

JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON

DEC. 2 VOL. 51, NO. 23

GUARDIAN

EXERCISE DYNAMIC

FRONT 25

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CORVIAS PUTS
RESIDENTS FIRST

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DUSTOFF AND MILITARY
WORKING DOG TRAINING

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TRICARE REGIONS ARE
CHANGING

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COVER PHOTO

A training collaboration brings together UH-60 Blackhawk pilots and critical care flight paramedics from Cajun Dust-Off, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, and handlers and canine partners from the 50th Military Police Military Working Dog Detachment to execute intensive rehearsals of MWD combat casualty care, medical evacuation and hoist training, Nov. 18-21, at Fort Johnson, La. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



31
BOSS Toy Drive
Ruck March



17
Rotational Information
and Synchronization
Outreach Forum



22
Turkey Bowl



JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON

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



ON POST

Upcoming Events



Snowflake Festival

Dec. 6-7, 4pm. at Main Post Exchange

It's the most winter-ful time of the year! Fort Johnson's annual Snowflake Festival returns with exciting activities like ice skating, vendors selling Christmas goodies, music performed by our local school bands and Fort Johnson youth, photos with Santa and so much more.

Dec. 6: Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 7: Holiday Parade and Santa visit at 5:30 p.m.



Cookies with Santa

Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at PlayTown & Café

Get ready for a jolly good time! Santa's coming to town, and he's bringing a sleigh full of sweet treats. Enjoy festive cookies and photos with the big man in red. It's a sugar-filled, merry-making extravaganza for the family — don't miss out on the fun and holiday cheer!

Admission: \$3



Holiday on the Bend

Dec. 13-14, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Toledo Bend Army Recreation Park

Celebrate Christmas bayou-style! Toledo Bend will have 30 minute boat rides with storytelling. The festive fun doesn't end there — once you return from your voyage, crafts, cookies and hot chocolate will be available.

Cost: \$15 per person, \$90 per entire boat rental



Trees for Troops

Dec. 14, 12-3 p.m. at Klubs & Karts

Needing a Christmas tree for the holidays? 'Tis the season for lights galore and festive decor! Soldiers and families are invited to come pick out their perfect tree for the final touches of their holiday furnishing -- free of charge!

All participants must have a DOD ID. One tree is permitted per family. Assistance will not be provided for loading trees into/onto vehicles.



OUTSIDE THE GATES

OFF POST

EVENTS



5-7
Dec.

Christmas Under the Oaks and Holiday House

SULPHUR, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



7
Dec.

Miracle on Washington Street

DERIDDER, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



8
Dec.

Jingle and Mingle: The Magical Christmas on Shell Beach Drive

LAKE CHARLES, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



10
Dec.

Visit the CPKC Holiday Express

LEESVILLE, LA.

[Click for more info](#)



14
Dec.

Christmas Parade

LEESVILLE, LA.

[Click for more info](#)

NO ARMY OR FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED.

Fort Johnson Soldiers take part in Exercise Dynamic Front 25

By Spc. David Dumas
Army News

SMÂRDAN, ROMANIA — Enveloped by rolling fog and the biting chill of autumn air, 10th Mountain Division Soldiers demonstrated steadfast dedication as they conducted Exercise Dynamic Front 25 in Smardan, Romania, from Nov. 4-24. The NATO-led multinational artillery training exercise prioritized precision, coordination and resilience amongst NATO Allies during the exercise.

Exercise Dynamic Front 25 was the largest edition of the exercise to date, taking place across Europe with training in countries like Finland, Estonia, Germany, Poland and Romania. The focus of the exercise was to streamline artillery operations at every level and ensure field artillery systems from the U.S., NATO allies and partner nations could seamlessly work together.

While Romania and the U.S. Army regularly train together to improve tactics, techniques and procedures, Dynamic Front 25 allowed the 10th Mountain Division and Romanian Land Forces to build unit readiness in a multinational environment, increase the lethality of the NATO Alliance through long-range fires and leverage host nation capabilities to increase USAREUR-AF's operational reach.

"Interoperability with the Romanian forces is a critical objective," said Sgt. 1st Class Justin Smith, a platoon sergeant assigned to Bravo Battery, 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. "We will always be working closely with our allies, and familiarizing ourselves with them now will only benefit us in the future."

The exercise focused on a series of multi-day live-fire exercises, training on the use of advanced artillery systems, including the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and various Howitzer models. These exercises provided an opportunity to enhance coordination, refine tactical procedures, and demonstrate the combined effectiveness of allied artillery capabilities in a simulated combat environment.

"Everything we do in training has to prepare us for real world combat," said Smith. "It goes with the age old saying of 'train as you fight' so everything we're doing here has a purpose and a goal and it is supposed to replicate real world combat."

In addition to live fires, this exercise will incorporate several technologies such as the Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities network, an encrypted software that eliminates language barriers across artillery units.

"We were fielded with new radio and communication equipment," said Lt. Col. Jamie Neely, battalion commander of 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat



U.S. Army Soldiers, assigned to 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, tear down a M777 A2 Howitzer during Dynamic Front 25 in Smârdan, Romania, Nov. 17. (Spc. David Dumas)



A U.S. Army Soldier pulls security while another digs a foxhole during Exercise Dynamic Front 25 in Smârdan, Romania, Nov. 17. (Spc. David Dumas)

Team, 10th Mountain Division. "With this new equipment, we can rapidly link sensors digitally through the kill chain as it goes up to the command post and back to us, the delivery system. Dynamic Front is helping us to test the speed of the equipment so we may achieve timeliness."

ASCA enhances the ability of forces to work together seamlessly in joint, high-intensity operations across multiple locations. By standardizing target data, map graphics and communication, it creates a common framework for coordination. During this exercise, ASCA was used by the United States and 14 other nations, highlighting NATO's strength in synchronizing multinational live-fire artillery operations from the Arctic Circle to the Black Sea.

