

THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 2021

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY ... STARTS

EARRINGS,  
PONYTAILS AND  
MORE: BIG CHANGES  
ARE COMING  
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**WE'RE HERE**  
**STUDENTS HEAD BACK TO**  
**SCHOOL — PAGE 3**



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# Blood drive 'makes a difference'

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**  
Fort Jackson Public Affair

Members of the Fort Jackson community stopped by the NCO Club Monday morning to donate blood at a Community Blood Drive.

These drives are “typically held every two months,” said Will Sexton, Fort Jackson fire inspector and volunteer who set up the drive. “A person can donate every 64 days, so we have to hold (a drive) every two months in order to maximize a person’s opportunities to donate blood.”

There are some restrictions set by the Federal Drug Administration for who can donate blood at the drive, which was open to anyone who could access Fort Jackson.

Donating blood “is literally the least you can do,” Sexton said. “You have a good time and your blood can help up to three people. Of all the eligible people in the United States, I think only 19% donate blood.

“There is a constant need for blood, and not just for people who are victims of trauma or other accidents,” he added.

According to the American Red Cross every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood.

See **BLOOD:** Page 9



Photo by **ROBERT TIMMONS**

**Maj. Gen. Jami C. Shawley, 81st Readiness Division commander, watches as David Beale a volunteer with the American Red Cross prepares to insert a needle into her arm during the Community Blood Drive Jan. 25 at the NCO Club on post.**

## ON THE COVER

**Marilyn Rivera, a third grader with C.C. Pinckney Elementary School, uses hand sanitizer as she enters the school Jan. 25 for the first day of face-to-face teaching since March 2020.**



Photo by **JOSIE CARLSON**

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

**Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207**

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# Fort Jackson students head back to school

## Leader Staff Reports

Students at Department of Defense Education Activity Schools on Fort Jackson crossed the threshold and returned to school Monday after nearly 10 months away due to COVID-19 precautions.

“Today was the first day in over 10 months that these hallways were not quiet and the chairs in classrooms were not empty,” said C.C. Pinckney Elementary School Principal Ryan Smith on social media. “It was a great day, thanks to an amazing staff and awesome students.”

Each school is using protocols following Department of Defense and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. These include social distancing, wearing a cloth face covering, proper hand washing and hand sanitizing stations around campus.

Both schools posted video clips on their Facebook pages illustrating how learning can be safe.

Pierce Terrace Elementary School officials urged children to bring their own water bottles to school because it has a water bottle refill stations in every grade level neighborhood and in common areas. The school is broken down into grade areas or neighborhoods.

One of the Pierce Terrace videos show how students will follow blue stickers on the ground directing them to their grade level neighborhoods and to the cafeteria, while another showed how they unpack their back packs in cubbie holes and move to their desks.

To learn more about how the schools are keeping safe visit their Facebook pages at:

<https://www.facebook.com/dodeaPierceTerraceES> and <https://www.facebook.com/DoDEAPinckneyES>



**Above, a C.C. Pinckney Elementary School faculty member watches to ensure students are using hand sanitizer Jan. 25 as they enter the facility for the first day back since March 2020. Below, third grade teacher Jennifer McMichael watches as students file down the hallways at C.C. Pinckney.**

*Photos by JOSIE CARLSON*

### Pierce Terrace Elementary School hours

Grade	Regular hours	Thursday hours
K-2	8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.	8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Pre K – AM session	8-10:30 a.m.	8-10:05 a.m.
Pre K – PM session	12:15-2:45 p.m.	11:25 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Breakfast 7:15 -7:45 a.m.		

### C.C. Pinckney Elementary School hours

School hours	Regular hours	Thursday hours
Office Hours	7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Students	7:55 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.	7:55 a.m. to 1:25 p.m.

Thursdays are early release days for both schools



# Biden administration overturns transgender exclusion policy

By **JIM GARAMONE**  
DOD News Service

President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order overturning the previous administration's ban on the service of transgender individuals in the military.

"America is stronger, at home and around the world, when it is inclusive," states a White House news release. "The military is no exception."

The order affects the Defense Department and the Department of Homeland Security for actions with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III fully supports President Biden's decision. In a written statement he said that all transgender individuals "who wish to serve in the United States military and can meet the appropriate standards shall be able to do so openly and free from discrimination."

The secretary insisted the change is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing. In this, he echoed the White House statement that "the all-volunteer force thrives when it is composed of diverse Americans who can meet the rigorous standards for military service, and an inclusive military strengthens our national security."

"The United States armed forces are in the business of defending our fellow citizens from our enemies, foreign and domestic," Austin said. "I believe we accomplish that mission more effectively when we represent all our fellow citizens. I also believe we should avail ourselves of the best possible talent in our population, regardless of gender identity. We would be rendering ourselves less fit to the task if we excluded from our ranks people who meet our standards and who have the skills and the devotion to serve in uniform."

