

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

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Hegseth orders civilian workforce realignment in DOD, reopens DRP program

By **MATTHEW OLAY**
DOD News

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth signed a memorandum March 28 directing the realignment of the Defense Department's civilian workforce.

The memo, "Initiating the Workforce Acceleration and Recapitalization Initiative," — which is addressed to senior Pentagon leadership, combatant commanders, and defense agency and DOD field activity directors — states that DOD will "realign the size of our civilian workforce and strategically restructure it to supercharge our American warfighters consistent with (Hegseth's) interim National Defense Strategy guidance."

The memo states that DOD seeks to reduce duplicative efforts and reject excessive bureaucracy through an honest analysis of the workforce. Additionally, it states automation through technological solutions will be sought out, particularly at the headquarters level.

"The net effect will be a reduction in the number of civilian full-time equivalent positions and increased resources in the areas where we need them most," the memo reads.

It then lists two courses of action to implement Hegseth's intent.

First, Hegseth calls on the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness to immediately implement DOD's Deferred Resignation Program and to also offer voluntary early retirement for all eligible DOD civilian employees.

The DRP, first implemented by the Office of Personnel Management Jan. 28, 2025, offered most full-time federal employees — including most of the nearly 900,000 DOD civilians — the limited opportunity to resign with full pay and benefits until Sept. 30, 2025. OPM also offered early retirement for eligible personnel.

With this newly signed memo, the DRP and the early retirement program are being reopened for nearly all DOD civilians, only this time under the authority of the Defense Department rather than OPM.



Department of Defense photo

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth recently signs a directive. Hegseth signed a memorandum March 28 that directed the realignment of the DOD civilian workforce.

"Exemptions should be rare," Hegseth said via the memo. "My intent is to maximize participation so that we can minimize the number of involuntary actions that may be required to achieve the strategic objectives."

Second, Hegseth directs senior DOD leadership to provide "a proposed future-state organizational chart" of those leaders' respective departments. A summary of all those charts — which should include functional areas and consolidated management hierarchies with positional titles and counts clearly depicted — is due from

USD(P&R) to the defense secretary no later than April 11, 2025.

While the memo does not specify a targeted percentage for layoffs at DOD, it mentions that important changes are required "to put the department on ready footing to deter our enemies and fight for peace."

To accomplish that goal, it states that the intent of the realignment is to "execute a top-to-bottom methodology that results in a force structure that is lean, mean and prepared to win."

ON THE COVER

Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Brie Kotula, cut a purple ribbon kicking off the Month of the Military Child.



Photo by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

See Page 6-7

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Commanding General Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood
Garrison Commander Col. Timothy Hickman
Command Information Officer Robert Timmons
Media Relations Officer Nathan Clinebelle
Social Media Manager Veran Hill

Website: home.army.mil/jackson/FortJacksonNews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fortjackson

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Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation signed

Story, photos by **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

“Every child deserves to live in a safe and loving household,” read a child abuse prevention month proclamation signed by Garrison Commander Col. Timothy Hickman, March 28.

The post is showing its united stand against child abuse throughout April.

“We raise awareness about the risk factors that can lead to child abuse and neglect and highlight the importance of supporting families to prevent child maltreatment,” the proclamation states.

The installation wants to help parents build a firm foundation that will make them feel secure and “be a rock for their children.”

“Positive parenting is the best way to deal with children,” said Kamala Henley, Family Advocacy Program specialist. “And we can help with that if people need help, or we can refer you somewhere.”

“But children are important,” Henley said.

The signing recognized and thanked children from military families for the sacrifices they make living the military lifestyle.

“A preventative mindset can help us all do our part in maintaining a strong and resilient community,” the proclamation read.

This year’s theme is “MilParents Rock.”

For more information and to help end child abuse, call the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program office at (803) 751-5256.



Col. Timothy Hickman, Garrison Commander, signs a Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation March 28 outside the Army Community Service’s building at Fort Jackson. The prevention month, held throughout April, is aimed at uniting the post against child abuse.



