

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 2020

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"STORY ... STARTS HERE."

FORT JACKSON
CELEBRATES
WOMEN'S
EQUALITY
- PAGE 3

THE BEAT GOES ON

ARMY BAND CONTINUES TO PERFORM
DESPITE COVID-19 - P10-11



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TRADOC selects Best Warrior Soldier, NCO

Jackson drill sergeant named this year's Best Warrior – NCO

Leader Staff Reports

Staff Sgt. Wayne R. Hartman was named the 2020 Training and Doctrine Command Best Warrior – Noncommissioned Officer during a live streamed announcement ceremony Sept. 1.

Gen. Paul Funk III, TRADOC commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Guden, TRADOC senior enlisted leader announced the winners of the competition during a ceremony broadcast live on Facebook.

A visibly proud Hartman watched the ceremony from the post conference room.

After announcing the winners, Funk asked Hartman why he joined the Army.

"I joined the Army out of a patriotic duty," Hartman said, "and I fell in love with it."

Hartman will represent TRADOC at the Army's Best Warrior Competition.

Sgt. Matthew Rhodes, a musician with the 282nd Army Band, was named runner up in the Best Warrior – Soldier category.



Leader file photo

Staff Sgt. Wayne R. Hartman traverses an obstacle on the Fit to Win 1 course during Fort Jackson's Drill Sergeant of the Year, Non-commissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year competition earlier this year. Hartman was named the 2020 Training and Doctrine Command Best Warrior – Noncommissioned Officer Sept. 1.

ON THE COVER

Soldiers from the 282nd Army Band's rock band Mission Essential perform for trainees at the 120th Reception Battalion to lift their spirits and boost morale.

SEE PAGES 10-11



Photo by TOM BYRD

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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For questions or concerns about subscriptions, call 803-432-6157. To submit articles, story ideas or announcements, write the Fort Jackson Leader, Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, call 803-751-7045 or e-mail fjleader@gmail.com.

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Fort Jackson celebrates women's equality

By VERAN HILL

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The Fort Jackson community gathered at various locations on the installation during the week of Aug. 24 – 28 to commemorate Women's Equality Day. The Leader Training Brigade and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinated the events to recognize the Aug. 26 observance.

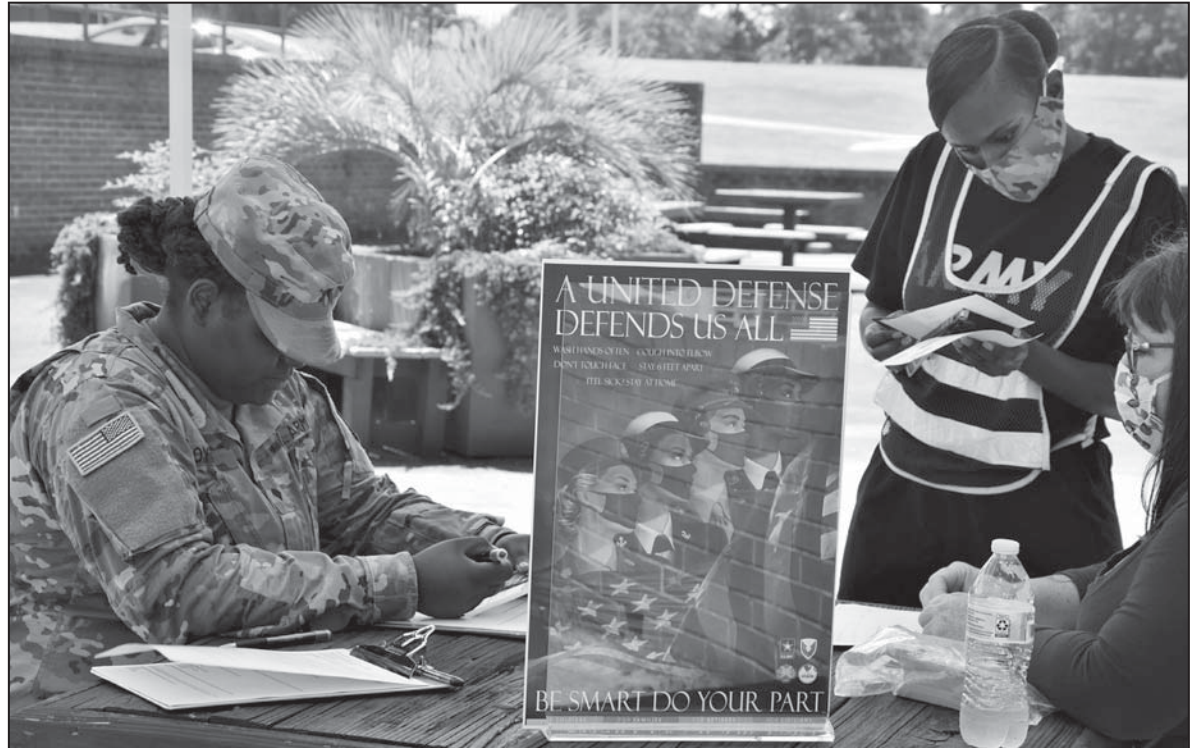
Sgt. 1st Class Brandy Burns, Equal Opportunity Advisor for the Leader Training Brigade, Task Force Marshall and U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy said to adhere to the social distancing guidelines for COVID-19, the events were open only to the Fort Jackson community.

This year's theme for the observance was Celebrating Women's Right to Vote. Static exhibits were displayed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote. The 19th Amendment was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920.

"By having the displays at different locations, we could reach out to retirees, active duty, trainees and Family members. They can read the displays at their own time and learn more about women's equality," Burns said. "We have display boards covering the entire 100 years of equality for women and others that are focused on particular years."

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert H. Atkinson, Jr., senior enlisted advisor of the Adjutant General Corps and School, said he was thankful for having the display in the Soldier Support Institute.

Women in the Armed Forces, public service, and government have long served this nation by working to clear barriers, enforce laws, implement new ideas, and change people's attitudes. Women's Equality Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the many benefits of true equality and the role of women in our nation.



Photos by VERAN HILL

Above, a Fort Jackson Soldier completes a questionnaire to receive gifts during Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Women's Equality Day event Aug. 26. Below, static exhibits were displayed throughout the installation Aug. 24- 28, to celebrate 100 years of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution being signed, granting women the right to vote.

