

THURSDAY APRIL 13, 2023

THE FORT
LEA
"VICTORY"

HONORING VETS

WILDCATS HONOR VIETNAM VETS FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY



www.facebook.com/fortjackson



GARRISON: www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson



@FortJackson



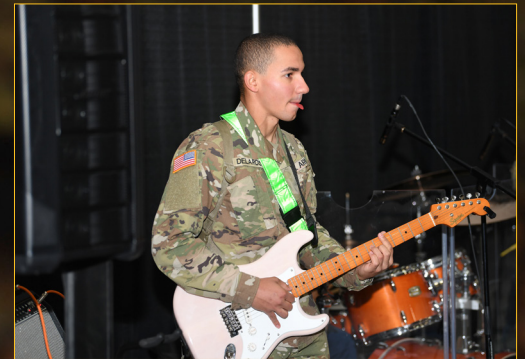
@fortjackson

Easter at sunrise

Photos by Robert Timmons



Fort Jackson held its annual Easter Sunrise Service, April 9 at the Solomon Center on post.



ON THE COVER

Veterans of the Vietnam War were invited to the 81st Readiness Division by Maj. Gen. Robert D. Harter, 81st commander, for a ceremony held in their honor, April 3.

See Pages 6-7



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Crystal Harlow

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

This electronic newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Fort Jackson Leader are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Jackson.

All editorial content of the Fort Jackson Leader is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Jackson.

The Fort Jackson Leader is distributed online. To submit articles, story ideas or announcements, write the Fort Jackson Leader, 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd., Rm. 227, Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, or call (803) 751-6739 or e-mail usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly
Garrison Commander Col. Ryan M. Hanson
Public Affairs Officer Tom Byrd
Command Information Officer Robert Timmons
Editor Emily Hileman
Social Media Manager Nathan Clinebelle

Website: www.fortjacksonleader.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fortjackson

www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJackson

Twitter: www.twitter.com/fortjackson

Instagram: www.instagram.com/fortjackson



Photos by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

A government owned electric vehicle charges at the electric vehicle charging station outside of the Strom Thurmond Building on Fort Jackson. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 directed all Department of Defense agencies to shift all non-combat vehicles to alternative fuel vehicles by 2035.

Alternative fuel fleet finds Fort Jackson

Fort Jackson began transitioning to alternative fuel vehicles due to regulations in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021.

By EMILY HILEMAN
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

You've likely seen some interesting structures on Fort Jackson recently. No, they're not satellites dishes used to contact alien life forms. These structures are charging stations for the growing fleet of Fort Jackson electric vehicle. The installation currently has 10 of the structures in various locations across post. Total, these stations are capable of charging 19 vehicles simultaneously.

These EV charging stations have been installed to charge the recent addition

of government-owned electric vehicles. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 created a regulation to shift all Department of Defense non-combat vehicles to alternative fuel vehicles by 2035. This shift is intended to greatly reduce the carbon footprint of the U.S. military.

Nine out of the 10 stations are solar powered (one station is hard wired and is located at the Directorate of Public Works maintenance shop) charging stations with two charging whips. When fully charged, the solar-powered stations are level two stations. But, what exactly does that mean?

There are three levels of EV charging stations. Simply put, the higher the level of charging, the more electricity delivered to the vehicle, leading to a quicker charge.

Level one chargers are the slowest

and use typical 120-volt alternating current outlets, the same ones likely found around your home. These can take up to 40 hours to fully charge an EV.

Level two chargers use 208 to 240-volt alternating current outlets. These have to be installed and are the most common chargers. These take between two to 13 hours to fully charge an EV. The ones on Fort Jackson take about eight hours to fully charge a vehicle.

Level three chargers use 480-volt direct current chargers. These are the fastest chargers and can charge an EV from empty to full in as little as 15 minutes. However, most homes and businesses cannot support this level of high voltage. Level three chargers are typically found at car dealerships and highway services.

Just as the new EVs are for government use only, so are the EV chargers.



The electric vehicle charging stations on Fort Jackson are intended for government owned vehicles only and are marked with these signs.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Personal Property Announcement

U.S. Transportation Command personal property pre-peak season will begin late February through September. Once service members receive orders for Permanent Change of Station, they are required to access Military Once-Source for customer support resources to arrange household goods shipment. <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-housing/moving/pcs-and-military-moves/>. For more information, contact the Fort Jackson Personal Property Office 751-5137/5138. Soldiers and Families can find personal property programs overview information and TSP ratings on the customer facing dashboard, <https://www.ustranscom.mil/dp3/index.cfm#overview>.