Exercise Dynamic Front 25 showcased the

partnership, unity and strength of the NATO Alliance.

This exercise represents a commitment to the Alliance's readiness, with warfighting and peacekeeping drills like Dynamic Front ensuring that the United States, NATO and partner nations are prepared to deter threats and defend Europe.

"The Romanians were a full participant with us for Dynamic Front," said Neely. "There are three different components of interoperability: there's the technical dimension, the procedural dimension, and the human dimension. Here in Smardan, Romania, we really focused on the procedural and human interaction with them while we shared the training area and worked together to accomplish the mission."

The Fort Johnson Spouses & Community Club presents

JINGLE JAMMIES

Dec. 19
Save the date!

Preregister for the best deals.
Registration opens Dec. 1!

Vendors, Games, Prizes, Movie

Warrior Center | 6-9 p.m.



Fort Johnson community residents at **heart** of everything Corvias does



By Angie Thorne

Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Corvias cares about Soldiers and their Family members' quality of life. Whether it's renovating homes, providing consistent, quality maintenance or upgrading foundational systems within homes, Corvias works to provide the best possible resident experience.

One of those upgrades comes in the form of updating about 600 existing geothermal units at Fort Johnson.

That includes changing out the equipment and, when needed, digging additional wells if they are too small or short. Many of the current geothermal units are reaching the end of their useful life cycles, so Corvias is replacing them. In fact, some air-to-air systems are also being converted to geothermal units.

"Geothermal systems are one of the most efficient systems on the market. They seem to be working very well on the installation and have been for decades," said Beth Worthley, Corvias renewable energy and utilities manager.

Once upgraded, residents will continue to have full control over the temperature range settings in their homes. The systems will be better able to heat and cool to their desired temperature.

When it comes to water heaters, the geothermal Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems move excess heat in the home and move it to pre-heat water. The excess heat is being used to heat the water in the tanks, reducing the extra consumption of electricity.

"There is a financial benefit to that savings. By using the excess heat, we aren't spending as much money to heat the water. In this entire project, every time we talk about savings, all of that (money) will get reinvested into improving Fort Johnson housing," Worthley said.

Those are all good things. However, with any new system, there can be an adjustment period in which refinements must be made and Fort Johnson residents have had some concerns.

It's extremely hot in Louisiana and in limited instances, some older HVAC systems were challenged to cool to the desired temperature. The new systems design allows for more efficient heating and cooling, but if residents experience any issues, all they need to do is submit a work order and maintenance will help



Work on upgrading geothermal units continues at Fort Johnson. (Courtesy Corvias)



These are the new thermostats being installed in conjunction with the upgrades. (Courtesy Corvias)

correct the situation.

In addition, some of the water heaters were not heating to the temperature people were accustomed to.

"We heard those concerns and have now eliminated that problem completely. We took resident feedback seriously and have changed operations for all homes going forward and are

going back and adjusting the homes that were upgraded previously," Worthley said.

Peter Therrell, Corvias senior vice president of asset management, said Corvias always wants to make those adjustments to better serve residents.

Therrell said when the upgrading process began, various factors were considered to set the parameters of the system, such as the likely timeframes of when residents would be home and using hot water.

"Adjustments were made because some of our calculations were slightly off. The reality is much more complex and varied than we originally thought. So, we have removed the original pivot points in the system to open the system to garner full coverage for hot water," Therrell said. "It's not a failure of the system to perform, it's a change in the settings at which it's performing."

When isolated incidents like this occur, it's encouraged that, like any maintenance situation within the home, a work order be submitted.

Denise Hauck, Corvias senior vice president of property operations, said home upgrades are implemented with residents in mind to modernize and improve their homes.

"However, if a resident has concerns, our maintenance and resident teams are here to help. Resident care is at the heart of what we do."

Kirk Green, Fort Johnson operations director, said feedback is critical to improving customer service.

"We are always listening and willing to pivot whenever feasible to provide the best living experience for our Fort Johnson residents," Green said.

Big or little, if you need help with something in your home, Corvias encourages you to call in a work order.

How to submit a work order:

Submitting work orders with Corvias is simple. Routine maintenance tasks can be submitted online through our user-friendly Resident Portal, <https://johnson.corviaspm.com/residents>, or by calling (337) 537-5050, ensuring a prompt response to address non-urgent issues.

For urgent matters requiring immediate attention, please contact our emergency hotline at 866-436-2047 for swift assistance. Please do not use the Resident Portal for emergency work orders.



Paternity Leave Exception for CONUS Soldiers forward deployed in Poland, Bulgaria, Romania

By Army Emergency Relief

FORT JOHNSON, La. — Army Emergency Relief aids Soldiers with guidance about paternity leave.

Guidelines state Continental United States Soldiers may be provided financial assistance as an "exception" when deployed to Poland, Bulgaria and Romania and placed on approved 'Ordinary Leave' for paternity reasons. Soldiers may travel to any of the 50 states, U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands), or overseas locations for the birth of a child.

Assistance will only be considered for airfare costs under this exception and will be provided as a 50% loan / 50% grant. If repayment of the loan portion causes a financial hardship, the Soldier may contact or visit the local AER Section at the home-station to complete a budget and request conversion to a grant.

Soldiers should contact the American Red Cross at 1-877-272-7337 (select option 1) to initiate the financial assistance request.

Individuals should have the following documents ready prior to contacting the American Red Cross to help expedite the application process:

- 1) Military ID card.
- 2) Name and relationship of family member (spouse) and estimated due date.
- 3) Leave and Earning Statement.

4) Completed/approved DA 31 (Request and authority for leave – paternity leave reasons) with leave control number and leave address.

