THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

“VICTORY STARTS HERE”

SAFETY STARTS HERE

POST HOLDS ANNUAL SUMMER SAFETY SYMPOSIUM - P11

FORT JACKSON HONORS VOLUNTEER EFFORTS - P3

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SPLIT TRAINING OPTION ENLISTS HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS, P8

ANIMALS ARE SPRINGING UP: BE PREPARED, P12-13

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193rd Infantry Brigade runs for change

Members of Fort Jackson’s 193rd Infantry Brigade start their morning with a 5K run in support of the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Program. The entire brigade met April 12 to sing cadence as they ran across the installation to the Solomon Center, where the brigade commander and command teams spoke about ways to end sexual harassment in the military. The attendees also learned who their SHARP representatives are, how to contact them and the differences between a formal and informal complaint.

By ALEXANDRA SHEA
Fort Jackson Leader

On training installations like Fort Jackson, it is commonplace to see Soldiers using training aid and live weapon systems. But what happens when you find these things Soldiers use? “Don’t touch it, don’t move it,” said Deputy Director of Emergency Services Raymond Smith. “Call 911.”

This recently happened on Fort Jackson. A couple of school-aged children found what appeared to be unexploded ordinance outside of the installation’s training areas.

A call was placed to 911 and services were dispatched, including an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, the subject matter experts on potential explosive devices. The immediate area was closed to all non-essential personnel and the device was examined and disposed of. The item, a hand grenade, was already rendered inert, meaning the explosive elements were already removed. The found UXO appeared to be a decoration.

“Contractors destroying buildings have found a couple of inert Improvised Explosive Device training aids,” Smith said.

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ON THE COVER

Jose Martinez helps his son, Benjamin, 10, drive a pedal car through a slalom course while wearing goggles to simulate the effects of driving impaired during the summer Safety Symposium.

SEE PAGE 11.

See something, say something

By ALEXANDRA SHEA
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Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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‘The heartbeat of our community’

Fort Jackson honors volunteer efforts

By WALLACE MCBRIDE
Fort Jackson Leader

Fort Jackson celebrated the efforts of its volunteers April 12 with a reception recognizing their outstanding achievements not only in 2018, but throughout the history of the installation.

The ceremony capped National Volunteer Week, established in 1974 to inspire, recognize and encourage people to seek out innovative ways to engage with their communities. The honors issued during the event ranged from the quarterly Commanding General’s Helping Hand Award, to the inductions into the Fort Jackson Volunteer Hall of Fame.

“Today we honor volunteers for choosing freely to make a difference,” said Marilynn Bailey, Fort Jackson’s volunteer service coordinator, as she kicked off the ceremony.

“Our volunteers are truly the heartbeat of our community,” said Brig. Gen. Milford H. “Beags” Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson command-er, who was on hand with Command Sgt. Maj. Jerimiah Gan to award and congratulate last week’s volunteers.

“If our volunteers were to stop doing what they do for a second, for an instant, we would all feel that impact,” Beagle said. “The impact in our chapels, our schools, our basic training units and other units on the installation ... our youth sports, our spouses groups and many other areas across the Army community. We would feel that impact far and wide.”

Nominees were selected by a volunteer organization or by a unit for having contributed “exceptional volunteer service.” Fort Jackson’s Volunteers of the Year are:

Family Member/Civilian Category: Erin Pieri
Pieri served as battalion advisor, and “leads an extremely successful Family Readiness Group and leads by example,” Bailey said. “She served as the company photographer for three cycles ... Erin is a team player and lends her advise and expertise to other FRG advisors and leaders. She’s a member of the Victory Spouses Club and a driving force behind (a community food drive) program.”

Retiree Category: Juan Burgos-Rivera
Burgos-Rivera volunteers with the Catholic community at the Main Post Chapel. Bailey said his “daily and quiet service of setting up and breaking down the required religious elements, tables, articles and items required for noon mass and holy days is done out of love for this community and serving God.”

Youth Category: Leah Pierre
Pierre has been a member of the Fort Jackson American Red Cross VolunTEENS. Bailey said she is “loyal, dedicated, respectable, humble and is an asset to Fort Jackson, Columbia, her Family, school district and everywhere she serves.”

