

THURSDAY, AUG. 27, 2020

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE"

ON-POST
STUDENTS RETURN
TO SCHOOL
VIRTUALLY
— PAGE 3

COMMUNITY
GIVES THE
GIFT OF LIFE — P10-11

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Another first: Jackson hosts welcome to new DCO

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

2020 has been a year of firsts on Fort Jackson and a ceremony at Victory Hall added another to that list. In its 103-year history Fort Jackson has never welcomed a new deputy commander with a ceremony.

The post welcomed the newest member of the Army Training Center and Fort Jackson's command team, Col. Michael M. Larsen as deputy commanding officer in a ceremony Aug. 25 at Victory Hall.

"In our history, our installation has never had a welcome ceremony for a deputy commander in this manner," said Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson's commander. "When we think of our commanders, when we think about our command sergeants major, when we think about first sergeants and commanders all the way down to the company level – they get a ceremony."

Beagle said it just "made sense" to give that same honor to our deputy commander here at Fort Jackson – as it is the practice in divisions and centers of excellence.

See DCO: Page 5

ON THE COVER

William Sexton, Fort Jackson fire inspector, squeezes his fist while donating blood. 'It's a very minor needle prick,' he said. 'That blood you give is life. You can certainly save lives by donating.'

SEE PAGES 10-11



Photo by TORI EVANS



Photo by TORI EVANS

TRADOC commander speaks at graduation

Gen. Paul Funk III, commander of Training and Doctrine Command, speaks at the Basic Combat Training graduation ceremony Aug. 20. During his remarks he said, the 1,121 men and women in formation 'never gave in' over the past 10 weeks of Basic Combat Training. 'They never quit, instead when things got tough and the temperature here in South Carolina kept climbing, they dug deep and pushed themselves to the limit and beyond – both physically and mentally.'

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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On-post students return to school virtually

By **VERAN HILL**

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The new school year 2020-21 began virtually Monday for students who attend on-post schools on Fort Jackson.

Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander, announced in an Aug. 12 Return to School Virtual Town Hall, that he was uncomfortable with on-post schools opening in-person.

"We have to think of everyone that is at risk in that (the in-person option, if it were used) environment, not only your child, but we're talking about the faculty and staff as well," Beagle said.

Fort Jackson students who are Kindergarten through 6th grade will receive courses in literacy, math, social studies, and science learning experiences. The courses are all of the normal content expected in a regular Department of Defense Education Activity, yet they are designed for the online environment. The courses are provided by DODEA teachers who have applied and were selected to teach in the DODEA Virtual School. The teachers have worked hard to prepare for the upcoming school year.

"Our first week for students and teachers will include the development of routines and procedures to ensure our students are comfortable with the remote learning experience," said Raymond Burk, principal of Pierce Terrace Elementary School. "In addition, the first week offers our students and teachers an opportunity to develop relationships that will serve as a foundation for learning throughout the school year," Burk said.

Ryan Smith, principal of C.C. Pinckney Elementary School, said students will participate in both asynchronous (individually at own pace) and synchronous (small group or whole class) learning activities."

During both asynchronous and synchronous, the schools have established a parameter for students of no more than two and one-half hours of screen time, and no more than three hours for sixth grades, which does not account for work-time off the computer. All synchronous learning experiences are limited to 20 minutes. Pre-kindergarten students are not to exceed 1 1/2 hours of screen time, which also does not account for work-time off the computer," Smith said.

"We are approaching the first week of remote learning with grace, grit, and determination," he said. Additionally, we remain responsive and flexible as we assist our Families with navigating the schedules, resources, and access to our digital instructional framework, Google Classroom."

If Families have questions about virtual schooling, they should first contact the student's teacher.

See **SCHOOLS:** Page 17



Above, Patricia Cleveland, 3rd grade teacher with C.C. Pinckney Elementary interacts with her students during their first day of virtual school on Aug. 24. Students attending schools on Fort Jackson will attend school virtually for the 2020-21 school year. Left, a Department of Defense Education Activity student does a course assignment at home. Students attending schools on Fort Jackson will attend school virtually for the 2020-21 school year.

Courtesy photos



Photo by SASKIA GABRIEL



Photo by TORI EVANS



Photo by TORI EVANS

Mess Call

Fort Jackson leadership ensures trainees are adequately fed. They either eat in the dining facility or outside, but they are always fed. Trainees eat well every day, said Brig. Gen. Milford H. 'Beags' Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander during a recent virtual town hall. 'They may not get what they want to eat, they might not eat it when they want to eat it, but they do eat very, very well.'

Special education legal support now available to EFMP families

By **DEVON L. SUITS**
Army News Service

Families in the Exceptional Family Member Program now have more resources to reach out to when they have legal questions about their rights.

Close to 40 Army legal practitioners recently completed additional training to better support families with special education-related needs, said Melissa Halsey, legal assistance policy division chief for the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

"Education is important," she said in an interview Tuesday. "Understanding that a child has received the education that they're entitled to" dictates a family's quality of life. "Sometimes, that requires help from a legal assistance attorney to advocate on your behalf."

Tied to a larger Department of Defense-led initiative to bolster legal assistance for all EFMP families, the Army now has a knowledgeable legal representative at 22 of its installations, spread throughout 15 states and parts of Germany, Halsey added.

Locations include: Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Washington, D.C., Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. Nine of the states currently support the Army's largest EFMP populations.

In total, more than 140 service attorneys, paralegals and EFMP family support providers from all the military services completed a week-long William & Mary Law School online training course about special education law in June, Halsey said.

"The vast majority of the attendees had no experience in this area of law before taking the course," she said. After the course, they reported feeling that they've significantly expanded their knowledge in this area of the law and were better prepared to assist clients in need, she added.

The Army plans to continue with this type of training to gain further competence in this area.

"The Army's legal assistance attorneys are well-versed in family law, estate planning, and things of that nature," she added. "Special education law is different ... and is not a typical subject an attorney would learn in law school. (Attorneys) can go months without seeing a client with questions in this area."

See **EFMP: Page 12**



Screenshots

Brig. Gen. Milford H. 'Beags' Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander, and Col. Michael Larsen, deputy commanding officer, salute during a welcome ceremony. The ceremony was the first of its kind on Fort Jackson.

DCO

Continued from Page 2

We have missed the opportunity in the past, "but there is no time than the present to set yourself right," he said.

It is a must to have the right colonel in the position of DCO and Larsen is that person, Beagle added.

"Based on what is expected of you," he said, "and the contribution you will make to the team, we owe you the benefit of a warm welcome and a solid first impression."

Larsen said he was humbled and "not expecting this."

"I was fully anticipating to show up under the radar and quietly move into our quarters on post, get things settled and just start getting after it," he said.

He said he already felt like part of the Fort Jackson Family because he served with a former post commander who whenever there was a situation in U.S. Army Africa would say, "... this reminds me of Jackson, where we used to," or "I used to."

"I just didn't fully comprehend that everything in the world is related back to Fort Jackson," said 1992 graduate of The Citadel jokingly. "So for the past two years I have been serving vicariously at Jackson through a mentor of mine and former commander here."

Larsen comes to Fort Jackson from Vincenza, Italy, where he was the USAF Chief of Staff under Lt. Gen. Roger Cloutier. He also spent time as garrison commander in the Kwajalein Atoll. He has multiple combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Sir, I appreciate you bringing me here and making me a part of your team, your deputy," he said to Beagle during the ceremony. "I am honored for the opportunity and will do my best to support your command initiatives, and be a positive contributor



Col. Michael Larsen, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson deputy commanding officer, speaks during a ceremony welcoming him Aug. 25 at Victory Hall. Larsen said he was humbled and 'not expecting this. I was fully anticipating to show up under the radar and quietly move into our quarters on post, get things settled and just start getting after it,' he said.

to the community as well."

Beagle also thanked Col. Renee Macdonald, the National Guard liaison on Fort Jackson for being a "free safety" and taking on multiple roles on the installation. She had been acting chief of staff and had been the acting DCO.

"50% of her time here has been filled by doing something other than her day job," Beagle explained.

Re-launch of smartphone app aimed at saving lives

By **DAVID OVERSON**
TRADOC Public Affairs

During these unprecedented times of COVID-19 and increased isolation among personnel, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command re-launched a smartphone app designed in 2013 that provides resources for the prevention of suicide with a few simple pushes of a button.

TRADOC's "WeCare" app is location/post specific, and it supports the Army's Suicide Prevention Campaign. It serves as a 24/7 ready resource for those feeling alone and considering suicide, or for those who are concerned about someone and are trying to intervene. The app also provides instructions for reporting sexual assault, and has other useful embedded tools.

"The Army truly cares about its Soldiers. Anytime we have a loss, or an attempt at suicide, it rattles us to the core," said Lt. Gen. Ted Martin, deputy commanding general, TRADOC. "Every Soldier is a member of our team, and they're important on so many levels. They're our Family, and we want to ensure they know that. If they're feeling down, or heaven forbid suicidal, it's OK to ask for help. The TRADOC WeCare App is another tool in the kit that can provide that help. It's so easy to download, every Soldier or Family member of a Soldier should have it on their phone."

Soldiers, civilian employees, Family members, or friends are encouraged to download the app designed with local resources. The app is free and available to anyone. Instead of wondering "what should I have done," the app lets you know "here's what I should do."

One of the concerns the Army has with increased isolation (caused by telework or quarantine due to the Coronavirus Pandemic) is what might happen to a person's sense of belonging. While the tool has been available for years, TRADOC decided now was the perfect time to once again raise awareness for its use within the force.

The creation of the app began at Fort Lee, Virginia, then became the standard for all TRADOC installations. Some non-TRADOC installations also wanted apps created for their locations, and to date, there are 86 WeCare apps for stations inside and outside the continental United States. Currently there are more than 100,000 users on Apple devices and roughly 30,000 users on Android devices.

