

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE."

DON'T FORGET!



MARCH 14
SPRING
FORWARD

WARRIOR ADVENTURE QUEST BEGINS

– PAGES 10-11



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Austin outlines top priorities on people, teamwork, defense

By TERRI MOON CRONK
DOD News Service

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has announced his top three priorities for the Defense Department: to develop the right people, priorities and purpose of mission. According to a memorandum from his office, the mission is to continue to defend the nation from enemies, foreign and domestic.

“This will require aligning our priorities and capabilities to a changing and dynamic threat landscape,” the secretary said in the memo. “We will do so in a way that is based on a sober assessment of our strategic needs and recognize the importance of building and sustaining a strong workforce and unity within our department, across the nation and with our allies and partners around the world.”

Austin’s three priorities — defending the nation, taking care of our people and succeeding through teamwork — will guide our efforts, he emphasized. Following are the priorities under his leadership:

Defeating COVID-19 is the greatest proximate challenge to our nation’s security.

See **AUSTIN:** Page 15



Photo by ALEXANDRA SHEA

Daddy Ike

Alexandra Shea won first place in the portrait category in the Installation Management Command and Army Material Command journalism competitions with her photo of Ernest Robinson, referred to as Daddy Ike by his co-workers and friends. ‘Daddy Ike’ witnessed all the changes the installation has undergone since 1950. Robinson’s 70-year career began as a caddy for the Fort Jackson Golf Club.

ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. Joann Cassitty, 2nd Battalion 60th Infantry Regiment, fires during skeet shooting at Aachen Range March 5.

SEE PAGES
10-11



Photo by JOSIE CARLSON

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Photos by JOSIE CARLSON

Staff Sgt. Maria Hernandez, left, Soldier Support Institute and Capt. Ashley Clayton, 120th Adjutant General Battalion, were named Training and Doctrine Command's Adjutant General Corps Noncommissioned Officer and Officer of the Year.

Two Fort Jackson Soldiers receive AG honors

By JOSIE CARLSON
Fort Jackson Leader

As we celebrate Women's History Month, be sure to congratulate two women right here on Fort Jackson who have been named Training and Doctrine Command's Adjutant General Corps Officer and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year – Capt. Ashley Clayton, 120th Adjutant General Battalion and Sgt. 1st Class Maria Hernandez, Soldier Support Institute.

Clayton, currently commander of Company C, said she comes from a Family of people who have served, including her sister who retired from the Army.

"I think it is significant (winning as a woman) ... even now women are so quick

to shut down their achievements and not celebrate themselves," Clayton said.

She said the first woman she ever worked for really mentored her.

"She really stressed to me the significance of being a woman in the military and how to navigate it ... she inspired me as a woman because I'm a single mom ... (she said) you can be both, you can have a career and be a mom."

Lt. Col. Adam Grein, commander of 120th Adjutant General Battalion, nominated Clayton for the award.

"Ashley is an amazing officer whose drive, determination is vastly above her peers," he said.

She is "intellectually gifted and highly proficient both tactically and technically –

she's the kind of junior officer others will look up to and model themselves after," Grein added. "She created and leads our battalion Woman's Mentorship Group. Ashley is a Soldier's Soldier. Fit and resilient, she continues to take on hard jobs and do extremely well at them."

Hernandez is the senior small group leader for the Senior Leader Course at the NCO Academy on post.

"Anytime your name is submitted for something like this, it's just an honor ... even with just the nomination I was excited," she said.

Hernandez initially joined the Army thinking she would only do four years and get some benefits for college. She has now served for over 15 years.

"Never in my life would I have though I'd be doing these kinds of things and being successful ... I fell in love with the Army," she said. "Just to be here and serving in this capacity solidifies why I love the Army so much."

Noncommissioned Office Academy 1st Sgt. David Little, said "Sgt. 1st Class Hernandez is a leader before her time, a force multiplier that leads with LOVE (Leadership, Ownership, Values, and Educate) every day."

Hernandez added, "I'm going to give it my best no matter what, at whatever level I'm at ... to be nominated ... I looked at it like I'm only doing my job and trying my best to perform every day and bring that fire every single day."

Navy reservists tackle topic of extremism

Defense secretary memorandum prompts gathering at Jackson

By JOSIE CARLSON
Fort Jackson Leader

Navy reservists at the Navy Operational Support Center Columbia on Fort Jackson spent their drill weekend, March 6-7, tackling the topic of extremism.

The training is in response to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III's Feb. 5 memo directing a stand-down to address extremism in the ranks.

"We will not tolerate actions that go against the fundamental principles of the oath we share, including actions associated with extremist or dissident ideologies," Austin said. "Service members, (Department of Defense) civilian employees, and all those who support our mission, deserve an environment free of discrimination, hate, and harassment."

The Navy has since created a discussion guide for the extremism stand-down designed to "prepare Navy command triads to conduct DOD-directed extremism stand-Down training." According to the guide "The Navy's leadership plays a significant role in preventing extremism in the ranks, particularly in the creation and sustainment of command climates which discourage and hold accountable such behavior and promote a culture of respect, trust and professionalism in the force."

"SOCIAL MEDIA STARTED AS A GOOD THING AND NOW IT'S USED AS A NEGATIVE TOOL."