The secretary told the military departments to immediately ensure individuals who identify as transgender are eligible to enter and serve in their self-identified gender.

In the order, Biden directed the defense secretary and the secretary of homeland security to ensure that all directives, orders, regulations and policies of their respective departments are consistent with the new order.

“  
America is stronger,  
at home and  
around the world,  
when it is inclusive.”

— White House  
news release

See **POLICY:** Page 19



Screenshot

Fort Jackson Commander Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr. speaks during Jan. 21 virtual town hall meeting on the results of the Command Climate Survey conducted at the end of 2020. Beagle said volunteer "Tiger Teams" will consult on the results of the survey as action plans are devised.

## Fort Jackson commander shares climate survey results

By **WALLACE McBRIDE**  
Fort Jackson Leader

Fort Jackson Commander Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr. held a virtual town hall meeting Jan. 21 to discuss the results of the Command Climate Survey conducted at the end of 2020.

The survey was designed to gather information on issues ranging from perceptions of inequity to organizational effectiveness. The findings will be used to create action plans, including the creation of volunteer "Tiger Teams" to consult on key areas.

Beagle explained the results from the survey during the online briefing, saying that while the survey results were mostly positive, there were areas that needed improvement. Participation in the survey is a significant factor in solving these problems, he said.

"We won't know about our environ-

ment unless you let us know how our environment is and where we stand," Beagle said. "That's what a command climate survey does for us."

"This is only step one," he said.

Participation with the Command Climate Survey has risen since 2016 from 22 to 28%, but the path between those points has been indirect. Participation dropped in 2018 to 13% before rebounding the following year to 24%. Declining participation rates are often a message for leadership about how survey results are handled, Beagle said.

"You can get an indication the next time you do a survey what occurs if things are not done quickly," he said. If people who give their time to complete a survey feel their concerns aren't being addressed, Beagle cautioned, participation numbers will likely decline.

"We get your feedback, and then what do we do?" he asked. During an online

### TIGER TEAM INFO

For more information on Tiger Teams contact your Equal Opportunity representative. Upcoming sessions take place 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 1, 8, 15.

town hall meeting last August, the Fort Jackson community was briefed about the goals and intentions of the Command Climate Survey. The survey began circulating in September and October, with last week's presentation serving as the start of senior leaders addressing the results.

"As a collective team ... we have done a phenomenal job across a lot of different areas," Beagle said. The installation has shown improvement since 2018 in most areas of organizational effectiveness.

See **SURVEY:** Page 19

# Webinar discusses TSP strategies

By **JOSIE CARLSON**  
Fort Jackson Leader

Fort Jackson's Army Community Service presented a webinar on the Thrift Savings Plan for service members and federal civilian employees Jan. 25.

The goal of the webinar was to give attendees a better understanding of the TSP program, discuss the difference between Roth and Traditional accounts, how to avoid penalties, and many more tips and resources.

Angela R. Crosland, Financial Readiness Program Manager, Army Community Service, said that ACS has something for everyone.

"Regardless of age or where you are in your career, how you manage your finances can impact financial stability," Crosland said.

"We at ACS offer classes and counseling every step of the way," she added. "From basic classes such as budgeting and money management to more advanced class such as investing

and estate planning, we try to build financial resilience and help Soldiers maintain mission readiness. We will tailor classes to meet your needs."

The webinar went into detail on subjects such as how to maximize your contribution and the rules for contributing. Attendees also learned the various things that can affect your TSP balance at retirement such as how long you make contributions; how much you contribute; and different asset allocation strategies.

Slides also covered investment considerations, different types of loans and withdrawals, and ended with tips and resources available.

Anyone interested in learning more can go directly to the TSP website, [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) or call (877) YOU-FRST/ (877)968-3778.

Upcoming classes offered by ACS include Money and Mindset, Feb. 9, and Love and Money Matters, Feb. 11.

For more information and to register, call 751-5256.

## TSP RESOURCES

TSP Web Site: [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov)

Thrift Line: 877-YOU-FRST/ 877-968-3778

Army Benefits Center (ABC) and Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) (Civilians)

ACS: (803) 751-5256



## PLEDGE TO SAVE

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# Earrings, ponytails and more: big changes are coming

**By JOSIE CARLSON**  
Fort Jackson Leader

The Army's top enlisted Soldier led a panel discussing upcoming changes to the service's regulation on grooming standards Jan. 26.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston was joined by Army G1 Policy Branch Sgt. Maj. Bryan Sanders, and Sgt. Maj. Mark Anthony Clark from the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (G-1) in a live town hall via Facebook to discuss major updates to Army Regulation 670-1 and new Army grooming standards.