5) Estimate of airfare cost.

The American Red Cross will conduct case intake telephonically and send the Soldier a secure link to upload the required documents listed above. All assistance cases will be submitted to AER headquarters for review and decision.

Upon approval of the assistance request, the American Red Cross will electronically disburse funds on behalf of AER headquarters to the Soldier via one of the four disbursement options listed below:

- 1) U.S. bank account (savings or checking)
- 2) Venmo
- 3) Money Gram
- 4) PayPal

There are also options for a spouse to request AER assistance on behalf of the sponsor:

A Spouse with Special Power of Attorney may request assistance through the nearest AER Section or Military Aid Society office. The nearest office may be found by going to www.armyemergencyrelief.org. For individuals who need a SPOA, AER Form 53 (Special Power of Attorney) the form is available on the website under financial assistance-blank forms. This SPOA may be executed with the unit adjutant and be provided to the Spouse.

50th MP MWD takes flight with Cajun DustOff



By Karen Sampson
Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office

FORT JOHNSON, La. — A training collaboration brought together UH-60 Blackhawk crew and critical care flight paramedics from Cajun DustOff, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, and handlers and canine partners from the 50th Military Police Military Working Dog Detachment to conduct intensive rehearsals of MWD combat casualty care, aeromedical evacuation and hoist training, at Maks Army Airfield, Nov. 18-21.

"50th MP MWD mission is commonly narcotics, explosive detection, patrol, and apprehension," said Sgt. 1st Class Linda Chong, critical care flight paramedic and company instructor. "In this situation, we learn to extract an injured canine or handler with a hoist unit on the Blackhawk."

She said the mission for Cajun DustOff and 50th MP MWD at JRTC and Fort Johnson is unique.

"Cajun DustOff and 50th MP MWD share the search and rescue mission for the state of Louisiana and some surrounding areas," she said.

Both scenarios require the flight crew and medics to use a hoist to insert and extract

personnel efficiently from areas with difficulty landing the aircraft.

"Cajun DustOff flight medics instructed the military working dog handlers on familiarizing their canines with the harness and evacuation seat needed for hoist training; we showed the handlers how to maneuver safely on the outside of the aircraft and how to load and unload," Chong said. "The dog teams were able to hop in, sit down, buckle themselves in, undo their buckles, and then hop out and walk away from the aircraft."

Chong said it is essential to learn how they're supposed to walk out when the blades of the UH-60 are turning.

For flight medics and crew to maintain readiness with aeromedical evacuation operations, hoist training is required every 90 days to build proficiency and effectiveness and ensure members are ready to respond to medical emergency missions anywhere, said Chong.

"In the past two and a half years, we've launched five times for search and rescues," Sgt. 1st Class Steven Simmons, detachment sergeant and company instructor. "With that

being said, the military working dog team is inserted and can search the ground areas as we're circling, searching with our infrared camera."

Chong and Simmons trained the company's flight medics and crew while instructing the dog handlers with repetitive loading and off-loading.

On the third day, the flight personnel and MWD teams repelled and extracted the MWD teams from approximately 90 feet.

One medic comes down on the hoist, and the crew is the hoist operator; the pilots hold a good hover.

Simmons said that by working with the MWDs, medics get to train in skills they don't often get exposure to.

"Medics and crew benefit more from training with the military working dog teams than simulators," Simmons said.

He said it benefits the MWD to have exposure to flight in a training environment.

"The dogs and handlers need to be more familiar with the aircraft in case they need to use us for any mission set."

U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson



A training collaboration brings together UH-60 Blackhawk flight crew and critical care flight paramedics from Cajun DustOff, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, and handlers and canine partners from the 50th Military Police Military Working Dog Detachment to execute intensive rehearsals of MWD combat casualty care, medical evacuation and hoist training, Nov. 18-21, at Fort Johnson, La. (U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson)



Installation Management Command Team thanks workforce



U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson

Lt. Gen. Omar Jones, Installation Management Command Commanding General, and IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Copeland traveled to Fort Johnson Nov. 20 to thank the IMCOM workforce for their service and support, and to recognize their contributions to improve the readiness, resilience, and quality of life for Soldiers and their Families. Jones also gave his Commander's Coin to five members of the Fort Johnson staff who stood out for their service excellence:

Valerie Hammond, DFMWR, CYS director: Ms. Hammond is an influential and integral part of Fort Johnson CYS by providing outstanding guidance and leadership to support to all areas in CYS. Through her expertise in child development and leadership abilities the facility she manages and those she mentors have reduced inspection findings while increasing parent and employee satisfaction rates.

Renea' Boutte, DPW, Contracting Officer Representative: Ms. Boutte leads the Quality Assurance effort on the BASOPS contract and works closely with the BASOPS QA team in assisting them in their data collection, trending, and tracking efforts of their inspections. For over 3 years, she has performed a review of each Priority 3 DMO submitted to validate the requested work, which drastically reduces redundant DMO submissions

and other submissions that are beyond the scope of the BASOPS contract. Her phone is constantly ringing with issues/questions/complaints concerning DMOs or other issues involving the BASOPS contract, she always operates Customer-Service-minded and is willing to help as much as the contract allows.

Priscilla Alvarado, DFMWR, Management Assistant: Ms. Alvarado is an instrumental part of FMWR providing outstanding support to all Divisions. She also oversees the registration and event planning procedures with Non-Federal Entities, Home Based Businesses, and Military Spouse owned business markets. Ms. Alvarado's get it done positive attitude, ensures that FMWR is able to accomplish the mission. Due to her efficiency and desire to learn and do more, her role has grown to include multiple collection and archive-related functions.