Fireproof Your Marriage

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Chaplain Family Life Center, 5460 Marion Street. Would you like to strengthen your marriage? Seize the opportunity by coming to the eight week "Fireproof Your Marriage" bible study offered by the Family Life Chaplain at the Fort Jackson Chaplain Family Life Center. An introductory session will be provided from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 28. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch and will receive a participant guidebook. Seats are limited to the first 15 couples to sign up. Sign up by calling 751-4966. There is no cost. Class dates are April 28, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, 23, 30. Participants are encouraged to commit to each class.

Military Spouse Employment Readiness Seminar

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Army Community Service invites military spouses to an employment readiness seminar. The seminar includes classes on interviewing skills and resume writing 101. Come meet AAFES and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, who are looking to hire military spouses. The seminar takes place the last Thursday of every month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at 9810 Lee Road. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 751-5256.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Looking for Equal Employment Opportunity information? Can't find the latest EEO newsletter? You can find the information you need at: home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/eeo.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TOMORROW

Pre-drivers' Life Skills Class

5-7 p.m., Auto Craft Shop. Prepare first-time driver's to properly care for a vehicle. Basic automotive skills will be covered in this two-part course. Limited space available, ages 14 and older, \$30 per class, class includes oil change on students' family vehicle. For more information or to register call, 751-5755 or 7061.

Military Spouse Resume Workshop

9:30-11:30 a.m., Army Community Service Building, 9810 Lee Road. Are you seeking federal employment? Come learn everything you need to know about transitioning from private industry to the federal government; writing a correct federal resume; creating effective Knowledge Skills and Abilities; answering self-assessment questionnaires; formatting your resume to be noticed by reviewers; interviewing; and tracking the progress of your application. Topics covered are: USAJobs account, position classification standards and functional guides; breaking down the vacancy announcement adjusting your experience to the vacancy; self assessment questionnaire; and military spouse preference. Registration is required. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 751-5256.

MONDAY-APRIL 21

Bi-Annual Plant Swap

Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library. To celebrate Earth Day the library will host its bi-annual plant swap event. Get rid of your surplus plants and seedlings and swap them for new. Bring your plants, seedlings, and seeds to the library through out the week of April 17-21. On April 21, you can stop by the library to pick out a plant.

TUESDAY

Family of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Recognition Ceremony

4 p.m., NCO Club. Recognition will include: all family nominees, four volunteers of the year, youth, retiree, active-duty military, and family member/civilian. One family will be named Fort Jackson Family of the Year.

Meals in Minutes & Your Budget

9-10 a.m. DFMWR/Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program, in partnership with the Fort Jackson Army Wellness Center will host Meals in Minutes webinar on Microsoft Teams. Learn

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

**SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO**
usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

Deadline for events to be included in the Community Updates 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 751-6739.

how to save calories while also optimizing your budget. AWC and ACS provides programs and services to improve and/or maintain readiness of the military community. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 751-5256/6749.

APRIL 20

Sportsman Club Meeting

6 p.m., Alpine Lodge. The Fort Jackson Sportsman Club hosts its monthly meeting. This meeting will feature a panel of experienced Fort Jackson deer hunters to answer your questions about the unique aspects of hunting deer on the installation. If you are new to hunting - or new to hunting on Fort Jackson - this is the meeting for you.



Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

TODAY

■ Missing (PG-13) 2 p.m.

FRIDAY

■ Knock at the Cabin (R) 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

■ The Covenant (R) (Free Showing) 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

■ Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (PG-13) 2 p.m.

- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

APRIL 21

Estate Planning – Protect Your Assets

10-11 a.m., 1565 Hall Street. DFMWR/Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will host an Estate Planning seminar. This seminar will provide

Every blood donor is a hero

By **EMILY HILEMAN**

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The equation 1 = 3 does not make sense to most people, but to the American Red Cross, it's a fact of life. One pint of blood (the average amount received from one blood donation) can save up to three lives.

"One pint of blood can help up to three different people in various ways," said Will Sexton, a retired Fort Jackson firefighter and blood drive coordinator. "There's a national shortage for blood. Sadly, only about 28% of people who are eligible to donate actually do it. That's why it's such an important cause," Sexton continued.

"It's important for us to donate, because the Armed Services uses a lot of blood," said Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs. "We depend on it for our Soldiers in combat operations, we depend on it for ourselves and our Families here stateside. No

one knows when they'll need blood."

Think you can't donate because you lived in Europe in the 80s? Think again. The American Red Cross now accepts donations from individuals who spent time in certain European countries between 1980 and 2001.

The original ban was due to the prevalence of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (also known as "Mad Cow" Disease) throughout many affected European countries. The decades-old ban was fully lifted by the Food and Drug Administration in 2020 and individuals that were previously disqualified, may be eligible to donate.

"Don't disqualify yourself. Let the medical experts do that. I lived in Europe during the 'Mad Cow' era and wasn't able to donate for many years, but I was cleared a few years ago," Sexton said. "So, here I am, again, donating."

Michelle Isom, another donor, ruled out donating blood due to a diagnosis of anemia, a condition that develops when your blood produces less red blood cells than it should. This time, she decided to have the medical experts disqualify her instead of just passing on the opportunity to save a life (or three).

"In the past, I had to have iron infu-

DON'T DISQUALIFY YOURSELF. LET THE MEDICAL EXPERTS DO THAT...

Will Sexton,
Retired Fort Jackson firefighter and
blood drive coordinator

sions, so I knew I wasn't going to be able to donate blood, Isom said. "I knew they were going to prick my finger (to check my hemoglobin and I needed 12.5 (grams per deciliter) to donate as a female and mine was 12.7, so I just made the cut," she said. The whole process, from signing in to getting her juice box post-donation only took about 15 minutes.

The American Red Cross hoped to collect 25 pints of blood during this bimonthly drive. They met and exceeded their goal, by collecting 33 pints.

Upset that you missed the opportunity to give a pint and save some lives? "We do this every two months," Sexton said. "We'd love for you to come out."

The next community blood drive will be at Moncrief Army Health Clinic, June 12. If you'd like more information about the American Red Cross or to donate sooner, visit www.redcross.org/give-blood.html.



Photos by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

Fort Jackson Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs gives a 'thumbs up' while donating blood at the American Red Cross blood drive, April 10.



Will Sexton, retired Fort Jackson firefighter and blood drive coordinator poses while giving blood during the blood drive, April 10.



Donor Michelle Isom excitedly donates blood for the first time. She had previously been denied due to a medical diagnosis.



Photos by SGT. 1ST CLASS CRYSTAL HARLOW

Maj. Gen. Robert D. Harter, 81st Readiness Division commander, speaks to Vietnam veterans during an April 4 event honoring them on National Vietnam War Veterans Day.



Above and left: Vietnam veterans gather for an event at the 81st Readiness Division headquarters, April 4.

81st Wildcats honor Vietnam veterans

By MAJ. DAVID GASPERSON
81st Readiness Division

Friends, family, service members, and more than 50 Vietnam veterans gathered at the Army Reserve's 81st Readiness Division headquarters in honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 codified the annual day to honor all Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S.

Armed Forces between Nov. 1, 1955, and May 15, 1975, along with the nation's six other military-centric annual observances, including Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day.

The significance of March 29 is that it marked when the United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam was disestablished, and the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam in 1973.

The 81st Readiness Division held the recognition ceremony in conjunction with their March battle assembly to allow the unit's Soldiers to show support to their honored guests.

The event officially started with playing the national anthem, with Vietnam veterans and their families joining alongside the Soldiers and civilians of the 81st Readiness Division. After the invocation from the command's deputy chaplain Lt. Col. Cary Snelling, and introductory remarks by the event's master of ceremonies, the commanding general of the 81st Readiness Division, Maj. Gen. Robert D. Harter, took to the podium and addressed the crowd.

"Today's event is absolutely awesome," Harter said. "We need it. We need to learn from our heroes of the past. There are so many Vietnam Veterans in Columbia and the Fort Jackson area. Wherever I go. I run into Vietnam veterans wearing their colors — wearing the cloth of the nation. I am so thankful we can honor them today."

TODAY'S EVENT IS ABSOLUTELY AWESOME

...

- Maj. Gen. Robert D. Harter
81st Readiness Division commander

Harter continued his remarks by sharing anecdotes about his experience serving alongside Vietnam veterans, including his first platoon sergeant. He emphasized the importance of the leadership that Vietnam veterans brought to the table for the next generation and, most importantly, their role in

securing a hero's welcome for today's service members returning home from deployments.

"One of the greatest gifts that the Vietnam veterans have given today's service members; our Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Sailors; in addition to our freedom, of course, is the fact that we receive a hero's welcome wherever we go," Harter said. "Our Vietnam veterans did not let the nation forget how they were treated when they came home and they said 'never again, not on my watch.'"

Following his opening remarks, the event's attendees watched a video highlighting the nine million Americans that served during the Vietnam War, representing 10% of their generation, with six million volunteers. The footage also paid tribute to the Vietnam veterans who answered the nation's call to serve and to their families for their support and sacrifice. It also

acknowledged America's allies who stood by them 50 years ago.

Maj. Gen. Harter closed the event by thanking the families and loved ones of service members for their sacrifices and recognizing their status as veterans at a ceremony. He then shared a personal story about his father, a Vietnam veteran who never received a hero's welcome but inspired him to join the Army, and how the legacy of Vietnam veterans has inspired countless others to serve.

"Your legacy lives on in us. There's no doubt that every one of you heroes in this room have inspired hundreds, maybe thousands, into service, whether in the military or just in society, without even knowing it. So, Vietnam veterans, family members, thank you for your service and sacrifice and your defense of freedom, both in Southeast Asia and here at home. You've made an unquantifiable difference," Harter said.

Dave Loftin, Vietnam veteran, and former Army aviator attended the event and said he was delighted to participate with his friends. "I am extremely grateful for this commemoration event and the recognition of the sacrifice and service of Vietnam veterans. It means a lot to us. I hope more of my fellow Vietnam veterans will attend future events to come together and honor our shared experiences," he said.

For more information about the National Vietnam War Veterans Day or the 50th Anniversary, visit <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>



Vietnam veterans and their families listen intently to a briefing during an appreciation event held April 4 at the 81st Readiness Division headquarters building.

Unleash the River Monster: 3-60th's legacy

By **LT. COL JAROD V. PARKER** and **CAPT. RICHARD XUE**
3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

People are the source of the Army's strength. Drill sergeants play a key role in unlocking the full potential of each trainee, ensuring a trained and ready force for large scale combat operations. But this dedication to duty comes with a price, paid through time, effort, and well-being as the typical workday for a drill sergeant starts before sunrise and ends well past sunset. These requirements often create an all-consuming work culture and negatively affects the Soldier's health and holistic fitness.

The leadership of 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment emphasized creating a culture of fitness. This culture enables River Raider cadre to reach their maximum performance potential while remaining dedicated to their mission and each other. A drill sergeant and cadre leader's ability to train and transform these civilian volunteers correlates to how fit they are in all aspects of H2F.

The unit's focus on physical fitness and creating a positive working environment within the battalion's culture remains paramount to the success of the individual and the mission. They named this initiative "River Monster."

The battalion sought to support their team's physical, mental, and emotional health through physical strength and endurance challenges and opportunities to excel. Along with improving the environment, they developed River Monster competitions to focus this culture by incentivizing fitness goals. They recognized the efforts of those that

strive to become the best they can be for the Army, the nation, and their Families.

Fort Jackson has many excellent H2F facilities such as the new and state of the art Drill Sergeant Timothy Kay Soldier Performance Readiness Center. These facilities provide the nucleus of the Fort Jackson H2F concept to improve health and well-being while offering variety, information, and education to Soldiers and Family members.

While many River Raiders routinely use these facilities, the unit decided to expand its own space to further help the team prioritize fitness into their busy schedules. To create the conditions for this positive environment, Team River Raider established multiple lines of effort, the first dedicated to improving the quality of the Battalion Gym. The unit added gym equipment that supports various disciplines of fitness, cosmetically improved existing space, and expanded their gym facilities. Dedicating one facility to hypertrophy training and the other to functional fitness and indoor cardio. By removing levels of resistance, such as travel time and feelings of missing out due to distance, a noticeable shift occurred within the organization's culture as more River Raiders prioritized their time to improve their physical fitness.

"When I first arrived at the battalion, I observed tired, stressed, defeated cadre members, who had accepted the fact that they had 'no time,'" said 1st Sgt. Steven Bell from Company D. "Through the (battalion commander's) culture of fitness changes, I have seen cadre covering down for one another, and staggering their gym time. They have slowly bought-in to the idea that, they do have the time to stay fit, they just have to work together to make it happen. We have now seen a more cohesive team, happier cadre members overall, better (physical training) scores, and more cadre in the battalion gym."

The second line of effort involved molding a culture of camaraderie and cohesion through friendly physical competition.

Company D, 3-60th, generated and promoted the first River Monster competition for Cycles 22-04 and 23-01. Based on 10 physical events, the competition focused on the disciplines of powerlifting and calisthenics. The unit spaced these events on different days throughout the cycle and offered opportunities to make up an event if the drill sergeant or cadre could not attend at the des-

ignated time.

Staff Sgt. Ashley Matthews said the challenge helped foster unit cohesiveness.

"The River Monster Challenge brings in all ranks from junior enlisted to the highest-ranking person in the battalion and instills values of physical fitness and builds camaraderie," said Matthews, assigned to Company B. "As a drill sergeant, I would not normally have the opportunity to work out with the battalion executive officer or other company commanders. This challenge opens gateways to new conversations, networking, and fosters a friendly competitive environment not only within our company but across the battalion. It also pushes you to better yourself. Walking past the boards seeing your name and the score of someone else just makes me want to do better."

During the first installment of the River Monster competition, the battalion recorded the top three performers in each event, male and female and posted their names on the River Monster competition boards during an official ceremony at the end of the cycle. They strategically placed the boards in the main hallway to motivate both the cadre and trainees who frequently pass through those hallways.

Simultaneously, the unit made additional efforts to further improve the gym such as cadre murals and re-painting of the gym by leadership. Lastly, the River Raiders held the first River Monster conference to illicit feedback from the team, improving inclusion and generating a sense of ownership. They captured the bottom-up refinement and used it to develop the next iteration of River Monster.

River Raiders eagerly anticipated the second installment of River Monster. The unit added additional competition boards such as the "Raider Strong 1,000 and 500 lbs. Club" to highlight strength in the combination of total pounds lifted in the bench press, squat, and deadlift. To recognize cardio warrior-athletes, the battalion created the "Rowed One More" board to highlight endurance events, internal and external to the battalion, such as those that ran a marathon or the Army 10-Miler. These two boards create an enduring legacy; names are only removed once the Soldier departs the battalion. The revamped events



Courtesy photo

The battalion's emphasis on a culture of holistic fitness has changed the mindset of the unit. 'We have now seen a more cohesive team, happier cadre members overall ...' said 1st. Sgt. Steven Bell, from Company D, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment.

not only changed the workout disciplines to highlight CrossFit and strongman / strongwomen, but also introduced team events with the intent of increasing participation.

The team looks to incorporate physical fitness into many facets of life within the battalion. The battalion's first staff ride saw the team running the three miles up and three miles down of the historic Currahee run at Camp Toccoa following the conclusion of their Band of Brothers leader professional development series. The experience placed the team in the shadows of those who ran before and associate their struggles to your own. With consistent leadership encouragement and presence at River Monster and other physical events, the River Raiders continue to challenge themselves to grow and become someone better than they were yesterday.

The struggles faced pounding the pavement or lifting heavier weight reflect the daily struggles of Soldiers. Overcoming those obstacles and having the always improving mindset, leads to continued growth and building resiliency for other professional and person-



Courtesy photo

Overcoming the daily struggles of Soldiers leads to improvements in the mind, continued growth and increasing resiliency.

al challenges. The 3-60th team continues to row hard and improve upon existing systems to generate a culture of fitness and camaraderie. Each event encourages new members of the team to participate and to motivate others to test themselves. The battalion strives to solidify an environment conducive to improving fitness and overall health of its people. Although victory starts at Fort Jackson, the River Monster Program fosters an enduring legacy of victory in physical fitness for the members of Team River Raider and those they transform from civilian volunteer to Soldier.

(Editor's note: Parker is the battalion commander, and Xue commands Company C.)



Courtesy photo

Third Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment leadership emphasize creating a culture of fitness, which enables the unit to attain its maximum performance levels.

MILITARY KIDS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



ESSENCE ECHOLS, 12

6th grade, C.C. Pinckney
Elementary School
Hometown: Georgia

To me, being a military child means “while my parents are doing their job, I’m doing mine by having patience and letting them work.”

Advice I would give to someone whose parent is joining the military is “to enjoy it, because you meet new people and then you leave them.”

My best memory as a military child is “going to my mom’s graduations because I get to watch her succeed.”

My favorite duty station was “Washington state, because it was nice there.”

When I grow up “I want to be a lawyer because I’m going to help people.”



MALIA CHARLES, 12

7th grade, Muller Road
Middle School
Hometown: North Carolina

To me, being a military child means “for your parents to be in the military.”

Advice I would give to someone whose parent is joining the military is “to just be yourself and that people won’t see you differently because you’re a military child.”

My best memory as a military child is “going to my mom or dad’s job and the people there call me ‘Miss’ instead of my name.”

My favorite duty station is “Fort Jackson, because I have met so many friends and teachers here that I don’t want to leave.”

When I grow up “I want to be a computer engineer, because I like to build stuff with my hands and I like to program stuff with computers.”



DEMETRE HALL, 15

10th grade, Lugoff-Elgin
High School
Hometown: Fort Dix, New
Jersey

To me, being a military child means “that I have moved a lot and I have had to adapt.”

Advice I would give to someone whose parent is joining the military is “don’t get too attached to one place.”

My best memory as a military child is “when my mother came back from deployment.”

My favorite duty station was “Fort Dix, New Jersey. I was there for the longest and had the best time. I miss it.”

When I grow up “I want to be rich, the life is easier.”



KHAMANI LEGGETT, 13

7th grade, Summit Park-
way Middle School
Hometown: Seoul, South
Korea

“To me, being a military child means I get to travel and make new friends.”

Advice I would give to someone whose parent is joining the military is “don’t get too attached to your friends because you might move soon.”

My best memory as a military child is “traveling.”

My favorite duty station was “Fort Stewart, Georgia, because I met a lot of people.”

“When I grow up, I want to be a travel nurse because I want to travel.”



ELIZABETH ELIAS, 13

8th grade, Longleaf Middle
School
Hometown: Columbia, South
Carolina

To me, being a military child “means that I’m special knowing I have relatives that serve in the military.”

Advice I would give to someone whose parent is joining the military is to “make memories and have fun.”

My best memory as a military child is “being with friends on base and hanging out.”

My favorite duty station “is here, because this is the only one I’ve been to.”

When I grow up I want to be “a pediatrician or a surgeon to help people.”



JILLIAN BROWN, 13

8th grade, Crayton Middle
School
Hometown: Columbia, South
Carolina

To me, being a military child means “It’s tough.

You’ll lose a lot of friends when you move and you have to adjust.”

Advice I would give to someone whose parent is joining the military is “to just get ready for change.”

My best memory as a military child is “meeting new people and being on base. Meeting new people helped me with my social skills.”

My favorite duty station is here. “I’ve never moved.”

When I grow up “I want to be a cook.”

April 5 retirees



Photo by NATHAN CLINBELLE

The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson honored the service of 1st Sgt. Christopher Picache, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment; and Staff Sgt. Nicole M. Danley, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment during the 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment graduation, April 5.

Alcohol Awareness Month: It's time for a decision

By **RENA FREEMAN**
Army Substance Abuse Program

Over the past few weeks, we have discussed the history of Alcohol Awareness Month and the reason it was started. People wanted to make a difference. We have discussed the National Survey on Drug Use and Health completed for 2021. We also noticed the number of individuals consuming alcohol has decreased since 2019 and the current number reported is slightly over 133 million people. The number of binge drinkers is roughly 60 million and the number of heavy alcohol users is slightly more than 16 million people.

During the Alcohol Awareness Month campaign, we hope you learned something new regarding standard drinking sizes or how the campaign re-iterated what your already knew regarding standard drinks.

Reflecting on one's choices is not always easy; however, it is an action that one must

take on occasion.

Take a look at two specific influences. First, let's look at social influences. Let us define social influences as friends, family, media, and societal norms. How do your friends impact you? How does your family impact you? How does the media and social norms impact you? Ask yourself, "Do my actions risk what I value or do my actions protect what I value?" Secondly, let us look at psychological influences. Let us define psychological influences as attitudes and beliefs.

What is your attitude about alcohol?

Are you saying to yourself, "that alcohol is not bad or convincing yourself that you can handle more than one drink?" What are your beliefs about alcohol? Could it be that you are a grown person, so you can drink what you please?"

So ask yourself again, "Do my beliefs or attitudes risk what I value or do my beliefs and attitude protect what I value?"

81st Readiness Division holds annual Safety Fair for Reserve Soldiers, civilians

By **MAJ. DAVID GASPERSON**
81st Readiness Division

The 81st Readiness Division held its annual safety fair April 3, at its headquarters on Fort Jackson. Reserve Soldiers and civilians from the local area attended the event to educate attendees on various safety-related topics and demonstrate how safety impacts all aspects of Reserve life.

The 81st Readiness Division Command Safety Program sponsored the event, which featured representatives from various command programs, including motorcycle safety awareness, environmental safety, the command chaplain, and the Army Reserve's comprehensive wellness program — Holistic Health and Fitness.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol also attended and discussed driving safety with participants.

"The safety fair is an important event for our Reserve Soldiers, civilians, and staff members" said Tameica Turner, the 81st Readiness Division's Safety and Occupational Health Manager. "It provides a valuable opportunity for attendees to learn about different safety-related issues and to take steps toward ensuring their safety and that of the entire Army Reserve."

Attendees had the chance to learn about a wide range of safety-related issues from experts in these fields. The H2F team had attendees test their grip strength, which may indicate the health-related quality of life. The program supports the over-

all safety of Army Reserve troops by prioritizing mental health and mitigating the effects of fatigue.

In addition, health care providers from the command's surgeon section were available to take attendees' blood pressure and provide health-related information.

The motorcycle safety awareness representatives emphasized the importance of safety and highlighted measures that can reduce the risk of accidents. They provided information on motorcycle safety courses and protective gear and shared statistics on the dangers of riding without proper safety measures.