According to Facebook, the video had 170,000 views, over 9,000 comments and 2,000 shares.

In his opening remarks Grinston said he was excited about the discussion. "This is how we put people first, we hear from our Soldiers," he said, "... and we look at the changes we need to make."

“

This is how we put people first, we hear from our Soldiers.

— Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston

”

"This is about an Army standard, and how we move forward with the Army and being a more diverse, inclusive team. We take recommendations from our Soldiers and then we move forward with those recommendations," Grinston said.

In a press release from the Army, Lt. Gen. Gary Brito, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel said, "The Army must continue

to put people first by fostering a culture of trust that accepts the experiences and backgrounds of every Soldier and civilian. Our diverse workforce is a competitive advantage, and the Army must continue to offer fair treatment, access and opportunity across the force."

Even though the new AR 670-1 and Department of the Army Pamphlet 670-1 are available for download through the Army Publishing Directorate, Clark reminded viewers that it will be 30 days for the regulation to become effective. "The purpose behind that is to allow for Soldiers and leaders to read through the regulation ... it gives the organization 30 days to get within compliance of the new guidance."

Also, in order to not delay publishing any further, some changes will be published separately in an ALARACT message following the publication of AR 670-1.

In order to make these changes, a panel was created by gathering a diverse representation from throughout the force, including Forces Command, Training and Doctrine Command, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, U.S. Army Recruiting Command and other elements as well as subject matter experts. This panel was given recommendations that have been gathered over the last year and they explored how to make the changes.

Grinston said it was extremely important for the panel to have younger Soldiers as well. He said the ages ranged from 24 to 55.

Many significant changes have been made; here are just a few:



**A female Soldier poses for an example photo with hair shorter than 1/4 inch, natural colored highlights, and earrings in the Army Combat Uniform, in support of an upcoming change in Army grooming and appearance standards.**

*Army News Service photo*

See **CHANGES:** Page 17

# Community Updates

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

## Tenant Satisfaction Survey

The Tenant Satisfaction Survey formally known as the CEL Survey is available until February. The survey is completely confidential. Residents currently in housing should receive an email with the survey link. If residents have not received the survey link via email they can go to [ArmyHousing-Survey@celassociates.com](mailto:ArmyHousing-Survey@celassociates.com) to request the survey link. Residents must include their installation name and complete street address including unit number, if applicable, to look up your home's survey ID and ensure only one survey is completed per household.

## 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/Family of the Year Nominations

Fort Jackson is currently accepting nominations for Volunteer/Family of the Year. Fort Jackson will host the 2021 Volunteer 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 4 winners of the Volunteer of the Year award in 4 categories; youth, retiree, active duty military and Family member/civilian. Nomination forms must be completed and delivered via email. The Family of the Year nomination deadline is Feb. 12, while the Volunteer of the Year nomination deadline is March 12. For more information call, the Volunteer Coordinator, at 751-5256.

## 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](http://www.uscis.gov).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 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.

## 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.

## FEB. 4

### National Prayer Breakfast

7:30 a.m. NCO Club. Fort Jackson's Religious Support Office hosts the 2021 National Prayer Breakfast. For more information, call 751-4307/3979.

## FEB. 9

### Money & Mindsets Webinar

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. DFMWR/Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program in partnership with the Ready & Resilient Performance Center will host a "Money & Mindsets" webinar. This webinar will dive into an individual's mindset regarding managing money, effective self-talk, and goal setting. This is a great opportunity to learn about self-motivation, setting and achieving goals that will help you improve the management of your personal finances and achieving financial goals. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

## FEB. 11

### Love and Money Matters Workshop

5 -7 p.m. Chaplain's Family Life Center (5460 Marion Ave.). The Installation Chaplain's Office in partnership with DFMWR/Army Community Service will host a workshop to teach effective communication strategies and address common money issues in relationships. Learn to set SMART goals as a couple that can lead to wealth building and a stronger relationship. For more information or to register, call 751-5256.

## CLOSURES AND HOURS

### Post eases retiree restrictions

Fort Jackson is allowing retirees and Veterans Health Identification cardholders access to post seven days a week. The access is granted so patrons may use all pharmacy services; Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities including the Exchange, food services, shopettes and Class Six; golf at the Fort Jackson Golf Club; the ID card facility; and the Commissary. Please continue to monitor the Fort Jackson website and social media pages for updates to Fort Jackson

COVID-19 policies.