Senior Chief Petty Officer
Kevin Hogan

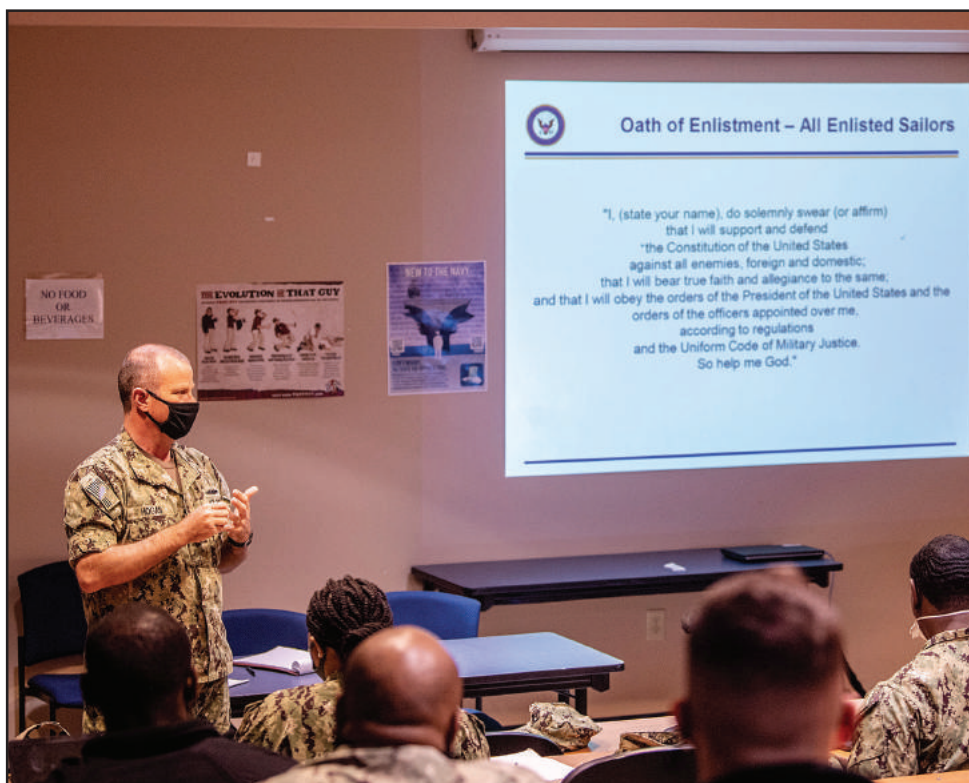
Austin also released a video on Feb. 19 stating that although extremism and extremist ideologies are not new to our country or our military, what is new is the "speed and a pervasiveness with which extremist ideology can spread today thanks to social media and the aggressive, organized, and emboldened attitude many of these hate groups and their sympathizers are now applying to their recruitment and to their operations."

See **NAVY:** Page 13



Photos by JOSIE CARLSON

Above, Lt. Cmdr. Davida Billingsley comments during the discussion portion of the extremism stand-down at the Navy Operational Support Center Columbia March 7.



Left, Senior Chief Petty Officer Kevin Hogan teaches a class during the extremism stand-down at the Navy Operational Support Center Columbia March 7.



NIGHT INFILTRATION

In the dark of night, trainees from 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, low crawled under live machine gun fire at the Night Infiltration Course March 2. During the exercise, trainees exit a trench and crawl face first through the sand towards towers where fixed machine guns fired live ammunition overhead.

Photos by TOM BYRD



Medal of Honor recipient and Korean War Soldier accounted for

Army Public Affairs

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced Friday that Korean War Medal of Honor recipient, Army Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Joseph Kapaun, has been accounted for.

Kapaun, of Pilsen, Kansas, served as a chaplain with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. On Nov. 2, 1950, the 3rd Battalion was near Unsan when the unit came under heavy fire and received orders to withdraw.

Eventually surrounded and besieged by Chinese Communist Forces, unit members became trapped and dug inside foxholes or behind bunkers. Kapaun stayed with the wounded but was soon captured and marched from village to village, with little food and shelter, to Old Pyoktong, later known as Chinese Camp 5, on the south bank of the Yalu River.

While a captive, he ministered to other prisoners of war, although he became mortally ill. He celebrated a final Easter Mass for the POWs in late March and shortly

afterward was taken to the "sick house," an old pagoda where he died of exhaustion and possible heart failure induced by pleurisy at the age of 35 on May 23, 1951.

Chaplain Kapaun repeatedly risked his own life to save the lives of hundreds of fellow Americans. His extraordinary courage, faith and leadership inspired thousands of prisoners to survive hellish conditions, resist enemy indoctrination and retain their faith in God and country.

See **SOLDIER:** Page 9



Courtesy photo

Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun poses for a photo in liturgical dress, holding a bible.

AAFES recognizes long-serving employees

By **JOSIE CARLSON**
Fort Jackson Leader

Originally from Hopkins, South Carolina, Woodrow Portee started working as a busboy in 1961 when there was a cafeteria on Fort Jackson. He worked many positions throughout the years, all the way up to stock room manager. He took a brief break after his first retirement in 1997, but came right back to working at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service a few months later.

Now after almost 60 years since his first position, Portee is retiring again, this time with plans to actually relax and play music. Portee has played the guitar in a local band in the past and hopes to get back into music during his retirement.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Algrish Williams, who attended an event at the Exchange March 4, honoring Portee said, "It's truly a blessing to have someone that is so dedicated to serving people... I've seen (Portee) around the store and he's always smiling."

Thomas Kuttamperoor, AAFES General Manager at Fort Jackson and Shaw Air Force Base, added, "Mr. Portee, You make it possible for a lot of us to come to work and enjoy what we do."

Many people who have worked with Portee were given the opportunity to speak including Leatrice Peyton, store manager at Shaw Air Force Base, who has worked with Portee in many different stores.



"It has been my honor, it has been my pleasure," Peyton said. "... I just want to take the opportunity to thank you for all that you have done for this exchange."

Along with Portee's retirement, AAFES also took this day to acknowledge and congratulate Lesbia Cunningham for her 30 years of service. Common Orris, store manager, presented Cunningham with what she called a "well-deserved" 30-Year Service Award.