Photo by MAJ. DAVID GASPERSON

A civilian gets his blood pressure taken during the 81st Readiness Division's annual Safety Fair, April 3.

The environmental safety representatives shared valuable information about environmental hazards and ways to mitigate them. They also highlighted the importance of taking care of the environment and the impact of small actions on preserving the environment for future generations.

Events

Continued from Page 4

of an estate plan (wills, trusts, power of attorney, beneficiary designations and health care directives). Registration is required. For more information, or to register, please call 751-5256.

APRIL 22
Youth Fishing Derby

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heise's Pond. Come Join Fort Jackson's Outdoor recreation for our Annual Outdoor Recreations Youth Fishing Derby! Youth ages 5 to 16 are welcome to come try and catch a whooper in Heise's Pond. There will be prizes for Heaviest fish and 5 fish limit weigh in. The pond will be stocked so come join us for some fishing, food and fun whether it is their first-time fishing or 100th time. Register onsite the day of the event.

Cars and Coffee

8-11 a.m., Solomon Center parking lot, adjacent to the 512 Trolley Cafe. Enjoy hot coffee and cool cars! Show off your vehicle or just appreciate the wicked whips of others. The Trolley Café will be open serving hot and cold espresso-based drinks, real fruit smoothies, and fresh pastries.

APRIL 28
Motorcycle Rider Training

2-3 p.m., Post Theater. All Fort Jackson military motorcycle riders will attend the spring classroom training session led by your Motorcycle Mentors. Attendance by

military motorcycle riders is mandatory; civilian motorcycle riders are encouraged to attend. Only the first O-6 in rider's chain of command can excuse the military motorcycle rider from this mandatory training session. For more information, call 751-7553.

Family Fun Fair

4:30-6:30 p.m., Patriots Park. Child and Youth Services will hold its annual Family Fun Fair. Join CYS for a fun, family-friendly event with games, activities and a DJ. Food trucks will be available to purchase food and other items. In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place inside the Solomon Center. For more information, call 751-4824 or 4865.

MAY 1
Law Day

Fort Jackson's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will be hosting Law Day at C.C. Pinckney Elementary School May 1. The day will include a presentation to all grades (two through six) from Alan Wilson, attorney general of South Carolina. Additionally, each grade will participate in a poster contest to be judged by the OSJA office. The theme for Law Day this year is: "Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration."

May 3
National Prayer Breakfast

7:30-8:30 a.m., NCO Club. The Fort Jackson Religious Support Office will hold an observance of the National Prayer Breakfast/National Day of Prayer. The breakfast helps build and strengthen partnerships, while giving the post an opportunity to join

in collective prayers for the nation.

MAY 9
Military Spouse Appreciation Expo & Bunco Night

5-8:30 p.m., NCO Club. The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Army Community Service invites military spouses to come out and meet Fort Jackson Health and Holistic Fitness agencies and stay for an exciting night of Bunco. The H2F Expo takes place 5-6 p.m.; portfolio-professional headshots will be taken from 5-5:45 p.m.; and the Bunco dice roll starts at 6:30 p.m. Child care is available through Child, Youth Services and costs \$8 per hour, per child. RSVP by April 28 by calling 751-4867.

MAY 12
Military Spouse Appreciation Day "Own Your Wellness"

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., NCO Club. The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Army Community Service invites military spouses for an "Own Your Wellness" seminar. The seminar includes classes on Yoga, resiliency training, and getting a better night's sleep. All classes are free. For more information, call 751-5256.

Military Spouse Resume Workshop

9:30-11:30 a.m., Army Community Service Building, 9810 Lee Road. Are you seeking federal employment? Come learn everything you need to know about: transitioning from private industry to the federal government; writing a correct federal resume; creating effective Knowledge Skills and Abilities; answer-

ing "Self-Assessment Questionnaires; "formatting your resume to be noticed by reviewers; interviewing; and tracking the progress of your application. Topics covered are: USAJobs account, position classification standards and functional guides; breaking down the vacancy announcement adjusting your experience to the vacancy; self assessment questionnaire; and military spouse preference. Registration is required. Call 751-5256 to reserve a seat.

MAY 20
Summer Kick-off

1-6 p.m., Weston Lake. This free event celebrates the opening of the beach at Weston Lake. Patrons can enjoy swimming along with other water activities. Weston Lake also will have food and beverage sales available. Canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards and pedal boats will be available for rent. Outdoor Recreation is partnering with the Department of Public Works to conduct a Recycle Regatta event on same day.

MAY 27-29
Palmetto Falls Water Park open

Palmetto Falls Water Park will be open May 27, 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.; May 28 and May 29, 12-5 p.m. Daily fees for Department of Defense ID cardholders (older than 2 years) are \$13, guests of authorized patrons are \$15, and unaffiliated civilians are \$17. Season passes for DOD ID cardholders (older than 2 years) are \$65 per person and included Legion Outdoor Swimming Pool. Unaffiliated civilians can purchase season passes (does not include Legion Pool) for \$75 per person.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	MON-FRI	NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M.	DANIEL CIRCLE CHAPEL
GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	9-10 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
THE BRIDGE (PROTESTANT)	SUNDAY	8:30-9:30 A.M.	ANDERSON CHAPEL
CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	MAGRUDER CHAPEL
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	MAGRUDER CHAPEL
ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	DANIEL CIRCLE CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:15-11:30 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. - NOON	ANDERSON CHAPEL

Soldier puts old back in new school. Literally.

Company B, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment Soldier graduates Basic Training for the second time at 55-years-old.

By EMILY HILEMAN
Fort Jackson Leader

As the stadium rumbled with the stomps and roars of ecstatic Family members waiting to see their Soldiers emerge from the plumes of yellow and green smoke on Hilton Field, an unlikely figure was amongst their ranks, 55-year-old Spc. Miguel Nieves.

Nieves first enlisted in the Army in 1985 as a 92W – Water Treatment Specialist. He spent ten years on active duty before spending another 13 years with the California National Guard and the Army Reserves, leaving 15 years between his last time in uniform to now.

“It’s a lot of different personalities than it was back then, but it was a good experience



Spc. Miguel Nieves

for me,” Nieves said.

After finding their Families at Fami-

ly Day, many Soldiers ran up to introduce him to their Families and to get photos with their “grandpa” as some Soldiers affectionately referred to him. “I have a daughter and she’s 38-years-old,” Nieves said. “I liked to tell the trainees that she’s older than most of them in basic training right now.”

Although he’s not a grandfather, Nieves relished in being called grandpa and listening to the trials and stories of the younger trainees. “You know kids ... They leave home for the first time and they miss their moms, their dads, their girlfriends,” he said. “I was there once. So, any words of encouragement or to teach them how to wash their clothes, how to keep their lockers clean ... I was all for it.”

Sgt. 1st Class Jack Young, drill sergeant for Company B, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, said Nieves’ age not only benefited his platoon, but the entire company. “He was able to help the younger trainees by giving them a different perspective and was able to show them what

looks right,” he said.

Nieves wife, Eva Martinez, was supportive of his decision and instrumental in him reenlisting. “My wife thought I was crazy at first, because this a young-person’s thing,” he said. “She was the one that helped me with all my paperwork. When I was working, she took it to the recruiters and made sure I was squared away.”

When asked what drove him to enlist for a second time when most people are preparing for retirement, Nieves said, “I just wanted to finish my time and get my retirement.”

Nieves plans to retire from both the Army and United Airlines, where he’s been a flight attendant for 22 years, and move to Puerto Rico to take care of his parents.

Although graduating Basic Combat Training at 55 is quite the accomplishment to be proud of, Nieves exuded gratitude above all. “A lot of people helped me,” he said. “Bravo Company took me in and treated me with respect. The drill sergeants and the cadre, they really looked after me.”

SAAPM proclamation signed

Leader Staff Reports

Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson commander, and other post leaders signed a Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month proclamation, March 28.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The proclamation reads:

“April is recognized nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. It provides an opportunity for both military and civilian communities to reaffirm our commitment to eradicate sexual harassment and sexual assault and support survivors within our ranks and our community. The Army’s 2023 Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month theme is ‘Inter-vene. We are a team: There is an US in TrUSt. Can they trust in you?’ This theme emphasizes that trust and intervention go hand in hand. When we have the courage to intervene, we’re standing up together among our teams, our units, and our entire Fort Jackson community to collectively reduce harmful behaviors that lead to sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Can they trust you? Every day you have an opportunity to play an active role in keeping each other safe and stepping up when witnessing distressing or inappropriate behaviors. Trust is a cornerstone of any effective team.

When every Soldier and civilian has trust in their leadership and each other, it strengthens unit cohesion and leads to healthier climates and relationships. Regardless of your position or rank, your charge is to be that trusted leader, peer, or co-worker who intervenes to stop harmful acts from occurring.

As the Army recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, I charge our leaders to revisit command policies and incorporate or strengthen mitigation efforts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our personnel.

We will lead the charge and eliminate this destructive behavior within our community. Not just during the month of April, but throughout the year to ensure that our teammates, Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members can live and work without the threat of Sexual Assault and Harassment.”





VICTORY...
STARTS
HERE