(Left) Hickman gestures moments before signing the proclamation. (Above) Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Brie Kotula and members of Fort Jackson’s Army Community Service pose for a selfie moments after the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation was signed.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Street Closures

Cowpens and Mekong Delta streets will be closed between Jackson Boulevard and Marion Avenue from 5-8 a.m. Monday for E3B testing. Drivers are asked to take caution and use alternate routes.

Birthday Ball Tickets on Sale

Tickets for the 250th Army Birthday Ball are on sale now. Join Fort Jackson 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 hear 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

Pharmacy updates

Beginning May 1, 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 weekends and federal holidays, and closed after 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Locked in the Library

The Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library's escape room has been brought back by popular demand. The escape room is open from April 1-31. Participants must sign up in person or via phone in order to participate. For more information, call (803) 751-5589.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY

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.

WEDNESDAY

ABLE Kids of South Carolina

10-11 a.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program hosts an ABLE kids of South Carolina presentation to provide information and resources to families of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. For more information, call (803) 751-5256, Option 3.

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 in and con-

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

APRIL 12

Fort Jackson 5K Fun Run

8 a.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. Come join this 5K fun run. Register by March 28. Register at any gym, or call (803) 751-3700.

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 15

EFMP Playgroup

10-11:30 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road. Army Community Services hosts an Exceptional Family Member Program Playgroup to provide parents and children with special needs (under 5 years old) time to socialize, interact with peers, and learn about EFMP Family support services and resources at Fort Jackson and the surrounding community. For more information, call (803) 751-5256, Option 3.

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 Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

■ Last Breath (PG-13)

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

Fort Jackson for an exciting Easter weekend with an egg hunt with more than 2,000 eggs for kids. There will be inflatables at the event. Can you find the golden ticket? Participants must bring their own basket or bag. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 25

CYS Family Fun Fair

4:30-6:30 p.m., Patriots Park. Come and join the fun for the whole family. There will be food trucks, games, rides and more. For more information, call (803) 751-4824.

APRIL 26

Drug Take Back Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Exchange. Fort Jackson's Directorate of Emergency Services is holding a drug take back day to continue to enhance the safety of our neighborhoods by building, strengthening, and reinforcing positive relationships with the community and first responders.

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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

Samuel Whittemore fires at British troops after the battles of Lexington and Concord in this illustration by Don Troiani called 'Old Sam Whittemore.' The 78-year-old would be grievously wounded and survive.

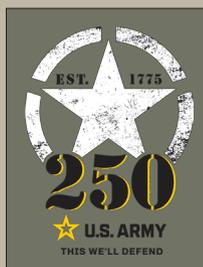
Samuel Whittemore: Indomitable patriot of the American Revolution

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 April 19, 1775, as British Regulars retreated from Lexington and Concord, a 78-year-old farmer named Samuel Whittemore faced a profound choice.

He could stand by and watch the British march past his home, feeling powerless, or he could take a stand for his beliefs and become an active participant in



the fight against British rule.

In a remarkable display of courage, Whittemore chose to fight.

Armed with his musket and pistols, he positioned himself behind a low stone wall, ready to defend his home and community.

As the Redcoats advanced, he took a deep breath and fired his musket, bringing down one soldier. He then drew his pistols, shooting two more before British troops overwhelmed him.

In that moment, a musket ball struck him in the face, and as he fell, he faced a brutal attack from the soldiers who

stabbed him more than a dozen times.

Though left for dead, Whittemore's spirit was unbroken.

Against all odds, he survived this harrowing encounter and went on to lead a full life, passing away at the remarkable age of 96 in 1793.

Samuel Whittemore's story is a powerful testament to the unyielding determination and enduring spirit of those who fought for their freedom, embodying the resilience that characterized the American struggle for independence.

His bravery serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by individuals committed to a cause greater than themselves.

SECDEF orders services to define combat standards

By C. TODD LOPEZ
DOD News

On March 30, the secretary of defense directed military departments, to build plans that define and identify the combat arms and noncombat arms occupations within their respective military services.