"Lesbia has not changed in all these years, she has been faithful. Anything that is asked of her, she accomplishes it 100%," Orris said.

Portee gave the final words at the event.

"Even though you don't see a military suit on me, underneath this shirt I have a military suit on



Photos by **JOSIE CARLSON**

Above, Woodrow Portee and his wife pose for a photo with others in attendance at his retirement ceremony at the Exchange March 4. Left, Lesbia Cunningham poses with her 30-year service award at the Exchange March 4.

because I have been around and serving the U.S. Army for 58 years ... I still am serving them in my heart," he said.

Upcoming movie to pay tribute to fallen Soldier, Family

By **DEVON SUITS**
Army News Service

As the community relations officer at Fort Irwin, California, Renita Wickes was teleworking in her home in late July when her phone rang. The National Training Center had just returned to adjusted operations after the COVID-19 pandemic paused training for nearly three months.

Wickes, a former Soldier with close to 25 years of Army civilian experience, was used to receiving all types of requests in support of the Army, NTC, or Fort Irwin mission, she said.

Nevertheless, this call was different once she realized that the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Western Region, was on the other line. OCPA-West serves as the Army's liaison to the entertainment industry.

"They requested support for a movie called 'A Journal for Jordan: A Story of Love and

Honor,' on Fort Irwin," she said.

Wickes froze as a wave of emotions fell upon her.

The movie's script came from Dana Canedy's memoir about her late fiance, 1st Sgt. Charles Monroe King. The title refers to an unfinished 200-page, block-letter style journal King wrote to his infant son, Jordan, before he died in Iraq on Oct. 14, 2006.

Wickes and King became close friends during the years he worked as an NTC observer, trainer and controller, before being assigned to 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2004.

"Charles was absolutely one of my best friends in the world," said Wickes, who shared the same information with OCPA-West. "It was unbelievable, just hearing that we were going to get to work on this amazing project."

The movie is directed by Denzel Washington and features Michael B. Jordan and Chante Adams as King and Canedy, respectively. Jor-

dan visited Fort Jackson in December 2020 to learn more about being a drill sergeant.

"Charles was a 'Soldier's Soldier,'" Wickes added. "He loved the uniform and the military. You could see him in each of the Army's values — that was just the type of person he was."

Dedicated, loved

King attended the Art Institute of Chicago and spent several years working as an illustrator in Alabama before joining the Army in 1987. He was always remembered as a soft-spoken, shy and compassionate individual, often choosing to help others before acting on his own self interests.

He married shortly after joining the Army and became a father after his daughter, Christina, was born.

King did all he could to be a good father despite his struggling marriage, according to Canedy's book. He and his wife later di-

vorced, which was one of the most painful moments in his life.

Canedy and King eventually crossed paths at her old home in Radcliff, close to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he was stationed. King had dropped by to deliver a pointillism art piece to her father, which she described as a collage of black-and-white images created with thousands of tiny inked dots.

Canedy chose the word "gorgeous" to describe King during their first encounter, the book said, although, she was apprehensive to date a military man due to her upbringing as an Army dependent and uneasy relationship with her father, a former drill sergeant.

King was nothing like the alpha men she had previously met, she wrote. Charles was different in all the right ways as the couple grew close and their career aspirations took priority, keeping them geographically separated.

See **MOVIE:** Page 16

Community Updates

ArmyIgnitED Update

ArmyIgnitED Credentialing Assistance is ready for use. Tuition Assistance, Cadet, and Civilian programs are currently completing data migration and will be available soon. ACCESS ArmyU expects delays until Monday for tuition assistance functionality. If you have a college term starting on/before Monday please submit an email to usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.dhr-jacksonedcenter@mail.mil with the subject line "TA" and explain your situation in the body of the email.

Coleman Gym open 24 hours

Coleman Gym is now open 24/7 in order to meet the needs of all authorized users on Fort Jackson. All health and safety policies are in place and there additional requirements for use during non-staffed periods. See Gym staff for registration and other details. Only authorized military and Department of Defense Common Access Card-holders 18 years of age who have had the COVID-19 vaccine, including second dose, will be authorized access during unmanned hours after the 14-day waiting period. Temporary Policy #2 – Morale Welfare and Recreation Modified Gym and Fitness Center Operations during COVID-19 dated May 15, 2020 is in effect For more information, call 751-5896.

NAF Excess property sale

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, is accepting sealed bids for an excess property (turn-in) sale until March 12. Sale items can be viewed and bids submitted between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Family and MWR Warehouse, Bldg. 2190 Wheeler Street. Final bids will be accepted until 3 p.m. Friday. Bid forms will be available on-site. Bid Award notification will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 16. Payment by debit card, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or money order (No cash or personal checks please). All items must be removed no later than March 26 and are sold 'as is', no guarantees or warranties. For more information, call 751-6990.

AAFES closures

Popeyes and Starbucks will closed March 21 for water pressure testing. They will reopen March 22 at their regular hours. The Burger King dining room is closed until March 27 due to staffing issues. Patrons should use the drive thru. There are no change in operational hours.

RV storage lot

The Recreational Vehicle Storage Lot at 2031 Wheeler Street is open. For more information contact Outdoor Recreation at 751-3484.

Strengths & Themes Assessment

Fort Jackson is looking to hear from Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, Family

members and retirees on how Fort Jackson can be a healthier installation in the Community Strengths and Themes Assessment. The assessment is open until March 31. Visit <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se/2511374505D32214> to take the survey.