Matt MacLaughlin, the division chief of TRADOC Mobile, which falls under Army University, said the simplicity of the app is very important not only for user interaction, but also in

Preventing Suicide: A simple download could Save a Life

**The Army WeCare Mobile App provides
both Local and National Suicide Prevention
contacts and resources 24/7**

The WeCare App is cyber safe and U.S. Army approved, unlike third party Apps available online. The WeCare app is available for download at Apple, Google Play, or directly through The TRADOC Application Gateway (TAG). To download the app, go to any of the aforementioned App Store sites and search for the WeCare App for your location. The app is also available linked on Army communities and Joint DoD Bases websites worldwide. Simply follow the upload procedures and upload to your cellular device.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, contact the Crisis Line for immediate assistance

**Veterans
Crisis Line**

**Military
Crisis Line**

**1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1**

*Calling from overseas? In Europe: Call 00800 1273 8255 or DSN 118
In Korea: Call 0808 555 118 or DSN 118 / In Afghanistan: 00 1 800 273 8255 or DSN 111*

DOWNLOAD A
WE CARE
APP TODAY

times of crisis. If the app had too many drop down options, someone in crisis might give up during their attempt to seek help.

"I grew up with the Army and I understand the physical and emotional struggles tied to war and being a Soldier," MacLaughlin said. "It is important to me to give back to the Army, Families, and each and every Soldier. I was honored to be part of the development of this app, and to lead a team of developers who find the mission of Soldier support as important as I do."

To ensure the phone numbers and information within the apps are current and accurate, annual reviews are performed

with each installation's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Office.

Since re-launching the WeCare App Aug. 1, the app has been downloaded approximately 1,500 times.

MacLaughlin said any Army installation not currently using a TRADOC WeCare App can request one through the "contact us" option on their website: <https://tadlp.tradoc.army.mil/mobile/mapp.html>

Find the full suite of TRADOC WeCare Apps and more on the Apple App Store for IOS, the Google Play Store for Android, or at the TRADOC App Gateway: <https://public.tag.army.mil/catalog/tag/home>

**READ THE LEADER ONLINE FOR FREE
AT WWW.FORTJACKSONLEADER.COM**

Community Updates

AUG. 27 Credentialing Assistance program information briefing

1 p.m. Army Continuing Education System will hold a Credentialing Assistance program briefing to improve Army readiness through retention of quality Soldiers; enhancement of Soldier career progression; and provide Soldiers with skills and capabilities reflective of civilian qualifications. The Credentialing Assistance briefing will be conducted on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. on Microsoft Teams. Email shelby.n.hebing.ctr@mail.mil or vivian.l.grant.civ@mail.mil for a meeting invite. You must have a Microsoft Teams account in order to attend the briefing. You are required to attend a CA information briefing to start the credentialing process.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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: #RunfortheFallen. ACS will share your photos and video clips on the ACS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/fortjacksonacs> - #RunfortheFallen, Sept. 11. Honor bibs are available to the Fort Jackson community for pick up on 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.

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 4:45 p.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.

Jack's Frame Shop

Jack's Frame Shop located in the Solomon Center is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. It is closed Mondays, weekends and holidays. Patrons must abide by Fort Jackson's mask and social distancing policies. For more information, call 751-4018.

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/wbwsc/jacksonrec-trac.wsc/wbsearch.ht>. For more information, call Pamela Long at 751-3700.

RETIREES

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.

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. 7 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. 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. All Authorized Patrons
- Saturday, Sunday and Holidays Closed
- Andy's Fitness Center**
- Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. All Authorized Patrons
- Sat. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Authorized Patrons

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.
- Buxton 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

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.

- 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. all authorized patrons
- Wed. - Thur. 10 - 11 a.m. 65 and older and immunocompromised
- 11 a.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.

LIMITED IN-PERSON LEGAL SERVICES FOR RETIREES

Throughout August, the Fort Jackson Legal Assistance Office will offer limited in-person appointments on Tuesdays only for retirees and their Family members for notary public services, powers of attorney, and wills. Will appointments are limited to emergencies. All patrons must wear a facemask to enter the office. Call 751-4287 for more information.

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.

FEATURE

'I BECAME A SOLDIER ...'

1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

SPC. JULIA POPE, 23
Sonora, Texas

"I joined the Army because I knew as a female there are a lot of options and paths I can take. I want to be able to set a new normal for young females who would like to be in a combat Military Occupational Specialty."

"The Army is everything I thought it would be and more. Coming into the Army, I didn't realize how many programs and classes there are and how easy it is to get higher education as an active duty Soldier."

"The most challenging aspect about Basic Combat Training was working at patience. Since I'm a bit older, I had to work on patience everyday at the beginning of training."

"My MOS is 13F - Joint Fire Support Specialist. I chose this MOS because I wanted to be in a combat arms MOS as a female. I think there should be more strong females in these positions."

"I look forward to completing my training, becoming a Ranger and getting my master's degree."



PVT. JACOB BROWN, 18
Meadow Vista, California

"My brother and the career opportunities influenced me into joining the Army."

"Because I talked with my Family and friends a lot, the Army is what I thought it would be before joining."

"The Forge and having little to no sleep was the most challenging part of Basic Combat Training."

"My MOS is 15U - CH-47 Helicopter Repairer. I chose this MOS because I enjoy the aviation field and working with my hands."

"I'm looking forward to going to Advance Individual Training and my first unit so I can actually start my real job."



SPC. MONICA ROSENDAHL, 28
Holland, Michigan

"I joined the Army to continue my education and to develop my leadership skills."

"The Army met my prior expectations, but also exceeded them. I have Family in the military so I had prior knowledge and it all became reality once arriving at Basic Combat Training."

"Shooting was a struggle for me during Basic Combat Training, but I got the hang of it."

"My MOS is 09S - Commissioned Officer Candidate. I chose this MOS to become a leader and have an impact in my community."

"I truly value my experience in BCT and especially E Company. I was shown my strengths and weaknesses which I find to be invaluable."



PFC. KYLIE STEWART, 22
Boise, Idaho

"My friends who were in the Army and me joining ROTC in college influenced me into joining."

"Yes, the Army is what I expected prior to joining. I knew Basic Combat Training would be challenging at times, but I also know things will be different in Advanced Individual Training."

"Not being able to talk to my Family or friends was the most challenging part of BCT."

"My MOS is 91L - Construction Equipment Repairer. I chose this MOS because I'm going to school for engineering and was really interested in the 91 series. I love knowing how things work and understanding the mechanics."

"I enjoyed all of the training events and was happy to have met some amazing people."



PVT. SIERRA DANIELS, 17
Virginia Beach, Virginia

"Several relatives of mine, including my Mom, have been in the military. Being able to follow the same path of serving my country has always been a goal of mine."

"Yes and no, the Army is what I thought it would be. I fully expected the amount of structure and discipline, but I've also enjoyed everything. I knew it would be a challenge, but I definitely didn't expect learning and doing all of the tasks to be as fun as it was."

"Being away from my Family and not being able to talk to my grandma everyday made the rough days even longer throughout Basic Combat Training."

"My MOS is 42A - Human Resources Specialist. I chose this MOS because I wanted to work with others and help make sure the Army runs smoothly as possible."

"The past 10 weeks have taught me a lot about both the Army and myself. It really has been one of the most exciting things I've ever been able to do. I can't wait to see what other opportunities the Army brings me."



PVT. JESUS REYES, 18
San Antonio, Texas

"I joined the Army to make something of myself, get my degree paid off, and set my Family up for success. I am a huge believer in that I control my destiny."

"The Army was not what I expected. I thought it would be a lot harder. I love the decision I made with joining."

"The most challenging part about Basic Combat Training was the undisciplined battle buddies."

"My MOS is 15U - CH-47 Helicopter Repairer. I chose this MOS because I love aircraft and working in a shop."

"I loved my experience at E Company. The drill sergeants taught me a lot and I am looking forward to my next step in learning my skill to help this great Army."



Army releases revised command policy

By SEAN KIMMONS
Army News Service

The Army recently published the latest version of its Army Command Policy since 2014, which now includes updates to corrective training, sexual harassment reporting and extremist activity on social media.

The 200-plus page policy, also known as Army Regulation 600-20, is the official guidance for commanders across the Army, and is typically revised every five years.

"As Soldiers, NCOs, officers, and (Department of the Army) civilians, we all have an obligation to know, enforce and take appropriate action in accordance with Army Command Policy," Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston wrote in a mes-

sage to the force.

The revised regulation has nearly 70 different changes, which is quite significant, said Lt. Col. Melissa Comiskey, chief of command policy for the Army's G-1 office.

"This is a massive regulation," she said in an interview Friday. "It is command policy. It is the commander's guide, so there's a lot that's encompassed in here."

Much of the updates come from previous directives that have since been superseded by the new regulation, which was published July 24.

"The Army continues to move and continues to build policy," she said. "As we're building policy, it doesn't get immediately incorporated into a regulation. That's why we have Army directives."

The regulation now includes specified authority to correct minor acts of indiscipline with brief forms of exercise.

"The changes empower NCOs to lean on non-punitive measures as a form of corrective training to address minor deficiencies," said Sgt. Maj. Jasmine Johnson, the command policy sergeant major, adding an example could be a Soldier doing 10 pushups for arriving late to formation.

Another update is for commanders to notify their Soldiers that they cannot possess a firearm or ammunition, if they have a qualifying conviction of domestic violence.

The change comes after a domestic violence working group years ago identified a gap in the previous AR 600-20, Comiskey said.

See **POLICY**: Page 19

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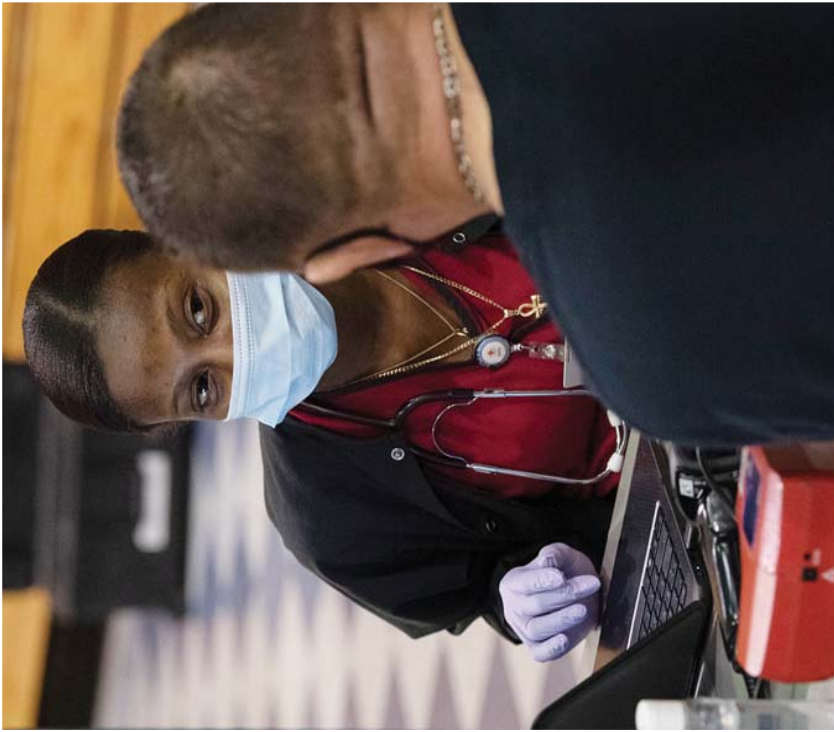


PHOTO BY ROBERT TIMMONS
Shawna Porterfield, a collection specialist with the American Red Cross, asks William Sexton, Fort Jackson fire inspector, before allowing him to donate blood at the Community Blood Drive Aug. 25 in the Solomon Center.

Community gives the gift of life

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Soldiers and civilians came to the Solomon Center Aug. 25 to give the gift of life – blood.

They were participating in a Community Blood Drive hosted by Fort Jackson and the American Red Cross.

Lt. Col. Lisabeth Bush, deputy commander of clinical services at Moncrief Army Hospital Clinic, one of many who donated blood, said she was donating it because she knows “people need it.”

“One night when I was a resident, I ran 40 units of blood to keep a woman alive,” Bush said. “So one of my goals, in my lifetime, is to make up those 40 units.”

For William Sexton, fire inspector and Fort Jackson’s American Red Cross Blood Drive leader, donating blood was

the least he could do.

“There is a great need for blood in the community,” he said. “Potentially my blood can help save up to three people’s lives.”

Donations are used for multiple patients with various conditions when separated into its components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma. Plasma can also be effective in helping treat COVID-19.

According to the Red Cross roughly 36,000 units of red blood cells, 7,000 units of platelets and 10,000 units of plasma are needed every day in the U.S., while roughly 21 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.

Sexton got involved with donating blood during his military career.

“I was encouraged to by older people to donate,” he said. “It’s just an easy

thing to do. You find a blood drive, make an appointment and show up. There are countless blood drives happening every day all over the county.”

“It’s a very minor needle prick,” he said as he laid back while donating. It’s good to know that blood you give is live. You can certainly save several lives by donating.”

Sexton said his job as a firefighter encourages him to donate.

I have seen firsthand some tragic events that have happened to people, he said. “Every three seconds there are people in the United States who need blood, be it through accidents, some sort of disease or cancer.”

My job as a firefighter “instills in me the need to continue donating blood and to encourage others to do it.”

For more information on giving blood visit redcross.org.



Lt. Col. Lisabeth Bush, deputy commander of clinical services at Moncrief Army Hospital Clinic, donates blood during the Community Blood Drive Aug. 25 in the Solomon Center. Bush said she is determined to give 40 units of blood to make up 40 units she gave to a patient during her residency.



Preventing distracted driving mishaps

By **WALT BECKMAN**

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

The Army is a broad representation of our nation and not immune to distracted driving. Data over the last several fiscal years indicates an increase in distracted driving mishaps among Soldiers with 27 confirmed cases. These mishaps, however, are just the tip of the iceberg. As reporting tools continue to improve, the data will reveal that fact.

What is distracted driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, and fiddling with the audio, entertainment or navigation system. Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed. You cannot operate a vehicle safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

Some sobering stats

Distracted driving accounts for about 25% of all motor vehicle crash fatalities.

In 2015, 391,000 injuries were caused in distracted driving-related accidents. In that same year, distracted driving was cited as a major factor in 3,477 traffic deaths.

Nine people in the U.S. are killed each day as a result of crashes involving a distracted driver, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Since there is no way to test for distracted driving after an accident occurs, it's widely believed the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities caused by distracted driving are vastly underreported.

It takes only three seconds after a driver's attention has been diverted from the road for a crash to occur.

Driving distracted is compared to drunk driving since it follows the same psychological pattern: When drivers get away with driving distracted, they then continue to practice this bad habit until a crash occurs or they are

caught and suffer consequences.

More than 80% of drivers admit to blatantly hazardous behavior while driving, such as changing clothes, steering with a foot, painting nails or even shaving.

Types of distracted driving

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration identified three types of driver distractions:

Visual tasks, such as something as simple as checking a navigation system, which causes a driver to divert his or her attention from the road.

Manual tasks, which is something that requires a driver to remove one or both hands from the steering wheel, such as reaching for a drink or cellphone.

Cognitive tasks, which is causing a driver's mind and focus to wander to something besides the task of driving.

Contributing factors

NHTSA found that those who eat or drink while driving are 80% more likely to get into an accident.

The largest cause of distracted driving crashes (62%) is a driver being lost in thought or letting their mind wander. Keeping your mind on the road is just as important as keeping your eyes on it.

Unsurprisingly, cellphone use is the second largest cause of distracted driving; 14% of distracted driving-related deaths comes from cellphone use (as of 2015).

Advanced technology in vehicles contributes to distracted driving; 53% of drivers believe that if car manufacturers incorporate "infotainment" dashboards and hands-free technology into vehicles, it must be safe to use.

When a driver is listening to a conversation or music, the brain power he or she dedicates to driving decreases by 40%.

Cellphones

Texting while driving results in 400% more time with a driver's eyes off the road and increases the chance of an accident by 23 times.

About 660,000 drivers use their cellphones while driving during daylight hours, creating a large potential for crashes and fatalities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, drivers who reported frequent texting while driving also proved to be more likely to ride with a driver who'd been drinking, more likely to drink and drive, and less likely to wear a seat belt.

An AAA poll revealed that while 94% of drivers acknowledge the vast dangers of texting and driving, 35% of those polled admitted to still committing the act.

According to the National Safety Council, cellphone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes annually.

Texting while driving is six times more likely to cause an accident than driving under the influence of alcohol.

1 out of every 4 traffic crashes that occur in the U.S. are caused by cellphone usage.

Each day, 11 teens die as a result of texting and driving.

The consequences

In Alaska, texting and driving can result in a whopping \$10,000 fine.

The median fine for a first-time texting-and-driving offense is \$100.

In 2012, a Massachusetts teen was convicted of homicide as a result of a texting-and-driving accident leading to a fatality. The teen served a year in jail.

In 2016, a 17-year-old in Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced to a year in prison for criminally negligent homicide after killing a 27-year-old mother of two in a distracted-driving collision.

In 2011, a California woman was sentenced to six years in prison after killing a 23-year-old driver, colliding with her car at 85 mph because she was distracted by using her cellphone.

Distracted driving is a complex issue that has demanded the attention of law enforcement and safety officials nationwide. Don't become a statistic. Fight against distracted driving to keep our roads safe and to set a good example for other drivers!

The following links are provided for additional information on distracted driving and national PSA videos:

- <https://safety.army.mil/OFF-DUTY/PMV-4-Cars-Trucks/Distracted-Driving>
- <https://www.dmv.org/distracted-driving.php>
- <https://www.itcanwait.com/home>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtQ9H1MrrPo>

EFMP

Continued from Page 5

Halsey emphasized that all EFMP parents living in other locations will also have access

to legal services tied to their special education rights. Through a partnership with the American Bar Association, Army legal representatives can now connect eligible families to a volunteer attorney.

"The 22 legal assistance offices that now have a practitioner trained in this area are prepared to provide a more in-depth level of ser-

vice," she said. "However, all legal assistance offices can provide resources or point clients in the right direction to get more information."

Through a pro bono military program, Soldiers at the rank of staff sergeant and below can gain access to a volunteer attorney in their community. For more information, Soldiers should contact their installation's EFMP family sup-

port office or legal office for further assistance.

"The JAG Corps is focused on making life better for Soldiers and families, wherever the Army takes them," said Lt. Gen. Charles N. Pede, the Army's JAG. "We constantly seek ways to enhance the legal support we provide to commanders, Soldiers and family members."



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SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION (SHARP) PROGRAM



Soldiers urged to report incidents of misconduct

By **DEVON SUITS**
Army News Service

The lead official for the Army's Resilience Directorate emphasized the use of reporting procedures Tuesday for incidents of sexual harassment and assault to ensure the service is a safe environment for all.

While the chain of command and other Army agencies exist to maintain the safety and well-being of the force, the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program has specific measures in place to assist victims, said James Helis.

Reaching out for support will help stop misconduct, he added, and allow the Army to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

"To ensure the Fort Jackson workforce is familiar with SHARP support channels and reporting procedures, education and training are provided in a number of ways on Fort Jackson," said Malissa S. Welch, Fort Jackson Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program manager.

SHARP education and training is provided to all new personnel (civilian/military/contractors), permanent party, and Soldiers in a training status attending any of the Fort Jackson schools, Welch said.

We want them (new personnel) to understand that they play a critical role in helping to establish an environment of trust, dignity, and respect. Arming them with information about the program and its mission allows us

to elicit their help with building a positive reporting climate and a community where attitudes and beliefs that lead to sexual offenses are rare, she said.

Sexual harassment

Harassing behavior can be a precursor to sexual assault, according to SHARP officials, and should be immediately addressed to deter escalation.

"The first step is to take care of the victim," Helis said. "The second step is to make the harassment stop."

Individuals subject to sexual harassment can lodge an informal, formal, or anonymous complaint to a range of official reporting agencies for support, Helis said.

These include:

- Chain of command
- Victim advocate or sexual assault response coordinator
- Inspector general
- Judge advocate general office
- Military police or a criminal investigation division, or CID
- Health care provider

Soldiers can always reach out to a military chaplain for support, but chaplains cannot take formal harassment complaints, Helis explained. "The chaplain is there to support a Soldier and help them understand what their options are. They can help connect them with the resources they need."

Outside the complaint process, individuals can always speak to their harasser directly, Helis said. In some cases, the harasser will stop once confronted.

If a Soldier or civilian is less inclined to speak to a harasser directly, they can employ an indirect communications method by sending the harasser a written message or lodging an informal complaint.

Submitting an informal complaint will not trigger an official investigation, Helis said.

An individual can seek assistance before confronting a harasser. The informal complaint process enables a third party to step in on the individual's behalf to try and end the negative behavior.

Sexual harassment victims can also submit an anonymous complaint, which will be reviewed by the applicable chain of command. Other personnel who witnessed some form of sexual harassment can also lodge an informal or anonymous complaint, Helis said.

An individual's chain of command may or may not be able to act on the anonymous complaint, depending upon the information provided, he added.

Formal complaint

If the informal process is unsuccessful, or if a Soldier wants to lodge a formal complaint, they must fill out a Department of the Army Form 7746, or Sexual Harassment Complaint, and submit it to an official reporting entity.

See **MISCONDUCT:** Page 14

CASCOM welcomes former SSI CSM

By T. ANTHONY BELL
Special to the Leader

Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Escobedo is the first Human Resources Specialist noncommissioned officer to serve as the Combined Arms Support Command's senior enlisted leader.

Escobedo was officially welcomed into the command's leadership fold at an Aug. 19 assumption of responsibility ceremony in the Lee Club. Maj. Gen. Rodney D. Fogg, CASCOM and Fort Lee commanding general, presided over the event that was livestreamed on the organization's Facebook page.

In-person attendees at the COVID-19-restricted event included Escobedo's wife Lydia Vega and one of his two sons; John Hall, deputy to the commanding general; Brig. Gen. Michelle M.T. Letcher, Chief of Ordnance, and; Col. Michelle K. Donahue, Quartermaster General.

Escobedo replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Perry III, who departed Fort Lee in mid-July and is

now serving as the top enlisted leader for the 1st Theater Support Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Escobedo is a native of Mexico. He entered the Army in 1994 as a personnel records specialist (Military Occupational Specialty 75D). Escobedo comes to the Sustainment Center of Excellence from Fort Jackson, where he served as the senior enlisted leader of the Soldier Support Institute.

Although his new enlisted advisor has a non-logistical background, Fogg said he is "exactly what we need right now," implying Escobedo symbolizes the diversity and wealth of experience present in the sustainment ranks.

"I'm proud of the fact our sustainment warfighting function is all of our MOSs and all of our skills because we need everybody as a team on the battlefield of the future," Fogg said during his ceremony remarks.

Logisticians – transporters, quartermasters and ordnance Soldiers – comprise the bulk of the sustainment warfighting function. The combat



Photo by TERRANCE BELL

Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Escobedo, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command senior enlisted leader, salutes Maj. Gen. Rodney Fogg, U.S. Army CASCOM and Fort Lee commanding general, during his assumption of responsibility ceremony Aug. 19 at Fort Lee's Lee Club.

support team, however, also includes troops in finance, personnel, postal services, and music, all of whom train at SSI.

During his time at the lectern,

Escobedo was brief and succinct, thanking those who attended and for the opportunity to take on his new role. While he did not touch upon anything relating to his ground-

breaking achievement as the first non-logistical background enlisted advisor to the commanding general, he did thank Fogg for the "tremendous opportunity" and for allowing him to continue serving as "part of this tremendous CASCOM team." He also acknowledged, "It is an honor and privilege (to continue serving) in our great military, which I truly love and cherish every day I can do it."

Escobedo reserved a special thanks to his predecessor who was only the second culinary specialist to hold the CASCOM CSM title.

"He is my mentor and the leader I aspire to be on a daily basis," he said. "I truly appreciate everything he did for me prior to arriving here and after being selected. I have big shoes to fill."

Escobedo was among several top-notch senior enlisted Soldiers vying for the top CASCOM enlisted position, Fogg noted, and then confirmed he was "clearly the appropriate choice" following an exhaustive selection process.

Misconduct

Continued from Page 13

The complaint reporting process "is not a sequence," Helis explained. "Individuals can go directly to a formal complaint if they feel comfortable."

Once a formal complaint is submitted, the chain of command has three calendar days to act, SHARP officials said. Soldiers who file a claim against an individual within their chain must be referred to a higher authority.

The commander or appointed investigating officer will then have 14 calendar days to investigate the allegations.

Once the findings are released, the complainant will then have seven calendar days to appeal the decision, officials said. If a higher authority within the chain of command is dissatisfied with the investigation results or disciplinary actions, they can launch a new investigation. They have 14 calendar days to complete this process.

Final decisions on complaints rest with the

general court-martial convening authority.

Sexual assault reporting

Anyone who is a victim of sexual assault, or suspects an assault, should not be afraid to seek immediate care, Helis said.

However, these individuals should understand the difference between restricted and unrestricted reporting, he added.

Individuals looking to file a restricted report can only do so through a sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocate, or health care provider, Helis said. A victim can confidentially disclose a sexual assault to a health care provider while still retaining the option to file a restricted report with a SARC or victim advocate. They will then have access to medical treatments, advocacy services, counseling, and the option for a forensic exam.

Communication between these entities is considered confidential and will not trigger an investigation.

Communication with a chaplain is also considered privileged and confidential. Soldiers can reach out to a chaplain for support, but not to report an incident, SHARP officials said.

In addition to the chaplain, personnel can call the Department of Defense Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247 or go to their website for confidential and anonymous services. The helpline is available worldwide at any time.

Victim can reach a trained and credentialed SHARP specialist 24/7 via the Fort Jackson SHARP Hotline at 803-543-3085. Trainees who do not have access to their personal cells can utilize one of the more than 450 ring down lines within the company areas to reach the SHARP Hotline.

CATCH program

An individual will also have the option to enter their restricted report information into the DOD Catch a Serial Offender program, or CATCH, Helis said.

Soldiers can enter as much information that they can remember or feel comfortable sharing in the CATCH database, he added. Information can include names, ranks, or other distinguishing factors such as height or tattoos.

If the program identifies a serial offender, all victims connected to the perpetrator will receive a notification from a SARC. An inves-

tigation will be launched if the victims agree to change their reports to unrestricted.

Unrestricted reporting

Soldiers who choose to file an unrestricted report can seek assistance through their chain of command, CID, judge advocate general, SARC or victim advocate, or through their health care provider, Helis said.

If a Soldier reaches out to their chain of command or through a law enforcement agency, they waive their option to file a restricted report. Upon reporting, victims will receive the necessary care and support, along with the option for a protective order against the other party, SHARP officials said.

"First-line supervisors and junior leaders are at the tip of the spear when it comes to preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment," Helis said. "They are responsible for building cohesive teams that do not tolerate behaviors that are harmful to other Soldiers."

"If a Soldier approaches them and says 'I'm having an issue with a sexual assault or sexual harassment,' they need to listen and take appropriate action."

NEWS

Saluting this BCT cycle's honorees

1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment



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COLLINS

Collins receives diversity leadership award for 2020

Leader Staff Reports

Master Sgt. Marritsa Collins has been named the recipient of the Secretary of the Army Diversity and Leadership Award for fiscal year 2020.

Collins “continues to set and the leadership she has shared with Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members, positively shaped the command climate and influences the careers of

countless officers, noncommissioned officers and Department of the Army Civilians,” wrote Brig. Gen. Milford H. “Beags” Beagle in her nomination packet.

He referred to her as a “true change-agent” tirelessly supporting the command.

Collins will be officially awarded the honor in a ceremony at a date to be determined.

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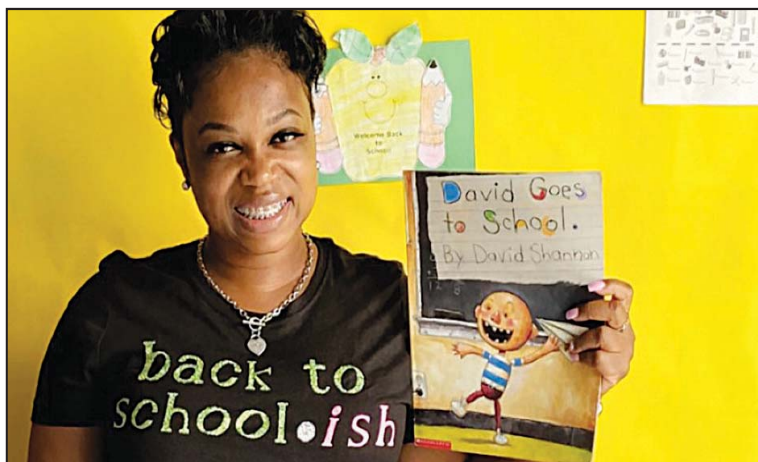
Schools

Continued from Page 3

Information about DODEA schools can be found at: <https://www.dodea.edu/Americas/southeast/fortJackson/index.cfm>

For more information about Richland 1 visit the district's home page at <https://www.richlandone.org/>, or to enroll visit: <https://www.richlandone.org/Page/4879>.

For more information about Richland 2 visit the district's home page at <https://www.richland2.org/>, or to enroll visit: <https://www.richland2.org/Departments/Enrollment-Registration/New-Enrollments>



Larissa Pinckney, speech and language teacher at Pierce Terrace Elementary, reads a book to her students during their first day of virtual learning on Aug. 24. Students attending schools on Fort Jackson will attend school virtually for the 2020-21 school year.

Courtesy photo

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Policy

Continued from Page 9

The regulation also expands the policy on extremist group activities by incorporating social media for the first time, as well as command options for violations under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"Social media was not addressed in the previous regulation," Comiskey said. "Also the requirement for commanders to notify either their [staff judge advocate] or [criminal investigation division] when there's any type of reports of extremist activities in their organization."

Policies from several Army and Defense Department directives have also been moved under the authority of the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention

program.

The SHARP program is now responsible for sexual harassment complaints, for instance, instead of the Military Equal Opportunity Office.

Criteria for a sexual assault incident response oversight report as well as a commander's critical information requirement have been added, too.

The SHARP policy also covers requirements for the DOD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program, Comiskey said.

The revised regulation has a lot of discussion about harassment and discrimination, Comiskey said. "Again, that's obviously not tolerated in our Army and 600-20 reinforces that."

"The Army hopes to foster a culture of dignity, respect and inclusion," Johnson added about the regulation. "It's a guide to ensure Soldiers are being treated fairly, and commanders are able to maintain good order and discipline in their ranks."



Photo by MASTER SGT. JOHN HUGHEL

The Army recently published the latest version of its Army Command Policy since 2014, which now includes updates to corrective training, sexual harassment reporting and extremist activity on social media.

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