Additionally, the departments are directed to develop mission-focused physical fitness standards for those combat arms roles to ensure service members can meet the physical demands of a combat environment.

In a memorandum signed March 30, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth gave military departments 60 days to develop the plans and submit them to the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

An interim progress report on plan development must also be submitted within 30 days.

Also, part of the directive is that the military services should implement their plans within the following six months — around the end of November.

"The United States military's strength is rooted in its unwavering commitment to high standards that foster discipline, unity and purpose," Hegseth wrote. "It is these principles that have made our fighting force the most formidable in the world. As the nature of warfare evolves and the demands on our service members grow more complex, it is imperative that we assess and refine the physical fitness standards that enable our readiness and lethality."

Within ground combat occu-

See **SECDEF**, Page 9



(Left) Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, salutes during the playing of the National Anthem at a Month of the Military Child event at Pierce Terrace Elementary School, April 1.

(Above) Sir Purr, the Carolina Panthers mascot, walks with Pierce Terrace students around the school.

(Right) Sir Purr waves at children moments before the beginning of the MOMC event. The event was one of many held April 1 signalling the start of a month dedicated to military children.



Post purples up for month honoring military children

Story, photos by ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

“This month is for you boys and girls,” said Robert Battey, principal of Pierce Terrace Elementary School to students and their families gathered outside the school. “Thank you for your courage and adaptability.”

He was addressed the students moments before they began walking around the school to kick off the Month of the Military Child – celebrated nationwide every April.

Each year, Fort Jackson, the Army and Department of Defense joins state and local governments and organizations to celebrate military children.

According to the Department of Defense,

“There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many unique challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents’ service.”

Battey and Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, briefly addressed those experiences during the event.

“Your unique experiences enrich our school and we as a staff are committed to supporting you in every way possible,” Battey said.

Military children face the unique challenge of moving every two to three years when their parents are assigned to a different installation. This causes them to have to change schools, meet new friends and even adapt to new cultures.

According to an Army release a military family moves six to nine times during a school ca-

reer from kindergarten to 12th grade; an average frequency of three times more than non-military families.

Hickman knows a thing or two about the challenges the children face – he is a father of four kids and was a military child himself.

“Who likes to play hide and seek when their house is all packed up?” Hickman asked the children present. “And you play around the boxes, and then you take the little stickers off, and your mom gets mad, so you put them back.”

How did he know that, he asked, because “I’m a military kid too. I moved six times when my dad was in the Army.”

He spoke about one of his favorite places his family moved to was in Germany.

“It takes time to meet some new friends, have

new teachers at different places, and sometimes the weather and the places are just really different,” he said. “But you know what I’ve noticed about military kids? The make friends really quickly.”

After Hickman spoke the students began a walk around the school led by Sir Purr, the Carolina Panthers’ mascot.

Once the walk was completed the students were given popsicles.

The Pierce Terrace event isn’t the only thing on post celebrating military children.

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School students did a walk of their own and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is holding events to recognize military children as well, including a Child, Youth Services

event; Golf Club: Three Course Fun, April 5; Fort Jackson 5K, April 12; and youth archery at Hiese Pond, April 16.

The Thomas Lee Hall “Post” Library has also brought back its escape room for the month as well.

The month’s recognition goes beyond just the students, it extends to their parent as well.

“To our military families, your sacrifices do not go unnoticed,” Battey said. “We appreciate the unwavering support that you provide your children and our school. Together, we will continue to create a nurturing environment for every student.”

To learn more about Month of the Military Child events visit: <https://jackson.armymwr.com/calendar/event/month-military/6828260/97868>.

