

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS HERE"

COVID TOWN
HALLS GOING
MONTHLY

- PAGE 4

SOLDIER AND HE KNOWS IT: DJ TRADES MUSIC FOR ARMY GREENS

- PAGES 10-11



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Reserve CG's nod to women's history with cadet mentorship

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA ESPINOSA**
81st Readiness Division

The 81st Readiness Division commanding general, along with four other Army Reserve general officers, hosted a lunch and learn with cadets at the University of North Georgia March 9.

Maj. Gen. Jami Shawley, the 81st's commanding general, co-hosted the event with the UNG to help guide and mentor the six in-person and 281 virtual cadets with an open dialog of lessons learned and best practices, as well as offered an opportunity for the cadets to ask questions.

Both Shawley and Brig. Gen. Terri Borras, Military Intelligence Readiness Command commanding general, spoke at the event, offering a nod to Women's History Month, while facilitating the meeting to help steer the cadets as they embark on their careers.

In what both speakers described as "luck and timing," the duo shared their personal history in working toward their goals in service and how it reflects on the current gender equality within the ranks.

The hour-long event included vignettes on how best to leverage staff when coming up the ranks, coping with adversity, emotional intelligence, finding strength in crisis and diversity.

"One of the most relied upon lessons I've learned through my time in the Army is compartmentalization," Shawley said, stressing the importance of learning from failures and not placing these items in boxes for later.

See **CADETS:** Page 12



81st Readiness Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Jami Shawley and Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Jay Thomas pause from the lunch and learn event at the University of North Georgia for a photo.

Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA ESPINOSA

ON THE COVER

Pvt. Kenny Oliver, a trainee with 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, relaxes with his platoon moments before the unit's graduation ceremony March 11 at Hilton Field.

SEE PAGES 10-11



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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

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An affirmation for success



Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel T. Hendrex, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's senior enlisted leader, speaks to trainees of 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment March 11 at Hilton Field. Hendrex spoke about what it means to be a Soldier.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

TRADOC CSM tells graduates 'to embody the Army Values on a daily basis'

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The graduation is “not just about the graduates on the field,” said Training and Doctrine Command’s senior enlisted leader Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel T. Hendrex to Family members watching online as 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment Soldiers graduated March 11.

“None of these graduates got here on their own. Their success is not only a testament to the hard work, character and commitment that they bring, but honestly, it’s a testament to you. It’s a testament to the love you gave them.”

Hendrex spoke to the three companies graduating during a tour to Fort Jackson.

He has served in every leadership position from team leader to corps command sergeant major, said Lt. Col. Michael O’Donnell, commander of the 1-34th. Hendrex is responsible for advising the commander on all aspects of Army training and education.

The Norman, Oklahoma native shared advice he received from mentors and noncommissioned officers who between them have been awarded Silver Stars, one Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor.

Among that advice was to stay motivated, volunteer for assignments and be prepared to solve hard problems.

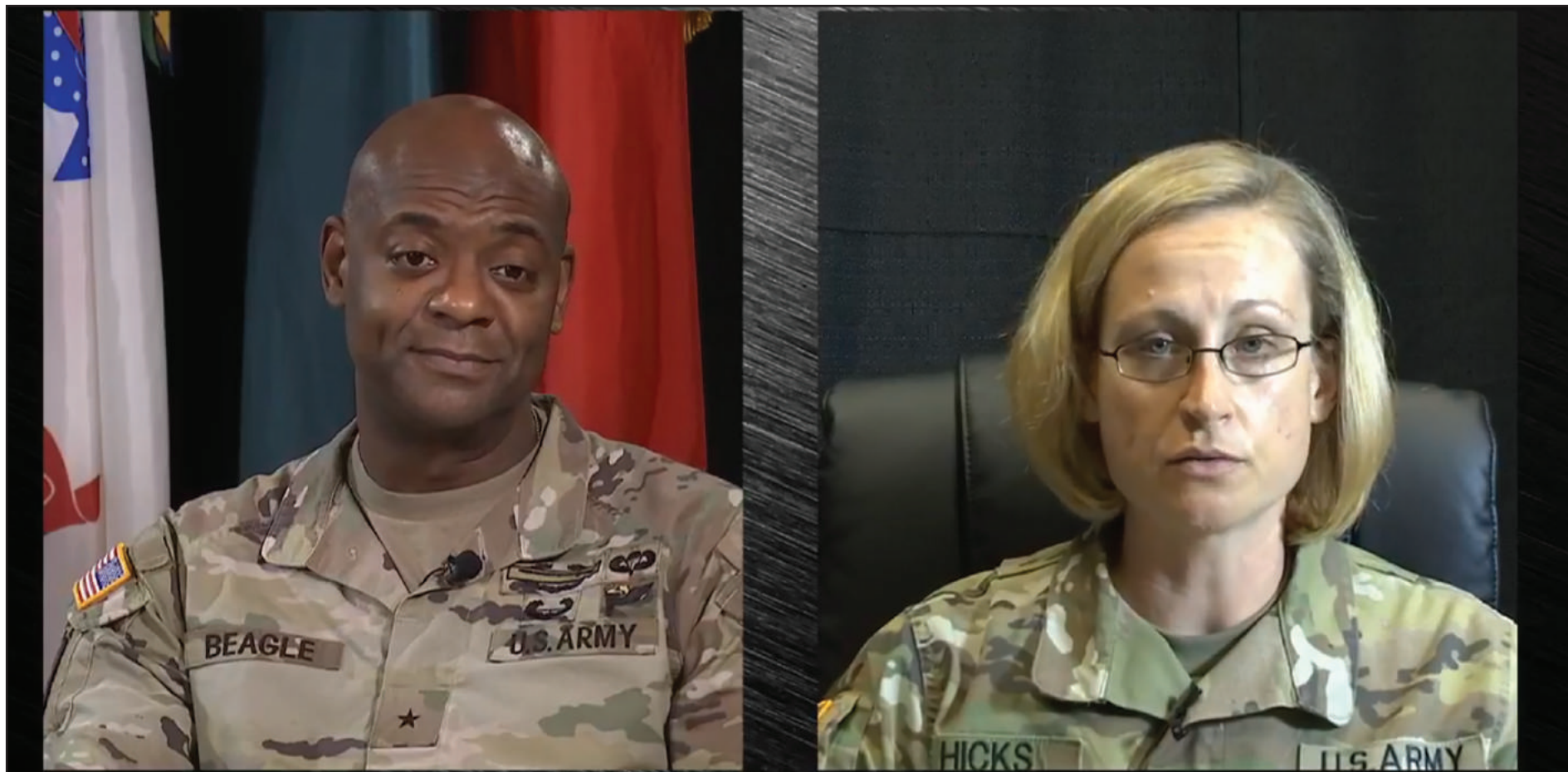
“Don’t ever quit,” Hendrex said. “You will fail, I promise you. Get up and try again. Your reputation, the examples you set will cast long shadows.”

