, installation director of psychological health, said behavioral health resources, peer-to-peer counseling, anger management training, substance abuse programs, therapy, and many other non-clinical and clinical programs can lower the risk of suicide.

"It is always amazing to see people come together to offer help for those who are suffering," Ragan said. "Learning about the resources to either help yourself or others, as well as getting to know the people that care and are ready to offer help made this an important Suicide Prevention Month event."

Christa Zayas, suicide prevention program coordinator for JRTC and Fort Johnson, said preventing suicide is a top priority for the DOD, and events like this one are important.

"We talk about and promote suicide prevention throughout the year," Zayas said. "Having a dedicated month to focus on suicide prevention along with events like this help get people talking about suicide prevention and connect to resources in our community."

The open house was beneficial not only to BJACH beneficiaries, but to the organizations



Anna Pinkelman (left) and Sharon Hitchens, licensed clinical social workers and behavioral health consultants in the primary care clinics at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital and the Fontaine Troop Medical Clinic, pose with their display during a community-wide Suicide Prevention Month open house Sept. 13 at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson.

who participated in the event.

"We had a lot of really great interaction with people who came through," Zayas said. "The participants at the open house not only learned about suicide prevention, but about a variety of resources that are designed to help people build coping mechanisms and resiliency that will help them throughout their daily lives."

Luci Buch, Family programs manager with Army Community Service, said the event was a great networking opportunity for all.

"We met a lot of people who were interested in our services and didn't know a lot about ACS," Buch said. "There are so many daily stressors that can affect a person's life. At ACS we provide the training, education and tools necessary to help Soldiers and their Families build resiliency, improve communication and enhance overall well-being."

Buch said ACS should be the first step when it comes to suicide prevention.

"We always like to say, 'think ACS first,' because we are the first line of defense. We'll give you the classes and assistance you need before things get too out of control," Buch said. "We have flyers in our lobby and our information and referral team is great at asking questions so they can provide information relevant to the issues our customers are facing. If we can't help them at ACS, we will provide them with information to resources that can."

Capt. James Walker, hospital chaplain, said

the open house was designed to be a safe and interactive way to discuss mental health and suicide prevention.

"This was an opportunity for people to come together and learn about the targeted care program and all the resources available to them in our community," Walker said. "I hope that visitors and guests take away a greater understanding of the importance of mental health and suicide prevention. I hope they feel more comfortable using the available resources. I hope they feel empowered to seek help if they or someone they know is struggling."

Walker said it's important to know that support is within reach, and there is no shame in asking for it.

Molly Van Dyke, spouse of a Soldier assigned to 317th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, came to the open house with two of her friends.

"I came out to learn about the different resources available to military Families, specifically spouses," Van Dyke said. "I think it's good for me to get information so I can share it with other spouses when I talk to them."

Van Dyke said there is a big need in the community for events like this.

"It was great to see, not just the hospital, but on and off-post resources supporting Fort Johnson," Van Dyke said. "This was a great use of my time and a wonderful way to put some names to faces and discover new things."

For more information about suicide prevention initiatives and mental health resources visit: <https://www.health.mil/News/In-the-Spotlight/Mental-Health-is-Health>



SEPTEMBER IS

NATIONAL

SUICIDE
AWARENESS

MONTH



**Fort Johnson
resources for
after duty hours,
weekends
or holidays**

- On-call duty chaplain:
337-531-1725
- BJACH emergency room:
337-531-3368/3369
- Military Crisis Line/ Na-
tional Suicide Prevention
Lifeline: 800-273-8255,
press 1, or text 838255
- Combat vets call center:
877-927-8387
- Suicide & Crisis Line: Dial
988 and press 1



Main Post Chapel **devotional** focused on encouragement, resiliency

By **ANGIE THORNE**
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — On Sept. 20, a night when the Fort Johnson Main Post Chapel usually concentrates on fellowship and bible study, the church welcomed a guest speaker to provide a devotional message instead. Retired chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver, Chaplaincy Services executive director for the North American Mission Board, provides professional and pastoral support to 3,900 Southern Baptist chaplains who minister in various settings around the world.

During the devotional, Carver broke bread with church members, entertained them with gospel music and spoke about scripture and how it can be a foundation to build resiliency.

Chaplain (Col.) Michael Jeffries, Fort Johnson garrison chaplain, said Carver was at Fort Johnson to not only speak words of encouragement to the Main Post Chapel congregation but, in the week he was here, to also build bridges with churches and congregations off the installation.

“It’s people like him that help us maintain a healthy and resilient community,” Jeffries said. “In order to do that he has met with Fort Johnson leadership and chaplains and close to 90 pastors from the surrounding area to build community relations and connections on Fort Johnson and outside our gates.”

Carver spent 38 years in uniform and is proud to visit Fort Johnson to try to strengthen the connection and support between the installation and other churches.

“The partnership already exists. What I have seen and experienced this week only validates that connection as the pastors we met with got to know us and each other better,” Carver said.

Those conversations fostered ways for the larger religious community to support one another and increase that friendship and support.

“The pastors shared how they could support the religious and spiritual needs of our troops who live in their communities and are members of their congregations,” Carver said.

After meeting with pastors from off the installation, it was time to hone in on Fort Johnson’s congregation.

For what he would consider a small installation, Carver was impressed with the number of Families and Soldiers who took an interest in chapel activities.

“Hopefully, the messages I bring to the chapel congregation improves their interest in the holy scriptures because I think their spiritual strength and growth adds to their resiliency, especially for those in the military. It’s all about mind, body and soul,” Carver said.

With the challenging demands of the armed services, a spiritual life can enhance other aspects of a Soldier’s life.