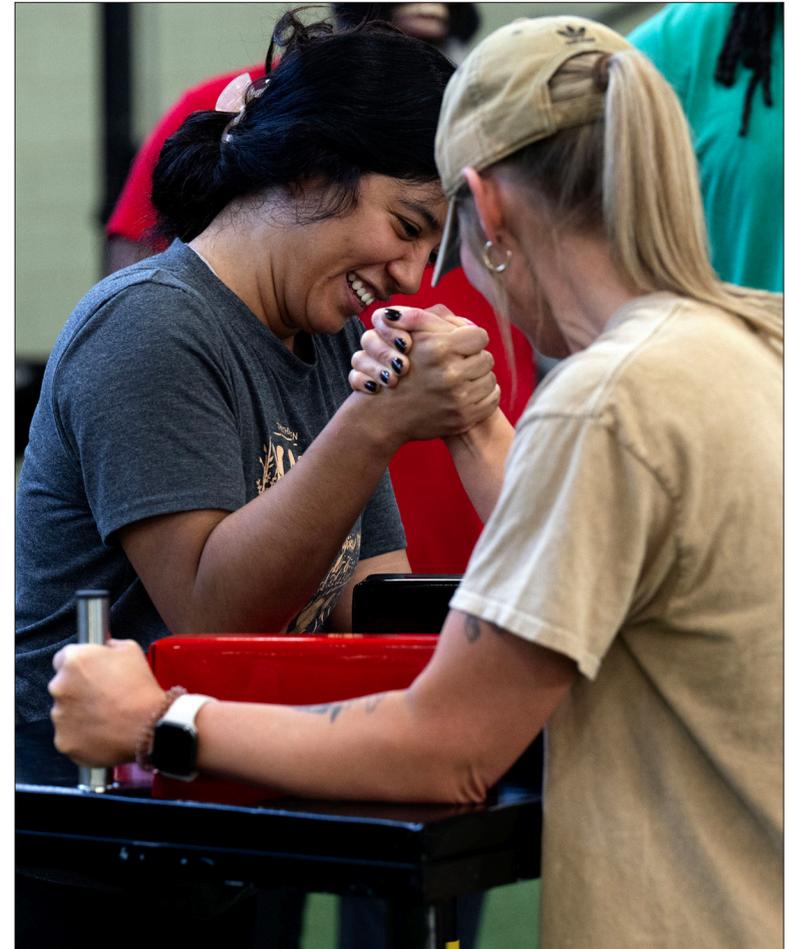


To Arms: *Jackson holds wrestling event*

By Robert Timmons

Fort Jackson's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation held an arm wrestling competition March 27 at Vanguard Gym. During the competition Frida Newman wrestled 1st Lt. Jessica Ervin (in ball cap) for the win.

The event is one of many DFM-WR's Sports and Fitness division puts on each month. To learn more visit: <https://jackson.armymwr.com/>



Pierce Terrace first grader's wish comes true

By **LORRAINE EMORY**
Pierce Terrace Elementary School

For many children, dreams of playing professional sports remain like dreams. But for Kamden, a first grader at Pierce Terrace Elementary School on Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, that dream became a heart-warming reality thanks to the Make-A-Wish South Carolina and the Greenville Triumph Soccer Club.

Kamden, who lives with cystic fibrosis, officially signed with the professional soccer team in January 2025, during a touching press conference at the Triumph team store in downtown Greenville.

With Triumph Head Coach Rick Wright and United Soccer League Senior Vice President Lee O'Neill by his side, Kamden's infectious smile lit up the room as he signed his name and proudly became part of the team.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disorder that affects the lungs and digestive system. It causes persistent lung infections and limits the ability to breathe over time. While the condition presents serious daily challenges, Kamden's spirit and determination continue to inspire all who meet him.

On March 29, Kamden's Make-A-Wish game came to life at Paladin Stadium in Greenville, South Carolina. Fans, family, and

Triumph supporters filled the stands, many wearing matching custom t-shirts in honor of the young soccer star from the Make-A-Wish South Carolina.

The team even warmed up in special jerseys designed by Kamden himself — a personal touch that made the day even more memorable. These unique jerseys were later auctioned off, with proceeds supporting Make-A-Wish and raising awareness for cystic fibrosis. Following the event, Kamden was recognized as the shining star of the evening, receiving the title of Man of the Match for his exceptional performance.

"Though the road is tough and the challenges many, Kamden's strength and courage shine brighter than any obstacle. His fight with cystic fibrosis is just another chapter in the story of his unbreakable spirit," said his mother, Angela W.

