

THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2025

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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NCOs JOIN ...

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Pierce Terrace celebrates Read Across America

By LORRAINE EMORY

Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Pierce Terrace Elementary School embraced the magic of reading as students and staff celebrated Read Across America Week during the first week of March with a lineup of engaging, literacy-focused activities.

The school, which serves pre-K, kindergarten, and first-grade students, designed a fun-filled week to foster a love for books while promoting creative and interactive experiences.

Jodina Tyson, a pre-K teacher, wrote a grant proposal that resulted in PTES receiving a \$750 grant from the Federal Education Association to help fund their enchanting week, which was themed "Reading is Magical."

The celebration was organized by librarian Katy Schwartz and reading specialist Kedra Baker, who worked tirelessly to bring the joy of reading to students throughout the week.

The celebration kicked off with Magical Monday, featuring guest author Kodie Simon, who shared her story *Kylie and The Deployment Wall* with young learners.

"The book was written for our kids, but also for all military kids," said Simon emphasizing the importance of the book.

She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak with students.

"I'm grateful to talk with students about the book because it can be applied to the drill sergeant academy as well," she said.

Students also participated in "Drop Everything and Read" (D.E.A.R.) time, diving into enchanting fairy tales that sparked their imaginations.

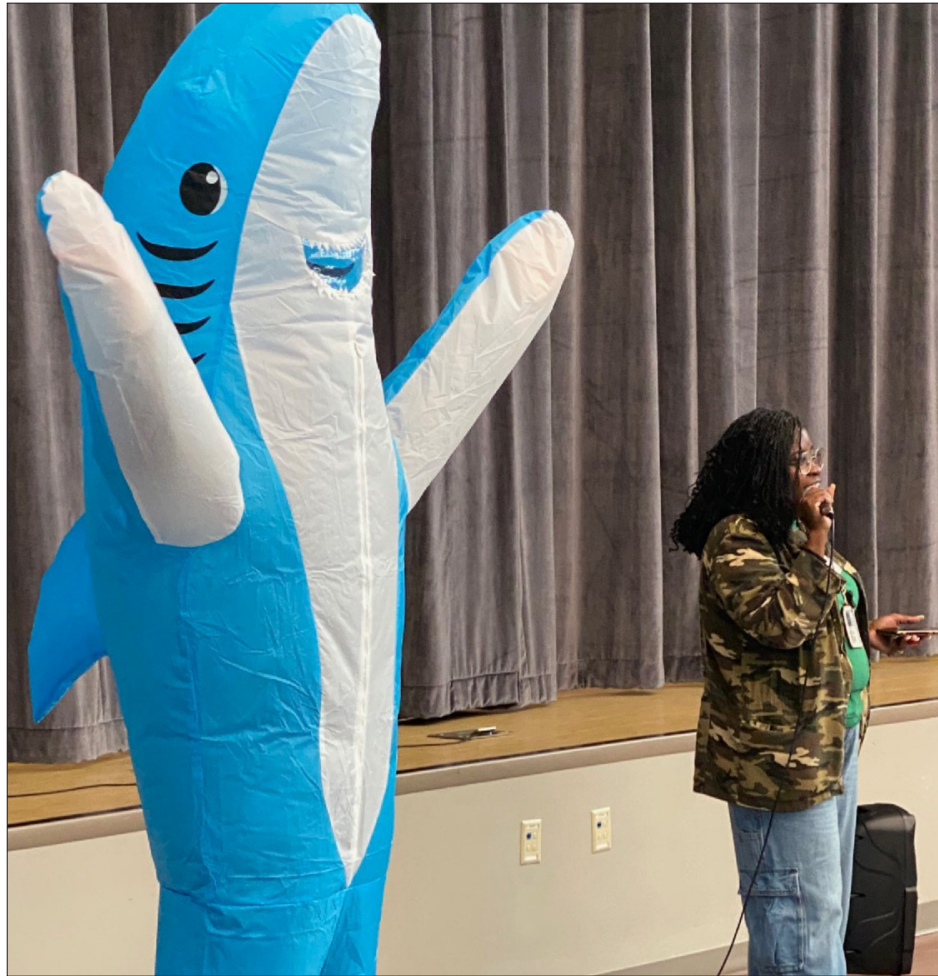


Photo by LORRAINE EMORY

Robert Battey, Pierce Terrace Elementary School principal, dresses like a shark during a 'Better Together Tuesday' event at the school.

On Better Together Tuesday, students enjoyed a special masked reader event during lunch, where they listened to stories read by mystery guests. A highlight of the day was Principal Robert Battey, who delighted stu-

dents by dressing as an inflatable shark for the occasion. Students also paired up with friends for shared reading sessions and continued the daily tradition of D.E.A.R.

Midweek brought laughter and excitement

with Wild Wednesday. Students once again experienced the lunchtime masked reader event and spent their D.E.A.R. time reading silly or joke books, filling the classrooms with giggles and joy.

The celebration continued with Tree-rific Thursday, encouraging students to take their reading outdoors. Under the open sky, they participated in D.E.A.R. time, immersing themselves in books surrounded by nature.

The lunchtime masked reader event added another layer of surprise and excitement.

The week wrapped up with Flashy Friday, a vibrant celebration where students dressed in neon colors. The highlight of the day was a special "Glow Party" reading event, where students enjoyed a unique reading-in-the-dark experience to celebrate their successful participation in Read Across America Week.

Ron Millett, food court manager at Fort Jackson, provided popcorn for the students to enjoy during the celebration, adding an extra touch of fun to the event.

Read Across America week is significant because it "allows us to motivate children to read by organizing events, partnerships, and providing reading resources that can be used throughout the year," Baker said. "This week aims to foster a love for books and encourage lifelong learning."

The series of engaging activities at Pierce Terrace Elementary helped instill a lifelong love for reading while making literacy fun and interactive. Through the dedication of teachers, staff, and special guests, students had an unforgettable week filled with the magic of books.

ON THE COVER

A sergeant dressed in a desert combat uniform representing operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, lights a candle during a non-commissioned officer induction ceremony.

See Page 6-7



Courtesy photo

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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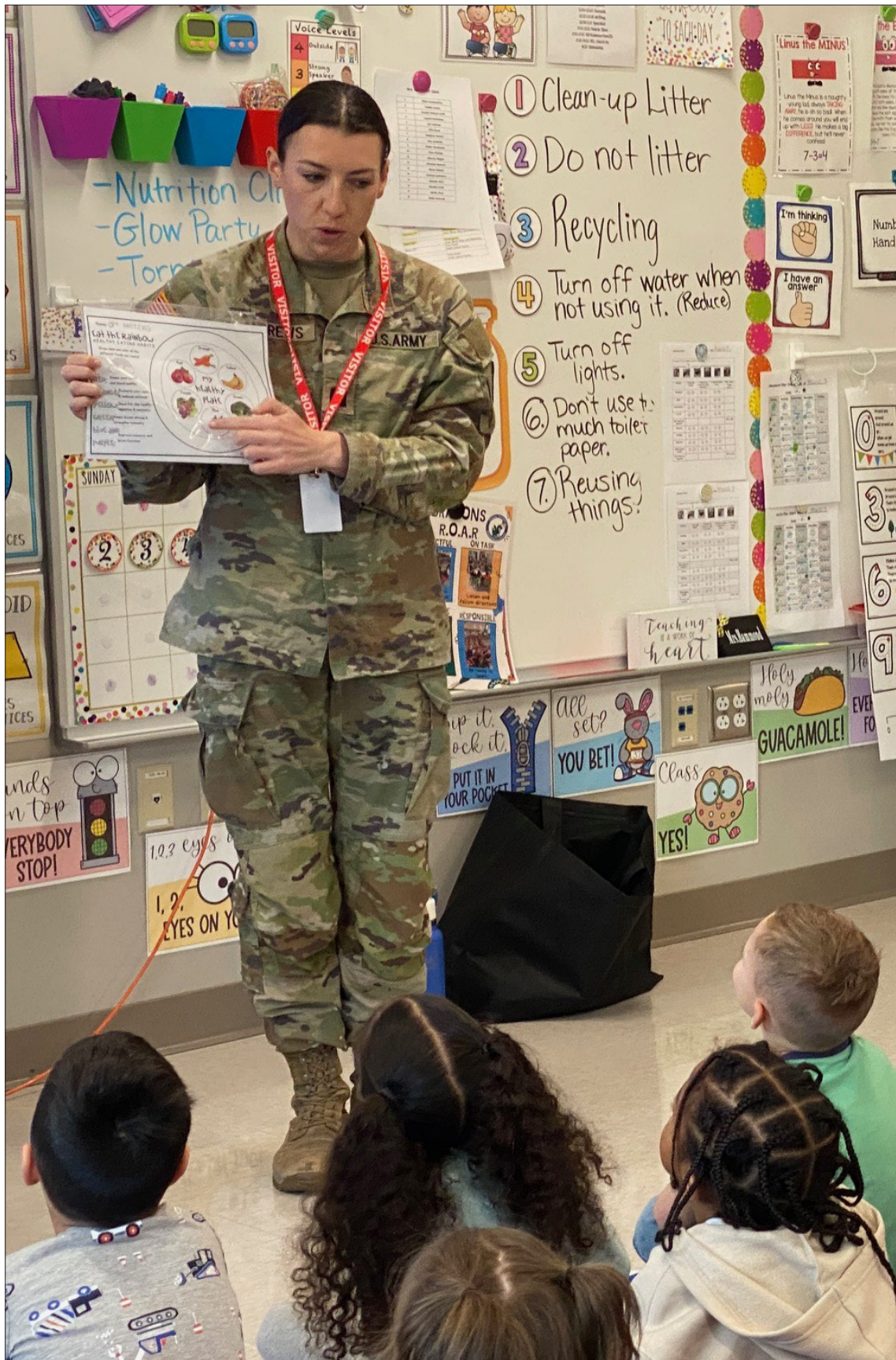
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Capt. Kara Andrews, with Moncrief Army Health Clinic, leads Pierce Terrace Elementary School students in an 'Eat the Rainbow' lesson on how to eat healthy. Andrews and others from MAHC were at the school as part of National Nutrition Month.

