THURSDAY, SEPT. 4, 2025
THE FORT JACKSON

ARMY













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Army explores housing solutions to boost readiness, quality of life

By JOE LACDAN Army News Service

To further improve the living standards for Soldiers and their Families, Army leaders met with industry housing partners during the 2025 Privatized Housing Council Aug. 12-13, 2025, in Pentagon City, Virginia.

The Army Privatized Housing Council, or APHC, is held annually and brings together senior Army leadership, Office of the Secretary of Defense officials and privatized housing partners to address challenges and align on the future of Army housing. The forum ensures the Army's housing initiatives remain focused on modernization, innovation and delivering a high-quality living experience for Soldiers and their Families.

"People spend the majority of their time in their homes, so the quality of life for Soldiers is critical," said acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, Jeff Waksman. "We are looking to privatize more where possible, and we are certainly looking to grow efforts like privatized housing to improve outcomes for our Soldiers and Families."

Waksman announced the service-wide launch of the Resident Energy Conservation Program, or RECP, scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2026. The program is designed to incentivize energy conservation, provide residents with transparent billing tools, and reinvest savings into housing improvements and installation resiliency.

This year the council emphasized accelerating modernization across the Army housing portfolio. Leaders, including representative from the Army Installation Management Command and Army Corps of Engineers, addressed long-term strategies for barracks privatization, capital repair and replacement planning, and infrastructure investment. Accountability and transparency across all housing assets were highlighted as essential by Army leaders to maintaining trust with Soldiers and Families.

Findings from the Army Centinel Research Project revealed the importance of safe, well-maintained housing for military families' readiness, retention and overall quality of



life

Waksman also addressed reports on below average housing conditions in the barracks for Soldiers stationed in Guam.

"We know that we spend too much money on these barracks for the performance that we're getting," Waksman said. "So, we're looking for anything that we can do to bring that down. We're still in the questions and the gathering information phase, but that is the direction that we would like to go to."

Service leaders have stressed more of a shift towards privatizing more housing across the force. Military housing moved towards more privatization dating back to the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, established by Congress in 1996 to help improve the quality of life. However recent findings in the quality of Army housing spurred a greater privatization effort.

"We know the importance of investing wisely, modernizing rapidly and holding ourselves accountable to ensure Soldiers and Families live in housing that supports readiness and well-being," Waksman said.

An expert panel from RER Solutions presented emerging applications of artificial intelligence in housing operations. AI-driven tools such as predictive maintenance, data-driven oversight and streamlined service order tracking. The Army and its partners expressed strong interest in piloting AI tools to improve operational efficiency and resident satisfaction.

ON THE COVER

Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, return to Hilton Field in route to finishing the 2024 5K Run/Walk for the Fallen held Sept. 9, 2024 This year's event starts at 7 a.m., Sept.

See Pages 3 TIMMONS



6. Photo by ROBERT3 TIMMONS

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Run/Walk for the Fallen set for Sept. 6

Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson and the South Carolina National Guard will honor those lost fighting for America during a 5K Run/Walk for the Fallen held at Hilton Field, Sept. 6.

Each year the run is attended by Soldiers, Families and survivors of those who paid the ultimate price for America's freedom.

Marilynn Bailey, Survivor Outreach Coordinator said, "We want our surviving Families to kow that the Army cares for them. This walk/run is an honorable event" for them.

Soldiers and hundreds of civilians are set to form up and run/walk down and back up Tank Hill Parkway with a name of a fallen service member on their runners bib.

You may even see some push strollers and walk their dogs along the route too.

The event is a way for Fort Jackson and the state to let survivors know they are supported.

Registration for the run begins at 7 a.m., with opening remarks taking place at 7:45. The run will start promptly at 8 a.m.







Leader file photos

Far left: Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, cheers on participants as they neared the finish line of the 2024 event. He welcomed participants not in formation with a fist bump.

Above: Runners begin Fort Jackson's 2024 5K Run/Walk for the Fallen at Hilton Field, Aug. 7, 2024. The annual event is put on Survivor Outreach Services in conjunction with the South Carolina National Guard.

Left: Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment hold up their runners' bibs showing who they were running for during the event. This was the 14th Run/Walk for the Fallen Fort Jackson has held.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Road Closure

The intersection of Jackson Boulevard and Lightning Street will be closed Monday to Oct. 15 for strom drain repairs. There will be signs posted for roads that will be closed to through traffic and to identify the detours routes. Drivers are advised to follow detours and stay away from the area due to the operation of heavy equipment and hazardous conditions.