Kamden's story has inspired his local school community at Pierce Terrace and soccer fans across the state. His Make-A-Wish experience highlights the power of hope, the strength of children facing medical challenges, and the incredible community that rallies around them.

As the Triumph took the field that night, they weren't just playing for a win — they were playing for Kamden. And even though the scoreboard didn't fall in their favor, in the hearts of everyone at Paladin Stadium, Kamden was still the Man of the Match.



Courtesy photo

Pierce Terrace Elementary School first grade student Kamden's wish to be a part of the Greenville Triumph professional soccer team came true, March 29. Kamden, who lives with cystic fibrosis, is known as the school for his 'unbreakable spirit,' strength and courage.



A salute to service

Photo by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**

Fort Jackson honored the service of Lt. Col. Keith L. Jacobs and Master Sgt. Brynn M. Newcomb, both from the Army Training Center, and Sharon L. Jackson, with the Directorate of Human Resources, during the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment's Basic Combat Training Graduation, March 27.

SECDEF

Continued from Page 5

pations, Hegseth said standards must focus on things like the ability to carry heavy loads, endurance and operating in austere, hostile environments.

"Service members in these roles must exhibit speed, strength, agility and endurance to navigate the demands of combat situations," Hegseth said.

Standards for special operations forces personnel, he said, must look at advanced swimming, climbing and parachuting.

"Sustained peak physical performance is essential to execute missions of the highest stakes across diverse and challenging terrains," he said.

And for unique positions like Navy divers or explosive ordnance disposal technicians, there should be a focus on proficiency in those skills and endurance.

A key feature of the secretary's directive is that for combat arms roles, there will be only one, sex-neutral standard for both entry into such fields and for continued participation in those fields.

"All entry-level and sustained physical fitness requirements within combat arms positions must be sex-neutral, based solely on the operational demands of the occupation and the readiness needed to confront any adversary," Hegseth said.

The secretary noted that in establishing new sex-neutral standards for combat arms roles, no existing standards can be lowered.

"This initiative aligns with my broader directive to maintain uncompromising and clear standards that ensure the continued dominance of our military," Hegseth said.

Events

Continued from Page 4

Youth Fishing Derby

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heise Pond. Join Outdoor Recreation for the annual youth fishing derby. The event is for youths 5-16 years old. Enjoy some food, fish and fun at the event. There is a five pound fish limit. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 29

Maude Leadership Forum

1 p.m., Solomon Center. Maj. Gen. Hope C. Rampy, commander of U.S. Army Human Resources Command will be the guest speaker for the Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Leadership Forum. The event is hosted by the Adjutant General School. For more information, call (803) 751-8440.

MAY 10

Dolphin Tour and Charleston Visit

7:10 a.m., Marion Street Station. Join

Outdoor Recreation as they observe wild dolphin from a Carolina skiff boat as they cruise to six miles to Morris Island. The trip will also venture downtown for shopping and dining at the historic Charleston City Market. Register by May 1. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

MAY 22

Sports & Fitness - The MURPH

All day at Perez and Vanguard gyms. Come to any Fort Jackson gym at any time during the day, pick up your scoresheet and do this challenging workout of the day, where competitors must run a mile, do 100 pullups, 200 pushups, 300 squats and run another mile. Giveaways, snacks and prizes will be awarded (while supplies last).

MAY 24

Weston Lake presents Beach Day

Noon to 5 p.m., 4420 Leesburg Road. Join the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Weston Lake to celebrate the beach opening.

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 20: 6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service - Family Life Center

Jewish:

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

DID YOU KNOW: Heat season at Fort Jackson began April 1 and runs through Sept. 30. all heat illness prevention protocols for training are in effect when temperatures are forecast to reach 75 degrees.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
CATHOLIC MASS	SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL
CATHOLIC MASS	TUE-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

National Public Health Week starts April 7

Moncrief Army Health Clinic

Each year, National Public Health Week is observed in April to recognize our public health professionals and their contributions to advocating for healthier communities.