Eric Hayes, DPTMS, Readiness Specialist: Mr. Hayes is an invaluable Operations and Readiness Officer within the United States Army Garrison Fort Johnson, Louisiana and the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security. His efforts include but aren't limited to ensuring both Watch and Operations Officers are trained to standard; he ensures that the directorate's IT requirements are taken care of and that two divisions worth of

equipment are accounted.

SGT Zachary Lacaze, DES, Department of Army Security Guard: SGT LaCaze has performed exceptionally well ever since his promotion in January of 2024. He is known for taking care of the members of his team and ensuring procedures and battle drills are executed smoothly. As one of our recent graduates from Inter-Service Non-Lethal Individual Weapons Instructor Course, he assisted in the training over 200 Soldiers and 12 new Department of Army Security Guards on lethal non-lethal weapons and use of force.

Awarded the Humanitarian Award:

William T. Wise Jr., Air Traffic Control Specialist: Mr. William T. Wise, Jr., an air traffic control specialist at Fort Johnson, played a critical role in relief efforts following Hurricane Helene in October 2024. On his own accord, during off-duty time, Mr. Wise coordinated and mobilized fellow private pilots in the region to collaborate logistics with relief agencies and fly essential supplies to remote, inaccessible areas that desperately needed immediate assistance. Mr. Wise has completed multiple missions, delivering over 2,500 pounds of aid and working extensive hours to ensure timely support.

Congratulations to the recipients!

HOTH Thrift Shop

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

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Supporting our local community
- Volunteer program
- Grant program

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

ADDITIONAL DETAILS EMAIL:
 Grants - hohthriftshop.grants@gmail.com
 Volunteer - hohthriftshop.volunteer@gmail.com

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

JRTC and Fort Johnson QoL Initiatives

HOUSING

HEALTHCARE

CHILDCARE

SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

PCS MOVES

SUPPORT AND RESILIENCE

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM

FINANCIAL READINESS

MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

Care for Our People • Build Readiness • Succeed in our JRTC and Fort Johnson Campaigns
Commanding General's Priorities

DEC. 9 FROM 10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Welcome – 10-10:05 a.m.

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

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

Healthcare – 11:00-11:50 a.m.
 Brief 11:00-11:10 a.m. Feedback 11:10-11:30 a.m. Review / Present 11:30-11:50 a.m.

Lunch (1 hour) – 11:50 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

Support and Resilience – 12:50-1:40 p.m.
 Brief 12:50-1:00 p.m. Feedback 1:00-1:20 p.m. Review / Present 1:20-1:40 p.m.

Financial Readiness – 1:40-2:30 p.m.
 Brief 1:40-1:50 p.m. Feedback 1:50-2:10 p.m. Review / Present 2:10-2:30 p.m.

PCS Moves and Orders – 2:30-3:20 p.m.
 Brief 2:30-2:40 p.m. Feedback 2:40-3:00 p.m. Review / Present 3:00-3:20 p.m.

Feedback/Closing Remarks – 3:20 - 3:30 p.m.

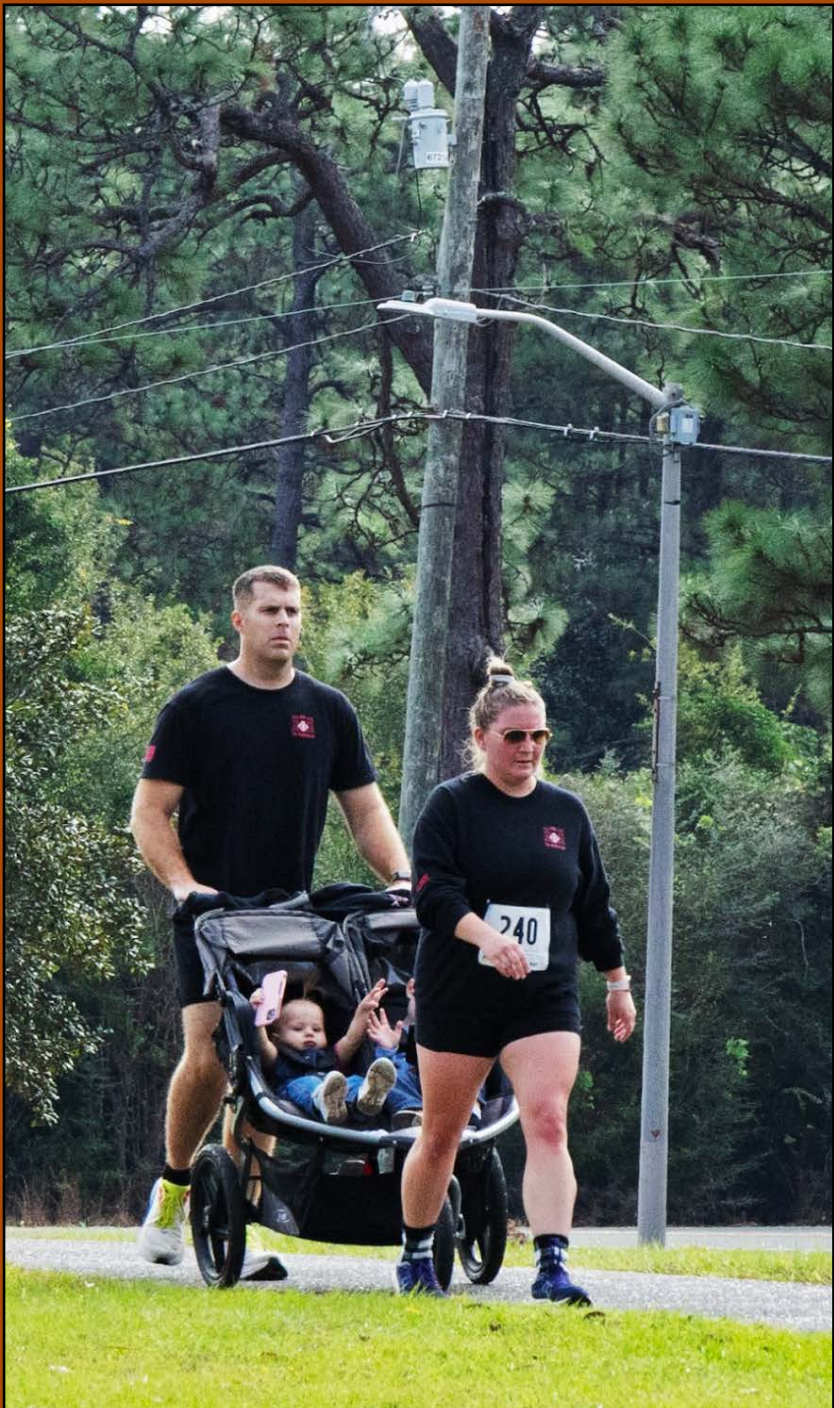
This is an event for Soldiers, civilians, retirees and family members to participate in, and provide feedback or suggestions on the state of QoL on Fort Johnson.

Seating is limited. RSVP via <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/b2aLekaeJF?origin=IprLink> or email kayla.l.moore16.civ@army.mil NLT Nov. 25
 Event location will be the Warrior Center!

Fort Johnson community competes in Turkey Trot



U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson



Soldiers, families and civilians participated in the 2024 Turkey Trot sponsored by the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation at the Warrior Hills Golf Course, Fort Johnson, La., Nov. 16. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



Corvias
brings
neighborhood
holiday
fun

2024
Neighborhood Reindeer
Round - Up

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

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

December
6th, 13th &
20th

Corvias
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Cookies with
Santa!

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

Dec. 6
3-6 p.m.

Palmetto Terrace Community Center

Corvias
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Forum informs, opens communication with parish partners



The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson hosted its Rotational Information and Synchronization Outreach Forum Nov. 19 at the Warrior Center. The purpose of the forum was to inform parish partners and service personnel about better supporting the upcoming rotational schedule, major events and activities happening on the installation, explaining what the JRTC is and does and enabling a more synchronized partnership between Fort Johnson leadership and the local community. (U.S. Army photos by Porsha Auzenne)

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

TIP #1

When freezing temperatures are expected, turn on your heat and set temperatures to at least 65 degrees.


Talking Point #3

Mission / Transition Balance

We want to ensure Soldiers and leaders understand the importance of transition timing. A Soldier enrolling in TAP at the 24 month or 18 month (Retiree/ETS) will not take the Soldier away from the unit during that time frame. The installation TAP Team fully understands mission requirements and readiness. Soldiers enrolling early allows them to balance unit requirements and transitioning needs.

JRTC & Fort Johnson Motorcycle Safety Courses






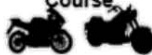



**See your unit
Motorcycle Mentor
first!**



- Type in <https://safety.army.mil>
- Click on 'OFF-DUTY' at the top of the page
- Under 'PMV-2 (Motorcycles)' choose 'Training'
- Click on visit AIRS Website at https://airs.safety.army.mil/usg_disclaimer.aspx
- Follow the above link, type in your CAC code and click on "I ACCEPT"
- At the top for Region, click on "Southeast", and in Garrison, click on "Fort Johnson"
- Utilize the calendar and choose a course/date and click on "Location"
- This will take you to a page. Read the instructions and fill out the form

(337) 531 - RIDE

DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Basic Riders Course 	4	5 Intermediate Drivers Training 	6	7
8	9	10 Basic Riders Course 	11	12 Intermediate Drivers Training 	13 Advanced Rider Course 	14
15	16	17 Basic Riders Course 	18	19 Intermediate Drivers Training 	20 Remedial Drivers Training 	21
22	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31				

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER



Get your holiday hosting checklist together

- ✓ Punch 
- ✓ Decorations 
- ✓ Food 
- ✓ Solutions for a safe ride home! 

1 – 12 December 2024 – The 12 Days of Safety

The 12 DAYS of SAFETY

1 Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs

2 Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets

3 Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources

4 Make sure your tree has a stable platform

5 Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant

6 If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered

7 Check holiday lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire

8 Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use

9 When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places

10 Designate a sober driver

11 When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat

12 Reheat leftovers to at least 165° F

Happy Holidays



nsc.org

Putting up decorations is one of the best ways to get in the holiday mood. However, thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating are seen in emergency rooms every year.




GARRISON SAFETY

7 EASY STEPS TO A WINTERIZED CAR

Prepare your car for winter


WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID


Washer fluid that contains antifreeze for clear vision in bad weather




ENGINE COOLANT

Make sure you are using a coolant containing ethylene glycol









EMERGENCY KIT

A little preparation can make all the difference in an emergency




LOCK DE-ICER

Keep some on hand for those below freezing days




SNOW TIRES

Put on your snow tires now before you really need them



BATTERY

Inspect your battery to ensure it is running at optimal levels



ENGINE OIL

You might want to use thinner, less viscous oil in cold weather

Discover Louisiana



NATCHITOCHES CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



(Photo by Jill Pickett)



(Photo credit Natchitoches Christmas)

(Photo credit Natchitoches Christmas)



(Photo credit Natchitoches Christmas)

Natchitoches (NACK-a-tish) has been called the “City of Lights” since 1927, when the city’s chief electrician decided that stringing Christmas lights along Front Street would be a nice gift to the town’s residents. His gesture has evolved into the six-week-long Natchitoches Christmas Festival, one of the longest-running holiday celebrations in America.

Each November, the area is transformed into the ultimate winter wonderland: Decorations and thousands of lights set downtown on the scenic Cane River Lake aglow. People from far quarters flock to the town for the annual Christmas Festival of Lights — a beautiful reason to visit this National Historic Landmark district.

Need another reason? Look for snow and carolers on Front Street and watch for the spectacular fireworks over Cane River — and don’t miss the beautiful Christmas Parade, where lighted barges “parade” through the river!

Throughout the festival, you’ll find food booths stocked by local restaurants and home bakers, along with the iconic Natchitoches meat pie. Check out NatchitochesChristmas.com for more information.

— Explore Louisiana



(Photo by Jill Pickett)



(Photo by Robbie Caponetto)



(Photo by Robbie Caponetto)

Fort Johnson Directorate of Emergency Services personnel excel in 2024



The Fort Johnson fire department has been recognized by command for their continued excellence in emergency response to the installation and they were also nominated for best medium sized department of the year in the Department of Defense. Accomplishments include protecting 23,327 personnel and 2,328 facilities, 1 airfield, and 3 landing zones with total assets valued at over 9 billion dollars, providing 2306 staff hours of Crash Fire Rescue standby support at 3 remote landing zones, protecting aircraft and 3842 jumpers, safely rescuing 4 paratroopers and recovering 4 drones from trees and performing a textbook mass casualty response to lightning strike on personnel quickly and arranged victim transport, resulting in all 21 victims transported in under 1 hour. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



Jennifer M. Durrett has been nominated as the Department of the Army Dispatcher of the Year. Durret expertly managed consolidated the 911 Dispatch Center, which processes over 10,000 request for service per year, provided unrivaled support to incident commanders at exercises and real-world events, organized key liasions with state, local and federal dispatch leaders on 911 services and provided vital input as strategic planning committee member for ambulance exchange points and mass casualty response. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



Jamal Tee Knight has been nominated as the Department of Defense Fire Service Instructor of the Year. Knight orchestrated the Emergency Medical Technician in-house classes for the Fort Johnson Fire Department by producing eight nationally registered emergency medical technicians, hosted an onsite Incident Safety Officer class which certified 18 firefighters to act as incident safety officers and was Awarded the Army Achievement Medal for ensuring 100 percent compliance of training program standards during higher headquarters assessment. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)

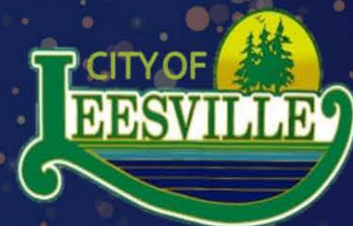
Soldiers take to **gridiron** for Turkey Bowl



U.S. Army photo by Chuck Cannon



Leesville
EVENT CENTER
608 Nolan Trace



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

Jingle & Mingle ICE SKATING RINK



\$5.00* – 5 to 11

\$10.00* – 12 & up

*taxes & fees are applicable at eventbrite.com

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PIE CONTEST • DOOR PRIZES • INFLATABLES**

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with Free
Hot Cocoa!*

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



SCOUTING FOR FOOD 4 NOV - 17 DEC



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

ITEMS NEEDED:

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

LOCATIONS:

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

For more information about Scouting For Food or Scouting contact

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



ARMY FAMILY CHILD CARE (FCC)

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Higher starting income!

Opportunities to increase your income!*

Training included!



Own your Own Business & Make a Difference

by Providing Quality & Affordable Child Care

Benefits:

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

A career in Family Child Care awaits you!



Your Child's Home Away from Home.

www.ArmyMWR.com/FCC

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous group at the Main Post Chapel

Hosted every
Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

**Interested? Contact Maj.
Jeremiah Snyder at:**

Phone:

337-718-8822

337-531-1161

Email:

jeremiah.d.snyder6.mil@army.mil

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

DERIDDER CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW

**Dec. 1 - Jan. 1
5:30 p.m. to Midnight
Downtown DeRidder**

TUNE TO FM 101.1

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.



2008	Yamaha	R6	5446
2016	Yamaha	R3	2153
UNK	UNK	Boat trailer	N/A
UNK	UNK	Kayak trailer	N/A
UNK	McClain	Boat trailer	N/A
UNK	UNK	M/C trailer	N/A
2001	Ford	F150	0450
2000	Ford	Ranger	3852
2006	Nissan	350Z	4586
2004	Cadillac	Escalade	5765
2003	Ford	Crown Victoria	2046
2011	Chevrolet	Cruz	6489
2018	Ford	Eco Sport	1215
2002	Ford	Mustang	6793
2004	Infinity	G35	5369
2016	Hyundai	SUV	7506
2015	Chevrolet	Camero	4295
2017	Lincoln	MK Z	9372

HOLIDAY ON THE BEND

December 13-14, 2024

Toledo Bend \$15/Person \$90/Boat

RESERVE ALL 8 SPOTS!

Fri. Tour 1 and 2:

- 5:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.
- 5:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Sat. Tour 1 and 2:

- 5:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.
- 5:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

CAMPFIRE/SMORES

PHOTOS WITH HOLIDAY CHARACTERS

CRAFTS

STORYTIME

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 318-565-4484

COOKIES & SANTA

PLAY TOWN & CAFÉ

DECEMBER 7, 2024

11AM - 1PM

\$3 ADMISSION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 337-531-9446

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE Financial Literacy Program

NOVEMBER 2024 CLASSES OFFERED

REFRESHER COURSE, 9am-12pm (NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27) IN THE TSP

- ★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR VESTING
- ★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR CONTINUATION PAY UNDER BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM
- ★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR A DEPLOYMENT
- ★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT
- ★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR A PCS

★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR A MARRIAGE

★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR WELCOMING A NEW CHILD

★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR DIVORCE

★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR A DISABLING SICKNESS OR CONDITION

★ PREPARE FINANCES FOR A PROMOTION

PLEASE CALL ACS AT (337)531-1959 1591 BELL RICHARD AVE BLDG 920

Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital WOMEN'S CLINIC

Dr. Christina Bell

Dr. Briana Thurmond

Dr. Victoria Conniff

To learn more about our services: (337) 531-3705/3706 Bayne-jones.tricare.mil We Provide The Best

American Red Cross Animal Visitation Program

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

Meet Daisy

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

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

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

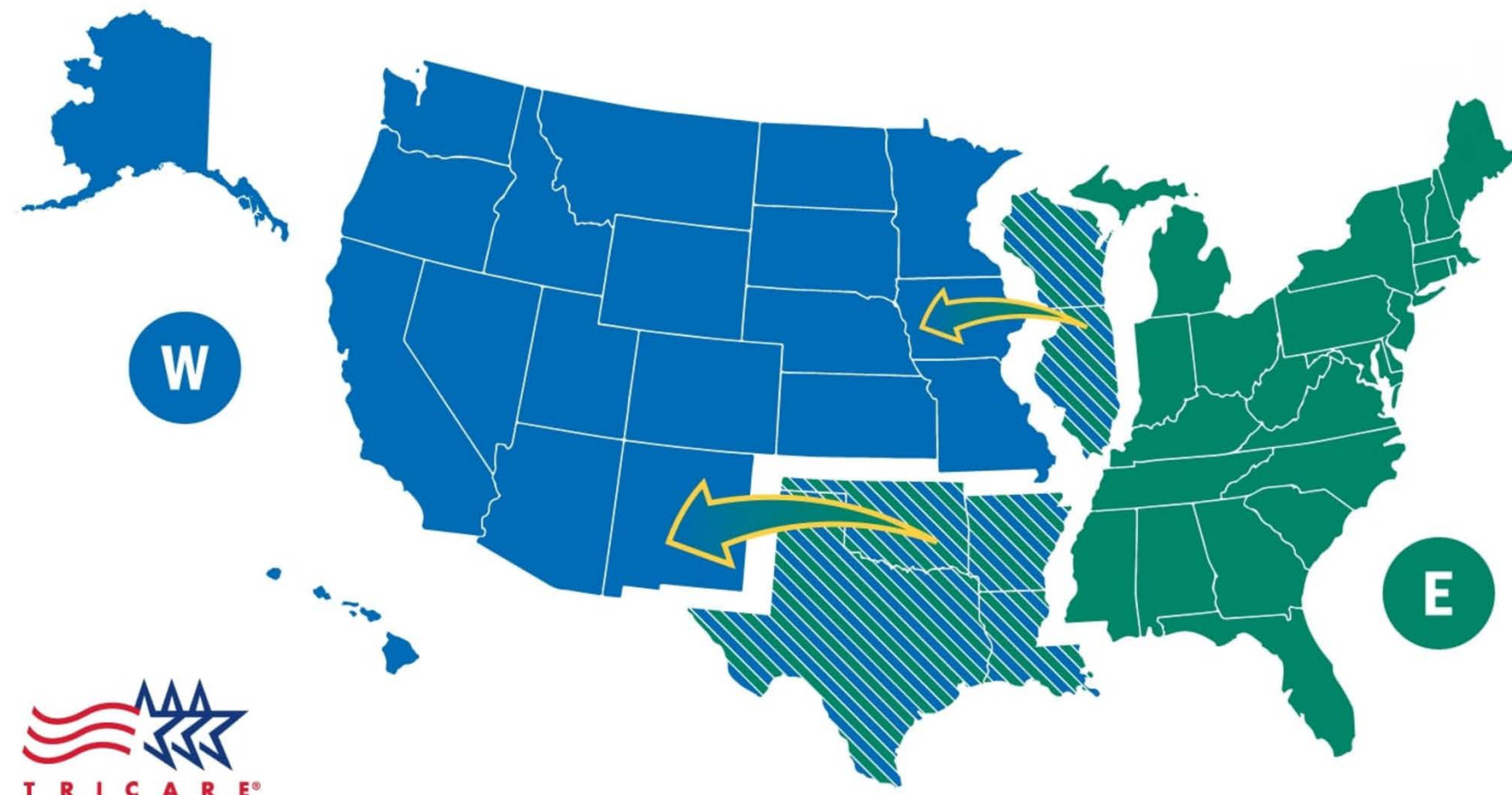
FOLLOW JRTC AND FORT JOHNSON ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND YOUTUBE

GET CONNECTED

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TRICARE Stateside Regions

Starting Jan. 1, 2025



Six states are moving from the East Region to the West Region: Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin. If you live in one of these six states, your TRICARE regional contractor will switch from Humana Military to TriWest Healthcare Alliance on Jan. 1. (Courtesy TRICARE)

Learn how TRICARE regions are changing in 2025

By TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The start of health care delivery under TRICARE's new regional contracts takes place Jan. 1.

You need to know about the changes to the TRICARE regions in the United States as part of the new contracts. While there will still be two TRICARE regions, six states currently in the East Region (Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin) will move to the West Region.

If you're located in one of the six states moving to the West Region, this article will help you understand what that will mean for you. If you live in the current West Region, you'll need to take the actions discussed in this article, too. Your TRICARE contractor is also changing. If you don't live in one of these states, keep an eye out for upcoming articles about how the transition may impact you.

"This will help balance the TRICARE population between the two regions and improve the quality of service for all beneficiaries," said Laura D'Antin, customer support team lead, TRICARE Health Plan, Education and Outreach Branch at the Defense Health Agency.

If you live in one of these six states, your TRICARE regional contractor will switch from Humana Military to TriWest Healthcare Alliance Jan. 1. This change will affect about 1.1 million eligible beneficiaries.

What this means for you

If your state is switching regions, Humana Military will continue as your TRICARE contractor until Dec. 31. Before then, you should check your DEERS account to confirm that all your information is up to date.

You should also:

- Create an account on the TriWest patient portal.
- Update your payment information with TriWest. This will help make sure you can make your payments to TriWest (if applicable) starting Jan. 1 (Note: If you pay by allotment, you don't need to do this. Allotment payments will transfer automatically.)
- Search for providers in the new TriWest provider network directory. You'll find the directory on the patient portal.

You should also plan to take any actions for TRICARE Open Season through TriWest.

Keeping your care on track

If you have ongoing care, don't worry. If you

live in these six states, referrals or authorizations from Humana Military that began before Dec. 31 and will be valid through the referral expiration date, up to June 30, 2025.

Additionally, TriWest will work with Humana Military to ensure you get care without disruption for the following conditions: Cancer, pregnancy, neurological disorders, mental health, kidney disease and disease management/case management services.

The new contractors will assist you in this transition by allowing for efficient referral transfers between regions. They'll provide you with the tools to find TRICARE-authorized providers in your new network.

Keeping your provider

Most of the current provider network in the six states will likely stay the same. TriWest and Humana Military are working to maintain the existing network. However, each provider must decide whether to continue with TRICARE.

Next steps

You'll get more updates, including website links and phone numbers to contact your regional contractor.

For now, visit <https://www.tricare.mil/changes> to stay informed.

Learn about referrals, specialty care as new TRICARE contracts start

By TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Health care delivery under new TRICARE contracts starts Jan. 1. This change will affect you unless you have TRICARE For Life, the U.S. Family Health Plan, or a TRICARE health plan overseas.

These new contracts will improve quality and access for beneficiaries in the United States. This includes enhancing referral management and access to specialty care.

"We're excited about the improvements the new contracts will bring in 2025, especially if you get specialty care in the TRICARE civilian network," said Tonya Utterback, referral management subject matter expert at the Defense Health Agency. "The regional contractors are putting systems in place to make sure your care continues without delays or interruption."

How you get care won't change for the rest of 2024. But you might have questions about what will happen in 2025 — especially if you see specialty providers or have active referrals. Learn more about what to expect starting Jan. 1.

Getting referrals

A referral is when your primary care manager sends you to another provider to get necessary medical treatment they can't provide. If you have TRICARE Prime, you need referrals for specialty care.

A pre-authorization is a more comprehensive review of medical services before you get care. Pre-authorizations are required for certain services.

Not sure when you need a referral or pre-authorization? Check out "Q&A: Getting and Using Referrals With TRICARE" on the TRICARE Newsroom.

Here's how to get the referrals you need.

Through Dec. 31

If you live in the West Region:

- You'll keep getting referrals and pre-authorizations from Health Net Federal Services, LLC.

If you live in the East Region:

- You'll keep getting referrals and pre-authorizations from Humana Military.

Beginning Jan. 1

If you live in the new West Region:

- TriWest Healthcare Alliance will be your new regional contractor. You'll get new referrals and pre-authorizations from TriWest.
- TriWest will accept unexpired referrals and pre-authorizations from HNFS that were issued prior to Jan. 1, 2025. These will be valid through their expiration or June 30, 2025, whichever comes first.
- TriWest will also accept valid referrals and pre-authorizations from Humana Military if you live in a state moving to the new West Region. These states are Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin. These



Courtesy TRICARE

siana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin. These will be valid through their expiration or June 30, 2025, whichever comes first.

Note: Do you or your child have referrals or authorizations through the Autism Care Demonstration?

- TriWest will accept ACD referrals and pre-authorizations from HNFS that began prior to Jan. 1, 2025.

- TriWest will also accept ACD referrals and pre-authorizations from Humana Military if you live in a state moving to the new West Region.

- These will be valid through the date issued by the previous regional contractor.

If you live in the new East Region:

- You'll keep getting new referrals and pre-authorizations from Humana Military.
- Your existing referrals and pre-authorizations will remain valid. They'll be valid until the approved expiration date.

The new contracts will allow for more efficient referral transfers between the East Region and West Region. This means your access to care will be smoother if you move between regions.

Getting specialty care

Do you see a specialist for ongoing care? Or do you expect you may see one in the future? The new contracts will enhance the process for finding network providers and scheduling first-time appointments with them.

Humana Military and TriWest will publish their network provider directories in November 2024.

These directories will list provider subspecialties. (For example, they'll note that an orthopedist specializes in hand surgery.) This will make it easier to find providers for the exact type of care you need. You'll also be able to check if these providers offer telemedicine appointments.

You'll be able to get help making that first appointment with a network specialist if you have TRICARE Select. To do so, reach out to your regional contractor and request help. They'll work with the specialist's office to find an appointment time that works for you.

You'll hear more about any actions you may need to take in the coming weeks. For now, you should:

- Check DEERS to confirm your information is current. This will help make sure you don't miss important communications about your TRICARE benefit and upcoming changes.
 - Keep an eye on the Contract Transition FAQs at <https://tricare.mil/changes>. This page will be updated over the next few months. It has answers to commonly asked questions about the transition.
 - Sign up for email alerts from TRICARE. This will help you stay in the know about any updates.
 - TRICARE open season is going on right now and ends Dec. 10.
- For more information, visit <https://www.tricare.mil/changes> to stay informed.



Celebrating giving at BOSS Toy Drive Ruck March



U.S. Army photos by Karen Sampson



Soldiers ruck march loads of Christmas Gift donations and holiday cheer during a BOSS sponsored Toy Drive Ruck March Nov. 21, at Anvil Field, Fort Johnson, La. (U.S. Army photo by Karen Sampson)



WELCOME, PURE PRAXIS

*Creating Awareness
Through Proactive
Training*



What is Pure Praxis

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



Training Information

DATE:

03-05 DEC, 2024

LOCATION:

Bayou Theater, Fort Johnson

TRAINING TIMES

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



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

ADVANTAGES:

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



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

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