Jewish High Holy Days

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) Century Chapel

Sept. 23 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sept. 24 - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) Century Chapel

Oct. 1 – 7-8:30 p.m.

Oct. 2 - 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30-8

Safety Training

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://airs.safety.army. mil/default.aspx. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your safety specialist.

- Advance Riders Cours: Tuesday (6 seats open)
- 1 (3 seats open)*
- 18 (25 seats open)
- Local Hazards Course: Every Monday at 10 a.m. (except holidays)

- Unit Safety Officer Course: Oct. 7-8 (20 seats open)- send your designated Safety Officer an email to register
- Heat Illness Prevention Training: Every Monday at 1 p.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Room 207.
- * Safety officials encourage those wishing to attend in case of no shows.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TOMORROW

Lunch and Learn with Sew and Heal

11:30 a.m., Bldg. 9810 Liberty Division Road. Join this class to use sewing as a coping skill and make a small craft. This event is part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For more information, call (803) 751-2915.

SATURDAY

5K Run/Walk for the Fallen

7 a.m., Hilton Field. Come join Fort Jackson in honoring fallen Soldiers and their families. Registration begins at 7 a.m., opening remarks at 7:45 a.m., and the run/walk begins at 8. For more infromation, call (803) 751-5256.

Private Weapons Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aachen Range.

Shooters can shoot at targets between 25m and 200m. Paper targets, spotting scopes, tables and chairs are provided. Patrons can shoot rifle or pistol at a Day Basic Riders Course: Sept. 29-Oct. rate or on an hourly rate. Pre-register at Marion Street Station: \$25 per person Intermediate Drivers Course: Sept. for all day (4 hours), \$10 per person per hour (pre-register), \$15 per person per hour (day onsite/cash only). Ensure all weapons are registered on post. No auto-

matic weapons or .50 cal allowed. Age 12 and up, 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Open to All authorized ID card holders. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

MONDAY TO NOV. 4

Fall Intramural Basketball League

Solomon Center. A Department of Defense ID required to play and the deadline for submitting a letter of intent is Sept. 5. An Interest meeting will be held Sep 8. This is a Commander's Cup event. Sign up today. For more information call (803) 751-3096.

WEDNESDAY

SafeTALK Seminar

9 a.m., Bldg. 9810 Liberty Division Road. You are invited to attend this seminar taught by the S.C. Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities. The objective of the seminar is to share ways to be alert of someone thinking of suicide and how to connect them with resources. This event is part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For more information. call (803) 751-2915.

SEPT. 11

9-11 Memorial Event

9 a.m., Hilton Field, Fort Jackson will host a special 9-11 memorial event during the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment graduation, Sept. 11.

SEPT. 13

Beaufort Tour

7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd. Join Army Community Service for a newcomer's orientation "area tour" to Beaufort, South Carolina, Take a land and sea tour departing downtown Beau-

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

■ No Showing

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

- The Naked Gun (R)
- All shows start at 2 p.m.
- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

fort Marina at the Waterfront Park. We will cruise along the waterfront to get an introduction to Beaufort's incredible history and abundant wildlife. Space is limited and is first come, first served. For more information and to register, call (803) 751-5256, option 3.

SEPT. 16

Community Information Exchange

2-3 p.m., 1917 Club. The Fort Jackson community is invited to join post leaders in a forum to identify issues or concerns in support of the Total Army Family. The forum assists leaders in taking care of the Army Family. For more information, call (803) 751-5670.

SEPT. 20

Fort Gordon trail ride

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

THE FORT JACKSON

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 (803) 751-3615.



Photo by KRISTEN WONG

Financial readiness is crucial to military preparedness, directly impacting operations. The distraction of financial stress can lead to decreased operational efficiency and mission readiness, as servicemembers preoccupied with financial worries are less likely to perform at their best in high-stakes environments.

Financial stress affects readiness, well-being

By ANGELA CROSLANDArmy Community Service

Financial stress is a pervasive issue impacting service members and their families, extending far beyond budgetary concerns.

It's a significant, often silent, threat to individual well-being and, critically, to overall mission readiness.

Unmanaged financial strain can erode mental and emotional health, ultimately leading to feelings of hopelessness and impacting performance.

There is a connection between finances and mental health. Constant worry about bills, debt, or unexpected expenses can trigger the body's stress response, leading to anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbances.

Prolonged stress can weaken resil-

ience, making it difficult to cope with the inherent challenges of military life. With a demanding work schedule in a high-stress environment, finances can sometimes end up taking a backseat to your daily work mission.

This can cause irritability, difficulty concentrating, and impaired decision-making.

These are all detrimental to both personal life and professional duties. When individuals feel overwhelmed by financial burdens, it can foster a sense of helplessness and hopelessness, potentially escalating to more serious mental health concerns.

This isn't simply a personal problem, it's a readiness issue.

A service member struggling with financial stress is less able to focus on training, maintain peak performance, and effectively execute their mission. A distracted, anxious, or depressed soldier is a liability, not an asset. Financial readiness, therefore, is directly linked to mission readiness.

A financially stable force is a more focused, resilient, and effective force.

Fortunately, resources are available to help. Fort Jackson offers a comprehensive network of support to address financial and emotional well-being.

The Fort Jackson Community Behavior Health can provide or connect you with confidential counseling and support services to address stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns. They can equip you with coping mechanisms to navigate financial difficulties. They can be reached at (803) 751-5911.

See STRESS, Page 9

Army hunts for heat stress risk indicators

By PAUL LEGASSE
Army Medical Research and
Development Command

Heat-related injuries are a persistent threat to warfighters, especially during ruck marches and timed runs. Physiologists have long sought to understand why some people are able to withstand the effects of heat for longer periods, while others of the same age and physical condition are prone to experiencing potentially dangerous symptoms.

A team of researchers at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine is seeking to solve that mystery by identifying specific physiological characteristics of people who can withstand extreme heat stress during training. By helping to identify risk factors and prevention strategies for heat-related illnesses, the research could lead to improved recovery and return-to-duty protocols that better protect the health of warfighters, thereby improving their readiness, endurance and lethality.

Exertional heatstroke — a severe form of heat illness typically marked by high body temperature and altered mental status such as disorientation and loss of consciousness — affects nearly 500 service members per year. The Medical Surveillance Monthly Report recently found that the overall incidence rate of EHS among military personnel increased in 2024 after three years of steady decline.

Gabrielle Giersch, a research physiologist in USARIEM's Thermal and Mountain Medicine Division, is leading the study and said that the research into identifying risk factors and biomarkers associated with resilience to heat stress will help fill key

See **HEAT**, Page 9







Jackson community prioritizes vigilance during awareness month

Installation Antiterrorism Office

Throughout August, the Installation Antiterrorism Office assisted Fort Jackson personnel in focusing on antiterrorism awareness principals of the Soldiers, civilian employees and Families who comprise our entire Fort Jackson community.

This effort aimed to empower individuals on how to recognize and report suspicious activity, as well as how to respond to an ac-

Engagements across the installation highlighted key behavioral indicators of potential threats, lessons learned from active shooter scenarios, and clear guidance on reporting procedures and responsible authorities.

The final week of Antiterrorism Awareness Month saw a concentrated effort with awareness engagements at the Soldier Support Institute, the Commissary, and Moncrief Army Health Clinic.

Scott Park, Army Training Center antiterrorism officer, said "AT awareness isn't simply a regulatory requirement, it is a shared responsibility of every leader and individual who enters the gates of Fort Jackson."

Holly Kauer, with Fort Jackson's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, said the potential impact of each individual engagement couldn't be underestimated..

"Even with limited one-on-one interactions during awareness events, you never know which conversation might be the difference maker in preventing or mitigating a planned threat," she said.

Participants enjoyed the opportunity to test their skills at spotting suspicious activity in the AT Awareness Challenge and in doing so brought attention to the Army's iWATCH program.

Looking ahead, Park said he envisions a sustained AT awareness campaign throughout the upcoming fiscal year to maintain a heightened state of vigilance across the Fort Jackson community.

This approach underscores the Army's commitment to protecting those who work and live on Fort Jackson.

"We must remember," Park concluded, "that maintaining a secure environment is not a seasonal activity, but a continuous commitment from everyone within our community."

How perceptive are you? Test your skills by taking the challenge https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/take-chal-



Far left: Scott Park, Army **Training Center antiterrorism** officer, speaks about being vigilant while at the Soldier Support Institute.

Middle top: Installation antiterrorism officers speak to Commissary patrons about what the community can do during Antiterrorism Awareness Month.

Middle bottom: Park hands out information to a service member. He said AT awareness is, 'a shared responsibility' of everyone who enters Fort Jackson.

Left: Holly Kauer, with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. talks to a community member inside the SSI.

