

DOD announces latest quality of life efforts

By C.TODD LOPEZ

Suicide Prevention Manager

The Defense Department on Sept. 13 announced a new series of initiatives aimed at improving the welfare and well-being of service members and their families.

In a memorandum published Sept. 13, titled "Our Enduring Duty to America's Service Members and Their Families," Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced a new set of initiatives which are part of his ongoing "Taking Care of Our People" priority that began three years ago.

The latest initiatives include:

• Establishing Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts for service members

Providing greater access to free wireless internet in unaccompanied housing

• Decreasing the cost burden associated permanent change of station moves

• Lowering the cost of procuring uniforms for enlisted service members

• Expanding spouse employment and professional development opportunities through the My Career Advancement Account, or MyCAA program

■ Increasing access to affordable quality childcare and early childhood education

Improving quality of life conditions at remote and isolated installations

The new initiatives, along with initiatives over the past three years, were developed after assessing the experiences of service members. Taken together, the efforts are meant to ensure the well-being and success of service members, enabling them to better focus on their part of the defense mission.

"Early in my tenure as secretary of defense, I made taking care of our people a top priority," Austin said in the memorandum. "Doing right by our all-volunteer joint force and their families is a core readiness issue. Taking care of our people is fundamental to the department's ability to recruit and retain the most talented American patriots and to ensure that the U.S. military remains the most lethal fighting force on the planet — and it is simply the right

thing to do." As part of a focus on service member and military family health, the department plans to offer service members the ability to contribute up to \$3,200 in pre-tax earnings to pay for eligible healthcare-related expenses through a Health Care Flexible Spending Account. or HCFSA.

With the HCFSA, service members will be able to contribute up to \$3,200 each year in pre-tax dollars to their accounts and spend that money on things such

as insurance co-payments and cost shares, deductibles, braces and other orthodontia, glasses and contact lenses, prescription drugs, and wellness treatments such as acu-



Photo by VERAN HILL

Sabine Alsup, Child and Youth Services coordinator, talks with Michelle Brito, wife of Gen. Gary M. Brito, Commanding General, Training and Doctrine Command during a February 2024 visit. The Department of Defense recently announced efforts to improve quality of life across the armed forces.

puncture, massage, and chiropractic care. It's expected that the HCFSAs will be available to service members for the first time in March 2025.

To keep junior, unaccompanied service

members connected to the wider world while off duty, the department has directed the military departments to carry out a se-

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ON THE COVER

An attendee to the Sept. 13 Community Information Exchange watches as a representative of the Fort Jackson Commissary provides updates and news about upcoming events.



events. Photo by ROBERT
See Page 6-7 TIMMONS

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Army's best drills compete at Fort Jackson

By JONATHAN DAHMS

Center for Initial Military Training

Drill sergeants from across the Army are at Fort Jackson this week competing for the coveted title of Drill Sergeant of the Year.

Since 1969 the Army has recognized its top drill sergeants after a grueling week-long competition that challenges its competitors both mentally and physically, test-

ing not just tactical and technical skills, but also their ability to coach, teach and mentor.

This year's competition commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Army's drill sergeant program, which was launched in September 1964.

The winners of the DSOY competition continue to advocate for drill sergeants by being assigned to the Center for Initial Military Training at Fort Eustis, Virginia the following year.



"This competition is actually one of the most physically, mentally and professionally intense job interviews the Army has," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Mc-Murdy, the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training senior enlisted leader. "Unlike other Army competitions, the winners of this one are signing up for another year of demanding duty, representing 4,000 of their peers and advising senior leaders."

The competition will crown both an active duty and a Reserve Component DSOY.

Staff Sgt. Ashley Buhl, last year's active component DSOY, shared what, for her, was the most challenging part of last year's competition.

"The most challenging part of the competition for me overall was my mental state. I struggle a lot with self-confidence," said Buhl, who was a drill sergeant with the 193rd Infantry Brigade. "I can boost anyone up and be someone's motivator, but when it comes to myself, I always struggled to do the same. If I did not do so well in one event, I did my best to just forget about it and focus on the next event. Although I was competing against oth-



Photos by SPC.TYRIN SAUNDERS

Staff Sgt. Joseph McCready, Drill Sergeant of the Year for Fort Eisenhower, Ga. steps over an obstacle during the Fit to Win obstacle course at the 2024 Drill Sergeant of the Year competition at Fort Jackson.

ers, I always felt more in competition with myself."

For Buhl, working at CIMT gave her the opportunity to impact drill sergeants throughout the Army.

"Being at CIMT and representing the drill sergeant community has been awesome," Buhl said. "One of my favorite impacts was being active on social media and helping NCOs who wanted to be a drill sergeant. I was constantly messaging people, reaching out, traveling to (Forces Command) stations to talk to these people about the life of a drill sergeant and all the rewards that come from it. I believe my social media impact has been very useful in setting up future drill sergeants for success."

Buhl stated passing the title to the next DSOY will be bittersweet.

"I feel excited and sad at the same time," Buhl said. "Sad because it truly has been the best year of my career, but excited to pass the torch onto someone else, who will get to experience everything I got to."

What advice would Buhl have for the next DSOY?

"The best advice I can give them is to live in the present," Buhl said. "The year goes by so quick. Enjoy and relish in every TDY, every meeting, every task."



Staff Sgt. Danielle Kline, a drill sergeant leader with the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy, performs the maximum deadlift during the Army Combat Fitness Test as part of the 2024 Drill Sergeant of the Year competition at Fort Jackson, Sep. 15.

Tune in today at 11 a.m. to the Center for Initial Military Training Facebook page to learn who will be crowned the 2024 Drill Sergeant of the Year.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resiliency Stand-To

Fort Jackson conducts a Resiliency Stand-To Oct. 3-4. The Stand-To starts at 8 a.m. with a small group circuit at the Soldier Performance Readiness Center and an opportunity to visit with on and off post service providers focusing on physical, sleep, and nutritional readiness. That afternoon there will be a speaker panel at 1917 Club from 1-3:30 p.m. and an opportunity to visit with on and off post service providers focusing on mental and spiritual readiness. Builling resiliency classes will be held at the Training Support Center, Oct. 4. Registration for the speaker panel and resiliency building classes is required due to limited seating. RSVP no later than Oct. 1. Please RSVP via email at usarmy.jackson.army-tng-ctr.mbx.fj-resil- TODAY iency-lead-planners@army.mil, or call at (803) 751-2915 or (803) 751-6334.

Safety Training Classes

The Installation Safety Office presents various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to https://imc.army.mil/airs/default.aspx. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your Safety Specialist.

Basic Riders Course: Sept. 24-26 (3 seats open); Oct. 8-10 (4 seats open); Oct. 22-(4 seats open)

Advanced Riders Course: Oct. TARP- (9-9:45 a.m.) 15 (4 seats open); Oct. 29 (4 seats open) Local Hazards Course: Monday;

Sept. 30; Oct. 7, 21, 28

Intermediate Drivers Course: Today (20 seats open); Oct. 17 (30 seats open)

Remedial Drivers Course: Oct. 16 (12 seats open)

Unit Safety Officer Course: Oct.1-2 (15 seats open); Dec. 3-4 (24 seats open)

Army Continuing Education System

The Army Continuing Education System

(ACES) has moved back to the Education Center, Bldg. 4600. ACES is open Monday-Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is closed for training on the first and third Thursday of the month from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

DHR holiday hours

The Directorate of Human Resources will be closed on these holidays: Columbus Day: Oct. 14 Veterans Day: Nov. 11 Thanksgiving Day: Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Training Holiday: Nov. 29 Christmas Eve Training Holiday: Dec. 24 Christmas Dav: Dec. 25 New Year's Day: Jan. 1

COMMUNITY EVENTS

4th Quarter Training Standup

8-11:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m., Post Theater. U.S. Army Garrison - Fort Jackson hosts the 4th Quarter Training Standup The training will have two sessions covering six annual mandatory training topics; Anti Terroriism Level 1, Army Substance Abuse and Prevention, Equal Employment Opportuntiy No Fear, Operations Secutiry, Suicide Prevention, and Threat Awareness and Reporting Program. Below is the schedule for the training:

Morning session:

ASAP/Suicide Prevention (8-9 a.m.) AT Level 1/OPSEC- (9:45-10:30 a.m.)

EEO-(10:30-11:30 a.m.) - employees Afternoon session:

TARP- (1-1:45 p.m.)

ASAP/Suicide Prevention (1:45-2:45 p.m.)

AT Level 1/OPSEC- (2:45-3:30 p.m.) EEO- (3:30-4:30 p.m.) - supervisors

1.000 lbs. Club

5:30-7 p.m., Vanguard Gym. Register now and test your strength to earn the coveted 500/1,000 pounds shirt. Register at

any gym or call (803) 751-4526.

TOMORROW

Fort Jackson Community Baby Shower 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1917 Club. New Parent Support Program is hosting the Fort Jackson Community Baby Shower where information will be provided from multiple on and off post agencies. There will be games, food, and prizes. Spouses are welcome and childcare will be provided. To use the childcare, your child must be registered with Child, Youth Services. Registration for the event is required. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-5256 (option 3).

MONDAY

Understanding Alzheimer's, Dementia

10-11 a.m. The Fort Jackson Exceptional Family Member Program is hosting a webinar presented by the Alzheimer's Associaition Volunteer Community Educator. The credentials for the meeting are: Meeting ID: 993 250 268 Passcode: FqcWt4 Dial in by Phone: (571) 616-7941 Phone conference ID: 236 610 694# To sign up visit alz.org/sc or call (800) 272-3900.

TUESDAY Money & Mindsets Webinar

1:30-2:30 p.m., MS Teams. 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. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-5256.

SEPT. 24-26 Co-ed softball tournament

Fort Jackson Sports Complex. Prizes for all participants. Plus, a special prize for the champions. Sign up at any gym or for more information, call (803) 751-3096/237-0184.

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY. SEPT. 21

The Forge (PG) 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25

- Afraid (PG-13) 2 p.m.
- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

SEPT. 27 Oktoberfest

4-9 p.m., 1917 Club. Check in starts at 4 p.m., and the block party is free and open to the public. The fest kicks off with a one-mile Volksmarch Walk at 4:30 p.m. The \$25 registration fee includes beer stein, beer tastings, snack stops and T-shirt.. There will be vendors, games, live music, German beer-Biergarten. For additional information, call (803) 751-3933.

SEPT. 28 Hip Hop Master Step Class

9-11 a.m., Coleman Gym. Participate individually or bring your team to our aster Step and Hip Hop Step Class. This is a free event showcasing the creative moves used in this classic and modern style workout. For more information or to sign up, call (803) 751-3700

Trip to Fort Sumter

7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Army Community Ser-

See **EVENTS:** Page 10



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 we 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. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style.

Questions? Call 751-3615.



Leader file photo

Soldiers look at their cell phones while waiting departure for Victory Block Leave in 2017. It has been argued that cell phones may cause a person to hurry through their lives. It is estimated an average mobile phone user touches their phone screens 2,617 times a day.

Soul Focus - The hurried life (part one)

By CHAPLAIN (COL.) STAN SMITH Garrison Chaplain

Most of us can attest to feeling hurried. Maybe even to the point of having severe feelings of frustration and stress. A former Army Chief of Chaplains once commented to a group on the importance for leaders to take time to slow down and think.

John Mark Comer wrote in his book "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry," that "The simple essence of hurry is too much to do!"

I think we can all relate.

In the book he quotes another author, Dallas Willard, who advised a friend who was experiencing professional and personal burn out that he needed to eliminate the bustle of his life.

Willard told his friend, "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry. There is nothing else. Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day."

How did our lives get to such a frantic pace? There are a number of influencing factors, but here are a few interesting facts to consider from Comer:

■ Before the invention of the light bulb in 1879 the average person slept 11 hours a night (a little more than a century later we are down to around seven hours)

■ In 2000 the average attention span was 12 seconds – today it is eight seconds (the attention span of the goldfish is nine

seconds)

■ The average mobile phone user touches his/her phone 2,617 times a day

■ 1960s futurists thought that by 1985 we would work only 22 hours each week for 27 weeks each year (the exact opposite has happened – the average American works nearly four more weeks per year than in 1979)

Seems like the deck is stacked against us. So, how do we get off the hurried-life merry go round? What would you say to a little less hurry in your life?

I think, along with Comer and others, there is a better way ahead.

In the next several articles, we will look at ways to tackle this problem and eliminate hurry in our lives.

DOD accounts for 700th missing hero By ASHLEY M. WRIGHT DOD News

With the Sept. 9, 2024, accounting of Army Cpl. Billie Charles Driver, 18, from Dallas, Texas, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency marked the identification of the 700th missing personnel from the Korean War. Driver, member of the 1st Calvary Division, perished in the Battle of the Pusan Perimeter, Sept. 5, 1950.

Since 1982, forensic scientists have painstakingly and skillfully analyzed recovered remains to reach this accounting milestone and return fallen Korean War personnel back to their families for proper burial honors. This number is in addition to the roughly 2,000 Americans whose remains were identified in the years immediately following the end of hostilities.

During the more than threeyear-long conflict, the United States suffered roughly 36,500 casualties. There are still more than 7,400 missing from the Korean War. Of these, the agency's researchers believe that about 5,300 are located in North Korea.

It was not until 1990 when the North Korean government resumed unilateral turnovers of missing U.S. service members through the United Nations Command to the United States. From 1990 to 1994, North Korea repatriated 208 boxes of human remains, which came to be known as the K208. While the North Korean government stated that each box represented the remains of a single service member, forensic analyses determined over 700 to be represented.







Jackson exchanges community information

Story, photos by ROBERT TIMMONS Fort Jackson Public Affairs

'There are a lot of things going on at Fort Jackson and occurring everywhere," said Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander as he opened up the Community Information Exchange, Sept. 13, "and often the challenge is finding out when and where things are."

The purpose of the quarterly CIE meetings is to "let you know how to find some of the information and be 'in the know' on some of the opportunities" on post, Hickman added.

He said the post wants the community "to enjoy the many things that happen here," because Fort Jackson continues to be a great place to live, work and visit.

Attendees and those watching the event live streamed heard from various directorates, Partners in Excellence and on-post activities about upcoming events.

have happened since the last CIE.

"We had our Fourth of July celebration on Hilton Field," he said adding the post had "35,000 participants in one of the largest (events) card ..." we've had yet."

Other events included school being back in session and Army Community Service's Kamala Henley being honored by the Department of Defense. The post also hosted the World Long Drive competition among others.

lot coming up too," he added noting the post's Oktoberfest celebration is set for Sept. 27 at the 1917 Club.

The post also has a walking town hall sched- son/videos/1201516357726436

uled for November.

Hickman was followed by Chaplain (Col.) Stan Smith, garrison chaplain, who spoke about religious services available including community events and Club Beyond. Mary Armstead, chief of the Administrative Services Division, updated the community on upcoming changes to official mail.

Timothy Jones with the Army Substance Abuse Program office, cautioned that according to a new state law that came into effect in May, "any individual that's convicted of a (Driving Under the Influence), regardless of (blood alcohol content) must participate in the ignition interlock for life program."

Jones also spoke about the upcoming Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23-31.

Sarrah Carter, Military Personnel Division chief, spoke about numerous items including changes to ID card procedures.

"You cannot use your CAC card as one form Hickman gave a quick update on things that of identification," when getting a new or updated ID card, she said. "One has to be a picture ID, and the other on could be ... your social security card, your VA card, voters registration

> Other updates given at the event were the upcoming career fair, the Army Continuing Education System moving back into the Education Center, and several safety updates.

Others giving updates included AAFES, the Commissary, Fort Jackson Family Homes, "We do have a lot going on, and we have a Armed Forces Wellness Center and Moncrief Army Health Clinic.

> To watch the CIE in its entirety visit: *https://* www.facebook.com/USArmyGarrisonFortJack-

(Far left) Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, opens up the Community Information Exchange with a few remarks.

(Top left) Veronica Fields-Cox updates the community on various happenings with the Army Continuing Education System. ACES recently moved back into the Education Center.

(Top right, middle) Videorama live streams the event on social media.

(Left) Garrison Command Sqt. Mai. Brie Kotula and John Hughes, Directorate of Emergency Services deputy director, listen to speakers inform the community of upcoming events.



Paying a visit

Photos by Mel Slater Institute for Religious Leadership

Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond S. Harris, Training and Doctrine Command's senior enlisted leader, visited with religious affairs noncommissioned officers in the Zimmerman Auditorium at the Institute for Religious Leadership on Sept. 17.

Harris was at Fort Jackson for the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition and made time in his schedule to visit and speak with NCOs about leadership, the direction and impact of Army training and to take questions.

He also spoke about the importance of religious affairs specialists and their work along side chaplains as a critical support effort for Army Soldiers. Harris served with Chaplain (Col.) Nathan Kline, director or the Religious Leader Academy.





EFMP wants to talk about Alzheimer's in September

By DONNA OUTEN

Exceptional Family Member Program

World Alzheimer's Month is observed in September and is an important time for raising awareness and understanding Alzheimer's disease and dementia, especially as countless Families navigate its challenges. World Alzheimer's Day is Sept. 21.

By designating September for this initiative, organizations and communities around the globe come together to share information, provide support, and advocate for those affected by these conditions.

It is vital to recognize the emotional toll it takes on both those diagnosed and their loved ones. Watching a loved one who was once active and vibrant lose their memories is difficult and will impact both the loved one and the caregiver.

I know from personal experience as I watched my mother go through the stages of Alzheimer's. I witnessed my mother become a shell of herself and be robbed of her ability to



communicate and provide self-care. She eventually passed during the end stages of Alzheimer's.

A wonderful support resource that can help Families better understand Alzheimer's is the Alzheimer's Association South Carolina Chapter. The association assisted my Family with learning and understanding more about this disease, what to expect, and how to move forward with care.

Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program is hosting a virtual webinar on "Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia" from 10-11 a.m. Sept. 23 via MS Teams.

Key aspects covered in the webinar include:

The impact of Alzheimer's: Understanding how this disease affects individuals, their families, and communities.

Differences between Alzheimer's and Dementia: Clarifying these terms can help in recognizing symptoms and understanding the diagnosis.

Stages and risk factors: Learning about the progression of Alzheimer's and identifying risk factors is crucial for early intervention.

Current research and treatments: Staying informed about the latest advancements in care and treatment options can offer hope and insights into effective management.

Alzheimer's Association resources: Knowing where to find support and resources is invaluable in navigating this journey.

For additional information and to register, call (803) 751-5256.



Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Happy Retirement

Fort Jackson recognized the service of Master Sgt. Donae Rose, from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion during the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment graduation, Sept. 12. Rose retired from the Army after 21 years of service.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment

DRILL SERGEANT OF THE CYCLE Staff Sgt. Adam Seay

ALPHA COMPANY

SOLDIER LEADER **OF THE CYCLE** Pfc. Traven Fletcher

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Pvt. Lfeoma Alika

BRAVO COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER **OF THE CYCLE** Spc. Jacob Martin

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Pfc. Jacob Trimnal

CHARLIE COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER **OF THE CYCLE** Pvt. Aric Schosek

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Pfc. Alexsandr Renfro

DELTA COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER **OF THE CYCLE** Pvt. Benjamin Fisher

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Pfc. Benjamin Lazarescu

ECHO COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER **OF THE CYCLE** Spc. Daniel Nicholls

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Pvt. Nierra Stokes

Take Action to Prevent the Flu



Fort Jackson Flu Vaccination Schedule

DATE	TIME	LOCATION		
Oct. 7	4-6 p.m.	Armed Forces Wellness Center, 4512 8th Division Rd		
Oct. 9	4-6 p.m.	Armed Forces Wellness Center, 4512 8th Division Rd		
Oct. 16	4-6 p.m.	Armed Forces Wellness Center, 4512 8th Division Rd		
Oct. 19	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	The Exchange, 4110 Century Division Ave.		
Oct. 21	4-6 p.m.	Armed Forces Wellness Center, 4512 8th Division Rd		
Oct. 23	4-6 p.m.	Armed Forces Wellness Center, 4512 8th Division Rd		
Nov. 4	4-6 p.m.	Armed Forces Wellness Center, 4512 8th Division Rd		
Nov. 6	4-6 p.m.	Armed Forces Wellness Center, 4512 8th Division Rd		

Flu Vaccine available to all TriCare Beneficiaries (Active Reserve National Guard Mission Essential, Health care Personnel and Dependents ages 6 months and older) u can get thi:



Events

Continued from Page 4

ice invites all Foreign-born spouses, their sponsors, and military Families of service members or Department of the Army Civilians either deployed or on an unaccompanied tour to take a historical trip to Fort Sumter,. For more information, call (803) 751-5256

OCT. 1 Maude Lecture Series

1 p.m., Solomon Center. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Weimer will be the keynote speaker at the Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Memorial Lecture Series. The lecture series was established to provide an ongoing forum for reflections on leadership by prominent senior leaders of the Army in memory of Maude, the senior ranking officer killed in the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon, Sept. 11, 2001.