This year we celebrate the 30th year of NPHW observance with the theme “It Starts Here.” Public health starts with each of us making a difference in our homes and communities.

It is how the places we live, work and play that affect our well-being.

Please join the Fort Jackson Department of Public Health April 7-11 to celebrate NPHW.

Our public health workforce promotes health and wellness, prevents diseases and improves the health of people in communities.

Our top public health initiatives are listed below.

These initiatives are to encourage our community to learn more about public health and empower everyone to use the available public health resources to improve day to day well-being, because public health is all of us and it starts here.

The top three public health initiatives:

1. It Starts Here: Your health is our mission, make it a priority.
2. Advocacy Starts Here: Amplifying voices for public health.
3. The Future of Public Health Starts Here: Strengthening the public health workforce.

The Fort Jackson Department of Public Health will be in the front lobby of Moncrief Army Health Clinic from 9-11 a.m. April 9.

Stop by to learn about the Department’s public health services in the areas of:

- Public Health Nursing
- Occupational Health
- Environmental Health
- Health Physics
- Industrial Hygiene
- Army Hearing Program
- Army Wellness Center
- Civilian Fitness and Wellness Program

For more information about Fort Jackson public health services, please call (803) 751-5251 or visit our website <https://moncrief.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Preventive-Care>

Army streamlines training requirements

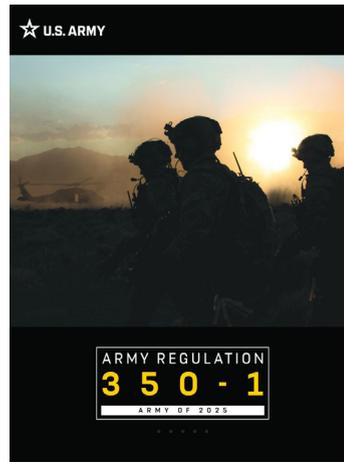
Army Public Affairs

The Army will unveil an updated version of Army Regulation 350-1, Army Training and Leader Development, on June 1.

This revision, which streamlines the regulation from over 250 pages to fewer than 100, will enable small-unit leaders and tactical formations to focus on training to fight and win on modern and future battlefields.

The updated regulation marks a significant step toward simplifying training requirements while enhancing warfighting readiness and effectiveness across the force. In addition, it will remove administrative burdens and unnecessary distractions, allowing Soldiers to focus on essential warfighting skills.

The revised AR 350-1 reduces the num-



ber of mandatory training tasks from 24 to 17, reduces requirements, eliminates redundancies and highlights tasks that are essential to warfighting, readiness and lethality.

The updates focus on retaining only the essential training required by Department of Defense policies, as well as critical Army-specific tasks that support combat readi-

ness.

Six tasks have been shifted to optional training, at the discretion of commanders, and one task has been eliminated entirely. Outdated programs, including “Resilience Training” and “Structured Self-Development,” have also been removed.

These revisions aim to alleviate the burden on commanders by granting them

greater flexibility in customizing training schedules to meet specific mission requirements.

The new regulation eliminates restrictions on the duration and locations of certain training events and encourages alternative methods of training delivery.

These changes are part of the Army’s broader effort to prioritize readiness by eliminating unnecessary administrative burdens and sharpening the focus on preparing Soldiers for decisive action in combat. The revised regulation also reorganizes appendices for improved clarity, emphasizing tasks related to warfighting capabilities.

This update reflects the Army’s commitment to ensuring that Soldiers are better prepared for real-world missions while reducing non-essential requirements that can detract from operational effectiveness.

To read the draft of AR-350-1, visit: <https://api.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/2025/04/01/c04d73ce/draft-350-1-april25.pdf>



Courtesy photo

On the March

Parents and students walk around C.C. Pinckney Elementary School April 1 as part of the Month of the Military Child celebration held at the school. The post, directorates and Partners in Excellence are celebrating military children throughout the month of April.

VICTORY... STARTS HERE



A Soldier plots a point during land navigation training for E3B testing, which begins April 7. Candidates are training up to earn Expert Field Medical, Expert Soldier and Expert Infantryman badges.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE