

JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON

MAY 26 VOL. 52, NO. 11

GUARDIAN



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COVER PHOTO

Brig. Gen Jason A. Curl, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson commanding general, was the key note speaker at Fort Johnson's Memorial Day observance held May 22. (U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)



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JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON

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



ON POST

Upcoming Events



Glow Pool Party

May 31, 8-10 p.m. at SFC Guess Jr. Pool

Get ready for the ultimate glow show! Come to SFC Guess Jr. Pool for a night of snacks, games, glowsticks and more.

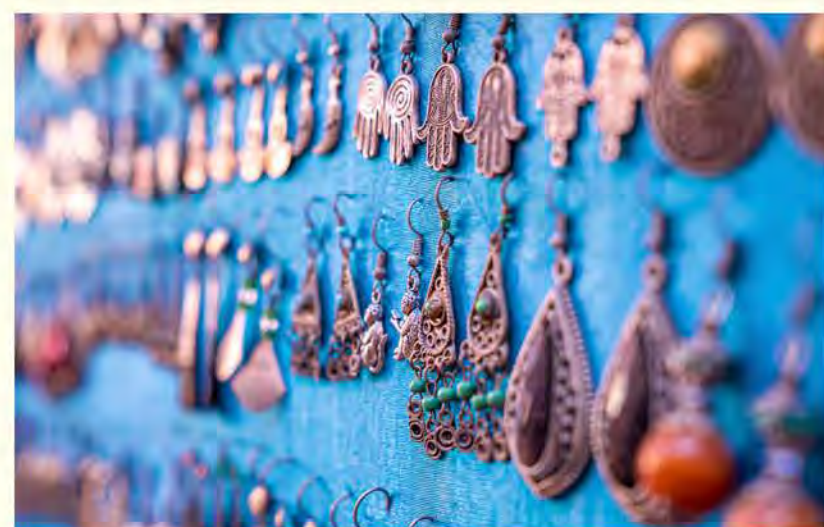
Cost is \$5 per person.



The Murph

May 31, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Home of Heroes Fitness Center

Join The Murph challenge at Home of Heroes Fitness Center and show off your strength! This challenge is not just a physical test, but also a mental and emotional one. It is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our military and a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.



Military Spouse-Owned Home Based Business Market

June 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Warrior Center

Come on down to our Military Spouse-Owned Home Based Business Market to see what delightful creations our military spouses have in store! From homemade baked goods to candles, there is something for everyone.



Pool Party (Taylor's Version)

June 13, 7-11 p.m. at SFC Guess Jr. Pool

Who said summer had to be cruel? Regardless if you're a Swiftie or not, you won't want to miss this party full of Taylor Swift karaoke, trivia, an egg hunt, snacks, drinks and more.

First 22 patrons at the event will receive a mirror ball keychain. The lucky number 13th patron will receive a special prize. Cost is \$13 per person.



OFF POST

EVENTS



31
May

World Otter Day
ALEXANDRIA, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



NOW UNTIL
1
June

Cajun Heartland State Fair
LAFAYETTE, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



6
June

Party in the Park
ALEXANDRIA, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



7
June

Veteran Resource Roundup
DERIDDER, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



7
June

Peach Festival
RUSTON, LA.

[Click for more info](#)

NO ARMY OR FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED.

Discover Louisiana



KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST



WOLF ROCK CAVE

Wolf Rock Cave is best described as two small rock overhangs overlooking Bundick's Creek. It is the only known rock shelter in Louisiana used by its early people.



The **Flatwoods Savanna Restoration** project encompasses approximately 7,324 acres which were heavily damaged by Hurricane Laura. The Forest Service, partnering with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, developed a restoration plan which will span over 10 years. This project site is unique in that it encapsulates the longleaf pine flatwood savannas including flatwood depression ponds, pimple mounds, inter-mound flats, and hillside seepage bogs. Although relatively small, this site boasts one of the most diverse and species-rich natural community complexes in North America.

-Lisa Lewis



FLATWOODS SAVANNA RESTORATION PROJECT



Pitcher plant bogs are fascinating ecosystems occurring in very special places in Kisatchie National Forest. A very special moisture regime is necessary for the health of the pitcher plant. Pitcher plants are carnivorous plants deriving nutrients from insects they digest. Thinning of the forest and frequent prescribed burns are necessary to sustain the health of the bog.

–Jim Caldwell

PITCHER PLANT BOG



The Kisatchie National Forest is home to very interesting species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and the Louisiana pinesnake. The Forest Service carefully manages the habitat for these incredible species. The USDA Forest Service, U.S. Army, and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries collaborate in the management of the area and the setting of hunting regulations. With over 105,000 acres, the Fort Johnson Vernon **Wildlife Management Area** is the largest upland pine management area in the state and ranks in the top two management areas for both turkey and deer harvest.

–Matt Pardue

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

This very special recreation area is located on the **Historic Fullerton Mill Site**. The area is a national historic site where the largest pine sawmill west of Mississippi was located. The Mill operated from 1907 through 1927 producing high quality pine lumber and other products. The recreation area was heavily damaged by Hurricane Laura. The Forest Service is in the process of restoring the area.

–Matt Helmer



FULLERTON RECREATION AREA

Little Cypress Pond Recreation Area is a very special place is an example of some of the Kisatchie National Forest Recreation opportunities. This site is a historic site. The buildings found here were originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The site eventually became a Forest Service Work Center and then a popular recreation site. Kisatchie National Forest abounds with outdoor opportunities. Every road and every path have the potential to lead to a new adventure. It's all there, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, camping, and so much more!

–Jim Caldwell



LITTLE CYPRESS POND RECREATION AREA

KISATCHIE ARCHAEOLOGY



The Vernon Unit has remains from the first humans to ever set foot in Louisiana, all the way up to the present-day. Over **4,000 archaeological sites** have been recorded in the Parish, and thanks to work by both Kisatchie and Fort Johnson, Vernon Parish is one of the most extensively surveyed regions of the entire state for archaeology.

For most of Vernon Parish's history, people lived in small bands that roamed the landscape in search of food, moving with the seasons.

Kisatchie recently sponsored excavations at a large site along Drake's Creek which was damaged by Hurricanes Laura and Delta by uprooted trees. The dig produced more than 20,000 artifacts spanning back to the Ice Age and provided a window into human occupation of the same location over thousands of years.

People in the area remembered prominent hunting camps and kept them as parts of their seasonal round for incredibly long periods of time. University of Louisiana Lafayette is currently producing a report based on their findings which will be one of the most extensive studies to date of archaeology in Vernon Parish.

Kisatchie also has significant Vernon historic locations from more recent times, including homesteads, Civilian Conservation Corps camps, and extensive lumber boom sites from the turn-of-the-century. Fullerton is the crown jewel of the lumber-era sites on Kisatchie and is a focal point for the forest's interpretation of that time.



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NEWCOMER INFORMATION
EVENTS + MORE



Congratulations

2025 graduates!

The JRTC and Fort Johnson College Graduate Recognition Ceremony took place May 14 at Bayou Theater.



Central Texas College
Associates of Arts
General Studies
Jimmy Thompson

Associates of Applied Science
Business Management
Jahnyszia Irwin

Homeland Security and
Emergency Management
Edwin Perez

Certificate of Completion
Business Management
Brandy Bailey

Liberty University
Master of Social Work
Jazzmine Williams

Northwestern State University
Associates of General Studies
General Studies
Braxton Basco

Master of Science
Homeland Security
Damarkus Lawson
Jimmie Watson

Grand Canyon University
Bachelor of Science
Behavioral Health Science
Mistie Pena

Purdue University Global
Bachelor of Science
Criminal Justice
Jonathan Lee Brown Jr.

Upper Iowa University
Bachelor of Arts
Liberal Arts
Shicalvin Byrd

Bachelor of Science
Accounting
Alexus Bynum
Glorian Harrison
Desiree Johnson

Business Administration
Ryne Brown

Criminal Justice
Shaulonda Jackson

Emergency/Disaster
Management
Serece White

Human Services
Deante Brandon
Keshonti Dellihue

Psychology
Whitnee McCray

Social Science
Lakeisha Grayer

Master of Business Administration
General Management Emphasis
Cynthia Sweet

Accounting
Eloria Bradley-Chevalier

Master of Science in Counseling
Clinical Mental
Health Counseling
Shameika Gilbert

University of Maryland
Global Campus
Bachelor of Arts
Communication Studies
Joshua Ascherl

American Military
University
Master of Arts
Human Resource
Management
Arthur Jasper Jr.

Master of Science
Healthcare Administration
Ashley Hernandez

National University
Master of Public Health
Anthony Allen Jr.

The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson honors its fallen heroes

By Chuck Cannon
Fort Johnson Garrison Public Affairs Office

"Americans may not only pay tribute to our honored dead but also unite in prayer for success in our search for a just and lasting peace." — John F. Kennedy, "Prayer for Peace," Memorial Day 1962

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Soldiers, Gold Star Family members, dignitaries and friends gathered May 22 in Fort Johnson's Warrior Memorial Park to remember those "honored dead" who gave their lives in defense of freedom.

Brig. Gen. Jason A. Curl, commander, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, was the ceremony's keynote speaker. He thanked those in attendance for honoring the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States.

"Memorial Day is a sacred occasion, a time to reflect on the profound courage and selflessness of those who have laid down their lives to protect the freedoms we hold dear," Curl said. "This weekend is not about cook-outs, travel and the unofficial start of summer — it is a time to stop and remember."

Curl explained the origins of Memorial Day following the Civil War, called Decoration Day at the time, because Families typically remembered their loved ones by decorating gravesites with flowers or flags, which Curl said is still done today.

Following his theme of "stop and remem-

ber," Curl said we stop and remember the ones who never came home; the ones who gave up every tomorrow so we could have ours.

"And we stop to honor the Families they left behind — especially the Gold Star Families here with us today," he said. "You carry a weight that few can understand, and while we can never repay what your loved one gave, we can promise this: We will not forget."

Curl said Gold Star Families are not defined by a patch, flag or designation: They are defined by love — deep, enduring love for a Soldier who never came home. And they do it with strength, grace and a kind of courage that humbles all of us who continue to serve.

"They are part of our Army Family," he said, "They have sacrificed more than most of us ever will, and our duty to them does not end when the final notes of 'taps' fade away."

Curl said Gold Star Families are owed more than ceremonies; we also owe them our presence and support because their sacrifice didn't happen in isolation, it happened for our freedom.

"This country can never fully repay them,

but we can make one promise: They will never carry it alone," Curl said.

While some people talk of fallen heroes in numbers, Curl said they are much more than that.

"They were people," he said. "They were sons and daughters, teammates and leaders.

They had favorite songs, inside jokes and future plans. They were scared sometimes—but always brave.

"They stood the watch in places most Americans will never see. They faced down threats most will never know. And they made a decision: To run toward

the sound of the fight when others might have turned back.

"They didn't die because they were fearless. They died because they believed in a calling that is bigger than themselves.

"There is no greater love than that."

Curl said it's important that fallen heroes are not remembered with words alone.

"We remember them through how we serve, through discipline, toughness, readiness and through the quiet moments when we get it right — not because it's easy, but because they

would have expected us to," he said.

That's the mission of JRTC and Fort Johnson, Curl said.

"Here, Soldiers train under pressure," he said. "Units build lethality; leaders are tested; and every repetition, every after-action review, and every hard lesson forged in these woods ensure that the United States Army remains the most capable fighting force in the world. "That is how we honor their legacy -- not by standing still in grief, but by preparing those who will carry the flag next. We are their legacy -- and in the United States Army, that legacy trains, leads and stands ready every single day."

Following Curl's remarks, the names of 96 Soldiers from Fort Johnson who have made the ultimate sacrifice during Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom were read.

One of those Soldiers, Spc. Richard C. Emmons III was killed in action on Memorial Day, May 31, 2011, when his unit, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Now 3rd BCT), was attacked by a rocket propelled grenade. Emmons godmother, Patsy Warner, attended the ceremony.

"We know that no one is ever going to forget," Warner said. "He's been gone a long time, but he was doing what he wanted to do. All he ever wanted to do was be a Soldier."

Warner said she went to Dover, Delaware when his remains were returned.

"I'll say one thing: The Army did everything they could to make it as bearable as possible," she said. "They did a good job in Dover. At the funeral the Army made us proud. We'll be back here every year."

Mark Leslie, Directorate of Plans, Training Mobilization and Security, said ceremonies such as these are important to make the rest of the country aware of the sacrifices the military has made.

"For veterans, it's time for us to reflect on those we served with and think how privileged we were to have them in our life," he said. "It's a day filled with emotional turmoil, and also a day filled not solely with regret, but with the happy times we spent with those who have fallen."

Col. C.J. Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, agreed with Leslie on the ceremony's importance.

"It's very simple — remembering those who stood before us and stood for us" he said. "It's the least we can do to honor their legacy."

Chap. (Col.) Michael L. Jeffries, Fort Johnson installation chaplain opened the ceremony with prayer. Placing a wreath at the monument to the fallen Soldiers were Curl, Sgt. Maj. Andrew P. Baxter and Sgt. 1st Class Trakinya S. Johnson. The 32nd Hospital Center supplied the flag detail, and a 21-gun artillery salute was provided by Alpha Battery, 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Taps was played by Spc. Anil Karki, 32nd HC.



(U.S. Army photo by Antoine Aaron)





519th Military Police Battalion hosts Peace Officer Memorial Day Run

Police Week was May 11-17 and Peace Officers Memorial Day was May 15 — the day pays tribute to local, state and Federal peace officer who have died or been disabled in the line of duty. Fort Johnson's 519th MP Bn Vipers hosted a run May 15, that began at Anvil Field, to honor those who have given their all, but especially one of their own — Pfc. Brian Gleason, an MP Soldier who died in the line of duty Aug. 9, 2000. Before the run, Lt. Col. J.A. Larson 519th MP BN commander, read a heartfelt letter from Gleason's dad, bringing a personal touch to the day. (U.S. Army photos by Angie Thorne)



Added services expand ability to help

By Angie Thorne
Fort Johnson Garrison Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — On June 6, Fort Johnson's Army Community Service will host its grand opening. From that point forward, ACS will be adding Prevention Center to its name. The change comes as the center streamlines its processes and combines systems to improve efficiency to the programs it already provides and the new ones moving under its roof.

Bobbie Parks, ACS director, said this is just a start as they embark on this journey. Individual-Readiness and Installation Management Command Headquarters-G9 have applauded their plan thus far and have asked if Parks would be willing to brief all the Army Community Service centers in ID-R to give them Fort Johnson's perspective on the change as most installations are struggling to provide services.

"We and Fort Cavazos have moved to stand up prevention centers and will brief on how things are moving forward and any issues that may come up. Our story is a successful one so far and has been mitigated by consistent and open communication," said Parks.

So what's changed?
In addition to the many services ACS already offers, all prevention services will move into the ACS building located at 1591 Bell Richard Avenue, bldg. 920.

"One facility creates a central point of contact for all things prevention for the Soldier and their families," Parks said.

Consolidating these programs in one building means reducing travel time and getting

people the help they need quickly. In addition, if they require more than one service the facility can provide other ACS or prevention services to assist.

"Colocation helps the provider efficiently share real-time data and events to prepare and develop new prevention programs to better serve the Fort Johnson community. The bottom line of the Prevention Center is to provide the best service possible to our Soldiers and families, while building resiliency and endurance to promote a generation of problem solvers and team builders, while also building on the readiness of the force," Parks said.

Parks said, the most important thing to know about the Prevention Center concept is that it will help bring unity and cohesion to the prevention process, giving Fort Johnson Soldiers the best possible service available.

"Standing up the center is only the beginning; the real work starts as the team begins to work together to develop programs and services that will help mitigate and prevent small issues from growing and spreading throughout our ranks and build resiliency," Parks said.