He added the Soldiers will “learn more from your mistakes and misses than your successes. You must maintain a warrior’s mindset in everything you do.”

**YOU WILL FAIL,
I PROMISE YOU.
GET UP AND TRY
AGAIN. YOUR
REPUTATION, THE
EXAMPLES YOU
SET WILL CAST
LONG SHADOWS.**

Command Sgt. Maj.
Daniel Hendrex

See **HENDREX:** Page 17



Screenshot

Brig. Gen. Milford H. 'Beags' Beagle Jr. Fort Jackson commander speaks with Command Sgt. Maj. Erin Hicks, senior enlisted leader for Moncrief Army Health Clinic during the virtual town hall March 11. The once biweekly town halls will now become monthly starting with the next town hall April 1.

COVID town halls going monthly

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

Fort Jackson Commander Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle, Jr. updated the installation during the 32nd Bi-weekly Virtual Town Hall on Special Topics March 11.

Beagle began by explaining what happens when a trainee first arrives to Fort Jackson. He said he has been asked many times "What happens with COVID, what happens when the trainee gets here?"

He walked viewers through the steps a trainee takes while at the 120th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) to include their first COVID test. If they are negative, then they head to their unit. If they have a positive test, they head to isolation for 14 days and once cleared, they go to a basic training unit.

He reiterated trainees get times to call home during these steps.

"We want to make sure everyone under-

stands how to get answers about trainees here at Fort Jackson," Beagle said. Other options beside the town halls include installation's Facebook and Twitter pages and the Digital Garrison app.

The easiest way to get answers to questions and have problems resolved quickly is to go the training units either via phone or through social media.

"We deal with problems every day and we want to resolve them, but the quickest way to get resolution is to start at the bottom and work your way up," Beagle said. He spoke of the average amount of time it takes when a person asks the question at the unit level and then the time that gets added if they start at the top. "If you know the battalion and you know the company, you can get the answer in minutes or hours."

Beagle was joined by Moncrief Army Health Clinic's senior enlisted leader Command Sgt. Maj. Erin Hicks, who offered an update about COVID-19 vaccinations on

post.

"The vaccine is the best single tool to stay safe," Hicks said. "Of the 10,000 doses we have administered right here on Fort Jackson, there have been zero adverse reactions or harm to any of our patients." MAHC will continue to vaccinate on post and the team continues to make appointments with those who are eligible, she added

"When we receive a shipment, we offer (it) to anyone who is currently eligible," she said. "We turn over vaccine within 48 hours of receiving it."

People are encouraged to call (803) 751-9000 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to schedule an appointment. Interested parties can also follow the Moncrief Army Health Clinic on Facebook for updated information on availability and eligibility.

Beagle ended the town hall by announcing town halls will now be held monthly instead of bi-weekly. "I am very grateful for your time," he said. "So we will see you

WE WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS HOW TO GET ANSWERS ABOUT TRAINEES HERE AT FORT JACKSON.

Fort Jackson Commander Brig. Gen. Milford H. Beagle, Jr.

again April 1."

To view the entire town hall, visit <https://www.facebook.com/341086942622944/videos/792344721638906>

(Editor's note: LaTrice Langston and Leslie Ann Sully, from the Fort Jackson Public Affairs Office, also participated in the town hall.)

April is Financial Capability and Military Saves Month

By **KIMBERLY BOTTEMA**
Army Community Service

In 2004, Congress designated April as National Financial Literacy Month, which has evolved into National Financial Capability Month. Each April, federal and state agencies, credit unions, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities take part in this initiative to raise awareness about the importance of financial literacy education in the United States and the consequences that may be associated with a lack of understanding about personal finances.

Being financially capable is having a thorough understanding and ability to manage personal finances in an efficient manner starting with the individual then permeating throughout the community, regardless of demographics or socioeconomic standing. There also needs to be a deeper understanding that everyone is responsible for their own financial freedom and how challenging that is to attain. It's up to all of us to take that step to make the necessary financial/lifestyle changes and develop a long-term plan. To accomplish this, we need to work to educate/empower ourselves with the financial knowledge that will allow us to reach our financial goals and ultimately attain our financial freedom.

Military Saves, a component of America Saves, seeks to motivate, support, and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth. The research-based campaign coordinated by the non-profit Consumer Federation of America, uses the principles of behavioral economics and social marketing to change behavior. As part of Military Saves Month 2021, Fort Jackson's Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program is spreading the message of saving successfully and urging its network to encourage the military community to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth.

See **SAVES:** Page 15



Courtesy photo

Carpool cinema

Fort Jackson's Outdoor Recreation Drive-In Movie night brought 125 patrons in 23 different cars to the Solomon Center to see a movie March 13. The event is one of many planned by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Law enforcement on the lookout for distracted drivers

Fort Jackson Police Department

The Fort Jackson Police Department will join law enforcement agencies nationwide April 8-12, to remind drivers about the dangers and consequences of texting and distracted driving. This annual campaign is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's national U Drive. U Text. U Pay. high-visibility enforcement effort.