National Night Out

6 p.m., Patriots Park. The Fort Jackson Police Department hosts the annual National Night Out to highlight the partnership between law enforcement and the community. Law enforcement officers from the S.C. Highway Patrol, Richland County Sheriff's Department, Columbia Police Department, Army Criminal Investigation Divison, military police and the U.S. Marshall's Service will be in attendance.

ОСТ. 5

CYS Halloween Paint and Sip

3-5 p.m., Solomon Center. Come join us for a great time and learn some basic painting skills. Registration required. Last day for sign up is Oct. 2. This is a parent and child class. Child must be registered in CYS. Child must be enrolled in the Teen Program on Fort Jackson. For more information and to sign up, call (803) 751-6387.

Do It in Pink Aerobathon and 5K

8 a.m. to noon, Hilton Field Sports Complex. The Do It in Pink delivers a free two-part event for breast cancer prevention and early detection awareness. All participants must wear pink. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-3700/5251.

OCT. 5-6 Fall Family Campout

4 p.m., Twin Lakes. Outdoor recreation is hosting a family- friendly overnight primitive camping event will have fun activities such as games, fishing, s'mores making, arts and crafts and more. Hot dogs and

potato chips will be provided for dinner,

and and coffee and individually wrapped pastries for breakfast the next morning. Come join us by the bonfire and enjoy the great outdoors. Cost is \$15 for children and \$20 for adults. For more information and to register, call (803) 751-3484.

OCT. 12 Brivata Waa

Private Weapons Day 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Range. Open to all authorized ID card holders. For more informationt call (803) 751-3484.

OCT. 25 Fort Jackson

Fall Fest 6-8 p.m., Youth Complex. Sports Child and Youth Services hosts the annual Fall Fest to provide the Fort Jackson Community with a safe, fun and celebratory fair experience for all ages; and to show appreciation for the Fort Jackson community and families. military

CYS will offer age-appropriate activities, games, and entertainment. For more information, call (803) 751-4824.

OCT. 26 Zombie Run

FORT JACKSON LEAD

8 a.m., Twin Lakes Recreation Area. Fort Jackson holds a fun, halloween-themed run to include zombies.

UPCOMING JEWISH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Rosh Hashana						
Oct. 2 – 6-7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashana 1st night					
Oct. 3 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.	.m. Rosh Hashanah 1st day					
Oct. 3 – 6-7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah 2nd night					
Oct. 4 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.	.m. Rosh Hashana 2nd day					
Oct. 4 – 6-7 p.m.	Weekly Shabbos Service					
Yom Kippur						
Oct. 11 – 6-7:30 p.m.	Weekly Shabbos Service combined with Yom					

Oct. 12 – 11 a.m. to noon

Kippur Service

DID YOU KNOW: Getting wet makes an individual much more susceptible to cold weather illnesses and injuries.

	FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
ш	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	CATHOLIC MASS	MON-FRI	NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
F	GOSPEL SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
Z	GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
	REVIVE SERVICE	SUNDAY	5 P.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
Ш	JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICE	FRIDAY	7-8 P.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
I	HEATHEN/PAGAN	EVERY 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY	NOON TO 2 P.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
O				
S	INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
Ω	CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
H	PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVIO	CE SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
T	CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
S	HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	POST THEATER
Ŕ	ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
ō	JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:15-11:30 A.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
X	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF			
5	LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M NOON	WASHINGTON ROAD CHAPEL
	HEATHEN/PAGAN	SUNDAY	8:30-9:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

Quality

Continued from Page 2

ries of pilot projects to provide wireless internet connectivity to enlisted service members who reside in military barracks.