Army chaplains play essential role in spiritual fitness

By LYTARIA B. WALKERArmy Directorate of Prevention,
Resilience and Readiness

In the Army profession, where physical fitness, tactical proficiency and mental resilience are highly respected, it might be easy to overlook a quieter but equally vital component of personal readiness: the spiritual domain. At the heart of spiritual readiness stand the U.S. Army chaplains. They are servant leaders who ensure that every Soldier, regardless of faith or background, has access to spiritual care, moral guidance and emotional support.

Chaplain (Capt.) Harry C. Ross, a chaplain clinician at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, describes the chaplaincy as a sacred calling within the profession of arms. While today's chaplains may not carry weapons, they are very much in the fight, supporting Soldiers with confidential, faith-based support in times of crisis, uncertainty and personal challenge.

"We're more than just religious leaders," he said. "We're counselors, ethical advisers and spiritual first responders who are ready to meet Soldiers wherever they are, in the garrison or on the battlefield."

Army chaplains are not typically licensed counselors, but they are prepared to help people navigate life's real challenges, like stress, career concerns, substance misuse or deployment. On any given day, a chaplain may lead a worship service, conduct a marriage counseling session or provide grief support.

"It's not about preaching doctrine; it's about helping Soldiers find meaning, purpose and resilience, especially when life gets difficult or combat becomes a reality," Ross said.

Chaplain (Col.) Stan Smith, Fort Jackson's command chaplain, said, "While each chaplain is ordained and endorsed by their faith group/denomination, we understand how to provide religious support in a pluralistic environment without violating our faith requirements."

But what truly sets Army chaplains apart is their commitment to compassionate service amid uncertain times. Whether it's a young private struggling with homesick-

ness, a seasoned sergeant grappling with financial troubles or a unit left reeling after a loss, chaplains often provide a calm presence. They can offer a safe place for Soldiers to open up, reflect and begin to heal. Spiritual wounds can linger long after a deployment ends. Chaplains can help Soldiers confront issues head-on, offering moral clarity and a space for reflection grounded in faith or personal values.

Chaplains on Fort Jackson provide weekly worship services and religious education classes, which involves roughly 3,000 trainees moving to various locations across post.

"Many Fort Jackson chaplains lead a baptism service at the end of Basic Combat Training where it is common to see as many as 100 trainees baptized from a battalion," Smith said.

Chaplains at Fort Jackson also provide three services and nu-

merous Bible studies and religious education opportunities for permanent party and families across the post.

The Brigade Unit Ministry Teams (comprised of a chaplain and religious affairs noncommissioned officer) are located at the Soldier Performance Readiness Center and provide an accessible resource to the cadre throughout the week.

Battalion chaplains are active in the daily training with their trainees and provide a much needed ministry of presence in which they are ready and available to speak with cadre and trainees throughout the day.

"These conversations cover a wide variety of topics beyond religious or spiritual concerns such as work stress, relationships, even finances," Smith said. "They also lead



Leader file photo

chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Charles Causey, deputy chief of chaplains, smiles as he receives a painting from Chaplain (Col.) Stan Smith, command chaplain, during Fort Jackson's Na-Chaplains at Fort tional Day of Prayer Breakfast held May 2.

training in their battalions on topics like: 'A life worth living,' 'Protect the tribe,' 'Character Development Training,' and additional 'Suicide Prevention Training."

Smith added that most chaplains on post lead Building Strong and Ready Teams events in which they train Soldiers and Family members in relationship and communication skills. These events can be overnight or local one day events.

"In my role, I've seen the incredible weight our Soldiers carry," Ross said.

"Sometimes it's visible, like a wound or a scar. But more often, it's invisible. That's where we come in. We help carry the burdens that no one else can see."

Ross also said that chaplains serve as trusted advisers to commanders.

"We provide insights into unit morale,

ethical concerns and the overall spiritual health of the force," he said. "In a way, we are the moral compass of the unit. We see what others might miss, and we speak truth even when it's hard."

The belief that the spirit of the Soldier needs to be nurtured and supported is at the core of the chaplain's mission. Their presence is a reminder that despite the demands of military service, there is space for grace, healing and hope. They often serve as the quiet professionals walking beside the Soldier through the valleys of doubt, the peaks of triumph and everything in between.

"We may not carry a rifle, but we go to the front lines just the same. We go armed with compassion, guided by faith and committed to the soul of the Soldier," he said.

Heat

Continued from Page 5

gaps in the Defense Department's understanding of heat-related illness.

"Heat illnesses pose a serious threat not just to individuals, but also to units and deployability, and they impose a significant financial cost as well," Giersch said. "We don't have a lot of data on the factors that contribute to the onset of heat illness or optimal recovery time. This study is designed to help us develop better criteria for determining the return-to-duty requirements for heat illness (sufferers) by identifying what puts people at risk and how those risk factors affect them."

Earlier this summer, Giersch and her team traveled to Fort Rucker, Alabama, where they recruited 24 volunteer soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, to serve as the study's control group. Prior to participating in a 5-mile run and an 8-mile ruck march as part of their regular physical training, the volunteers provided blood and urine samples and were fitted with instrumentation to monitor their heart rate, skin temperature and core temperature.

They also completed a brief questionnaire on their health history. In follow-up visits, the research team collected blood and urine samples from the volunteers at six-hour intervals for an additional 24 hours — the same frequency that care providers in emergency departments and hospitals take samples from actual heat illness patients. The samples will be analyzed to identify the prevalence of biological molecules that can be correlated with a volunteer's ability to better withstand the onset of EHS.

"The 24 individuals who participated in the initial data col-



Leader file photo

A drill sergeant with Company A, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment demonstrates how to use an arm immersion bath, July 9, 2019.

lection represented a pretty wide spectrum of race, sex, fitness status and body mass index," Giersch said. "We haven't analyzed the blood samples yet, but the core temperature data showed that several people reached high temperatures without experiencing any symptoms of EHS and cooled off very quickly, which gives us a very good indication that we have a really good control group."

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment

DRILL SERGEANT OF THE CYCLESgt. 1st Class
Natalie Herr

ALPHA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Nina Chinchaladze

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Clayton Grace

BRAVO COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE Pvt. Brett L. Maney

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLEPfc. Samuel R. Berky

CHARLIE COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Micha D. Rigby

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLEPvt. Jaye Veon Washington

DELTA COMPANY
SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Josiah L. Wanner

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Leila A. Dixon

SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Skylar Nutt

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Michael Dunn

Stress

Continued from Page 5

Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program offers financial counseling, debt management assistance, and workshops on budgeting, saving, and investing.

This program empowers service members and families to gain control of their finances and build a secure future.

Emergency financial assistance is also available to active and retired Soldiers through Army Emergency Relief.

ACS Family Advocacy Program offers resources for stress management and healthy relationship skills, which can be crucial when navigating financial challenges as a family.

Seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Proactive financial planning and utilizing available resources are essential steps in safeguarding your well-being and ensuring mission success. Don't let financial stress become a silent threat. Take control of your financial future and prioritize your mental and emotional health. To speak with an ACS Financial Readiness Counselor or ACS Family Advocacy Specialist, call 803-751-5256,



Into retirement

Fort Jackson honored the service of Maj. Thomas A. Simpson, 4th Battle-field Coordination Detachment, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., during the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment graduation, Aug. 27.

Events

Continued from Page 4

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for a horseback trail ride at Fort Gordon, Ga. horse stables. Novice or pro, this guided ride will be great for those looking for an outdoor adventure. Cost: \$75 per person. Participants must be 7 years old or older. for more information or to register, call Outdoor Recreation at (803) 751-3484.

SEPT. 25

Suicide Prevention Panel

1:30 p.m., Zimmerman Auditorium, 10098 Cherbourg St.. Come listen to three dynamic speakers and panel of facilitators speak about overcoming thoughts of suicide, relationship concerns and resources. This event is part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For more information, call (803) 751-2915.

SEPT. 26 Oktoberfest 2025

4:30 p.m., 1917 Club. Fort Jackson's Oktoberfest Festival kicks off Sept. 26. Check in starts at 4 p.m. with the Volksmarch Walk at 4:30 p.m. (1 Mile). The event costs: \$25. The fee includes beer stein, beer tastings, snack stops and t-shirt. The Oktoberfest Festival starts at 5:30 p.m. There will be vendors, games and live music.. For more information, call (803) 751-3933.

OCT. 1

Community Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall. The Fort Jackson community invited to attend a lunch with food, fellowship, fun and a brief inspirational message.. The lunch, held the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, call (803) 751-3979.