School teaches healthy nutrition

**Story, photo by
LORRAINE EMORY**
Pierce Terrace Elementary
School

March is National Nutrition Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of making informed food choices and developing healthy eating habits.

In celebration of this initiative, the Moncrief Army Clinic Nutrition Team visited Pierce Terrace Elementary School to educate students on the benefits of a balanced diet.

The team delivered interactive presentations in each classroom, featuring digital lessons and hands-on activities that engaged students in fun and meaningful ways.

National Nutrition Month was first launched in 1973 as a week-long campaign by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics before expanding into a month-long observance in 1980.

The campaign encourages people of all ages to adopt healthy eating habits and lifestyles, making March the perfect time for the Moncrief Army Health Clinic team to bring their expertise to young learners at Pierce Terrace Elementary.

Capt. Kara Andrews, Capt. Michael Bruno, 1st Lt. Denise Mark, Sgt. Heather Skuches, and Pvt. Leticia Schulz led the sessions, teaching the students about healthy eating with their "Eat the Rainbow" lesson.

This colorful approach to nutrition emphasized the importance of eating a variety of fruits and vegetables, each color representing essential nutrients that support different aspects of

health.

Through engaging activities, students learned:

- Red foods (strawberries, tomatoes, red peppers) promote heart health.

- Orange and yellow foods (carrots, sweet potatoes, bananas) support vision and immunity.

- Green foods (spinach, broccoli, cucumbers) help strengthen bones and provide energy.

- Blue and purple foods (blueberries, eggplant, grapes) aid memory and brain function.

- White foods (cauliflower, onions, garlic) boost the immune system.

The Eat the Rainbow lesson encouraged students to incorporate a variety of these foods into their diets to maintain overall well-being.

Hands-on activities, such as creating colorful food diagrams, helped reinforce the importance of making healthy choices.

"The students really enjoyed the engaging activities that the soldiers provided," said Kindergarten teacher Amanda Hammond praising the visit. "The Kindergarteners learned about healthy eating choices and eating a rainbow of foods and created a diagram of colorful food options."

Robbie Howard, a Pre-K teacher's assistant, also highlighted the team's ability to connect with young learners.

"The staff from the Nutrition Clinic intermingled with the children very well," Howard said.

The Moncrief Army Clinic Nutrition Team's visit to Pierce Terrace Elementary during National Nutrition Month underscored the importance of fostering healthy habits from an early age.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday Ball Tickets on Sale

Tickets for the 250th Army Birthday Ball are on sale now. Join us in celebrating the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army at the Army Birthday Ball. The ball takes place at 5 p.m. June 14 at the 1917 Club, 5700 Liberty Division Road. Lt. Gen. Milford "Beags" Beagle, commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, will be the guest speaker. Scan the QR code for more information and to purchase tickets.



Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Your opinion matters. The Army wants to be heard from you. Your feedback can make a big difference in the quality of life for Soldiers. The Army is investing significantly in barracks and unaccompanied housing improvements and survey feedback will be used to guide the Army's efforts to provide quality, safe and secure housing. The completely confidential survey will be emailed from ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com. OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 05/31/2025

Community Strength & Themes Assessment

Fort Jackson needs your assistance. Take the Community Strengths & Themes Assessment to share with leaders your thoughts and views on improving our community's quality of life, health, and readiness, and available programs and resources. To access the survey



visit: <https://phpubapps.health.mil/Survey/se/25113745498E6FB5>, or scan the QR code.

Safety 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 the website <https://imc.army.mil/airs/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your Safety Specialist.

■ **Basic Riders Course:** March 25-27 (six seats open); April 8-10 (six seats open); April 29-May 1 (six seats open)

■ **Advanced Riders Course:** April 22 (six seats open) and April 23 (six seats open)

■ **Local Hazards Course:** Monday; and March 24, 31; and April 7, 14, 21, 28

■ **Intermediate Drivers Course:** March 20 (no seats open)*; and April 17 (12 seats open)

■ **Remedial Drivers Course:** May 13 (12 seats open)

■ **Unit Safety Officer Course:** April 1-2 (23 seats open)

* Those wishing to attend this date should still try to attend as there may be last minute cancellations.

Pharmacy updates

Beginning on May 1, the Moncrief Main Pharmacy and the PX Refill Distribution Center will change schedules. The new hours will be Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on the weekends and federal holidays, and closed after 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TOMORROW

Community Information Exchange

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1917 Club. Join Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, and representatives from on-post directorates and Partners in Excellence as they update the community about on-post happenings.

MARCH 19

Housing Town Hall

6 p.m., Victory Hall, 3630 Inchon Road. On-post housing residents the Installation Housing Office wants to hear from you.

MARCH 22-23

Spring Family Campout

4 p.m. March 22 to 10 a.m. March 23, Twin Lakes Park. This family-friendly overnight primitive camping event will include these fun activities: games, fishing, s'mores, connect four, arts & crafts and more. Rental items available: tents, cots, sleeping bags and more. Event costs \$20 per adult and \$15 per child. For information and to sign up, call Marion Street Station at (803) 751-3484.

MARCH 22

Olympic Weightlifting Meet

8-9 a.m., Vanguard Gym. For more information, call (803) 751-4256.

MARCH 27

Citizenship and Immigration Training

5:30-6:30 p.m., MS Teams. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is holding "virtual" training for families. They will answer all questions regarding How to apply for lawful Permanent Residency

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

■ No Showing

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

■ Captain America: Brave New World (PG-13) 2 p.m.

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

(Green Card) or Naturalization/Citizenship; how to replace lost or misplaced permanent residency and/or citizenship documentations; how to complete application forms and all supporting documents needed to complete the application; and more. Participants are invited to ask questions, except for case-specific questions. For more information, call (803) 751-5256, option 3.

Arm Wrestling Competition

5:30 - 7 p.m., Vanguard Gym. Come out and try your hand, or arm, in the Sports and Fitness Arm Wrestling Competition. For more information, call (803) 751-4256.

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

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

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.



Illustration courtesy of the National Guard Bureau

Patriots return fire on British soldiers at the Battle of Lexington Green in this National Guard Bureau illustration by Don Troiani called, 'Stand Your Ground.'

The birth of the Army: Two and a half centuries of service

By HENRY HOWE
Director, Fort Jackson
Museum Community

(Editor's note: This article is part of a recurring column honoring the Army during the service's 250th birthday)

On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Army, marking the beginning of what would become the United States Army. This formation occurred during a difficult period when colonists—comprising of farmers, blacksmiths, and merchants—responded to the call to defend their rights and liberty against British rule.



The first American Soldiers were not professional military men, but ordinary people driven by a deep commitment to freedom. They stood up to one of the strongest armies of the time, not just to protest taxes, or imperial control, but to fight for the right to govern themselves. Their struggle was about more than independence, it was about building a nation where future generations could live freely.

Despite facing significant obstacles such as shortages of weaponry, training, and supplies, the resolve of the Continental Army remained strong. The British Army's reputation as a disciplined and experienced

fighting force presented a formidable challenge; however, the soldiers of the Continental Army found strength in their shared ideals and a dedication to their cause. They envisioned a nation built on principles of liberty and equality.

The sacrifices made by these soldiers on the battlefield were instrumental in laying the groundwork for the independence of the United States. The courage and commitment demonstrated by the Continental Soldiers set important precedents in military and national identity. The establishment of the Army in June 1775 marked the beginning of a struggle for a cause that transcended individual interests, embodying the ongoing fight for freedom that continues to resonate today.

Record of decision for military munitions response program

On December 11, 2024, the U. S. Army Garrison, Fort Jackson released the record of decision for the Southern Operational Range Assessment Area Royal Demolition Explosive Site located at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

The ROD details the response action for cleanup efforts at the Site.

Cleanup is necessary to protect the public health or welfare and the environment from actual or threatened releases of pollutants or contaminants from the site due to the presence of RDX in groundwater.

The cleanup plan features the installation of a dynamic groundwater recirculation system to treat groundwater.

Injection and extraction wells are strategically installed as part of DGR to increase groundwater movement beneath the ground surface.

Variations in pumping and injection enhance flushing of contaminants from the aquifer.

In addition to DGR, the cleanup plan includes operation and maintenance of point-of-use treatment systems installed at nine private drinking water wells and one public water system; a residential well monitoring program for private drinking water wells and public water systems, on-post land use controls, site-wide monitoring well sampling, and off-post annual notification letters and well surveys.

This plan provides cleanup of the environment, clean drinking water for affected residents, and a monitoring program to track progress.

See **DECISION**, Page 11

NCOs join the Corps

Leader Staff Reports

There are three things that can help Soldiers become a good noncommissioned officer, said Dwight Blue, the 165th Infantry Brigade's operations officer, Feb. 28.

Blue was the guest speaker during a non-commissioned officer induction ceremony hosted by the 165th.

The NCO Corps has a proud lineage in the Army, which dates back to the American Revolution where in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Baron von Steuben began drilling the fledgling Continental Army.

He instilled in the fresh NCO Corps a fighting spirit teaching them to understand tactical leadership so they could fill in for commissioned officers when necessary.

He said leaders must first be a servant leader, be transformational and create a good battle rhythm.

It pays to be humble and to take care of your troops, Blue told the Soldiers about to enter the NCO Corps.

"Soldiers don't care how much you know; they care how much you care about them and their well-being and professional and professional development," he said. He stressed that good leaders must be available and understand how each Soldier reacts to leadership.

Some need to be nurtured, he said.

Leaders must also be transformational; they need to be understanding and flexible.

Blue stressed it is imperative for leaders to prepare for "Generation Alpha," those children born from 2010 to the present as they enter the fighting force.

"We can only understand and train them if we meet them where they are," he said.

Consistent behavior for leaders is learned through muscle memory by creating and following a good battle rhythm.

"Great leaders get up early and plan," Blue said. "They keep a pen and pad by their beds. They desire to be excellent, and they write their thoughts down ..."

This helps build good strong habits and consistent behavior.

"Remember fireman fight fires and Soldiers fight wars," Blue said. "Let's be the best leaders and followers possible."

Soldiers wore period uniforms to signify the historical importance of the noncommissioned officer as they lit candles.

One lit a gold candle representing the chevrons of the uniform; another a red candle signifying the blood shed by NCOs in combat; the third a white candle for purity; and finally, a blue candle for the future and loyalty to our country.



A Soldier wearing a Revolutionary War period uniform, lights a gold candle representing the chevrons on a uniform.

Courtesy photos



(Far left) A sergeant steps underneath an arch and crossed sabers signifying her step into the Non-commissioned Officers Corps at a ceremony held in the 1917 Club, Feb. 28. The NCO Corps has a storied history that dates back to the Revolutionary War.

(Above) A cake welcomes Soldiers into the NCO Corps during the ceremony.

(Left) Command Sgt. Maj. John Blyler II, 165th Infantry Brigade senior enlisted leader and Dwight Blue, 165th operations officer, congratulate a sergeant during her induction into the NCO Corps in a ceremony held Feb. 28 at the 1917 Club.

Army explains Basic Allowance for Subsistence

Army Public Affairs

Recent news reports have advanced misleading or incorrect information about the Army's Basic Allowance for Subsistence, also known as BAS. Several Army senior leaders and subject matter experts have provided insight to better explain how the process works.

What many Soldiers know as the meal card plan is officially titled Essential Station Messing in the Army.

The Department of Defense requires all services to collect payment for the ESM program to provide to dining facility meal plans for Soldiers living in barracks or similar government quarters. Most Army installations with dining facilities require Soldiers living in barracks to be on ESM, since many barracks are not equipped for adequate meal preparation. ESM ensures access to meals at DFACs.

Soldiers on ESM status forgo a portion of BAS entitlement for meal plans. The transaction appears on their Leave and Earning Statements, where the BAS reduction for the meal plan is shown, and about \$65 is paid directly to the Soldiers for their personal use. The Army's approach to BAS and providing meal plans comes from DOD directives and U.S. law, which is why it is consistent with the other military services.

"A common misconception about BAS is that it goes into a fund that the Army can use at its discretion. That's not the case," said Lt. Gen. Brian Eifler, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1.

"There's no account where the Army stores BAS entitlement funds. And the Army cannot reallocate BAS funds to any other requirements or programs."

"As a matter of fact, if the Army had to depend on ESM BAS to fund the food we provide Soldiers, it wouldn't be enough," he continued.

Even just accounting for costs like maintaining food service staff, preparing the food, providing a place to eat, equipment and supplies can easily exceed a billion dollars annually.

Although the Army pays those kinds of expenses from different appropriations, it's still part of the total cost of providing food for Soldiers.



Leader file photo

Fort Jackson trainees sit down for a Thanksgiving meal in 2022. The Army recently clarified information about the service's Basic Allowance for Subsistence, or BAS.

The Army develops its DFAC budget like the commercial sector. It identifies how much funding it needs to feed Soldiers, based on historical patterns of use, to ensure it doesn't order more than it expects its Soldiers will eat. The Army then requests funding from Congress to support the forecasted DFAC requirements.

"However, as we all know, ESM Soldiers don't always eat at the DFAC for any number of reasons," Eifler said. "It might be because of operational tempo requirements, field exercises, deployments, annual leave and passes or just personal choice."

"But we also know ESM is a critical resource for many Soldiers in the barracks. That's why there's a significant effort underway to make sure the ESM program meets our Soldiers' needs. That starts with understanding what those needs are and making appropriate adjustments. That's what Army

Materiel Command has been working on."

AMC is leading food modernization efforts through new initiatives and programs to drive change in how, when and where Soldiers eat.

In 2023, the Army established an Army Food Program Board of Directors, which led to a team of experts hitting the road to get feedback from Soldiers, culinary specialists, and leaders across more than 35 installations.

They even partnered with professional chef and author Robert Irvine to serve as a special consultant to the board.

They also conducted surveys and focus groups to get Soldiers and food service professionals' perspectives. Flexible options and accessibility, including better operating hours, have been the most requested improvements by Soldiers.

In response to the feedback, the Army

expanded the use of food trucks, bistros, meal-prep programs and 24-hour self-service kiosks. AMC is also exploring other innovative options, such as campus-style dining models.

"We know we need to change our existing model and launch efforts forward exponentially," said Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general and acting commander of AMC. We are exploring ways to leverage industry partnerships with culinary experts and are learning lessons from college campuses and other similar food operations to see ourselves from all perspectives.

This generational overhaul is necessary, Mohan said, to bring dining expectations in line with what troops are telling the Army they want, current industry standards, and, most importantly, what they deserve and what the service owes them.

SC Guard assists in wildfire fight

By MAJ. KARLA EVANS
South Carolina National Guard

In early March 2025, the South Carolina Army National Guard helped fight wildfires in Horry County for a week, dropping water from helicopters 975 times.

Soldiers from the 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion, 59th Aviation Troop Command, out of McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover used UH-60 Black Hawk and 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, CH-47 Chinook helicopters for the fire suppression missions.

Each Black Hawk carries a water bucket holding about 600 gallons, while a Chinook can drop up to 2,000 gallons.

"This past week has been challenging for those affected by the Covington Drive Fire in Horry County," said Army Capt. Chase Blackwell, commander of Company A, 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard.

Blackwell added that he had "witnessed some of South Carolina's finest rise to the occasion — putting the mission first, getting the job done, and making a real difference. I could not be more proud of the Soldiers and warrant officers of Alpha Company."

Since March 2, these crews have released 1,027,360 gallons of water — nearly the equivalent of two Olympic-size swimming pools.

The aircraft crews supported the South Carolina Forestry Commission and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

"Our helicopter crews have put in over 100 hours of flight time, making hundreds of water drops and dispersing massive amounts of water during fire suppression missions," said Army Lt. Col. Matthew Summey, commander of 2nd Battalion, 151st Security and Support Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard.

"Their dedication has played a crucial role in protecting communities and supporting first responders on the ground," Summey said.

While lousy weather temporarily paused air operations March 7, firefighters on the ground continued their efforts. The fire covered 2,059 acres before it was 55% contained.

"The South Carolina National Guard is proud to support the South Carolina Forest-



Photo by ARMY SGT. ELIZABETH A. SCHNEIDER

Soldiers with Company A, 111th General Support Aviation Battalion, 59 Aviation Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard, dropped water from helicopters March 2, 2025, to help the South Carolina Forestry Commission and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources contain wildfire in Horry County. Guard members assisted for a week, handing off to the Georgia Army National Guard.

ry Commission and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources," said Army Col. Brian Pipkin, commander, 59th Aviation Troop Command.

"The relentless commitment and teamwork of all agencies involved are a testament to the dedication to our communities," Pipkin added.

On March 10, aircraft from the Georgia Army National Guard's 78th Aviation Troop Command took over fire suppression efforts from the South Carolina National Guard.

The transition is happening through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which allows states to respond quickly to wildfires, hurricanes and other emergencies.



Photo by ARMY SGT. FIRST CLASS ROBERTO DI GIOVINE

Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard drop water onto wild fires in Horry County, S.C. while assisting state agencies in combating the blazes.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

3rd Battalion,
60th Infantry
Regiment

**DRILL SERGEANT
OF THE CYCLE**
Staff Sgt.
Andrew Kramer

**ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Colby Scofield

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. William Shifflett

**BRAVO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Alexzia Figueroa

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Jordan Gallagher

**CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Kasen Paredes

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Conner Deplanta

**DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Joseph Watson

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Andrew Reyes

**ECHO COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Nicholas Jobin

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Avery Fry

Events

Continued from Page 4

out and try your hand, or arm, in the Sports and Fitness Arm Wrestling Competition. For more information, call (803) 751-4256.

APRIL 5
Youth Golf Fun

9 a.m. to noon, Fort Jackson Golf Club. Youth golfers will go through three stations available (Putting, Chipping & Driving range). Please bring clubs (not required to participate). Pre-registration March 31. For more information and to register call (803) 751-4344.

APRIL 10
Prevention Fair

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1917 Club. Come join Army Community Service, SHARP and the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program for a day of discoveries and

connecting with programs and services designed to promote healthy and strong military families. For more information, call (803) 751-5256, Option 3.

APRIL 13
Passover Seder

6 p.m., Main Post Chapel. The Passover Seder will be held April 13 and is open to all. RSVPs are required. To RSVP email dovid.egert.mil@army.mil.

APRIL 18
Youth Archery Class

10 a.m. to noon. This class shows youths ages 8-17 the proper form and technique to safely shoot. Register at marion Street Station, or call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 19
Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. to noon, Twin Lakes Park. Join Fort Jackson for an exciting Easter weekend with an egg hunt for kids with more than 2,000 eggs. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Catholic:

- April 13: 9:30 a.m. - Palm Sunday
- April 15-16: Noon-Daily Mass
- April 17: 6 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper
- April 18: 3 p.m. - Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
- April 19: 8:30 p.m. - Easter Vigil Mass
- April 20: 9:30 a.m. - East Sunday

Protestant:

- April 17: 6p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service - Main Post Chapel
- April 18: 6 p.m. - Good Friday Service
- April 30: 6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service - Family Life Center

Jewish:

- April 13: 6 p.m. - Passover Seder - Main Post Chapel

DID YOU KNOW: At the first sign of a heat illness, ice sheet the patient and call 911 from landline or (803) 751-9111 from cell phone on post.

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.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
GENERAL PROTESTANT	SUNDAY	11 A.M. TO NOON	MAIN POST CHAPEL
REVIVE SERVICE	SUNDAY	5 P.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE	FRIDAY	6-7 P.M.	LIGHTNING CHAPEL
INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
CHURCH OF CHRIST	SUNDAY	10:30-11:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE	SUNDAY	8:30-10 A.M.	POST THEATER
ANGLICAN	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	SOLOMON CENTER
ISLAMIC SERVICE	SUNDAY	8-9 A.M.	KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
JEWISH SERVICE	SUNDAY	10:15-11:30 A.M.	120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only)
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS	SUNDAY	10:30 A.M. to NOON	WASHINGTON ROAD CHAPEL
HEATHEN/PAGAN	SUNDAY	8:30-9:30 A.M.	CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

81st completes new equipment fielding facility enhancements

By **TOMMY CROSBY**
81st Readiness Division

The 81st Readiness Division recently completed the construction of the New Equipment Fielding Facility staging area expansion project located at Fort Jackson.

This expansion significantly enhances the 81st Readiness Division's capacity to field new equipment by adding eight acres of staging area to the NEFF.

A key feature of the project is a new bi-level loading ramp, which will streamline the safe loading and unloading of vehicles for both the NEFF and Equipment Concentration Site 124.

"The NEFF staging area is open and conducting operations," said Thomas Socha, NEFF Manager. "This staging area tremendously increases our ability to serve Army Reserve units across the southeast and improve overall readiness as well as equip these units with modernized equipment."

The project began in August 2023 and was finished ahead of schedule and under budget at a cost of approximately \$6 million.

The 81st Readiness Division has respon-



Courtesy photo

The 81st Readiness Division recently finished expansion of its New Equipment Fielding Facility at 1940 Utah Beach Road on post.

sibility for base operations for Army Reserve units throughout the Southeastern United States and Puerto Rico.

The division is responsible for preparing

Soldiers and units to deploy and fight in multi-domain operations and meet current and future combatant commander force requirements.

Decision

Continued from Page 5

To review the ROD document, please visit the link below

<https://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/ORAP> or you may view it in-person from the Administrative Record at:

Richland County Public Library
1431 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Fort Jackson has encouraged public involvement and created several opportunities for input. Fort Jackson opened a comment period that concluded on June 7, 2023 and invited anyone to submit their written comment. Fort Jackson also held a public meeting on May 11, 2023 to better understand the proposed cleanup plan.

Fort Jackson is committed to environmental excellence in all aspects of the mission. If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the Fort Jackson Environmental Division Chief at (803) 751-6858.

Reserve drills help Army reach mission

By **MAJ. JACQWAYNE GRIFFIN**
108th Training Command

The Army is taking bold steps to meet unprecedented training demands by expanding Basic Combat Training capacity.

With 10 additional training units established at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Fort Jackson, South Carolina, this initiative will train up to 9,600 additional recruits annually, ensuring the Army meets its ambitious fiscal year 2025 goal of 61,000 new Soldiers.

This expansion follows a successful recruiting year in 2024, which saw over 55,300 enlistments.

To support this surge, the 108th Training Command (Initial Entry Training) has deployed more than 80 Army Reserve drill sergeants and cadre

volunteers through active-duty operational support missions to all three locations.

These dedicated professionals are now serving at training locations across the country, playing a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of soldiers.

"Our Army Reserve drill sergeants have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to excellence by leaving their civilian jobs and families to volunteer during this critical need for support," said Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Luchsinger.

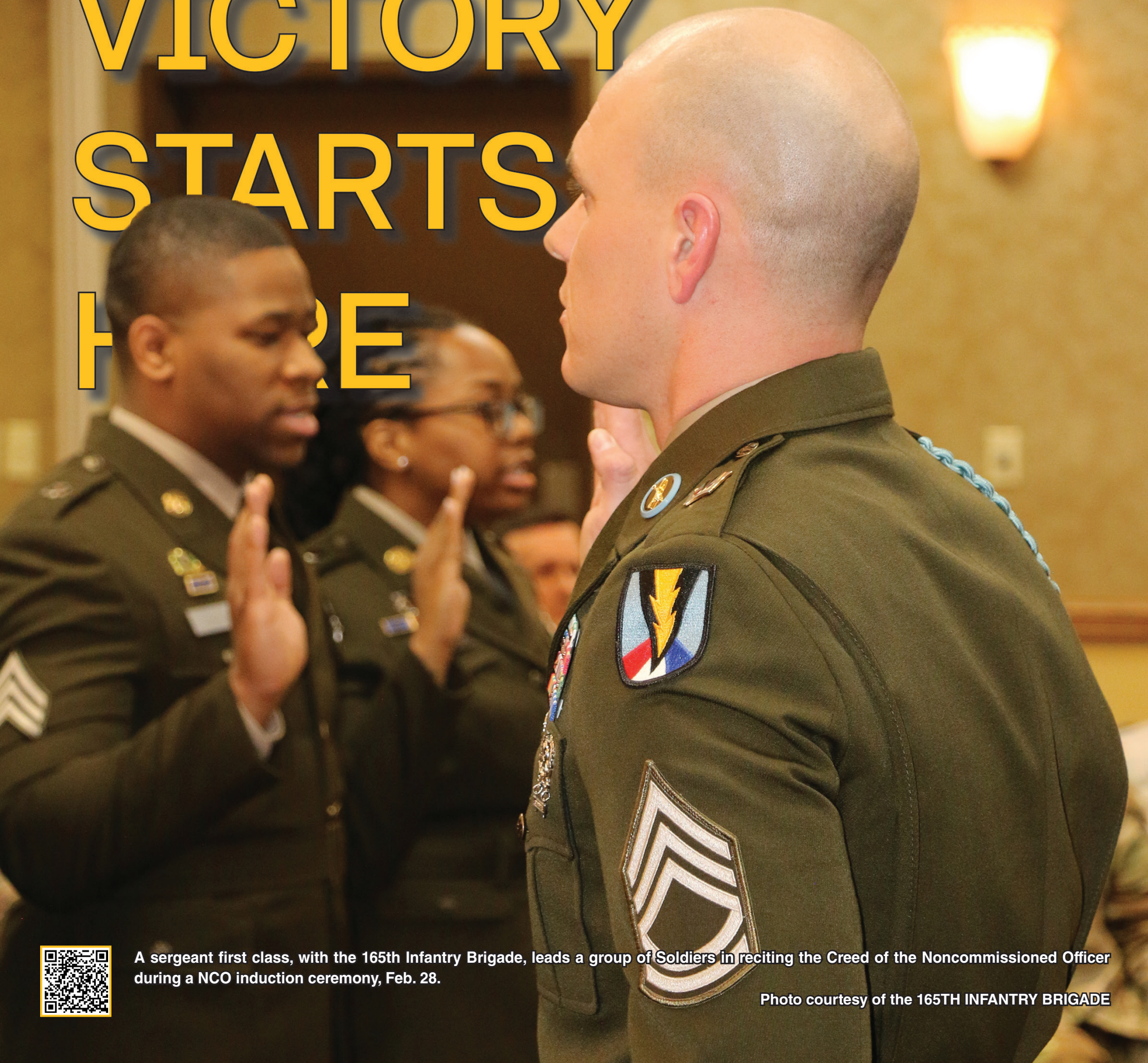
"Hitting our recruiting numbers is a great problem to have, and Reserve drill sergeants are answering the call, bringing their expertise and leadership to ensure recruits are prepared for the demands of military service," he added.



Army News Service photo

A drill sergeant watches trainees as they prepare for The Forge. Reserve drill sergeants help produce Soldiers that are disciplined, resilient, physically fit and competent in their basic skills who can successfully contribute as members of a team when they arrive at their first unit of assignment.

VICTORY STARTS HERE



A sergeant first class, with the 165th Infantry Brigade, leads a group of Soldiers in reciting the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer during a NCO induction ceremony, Feb. 28.

Photo courtesy of the 165TH INFANTRY BRIGADE