## AAFES REGULAR HOURS:

- Main Exchange: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
  - SSI Troop Store: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and Closed Sat. and Sun.
  - Jackson Reception Station: Closed Sun.-Mon., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fri.
  - Jackson Hospital Store: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
  - Jackson Perez Troop Store: Appointment Only
  - Jackson Coleman Gym Troop Store: Appointment Only
  - Jackson Tank Hill Troop Store: Appointment Only
  - Main Barber Shop: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
  - Clothing and Sales: Closed Sun. and Mon., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tue. - Fri.
  - Mini-mall Dry Cleaners: Closed Sun. and Mon.; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.
  - Class 6: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon. - Fri. and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
  - Gate 1 Express: 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and closed Sat. and Sun.
  - Gate 2 Express: 4:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
  - Starbucks: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon. - Sun.
  - Boston Market: Closed Sun.-Tues., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weds.-Sat.
  - Arby's: Close Sun.-Mon., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.
  - Qdoba: 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
  - Charley's: 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
  - Popeye's: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat.-Sun.
  - Burger King: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
  - Reel Time Theater - Closed
- AAFES food establishments have limited indoor and outdoor seating available

## AAFES REGULAR CONCESSION HOURS

- Enterprise Rent-A-Car: 24 hours Mon.-Sun.
- Gate 1 Barber Shop: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., Closed Sat., Sun., Weds.
- Gate 1 Pizza Hut: 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon.-Sun.
- Main Exchange - Barber Shop: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat.-Sun.
- Main Exchange - Optical: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sat., Closed Sun.
- Main Exchange -Optometry: Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues.
- Main Exchange - Photo Shop: Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
- Main Exchange - Recon T-Shirts: Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
- Main Exchange - Simply Perfect Nails: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun.
- Main Exchange - Stylique: Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thurs. and Sat.
- Main Exchange - The UPS Store: 9 a.m.

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.

- to 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat.. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun.
- Main Exchange - Yigit Wireless: Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weds.-Thurs.
- Mini Mall Barber Shop: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat., Closed Sun.
- Mini Mall Beauty Line: Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fri. - Sat.
- Mini Mall MC Alterations Shop: Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weds.-Sat.
- Mini Mall Patriot Outfitters: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun.
- Mini Mall Trophy Shop: Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat. Closed Sun.
- Perez Barber Shop: Closed
- Perez - Leonard Studio: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

## COMMISSARY REGULAR HOURS

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

There is no transaction limit, but restrictions on high-demand essentials will remain in place until further notice.

# 'I BECAME A SOLDIER'

## DENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITY - FORT JACKSON

### SGT. ALAN MILLS

*Charlotte, North Carolina*

"I joined the Army because I knew there was more for me to experience in life. I wanted to grow and become a better disciplined man, get out of my mundane routine, leave my minimum wage job."

"I am the first of my Family and friends to join the Army. I've had several childhood friends to join the Army after seeing how it has changed my life."

"My MOS is 68E - Dental Specialist and I have been in for six years. I continue to serve because the Army is allowing me to build a foundation for my Family. I am able to attend college with little to no out of pocket cost, receive health care for my wife and child, and transfer my GI bill to my son."

"My fondest moment from serving thus far would have to be my Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony. Being inducted as an NCO gave me and my Family a moment to pause and reflect on all the hard work and sacrifices we've endured on this journey. It was a moment I'll never forget."



### SGT. ERICA FERGUSON

*Wilkesboro, North Carolina*

"I joined the Army to serve my country and its citizens. I wanted to contribute to something bigger: it is more than I ever thought I had to offer. I also joined to create a better lifestyle for my Family."

"I am the loner in my Family that decided to serve. I literally took a step out on a limb with my decision of being the only one in my family to join."

"My MOS is 68E - Dental Specialist and I have served four years. I continue to serve because it is my duty to serve. I signed up to do so and that's what I will continue to do if I am able."

"My fondest moment was winning Soldier of the Year. I overcame things I could not do and all the hard work with training paid off. Another moment was when I received the Distinguished Leader Award in the Basic Leader Course."



### STAFF SGT. KAYLA CHENAULT

*Lawton, Oklahoma*

"I initially joined the Army for educational benefits. What I received in return was much more valuable, I gained confidence, independence, values and became a leader after joining the Army."

"My cousin, Sgt. 1st Class Chenault serves as a 31B - Military Police, he influenced me into joining. His actions and abilities almost seem effortless but more importantly, I know he loves the Army and takes care of his Soldiers."

"My MOS is 68E - Dental Specialist and I have been in the Army 10 years. I continue to serve to take care of my Family, and to protect and serve this country."

"My fondest moment in the Army thus far was being able to witness my Soldier progress and be promoted to the rank of sergeant."



### STAFF SGT. STEVEN ARREOLA

*El Paso, Texas*

"I joined the Army to serve my country, and provide for my son and daughter."

"I have two uncles that served in the Army during World War II, but they had no influence on my decision to enter the Army."

"My MOS is 68E - Dental Specialist and I have served in the Army for 13 years. I continue to serve my country because I want to set an example for my son and daughter. My daughter completed her bachelor's degree and is currently studying to take the Law School Admission Test and my son is currently in high school Junior ROTC to pursue a career in the military."

"One of my fondest moments of serving was when my Soldier asked me to pin her rank when she became a sergeant. Since then, I have pinned rank on two of my Soldiers as they've progressed into the NCO Corps."



### SPC. JESSICA GONZALEZ

*Bayamon, Puerto Rico*

"I joined the Army to try something different than what I received my bachelor's degree in."

"My husband currently serves and my grandfather served 30 years in the Army."

"My MOS is 68E - Dental Specialist and I've been in the Army for two years. To keep working on my personal growth and because I like the Army, I continue to serve."

"My fondest moment has been having the courage to complete a public speech. People told me that I could do it and they pushed me to accomplish my goal."



### SGT. ALEXIS BEST

*Highland, California*

"I joined the Army to have a career and go to school while doing it."

"My brother joined the Navy and I never even considered the military before he brought it up."

"My MOS is 68E - Dental Specialist and I have been in the Army for five years. I continue to serve because the Army has been a very rewarding experience and I know I have much more selfless-service left in me to give."

"One of my fondest moments having served was getting recognized by Fort Jackson Commander Brig. Gen. Milford H. Beagle, for the things I have done in the Army."



## Blood

Continued from Page 2

These include cancer patients whose bodies cannot produce the platelets needed; those undergoing trauma and need blood transfusions; individuals with Sickle Cell Anemia; and burn patients who need plasma to help regulate blood pressure and other functions.

"It's a great opportunity to do a positive thing," Sexton added.

"And it absolutely makes a difference."

Maj. Gen. Jami Shawley, 81st Readiness Division commander gave blood to save lives.

"I donate blood as often as possible as a way to give back to the community," she said. "There's no down side. It takes about an hour; you save lives; you get cookies. Do it again in two months. Simple."

*(Editor's note: Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Espinosa, with the 81st Readiness Division Public Affairs Office contributed to this article)*



David Beale, a volunteer with American Red Cross takes a donor's information during a Community Blood Drive at the NCO Club on post Jan. 25.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

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Photos by JOSIE CARLSON

Top, Mady Holmes, 12, and Kaziyah Boone-Spruill, 13, above, shoot at a target during Beginners' Archery, Jan 23.



William Sexton, 10, aims at a target during Beginners' Archery, Jan 23.

# NOCK YOUR ARROWS

## *MWR teaches Beginners' Archery*

By JOSIE CARLSON  
Fort Jackson Leader

**T**his past Saturday, children and adults alike decided to brave the cold temperatures to try their hands at something new.

With the help of some hot chocolate and their teacher, Chris Helie, Lead Recreation Assistant with Outdoor Recreation, the Beginners' Archery class was a success.

"My favorite thing about teaching this class is seeing the students' progress. They go from not knowing anything about archery to being able to hit the targets at the end," Helie said.

Helie started the class by giving safety instructions and teaching the basics of archery, including different types of bows, how

to hold the bow and how to load the arrow onto the bowstring, or nock the arrow.

Kaziyah Boone-Spruill, 13, asked for a bow this past Christmas, and enjoyed learning the basics. "I love it, I just have to keep practicing so I can get better at it. It's a good physical activity to do," she said.

Once everyone had a bow, tightened specifically for them, each student took turns shooting at the targets.

After the instruction portion, students were able to compete in games, such as shooting at a piñata and were able to win prizes.

This is the first time they have held the class since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak last March. Helie is hopeful that they will soon go back to offering the class every two to three months.



Photo by SGT. MIKE RISINGER

**U.S. Airmen and Soldiers with the Alaska National Guard assist local authorities with security near the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., Jan. 23. At least 25,000 National Guard troops have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration.**

## Army leaders provide update of guard activities in Washington

By **DAVID VERGUN**  
DOD News Service

The National Guard will be a force of last resort. Law enforcement will take the lead and be the force of choice should it be necessary, Acting Army Secretary John E. Whitley, said referring to keeping the peace and allowing for peaceful protests in Washington, D.C.

“I’d like to thank our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen for the hard work, swift response and steadfast dedication. They’re committed to ensuring that our capital remains secure. I’m incredibly proud of our Airmen and Soldiers serving in support of local and federal law enforcement activities. This mission shows the breadth, flexibility and resolve of the National Guard and the sacrifice and service that provides to our nation,” Whitley said.

The Guard has been requested to continue supporting federal law enforcement agencies with about 7,000 personnel for the coming weeks. That presence will likely draw down to about 5,000 by mid-March, he said.

Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard recently returned from Washington, D.C. where they provided support for the presidential inauguration.