Volunteer of the Year Nominations

Fort Jackson is currently accepting nominations for Volunteer/Family of the Year. Fort Jackson will host the 2021 Volunteer/Family of the Year Recognition Ceremony, 10 a.m. April 23 at the NCO Club in order to honor and recognize exemplary contributions made by Fort Jackson Families and volunteers. The ceremony will include the nominees for the 2020 Family of the Year award and the four winners of the Volunteer of the Year award in four categories; youth, retiree, active duty military and Family member/civilian. Nomination forms must be completed and delivered via email. The Volunteer of the Year nomination deadline is Friday. For more information, call the volunteer coordinator at 751-5256.

Education Needs Assessment

The Education Needs Assessment survey is now available to assist the Army to improve post-secondary education programs here on Fort Jackson. These improvements will help you with your academic and career goals. Soldiers, adult family members, retirees, and Department of the Army Civilians are re requested to participate. The survey opened runs until Friday. Access the Education Needs Assessment by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DXH8JPB> For additional information, contact the Fort Jackson Education Center at 751-5341.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY

Drive-in Movie Night

6:30-9:30 p.m. Solomon Center Parking Lot. Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation will be a free drive in movie, but space will be limited. Concessions will be available for sale through the Solomon Center and Fort Jackson BOSS program. Only one car per family allowed. No alcoholic beverages allowed during the movie. Arrive early to get parked and to get food before the movie begins. Patrons will register at Marion Street Station by phone, in person, or email. The parking lot will be marked for each family signed up. There are 40 first-come, first-serve spots available. Sign up by March 10. Patrons will be required to pick up their parking pass from Marion Street Station no later than March 11. If patrons do not pick up their pass by cutoff date, they forfeit their spot and it will be given to the next family in line. For more information or to sign up, stop by Marion Street Station or call 751-3484.

SUNDAY

Daylight Savings Time begins

Make sure to set your clocks one hour forward as Daylight Savings Time begins.

MARCH 18

Career Summit

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Fort Jackson Transition Assistance Program is hosting a virtual U.S. Chamber of Commerce Career Summit to allow employers to share employment opportunities with Soldiers, spouses, Family members and veterans. The Career Summit will consist of training sessions starting at 8 a.m. and a virtual hiring fair from 1-4 p.m. More than 75 employers are expected to participate. This is a free event for the Fort Jackson Community. The job seeker registration link is <https://www.hiringourheroes.org>. Career Coaches are available to assist you in resume writing, interviewing skills and LinkedIn features, job fair preparation and more. Virtual training sessions will be available until March 18. Register Today! For more information contact Carolyn Andrews, Transition Services Manager, via email at carolyn.b.andrews.civ@mail.mil, or via phone at 751-1723.

MARCH 19

Community Town Hall

11 - 11:45 a.m. Fort Jackson Commander Brig. Gen. Milford H. 'Beags' Beagle Jr. will join an informal community town hall organized by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Since the community can't come to Fort Jackson, they are bringing the Fort to the community. Beagle will provide an update on the activities and how they are managing through COVID. It's also an invitation for the Community to send their questions in for the General's response. A virtual two way exchange of information in today's standards. The town hall will be broadcast on: www.facebook.com/ColumbiaChamber, www.facebook.com/FortJacksonCommandingGeneral, www.facebook.com/fortjackson, www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson. For more information, email: theinquiry@columbia-chamber.com

MARCH 29

Community Blood Drive

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. NCO Club. Fort Jackson and the American Red Cross are holding a community blood drive. To register visit www.redcross.org and use code Fort Jackson. For more information, call (803) 605- 3162.

MARCH 27

Outdoor Recreation Bonfire Bash

3 p.m. Weston Lake Recreation Area. Family-friendly overnight primitive camping event featuring pre-made sandwiches for dinner, coffee and pastries for breakfast, ghost stories, s'mores, tent set up demonstration, how to build a campfire, outdoor games (Corn Hole and Kan Jam) and more. Camping equipment is available for rent including tents, cots, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, cook stoves, pots and pans. For more information or to sign up, stop by Marion Street Station or call 751-3484.

**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 751-3615.

APRIL 6

DIY Credit Repair

2-3 p.m. Army Community Service is hosting a virtual Do-It-Yourself Credit Repair class. ACS has a dedicated Financial Readiness staff to assist with your financial needs. Services include classes for your unit/organization, one on one financial counseling, dealing with consumer issues such as scams or identity theft and much more. Call 751-5256 to register for the class or to speak to a Financial Readiness Specialist.

APRIL 13

Social Security Benefits Webinar

2-3:30 p.m. DFMWR/Army Community Service (ACS) will host a Social Security Benefits webinar. This webinar will provide information on how social security affects your retirement income. Registration is required. For more information, or to register, call 751-5256.

APRIL 15

LTB Change of Command

10 a.m. Victory Hall. Col. Brian T. Beckno will relinquish command of the Leader Training Brigade to Col. Joseph A. Jackson. For more information, email Capt. Justinn M. McCaw at justinn.m.mccaw@mail.mil

APRIL 20

Thrift Savings Plan Webinar

2-3:30 p.m. DFMWR/Army Community Service (ACS) Financial Readiness Program will host a Thrift Savings Plan Seminar webinar. Learn the differences between Roth and Traditional accounts, avoiding penalties, withdrawals, late fees and more. For more information, or to register, call 751-5256.

'I BECAME A SOLDIER ...'

1ST BATTALION,
34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

PVT. BRADLEY JONES, 23
Wichita, Kansas

"My father influenced me into joining the Army, he was a 68W - Combat Medic Specialist. His absence was hard on the Family, but his pride in serving stuck with me and I'd like to honor his service with my own."