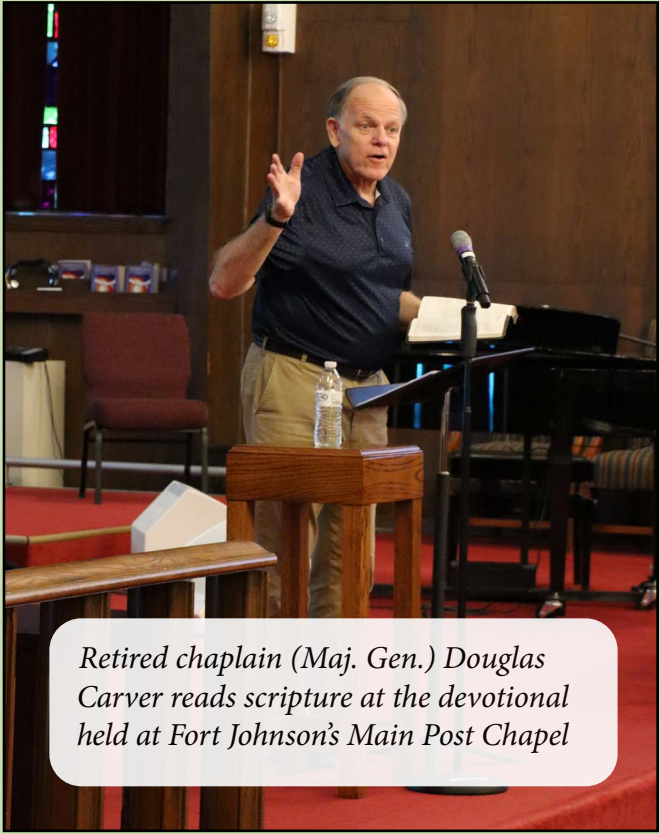
“It can make them more effective in the mis-



Retired chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver plays the piano and sings to those in attendance at the devotional held at Fort Johnson’s Main Post Chapel Sept. 20.



Before a devotional Sept. 20 at Fort Johnson’s Main Post Chapel kicks off, congregation members enjoy fellowship and food.



Retired chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver reads scripture at the devotional held at Fort Johnson’s Main Post Chapel

sion and as part of a Family raising children and maintaining a successful relationship with their spouse,” Carver said. “We want to help strengthen them in every facet of their lives.”

Pfc. Micah Hall, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, attended the devotional. Hall goes to church at the Main Post Chapel and wanted to get out of his room to fellowship with his fellow church members.

“I thought I needed to get out and do something that makes me a better person. I wanted to be closer to God and that’s what I did,” Hall said.

Heather Williams, a chaplain spouse, also

attended the event. Williams had the opportunity to meet with Carver at another event and was impressed.

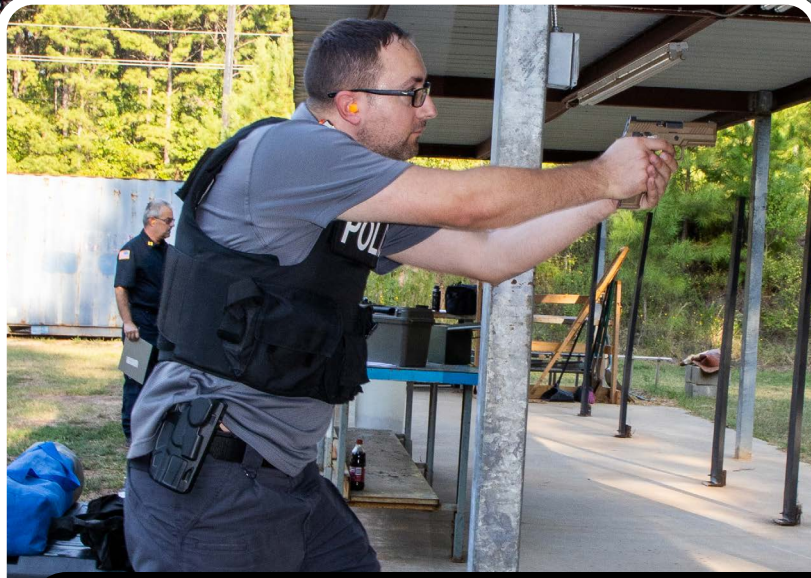
“I love his heart for the military and our Families,” Williams said.

Williams thinks it’s important that service members know people like Carver have served and are still advocating for them.

“He speaks to the importance of community and strengthening and supporting others to reinforce our overall resiliency,” Williams said. “You have to bring people together at events like this to foster that fortitude.”

For more information about the Religious Support Office call 337-531-2669.

Shining light on National Security Officer **Appreciation Week**



POISHA AUZENNE/GUARDIAN



POISHA AUZENNE/GUARDIAN

Cpl. Joshua Rogers

"It feels good to have a positive impact on our community," Rogers said. "As a veteran, I understand how important a Soldier's timeline can be and try my best to accommodate them."

Fort Johnson security guard



COURTESY DES



Sgt. Morgan Alford

"Being a security guard gives me an opportunity to serve my community and country," said Alford. "The community can rest easy knowing we are doing everything we can to ensure their safety."

Fort Johnson security guard

This is a small snapshot of a week in the life of Fort Johnson security guards. During National Security Officer Appreciation Week Sept. 18-22. Guards did physical and weapons training, participated in the Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office podcast, were thanked for their hard work and dedication with certificates of appreciation by leadership and went about the normal business of protecting the installation at its access control points.

ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

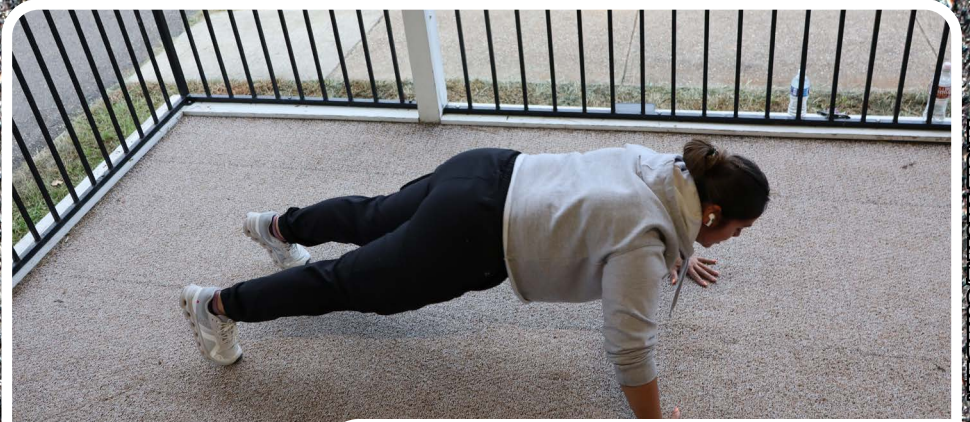
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Guards

Continued from page 6



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

Capt. Victoria Gainey

"I would like to not only give thanks to my Department of the Army security guard personnel for their hard work, but also recognize the Soldiers who work to provide security right along side us."

Fort Johnson security guard



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



COURTESY DES

Cpl. Karla Garcia

"It's an honor to meet and greet our Soldiers, their families and our civilian workforce on a daily basis and help them start their day with a friendly face. It's also incredible to help keep Fort Johnson safe."

Fort Johnson security guard



PORSHA AUZENNE/GUARDIAN

DESIGNED BY ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION SIGNING



JOIN US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

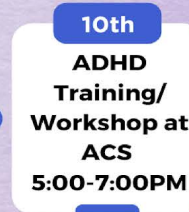
Catfish Cove
1352 Wyoming Ave.
Fort Johnson, LA
71459

Date: October 2, 2023
Time: 5:30-6:00 PM



OCTOBER AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS

Family Advocacy Program



Please join us to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness month and Exceptional Family Member Program. For more information contact 337-531-1938.



Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Luncheon

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18, 2023
at the Warrior Center

Sponsored by the
Home of Heroes

ALL SURVIVORS ARE WELCOME

Special Guests

Dr. Furan Akhtar, Hematology Oncology

Dr. Troy Richards, Radiology Oncology

Dr. Phyllis Mason, Chief Medical Officer

Natchitoches Regional Medical Center

For more information and to help us get invitations to survivors in our community please contact HaTina Allen at hatina.r.allen.civ@health.mil

GO PINK RUN

Breast Cancer Awareness Run/Walk
OCT 17TH AT 6:30 AM

OPEN TO ALL SERVICE MEMBERS, FAMILIES, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY



JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON 47TH ANNUAL RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY!

21 OCTOBER 2023
Opening Ceremony 9:00AM

Located:

Consolidated In & Out Processing 1716 3rd Street,
BLDG 250 | Fort Johnson, LA. 71459

We will have:

Information Booths, Equipment Displays, Refreshments,
Legal, ID card services, and a Soldier for Life Golf Tournament!

After the opening ceremony and cake cutting, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital
1585 3RD Street. BLDG 285 will be offering Information Booths, Health Screenings,
Immunizations as well as Pharmacy and Dental Screening Services.

**COME OUT AND SEE
WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU!**

Sponsored by your
Fort Johnson Retired Soldier Council



SOLDIER FOR LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

JRTC and Fort Johnson's Retired Soldier Council
Invites all DOD ID Card Holders on

21 OCTOBER 2023

BEGINS AT:
10:00 AM

REGISTER TODAY:
(337) 531-4661
Warrior Hills Golf Course



1321 Corps Road
Fort Johnson, LA. 71459

**4 Person
Team Scramble
and prizes galore!**

This tournament is part of the 47th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Activities and
sponsored by the Retired Soldier Council.

**SOCK IT
TO CANCER**
and Save Lives



Blood Drive

Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital
LifeShare Bus (Entrance A & B)
Friday, September 29th • 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
1585 3rd St., Bldg. 285, Ft Johnson



SUPPORT
the fighters
ADMIRE
the survivors
HONOR
the taken

DID YOU KNOW?
25% of the blood
supply is used by
patients battling
cancer. Your blood
donation could
impact the life of
someone you know!



Sign Up Today!



Donate and receive free LifeShare Socks!
While supplies last.

LifeShare BLOOD CENTER **POWER OF YOU**

Mobile drive dates, times, and locations are subject to change. For the most up-to-date mobile drive information, please visit: LifeShare.org

EXTENDED GYM HOURS

Starting Oct. 1, 2023, Wheelock Fitness Center
and Home of Heroes Fitness Center will be
updating their hours to the following:

Wheelock Fitness Center

Current hours:

Monday - Friday: 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Weekends & Holidays: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

New hours effective Oct. 1:

Monday - Friday: 5 a.m.-9 p.m.
Weekends & Holidays: No change

Home of Heroes Fitness Center

Current hours:

Monday - Friday: 6 a.m.-9 a.m., 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sundays & Holidays: Closed

New hours effective Oct. 1:

Monday - Friday: 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays: No change



A true leader is
someone who can
influence others to
change their
behavior.

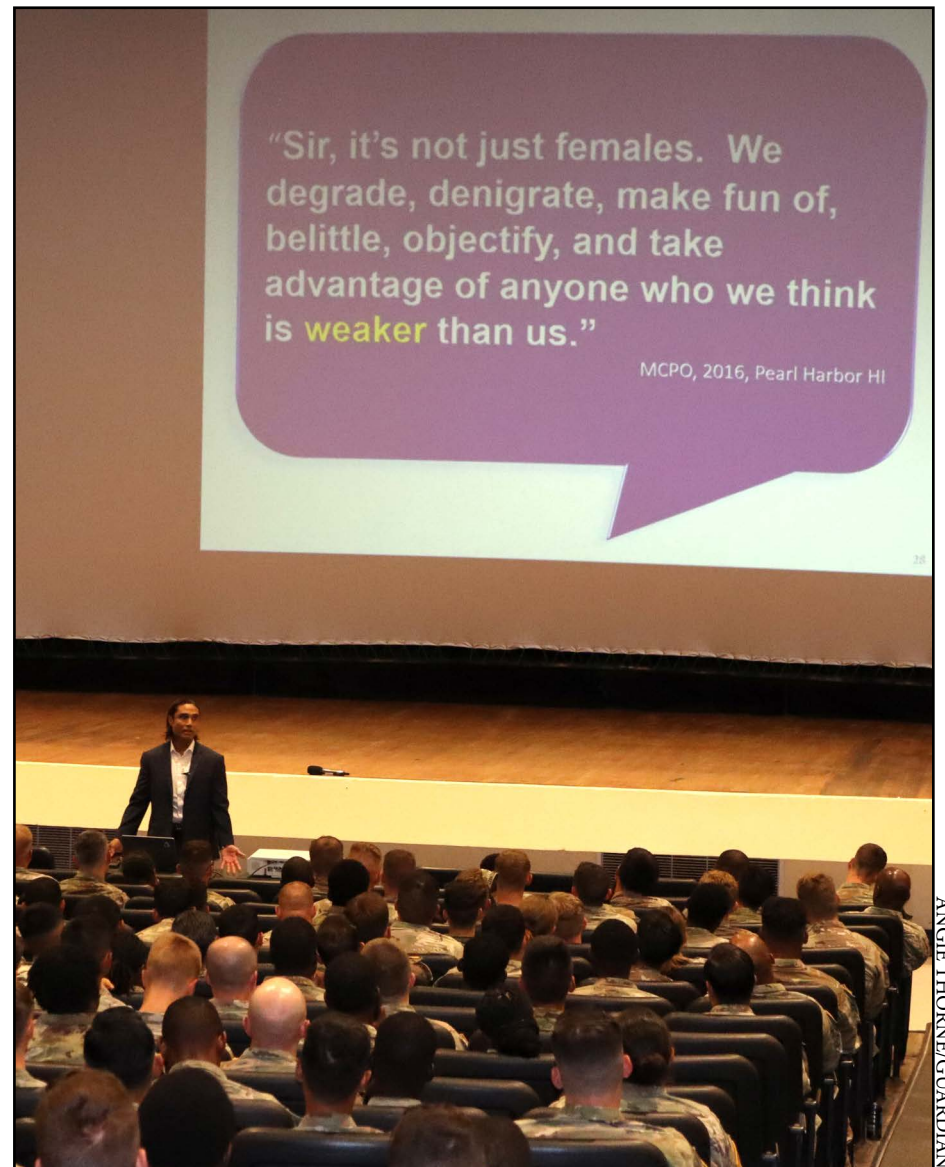


SHARP presentation

Fort Johnson's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program hosted training Sept. 19-20 at the Bayou Theater. The event, featuring Dr. Roy Nafarrete, was an opportunity to address the need to Change the Culture when it comes to wiping out violence and harmful events in the Department of Defense. The aim is to stop it before it starts by eliminating destructive behaviors. For more information about Change the Culture, visit changethecultureconsulting@gmail.com.

"Sir, it's not just females. We degrade, denigrate, make fun of, belittle, objectify, and take advantage of anyone who we think is **weaker** than us."

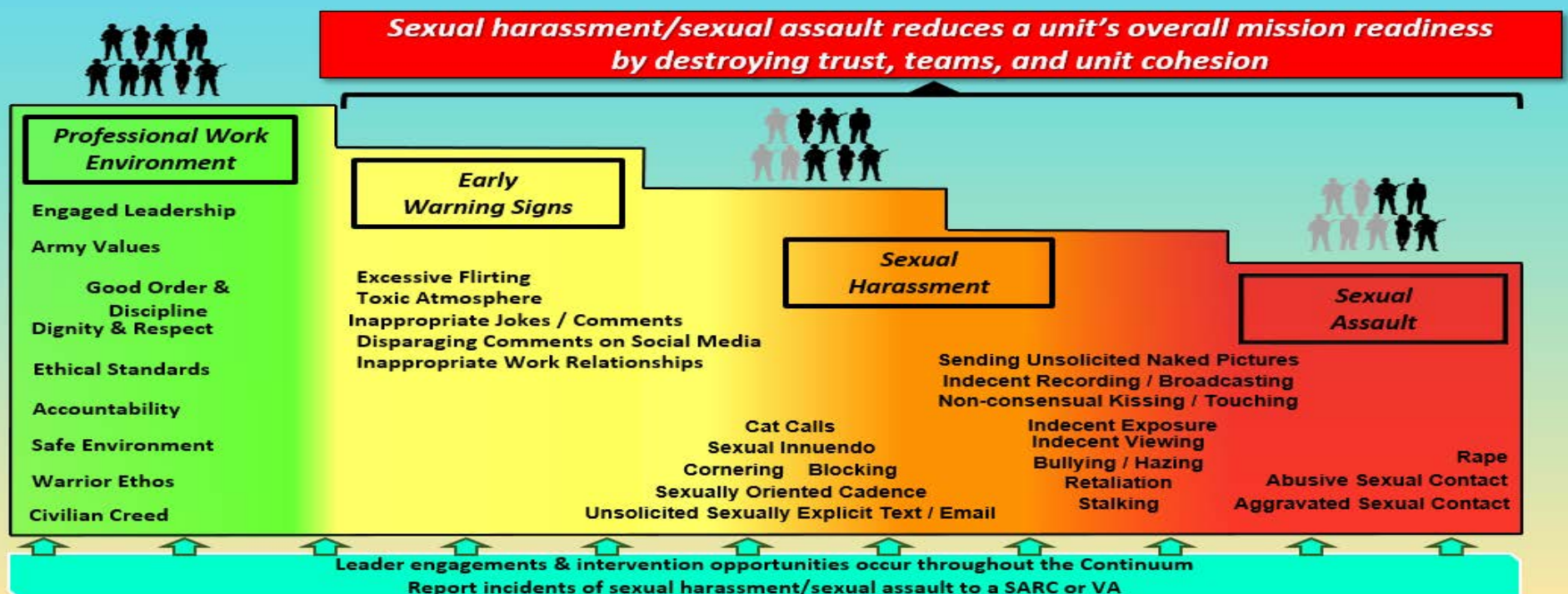
MCPO, 2016, Pearl Harbor HI



ANGIE THORNE/GUARDIAN



SH/SA Continuum - Impacts on Readiness



Mold House Tour

Get a quick glimpse of some of the most important ways to protect your home from mold by touring the Mold House. Room by room, you'll learn about the key problem areas and how to address them.

Bedroom corner

Water from a roof leak has seeped into a wall, causing the paint to buckle and peel. Do not paint over wet or moldy walls. First, fix the water problem, and then paint.

Roof

Don't ignore wet spots or water stains. Consult with a professional to fix leaks or water damage quickly, or the problem will get worse.

Bedroom closet

High room humidity can cause mold to grow on many items indoors, including furnishings or clothing. To help prevent mold growth, try to keep the indoor humidity below 60%, ideally between 30 and 50%. If it isn't humid outside, open windows or doors to allow fresh air in.

Shower

Excessive moisture can cause mold to grow in the bathroom. Run the bathroom exhaust fan or open the window when showering.

Living room wall

Hidden leaks can cause condensation or wet spots on walls and can also lead to mold growth in many places, such as behind walls. A professional can help you find the cause of a hidden leak and fix the problem.

Kitchen wall

Cooking and washing dishes can increase humidity. Use a stove's exhaust hood to draw heat, moisture and other contaminants out of the kitchen. Exhaust hoods should be vented to the outdoors.

Kitchen cabinets

Leaking pipes under the kitchen sink can lead to mold growth in areas such as walls or cabinets. Leaking pipes should be fixed by a plumber or other qualified professional.

Drain pipe

Drain gutters are great for getting water away from the foundation of a house. Make sure drain gutters are long enough to drain rain water at least 5 feet away from the foundation.

Yard

Water pooling around the foundation of a house can lead to indoor moisture problems. The ground near a house should be sloped downward away from the house to drain water away from the foundation.

Dehumidifier

If a room such as a basement is too humid, use a dehumidifier to help prevent mold growth. Be sure to clean the dehumidifier regularly and follow the manufacturer's cleaning instructions.

Dryer venting

Improperly vented clothes dryers will increase the humidity in the room and may lead to mold growth. Clothes dryers must be vented to the outdoors.

www.epa.gov/mold/interactive-mold-house-tour

Protect your Family, property from disasters

DPTMS

FORT JOHNSON, La. — September is National Preparedness Month. The following information can help keep you and your Family safe when the worst happens.

Disasters happen quickly and often without any warning. Know the risks of disasters in your area throughout the year and take the following steps to protect your family and property before a disaster strikes.

- Learn first aid, including CPR.
- Put together a first aid kit for your home and car.
- Have a fire extinguisher and learn how to use it.
- Know how to shut off utilities such as gas, water and electricity safely.
- Make a list of household belongings. This can help in filing an insurance claim.
- Make sure you have the right type and amount of insurance.
- Keep important documents and valuable items in a waterproof container.
- Make copies of documents to keep online or at another location.
- Clean gutters and make sure water drains away from your home to prevent flooding.
- Secure objects outside the home. If you have loose shingles, trash cans, outdoor sports equipment or patio furniture that can be picked up by the wind, make sure to secure these objects to avoid damage to your home during a storm.
- Trim or remove dead, damaged or rotting trees and limbs.
- If you live in a manufactured home, be sure



the wheels and axles are fixed to a permanent foundation and the anchoring system is installed properly.

- Have identification such as a photo ID, birth certificates and social security cards to prove identity and apply for disaster assistance.

- Have a plan to be able to pay your bills.

- Keep prescription information and have enough medication on hand.

- Make sure you have contact information for your banking institutions, insurance agents, health professionals, service providers and place of worship.

For more information email **tommy.j.morris2.civ@army.mil**.

Hurricane Preparedness

Understand Forecast Information

weather.gov/hurricane



Rely on forecasts from the National Hurricane Center & your local NWS office



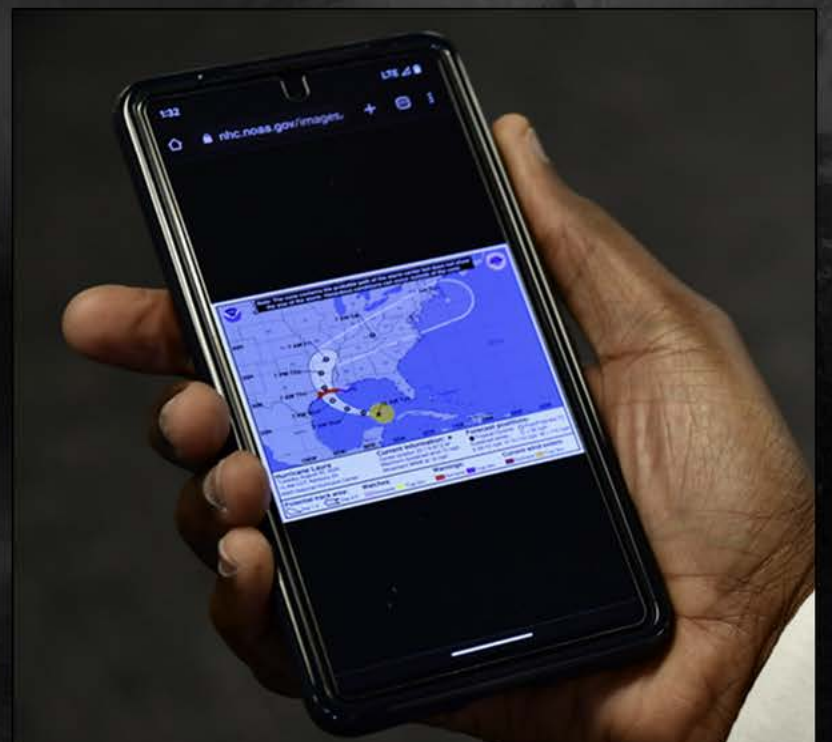
Know your alerts & the difference between a Watch and Warning



Focus on potential impacts, regardless of storm size or category



Know that deadly hazards occur well outside of the Forecast Cone





EVERY ORGANIZATION HAS A SAFETY CULTURE - WHAT'S OURS?

WHO: USAG Fort Johnson Personnel (Soldiers & Civilians)

WHAT: Safety survey (estimate 10-15 minutes per person)

WHERE: Web-based (no CAC required)

WHEN: Open until Oct. 10, 2024

WHY: ARAP surveys provide feedback to the garrison commander on key issues regarding command climate, safety culture, resource availability, workload, estimated success of certain safety intervention programs and other factors relating to readiness.

How: Scan the QR code.

➔ **Enter Survey Code: E^dD_kqVrs\$4Q6**

SCAN HERE

Open your camera and hover over the QR Code



ARAP Survey is *CONFIDENTIAL* & *ANONYMOUS* - no CAC required!

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Questions? Contact the Garrison Safety Office: 337-531-SAFE (7233)



<https://earap.safety.army.mil>

SHINE A PURPLE LIGHT TO UNITE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OCTOBER 1-31ST

Purple light bulbs available at:



25
SEPT

1000-1200
Maple Terrace Community Center
100 Pendleton Dr, Fort Johnson,
LA 71459

26
SEPT

1000-1200
Dogwood Terrace Community Center
300 Warren Ct, Fort Johnson,
LA 71459

27
SEPT

1000-1200
Palmetto Terrace Community Center
200 Bell Richard Ave, Fort
Johnson, LA 71459

27
SEPT

1000-1200
Old Palmetto Terrace Community Center
5300 Magnolia Dr, Fort Johnson,
LA 71459

SEPT
25-29

0800-1630
Army Community Services
920 Bell Richard Ave, Fort
Johnson, LA 71459



Fort Johnson Family Advocacy Program

For more information: 337-531-1938

Munitions Hazards in Retrograded Equipment



Recognize
Retreat
Report

- Never assume a vehicle returned from theater is free of munitions until all hidden areas are inspected
- All munitions found must:
 - Be considered dangerous
 - Not be touched, moved or disturbed
- Protect yourself and coworkers by following the 3Rs



**Follow
the 3Rs**

Recognize

Munitions may be present in returned equipment and that munitions present a risk of injury or death.

Retreat

Stop work, carefully leave the area and keep others away.

Report

Immediately report munitions or suspect munitions to a supervisor who will contact the police to request support.

Visit the 3Rs Explosives Safety Education website: <https://3Rs.mil>



Michael Reheuser tours Fort Johnson

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson welcomed Michael Reheuser, Director of Installation Services, Sept. 21-22. Reheuser, who is the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for G-9, visited the Pelican State from Washington D.C. He is responsible for policies, resources and programs related to environmental, logistics and housing on Army installations across the globe. Reheuser met with Fort Johnson personnel to tour the installation, with stops including Maks Army Airfield, the Rock Shop, Warrior Plaza micro grid, a green sand filtration system and the Directorate of Human Resources electric vehicle charging station.



PORSHA AUZENNE/ GUARDIAN



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers meeting

Fort Johnson leadership met with USACE personnel from Fort Worth Sept. 14 to discuss current and future construction projects. From left: Linda Howard, Directorate of Public Works Business Operations and Integration Division chief; Scotty Goins, USACE program manager; Steve Sherrill, USACE resident engineer; Col. Calvin Kroeger, USACE Fort Worth district commander, Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander; Fort Johnson garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Nielsen; Rob Newman, USACE deputy district engineer and Brian Giacomozzi, USACE chief of engineering and construction; Gary Westby, USACE area engineer; Nathan Jernigan, director of public works and Bob Wooley, USACE chief of programs and project management division.



PORSHA AUZENNE/ GUARDIAN



Housing town hall
 Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson leadership, along with unit leaders and representatives from Corvias, held a housing town hall Sept. 18 in the Maple Terrace neighborhood. Residents were able to share their housing questions and concerns, maintaining the open dialogue between the Fort Johnson community and leadership. Residents and leadership then gathered at the Maple Community Center to further engage in discussions about quality of life in the neighborhood.



PORSHA AUZENNE/GUARDIAN

GARRISON COMMANDER'S 3 GUN SHOOT

SEPTEMBER 30

Check-in - 0800 | Safety Brief - 0900 | Shooting Commences - 0930

MWR RECREATIONAL SHOOTING RANGE

Pre-registration | \$15
 Call: 337.531.7552



Day of registration | \$20

Leesville Lions Club

RODEO

2023



73rd
Annual

Leesville Rodeo Arena
Oct 5-7 7:30



Featuring

J2 Rodeos, Announcer Seth Roy, and Rudy Burns

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the gate

Football season brings back memories of simpler time

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — It's the time of year when football reigns supreme across the sports landscape. I know, the baseball season is nearing the end when teams are battling for a playoff spot, but all one needs to do is watch ESPN or any other sports network and they soon realize it doesn't really matter. What matters is how your Pop Warner, junior high, high school, college or professional football is doing.

Already, just two weeks into the season, the New York Jets have had their hopes dashed by a season-ending injury to their savior. Louisiana State University has seen their hopes for national title run stymied by a bunch of athletes from Florida State. And the high school I attended, although 2-0, relieved its head coach for unspecified reason.

On the flip side, the state of Texas is more excited than ever: The Cowboys look like a powerhouse, and the Longhorns put a whipping on Nick Saban's Alabama boys.

As I age — as gracefully as possible, although it gets harder each year — I look back on football season as one of my favorite times growing up, and the chance to spend quality time with my dad.

My dad, Rodney, was a mountain of a man, standing 6 feet, 3 inches tall and topping out at about 250 pounds. He was a top-notch high school player at Ouachita Parish High School in Monroe, Louisiana, and later played a little college ball, first at LSU and then Northeast State College (now the University of Louisiana-Monroe).

But a beautiful high school sweetheart stole his heart and he and my mom, Sara, got married in July 1954, ending his college football career as they began planning a family.

I arrived first, a little over a year after they married, followed by my sister, Beth, and little brother, Mike. Although Dad's focus was now on providing for his growing family, he never gave up on his love of football — especially LSU football.

As my brother and I got older, Dad began schooling us in the fine art of football. He didn't limit it to his position — offensive and defensive tackle — but taught us all positions. I especially remember him working on our ability to catch a football. He had all types of drills set up so that by the time Mike and I were in junior high, we could catch the proverbial "BB in a snowstorm."

One of my favorite pastimes with Dad was when LSU played on Saturday nights in the fall.

Back in the 1960s there were very few ball-games televised, unlike today when even games featuring The Sisters of Mercy against Memphis Trucking College are televised on



COURTESY CHUCK CANNON

the myriad of stations available for a "small nominal fee."

No, back in the day, it was usually radio. We were about 200 miles north of LSU up in West Monroe and about an hour before game time, Dad would begin the process of tuning in the station carrying the game.

He'd set the radio up by a window in his and mom's bedroom and start working the dial. After a few minutes the "Voice of the Tigers" — John Ferguson — would come in clear and it was time to take our places for the broadcast.

Dad would lay sideways across the double bed he and Mom shared, his feet hanging off the edge, a focused look on his face. I would lay beside my dad, trying my best to mimic that gaze as we prepared for the opening kickoff.

I remember dad jubilant in every LSU victory, while agonizing in each defeat. Some of the players names I can still recall, such as quarterback Nelson Stokely, running back Joe Labruzzo and receiver Doug Moreau. I could picture them in my mind, bigger than life in their purple and gold.

Dad's LSU love affair continued into the pros before the New Orleans Saints came into existence in 1967. He would root for teams with LSU players, such as Jimmy Taylor and Green Bay, Johnny Robinson and Kansas City,

Billy Cannon and the various teams he played for and Tommy Davis and San Francisco. Dad had played high school ball against Davis, and they signed together at LSU.

As all good things must seemingly come to an end, so did Saturday nights sprawled across Mom and Dad's bed, listening to our beloved Tigers. More games began to be televised, my grandparents got a color TV, so we began to spend a lot of Saturdays and Sundays at their house under the pretense of a visit, when in fact, everyone knew why we were there.

I look back on the nights in my and Dad's "Tiger Stadium," rejoicing when the Tigers scored a touchdown and groaning when their opponent scored.

We shared a lot of conversation during those games, not just about sports, but about life in general, how people should be treated, the difference between right and wrong and how to tell the difference.

I miss those days and the simpler time they stood for the bond that developed between father and son over a simple game. When I watch LSU or New Orleans today, I can still hear my dad urging the running back on or muttering under his breath "shoot" if a tackle is missed.

We lost Dad a few years ago. But he'll always be there with me when I'm watching the Saints and Tigers. I miss you, Dad.

COMMENTARY

LEMON LOT

15\$ per Month

Across from Catfish Cove

SPORTS COUNCIL WANTED

Looking for Soldiers & civilians to create a sports council

For more information Call (337) 531-9789
Intramural Sports Office
BLDG 3350, Wheelock Fitness Center - 7755 Georgia Ave.

GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE PROJECT

Multi-use trail & bridge

Corps Rd

Temp cart path detour

Current cart path

Construction Area

Temp Tee Box

Construction is in progress on a culvert across from golf course hole one. The hole will remain open and a temporary tee box will be provided. A detour for golf carts will be established allowing carts to use the pedestrian bridge on the multi-use trail. However, carts must yield the right of way to pedestrians. Golfers and pedestrians are encouraged to stay clear of the work zone and exercise caution as they use the trail. The work is projected to continue through March.

Family Advocacy Program & Exceptional Family Member Program

CHALK about Family

Halloween Family Fun Night!

October 13, 2023 5:30-7:30PM

1591 Bell Richard Ave Bldg. 920, Fort Johnson, LA

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

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.

2016	Mazda	3	5679
2008	Chevrolet	Impala	9420
2010	Chevrolet	Cobalt	6002
2002	VW	GTI	2558
1981	Yamaha	XJ650	8637
1994	Ford	F-250	3432
1997	Dodge	1500	3720
2003	Nissan	Maxima	6157
2014	Chevrolet	Cruze	0491
2002	Pontiac	Grand Prix	1285
1995	Dodge	1500	8277
2016	Jeep	Patriot	9883
2005	Buick	LeSaber	7593
2005	Lincoln	LS	5385
2001	GMC	Yukon	6444



Hispanic Heritage Month

to me means that even though I am an American, I get to celebrate our Mexican culture and remember our ancestors. It also means I get to share our beliefs, culture, styles, music, rituals and food with our children. Passing our

culture down to our children is important for me because I want them to remember where we came from and that family is an important part of our culture and our beliefs. Growing up was challenging for me because I was too American to be Mexican and too Mexican to be American, but I kept moving forward and did not let the obstacles or circumstances tell me "No". Now that I have my own Family and children, I teach them the importance of being yourself, to move forward and keep persevering no matter the challenges.

”

Sandra Elizondo
Directorate of Family and
Morale, Welfare and Recreation



In my view, **Hispanic Heritage Month** provides me with a time to really sit and reflect on my identity, and appreciate my ancestors. That sense of identity, belonging and shared history that connects me to so many others that came before me ignites a sense of pride and hope in my heart. Fueled by traditions, customs, language, arts and so much more, Hispanic Heritage Month promotes the continuation of our cultural practices and ensures my future generations have a connection to me. It's a really special time to gain insight and understanding of where my ancestors have been and the bright future we are moving towards.

”

Sgt. 1st Class John Martinez
Bayne-Jones Army
Community Hospital
Operations

National
HISPANIC
Heritage Month



Hispanic Heritage Month is a highlight on what it is to be from the Hispanic community. I am a first generation Mexican American and come from a Family that emphasizes hard work and grit. Hispanic heritage isn't

necessarily about the food (despite how amazing it is!) or clothing but about what we stand for as a close community that is very similar in the Army. The Army has given me the opportunity to meet others of different ethnic backgrounds and can say that it is very similar to how close and cohesive within the organization. I am proud of where I come from and grateful for the opportunities the Army has given me. They have been unique and amazing.

”

Sgt. Jose Dominguez
U.S. Army Medical Command



Hispanic Heritage Month is the opportunity to recognize all those who have paved the way for someone like me to be in the position I am. I have been the first in my Family to accomplish many things and it's all thanks to my mother, a first generation immigrant. My mother has been my greatest support, the person I count on, and without her I would not be where I am at today.

”

1st Lt. Sandra Ruiz
1st Platoon, 687th Engineer
Construction Company, 46th
Engineer Battalion



Gold Star Mothers, Families Day honors survivors of fallen heroes

By PORSHA AUZENNE
Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Gold Star Families are a vital part of the nation’s military community and history. Spouses, children, siblings, parents, grandparents and others whose loved ones gave the ultimate sacrifice for freedom should forever be honored. On Gold Star Mothers and Families Day, the country recognizes and stands by these survivors in a sacred obligation to support them to the fullest degree.

Though not observed as a federal holiday, the last Sunday in September is designated as Gold Star Mothers and Families Day. The day is a time to honor those mothers and Families who have lost a service member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Its origins can be traced back to World War I, when Families would display flags with a gold star to signify a service member dear to them was fighting in a war. As the Gold Star became a symbol of a loved one lost in combat, Gold Star Family became a term recognized nationally as surviving members of these fallen heroes.

In 1936, Congress officially recognized and observed Gold Star Mothers Day. In 2011, President Barack Obama officially proclaimed the day Gold Star Mothers and Families Day to include all family members of fallen service members.

This year, Gold Star Mothers and Families Day is observed Sept. 24. Gold Star Families wear symbols of honor to remember their fallen



service member, which include the Gold Star lapel button and the Next of Kin lapel button. Each are provided by the Department of Defense or service department in remembrance of their service members who sacrificed their lives on behalf of a forever grateful nation.



“The Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day honors our Fallen Heroes. For the Families, it’s a day of remembrance and something that they cherish closely to their hearts,” said Kenneth Bates, Survivor Outreach Services Program Coordinator. “For them,

it’s a day to focus on the memory of their loved ones. Together they get to reflect on the good times and comfort one another during

the challenging times of remembering what was. Through a shared commonality of loving and supporting an Army fallen hero, together they survive the hardships of grief. They are their fallen hero’s survivor. We, the Survivor Outreach Service Program, and the Fort Johnson Army community, are beyond grateful for them and remind them that they too are not forgotten. That they will forever be a part of our community, and we thank them for the time and dedication their fallen hero gave to us.”

As the Army remains indebted to Gold Star Families, resources are available to help support survivors. SOS provides long-term support to surviving Families of fallen Soldiers with the goal to reassure survivors that they remain valued members of the Army Family. For more information on SOS, please visit www.army.mil/goldstar and www.armymwr.com/sos.

SIX WAYS TO HONOR SURVIVING LOVED ONES ON GOLD STAR MOTHER'S AND FAMILY'S DAY

Written by Marilyn Weisenburg, Gold Star Mother to Staff Sgt. David J. R. Weisenburg



Remember the families

Families want to know they are seen and remembered. Offer part of your heart in a card, a letter, a phone call or a visit in person. No words can take away the pain. But it will mean so much to know you care.

Take them out for a meal

Take a Gold Star Family member to their loved one’s favorite restaurant or find a restaurant that serves their loved one’s favorite meal or dessert. Share a meal, a smile and maybe a tear or two.

Plant a plant or tree in their honor

Maybe a tree can be planted in a special place the family has set aside to go where they remember their loved one. If the family member is unable to plant it him or herself, offer to plant it for them while you’re visiting.

Work on an art/craft project together

It could be a special ornament for a Christmas tree. It could be a picture frame. Maybe you can spend time breaking glass together to turn into something new – a symbol of how there is beauty in the brokenness. Working with your hands and being creative can often provide very real healing.

Light a candle

There is light in the darkest parts of our lives. Remind Gold Star Families their loved one’s life will always be remembered.

Look at pictures of their loved one, ask about their favorite hobbies, sports teams or talents

Make space to hear stories about the loved one who died. Looking through pictures can bring up so many happy memories and can remind the family to celebrate the life that was lived instead of the death. Don’t be afraid to say their loved one’s name.

Books and brews

Attention bookworms! Head to the Forge Bar and Grill Sept. 26 for this free book club-like event. From 5 p.m.–6 p.m., participants will have dinner, drinks and discussions based on books that have kept them entertained throughout the month as well as suggestions of things to read.

<https://johnson.armymwr.com/calendar/event/books-and-brews/6040118/80679>

Ladies day

Every third Sunday of the month, ladies get half off range fees at the MWR Recreational Shooting Range. For more information please call 337-531-7552.

Contraceptive clinic

The Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital walk-in contraceptive clinic is open to active-duty Soldiers and dependents 18 years and older. The clinic is open from 8:30 a.m.-noon Oct. 5 and 19. Check in on the fourth floor of the hospital in the OB-GYN clinic. For more information call 337-531-3705/3708.

Women's wellness exam

The Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital well women exam clinic is open from 6:30 a.m.-

noon Sept. 28 and Oct. 10 and 17 in the Patient Center Medical Home on the second floor of the hospital. For more information call 337-531-3524/3022.

Women's league

Nine, Wine and Dine is a ladies golf league that takes place each Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. at the Warrior Hills Golf Course. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, enjoy a night of golf (nine holes) and then opt to have dinner and wine at the Forge Bar and Grill.

The cost is \$22 for members and \$27 for nonmembers. The next date is Sept. 26. For more information call 337-531-4661.

Wednesday night scramble

The Warrior Hills Golf Course hosts a nine hole scramble each Wednesday. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. The next scramble is Sept. 27 from 5-6 p.m. For more information call 337-531-4661.

<https://johnson.armymwr.com/happenings/wednesday-night-scramble>

MST parent night

From 5-6 p.m., parents and youth alike are invited to the Middle School and Teen Center

Sept. 29 for a free, fun-filled night of games and activities. All teens must be registered with MST. For more information call 337-531-1992.

Fishing Tournament

Fish any species from the bank or from a kayak from 6:30-10:30 a.m. at Alligator Lake Sept. 30. An 80% payback will be awarded to the participant who weighs in the most.

<https://johnson.armymwr.com/calendar/event/fishing-tournament/6126095/81881>

Second Sunday brunch

Join the Forge Bar and Grill for its monthly Sunday brunch Oct. 8. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. guests can enjoy from a wide selection of breakfast and lunch items as well as their favorite morning cocktails. Reservations are recommended. For more information, call 337-531-7668.

Call of Duty tournament

Homes of Heroes Recreation Center is hosting a Call of Duty tournament Oct. 13 starting at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. This event is open to Soldiers only. Sign up is required. For more information, and to sign up, call 337-531-5870.

FORT JOHNSON THINGS TO DO

Sept. 29-30: Natchitoches Classic Car Show Natchitoches, La.

More than 400 classic cars line the streets of downtown Natchitoches. Food, live music, dancing, kids activities, and shopping are available. Free admission.

<https://natchitochescarshow.com/>

Sept. 29-Oct. 8: Ark-La-Miss Fair Monroe, La.

It's fall fair fun time! The annual Ark-La-Miss Fair is back in town at the Monroe Civic Center. Bring the whole family for carnival rides, snack booths, livestock shows and much more!

<https://www.monroe-westmonroe.org/events/ark-la-miss-fair/>

Sept. 30-Oct. 8: Red River Revel Arts Festival Shreveport, La.

The Red River Revel is an annual festival of food, culture, art and music. This year's festival will be held at Festival Plaza.

<https://redriverrevel.com/>

Oct. 3-7: Beauregard Parish Fair DeRidder, La.

Celebrate 94 years of life, liberty and the pursuit of agriculture with carnival rides, delicious fair food, live entertainment, vendors and so much more at the Beauregard Parish Fairgrounds!

<https://www.beauregardparishfair.com/>

Oct. 4-8: West Louisiana Forestry Festival Leesville, La.

This year's West Louisiana Forestry Festival is taking a trip through time at the Vernon Parish Fairgrounds! The theme of 2023 is "Through the Decades." Festival will include vendors, food, carnival rides, live entertainment and more!

<https://www.leesvillela.gov/227/West-Louisiana-Forestry-Festival-Fair>

Oct. 3-7: 5th Annual NELA Scarecrows in the Garden Monroe, La.

Looking for a spooky fun time for the whole family? Look no further than the Biedenharn's 5th Annual NELA Scarecrows in the Garden! Opening night is Oct. 3 from 3:00-8:00 p.m. This event will feature local nonprofits creating imaginative Halloween displays, celebrity judges, giveaways, and games in the garden.

<https://www.bmuseum.org/event-info/scarecrows5>

Oct. 13-15: Louisiana Gumbo Festival Thibodaux, La.

Think you know gumbo? Want to sample truly authentic Cajun gumbo? Then head on over to the "gumbo capitol of Louisiana" for the Louisiana Gumbo Festival!

Volunteers cook nearly 500 gallons of fresh chicken, seafood and sausage gumbo during the festival weekend. The festival features Ca-

jun food, music, auction, demonstrations and much more. This event was previously named one of the top 20 events in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society, and proceeds support the local Chackbay Volunteer Fire Department.

<https://www.lagumbofest.com/>

Oct. 20-22: Rougarou Fest Houma, La.

The Rougarou Fest is a free family-friendly festival with a spooky flair that celebrates the rich folklore that exists along the bayous of Southeast Louisiana.

It showcases live music, cultural activities, children's activities, Cajun food, the Krewe Ga Rou parade and much more. All proceeds go to the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center, a nonprofit organization that is revolutionizing how we think, teach and learn about Louisiana's disappearing coast.

The Rougarou Fest was ranked as one of the top 10 costume parties in the United States by USA Today in 2014, one of the top 20 events out of 11 states in the month of October by the Southeast Tourism Society in 2015 and 2019 and festival of the year by the Louisiana Travel Association in 2020 and 2023.

<https://rougaroufest.org/>





FORT JOHNSON MWR PRESENTS

LOUISIANA

Hayride

JOHNSON.ARMYMWR.COM

HOME OF HEROES PARKING LOT

OCTOBER 7
11am- 4pm



COOKIE DECORATING

HAYRIDES

HOME BASED BUSINESSES

BOUNCE HOUSE



CARDBOARD REGATTA

OKTOBERFEST



Corvias



FOOD VENDORS



CAR SHOW