"In my MOS as a 42A - Human Resources Specialist, I can tell you that all of my leaders have been females and they were great leaders who trained and mentored me well. I'm a receiver of that leadership," Atkinson said.

He said, female Soldiers can lead, train and "get after it" just as well as any other male.

Atkinson shared that when he was in basic training, the Army was in its beginning stages of gender integrated training.

"In showing the history of where we were and where we are today, it's a good thing we can educate to show gains and strives of females in the military," Atkinson said.





Screenshot

Leslie Ann 'LA' Sully, media relations officer, Brig. Gen. Milford H. 'Beags' Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander, LaTrice Langston, social media manager, and Col. Jeremiah Stubbs interim Public Health Emergency Office at Moncrief Army Health Clinic speak during a virtual town hall Aug. 27.

Never pay for live-streamed graduation videos

'We will not charge you to watch Basic Combat Training graduations,' official says

Leader Staff Reports

The installation provides biweekly updates to the community and the extended Fort Jackson Family through town halls. The information can range from updated COVID protection measures to the latest school information.

Jackson reminded viewers that its live-streamed events are free of charge.

"We will not charge you to watch Basic Combat Training graduations," said LaTrice Langston, Fort Jackson's social media manager during the Commanding General's Virtual Town Hall on Special Topics Aug. 27, "or any of our ceremonies we stream live. There is no charge for that. This morning we had an influx of people posting comments with links to another site to watch the graduations.

"Please do not click on them. We are blocking them as fast as we can."

She added there are no others streaming the events. "They are live on our pages and you don't need to go anywhere else."

Fort Jackson's commander Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., was joined by Langston, Col. Jeremiah Stubbs, interim Public Health Emergency Officer at Moncrief Army Health Clinic and Leslie Ann "LA" Sully, media relations officer on the panel.

Even in a pandemic "our bright spot is what we do," Beagle said opening the town hall. He showed pictures of trainees drilling with their weapons, operating radios, throwing hand grenades and working together to get through obstacles at the Teamwork Development Course.

He also reminded viewers that Families visiting their loved ones on the installation not only threatens their Soldiers, but the mission as well. Some visitors who can access the installation have linked up with their Soldiers even through in-person graduation and Family day ceremonies have been canceled.

"That absolutely, positively has got to stop," Beagle said. "It is absolutely, 100%, a threat to our mission."

He added that 15,000 Soldiers have shipped since March and not a single positive Soldier has landed at another installation in the Army. "One person could end that and jeopardize it." The installation sees 3-5,000 visitors each week with each having the potential to expose trainees to COVID-19.

"Those who have graduated and made it through their final exercise we know they don't have it," Beagle said emphatically. "We have 15,000 who can prove it. For one person to jeopardize that, to jeopardize our Soldiers, our company, our battalions and jeopardize 56 others; we can't have it."

If Families are caught, the Soldier is going to get in trouble for violating General Order #2 and be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Beagle added.

It was also announced during the town hall that the library has begun curbside service, Child, Youth Services will be open for essential personnel, the Dog Park has reopened, AAFES and the NCO Club will begin indoor dining, and Weston Lake RV Park and Cabins will be reopening.

When checking books out from the library there will be a three-day wait period between when a book is checked in and then checked out.

"You can't use wipes or antiseptics on the pages or it will wear the book out," Stubbs said as he explained why a three-day wait period is used. "We want to use time for the viral load to diminish."

To learn more about what was said during the town hall by viewing the entire event at: <https://www.facebook.com/fortjackson/videos/3299895453434887>.

Sully said more information about the post closures can be found on the garrison Facebook page. The page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson>.

The next Commanding General Virtual Town Hall on Special Topics will take place at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 10.

Suicide prevention during a pandemic

By ALJOURNAL FRANKLIN

Fort Jackson Suicide
Prevention Coordinator

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and in early August Bryan Robinson published an article in Forbes Magazine that reported “A study by Mental Health Index published this month shows the risk for depression among U.S. workers has risen an alarming 102% since February of this year.” Entrepreneurs worldwide were exposed to what many of us had already become aware of; suicide and those emotions and feelings that contribute to suicide haven’t let up or backed off during this season of social isolation and quarantine. To the contrary most have identified that responses such as depression and anxiety have not only increased, they have increased.

Across Fort Jackson and many other military installations, September is Suicide Prevention Month and in particular Sept. 10, which is World Suicide Prevention Day. During September, the Army and other branches of service will be conducting suicide prevention trainings, some face-to-face and some virtual, but all aimed at raising the awareness and responsiveness of our communities as it pertains to the ongoing risk of suicide. In light of the heightened numbers of Soldiers and civilians that are experiencing and expressing significant increases in their personal stress and feelings of uncertainty, it is logical to extrapolate that our risk for suicide and suicidal behaviors is increasing as well. Over the last five months, news sources and military personnel have continually reported that due to having to take the prescribed precautions to avoid contracting the COVID-19 virus, isolation, social distancing in the workplace, and increased scrutiny on washing and sanitizing hands and surfaces feelings of fear and uncertainty are manifesting more frequently and at deeper reaching levels than ever before. Couple these feelings with the general state of unrest over the Black Lives Matter movement and racial inequality in the United States and abroad, Soldiers and civilians alike are under more stress and facing more pressure than at any other time in recent memory.

Although frustrations and elevated stress levels are a regular part of life for many Soldiers, most that experience these feelings will not seek help or tell anyone as they believe it will diminish their status. “If others know I am not doing well, or I am thinking this way I will be seen differently” is a common part of the rationale of a person contemplating suicide. The common feeling amongst Soldiers for years has been that when times are tough, when it sucks, we “embrace the suck” and move on. Un-

fortunately, the feelings that have accompanied the pandemic and the general attitude of 2020 have extended beyond the usual embracing period and is now becoming the norm. Scores of Soldiers have had their professional careers and personal lives thrown off the tracks by the shifting, changing and endless disturbances of systems and programs over the last six months of the pandemic. So much so that it has become general conversation to discuss things that were Pre-COVID, or Pre-Quarantine and feel nostalgic.

On its face, the pandemic of 2020 appears to be devastating in that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 5,752,653 positive cases of the COVID-19 virus and 177,759 deaths as of Aug. 26.

Those under pressure and feeling “stressed” can

help overcome their feeling with the help of other trusted friends and family members. Having a trusted friend or family member that can be counted on to check in and communicate with for most people at risk for suicide is a life extender. Fort Jackson excels at connectivity amongst its personnel and is working diligently to develop techniques that will allow for regular contact even during mandatory quarantines and times of isolation. To do this, Fort Jackson is embracing the technological values of web applications such as ZOOM, WEBEX, and Microsoft Teams as these programs, while utilizing internet virtual connectedness, will provide some ability to be better connected.

See PREVENTION: Page 9



Campaign materials for the Army ACE Suicide Intervention Training Program have recently included these suicide prevention tip cards listing risk factors and warning signs for suicide. These tips are printed on cards and distributed around the installation.

Chaplains bid farewell to one of their own

By MEL SLATER
Chaplain Center and School

The Army Chaplain Corps, established in 1775, is one of the Army's oldest branches. It's also one of the smaller branches. When a member of the Chaplain Corps departs, it is felt by many across the branch.

The Chaplain Corps said farewell to a longstanding member and faithful servant leader and his Family in a ceremony Aug. 31.

Chap. (Maj. Gen.) Thomas Solhjem, Army Chief of Chaplains, hosted the retirement ceremony for Chap. (Brig. Gen.) Robert F. Pleczkowski at U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson.

Since COVID-19 remains an issue, the event was held in the USACHCS Auditorium with less than full capacity, social distancing and mask use. The event was also streamed live on social media to allow those who could not be physically present to view the event from their locations.

The 282nd Army Band was on hand to provide music for the event and the Cannon Salute Battery provided a ground shaking salute from the grounds of the USACHCS campus. Pleczkowski was presented a shell casing symbolizing the last round fired in his honor. He also received a U.S. flag from his son, Sgt. Matthew Pleczkowski.

For his service, Pleczkowski received the Distinguished Service Medal, letters from the current president and two former presidents and several certificates. An avid Pittsburgh Steeler Football fan, he also received a letter from veteran and former Pittsburgh Steeler Rocky Bleier. His wife, Mary Lynn Pleczkowski, also received the Distinguished Spouse Award, certificates and a necklace from Solhjem and his wife.

"It's humility in action that's how I describe Bob, you know, never a loss for words to share, always excited, exuberate and enthusiastic, same with Mary Lynn they make a great team that way," Solhjem said. "When they are asked to do something, they are all in."

Guest attendees for the ceremony included Fort Jackson Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle, Jr., Chap. (Brig. Gen.) William Green, Chaplain Corps Regimental Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Ralph Martinez, Chaplain School Commandant, Chap. (Col.) Bryan Walker and Command Sgt. Maj. John Tanchak, Chaplain School



Photo by MEL SLATER

Sgt. Matthew Pleczkowski presents the flag of the United States to his father Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Robert F. Pleczkowski during the retirement ceremony at The Heart and Home of the Army Chaplaincy at Fort Jackson on August 31.

senior enlisted leader, and numerous current and former members, many from the Reserve Component, of the Army Chaplain Corps.

"To Bob and ML (Mary Lynn) thank you for your friendship and everything you brought to our team" Beagle said. "One thing I can truly say about Bob, when I think about him is his attitude, passion and enthusiasm. Those are things you can never doubt and he always brought to the table whenever he came to the table which was every single day... So, for me and all of my team we thank you for your service, your service here at Fort Jackson and the rest of the Army as well."

Pleczkowski joined the Army in 1991 and has served in many chaplain positions in the Army Reserve. In 2006, he transferred to the Active Guard and Reserve Program and continued to serve in various positions. In 2017, he was selected as the Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Reserve Component at the Office of the Chief of Chaplains. In this position, he also served as the director of the U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership here at Fort Jackson. He also deployed to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division.

"We're grateful for the opportunities we've been given, we're extremely grateful for the friendships we got to make, for

the wonderful people we got to spend time with and make magic for God and Country," Pleczkowski said. "Just blessed because of it, that we're better people because of it, we're holier people because of it, and I think we just have a lot more inner strength to go on and be ready for what's next because of all of you. So, I want to thank you all for that."

Chap. Pleczkowski and his wife, Mary Lynn have been married for over 34 years and have two adult children. They have experienced Army life together and have been solid members of their communities and of the Chaplain Corps.

Community Updates

**SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
FJLeader@gmail.com**

Deadline for events to be included in the calendar or Happenings is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible. With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names.

Questions? Call 751-7045.

SEPT. 11

Virtual FJ Run/Walk a for the Fallen

Fort Jackson is honoring survivors of the South Carolina Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and Global War on Terrorism, with a virtual run Sept. 11. The virtual event, which adheres to social distancing guidelines, is open to the Fort Jackson community. Patrons are asked to post their photos or video clips of them running using the hashtag: #Runforthe-fallen. ACS will share your photos and video clips on the ACS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/fortjacksonacs> - #Runforthe-fallen, Sept. 11. Honor bibs are available to the Fort Jackson community for pick up Sept. 1-4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ACS Bldg 9810, Lee Road. (Face coverings required). For more information, contact the ACS office at 751-5256.

SEPT. 26

Do it in Pink Aerobathon

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 26, Outside the Solomon Center. The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting a "Do it in Pink" Aerobathon in support of women's issues. The event is free and social distancing rules will apply. Live participants should register for the following waves: 10-10:30 a.m.; 10:40-11:10 a.m.; 11:20-11:50 a.m.; noon-12:30 p.m.; 12:40-1:10 p.m. To register call 751-3700.

OCT. 6

Avoiding Financial Scams for the Holidays

10-11 a.m.. DFMWR/Army Community Service (ACS) Financial Readiness Program will host an Avoiding Financial Scams for the Holidays webinar with a guest instructor from South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs. This webinar will provide participants with information about the latest scams and tools to protect your financial well-being this upcoming holiday season. Registration is required. Fort Jackson civilian employees will register through the USAG Civilian Workforce Development Program via email (usarmy.jackson.imcom-hq.mbx.dhr-civilian-wfd@mail.mil) or calling 751-6736. Service members and Family members will register by calling 751-5256.

NOV. 3

Intro to TSP

9-10 a.m. DFMWR/Army Community Service (ACS) Financial Readiness Program

will host an Intro to Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) webinar with a guest instructor from the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. This webinar provides an introduction to the Thrift Savings Plan for new employees and Service members. This course focuses on the basics of TSP account management. The agenda includes discussion of the types of TSP contributions, the differences between traditional and Roth contributions, and a brief discussion of the investment funds. Registration is required. Fort Jackson civilian employees will register through the USAG Civilian Workforce Development Program via email (usarmy.jackson.imcom-hq.mbx.dhr-civilian-wfd@mail.mil) or calling 751-6736. Service members and Family members will register by calling 751-5256.

TSP Investment Funds

1:30-2:30 p.m. DFMWR/Army Community Service (ACS) Financial Readiness Program will host a TSP Investment Funds webinar with a guest instructor from the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. This webinar will take a deeper dive into the investment options and provide a clearer picture of how to get the most value out of your TSP savings. Registration is required. Fort Jackson civilian employees will register through the USAG Civilian Workforce Development Program via email (usarmy.jackson.imcom-hq.mbx.dhr-civilian-wfd@mail.mil) or calling 751-6736. Service members and Family members will register by calling 751-5256.

NOV. 19

Love and Money Matters Workshop

5 - 7 p.m. The Installation Chaplain's Office in partnership with DFMWR/Army Community Service will host a virtual Love and Money Matters workshop to teach effective communication strategies and address common money issues in relationships. Learn to set SMART goals as a couple that can lead to wealth building and a stronger relationship. Registration is required, please call 751-5256 to register.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Solomon Center closed for maintenance

The Solomon Center, to include Andy's Fitness Center and Jack's Frame Shop, is closed until further notice due to maintenance issues. Perez Gym will now be open Monday-Friday, 5 .m. to 8 p.m. and weekends 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fort Jackson Dog Park Open

The dog park is open from dawn to dusk. Dog Park max capacities are as follows: Small dog side - No more than two people at one time Large dog side - No more than two people at one time Leashing/un-leashing area - No more than one person at one time. Time limited to 30 minutes per visit. Bring water for you and your dog See complete rules posted at the Dog Park. The park will be closed if the rules are not followed. If you see someone breaking the rules, call 751-3113.

Weston Lake reservations

Make your reservation now for Labor Day weekend at Weston Lake. Now taking reservations for: Cabins, RV Park, Boats. Cabins and RV Park will open Friday, Sept. 4. Call 751-5253 for more information. All Fort Jackson health, safety and social distancing guidelines apply.

Library Curbside Service

Thomas Lee Hall Library, 4679 Lee Road, open for curbside service from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. It is closed on Sunday, Monday and holidays. To request service, visit the online catalog at: <http://mwrlibrary.armybiznet.com/search~S30> to process requests. Unfortunately, staff will not be able to place requests over the phone. Requests must be made by midnight the day before the requested pick up day. Patrons have 7 days to pick-up items before the request expires and material is offered to the next patron in line. The requests are limited to 20 items per day and patrons must arrive no later than 4:45p.m. for pick-up.

ID Card facility extended hours

Due to extending the expiration date on identification cards to Sept. 30 because of COVID-19, there will be a significant increase in the number of ID cards expiring at the end of September. The Fort Jackson Directorate Human Resources ID Cards Section will open on the following Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 29, Sept. 12, 19, 26 to accommodate the increase for ID card services. To schedule an appointment, please utilize our appointment scheduler at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/> or internet search "Rapids appointments" Fort Jackson Site ID: 102071 or call 751-6024 for more information. Walk-ins are available, but appointments will have priority.

Pre-owned Vehicle Lot

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation has reopened the Pre-Owned Vehicle lot. See the Solomon

Center Front Desk to register. Registration Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed holidays and weekends.

DFMWR fitness goes viral

Virtual classes began July 27 and participants can register and join in anytime. Start slow or jump right in, there are classes for everyone. Try Spinning, Resistance, Soul Cycle or Step Classes; or join in on wellness, healthy eating, circuit or AQUA training. Personal training, yoga, Zumba and special population classes are available. To register, visit <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac103/wbws/jacksonrec-trac.wsc/wbsearch.ht>. For more information, call Pamela Long at 751-3700.

RETIRES

Retirees and their beneficiaries and Veteran Health Identification Card holders are allowed access to post Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday to use the Commissary, Exchange, and other services that are still operating those days. Golfers and cyclists possessing Defense Biometric Identification System cards may access the installation those days as well. Retirees and their beneficiaries who are medically immunocompromised, as well as aged 65 and older, will continue to have priority shopping hours from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays to further reduce risk.

Retirees who have a medical appointment may also access the installation on Wednesdays and Thursdays and must present a memorandum from Moncrief Army Health Clinic stating their name, date and time of their appointment at MAHC.

See **EVENTS:** Page 20

FEATURE

'I BECAME A SOLDIER ...'

**2ND BATTALION,
13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**

PVT. DANIEL GAFFNEY, 18
Napoleon, Ohio



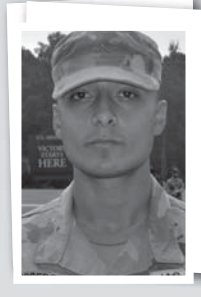
"I'm a fifth generation Soldier who's served in the Army. I'm related to Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Spann Watson and I always wanted to serve."

"The Army is what I thought it would be before joining, I love waking up to serve my country, Family and the people."

"The most challenging aspect about Basic Combat Training was leading people who don't like to be given orders."

"My MOS is 88H - Cargo Specialist. I love the Army and I'm looking forward to attending Marion Military Institute this spring and commissioning in 2022."

PVT. MICHAEL CORDERO, 24
Turlock, California



"The bond of brotherhood influenced me into joining the Army."

"The most challenging aspect of Basic Combat Training has been teaching, leading and motivating other trainees."

"My MOS is 17C - Cyber Operations Specialist."

"My experience in Basic Combat Training has shown me that there is more to the Army than I have previously thought. My drill sergeants have inspired me to push myself to the absolute limits."

PVT. EMMA SPRINGER, 18
Metamora, Illinois



"My Family influenced me to join the Army. My Family's service reinforced my idea of joining was the right choice."

"The Army is what I expected because I have Family members in the military."

"My MOS is 15W - Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator. I chose this MOS because I heard it would be academically challenging."

PFC. DARREN MALONE, 18
Jesup, Georgia



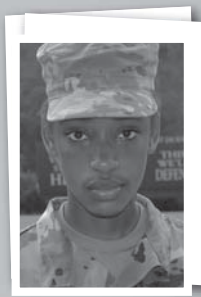
"I joined the Army for the discipline and orderly lifestyle it creates for people."

"Ruck marching from The Forge was the most challenging part of Basic Combat Training for me."

"My MOS is 17E - Electronic Warfare Specialist. I chose this MOS because I love learning about electronics."

"I look forward to being mentored and learning how to be a better leader."

PVT. ALI-ANN MASON, 17
West Palm Beach, Florida



"I was influenced to join the Army by the drive I have to protect my loved ones."

"The Army is different from what I thought it would be before joining, I only had a vague idea of what it would be like."

"The differences in norms of my battle buddies was the most challenging part of Basic Combat Training."

"My MOS is 91J - Quartermaster and Chemical Equipment Repairer. I chose this MOS due to it being my best option and I'm trying to be open to opportunities."

"I look forward to a brighter future in my military career."

PFC. RACHEL JOHNSON, 24
Springfield, Missouri



"I joined the Army knowing I would be doing something that is meaningful and important."

"The Army was nothing like I expected. I thought Basic Combat Training was going to be all physical training; however, I've done as much studying and learning as in college."

"The most challenging part of BCT was believing in myself as much as my battle buddies believed in me."

"My MOS is 15T - Blackhawk Helicopter Repairer. I chose this MOS because it is something hands-on and a completely new skill set for me."

"I look forward to furthering my career in the Army."

Prevention

Continued from Page 5

After all, nothing beats old fashion social contact, especially with like-minded individuals like your brothers and sisters in arms.

Information is so readily available in the 21st Century that periodically we have to have unplugged periods, or periods where we block out the larger world and focus on ourselves. Soldiers and their Families may find an occasional absence of technology and even some “alone time” helpful and

are encouraged to find a mix and a balance that works for them.

During September, Fort Jackson and the community around it are experiencing a new normal when it comes to Suicide Prevention and that new normal will include video calls, virtual connections and occasional times of individual solitude. As times change, so does the method to being connected and staying in touch, but ultimately the best practices are include a mixture of methods as no one answer works 100% of the time. So, allow yourself time to be alone and when possible make time to share with others through whatever medium is available. Remember suicide is the end result of a combination of things but

most often depression, sadness, and those feelings of uncertainty that come along with fear can be the start of the process. This process can be upended by you and I remaining in touch with our friends and family and not overlooking when we have not connected with them in a reasonable period of time. However 2020 ends or is remembered, we are fighting to not make it the year where COVID-19 led to record suicides.

If you need or desire more information about combatting suicide, especially during the pandemic, you can call the Military Veterans’ Crisis line at (800) 273-8255 or you can call the Fort Jackson Behavioral Health Office at 751-5911.



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Soldiers from the 282nd Army Band's rock band Mission Essential perform for trainees to lift their spirits and boost morale.



Photos by TOM BYRD

Above and below, trainees from the 120th Reception Battalion enjoy a performance from the 282nd Army Band during a morale concert.

282nd Army Band continues to perform despite COVID-19

BY TOM BYRD
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Along with changes to Family Day and graduation, Initial Entry Training Soldiers training on Fort Jackson have gotten used to a different Basic Combat Training experience.

One of the things that has changed is the end of the cycle of morale concerts performed by Fort Jackson's 282nd Army Band.

Prior to COVID-19, the band conducted morale concerts at the end of each cycle. Due to the restrictions in place prohibiting large gatherings, Soldiers due to graduate have not had the opportunity to be entertained before they move on to the next part of their training.

The graduating Soldiers are not the only ones who miss the concerts.

"First and foremost, morale concerts are important as they help to build and maintain the spirits and resilience of the Soldiers that we perform for," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tom Bauer, the commander of the 282nd Army Band. "It's also helpful for our Soldiers, we enjoy performing for our fellow Soldiers and are always looking for opportunities to maintain morale. We held a concert Aug. 28 not for the band but for the trainees to boost morale."

The 282nd's rock band "Mission Essential" performed mostly 80s and 90s songs for the cheering crowd of trainees.

During the concert Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Gatlin reminded the crowd to maintain the appropriate distance from each other and to make sure they were keeping their masks on. "We do this only because we've been wanting to do this for so long, but they've been an integral part of Fort Jackson's response to COVID-19. Like other units on post the band has also been conducting temperature checks at the gates.

In addition to being tasked to conduct gate duties, the band has continued to practice to ensure they are ready when the opportunity arises to perform for their fellow Soldiers.

Bauer said that the band has started planning for their annual holiday concert. They know it will not be the same as previous years, but they plan to make it special. It will be virtual and streamed on social media, but that's all we know so far.

For the time being, any opportunity the Soldiers of the 282nd get to perform is special. "We always enjoy playing for our fellow Soldiers and look forward to doing so again in the future," Bauer said. "When we lift their spirits, it lifts our spirits as well."



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Jackson trail blazes IMCOM housing success

By **LESLIE ANN "LA" SULLY**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson unaccompanied housing is Installation Management Command's roadmap for success, housing officials said.

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Adelman, the Fort Jackson Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Facility Manager since May 2019 remembers the conference call.

"IMCOM used Fort Jackson as a road map for others since we got to 100% first," he said.

He credits that accomplishment to teamwork, and to one housing official in particular.

The housing office made sure everyone was trained on the Enterprise Military Housing, or eMH, the housing operations web-based application, Adelman said. "Tina (Barnes) trained us and certified all of the Soldiers so we could quickly use the management system which really streamlines the process."

Tina Barnes is the installation's Unaccompanied Personnel Housing program manager.

Emma Watson, Fort Jackson Housing Division Chief agreed. "Tina works hard to ensure the installation maintains its full operating capability status. She works with brigade, battalion and company commanders and sergeants major and first sergeants to ensure barracks managers are fully trained on the Enterprise Military Housing System." The EMH is the Army's only authorized data base for housing management and actively monitors and tracks all certificates of nonavailability. "She spearheads monthly training on unaccompanied housing (assignments, terminations, inspections, furnishings management, and property accountability), and plans the quarterly stakeholders meeting with the enlisted leadership and barracks managers to ensure everyone is up to date on all unaccompanied housing issues."

In December 2017, IMCOM revised the barracks program and gave Army installations time to phase in and prepare for the new change.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Single Soldier Complex is part of the Fort Jackson Unaccompanied Personnel Housing program. The installation's program has been characterized as the 'roadmap of success' for the Installation Management Command.

"The Army Barracks Management Program for Unaccompanied Personnel Housing replaced the First Sergeants Barracks Program and Fort Jackson obtained fully-operational status in July 2019," Barnes said. "We were one of the first training installations to achieve this standing."

Adelman said one of the reasons for the new program was to get more Army involvement.

"Barracks now are managed at the company level versus the brigade level," Barnes said. The Army Barracks Management Program empowers Army leadership at the company level with full responsibility for day-to-day barracks operations with brigades providing over-

sight."

"Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Grandison wanted a primary person on the ground to make things better and improve the oversight so my office is at the single soldier complex," Adelman said.

Another change is having a crew work on barracks work orders weekly.

"DPW has done a great job. Before, there were a lot of back orders and now on a weekly basis, we have people working on minor issues," Adelman said. "Right now we don't have any open work orders and that is because of the excellent job of the preventive maintenance teams who knock out the small issues before they become bigger."

The Preventive Maintenance Team consists of Ardianes Bradley, Jennifer Ray, Kenny Redden, Hideki Tsuboi and Zachariah Stroman. "I give them a list of issues and for example, if the work order is Category 3, it can get knocked out timelier while the preventive team is already in the area."

There are three different work order categories: Emergency, Urgent and Routine and each has a time limit of when they need to be completed.

"I don't hear Soldiers saying they have outstanding work orders," he said. "As a team, the civilians at Housing, DPW and Soldiers are trying hard every day to make the barracks better for the Soldier."

New ID cards being issued for military family members, retirees

By **DAVID VERGUN**
DOD News Service

The Defense Department began issuing Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Cards on July 31, 2020, the first time since 1993 that changes to the card have been made.

Michael Sorrento, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center, discussed the new ID cards that are for military family members, retirees and other eligible card holders.

The new ID card transitions the current laminated paper card to much more durable plastic material, similar to that used for the common access cards used by military members and DOD civilians, he said.

Also, the new ID cards feature enhanced security measures that will reduce the likelihood of them being compromised, Sorrento said.

Although the new ID cards are available now, Sorrento said, only about 20 Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System sites currently offer the card because new equipment is required to produce them, and that takes some time. All RAPIDS sites worldwide likely will have the new equipment by the end of the year, he said.

However, to reduce foot traffic — particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic — Sorrento said that unless a card is about to expire, it would be better to wait until summer to get a new one. Even then, he added, it would be good to call ahead first to schedule an appointment.

The complete transition to the new ID card, is targeted for January 2026, Sorrento said. In the meantime, the current cards will continue to work.

DOD is looking at future capabilities that can be provided with the new ID cards, Sorrento said. For example, users of the card may eventually be able to go online and order a card through a proper vetting process and have it directly distributed to them by mail, rather than sit in a RAPIDS office and wait for a card to be made.

The underlying technology could support greater and greater capabilities for a long time to come, he added.

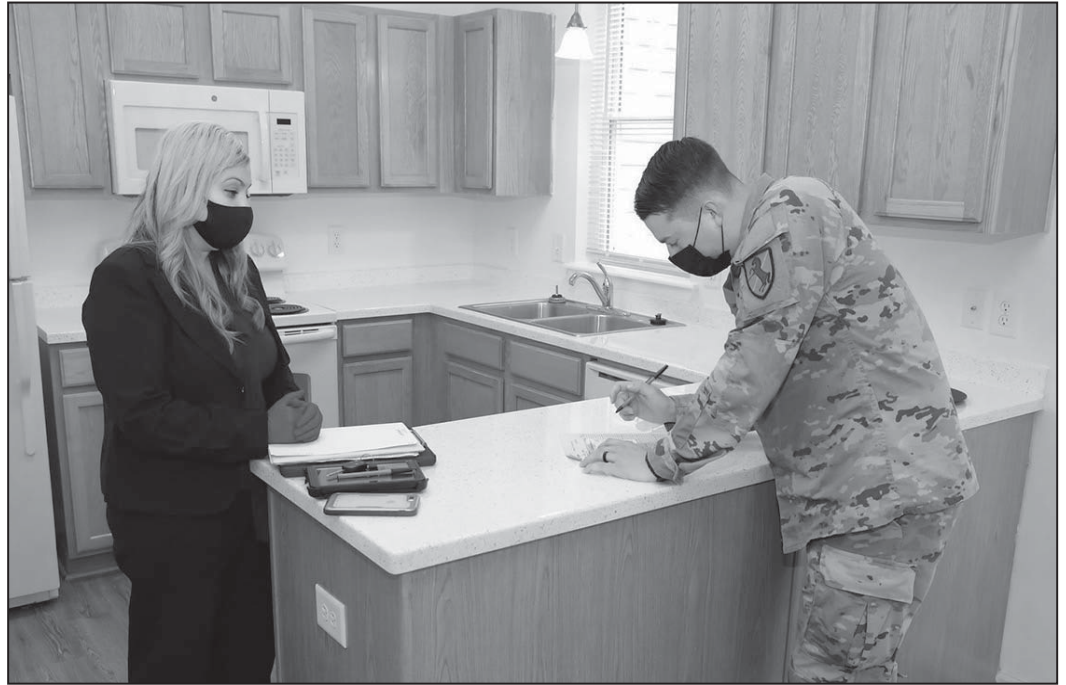


Photo by **MARKEITH HORACE**

A newly assigned drill sergeant with the 199th Infantry Brigade approves a move-in inspection form at his new home June 25 on Fort Benning, Ga. Lawmakers recently passed an amendment to the Service Members Civil Relief Act, or SCRA, allowing Soldiers to terminate an auto or housing lease agreement without a 30-day notice due to a Defense Department stop-move order.

Update to law helps Soldiers with auto, home lease payments

By **DAVID VERGUN**
DOD News Service

Lawmakers recently passed an amendment to the Service Members Civil Relief Act, or SCRA, allowing Soldiers to terminate an auto or housing lease agreement without a 30-day notice due to a Defense Department stop-move order.

Changes to the SCRA are retroactive, giving families an opportunity to request reimbursement for rental payments accrued during the previous stop-move order, said Melissa Halsey, legal assistance policy division chief for the Army's Office of the Judge Advocate General.

The recent impact of COVID-19 abruptly halted DOD movements from March until June, forcing permanent change-of-station orders to be placed on hold or canceled. Having secured new

housing before a PCS, some Soldiers may have been inadvertently locked into multiple lease agreements, she added.

During normal conditions, personnel need to provide the 30-day notice — or an additional month's rent — to end their lease with deployment orders that exceed 90 days or for a PCS move, Halsey said.

With no immediate provisions under the SCRA during the recent stop movement, Army legal officials encouraged Soldiers and Families to reach out to their property managers to resolve a leasing dispute. If Soldiers failed to fix the issue, they could then work with a legal assistance attorney, all while maintaining both rental agreements until resolved, Halsey said.

"Congress recognized that some service members had difficulty using the SCRA during the COVID-19 outbreak,"

she said. "The amendment to the SCRA will help address that problem."

Improved SCRA

Soldiers who chose to pay additional rent during the previous stop-move order can try to recoup those costs.

For example, an Army Family could have been scheduled to PCS to their next assignment by April 1, Halsey said. In preparation for their big move, the family secured a rental property in February near their new installation. But when the stop-move order went into effect in March, their PCS move was canceled.

After receiving legal guidance, the family may have tried to work with the new landlord to cancel or delay the lease, but their request was denied, she said.

See **PAYMENTS**, Page 19

Counselors help ease stress during school transitions

Leader Staff Reports

Back to school transition causing stress? Even though students are taking classes remotely they can still be seen by the military and family life counselors at their schools.

MFLC counselors are masters or doctorate-level licensed counselors specializing in child and youth behavioral issues; available at no cost to assist children and youth, parents, family members and staff of child and youth programs; and available to provide short-term,

non-medical counseling support.

Services are private and confidential with the exception of child abuse/neglect, domestic abuse and other duty-to-warn situations.

The Child, Youth Behavioral Military Family Life Counseling program provides a wide range of support to military children and youth, family members and staff who work with children by engaging in activities with children and youth; providing behavioral interventions in classrooms, at camps and in Child Development Centers to assist staff in setting

and managing boundaries; modeling behavioral techniques and providing feedback to staff; being available to parents and staff to discuss interactions with children and other concerns; and facilitating psycho-educational groups.

The CYB-MFLCs offer help with school adjustment, deployment and separation, reunion adjustment, sibling and parent-child communication, behavioral concerns, and fear, grief and loss.

MFLC counselors offer telephone and video non-medical counseling in addition to face-

to-face non-medical counseling. Child and youth behavioral counselors are available to support children and youth up to age 18. They also offer guidance to families, staff and support personnel.

Each Department of Defense Education Activity school on post has its own MFLC counselor.

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School's counselor can be reached at (803) 391-2044.

Pierce Terrance Elementary School's counselor can be reached at (803) 391-2211.

Former Army nurse, 100, recalls World War II experiences

By **TERRI MONK CLARK**
DOD News Service

World War II was raging in 1944. American troops were instrumental in the effort to take back France, including the beach landings in Normandy that caught the Germans off guard. American forces took possession of Rome, and a Soviet counterattack pushed Germany back into Poland.

In the Pacific, Japan had gained more Chinese territory, but the communists' presence limited Japan's success. The Allies fought back by taking Saipan and invading the Philippines.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, 24-year-old nurse Regina Benson and three of her nursing school classmates joined the Army Nurse Corps right after graduation to serve their country. They were assigned overseas and remained lifelong friends.

Benson's three brothers were also serving, so for her, joining the Army as a patriotic duty was not unusual.

"She was kind of fearless," her daughter, Phyllis Benson, said in a recent interview.

Benson, of McLean, Virginia, is now 100 years old. She visited the Pentagon recently and was interviewed about her Army Nurse Corps service in Japan, Hawaii and Okinawa, from September 1944 until April 1946.

While in Hawaii, 2nd Lt. Benson met her future husband, Army 1st Lt. William Benson, who was a supply officer and a company commander. He stayed in the Army Reserve, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. When Regina left the Army in 1946, she became a civilian surgical nurse, her daughter said.

Benson had some harrowing experiences during her wartime service in the Pacific.

"We were on a ship going across the Pacific, and we hit a bad storm," Benson said. "So, the captain decided we would go down with the ship, and of course, everybody got on their knees and prayed and promised God many things. Then all of a sudden, the ship calmed down, and we went through the eye of the storm and everybody went back to what they were doing."

See **NURSE**: Page 20



Photo by CHAD J. MCNEELEY

Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presents World War II veteran Lt. Regina Benson with the Joint Service Achievement Medal, July 10. Benson, an Army nurse stationed in Japan and Hawaii during the war, served in dangerous conditions, endured similar horrors as her battlefield brethren, and ultimately paved the way for women like her to join the military.

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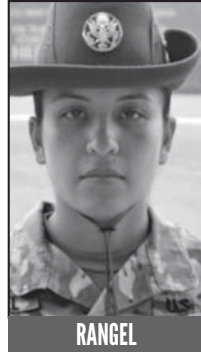


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HOPKINS 534 S. Maney Court	3/2.5	\$1200
LEXINGTON 201 Wallace Circle	2/2	\$1000
NORTHEAST 91 Walking Horse Way	2/2	\$950
ROSEWOOD/SHANDON 824 Meadow Street	3/2	\$1600
2506 Cypress Street	4/2	\$2100
ST. ANDREWS 3700 Bush River Road, #F6	2/1.5	\$775

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Payments

Continued from Page 14

Worried about the effect a contested debt may have on his career, the Soldier may have decided to pay for both properties until they ultimately were able to move later in the year, Halsey added. Under the new amendment, the Soldier could request that the landlord repay the rent for the home that went

unoccupied due to the stop-move order.

Alternatively, if the Soldier chose not to pay for the home he was unable to occupy during the stop-move order, a landlord may be seeking restitution for the unpaid amounts. The SCRA change makes it clear that a property managers can't recoup those unpaid amounts.

Practically speaking, she added, Soldiers should be aware that it may be difficult for some property owners to comply with the new SCRA change and pay back an Army family, given

the financial stress many are facing due to COVID-19.

Individuals should contact an Army legal representative to find out more information, Halsey said. Personnel currently facing a lawsuit or collections resulting from unpaid housing amounts during the stop movement should also contact their legal office for support.

"The SCRA is designed to help Soldiers proactively," Halsey said. "It is there to ensure service members aren't at a disadvantage when subject to the strict requirements of military life."



Military Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

PRESS 1

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COURTESY PHOTO

Regina Benson met her husband, Army 1st Lt. William Benson, in Hawaii during World War II when she was stationed there as an Army nurse.

Nurse

Continued from Page 15

After the Japanese announced their surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, and formally signed an agreement Sept. 2, American service members were welcomed into the homes of Japanese, Benson said. “We ate dinner with them, talked to them and stayed in some of the Japanese homes,” she said, adding that the Americans shared their rations with the Japanese.

She remembers well, the day the Japanese surrendered. “I was delighted, but the Japanese (troops) in the hills didn’t know that World War II was over, and they came down (from the hills) shooting at us,” she said. She said she jumped for joy when the war was over so she could return home, get married and work as a civilian nurse.

Benson believes “the United States is the greatest country in the world because of its freedoms and because people can carry out their dreams.” If she could speak to younger generations today, she said she would tell them “to love their country, and remember the price [service members] paid for your freedom. Remain true to your country. We can pursue our dreams and hopes.”

Regina Benson worked 12-hour shifts in Army hospitals in the Pacific; on wards and in operating rooms. She said the most important thing she did during the war was “to give comfort to those troops who were dying.”

According to Benson, the most rewarding part of her Army nursing career was to be able to tell the mother of a young service member that their son did not die alone, because she was there with them.

Events

Continued from Page 7

THE FOLLOWING GYMS ARE OPEN:

Coleman Gym

- Mon. - Fri. 5 a.m. -7 a.m. Active Duty Only
- Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. -8 p.m. All Authorized Patrons
- Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Authorized Patrons.
- Closed Holidays

Vanguard Gym

- Mon. - Fri. 5 -7 a.m. Active Duty Only
- Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. -8 p.m. All Authorized Patrons
- Sat. - Sun. 11:30 a.m. -5 p.m. All Authorized Patrons
- Holidays Closed

Perez Fitness Center

- Mon. - Fri. 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. All Authorized Patrons
- 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Andy’s Fitness Center

- Temporarily closed.

Gym staff will check 100% of all ID cards as patrons scan in upon entry. Staff will also sign patrons in when entering, and will sign patrons out when exiting. All patrons will be limited to one hour to allow greater access for all authorized patrons. Staff will ask patrons who do not sign out after one hour to end their workouts and depart the facility.

Patrons must be 16 or older to enter and capacity is limited to 50 patrons per gym.

DA PHOTO LAB:

Training Support Center (TSC) Photo Lab is closed until further notice

AAFES HOURS:

- Main Exchange: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.- Fri. and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
- Main Barber Shop: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
- Clothing and Sales: Sun. and Mon. Closed, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tue. - Fri.; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat.
- Mini-mall Dry Cleaners: Sun. and Mon. Closed; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.
- Class 6: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon. - Fri. and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
- Gate 1 Express: 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri. and closed Sat. and Sun.
- Gate 2 Express: 4:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. - Fri. and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
- Exchange Food Facility temporary hours (Drive-Thru or Take-Out orders only)
- Starbucks: 7-11 a.m. Mon.-Sat.
- Boston Market: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Arby’s: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Qdoba: 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Charley’s: 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Popeye’s: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Sun.
- Burger King: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat. and Sun.

AAFES food establishments have limited outdoor seating available

COMMISSARY HOURS

- Sun. 11 a.m. - noon 65 and older and immunocompromised
- Noon - 6 p.m. all authorized patrons
- Mon. Closed
- Tue. 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. 65 and older and immunocompromised
- 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. all authorized patrons
- Wed.- Thur. 10 - 11 a.m. 65 and older and immunocompromised
- 11a.m. - 8 p.m. all authorized patrons
- Fri. 7:30- 9 a.m. 65 and older and immunocompromised
- 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. all authorized patrons
- Sat. 9-10 a.m. 65 and older and immunocompromised
- 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. all authorized patrons

There is no transaction limit, but restrictions on high-demand essentials will remain in place until further notice. The Commissary has placed limits on meat purchases. Purchases are limited to: 2 fresh beef, pork, chicken, and turkey items.

DENTAL CLINIC

Caldwell and Hagen Dental clinics are open. Oliver and Oral Surgery Dental Clinics are temporarily closed. Caldwell Dental Clinic is located at Bldg. 4950, Strom Thurmond Blvd. Front Desk/ Appointments: 751-5178/6017/5529.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

The Fort Jackson Legal Assistance Office will take in-person appointments Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to active-duty service members and their dependents.

RECYCLING CENTER

The Recycle Center will open with limited operations to support Fort Jackson units on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MONCRIEF ARMY HEALTH CLINIC

Acute Care Clinic

- 6 - 11 a.m. for advanced respiratory COVID screening only
- 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. for all other acute care issues.

Medical

MEDDAC will provide retiree enrolled beneficiaries their medical benefits at the Moncrief Medical Home. This applies to retiree beneficiaries who normally receive their health care at Moncrief Army Health Clinic on Fort Jackson. Moncrief Army Health Clinic will remain open every day to those retirees who live in waterfall housing on Fort Jackson, active duty service members, and their dependents.