"Before joining the Army, I imagined Basic Combat Training to be intense. My prejudgments were based on movies where trainees were woken up in the middle of the night and put in mud pits to be sprayed with garden hoses while it's cold."

"The most challenging part of Basic Combat Training was the mental aspect of getting over missing your Family, wife, and kids. Once I focused only on BCT, it flew by."

"My MOS is 13M - Multiple Launch Rocket System Crewmember. I chose this MOS because it was the only combat job available when I signed up."



SPC. EUGENE HARVEY III, 25
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

"After my job was economically hit due to COVID-19, I felt there was no place to be other than the Army. Also, my father who was an 11B - Infantryman influenced me into joining the Army."

"I imagined the Basic Combat Training to be a lot more stressful than it actually was. I didn't expect it to be so cold, because South Carolina is thought to be warmer."

"The most challenging thing I experienced during Basic Combat Training was getting recycled in the red phase of training because of COVID-19. Waking up in 30 degree weather during the Anvil was also a challenge."

"My MOS is 94F - Computer/Detection Systems Repairer. I chose this MOS because it's the most transferable job into a civilian company."



PVT. DAKOTA BROWN, 23
Lexington, South Carolina

"My dad inspired me to join the Army. I learned that the Army was cool because of my dad's leadership skills, work ethic and him allowing me to go to work with him."

"The hardest part of Basic Combat Training was the Hammer. The events were super easy; however, nightfall came and it got extremely cold."

"My MOS is 15M - UH-1 Helicopter Repairer. I chose this MOS because of my love for aviation. It took me almost four years to get a qualifying score in the 15 series (aviation related jobs)."

"I would advise people joining the Army to learn how to be courteous and understand other people's situations. You are going to live with others from all over the world for 10 weeks or more."



SPC. JESSICA LOCKE, 23
Rancho, New Mexico

I am from a military family "I joined the Army because I've always wanted to serve and follow in their footsteps."

"I knew Basic Combat Training would be physically demanding, but I didn't know how much things would change because of COVID-19."

"Having patience with people, understanding how to lead, and keeping a positive mindset were challenging parts of BCT."

"My MOS is 15Y - AH-64 Armament/Electrical/Avionic Systems Repairer. I chose this MOS because I've always wanted to work with my hands and helicopters. It worked out when I could do both as my job."



SPC. SHAWN HOOSE, 26
Schohaire, New York

"I joined the Army because I wanted to be a member of a great team and protect people. I knew joining would allow me to give back while challenging myself to become a better person."

"I imagined there would be more yelling, a lot of physical and mental challenges during Basic Combat Training. I did not expect the chaos due to COVID-19."

"The duration of Basic Combat Training was a challenge - 10 weeks seemed like such a time and so far away, especially in the beginning."

"My MOS is 09W - Warrant Officer Candidate (Aviation) - I chose this MOS to use my degree and pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. This position is where I can best contribute to the Army and the country."



PVT. DEVON BARKER, 20
Savannah, Georgia

"The biggest influence for joining the Army was my wife - everything I do in life is for her. I joined to learn and to better myself."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be a lot easier than it was."

"There were mental strains that challenged me during BCT: Missing my wife was the hardest and I was worried about not meeting physical requirements."

"My MOS is 15P - Aviation Operations Specialist. I chose this MOS because I've always had an interest for aviation, but also for the Army."



Soldier

Continued from Page 5

“After 70 years Chaplain (Capt.) Kapaun has been accounted for. His heroism and resilient spirit epitomized our Army values of personal courage and selfless service,” said acting Secretary of the Army John E. Whitley.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II declared Chaplain Kapaun a servant of God, the first stage on the path to canonization. Kapaun was posthu-

mously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama at a White House ceremony on April 11, 2013.

Currently there are approximately 7,500 service members who served in the Korean War who remain unaccounted for. Accounting for Chaplain Kapaun “reaffirms our commitment to never leaving a fallen comrade,” said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville.

For additional information on the Defense Department’s mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil.



Father Emil Kapaun celebrates Mass using the hood of his jeep as an altar, as his assistant, Patrick J. Schuler, kneels in prayer in Korea on Oct. 7, 1950, less than a month before Kapaun was taken prisoner. Kapaun died in a prisoner of war camp on May 23, 1951.

Photo by COL. RAYMOND A. SKEEHAN

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WARRIOR ADVENTURE QUEST COMES TO FORT JACKSON

By **JOSIE CARLSON**
Fort Jackson Leader

Soldiers from across Fort Jackson came together at Aachen Range March 5 to participate in skeet shooting as the first event of many scheduled through Warrior Adventure Quest.

WAQ is an Army reset training tool designed to introduce Soldiers to activities that serve as alternatives to dangerous behaviors often associated with accidents involving recently re-deployed Soldiers. This tool presents coping outlets to help Soldiers realize their own “new level of normal” after deployment.

Though this is a first for Fort Jackson, some Soldiers have participated in them at other installations. Staff Sgt. Kyle Braley from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 165th Infantry Brigade, is one of them.

“I did WAQ back at Fort Carson when it first came out,” Braley said. “We did paintball when we came back from deployment ... this is my first time doing skeet shooting, I learned a lot.”

Until recently this program had not been available at Fort Jackson.

Kristin Wilcox, Outdoor Recreation Manager at Marion Street Station, said that at other installations Soldiers are typically eligible to participate in WAQ within 90 days after a deployment but here at Fort Jackson the events are intended for cycle breaks.

Outdoor recreation will send event options to units and the Soldiers can choose the events they want to attend.

WAQ offers more than just the opportunity to participate in outdoor events. The program combines existing Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s

Outdoor Recreation high adventure activities (e.g. rock climbing, mountain biking, paintball, scuba, ropes courses, skiing, zip lines, white water rafting, and others) with a leader-led after action debriefing tool developed by Army Medical Department Center and School.