While access to wireless internet will allow those junior service members access to personal email, banking and entertainment options, the department also expects access can be used to help service members connect with mandatory online training requirements and other health and life related resources such as telehealth appointments, Military One-Source, and military and family life counselors.

According to department documents, the DOD has longterm plans to establish a "WiFi-connected force." For service members in unaccompanied housing, there is not expected to be any cost to access the provided internet services.

Service members make frequent permanent change of station moves during their careers. To ease the burden of moving themselves and their families from one military base to another, the department is working with partners to adjust the number of days associated with both the Temporary Lodging Expense, or TLE, and the Temporary Lodging Allowance, or TLA.

The new effort extends TLE from 14 days to 21 days for moves within the continental U.S. For moves that originate outside the continental U.S., TLA will be extended to as many as 60 days on the departure side to match the 60 days already authorized on the arrival side. Both the TLE and the TLA allow service members and their families to live in temporary quarters, such as in hotels, while looking for homes at their new duty station, or after they have checked out of their homes at their existing duty stations.

To ensure enlisted service members are best able to maintain their uniforms, the department has directed a review of the quality of uniforms that are issued to and are available for purchase by service members. Additionally, the department has directed another review that will look at the annual clothing replacement allowance to determine not only if it is sufficient, but if there are better ways to provide that allowance to service members.

The new initiatives also include efforts to improve the recruitment, retention and working environments of DOD child development professionals; expanding eligibility for participation in the My Career Advancement Account career development program to spouses of active-duty service members serving in grades E-7, E-8, E-9, and W-3; and assessments of three remote and isolated installations via the "On-Site Installation Evaluation" process. Those three installations will be identified in the fall, with the evaluations taking place in 2025. This particular initiative advances efforts to understand capabilities and needs regarding the well-being of service members at remote and isolated installations.

This latest salvo of efforts, the third in the department's effort to improve the lives of service members and their families, comes as part of an ongoing nearly three-year long effort which began in 2021.

In November 2021, for instance, Austin addressed economic concerns faced by service members. Then, the department provided relief for the high cost of housing and housing shortages with a temporary increase to basic allowance for housing in some areas, and an extension of temporary lodging expenses where Service members had a difficult time finding housing due to shortages.

At that same time the secretary also pushed to extend tour lengths for service members at both overseas and U.S. based assignments as a way to minimize hardships associated with permanent change of station moves.

In September 2022, Austin continued that effort by directing a review of basic allowance for housing to ensure what was being paid to service members accurately reflected fluctuations in the housing market, and also directed increases in basic allowance for housing for active-duty service members in 28 military housing areas that had experienced an average of more than 20% spike in rental

housing costs.

The September 2022 effort also included direction to fully fund DOD commissaries as a way to cut register prices with a goal of providing service members a 25% savings over private sector grocery stores, and also directed creation of a "Basic Needs Allowance," which began in January 2023, to supplement the incomes of qualifying service members.

The cost of household moves was also addressed by Austin's September 2022 memorandum, which directed a permanent increase to standard TLE. Also included was an increase to the dislocation allowance for service members up to E-6 to offset the personal expenses associated with a permanent change of station move.

In a memo from March 2022, Austin directed implementation of universal pre-kindergarten at Department of Defense Education Activity schools, and the creation of dependent care flexible spending accounts to enable service members with dependents to set aside up to \$5,000 in pretax income through payroll deduction for eligible dependent care expenses such as child care, preschool, before or after school programs, and summer camp.

The March effort also included additional support for those with exceptional family members. As part of that effort the department established a standard process to enroll and disenroll families from the program, require that support personnel make personal contact with each enrolled family at least once a year, better coordinate the way support personnel are assigned to families, and ease the transition between support personnel.

The Department's March 2022 effort also addressed the challenges of ensuring military spouses can find meaning-ful employment.

Advancing military spouse employment efforts, the president in January 2023 signed into law an amendment to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which requires that professional licenses be portable, except for licenses to practice law, for service members and their spouses as they move between states.



VICTORY... STARTS HERE



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A trainee with 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, provides security as fellow trainees go through the Night Infilitration Course event trail. The trail consists of a series of obstacles trainees must overcome by climbing over walls, crawling in tunnels, and low crawling under 50 meters of wires.

Photo courtesy of 3RD BATTALION, 13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

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