According to NHTSA, between 2012 and 2019, 26,004 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver. While fatalities from motor-vehicle crashes decreased slightly from 2018, distraction-related fatalities increased by 10%. NHTSA also reported that the number of deaths linked to driver distraction was 3,142 nationwide, or almost 9% of all fatalities in 2019. This represents a 10% increase over the year 2018, or 284 more fatalities. The distraction figure was the largest increase in causes of traffic deaths reported for 2019.

Millennials and Gen Z are the most distracted drivers, often using their cell phones to talk, text, and scroll through social media while behind the wheel. According to NHTSA research from 2017, young drivers 16 to 24 years old have been observed using handheld electronic devices while driving at higher rates than older drivers since 2007. In 2019, 9% of people killed in teen (15-19) driving



crashes died when the teen drivers were distracted at the time of the crash.

"We aren't out here for the fun of it," said Fort Jackson's Deputy Police Chief Randall McKlin. "Texting, messaging, and other forms of distracted driving are increasing habits that put everyone at risk, even those of us in law enforcement. We want drivers to focus on the most important task: hands on the wheel and eyes on the road."

Violating Fort Jackson's distracted-driving laws can be costly. It can cost drivers \$80 if they are caught texting and driving.

See **DRIVERS:** Page 15

CID LOOKOUT

ON POINT FOR THE ARMY

CID cautions rise of QR code scams

By **RONNA WEYLAND**

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

Behavior changes this past year to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have not been lost on criminals. The Army Criminal Investigation Command's Major Cybercrime Unit is cautioning users to be wary of suspicious quick response codes, known as QR codes.

According to the Major Cybercrime Unit, QR code usage increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While QR codes have been around for years, COVID-19 has led to a more touch-free interaction environment and people are seeing QR codes used more frequently and in new ways, such as in restaurants. The QR code printed on a single-use paper or on a table stand is scanned with a smart phone and replaces the multiple-use paper menu, wine list, or drink menu. With a quick scan, you can pull up a restaurant menu, make a payment, or jump right to a website URL.

Originally developed in the mid-1990s for manufacturing and inventory control, QR codes are seen in many places and used for many reasons. Most often, a QR code looks like randomly placed small black squares arranged in a borderless square. However, QR Codes can be customized with different colors and different backgrounds.

Regardless of how the QR code is deployed, the patron frames it in a smart phone camera to read

it. The cameras on up-to-date smart phones read QR codes natively and open documents.

However, cybercriminals can misuse QR codes. Although not rampant, QR code frauds and thefts are on the rise and developing in numerous ways, according to ThreatPost.com, a website about cyber security.

QR codes can:

- Add nefarious contacts to the contact list.
- Connect the device to a malicious network.
- Send text messages to one or all contacts in a user's address book.
- Complete a telephone call to a telephone number that imposes charges on the calling phone.
- Send a payment to a destination where it cannot be recovered.

The Major Cybercrime Unit warns a basic scam could be perpetrated by printing malicious QR codes on labels and sticking the labels to various publicly accessible surfaces. The curious passerby scans the code and is directed to a malicious website allowing damaging code to be downloaded to their computer or smart phone.

In a more complex scam, the QR codes can be used to make payments for goods and to execute money transfers. This tactic works when a recipient scans a QR code, enters an amount to transfer, and then executes the transaction. The following day, the person making the payments discovers all

their financial accounts have been compromised.

To protect against theft, many of the standard cautions apply:

- Be suspicious of unsolicited offers that seem too good to be true.
- Do not open emails from unknown senders.
- Ignore emails that ask you to provide identifying information (usernames, passwords, dates of birth, etc.).
- Do not access financial accounts by clicking links received in unexpected emails. Rather, use verified links from your bookmarks.

Specific to QR codes:

- Do not scan a randomly found QR code.
- Be suspicious if, after scanning a QR code, a password or login information is requested.
- Do not scan QR codes received in emails unless you know they are legitimate.
- Do not scan a QR code if it is printed on a label and applied atop another QR code. Ask a staff member to verify its legitimacy first. The business might simply have updated what was their original QR code.

For more information about computer security, other computer-related scams, and to review previous cybercrime alert notices and cyber-crime prevention flyers visit the Army CID MCU website at <https://www.cid.army.mil/mcu-advisories.html>. To report a crime to Army CID, visit www.cid.army.mil.

Community Updates

Month of the Military Child

The Fort Jackson Youth Center will host #WEOWNFRIDAY throughout April for middle and high school youth. Every Friday night in April the youth center will stay open until 8 p.m. to celebrate Month of the Military Child. There is no extra charge, but youth are asked to sign up a week before the event to ensure adequate staffing. Each night will have a different theme - April 2: game night, April 9: lip sync battle, April 16: pajama jam, April 23: dance battle; and April 30: MOMC Cook Out. Food will be served. For more information or to register, call the youth center at 751-6387.

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 are 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 Cardholders 18 years of age or older 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.

Citizenship, Immigration Assistance

Army Community Service is offering citizenship and immigration assistance for military and Family members. To learn more, call U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service Contact Center at (800) 375-5283 or online at www.uscis.gov.

Post Newcomers Orientation

9 a.m., Post Theater, 1st Thursday of every month (except federal holidays). The orientation is mandatory for all Soldiers and required for all Department of the Army Civilians arriving to Fort Jackson. It is a great opportunity for spouses to receive first-hand information about the valuable resources on and around Fort Jackson. Please note, everyone in attendance will be required to wear a face mask and will adhere to safe social distancing practices. For more information, call Army Community Service at 751-5256.

ESL Classes

Want to learn how to speak, understand, read, and write English? Classes are being offered to anyone needing basic English language instruction. The classes take place in Southeast Columbia at Richland One Adult Education, 2612 Covenant Rd., Columbia, SC 29204; and in Northeast Columbia at W. R. Rogers Adult, Continuing and Technology Education Center 750 Old Clemson Road, Columbia, SC 29229. For more information, call Army Community Service at 751-5256.

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.

AAFES CLOSURES

Popeyes and Starbucks will close 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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

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 beginning March 11-18. 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 is 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: [\[chamber.com\]\(http://chamber.com\)](mailto:theinquiry@columbia-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

BOSS Game Night

7 p.m. 2447 Bragg Street. Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers will be playing games such as Scategories, Uno, Jenga, pool, spades, catch phrase, and more. The event is also a potluck, so bring a dish to share if you are able to. You do not have to bring an item in order to attend. For more information, contact your unit BOSS representative.

MARCH 26

Volunteer Opportunity

7 a.m. Main Post Chapel. Fort Jackson's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers will be helping out the Religious Support Office to help with weeding, mulching, and other lawn care duties. In addition to volunteering, BOSS also asks that you bring any weed trimmers (with attachments), leaf blowers, rakes, pruning shears, etc. For more information, contact your unit BOSS representative.

MARCH 27

Outdoor Recreation Bonfire Bash

3 p.m. Weston Lake Recreation Area. Family-friendly overnight primitive camping event featuring premade 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 call 751-3484.

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.

Character Development Luncheon

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Family Life Center. The Religious Support Office (RSO) is hosting a Character Development Luncheon. The subject of the luncheon for military leaders is Morality and Personal Ethics. Due to limited space, the maximum number of attendees will be 25. Lunch will be provided free of charge. For more information or to RSVP call 751-3121 not later than close of business March 24.

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

**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.

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. Do you want to gain a better understanding about the different funds and how they can impact your plan for retirement? Learn the differences between Roth and Traditional accounts, avoiding penalties, withdrawals, latest changes and more! Registration is required. For more information, or to register, call 751-5256.

APRIL 23

Family Fun Fair

4:30-6:30 p.m. Patriots Park. Child, Youth Services will celebrate the Month of the Military Child with a Family Fun Fair. For more information, call 751-4869/5384.

'THIS IS MY SQUAD'

2ND BATTALION, 13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

PVT. BETHANY NORDING, 19
Kanab, Utah

"I joined the Army because I love my country."

"Before joining the Army, I imagined Basic Combat Training to be intense like in the movies - painful and dirty."

"The Forge was the most challenging part of Basic Combat Training."

"My MOS is 91M – Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer. I chose this MOS because I love turning wrenches."



PFC. NESSTINIE KELLEY, 20
Shreveport, Louisiana

"My older brother and mother influenced me into joining the Army. I was also motivated to join to further my education."

"I was expecting a shark attack and lots of yelling at the beginning of Basic Combat Training. I was not aware of the new changes."

"My MOS is 92Y – Unit Supply Specialist. I chose this MOS because of my obsession with organizing things and the fact that it can easily be transferred into the civilian world."



SPC. BRETT ROTH, 27
Laramie, Wyoming

"I joined the Army for the opportunity to serve my country, the high respect for those who have served before me (like my dad) and hopes to follow in their footsteps."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be an intense and challenging experience that would promote personal and professional growth."

"During Basic Combat Training I often found myself outside of my comfort zone – it was a challenge testing my confidence and those around me."

"My MOS is 15Q – Air Traffic Control (ATC) Operator. I chose this MOS to diversify my professional career and gain new skills."



PFC. JOSHUA LANGLEY, 31
Boise, Idaho

"My uncle is the biggest factor in my decision to join the Army. He always said it was the best thing he'd done in life."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be tough with discipline and I knew it would be a great opportunity for growth."

"The most challenging part of BCT was working together as one unit, due to many different personalities. It was often difficult to make a unanimous decision."

"My MOS is 92R – Parachute Rigger. I chose this MOS because of the unique opportunities available for schools and to work in the aviation field. I hope to one day become a pilot."



PFC. DELTANN PAPE, 19
Adrian, Michigan

"I joined the Army to improve myself in an enormous way and do something not many can say they have had the opportunity to do."

"Basic Combat Training is nearly what I imagined – a beneficial challenge for myself and a lot of adjusting."

"A challenging part of Basic Combat Training was understanding that as a whole that we're only as strong as our weakest link. I stepped up and tried to push our platoon in the right direction because our weakest link should be one of our strongest."

"My MOS is 68M – Nutrition Care Specialist. I chose this MOS because I've always been interested in the ways the body works and the nutrition aspect of it. This MOS will allow me to assist other Soldiers to become a better version of themselves."



SPC. PHILIP BOOR, 25
Brazil, Indiana

"I joined the Army because I've always had friends and Family in the military that I have always looked up to. I started feeling a real strong call to put my medical skill setting into meaningful use; after conversation with my wife, friends, and Family I decided to join the greatest fighting force this world has ever seen."

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

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be physically and mentally challenging every single day."

"The most challenging part of BCT was mentally managing my frustrations with my peers when they wouldn't follow rules or act as they were told."

"My MOS is 68W – Combat Medic Specialist. I chose this MOS because it was the most relatable job to my civilian career and gave me the best opportunity to really broaden my medical skill set. The MOS will give me a great opportunity to become a flight medic."





Photo by SPC. JOSHUA BARNETT

Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, right, the adjutant general of Maryland, presents a certificate of achievement to Staff Sgt. Rachel Walter, a supply sergeant assigned to the Maryland National Guard, at the Ruhl Armory in Towson, Md., June 5, 2016. Singh, who retired in 2019, was one of the inductees into the Army Women's Foundation's hall of fame during a virtual ceremony March 8.

Trailblazing women honored for storied Army careers

By SEAN KIMMONS
Army News Service

As a senior in college, Mari K. Eder once filed a Freedom of Information Act request to view her academic files.

Once it was approved, she sat in a conference room as she combed through the files, which showed her grades, her dean's list awards, and then a letter from her high school guidance counselor.

The letter shocked Eder, who would later go on to a successful Army career. She would become the first to lead the Army Reserve's Joint and Special Troops Support Command, and the first full-time deputy chief of the Army Reserve and the first full-time deputy chief of Army Public Affairs.

"It said, 'I do not recommend Mari K. to attend any college. She is not intelligent enough to complete it.' And I sat there stunned, because I realized that my whole life had almost ended before it even began," said Eder, now a retired major general.

Later, her college wrote a letter to the guidance counselor,

who Eder was also able to confront.

"But that lesson stayed with me – 1,000 people can say 'no' to you, but all it takes is one who says 'yes.' And Edinboro University of Pennsylvania said 'yes' to me," she said.

Eder and five other pioneering female Army leaders, in addition to the 4,000 women of the Office of Strategic Services, were inducted into the Army Women's Foundation's hall of fame during a virtual ceremony March 8. Members of the OSS served in World War II as spies, saboteurs, analysts and experts in communications, among other skill sets.

After college, the Army provided Eder with her second break to succeed in life, she said.

"What the Army has given me, I believe, is more than I have given back," she said. "I have had tremendous opportunities to travel, to command and to give that same opportunity to others.

"The only thing that I have ever wanted to do was to leave a legacy of people who are able to go on, who have been given an opportunity to excel, to succeed and to make a difference in the lives of everyone they meet."

Marcia M. Anderson, the Army's first Black female Re-

serve officer to obtain the rank of major general, also spent her career trying to help others achieve their potential.

"It's not about who you are. It's about what you can do for the people and the institution you serve," said Anderson, who is now retired. "And that's all I ever tried to do in my entire career, was to honor my oath, to take care of my Soldiers, and to make sure that I was mission focused.

"I hope my example and the examples of previous recipients will continue to encourage, motivate and empower our young women to continue to strive to be the best they can be."

Former Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh thanked the Army recruiter who took the time to speak with her in 1981, even though she was a high school dropout at the time.

His persistence to recruit her helped "a young girl who seemed to be lost, homeless and needing someone to guide her," said Singh, who retired in 2019 after being the Maryland Guard's first African-American and first woman adjutant general.

See **WOMEN:** Page 17



Photo by REBEKAH O'DONNELL

Pvt. Kenny Oliver, who created songs with dance music duo LMFAO and other big names in the past decade, recently graduated Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson.

SOLDIER AND HE KNOWS IT: DJ TRADES MUSIC FOR ARMY GREENS

By REBEKAH O'DONNELL
Special to the Leader

Pvt. Kenny Oliver who recently graduated Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, with the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment also has another title ... DJ Kenny Oliver.

He once had a successful music career creating and producing tracks for the group LMFAO, will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas and other big names in the music industry, but he traded them in for Army Greens.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, shutting down events and venues worldwide, 29-year-old Oliver, who likes to challenge himself, decided to join the Army.

"Music is something that I've done for most of my life – for over 10 years now," he said. "Last year was definitely a year of not really doing much because of COVID. Since my career has to do with DJing at events and venues ... it kind of gave me more time to just be at home and work on music, but at the same time reflect on what I want to do with my life as well.

"I love music; I'll always love it; I'll always make it, but I felt like I wanted to get a significant change in my life," he added "And I thought that joining the Army would be a good idea to make that happen and so far it has been."

Hailing from Moreno Valley, Calif., Oliver credits his parents for his love of music because of the wide range of genres they would listen to as he was growing up.

"My parents are Mexican so they'd listen to Spanish music or even rock or Nirvana, Metallica," he said. "They just would listen to everything, so growing up listening to all kinds of music just made me love music. It made me love it so much that when I had a computer when I was a teenager I discovered music-making programs. I just fell in love with making music."

However, he said his parents were surprised when he told them of his decision to join the Army.

"They were both taken back by it because I'm a musician, so they just felt that if I wanted to do something, I could be doing something else," Oliver said. "I think that every parent has that fear, you know, every time you think about any military branch you think about war and violence, so they were worried. Once I made the decision and I talked to them along the way (throughout BCT) with the weekly phone calls, they felt more at ease knowing that I'm doing good, and that I'm still here and not feeling down about my decision. So that makes them feel more at ease."

Though he is proud of his music career, Oliver is still humble and not boastful. Going into training, he said he didn't intend on telling anyone. He wanted to be just another one of



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Pvt. Kenny Oliver (second from the left), a trainee with 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, stands in formation during his unit's graduation ceremony March 11 at Hilton Field on Fort Jackson. Oliver, who will be going to Advanced Individual Training to be a Religious Affairs Specialist, traded a prestigious music career for Army Greens.

the trainees and not be in the spotlight.

However, on Day One his cover was blown by one of the drill sergeants during reception.

"So we were at the chapel just waiting to get processed ... and he just walked into that chapel and said 'DJ, where are you?'" he said. "And I just thought he was talking about some person named DJ; I didn't know it was me. So then, he mentions 'LMFAO, you know who you are. Stand up!'"

Word spread quickly, and the cadre at Delta Company, 1-34 Infantry Battalion knew about him too, but he took it all in stride. Oliver "was grounded and very open minded," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Finnerty, one of his drill sergeants. "He was

quiet and didn't act like someone who had notoriety

"Once I got here to my company, they knew as well, but it took like three or four weeks for them to mention anything," Oliver says. "But it's been fun getting, not made fun of, but just teasing me about that. It's been funny."

A self-described "lone wolf" Oliver says going from living alone to living in the bay with 40 other guys has made him more open minded and social, and he enjoyed learning of the other trainees' backgrounds.

"It's also been a great experience in itself being surrounded by people from all backgrounds," he said. "Everyone has their own story, so that aspect has been amazing as well."

I LOVE MUSIC; I'LL ALWAYS LOVE IT; I'LL ALWAYS MAKE IT, BUT I FELT LIKE I WANTED TO GET A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN MY LIFE.

Pvt. Kenny Oliver

He was also impressed to see their growth from day one to graduation day. "It impacts me because I was a very solitary person where I just don't see that, so just being around people and seeing that it impacts me too makes me want to be better and makes me also grow. It's been amazing."

Prior to BCT, Oliver turned to YouTube to try to get a sense of what he could expect his experience to be, but found in reality it was different.

"Before Basic I had this perception in my mind based on YouTube videos that it was going to be non-stop yelling by the drill sergeants, non-stop just in your face every day," he said, "I guess that stood out to me that the drill sergeants aren't just yelling machine robots, they're humans that want to teach you so that you can get better."

Oliver praised his drill sergeants Staff Sgt. Joseph Finnerty, Sgt. Michael Creer and Staff Sgt. Eloisa Seabrooks as "good drill sergeants," and enjoyed his battle buddies and platoon.

While the Army will be his primary job, Oliver said he will continue to make music in his free time. "When I have my days off I'm definitely going to be still working on music, still putting out music. I'll still be active with my career and music for sure."

Following graduation, Oliver headed to the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School on post for Advanced Individual Training where he will train as a Religious Affairs Specialist.



Photos by SGT. 1ST CLASS JESSICA ESPINOSA

Roughly 300 University of North Georgia cadets participated in a lunch and learn March 9, where reserve general officers mentored them. The hour-long event included vignettes on how best to leverage staff when coming up the ranks, coping with adversity, emotional intelligence, finding strength in crisis and diversity.

Cadets

Continued from Page 2

“Not a great tool for emotional resiliency ... What will happen is they will all tumble down and you will fail at a critical moment and you will never see it coming,” Shawley said.

Borras agreed, adding that emotional intelligence held a level of grit, perseverance and commitment.

“Your training is going to kick in and your ‘personal self’ is going to drive you to that successful moment that you need to have as a leader,” Borras said. “Sometimes you can do everything right and it still won’t work out. It’s driving past that to really look at: what is the impact to myself, what is the impact to my soldiers and what are we going to do about it from there.”

Joining in offering advice were: Maj. Gen. John H. Phillips, 335th Theater Signal Command; Maj. Gen. Rich C. Staats, 75th Innovation Command; and the Chief of Cyber and Commandant of the U.S. Army Cyber School, Brig. Gen. Paul G. Craft. Each offered their own personal stories to help better shape the cadets.

“Greatness will always bubble to the surface – always,” Borras said. “It doesn’t matter what you look like – it’s about competence, it’s about responsibility, it’s about your leadership. That’s the great thing about the Army... It will give you that platform.”

Outside of the lunch and learn, general officers were able to collaborate on the future of the UNG program during virtual and breakout meetings, as well as held a promotion ceremony for the UNG Army Reserve Recruiting Liaison for the 81st RD, Maj. Caitlin Demarest Hirsch.

For more photos of the event go to www.flickr.com/photos/81stwildcats.



UNG Army Reserve Recruiting Liaison for the 81st RD, Maj. Caitlin Demarest Hirsch, gets pinned by her husband during her promotion ceremony March 9.

Saluting this BCT cycle's honorees

DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE



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Joshua Cruz**
Alpha Company
2nd Battalion, 13th
Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Bethany Nording

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Spc. Brett Roth



WASHINGTON

**Sgt. 1st Class
Adrian Washington**
Bravo Company
2nd Battalion, 13th
Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Lehi Larger

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Nesstinie Kelley



ESPINOSA

**Staff Sgt.
Robert Espinosa**
Charlie Company
2nd Battalion, 13th
Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. McKenna Martin

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Joshua Langley



KANE

**Staff Sgt.
James Kane**
Delta Company
2nd Battalion, 13th
Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Samuel Farris

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Deltann Pape



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**Sgt. 1st Class
Randall Mussellman**
Foxtrot Company
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SPORTS HEROES WHO SERVED: Undeclared boxing champ served in World War II

By **DAVID VERGUN**
DOD News Service

Rocky Marciano is the only heavyweight professional boxer to have finished his career undefeated. He also holds the record for the highest knockout-to-win ratio in world heavyweight title fights at 85.71%.

Marciano gave himself his name because his real name, Rocco Francis Marchegiano, was said to be hard to pronounce by boxing promoters and sports-casters. Both of his parents were immigrants from Italy.

In March 1943, he was drafted into the Army to serve in World War II. He was stationed in Wales in the United Kingdom where he helped ferry supplies across the English Channel to Normandy, France, after the June 6, 1944 invasion.

While awaiting discharge, Marciano represented the Army and won the 1946 Amateur Armed Forces Boxing Tournament. In March 1946, he received an honorable discharge at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he was stationed.

On Sept. 23, 1952, Marciano, then 29, took on the World Heavyweight Champion Joe Walcott in Philadelphia. Throughout most of the fight, Walcott was ahead on points and even dropped Marciano in the first round.

But in round 13, Marciano knocked out Walcott and became the new heavyweight champion.

Some thought Marciano couldn't repeat his performance, so the two had a rematch on May 15, 1953, in Chicago. This time, Marciano knocked out Walcott in the first round.

Marciano's next win came in New York City against Roland La Starza on Sept. 24, 1953. In the 11th round, Marciano was victorious with a technical knockout.

The next two bouts were against former World Heavyweight Champion Ezzard Charles. Marciano won the first fight on points at Yankee Stadium in New York City on June 17, 1954.

They had a rematch on Sept. 17, 1954, at the same venue. This time, Marciano knocked out Charles in round eight.

On May 16, 1955, in San Francisco, Marciano went up against Don Cockell from the United Kingdom, who was also the boxing champion of Europe. Marciano knocked him out in round nine.

Marciano's last fight was against Archie Moore on Sept. 21, 1955, at Yankee Stadium. Marciano knocked him out in round nine.

On April 27, 1956, Marciano announced his retirement at age 32, finishing his career at 49-0.

After his retirement, Marciano hosted a weekly



Photo courtesy City of Boston Archives

Above, Rocky Marciano, left; Boston Mayor John F. Collins, center; and actor/musician Jimmy Durante pose for a photo in Boston in 1968. Below, Marciano poses for a photo sometime between 1952 and 1955 at his training camp in Grossinger, N.Y.

boxing show on TV in 1961; he later appeared in the TV series "Combat!" in an episode titled "Masquerade."

He had a number of other jobs, including becoming a business partner and vice president of Papa Luigi Spaghetti Dens, a San Francisco-based franchise.

In July 1969, he and heavyweight boxing champion Muhammed Ali, starred in the film "The Superfight: Marciano vs. Ali."

On Aug. 31, 1969, Marciano was a passenger in a private plane that crashed in bad weather at a small airfield near Newton, Iowa. Everyone on board was killed. Marciano was 45.

(Editor's Note: More articles about sports heroes who served can be found at www.defense.gov.)



Photo courtesy of Rocky Marciano

Army aggressively working to eliminate extremism, says chief diversity officer

By **THOMAS BRADING**
Army News Service

As the Army continues efforts to improve diversity within its ranks, it is also reinforcing policies to eradicate extremist behaviors and activities.

The battle against extremism is different from other challenges the Army encounters, said Col. Timothy Holman, the Army's chief diversity officer. Extremism can tear apart cohesive teams.

For the colonel, the fight against extremism is one he personally encountered. His aim is clear: do what he can to help open a path for future Army leaders and make the force as diverse as the nation it defends.

"My hope is to ensure better representation of our country among the senior ranks," he said.

As a child in Mississippi during the early 1960s, Holman, an African-American, witnessed the tail-end of an era plagued by racially-motivated murders based on skin color. People such as Emmett Till in 1955; Medgar Evers in 1963; Vernon Dahmer in 1966; and others whose names history may never know, were all killed in areas near Holman's hometown.

"Growing up in a little bitty segregated Mississippi town, it was not uncommon for people to call you derogatory terms, and nothing would happen (to them)," he said. "It was a place where people said, 'Hey, you can't come to this side of town after dark because of the color of your skin.'"

Clear-cut rules

The Army's policy bans all personnel from

MY HOPE IS TO ENSURE BETTER REPRESENTATION OF OUR COUNTRY AMONG THE SENIOR RANKS.

Col. Timothy Holman

participating in extremist organizations and activities, Holman said. Organizations and activities in which personnel are prohibited from participating include those that advocate, among other things: racial intolerance or discrimination; use of force to deprive individuals of their constitutional rights; and advocating or teaching the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Prohibited actions in support of extremist organizations or activities include, but are not limited to, participating in a public demonstration or rally; attending a meeting or activity with knowledge that it involves an extremist cause; fundraising; and recruiting, training, or organizing members of extremist organizations.

In other words, extremism in any form has no place in the military, the colonel said.

Ideally, extremism would not exist any-

where, but Holman is very familiar with extremism after growing up in rural Mississippi during the civil rights movement.

For two decades, he endured unmistakable racism. He feared things others may take for granted, like walking through certain areas after certain hours.

When he raised his right hand and swore to defend the Constitution under the Army cloth, the young lieutenant encountered a culture shock. "How does (my past) go away when someone says, 'in the Army, it doesn't work the way it does in Mississippi,'" he said.

"I had to learn (the Army's) value system," he continued. "What I endured in rural Mississippi is not acceptable in the Army. It was hard to turn that switch on."

As an engineer officer, there were many times Holman served as the only Black officer leading white Soldiers, who looked like the individuals who once oppressed him. "It was a culture shock," he said.

Over the years, the Army, as well as the nation, has made great strides with diversity, he said. However, he continued, the Army must invest in teaching Soldiers that what they may have learned at their house, or the environment from which they came, may not comport with the Army values.

Army policies

In July, service leaders updated Army Regulation 600-20, or Army Command Policy, which prescribes policy prohibiting participation in extremist organizations and activities, specifically addressing cyber activities.

See **DIVERSITY**: Page 19

Saves

Continued from Page 5

This year's weekly themes are: saving automatically, saving for the unexpected, saving to retire, saving by reducing debt, and saving as a family.

In 2020 Fort Jackson Savers was number one in savers pledges. Fort Jackson had 480 total pledges in the amount of \$2,909,356 and the average pledge was \$6,061.65. The average amount saved per month is \$272.63, over a period of just over 20 months.

Please take time to take the pledge to save. Take the pledge by going online to MilitarySaves.org and click the Pledge to Save link or you can simply text JacksonSaves to 877877 and take the pledge.

To help educate our community for the month of April DFM-WR/ACS is hosting three virtual events specifically tailored to our Fort Jackson community: Do it Yourself Credit Repair from 2-3 p.m. April 6; Social Security Benefits from 2-3:30 p.m. April 13; and Thrift Savings Plan from 2-3:30 p.m. April 20.

To schedule an appointment or register for a class, call 751-5256. To get additional information on the Financial Readiness Program or for all Army Community Service programs follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/fortjacksonacs/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/fjfinancial-read>).

Drivers

Continued from Page 5

Many drivers are guilty of a "double standard" when it comes to distracted driving. In its 2018 Traffic Safety Culture Index, the AAA Foundation reported that while nearly 96% of drivers believed it was very or extremely dangerous to read a text or email while driving, four out of 10 drivers admitted to

doing so within the previous 30 days.

Drive safe every trip

Fort Jackson officials and NHTSA urge drivers to put their phones away when behind the wheel. If you need to text, pull over and do not drive while doing so. If you are the driver, follow these steps for a safe driving experience:

■ If you are expecting a text message or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location. Once you are safely off the road and parked, it is safe to text.

■ Ask your passenger to be your "designated texter." Allow

them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.

■ Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.

■ Cell phone use is habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Activate your phone's "Do Not Disturb" feature, or put your phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of your vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

Texting while driving is dangerous and illegal. No text or post is worth ruining someone's day — or taking a life. Remember: U Drive. U Text. U Pay. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/distracted-driving.

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Hendrex

Continued from Page 3

Soldiers must lead from the front to be good leaders, he emphasized.

“Always, always lead from the front, it’s everything,” he said. “Focus on those things that matter: fitness, values, training and humility.”

Hendrex also reminded them to not fear bringing up

their faults and to never be the crab “... don’t go sideways, don’t go backwards, only move forward. You must be honest in everything you do.”

He summed up his advice by saying, “You’ve got to embody the Army Values on a daily basis.

“Use every opportunity to build that trust with your peers, your leaders, nurture that trust; it’s everything that will serve you and your Soldiers, not only today but through your entire Army career.”

Women

Continued from Page 9

“He gave me the opportunity to serve 38 years in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve,” she added. “How does that happen when you come in as a private E-1 and you retire as a major general, leading the organization that took you off the streets?”

She said much of her strength to push through adversity came from her

grandmother, who raised her for the first nine years of her life.

“She just did an amazing job. And she never ever told me that being a girl you couldn’t do anything. She always said to me being a girl you can do anything that you want – just don’t take your shirt off like the boys,” Singh said, laughing. “So that gave me a really good start.”

The other hall of fame inductees included:

■ Retired Col. Christine “Nickey” Knighton, the first woman to command a tactical combat arms battalion in 1996. She was also the second

African-American woman pilot in the armed forces.

■ Retired Lt. Col. Francoise B. Bonnell, who is the Army’s recognized authority in women’s military history and former director of the U.S. Army Women’s Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia.

■ Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gretchen Evans, who is a combat veteran, mentor, coach, and community activist. Prior to her combat injury and subsequent retirement from the Army, she was responsible for more than 30,000 ground troops in Afghanistan.

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Talent management will lead Army's push to diverse leadership, says CSA

By **DEVON SUITS**
Army News Service

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville continued to emphasize the need for proper talent management to increase diversity at all levels to ensure the right person is put into the best position to meet the needs of the force.

The recent nomination of Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson for appointment to the most senior general grade, combined with the Army's push to retain a diverse group of talented personnel, in this case women, is a step in the right direction, McConville said during a Defense Writers Group virtual event March 11.

Richardson is currently the U.S. Army North commanding general at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. If confirmed, Richardson will become the commander of U.S. Southern Command and will be the second female Soldier to reach the four-star rank.

Retired Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody was the first and only female service member to attain a fourth star in 2008.

The Army is changing, McConville said, as he recalled the day he selected Richardson to become his deputy G-3 with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) over two Soldiers with Ranger experience.

Richardson's potential promotion to the next rank, coupled with her experience in the combat arms as an aviation officer, is a posi-

tive move forward, McConville said, as he reflected on being the first aviator appointed to his current position.

"I'm extremely proud of the 185,000 women who serve with distinction every single day in the U.S. Army," McConville said. "There have been millions who served in the past and every single conflict since the Revolutionary War."

As a brigade commander with the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq in 2004, McConville recalled the dedication of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cindy Rozelle, who led a team of AH-64 Apaches to save an outpost from being overrun.

"I don't remember anyone questioning her gender after she saved their lives," he said. "There are tons of stories that can be told like that. And I'm just very proud of all the women that serve in the Army, including those in my family."

McConville's wife is a former officer and registered dietitian, while his daughter, an Army captain, currently serves as a clinical social worker. He also mentioned his two great-aunts, who drove trucks in the Pacific theater during World War II.

McConville said there is a need to put "people first" by implementing a 21st century talent management process to acquire, employ and retain personnel. Goals outlined under the Army People Strategy look to deliberately



Photo by PFC. LUIS SANTIAGO

Sgt. Keana Hodgemire, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, stands outside an M-109 Paladin waiting for a fire mission during an artillery qualification training exercise on the Dona Ana Range Complex, New Mexico, March 8.

manage talent by recognizing each individual's unique knowledge, skills, and behaviors.

Initiatives like the Army Talent Alignment Process, the commander assessment program for sergeants major, lieutenant colonels and colonels, and other systems are already in place to provide Soldiers more flexibility and predictability throughout their career.

Through proper talent management, the Army could see its first female Army chief of staff within the next 20 years, McConville said.

"We are in a war for talent, and we're going after the best and brightest," he said. "And we are going to do what it takes to keep them in the Army."

Diversity

Continued from Page 15

AR 600-20 clearly articulates that personnel are responsible for the content they publish on all personal and public internet domains to include social media sites, blogs, and other websites; and participation in internet sites sponsored by extremist organizations and activities is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service.

If individuals violate these rules they may be subject to criminal and administrative consequences, and Army personnel are urged to speak up if they notice these violations, Holman said.

Additionally, AR 381-12, the Threat Awareness and Reporting Program, or TARP, describes indicators of extremist activity. TARP training, which is conducted by Army counterintelligence agents, is designed to en-

sure personnel understand and report, among other things, incidents and indicators of attempted or actual extremist activities directed against the Army and its personnel.

All Army personnel will receive TARP training within 30 days of assignment or employment to an organization and will undergo live environment TARP training at least annually.

The Army also created iSALUTE and iWATCH Army, which are programs designed to facilitate reporting suspicious behavior. iSALUTE is an Army counterintelligence reporting program that permits personnel to report threat incidents, extremist behavioral indicators, and other counterintelligence matters. iWATCH Army is an anti-terrorism awareness program that includes materials and resources to help families identify and report indicators of potential terrorist activity.

According to the Office of the Provost Marshal General, suspicious behavior or actions of a person, or group of people, should be reported. There are numerous means of reporting:

the chain of command, local law enforcement, iSALUTE, and the Insider Threat Hub, among others. If the actions of the person or group are life threatening, call emergency responders and/or 911.

Steps in the right direction

As part of the Project Inclusion initiative, Army leaders initiated a listening tour, titled "Your Voice Matters," which aims to cultivate a culture built on trust, Holman said.

During the listening tour, Army leaders take note of the concerns pertaining to "racism, diversity, equity, inclusion, extremism, quality of life, whatever Soldiers have on their minds," Holman said.

Project Inclusion, which began during the summer, is an effort to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion across the force while building cohesive teams. "This holistic effort will listen to Soldiers and Army civilians, and identify any practices that inadvertently discriminate," he said.

Extremism has frequently been a topic of

discussion during the "Your Voice Matters" listening sessions, which are sometimes held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is a topic from which the diversity chief does not shy away.

"We have to (address) these issues, move toward diversity, and understand how people who might join the Army with extremist views are redirected," he said. "It's in line with what Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville said, 'people first.'"

Modernization is critical; however, the Army's people will operate the equipment and make it work, Holman said. If the psychological safety of a fighting force prevents it from being its best, then the mission will fail.

"When the chief of staff touts 'people first,' that is reflected in eradication of any extremism within the ranks," he said. "Extremism will only limit or prohibit building the cohesive teams the Army needs. If that's the case, it doesn't matter how good your equipment is, if the soul of the force isn't operating at an optimal level."

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