The WAQ program has been developed into five phases. Phase One, Leader Training, is for all staff sergeant and above participants and teaches them how to facilitate an L-LAAD in response to a significant event in an operational environment.

Phase Two teaches these unit leaders how to utilize the same L-LAAD technique when facilitation surrounds an outdoor adventure activity.

Phase Three, Soldier Training, presents service members concepts like Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, Combat Op-

erational Stress Control and Post Traumatic Growth, coping skills, and how it all relates to the WAQ program.

Phase Four, is the outdoor adventure activity where team building is combined with challenging activity skills.

Phase Five, is the actual facilitation of the L-LAAD by the unit leaders with their unit members to realize connections between the activity they have just experienced and the challenges they may be experiencing in their daily lives.

“We’re trying to introduce them to fun, high adrenaline activities that are safe,” Wilcox said.

If you have any questions or need further information you call 751-3489.



Right, Staff Sgt. Kyle Braley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 165th Infantry Brigade, takes aim during skeet shooting as Chris Helie, lead recreation assistant, operates the controls at Aachen Range March 5. Facing page, Staff Sgt. Joann Cassitty, 2nd Battalion 60th Infantry Regiment, fires during skeet shooting at Aachen Range March 5.



Photos by JOSIE CARLSON

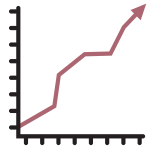
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The University of South Carolina contributes **\$1.7 billion** towards personal income and supports **1 in every 9 jobs** in the Midlands community. That's **43,876 jobs** overall, and of those, 13,705 are employees working directly for UofSC. Upcoming university construction projects like campus village and the public health campus are expected to further boost jobs in the region.



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South Carolina

Navy

Continued from Page 4

Senior Chief Petty Officer Kevin Hogan, who taught one of the classes, agreed social media has affected what's currently happening in our country. "Social media started as a good thing and now it's used as a negative tool," Hogan said. "If you look at everything that has happened, social media has just compounded it."

The training included discussing rights included in the Constitution, the oath service members take to support and defend the Constitution, and what counts as prohibited behavior as well as options for reporting extremist behavior.

Training also covered "signature behaviors of the 21st century Sailor," including treating everyone with respect, taking accountability for your actions, and holding others accountable for their actions.

Austin's memo gave commanders and supervisors 60 days to complete this stand-down. "This stand-down is just the first initiative of what I believe must be a concerted effort to better educate ourselves and our people about the scope of this problem and to develop sustainable ways to eliminate the corrosive effects that extremist ideology and conduct have on the workforce," Austin said.

The U.S. Army Training Center is holding an Army Profession Week March 15-19 as part of the extremism stand-down.

Saluting this BCT cycle's honorees

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Staff Sgt. Dylan Shellenberger
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1st Battalion, 34th
Infantry Regiment

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Spc. Shawn Hoose



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Hood Street SAC 751-1084

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Imboden CDC 562-5901/5902

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Mon-Fri (All)7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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Games Begin.....4 p.m.

Videorama 751-4162

By Appointment Only

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Mon-Fri.....10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat.....9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Austin

Continued from Page 2

The DOD will continue to act boldly and quickly to support federal government efforts to defeat the disease, defend the force against it and work with our domestic and international partners to protect our nation from potential novel and deadly viruses of the future. The DOD will continue to give direct support to the government's vaccination efforts and encourage military personnel to get the vaccine to remain ready to protect the nation globally. Both challenges demand an aggressive DOD effort to inform and educate people about protective measures and the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines.

Prioritize China as the Pacing Challenge:

This is DOD's No. 1 pacing challenge, and it will develop operational concepts, capabilities and plans to bolster deterrence and maintain its competitive advantage. The approach toward China will be coordinated and synchronized across the enterprise to advance DOD's priorities — integrated into domestic and foreign policy — in a whole-of-government strategy, strengthened by DOD's alliances and partnerships and supported on a bipartisan basis in Congress.

Address Advanced, Persistent Threats:

In addition to addressing China, the DOD will remain ready to respond to and effectively deter nation-state threats emanating from Russia, Iran and North Korea, and disrupt transnational and non-state actor threats from violent extremist organizations — such as those operating in the Middle East, Africa and South and Central Asia. The DOD will seek to impose cost where necessary, while using all of its tools to lower the risk of escalation with its adversaries and respond to challenges below the level of armed conflict. The DOD will continue to maintain credible deterrence against advanced threats, and “right-size” its missions around the world in a transparent, principled manner.

Innovate and Modernize DOD: The department will be innovative at a speed and scale that matches a dynamic threat landscape, requiring advances in joint-warfighting concepts and a commitment to rapid experimentation and capabilities fielding. The DOD will divest itself of legacy systems and programs that don't meet its security needs any longer, while investing smartly for the future. The



Photo by STAFF SGT. JACK SANDERS

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III visits with service members assisting at the Federal Emergency Management Agency COVID-19 vaccination site at California State University Los Angeles, Feb. 24.

DOD will improve the efficiency of the force and guarantee freedom of action in contested, complex operating environments.

Tackle the Climate Crisis: We face a growing climate crisis that is impacting our nation's missions, plans and capabilities and the DOD must take immediate action. In line with President Joe Biden's direction, the DOD will elevate the climate as a national security priority, integrating climate considerations into DOD's policies, strategies and partner engagements. The DOD will incorporate climate-risk assessments into war-gaming, modeling and simulation, and bolster mission resilience and deploy solutions that optimize capability, and reduce our carbon footprint.

DOD will Grow its Talent: People are the department's most-critical asset. We remain the preeminent fighting force in the world because of our personnel in and out of uniform. “I have never had more confidence in our ability to meet the security challenges of today and tomorrow,” Austin said. To maintain that ad-

vantage, the DOD will build opportunities for growth and development, invest in training and education and create new opportunities for advancement that drive promotion and retention for our total civilian and military workforce. The DOD will build out a range of skills and capabilities in the workforce and remove barriers that limit its people from realizing their full potential as partners in the department's work.

Build Resilience and Readiness: The DOD maintains and enhances force readiness and develops capabilities to protect America when it fully embraces a diversity of backgrounds, experiences and thought. The DOD will lead with its values, building diversity, equity and inclusion into all aspects of its work. Inclusivity will drive innovative solutions across the enterprise and create a constructive environment in which every person has the space to contribute fully. The DOD will never spare support for its people, and will protect the safety, health and welfare of service members and their families, and civilian employ-

ees. The DOD will also work closely with the president, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the interagency to ensure that it properly supports our veterans and their families long after they have served their duty.

Ensure Accountable Leadership: Some behaviors are antithetical to our values, undermine our readiness, and put our effectiveness at risk, but are alive within our workforce. Leaders at every level will be responsible for building a safe environment for DOD people and guaranteeing swift and clear accountability to anyone who does not act within the highest standards of the department. The DOD will not tolerate sexual assault and sexual harassment. Extremism also presents a complex and unique challenge to the DOD, which the department must meet head-on working to permanently stamp out extremism in the ranks. Both efforts and others will ensure that we provide every member of the department a safe and supportive place to serve their country - one free from discrimination, hate, harassment and fear.

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Movie

Continued from Page 6

Career-driven, Canedy blossomed as an award-winning journalist for the New York Times, while King pushed hard in his career to retire as a sergeant major. Their relationship grew through daily phone calls, letters, and email conversations. King did his best to reserve breaks in training, long weekends, or blocks of leave, to fly and see the woman he loved.

For eight years, their love thrived with some bumps along the way. King dedicated all he could to support his Soldiers and local community, which created some friction between the loving couple.

"He always labeled his Soldiers as 'his kids,'" Wickes said. "He took care of people and lived by the golden rule."

The two became good friends during King's time as an observer, controller and trainer at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.

Close friends

Shortly after the twin towers fell, King was reassigned to the NTC operations group's "Cobra Team."

Under the call sign Cobra 07T, King ran units through drills at mock operating bases and Iraqi villages to certify their tactics, techniques and procedures before being deployed overseas, Wickes said.

King was the epitome of a tank noncommissioned officer and considered an undisputed master of the Cobra tactical analysis feedback facility, retired Lt. Col. R.J. Bashista shared on King's obituary webpage, adding the team was amongst the best due to his commitment and oversight.

As a member of the operations group's video department, Wickes often provided

video clips of the training area to Cobra team leaders.

"I was trying to figure out something to get my brother for his birthday when Charles said, 'I'm an artist if you want me to draw something for him,'" she said. "We were best friends ever since."

Wickes recalled the passion King had for the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club. As an active member, he often dedicated his free time to help the local community. The first sergeant even offered up his artistic skills to paint the club's crest on a wall in what is now the NTC headquarters.

To this day, the illustration reminds Wickes of his steadfast commitment to helping others.

"He pushed the Audie Murphy club to be actively involved and to stick to the group's bylaws to represent what Sgt. Audie Murphy stood for," she said.

Wickes also recalled all the fun excursions she went on with King and his daughter, as

she visited during summer vacations. The two families became close as they explored parts of California and other nearby states.

"A memory I have is when Charles volunteered to do something with his daughter at a local veterans' home. It was one of the first times Christina got to see her dad in action while he was in his dress uniform," Wickes said. "You could see the pride she had for him, and the happiness Charles had to share that moment with her."

Jordan's journal

Upon his arrival to Fort Hood, King received orders to Iraq, where he would serve as the first sergeant in charge of over 100 Soldiers. Around the same time, Canedy divulged her desire to start a family with him, as the couple started to discuss marriage.

The two ultimately set a wedding date for June 9, 2007, the day between their birthdays.

See **FRIENDS:** Page 17

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Friends

Continued from Page 6

Weeks before King's deployment, Canedy presented her fiancé with a gift – a journal for fathers with questions on each page. The present started as a simple means to write down a few thoughts and later turned into a fervent scramble while he tried to finish most of it before he departed.

King consumed himself in his writings and poured his heart into each page as he deployed to Iraq. He told Jordan that it was OK for men to cry, and shared his favorite Bible verses while emphasizing the power of prayer. King also expressed his love for Canedy and his expectations of how Jordan should treat a woman.

The first sergeant voiced his admiration and devotion to duty, honor, and selfless service. Above all, King wanted to be the best example he could of a strong black man – spiritually, mentally and physically, he wrote in his journal.

As he expressed his deepest feelings on paper, he also tried to shroud the war's tumultuous nature during his sparse communications with his fiancée.

The dedication he had to his Soldiers became apparent as he begrudgingly told Canedy that he could not take leave to come home for Jordan's birth. As the first sergeant, he couldn't forgive himself if one of his Soldiers got injured or killed during his absence, the book said.

Charlie Company

King was a member of Charlie Company, one of the best companies in the battalion due to the strong leadership of King and then-Capt. Stefan McFarland, said Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Donahoe, commander of the Army Maneuver Center of Excel-



Courtesy photo

First Sgt. Charles King poses for a photo with his fiancée, Dana Canedy, and their newborn son Jordan. Canedy's memoir about her fiancé, titled "A Journal for Jordan: A Story of Love and Honor," was scripted to become a movie.

lence and Fort Benning, Georgia.