The Guard has received four requests for follow-on assistance from federal and municipal partners. The requests have come from the U.S. Park Police, U.S. Secret Service, the

U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington D.C. All four requests have been approved, he said.

National Guard service members will provide a variety of support, including security, communications, medical evacuation, logistics and safety support to these organizations, Whitley said.

“National Guard members will be postured to meet the requirements of the supported civil authorities up to and including protective equipment and arming if necessary,” he added.

Hokanson said there are currently about 13,000 National Guard troops in the District of Columbia, primarily conducting security missions in support of district and federal partners.

The logistics involved in moving 25,000 people from every state and territory to the District in less than two weeks and supporting them is unprecedented, he mentioned.

“It speaks volumes about the support we received from our governors and adjutants general. It also speaks to the investment America has made in the National Guard’s ability to respond whenever and wherever we are needed,” Hokanson added.

Walker thanked the Guard members and their families, law enforcement and the people of the District, the latter for their “cooperation, understanding and patience. We know we inconvenience them, but they understand the reason.”



Photo by LISA FERDINANDO

**Acting Secretary of the Army John E. Whitley briefs the media Jan. 25 at the Pentagon.**

## Military tax services available through Military OneSource

By **TERRI MOON CRONK**  
DOD News Service

Filing taxes can be a daunting task every year, but the Defense Department has helpful resources for active-duty service members and their families, and it's all free through Military OneSource since Jan. 19.

Tax services for the military — also known as MilTax — is DOD's approved tax-filing and tax-support service — including tax preparation and e-filing software and personalized support to deal with issues such as deployments, combat and training pay, housing and rentals, multistate filings, and living overseas.

"They can connect with a (tax) consultant during the tax season, and even past (it), through October, but in addition to having that live support walking through the filing process and asking questions that are specific to the military around taxes, they're able to access the MilTax software," said Kelly Smith, program analyst with the DOD's Military Community and Family Policy. MilTax consultants are available virtually.

An advantage to the MilTax software, Smith noted, is it's designed and tailored for the military community.

E-filing allows service members to file their federal returns along with up to three state returns at no cost.

That's huge in the military community, because our families are [going through permanent changes of station] and moving multiple times," she noted.

Overall, the MilTax services are designed to be stress-free, Smith said.

"(People) can rest assured that they are working with tax professionals who know and are familiar with military tax situations," she said, adding that many MilTax consultants return to offer their services every year in high numbers, which provides continuity and knowledge of the armed forces' needs.

See **TAXES:** Page 14



*U.S. Army photo*

**The Army's strength is based on the diverse capabilities, experiences and backgrounds of its Department of the Army Civilian and Soldier workforce. The Army Materiel Command's Office of Diversity and Leadership leads the organization's implementation of the Army's strategic plan to operationalize Diversity, Equity and Inclusion through the Project Inclusion initiative.**

## Productivity linked to proactive diversity, inclusion initiatives

By **KARI HAWKINS**  
Army News Service

Last year the Army launched Project Inclusion, a new initiative to improve diversity, equity and inclusion across the force and build cohesive teams.

Now, as 2021 unfolds, the Army remains committed to fostering a culture of trust and to accept the experiences, culture, characteristics and background each Soldier and Civilian brings to the institution.

"Our Army is a representative of the citizens of this nation. Just like our nation is a melting pot of different races and cultures, our Army is a great melting pot of Soldiers and (Department of the Army) Army Civilians coming from all walks of life and

diverse backgrounds," said Paula Taylor, director of the Army Materiel Command's Office of Diversity and Leadership.

In 2020, "we all saw what was happening in our society and our leaders made a commitment to make sure it doesn't happen within our Army. They are committed to ensuring a diverse Army that is inclusive, and where diversity in race, thought and perspective is valued."

While the commitment has been there for many years and is apparent in the Army's values, Taylor said it was further solidified in 2020 with a strategic plan to operationalize Diversity, Equity and Inclusion across the entire Army. Her comments were made to more than 100 professionals who attended the virtual SHARP (Sexual Harassment and

Assault Response Program) Summit in late December. The DEI theme for implementing Project Inclusion is "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – The Army's Way of Life."

As part of the strategic plan, the Army is calling on its senior leaders to demonstrate its commitment, engagement and support of DEI practices; institutionalize Talent Management policies to acquire, develop and retain employees; establish and resource a governance structure to support Army DEI efforts; implement DEI training and education programs that meet the demands of the Total Force; and create and maintain an equitable and inclusive environment that values diversity.

See **INCLUSION:** Page 14

## Inclusion

Continued from Page 13

“The Army is working to make sure its senior leaders understand the importance of valuing diversity in the workplace, and creating a shared understanding of diversity,” Taylor said. “The Army is performing a review of its people processes, policies, programs and procedures to ensure a diverse workforce, and to ensure leaders know how to build cohesive, diverse, inclusive and equitable teams.”

Toward that end, one of the key elements is “Your Voice Matters” listening sessions between leaders and employees, Taylor said. Also important is ensuring senior leader DEI training; reconstituting the use of diversity councils to promote alignment of DEI efforts; developing plans for expanding a diverse talent pool within the workforce; developing and executing DEI training; and reviewing Army policies for biases.

“At AMC, our commander, Gen. (Ed) Daly wants to hear what people are saying. He wants to analyze DEI data and understand where we are and to review any trends that seem to be unfavorable to people of different races. Gen. Daly wants all employees to feel safe and to have a conduit to report anything unfair. He wants every member of the team to feel valued and included,” Taylor said. “AMC leaders are leading the change for the Army. We are setting the pace.”

Project Inclusion joins Suicide Prevention and SHARP Training/Anti-Harassment Training as the three focus areas within AMC’s People focus area, with the lines of effort including leader awareness and commitment, education and training, and communication.

“Project Inclusion is in the people business, as is SHARP, the Chaplain’s

Office and Equal Employment Opportunity. With the optempo of the last several years, we have had tremendous challenges in the people business,” Taylor said. “We must be prepared, be postured, to lead the change to an equitable and inclusive environment that empowers all AMC employee to support worldwide missions.”

Ensuring a safe and inclusive work environment leads to a productive workforce focused on ensuring readiness and sustainment of the Army’s Total Force.

“This is about enabling our Soldiers,” Taylor said. “It’s about ensuring we have a healthy and productive workforce to support the Soldiers who protect us and defend our nation. When we don’t encourage DEI, we are not only hurting our people, but also our missions and our Soldiers.”

In leading AMC’s major subordinate commands, its commander is encouraging a diverse and inclusive culture while also standing against any type of racism or extremism. “Gen. Daly has told us to make sure we have transparency at all levels,” Taylor said. “Our employees have to feel comfortable talking to us about issues and providing feedback. Gen. Daly wants every commander to have a DEI action plan that is achievable, empowers employees, and enhances performance and productivity.”

Taylor told the SHARP professionals that their programs are essential to meeting the goal of acquiring, developing, employing and retaining a professional and competent workforce.

“SHARP professionals are among those of us who listen, who show AMC’s commitment to them because we listen and value every employee who comes to us for assistance,” Taylor said. “We help to ensure every employee has a place at the table. Our programs help to improve the command culture and give employees a place to go when they need help.”

## Taxes

Continued from Page 13

At this point, this year’s tax deadline for filing 2020 taxes is April 15, although last year it was extended to July 15 because of COVID-19. If there is an extension this year, Smith said MilTax is prepared for it.

“Our staff and our consultants are positioned to fill in the gaps where there may be additional need for that support on-

line and over the phone,” she said.

MilTax availability runs until mid-October for service members who need extensions.

“That’s simply because we know that the tax season usually ends in April, but for our military community, sometimes people are overseas or they are in a combat zone, and, so, they’re able to file those extensions, and (we are) there to help them file their taxes at a later time,” Smith said.

Smith said she is not tracking any significant changes in tax law for the 2020 filing year that would affect service members and their families.

“But the 2020 Social Security tax deferral is a big thing at

this time,” she noted. “We are referring and connecting filers with (the Defense Finance Accounting Service) and with the IRS regarding questions and concerns they have outside of the tax deferral.”

Also, MilTax can guide its military filers who have questions surrounding the economic stimulus package from 2020.

“I want to ensure that our service members and families know they can turn to Military OneSource and the tax service as a trusted source, and (MilTax services) understand taxes as it relates to the military community,” Smith said.

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*Photo by CHARLES CLARK*

## January retirees

Col. Michael Larsen, Fort Jackson deputy commanding officer, and Post Command Sgt. Maj. Philson Tavernier pose with this month's retirees during the Retirement Review Jan. 26 at the post theater: Lt. Col. Felix O. Rodriguez, 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Timothy E. Hagans, U.S. Army Central, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; Command Sgt. Maj. Yvette M. Kennedy, Baltimore Recruiting Battalion, Fort Meade, Md; and 1st Sgt. Lawrence R. Coleman, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment.

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# Changes

Continued from Page 6

## Earrings

Female Soldiers will be authorized to wear earrings in the Army Combat Uniform, but not in a deployed or field environment. It's important to note that Soldiers must wait for the ALARACT to come out before they can begin wearing earrings.

## Minimum hair length

There will no longer be a minimum hair length for female Soldiers.

Clark mentioned female Soldiers who have gone through Ranger school and chose to shave their heads. "Technically they were out of regulation during that timeframe ... we obviously saw that there was a contradiction between what we had in place and really where the Army is going," he said.

## Short ponytails

Female Soldiers who are unable to form a bun due to the length and/or texture of hair will be authorized to have a ponytail.

"In an effort to stop hair damage and loss stemming from hairstyles like the bun, the Army approved healthier hairstyle options that are more inclusive of

various natural styles," Clark said.

According to the Army press release, the revised regulation will not contain potentially offensive language used to describe several hairstyles – for example, "Mohawk, eccentric, faddish, Fu Manchu, dreadlock" – which will be replaced with alternative verbiage.

There will also be new imagery to show examples of the new standards.

"Change is how the Army runs," Grinston said, "I know some people don't really like that because change is hard ... These changes, I'd say, are just part of the normal progression of the military and how we're trying to be more inclusive ... people say why now? And I say why not?"

"We know that actions speak louder than words when it comes to inclusivity and equity within our ranks, and we believe that the changes we announced today are one example of policies that put our people first," Brito said.

Apparently, many of the viewers were waiting on a very specific announcement.

Sgt. 1st Class William Reinier, one of the moderators jokingly noted that about a third of the Facebook viewers stopped watching once Grinston announced there has not been a change to the current beard policy.

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## Military Funeral

There will be a Military Funeral for retired MSG James Edward Pearson in the Fort Jackson National Cemetery on the 5th of February at 1 p.m.

MSG Pearson died Saturday the 23rd, 2021 at 12:40 p.m. at the Dorn Medical Hospital. He also served in the Korean War. His military service was from 1952 until 1995.

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Part-time driver needed to deliver newspaper bundles. Light lifting. Must have good driving record. Contact Mike at the Chronicle-Independent 432-6157.

## Help Wanted

Established company in Camden has immediate opening for experienced salespersons to work from our office. Must have sales experience, references, cell phone and laptop. Weekly pay plus commission. Hours are 9-5 Monday thru Friday If interested, please send your resume along with any questions to: **Blind Box 1048**, c/o Camden Media Company, P.O. Box 1137, Camden, SC 29021. Applications will be reviewed and qualified applicants will be notified by email to schedule an interview

Licensed Property Manager for Elgin SC apartment community, Contact Phillip Crocker 803-730-7526  
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Looking for a Maintenance Technician for a part-time job. Apply in person Monday-Friday between 9am-3pm at EconoLodge, 529 Hwy. 601 S, Lugoff. Ideal job for someone looking for a second job in morning hours.

## Real Estate

### Homes For Sale

\*For Sale-Awesome homes at Lake Wateree/Camden/Lugoff & Elgin areas. View www.graham-realtyinc.com or call (803)432-7370/(803)432-0855. Graham Realty, Inc., 519 E. DeKalb St.(Camden)

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### — FOR SALE —

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## Policy

Continued from Page 4

“This means no one will be separated or discharged, or denied reenlistment, solely on the basis of gender identity,” the White House news release said. “Prospective recruits may serve in their self-identified gender when they have met the appropriate standards for accession into the military services.”

The policy also ensures all medically-necessary transition related care authorized by law is available to all service members.

The executive order also immediately prohibits “involuntary separations, discharges and denials of reenlistment or continuation of service on the basis of gender identity. It also calls for an immediate start to the identification and examination of the records of service members who have been involuntarily separated, discharged or denied reenlistment or continuation of service on the basis of gender identity. It provides for the correction of military records.

“Over the next 60 days, I look forward to working with the senior civilian and military leaders of the department as we expeditiously develop the appropriate policies and procedures to implement these changes,” Austin wrote.



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## Survey

Continued from Page 4

“The average for where we sit right now is the highest it’s ever been,” Beagle said. “Collectively ... we’re doing a lot better than OK, and a lot better than we were in 2018.”

The installation has also shown improvements across the board in areas of Equal Opportunity, Fair Treatment and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, save for one area: Inclusion. Many women and service members in pay grades E1-E6 continue to see inclusion as a challenge.

Beagle described the numbers for Inclusion as “average.”

Fort Jackson leadership is better informed about sexual assault and sexual harassment than ever before, Beagle said. “This is forward progress,” he said. “In summary, people feel pretty connected on our installation.”

Volunteer “Tiger Teams” began meeting last week to determine why there’s not a sense of collective team inclusion on post. These teams are still being recruited and will continue to meet weekly through the middle of February.

“What we have to make sure we achieve is diversity across those teams,” Beagle said. “We need a full cross section of our team to go back and dig into these issues.”

“We can come up with great plans ... but we need the environment to do it,” Beagle said. “That’s what climate and our culture is all about. We need that environment to be successful.”

To learn more watch the briefing in its entirety at: <https://www.facebook.com/FortJacksonCommandingGeneral/videos/417575256179439/>

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