OCT. 4

Do it in Pink 5K

8 a.m., Palmetto Falls Water Park. Come out and run for breast cancer awareness. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

OCT. 4-5

Fall Family Campout

Twin Lakes Park. This overnight family friendly camping event will have fun activities such as games, fishing, s'mores making and arts & crafts. We will provide hot dogs and chips for dinner and coffee and individually wrapped pastries for breakfast. tents, cots, sleep bags & pads, cook stoves/pots and pans are available tor rent. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

OCT. 24

CYS Presents: Fall Festival

6 p.m., Youth Sports Complex, 5975 4th Division Road. Come enjoy the Child, Yourh Services Fall Festival where there will be food trucks, arts and crafts, games, bounce houses, photo booth and DJ Music. For more information, call (803) 751-4824.

OCT. 25

Halloween Archery Class

10 a.m., Heise Pond. Come out and learn how to shoot a bow and arrow. At-

tendees will decorate a pumpin and then use it as a target. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-3484.

Zombie 5K

8 a.m., Twin Lakes Park. Come out and enjoy an adult-themed Halloween 5K run where zombie volunteers pop out along the route and will interact/chase runners for a spooky good time. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

NOV. 5

Community Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall. The Fort Jackson community invited to attend a lunch with food, fellowship, fun and a brief inspirational message. For more information, call (803) 751-3979.

NOV. 12

Education/Career Fair

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1917 Club. Come learn how to prepare for your next career, or academic institute. For more information, call (803) 751- 7209.

FAITH GROUP DAY TIME **PLACE** CATHOLIC MASS SUNDAY 9:30-10:30 A.M. MAIN POST CHAPEL **CATHOLIC MASS MONDAY-FRIDAY** NOON MAIN POST CHAPEL **GOSPEL SERVICE** SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL HEDUL **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. **CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING** DAY TTME PLACE **CATHOLIC MASS SUNDAY** 8-9 A.M. **SOLOMON CENTER** PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE **SUNDAY** 9:30-10:30 A.M. **SOLOMON CENTER NORSHIP CHURCH OF CHRIST SUNDAY** 9-10 A.M. **CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL** HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE **SUNDAY** 11 A.M. to NOON SOLOMON CENTER (1st and 3rd Sundays) 11 A.M. to NOON SOLOMON CENTER (2nd and 4th **GOSPEL SERVICE** SUNDAY Sundays) LIGHTNING CHAPEL **ANGLICAN** SUNDAY 9:30-10 A.M. **ISLAMIC SERVICE SUNDAY** 8-9 A.M. LIGHTNING CHAPEL **JEWISH SERVICE** SUNDAY 10:30-11:30 A.M. 120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS **SUNDAY** 10:30 A.M. to NOON CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL



Photo by ARMY SGT. 1ST CLASS TANISHA KARN

Army Staff Sgt. Michael Lezama and his squad use a DroneGun Mk4 to simulate taking down an unmanned aircraft system during training at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Germany, July 8, 2025.

Hegseth calls for anti-drone task force

By MATTHEW OLAY DOD News

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Aug. 28, that he has directed Army Secretary Daniel P. Driscoll to formally establish a joint, interagency task force to counter hostile unmanned aerial systems, more commonly referred to as drones.

"Our job here at the Pentagon — when you think about it — is to prepare for the threats of the future and build a force to match them, and defeat them, and outpace them," Hegseth said via a video message released to the public.

"And there's no doubt that the threats we face today from hostile drones grow by the day," he added.

Noting that hostile UASs are being operated overseas and at our borders while seeking to harm U.S. warfighters, bases and even the sovereignty of the national airspace, Hegseth said the new task force — Joint Interagency Task Force 401 — will be a unified team that will seek to bring together the best talent from multiple government agencies to counter UAS threats and restore control of the skies.

"It's called counter-UAS — counter-unmanned aerial systems — and America will be the best at it," Hegseth said.

Although the secretary did not comment on the estimated length of time before the task force will be operational, he did say the Pentagon is currently moving quickly to cut through bureaucracy and consolidate resources, so as to empower it with "the utmost authority to outpace our adversaries."

He added that DOD is working to deliver real solutions and ensure American airspace remains secure at home, abroad and anywhere troops are stationed.

"They deserve to be defended by the best," Hegseth said.

He added that the new task force will put the right tools in the hands of warfighters so they can defend the sovereignty of American airspace and "send a clear message" that the United States will "never be outmatched."

"Because, make no mistake, under this administration — and President (Donald J.) Trump's leadership — we're going to out-innovate, we're going to lead and we will win," Hegseth concluded.





A drill sergeant candidate with the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy's Class 018-25 sights in his weapon during Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills training, Aug. 26.

Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS DANA CLARKE