"First Sgt. King was a leader who led by example," said Donahoe, his former battalion commander. "He wasn't going ask anybody to do anything he wasn't willing to do himself. That is the kind of Soldier the Army looks for in both noncommissioned and commissioned senior leaders."

Nicknamed the "Carnivores," Charlie Company was one of two tank companies within the battalion operating in the highly contentious area of Jurf As Sakhr near Baghdad, Donahoe explained. Time and time again, the company proved its ability to maneuver through the complex and restrictive terrain to take the fight to the enemy.

"Charlie Company and 1st Sgt. King were in the fight, every day," he said. "There was a little panache with the company," corresponding with their unofficial motto – "'Stay alive and kill (stuff)'. They were combat-hardened and the most lethal company we had."

Returning home

King was in Iraq for close to eight months before returning home during his mid-deployment leave. Outside the many pictures Canedy mailed, this was the first time he would see his infant son.

See **JOURNAL:**



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Friends

Continued from Page 17

Over the two weeks, King spent most of his time gazing at his son while he held him and danced around the living room. He would jump up out of bed during the evenings to change his diaper and watched over him as he slept.

All the while, King did his best to suppress his inner feelings of anxiety – the mental scars he carried with him from his time overseas, the book said.

During his last hours back home, the first sergeant donned his uniform before carrying Jordan to his crib. King kissed him softly as his son looked up at him and smiled at his father for one last time.

He then stood in the doorway and embraced the love of his life as he spoke of their plans for marriage. And with one remaining kiss, King stepped away for what would be his final trip to Iraq.

One month before his scheduled return home, Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Kane, Cpl. Timothy J. Lauer and the first sergeant were all killed after an improvised explosive device detonated under their Humvee while on a convoy outside of Baghdad.

When Canedy received word of her fiancé's death, she was shattered with grief. Pain,

anger and denial overcame her as she returned to what she knows best, the book said. It was never her intention to write a best-selling novel about the man she fell deeply in love with, or share the journal he composed for their son.

Sharing their story

News about the movie spread quickly around Fort Irwin, especially after the lead actors and film production crew arrived in late December. As the on-post liaison, Wickes joined the director and staff as they scouted out filming locations.

The desert-like terrain, mock villages, and forward operating bases throughout NTC made it a prime location to reenact Charlie Company's actions during the war. Washington finally selected an area around one of the largest mock operating bases in the area, known as Forward Operating Base King.

"I was there when they dedicated the FOB in Charles' name," Wickes said. "It just made everything so surreal."

According to Wickes, many Soldiers canceled their holiday block leave to take part in the production process. She stood by to provide support during filming, but she couldn't bring herself to watch the final Humvee attack.

"I waited on the other side of a van, but I could still hear everything as everyone went through their lines. It was torture," she said. "I was definitely going through an emotional roller coaster of sadness and excitement

knowing that Charles and Dana's story will be told on the big screen."

Wickes recalled the day she found out about King's death. She was at work in the operations group building when her supervisor pulled her aside to share the tragic news.

"He wanted to warn me before news of his death made the papers. That is when he said, 'Cobra 07T – 1st Sgt. King – was killed,'" Wickes said. "He was part of our family, which made it hard to accept. I never thought that I would hear someone's name that I knew."

"(A) Journal for Jordan" serves as a solemn reminder of the human cost of war from a family's perspective," Donahoe said.

"As a combat leader associated with what happened in Iraq, the book was an incredible window into the other side of warfare we don't often witness," he said.

"To be able to understand the loss and impact that Dana experienced, and how she viewed the impact on Jordan as he would grow up, was truly insightful. It was helpful for me to have a better understanding of the totality of losing a Soldier in combat."

King was a brave and well-trained Soldier – a true professional – who was willing to lead from the front, Donahoe added.

Washington voiced his respect for the military, as he recalled a visit to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, around 2003. In an interview last year, he said he was honored to direct a movie that

HOPEFULLY, THIS MOVIE WILL REMIND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF ALL THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES OUT THERE IN THE WORLD.

Renita Wickes

paid respect to the sacrifice of all service members and their families.

"(Canedy) suffered a tremendous loss," Washington said. "She loved this man, deeply, (and) understood the need to share this story."

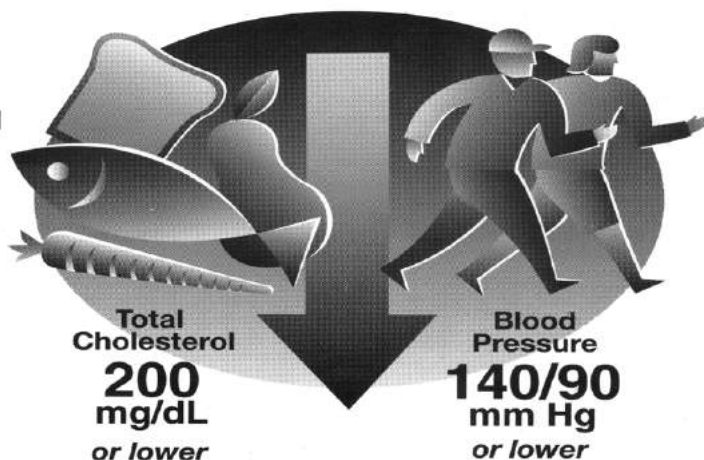
The first sergeant also presented himself as an incredible artist, loving fiancé, and compassionate father, willing to share the lessons he learned in life with his family, Wickes said.

"Hopefully, this movie will remind the American people of all the Gold Star families out there in the world," she added. "There are a lot of children like Jordan (and Christina). Kids who don't get to know who their parent is, because they paid the ultimate sacrifice."

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