Col. CJ Lopez, Fort Johnson garrison commander, said what the new ACSPC will offer Soldiers and families has the potential to be immense and immeasurable.

"The center will bring Fort Johnson citizens greater trust and support thanks to the better efficiencies made to the people programs that directly correlate to increased morale and quality of life. The new ACSPC will make these programs more accessible and create center of excellence," Lopez said.

Army Community Service and Prevention Center

GRAND OPENING

You are invited!

*June 6, 2025
3p.m.*

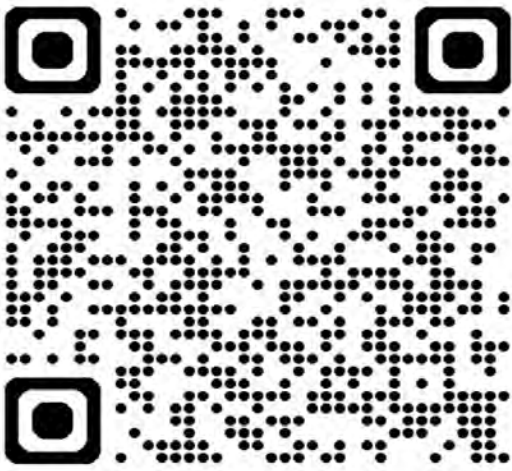
The newly defined Army Community Service and Prevention Center (ACSPC) combines all things prevention and puts them under one roof in an easy to access center for Soldiers and Families.

Come join Brig. Gen. Jason P. Curl, Installation Commander, and the prevention staff to honor this celebratory event.



Joint Readiness Training Center & Fort Johnson
  
U.S. ARMY
and Prevention Center

Scan QR for ACSPC information



Joint Readiness Training Center & Fort Johnson
  
U.S. ARMY
and Prevention Center

1591 BellRichard Ave, Bldg. 920 Ft. Johnson
Hours of Operation: Mon – Fri 0800-1630
Closed Federal Holidays

Financial Readiness Counseling &	
Army Emergency Relief	726-780-1073
Army Family Action Plan	726-780-1073
Army Family Team Building	726-780-1073
Army Volunteer Program	726-780-1073
Employment Readiness Program	726-780-0385
Relocation Readiness Program	726-780-0386
Mobilization & Deployment	726-780-1073
SHARP Prevention	726-780-1101
Family Advocacy Program Prevention	-----
Education	726-780-1072
Exceptional Family Member Program	726-780-1162
Victim Advocacy Program	726-780-1073
Army Substance Abuse Program	726-780-1092
Risk Reduction Program	726-780-0630
Integrated Prevention Advisory Group	726-780-0964
Suicide Prevention Program	726-780-0385

ACSPC Front Deck 726-780-1073
DAVA Hotline 337-718-8837

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
0800-1630
Closed all federal holidays

Joint Readiness Training Center & Fort Johnson
  
U.S. ARMY
and Prevention Center

Location:
1591 BellRichard Avenue
Building 920
Fort Johnson, LA 71459

Army Emergency Relief & Financial Readiness Program
AER provides grants and zero-interest loans to Active Duty, Retirees, and Families. FRP provides financial literacy training, education, and counseling to assist Service members and their Families.
726-780-1073

Exceptional Family Member Program
Provides comprehensive support to Family members with special needs that require special treatment.
726-780-1162

New Parent Support Program
Provides a range of services, including home visits, playgroups, and parenting classes to help parents build strong bonds with their children, manage the demands of parenting, and access resources in their community.
726-780-0625

Mobilization, Deployment & Stability Support Office
Provides commanders, Soldiers, and Families navigate the challenges of mobilization and deployment.
726-780-1073

Victim Advocacy Program
Provides emergency and follow-up support services to victims of domestic abuse. Available to Service members, spouses, or intimate partners.
726-780-1073

Army Substance Abuse Program
Designed to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Army's workforce, to conserve manpower, and enhance the combat readiness of Soldiers.
726-780-1092

**Army Family Action Plan
Army Family Team Building
Army Volunteer Corps**
726-780-1073

Military Family Life Counselors
Provides free, confidential counseling to Service members, their Families, and survivors. MFLCs are trained to work with the military community, and deliver valuable counseling services, briefings, and presentations.

228-31-7205
318-592-9601
318-592-9671

Relocation Readiness Program
Assists with relocation counseling, sponsorship, pre-arrival information, temporary loan of basic household items and assists with immigration services and English as a Second Language.
726-780-0386

Employment Readiness Program
Offers resources to help Service members and their Families with career planning and job searches.
726-780-0385

Family Advocacy Program Prevention Education
Prevention education focuses on the prevention of domestic violence, child abuse and/or neglect. A variety of classes that include parenting, marriage, healthy dating, and Dynamic of Family Violence.
726-780-1072

Risk Reduction Program
A commander's tool designed to identify and reduce high-risk behaviors among Soldiers, ultimately enhancing readiness and resilience.
726-780-0630

Suicide Prevention Program
Aims to prevent suicide by building a culture of resilience, help seeking behavior, and intervention.
726-780-0385

HOTLINE NUMBERS: Available 24/7
Fort Johnson HOPEline: 726-780-2615
Fort Johnson Victim Advocacy Hotline: 726-780-0384
Fort Johnson SHARP Hotline: 337-531-1848
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: Dial 988
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1800-799-7233





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Summer just checked in, so check off these resident guidelines

CORVIAS

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Summer has checked in! Nice temperatures and sunny days are on the horizon and you, along with your neighbors, will be spending more time outdoors.

Please read through the friendly reminders listed below and consider being a good neighbor while following the policies outlined in the Resident Responsibility Guideline.

The RRG can be found on your Resident Portal and we encourage you to read it. The Fort Johnson Corvias team has highlighted and summarized the most common and repetitive concerns received in the office during the spring/summer months. Corvias encourages you to read the full RRG explanations for each topic mentioned below.

Maintaining the community is something in which we can all work on together. Your community will be an even better place to live, and your neighbors will appreciate your help!

•**Dogs:** Please use a leash when walking your dog and don't forget to scoop the poop. (section 6.24) Dogs need to be on the leash at all times. The only exception is when they are contained inside the dog park fence and/or your backyard fence.

•**Dog waste:** Tenants are responsible for

keeping the grounds clean and sanitary. All yards and common areas must be kept clean of pet droppings. Tenants must pick up and properly dispose of animal waste and residents who walk their pet must carry a plastic bag to retrieve and dispose of any droppings. (section #9 Pet Addendum in Universal Lease Agreement)

•**Keeping your property clean:** Residents are responsible for keeping their yard and surrounding areas (beside, behind and in front of) clean and free of debris and trash.

•**Trampolines:** Must be installed in the backyard on grassy area, inside the fenced yard. Trampolines are not allowed outside the backyard fence area. (section 6.21)

•**Basketball goals:** All portable play equipment, including basketball goals designed for any age group, must be stored in the rear of the home. Equipment must not be visible from the street, common parking areas or primary housing entrances and walkways. (section 6.21)

•**Tree swings:** Tree swings, hammocks and/or other play equipment that requires mounting to a tree, building or fence are not permitted. (section 6.21)

•**Vegetable and Flower Gardens:** Vegetables and herbs may be grown only in pots or raised beds at the rear of the home. Fences and homes cannot be used as support for climbing

plants and/or ivy. (section 6.8)

•**Hot Tubs:** Installation and the use of hot tubs are prohibited. (section 6.13)

•**Fire pits:** The use of resident owned fire pits is prohibited. (section 6.3)

•**Recreational vehicles:** Cannot be stored on the streets, in garages or in driveways. Corvias has a recreation vehicle storage lot for all such vehicles and you can contact your Community Center for details to obtain a parking space. (section 6.21 and 6.22)

•**Swimming pools:** Wading pools must be 12 inches or less in height and no more than 10 feet wide. Wading pools may be positioned in the backyard on grassy areas but must be emptied daily and removed when not in use. (section 6.28)

•**Trash containers:** Trash containers should be placed out on the curb, after 5 p.m., the evening before the regularly scheduled trash pickup day. Containers must be cleared from the curb area by the end of the day on the day of pick up. It is highly recommended that residents rinse out their trash can with water diluted with bleach, especially during the summer to prevent flying and crawling pests. (section 4.14)

If you have any additional questions concerning the items above, please call your community office.



Jones couple lay life’s lessons on line for others

By Chuck Cannon
Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Odds are if a person’s childhood dreams come true, they would be considered a success and at the top of their field. For a time, that was true of Adam Jones, an Army helicopter pilot who fulfilled his goal of flying Black Hawks and becoming a successful entrepreneur and Fortune 500 company employee.

But what starts as a success can be fleeting as a person loses sight of his or her priorities. Jones said that is exactly what happened to him.

Jones, author of the book “Weapons of Mass Deception: The Silent Struggle Within Every High Performer,” said when his career as a pilot ended and he left the Army, he went through a troubling time. “It was deep anger, depression and total loss of identity after getting out of the military,” he said. “But even before I got out, I was struggling. I actually had two people — friends — who came to me after I had written the book and said, ‘Adam, when I served with you, I knew something was wrong.’”

Jones said when he asked them why they didn’t say anything at the time, they said they were going through their own issues and didn’t have time to slow down and ask him how he was doing.

“That’s key,” he said. “So five years before I hit my breaking point, there were warning signs I couldn’t see because I couldn’t see my own drift. I was living life tired and exhausted.”

One thing he learned was that people often give everything to others, and give their leftovers to the people closest to them.

“That’s normal, especially for Soldiers,” he said. “You give everything to a mission, you come home depleted and you don’t know how to connect with your wife or daughter. I thought that was the norm.”

Jones said it’s important that everyone — especially those who work with the military or other high performers — needs to have the courage to call out the drift.

“We have a responsibility as brothers-and sisters-in-arms,” he said. “It’s for all high performers. They put the weight of the world on themselves and they are going to drift. They get to where they

want to hide the fact they are drifting, and sometimes they hide it long enough, they unfortunately begin to think they shouldn’t be alive anymore.”

That’s a problem facing those in the military and other high performers today.

“When I got out of the military, there was a time I didn’t want to live,” he said. “I had gotten everything I wanted and was empty. How does that make any sense? If you go for everything you want and you wind up empty, you think there’s nothing left. I think about all the celebrities who seemed to have everything and yet chose to take their lives.”

That’s led Jones to include suicide prevention, stress management and building strong relationships in his and his wife, Jessica’s presentations.

Jones admits Jessica, whom he affectionately calls Jess, was one of the reasons he was able correct his drift.

“She would tell me, ‘Adam, just be honest with me and tell me that you’re not present,’” Jones said. “Those said conversations were happening in the military, but became worse when I got out, because it gave time for me to see all the fractures in my relationships.”

While Jessica was honest with Adam when it came to her feelings about their relationship, she was bit nervous about sharing it through a book with the world.

“It’s our marriage, but I knew this message had to get out because of how many people — and marriages — it had already helped,” she said. “I saw the struggle with my husband, and I knew if we could help even one person, and give them tools so they would not have to go through what he did — and that they were not alone — it was important.”

Jessica said her role as a military wife gave her a platform built with experience to share with others.

“I want them to know a military spouse’s perspective, so they can have those hard conversations about what affect their actions have on their relationship,” she said.

The past year has been an amazing whirlwind for the Jones’ couple, Jessica said, as they work together to help not only service members, but also entire families. And that also shows in the Jones’ family relationships between husband and wife and father and children.

“We had reached a point in our marriage where I knew we weren’t going



Adam Jones, author of “Weapons of Mass Deception: The Silent Struggle Within Every High Performer,” with his family. (Courtesy photo)

down a good path, and I wanted more for our daughter,” Jessica said. “We have two girls now, but I knew (at the time) it wasn’t him (Adam) in there. I had to look at him and ask, ‘Who are you?’ I didn’t know where he was at, but he was not with us. He would be in the room, but his head would be totally somewhere else.”

Looking back, Jessica said she realized being physically present — but not mentally present — is something that a lot of high performers struggle with because they’re usually thinking about what’s next, and taking work home with them.

Jessica said she remembers a conversation she had with Adam in the car on their way home from a family outing.

“We looked at each other and one of us said, ‘You know, I don’t really like you,’ and the other said, ‘I don’t really like you either,’” she said. “It was like we weren’t even friends at that point. That’s when we realized that something had to change.”

Jessica said the change didn’t happen overnight.

“We had to put in a lot of work,” she said. “You have to work on yourself and that’s what Adam did. He really put the work in and I had to accept that and trust that even though things might get a little bit harder, it was going to get better in the end. It was all part of God’s plan.”

Jessica said she and Adam work on their relationship daily, vowing to not let the world beat them.

“We’re going to survive,” she said. “We both had to do a lot of change through the years, and that’s the only way you’re going to make it. And Adam’s book is a phenomenal tool to help those who are struggling.”

In his book, Jones tells the reader that anyone who is ambitious and mission-minded is susceptible to an attack from a weapon of mass deception, which he describes as “any act of hidden malicious intent that exploits another

person’s insecurities or motives in order to deter, delay, dissuade or destroy a multitude of people.”

As he thought about his definition of weapons of mass deception, Jones said he recalled some statistics he had read about the War on Terrorism.

“Over the course of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Department of Defense casualty report estimated that about 7,000 service members were killed in action over 14 years,” Jones said. “In the same 14 years, it was estimated that more than 73,000 veterans and active service members took their own lives. This really hit me.”

Jones said it’s not bombs and bullets that are the greatest threat today to the military — it’s something else hurting the nation’s warriors.

“My heart is for warriors, protectors, defenders — with or without a uniform,” he said. “Something is taking them from inside. There’s right and there’s evil, and it’s my belief that evil wants to take out our warriors, protectors and defenders because they are the ones who are going to stand up and do what’s right, even if no one else does. They are willing to sacrifice themselves.”

With his book, Jones said he hopes he’s given a tool to defeat weapons of mass deception. He and Jessica have made it their mission to reach as many warriors, protectors and defenders and help them overcome those weapons to live a rich, fulfilling life. But he’s quick to add the book is just a tool.

“I always say, it’s not about the book, it’s about a message,” Jones said. “A message of hope. We’re all human and limited. When you realize that, you can stop trying to control everything. I’m glad I put it in a book, because the book will live past me.”

To learn more about the Jones’ work visit <https://www.kingdomoperatives.com>.

Destruction of peace, purpose, power: Jones shares tactics to defeat weapons of mass deception

By Chuck Cannon
Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — As a youngster, Adam Jones dreamed of becoming a Black Hawk helicopter pilot. As a 12-year-old, Jones took flying lessons to prepare himself for a career as a military pilot.

“When I was five or six years old, I saw Black Hawk Down, and I decided that was what I wanted to do,” Jones said. “There was just something about that movie. And I made all my decisions based on that one dream.”

That dream became a reality, but despite a successful military career, Jones soon found there was something missing, leaving him feeling frustrated, lost and empty.

It was at this time the concept of Weapons of Mass Deception entered his consciousness. In his book “Weapons of Mass Deception: The Silent Struggle Within Every High Performer,” Jones shares how he was able to detect and defeat these weapons every high performer faces, and is committed to bringing the message of freedom to high-capacity leaders — both military and civilian.

Jones was the guest speaker at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson’s annual National Prayer Luncheon, held in conjunction with JRTC and Fort Johnson’s Spiritual Resiliency Week. He shared his story of how he defeated weapons of mass deception throughout the week with Soldiers, family members, Department of the Army civilians and contractors.

“That desire to become a helicopter pilot led to me joining the Civil Air Patrol and those were my first steps to forming a belief system — I call it a Field of Formation in my book,” Jones said.

Jones said everything he did in his teenage years was geared to becoming a Black Hawk pilot.

“I just kept being a high achiever and performer because I thought that’s what would get me satisfaction,” he said. “I eventually joined the Army.”

Jones plan was to attend the Military Academy at West Point or a college Reserve Officer Training Program. He said the West Point cadre was “a little grumpy,” but the ROTC cadre at Penn State University convinced him his bet shot at becoming a pilot would be the ROTC route.

While at Penn State the Army National Guard convinced him the Guard would get him there faster, as well as getting him a head start on his military career — just what a high achiever/performer was looking for.

So what happened? He was commissioned as an MP.

“I thought, ‘My life is over,’” he said. “That’s not what little Adam wanted, or why I made all of those decisions. I only did those things because I knew Army aviation was what I wanted.”

Jones said he sees the same things he was feeling in the faces of Soldiers today.



Adam Jones speaks at the Fort Johnson Prayer Luncheon. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)

“Sometimes we get so addicted to what we think is going to fill us and give us everything we want,” Jones said. “Then maybe you don’t get it, or you do and it’s not all you think it was going to be.”

Eventually Jones did make it to helicopter school and spent seven years on active duty with the National Guard.

“I really enjoyed living out that dream, but there were lessons I learned the hard way that have led me to what I do today,” he said. “I want to share some of those lessons.”

One of those lessons is learning to be present in the moments a person is given.

“We’re thinking, ‘What’s next? Where’s the next break?’” he said. “We’re missing the day we’ve been given, and that was how I lived my life for a long time, even as a pilot. I know it’s corny to say, but living in the present is a gift.”

Jones said he was finding his identity in his performance; if he underperformed, he beat himself up.

“I began to see it was the same thing when I was an entrepreneur — or worse, a husband,” Jones said. “I saw that my confidence would ebb and flow based on how well I did. Sometimes it’s great, some days not so great. Being a high performer, like most in the military are, is challenging work. If you do hard things in life, you will drift — meaning losing track of your priorities.

“We all drift in life; I started to drift as a company commander; I started to drift as a husband and a father; and I began to move away from who I thought I was,” he said. “What’s really important about drift is you have to



A Fort Johnson chaplain, speaks at the Fort Johnson Prayer Luncheon. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)

say, ‘This is what I want.’ Once you say, ‘This is what I want,’ everything else is drift.”

Jones said he come to the realization that he was drifting away from what he wanted to be: A present father, a great husband whose wife loved and appreciated him, and a commander that’s confident and clear minded.

“When you set those goals that are important, it’s so simple and freeing,” he said. “You have no guilt or shame. You just go on drifting and start to make those adjustments.”

Following his time at the podium, Jones met with those in attendance and shared more insights about “drift” and other lessons in his book.

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OPSEC

Guidance for Service and Family Members

JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON OPERATIONS SECURITY (OPSEC) BULLETIN
Protecting Yourself (And Your Family) Is Protecting The Mission!!



Be cautious with personal details: Avoid sharing sensitive personal information, such as:

- Your home address or location, phone number or email address, birthdate or Social Security number, family members' names or photos.

Use strong privacy settings: Review and adjust your social media privacy settings to control who can see your posts, photos, and other information. Consider:

- Limiting your friend list or followers to people you trust. Restricting access to your profile and posts. Using private or secret groups for sensitive discussions.

Think before you post: Consider the potential consequences of sharing certain information or photos. Ask yourself:

- Could this post be used to identify me or my location? Compromise my security or reputation? Be used to target me or my loved ones?

Avoid geotagging and location sharing: Refrain from sharing your location or geotagging your posts, as this can reveal your whereabouts and potentially compromise your security.

Use secure authentication: Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on your social media accounts to add an extra layer of security.

Be wary of phishing scams: Be cautious of suspicious links or messages that ask you to reveal sensitive information or click on malicious links.

Monitor your online presence: Regularly search for your name and social media profiles to ensure that you're not inadvertently sharing sensitive information.

Use social media analytics tools: Utilize tools like Facebook's "View As" feature or X's "Audience" feature to see how your profile appears to others and adjust your settings accordingly.

Keep your social media profiles up to date: Regularly review and update your social media profiles to ensure that your information is accurate and consistent.

Consider using a pseudonym or alias: If you're concerned about your online security, consider using a pseudonym or alias on social media to maintain your anonymity.

Exercise Caution with Links and Attachments: Avoid clicking on suspicious links or opening attachments from unknown sources.

Report Suspicious Activity: Report suspicious activity or security concerns. For service members contact your chain of command.

Critical Information to protect

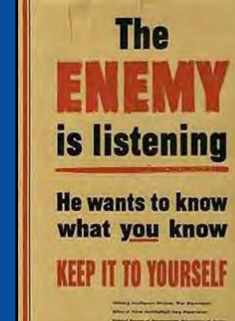
- Unit Deployments and Locations.
- Soldier's Duty Status and Assignments.
- Operational Plans and Timelines.
- Sensitive Equipment and Technology.
- Personal Identifiable Information (PII):
- Communication Methods and Frequencies
- Intelligence and Surveillance

OPSEC Awareness:

OPSEC(Operations Security) awareness is everyone's responsibility. Service members, report any violations to your chain of command promptly.

Distribution:

This OPSEC bulletin is for all service members and their families. Please share this information with your loved ones to raise awareness of potential risks and promote online protection.



STAY INFORMED, STAY VIGILANT, STAY SECURE, STAY OPSEC!

Your online activities have real-world consequences. Protecting your information is a shared responsibility.

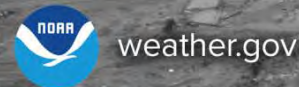
JRTC and FORT JOHNSON

STORM SURGE WATCH

A Storm Surge Watch is issued when *life-threatening storm surge is possible*, typically within 48 hours.

Promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.

Surge Possible.



STORM SURGE WARNING

A Storm Surge Warning is issued when *there is a danger of life-threatening storm surge*, typically within 36 hours.

Promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.

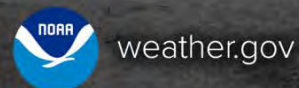
Surge Expected!

TROPICAL STORM WATCH

A Tropical Storm Watch is issued when *tropical storm conditions are possible*, typically within 48 hours.

Prepare your home by securing loose items outside or moving them indoors. Have an emergency supply kit ready and charge your devices.

Tropical Storm Winds Possible.



TROPICAL STORM WARNING

A Tropical Storm Warning is issued when *tropical storm conditions are expected*, typically within 36 hours.

Follow the advice of local officials and be ready to seek shelter in a sturdy structure.

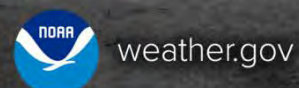
Tropical Storm Winds Expected!

HURRICANE WATCH

A Hurricane Watch is issued when *hurricane conditions are possible*, typically within 48 hours.

Prepare your home by boarding up windows and moving loose items indoors. Have an emergency supply kit ready.

Hurricane Winds Possible.



HURRICANE WARNING

A Hurricane Warning is issued when *hurricane conditions are expected*, typically within 36 hours.

Be ready to seek shelter in a sturdy structure or evacuate if ordered.

Hurricane Winds Expected!



Signing the Motorcycle Safety Awareness proclamation

Brig. Gen Jason A. Curl, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson commanding general, Command Sgt. Maj. Oracio Peña, command sergeant major of JRTC and Fort Johnson, Col. CJ Lopez, garrison commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Antonio Paparella, garrison command sergeant major, sign four copies of the Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month proclamation in the first week of May. As designated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the U.S. Army observes May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Signing the proclamation coincides with the beginning of riding season for many Soldiers and serves as an early kickoff for the critical days of summer. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)

Use water wisely as spring gardening takes off

By DPW-ENRMD-CMB

It's officially spring, a season of renewal, growth and gardening. As you prepare your gardens for vibrant flowers and fresh vegetables, it's also a great time to think about how your actions affect the environment, especially storm water.

When it rains, water runs off our lawns, roofs and driveways, carrying with it fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste and other pollutants into nearby storm drains. These drains often lead directly to local rivers, lakes and streams without treatment.

Help keep storm water clean by using fertilizers and pesticides sparingly. Consider using natural compost or mulch to enrich your soil instead.

Planting native plants and trees can also help absorb excess rainwater and reduce runoff.

Cleaning up grass clippings, leaves and trash from sidewalks and driveways means they won't wash into drains. Water your garden wisely, early in the morning or late in the evening and avoid overwatering.

By making a few thoughtful choices in your

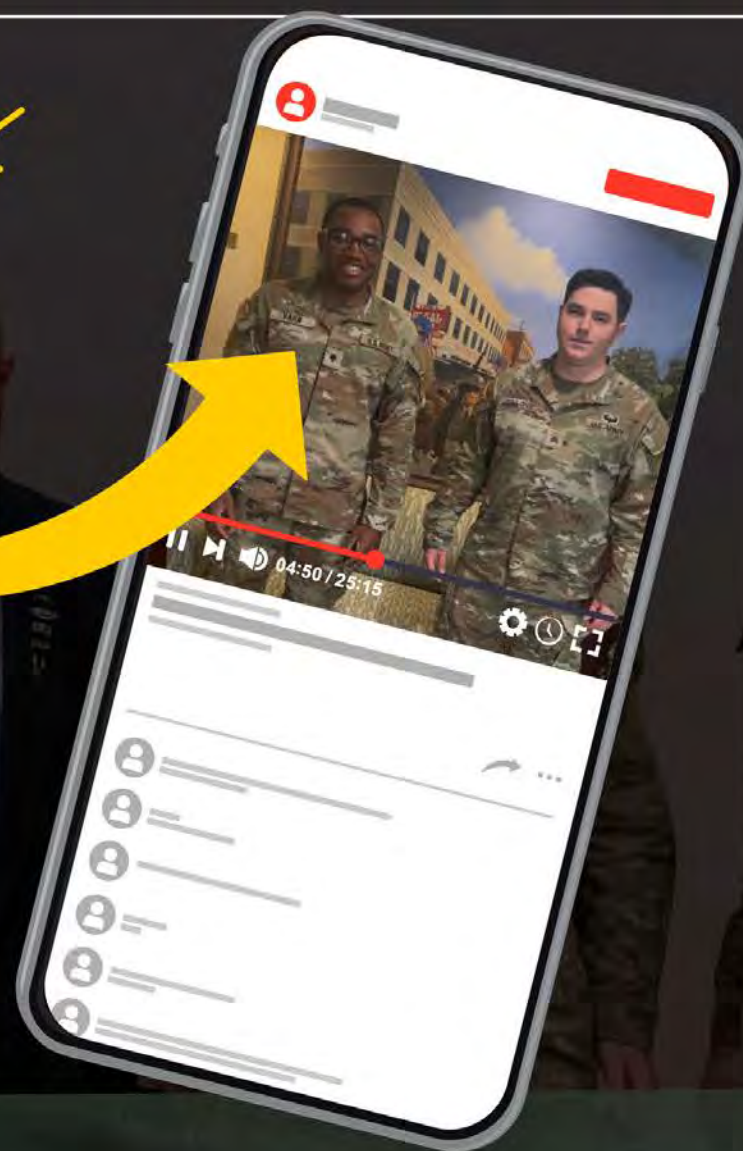


gardens and yards, you can enjoy the beauty of spring, while also protecting local waterways that sustain communities and ecosystems.

A cleaner garden today leads to a cleaner environment tomorrow. How will you make your garden eco-friendly this spring?

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JRTCandFortJohnson



@jrtcandfortjohnson

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN MARCH 1 - JUNE 14

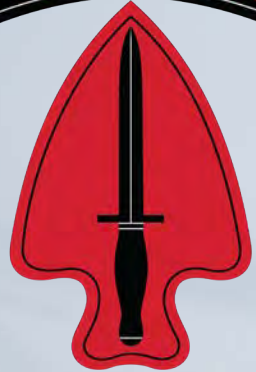


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Special Operations Recruiting Battalion holds ultimate ruck race

By Karen Sampson

Public Affairs Specialist

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Approximately 40 Soldiers — in teams of four — from units all across the installation competed in a four and a half-mile buddy race at Honor Field, May 15.

Components of the competition included completing one-mile with a ruck sack, one-mile with a ruck sack while carrying water cans, one-mile low or high litter carry with a duffel bag full of sand

and, again, one-mile with a ruck sack.

The Soldiers continued the race by performing a buddy carry for about 1/8th of a mile and then sprinting with a ruck to the finish flags.

After the physical challenge, they solve a cognitive puzzle, as a team, with clues found throughout the course.

If this kind of competition appeals to you, contact Sgt. 1st Class Natalie Morgan and Sgt. 1st Class Cody Scott at Special Operations Recruiting Command 910-297-9552.





Mayor & Mrs. Nicholas E. Hunter and the
Mayor's Armed Forces Commission
invite you to the 17th Annual



Patriot's Ball of Louisiana

Saturday | June 28, 2025

L'Auberge Casino Grand Ball Room
777 Avenue L'Auberge | Lake Charles, LA 70601

Social 5:00 | Dinner 6:00

Attire

Civilian: Coat & Tie/Formal

Military: Mess Dress, Class A,
or Coat & Tie

This event is open to any person who loves, supports,
and defends his or her country with devotion.

*Discounted rate for active duty, reserve, and national guard members E-6 or below.
For details contact Tanya at (337) 491-1383 or email tanya.segato@cityoflouisiana.gov*

ATTENTION

Starting **June 1**, there will be **changes made to access control points** (ACPs) across the installation. This change is not made lightly—it directly supports our priority to build lethal, trained, and ready warfighters. By realigning gate operations, we are able to return Soldiers to the line where they belong: training, leading, and preparing to fight and win our Nation's wars. Every Soldier we free from non-combat duties is another step toward greater readiness and lethality across our formations.

We understand changes like this can impact your daily routines, and we appreciate your flexibility and continued support. Fort Johnson remains committed to balancing access and security with the critical mission of preparing America's premier combat training force.

Thank you for standing with us as we remain focused on what matters most—warfighting and readiness.

VCC — 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; Closed weekends and federal holidays

ACP (gate) standard hours:

ACP 1 (main gate) — Open 24/7 and all federal holidays.

ACP 2 (University Parkway and Highway 467 North) — Open from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; closed on weekends and federal holidays.

ACP 5 (Highway 467 South and Highway 10) — Open from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; closed on weekends and federal holidays.

ACP 6 (Chaffee Road at North Fort housing) — Permanently closed.

ACP 7 (K Avenue and Alligator Lake) — Open 24/7 and on all federal holidays.

ACP 8 — Closed

SHARP



**The Safe Helpline is available 24/7
for victims of sexual assault.**

Talk to someone who understands:

safehelpline.org



Fort Johnson's SHARP 24/7 Hotline number is 337-718-7272

Directorate of Public Works conducts road construction



UNIVERSITY PARKWAY TURNING LANES

Construction has begun on new turning lanes, shoulders and the relocation of a traffic light on University Parkway for the new Children's Development Center.

WHO: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WHAT: Road Construction at University Parkway and Holmlund St.

WHEN: Through Aug. 18, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. (10 hours a day for 3 months)

WHERE: University Parkway and Holmlund St., Fort Johnson, LA 71459.

WHY: The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will conduct road construction at the intersection of University Parkway and Holmlund St. This will consist of removing existing curb and gutter to include the center island, and install new turning lanes, shoulders, island, and striping approximately 1600ft north of Holmlund St and 500 ft South of Holmlund St. from 19 May 25 to 18 Aug 25 in support of a construction effort for the new Fort Johnson Child Development Center (CDC).

GEORGIA AVE

DPW was awarded a contract to repair several roads on Fort Johnson. Construction includes repairing Georgia Avenue, Texas Avenue and a Texas Avenue culvert near Louisiana Avenue. Road repair construction will be executed in multiple phases to minimize interruptions to the community. The first road to be repaired is Georgia Avenue from Highway La. 10 to 3rd Street. Construction includes repairing travel lanes, adjacent intersections, drives and shoulders. The project will be executed in five phases with the following construction activities:

Phase I – full-depth repairs of adjacent streets and drives between Hwy. LA 10 and BellRichard Ave.

Phase II – includes full-depths repairs between BellRichard Ave. to LA Ave.

Phase III – Milling and overlay operations from LA Ave. to Hwy. LA 10.

Phase IV – full-depth repairs of adjacent streets and drives from LA Ave. to 3rd Street.

Phase V – Milling and overlay operations from LA Ave. to 3rd Street.

Note: Phase III and Phase IV may be executed concurrently.

Phase I is tentatively scheduled to begin early June 2025 and has a duration of approximately 2 months, pending weather. Georgia Ave. will be reduced to one lane but will remain open during construction. Motorists should anticipate traffic delays due to flagging operations around work zones. Pedestrians are encouraged to stay clear of work zone and exercise caution as construction efforts continue. The sequence of construction and impact area associated with Phase I includes the following:

23rd Street will be the first full-depth repair and 22nd will not be closed until 23rd Street is completed. (A detour will be provided to 22nd Street for 23rd Street closure.)

Closure of Air Assault Entrances.

Closure of 22nd Street. (A detour will be provided to 23rd Street for 22nd Street closure.)

Closure of Recycle Center Entrance.

Police Division Storage Lot Entrance.

Closure of Maine Street.

COLORADO AVE

DPW awarded a contract to construct a crosswalk at the intersection of Colorado Avenue and Louisiana Avenue. The construction scope includes the following:

a. Extending the existing sidewalk along Colorado Ave. north connecting it with the multi-use trail adjacent to Louisiana Ave.

b. Installing a pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Colorado Ave. and LA. Ave.

c. Converting the existing right-turn lane into a single two-way turn lane with a four-foot (4') shoulder,

d. Converting the existing intersection into a fully signalized intersection equipped with traffic control devices for motorists and pedestrians.

Construction will be executed in four phases to minimize interruptions to the community. The phases of construction activities include the following:

Phase I – Installing new culverts and headwall system at the entrances of the Lemon Lot and extending the 4' existing sidewalk along Colorado Ave.

Phase II – Installing 1st traffic signal pole foundation, construction 6' sidewalk, and constructing 4' asphalt shoulder along Colorado Ave.

Phase III – Installing the 2nd & 3rd traffic signal pole foundations, constructing 6' sidewalk connecting north of LA. Ave., and pavement striping and markings.

Phase IV – Installing traffic poles and mast arms, installing lighting systems, testing traffic control signals, and pavement markings.

Phase I is tentatively scheduled to begin June 16 and has a duration of approximately two months, pending weather. The Lemon Lot will be closed during construction. Motorists should anticipate traffic delays due to flagging operations around work zones. Pedestrians are encouraged to avoid work zone and exercise caution as construction continues.

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	Yamaha	R3	2153
UNK	UNK	Boat trailer	N/A
UNK	UNK	Kayak trailer	N/A
UNK	McClain	Boat trailer	N/A
2001	Ford	F150	0450
2000	Ford	Ranger	3852
2006	Nissan	350Z	4586
2004	Cadillac	Escalade	5765
2003	Ford	Crown Victoria	2046
2011	Chevrolet	Cruz	6489
2012	Land Rover	Land Ranger	2214
2005	Honda	Civic	6295
1994	GEO	Tracker	0139
2007	Ford	F150	7785



**The Fort
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May 24
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noon-6 p.m.
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information
visit**

**[https://john-
son.armymwr.
com/programs/
splash-park](https://johnson.armymwr.com/programs/splash-park)**

CIVIL

Leesville's Civil Air Patrol: Developing leadership in youth and adults

By Karen Sampson
Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — The Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. It offers opportunities for teenagers and adults alike, whether its developing young leaders through the cadet program, assisting in emergency services or supporting Aerospace education.

If you are a young person who desires education in leadership or an adult looking to make an impact as a mentor, CAP can build on your skills, strengthen character and open doors to a future career.

Seniors Deputy Commander Ron Carer, Bill Pardue, commander of the Leesville Composite SCH Squadron and Lt. Col. Ralph Salazar, aerospace education officer of the Leesville Civil Air Patrol squadron featured their organization on the JRTC and Fort Johnson Podcast. The Leesville Composite Squadron consists of a Cadet program and senior member program.

"A person must be 12 years old to join the organization," said Pardue.

CAP has leadership courses, aerospace education and emergency service and search and rescue exercises.

"Our wing has the emergency exercises twice a year," Pardue said.

He said cadets also participate in ground mission exercises.

"They go out and look for things on the ground like a notional downed aircraft or a missing person," Pardue said.

"There are some squadrons out there that are all Cadet programs and there are some that are all senior members that do search and



(Photo courtesy Leesville CAP)

rescue," said Lt. Col. Ralph Salazar, aerospace education officer.

He said the Leesville's CAP is a composite squadron that does both and includes character and leadership development of young people wanting to be Cadets.

Salazar said getting senior members involved with CAP pays off in a purposeful way.

"When it comes to senior leaders it's not just Soldiers and civilians learning about

CAP, we really like to get teachers involved," Ron Kariker, deputy commander for senior Civil Air Patrol mem-

bers at the Leesville Composite Squadron.

Kariker said he and Bill Pardue approached the Vernon County School Board to explain the benefits of partnering with CAP.

"Did you know that the Air Force through Civil Air Patrol will pay for materials and curriculum and the materials for STEM?" Kariker asked.

Kariker said that means Cadets and seniors can learn about aero sciences like rocket building and flying drones. It's just another way they can have a positive affect on the the surrounding communities.

If you are interested in participating in CAP, the squadron meets every Tuesday evening at the Leesville Municipal Airport at 424 Airport Rd, Leesville. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and typically finish between 8-8:30 p.m.

If you would like to visit a meeting (or just stop by to see what they are all about, plan to arrive around 6:15 p.m. to talk to members before the meeting officially starts.

During the meetings, members may be learning leadership skills, working on character development, growing in aerospace/STEM knowledge, gaining emergency services experience, or growing in the cadet life, which includes things like customs and courtesies, drill and physical fitness. The meetings also include hands on activities!

For more information about this program visit <https://leesville.cap.gov/>.



AIR PATROL



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The deep end: A Soldier's leap toward purpose and possibility

By Jean Clavette Graves
BJACH PAO

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Spc. Jordan Bowman never expected that a fear he has carried since childhood would be the key to unlocking a journey of self-discovery, strength and purpose.

A combat medic assigned to Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, Bowman is known in the emergency department not just for his clinical skills, but also for his quiet leadership and relentless drive to grow — mentally, physically and professionally. But just a few short months ago, this confident caregiver faced one of his greatest personal challenges when he was asked to support a combat water survival training event during the BJACH Forge field exercise.

Assigned to provide medical coverage, Bowman showed up in physical training gear expecting to observe. What he didn't expect was to be asked to assist with the five-minute water tread portion of the event.

Without hesitation, he said, "good," and jumped in.

It was more than a spontaneous act of bravery — it was a turning point.

As a child, Bowman nearly drowned in a neighbor's pool. Though he physically recovered, the experience instilled a deep fear of water that followed him into adulthood.

"I'd go to pools growing up, but I stayed in the shallow end," he said. "I never even tried to enter the deep end."

That day at the Forge, something shifted. What began as a request to assist turned into a

chance to confront a long-standing fear.

"I wasn't the best at treading water, but I knew I could float and survive if I needed to," Bowman said. "So, I just said, 'Roger that,' and went for it. I figured if I was scared, this was the perfect time to stop being scared — and I trusted the people around me. I knew I wasn't alone."

After completing the training event, Bowman stayed behind with teammates who encouraged him to try the diving board for the first time.

One of them, Spc. Sean Kim has become a regular training partner and mentor in the pool.

"He's been helping me learn the basics — breathing, form and building endurance," Bowman said. "When I started, I couldn't swim 50 meters. Now I'm doing 600. And it's because I have people supporting me."

Bowman's drive to serve was inspired early on by the story of Pfc. Desmond T. Doss — the World War II combat medic portrayed in the film Hacksaw Ridge — whose courage under fire left a lasting impression.

"That movie showed me what it means to serve others selflessly," he said. "It made me want to be a medic."

His determination to grow comes from modern influences, too — including retired Navy SEAL Jocko Willink and endurance athlete David Goggins.

"The way they talk about discomfort and resilience really stuck with me," Bowman said. "You don't wait until you feel ready. You get up and do the hard thing anyway."

That mindset fuels his next goal: competing in an Ironman triathlon in 2026 — a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run.

That "no quit" mindset is exactly what his leaders see in him.

"Bowman is mature beyond his years," said Sgt. 1st Class Chip Allen, his noncommissioned officer in charge. "He's honest about both his shortcomings and successes, and he thrives off growing from challenges. He has stepped into a mentorship role for junior medics, and their growth reflects his influence."

Bowman's ambition goes beyond the pool. He applied and was awarded a full scholarship to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, but chose not to attend after learning how few cadets are selected for medical school directly from the academy.

Instead, he plans to separate in 2026, complete his undergraduate degree and attend medical school through the Health Professions Scholarship Program.

"My time at BJACH changed everything," Bowman said. "Working in the ER, learning from the providers, seeing what's possible — it made me realize I don't want to stop at being a medic. I want to become a doctor."

Bowman credits his internal motivation to people like his childhood best friend, Sgt. Landon Gnade, a member Georgia National Guard.

"Landon taught me how to keep a level head, even when things feel overwhelming," Bowman said. "That mindset helped me make the most of being here at Fort Johnson and helped me see that discomfort isn't something to avoid — it's a chance to grow."

While Bowman's path has been fueled by self-reflection and self-discipline, leaders emphasize that not everyone navigates fear and

adversity the same way — and no one must go it alone.

"Spc. Bowman's story reflects a journey that's common among many Soldiers: Facing internal conflict, confronting past pain, and realizing change must come from within," said Lt. Col. Alexander Ragan, director of psychological health for the installation. "His self-awareness and motivation are powerful, but we also want every Soldier and family member to know there are resources, programs and people who can support you when those things feel out of reach."

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, an estimated 12.5% of adults experience phobias. For some, fears can be so intense they interfere with daily life — and even impact mission readiness.

"At JRTC and Fort Johnson, we focus on helping people recognize their strengths and reframe challenges as opportunities for growth," Ragan said. "Whether through therapy, peer support or self-help tools, we want people to know that seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness."

For Bowman, the journey continues — one lap, one mile and one goal at a time.

"I want people to see that it's possible to overcome challenges," he said. "If I can go from being afraid of water to training for an Ironman, anyone can achieve more than they thought possible."

Editor's Note: To speak with someone from the behavioral health team at JRTC and Fort Johnson, visit Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital's 6th floor clinic, or contact your unit Embedded Behavioral Health provider.



Spc. Jordan Bowman assists a fellow Soldier during combat water survival training at the SFC Guess 50-Meter Pool during the Bayne-Jones Army Community Forge Training Exercise April 3, at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)

Spc. Jordan Bowman observes combat water survival training at the SFC Guess 50-Meter Pool during the BJACH Forge field exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, April 3. Originally assigned to provide medical support, Bowman volunteered to complete the five-minute treading water test despite his lifelong fear of swimming. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)



Spc. Jordan Bowman, a combat medic assigned to Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, checks Sgt. Lucas Alves' blood pressure during a training scenario in the emergency department at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, May 16. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Clavette Graves)



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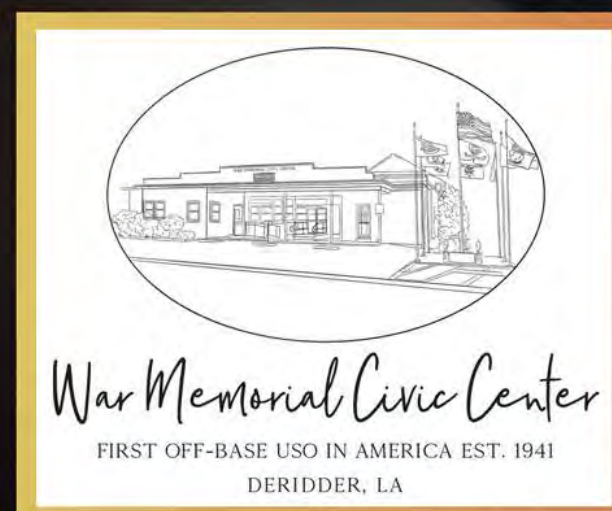
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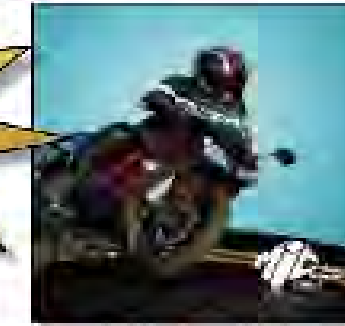
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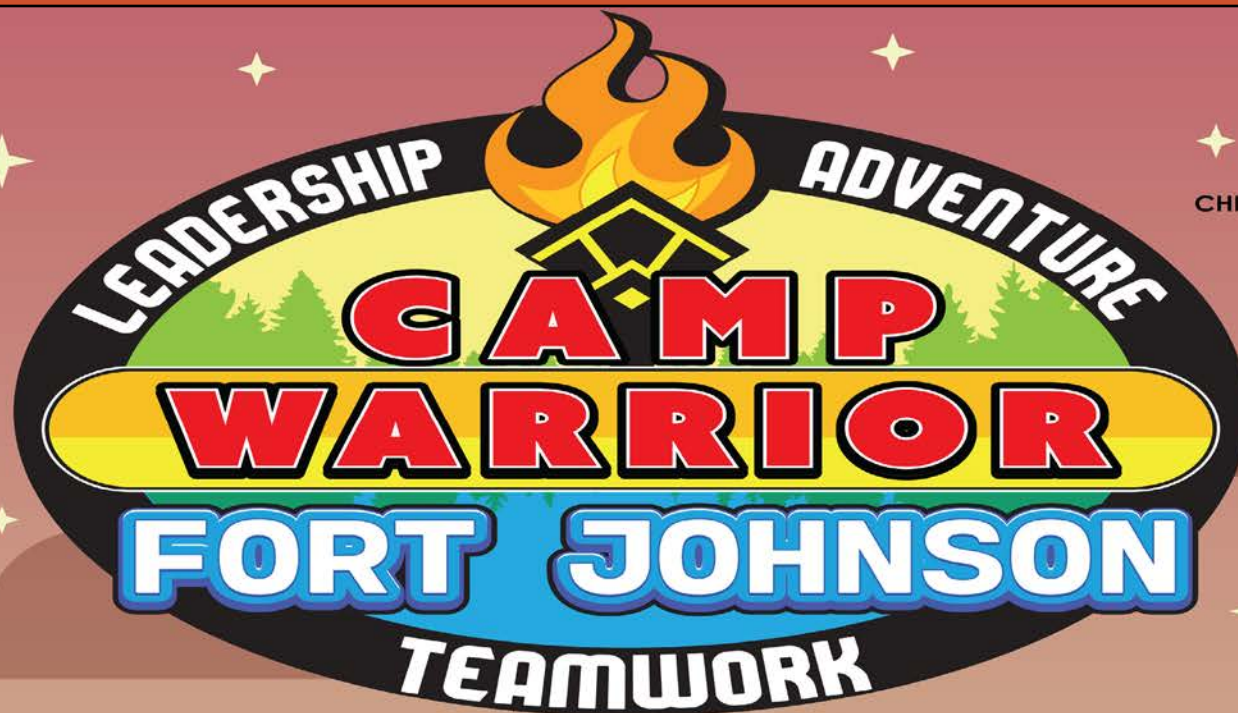
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