Active Duty Military Category: Maj. Shawn Ross
Bailey said Ross is a “supportive and active member of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment Family Readiness Group. He was instrumental in organizing the holiday party and is key to the 2-13 Gives Back events, which included collecting food for the local food bank, homeless children and other organizations in need.”

Fort Jackson Volunteer Hall of Fame 2019 inductees

Inducted into the Fort Jackson Volunteer Hall of Fame this year were:

■ Good News Club
Volunteers devote their time teaching and nurturing in the word of God at C.C. Pinckney Elementary School every Thursday afternoon. Each Good News Club volunteer serves in a role where they lead songs and praise, prayer, activity teaching and mission story.

■ American Red Cross VolunTEENS
The VolunTEENS have supported Fort Jackson and the neighboring communities for more than a decade. This unique student-led organization is comprised of high school and middle school students who promote the Red Cross mission.

■ Leah S. Pierre
Pierre has been a member of the American Red Cross VolunTEENS since 2013. She’s volunteered 450 hours of community service – 155 hours to the Fort Jackson Daniel Circle Chapel, 100 hours to her school, and 55 hours annually doing dance performances throughout the community.
TODAY

Babysitting Certification Training
Skies Building 6100 Chestnut Road, Teenagers 12 and older can sign up for babysitting certification. The course prepares teens to safely care for young children while using the Army Child & Youth Services 4-H curriculum. Teens start to understand the responsibilities of babysitting. The information the teens receive will provide them with information for them to become capable, caring, trustworthy and responsible sitters. They will also develop the confidence needed to handle situations that could happen when they babysit. The course also prepares teens in the business aspects of babysitting. For more information, call (803) 908-8182.

SATURDAY

Concealed Weapons Permit Class
8:15 a.m. Training and Support Center Classroom, Bldg. 1565 Washington Road. A concealed weapons permit class will help Fort Jackson community members obtain a permit. Students bringing firearms on to the installation must first register them with Physical Security Office. For more information call Richard Spangler at (803) 331-5155.

SUNDAY

Easter Sunrise Service
6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Hilton Field, Fort Jackson’s Easter Sunrise Service. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held at 10 a.m. in the Solomon Center. For more information call 751-3979.

TUESDAY

Social Security Benefits
11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Joe E. Mann Ballroom, 3392 Magruder Ave. Army Community Service will host a “Lunch & Learn” Social Security Benefits Seminar. Seminar provides information on how social security affects your retirement income. A representative from the Social Security Administration will be on hand to answer your questions. Feel free to bring your lunch with you; lunch is not provided. Please call 751-5256 to RSVP.

APRIL 30

VA Benefits
11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bldg. 9810 Lee Road, Rm. 119. Army Community Service will host a “Lunch & Learn” VA Benefits Seminar. This seminar will provide information on VA Benefits and how they can impact your finances. Please call 751-5256 to RSVP.

MAY 2

National Day of Prayer Observance
Noon to 12:30 p.m. Main Post Chapel. The Fort Jackson Religious Support Office is hosting the National Day of Prayer Observance to encourage prayer for our nation from a broad spectrum of religions and religious leaders. This event does not endorse one religion or service. All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Chap. (Lt. Col.) Rodie Lamb at 751-3979 or rodie.l.lamb@mail.mil.

MAY 10

Military Spouse Appreciation Day
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Army Community Service Center, 9810 Lee Road. ACS invites the community to stop by to thank military spouses for their service. There will also be giveaways provided by the Army Air Force Exchange Services. AAFES will also hold a free drawing for gift basket. For more information call 751-5256.

Pampering day at the Exchange
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Exchange. Army Air Force Exchange Services is hosting a pampering day as part of Military Spouse Appreciation Day. There will be mimosa tasting, hand massages, chocolate sampling and a drawing for a gift basket. For more information call (803) 787-1950.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AA Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m. Lightning Chapel. The Lightning Chapel’s Fellowship Hall, 9476 Kemper Street, every Wednesday. This meeting is only for those seeking personal recovery. For more information call Katie Martin at 751-7948.

Pharmacy hours
The Moncrief Army Health Clinic Main Pharmacy will be closed May 25-27 due to renovations. The PX Refill Pharmacy will be open regular hours, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information call Neysa Williams at 751-2291.

Sportsman Advisory Council
Are you interested in learning more about the Fort Jackson Sportsman Club? Come to a meeting of the Sportsman Advisory Council Working Groups. The Cycling Working Group meets the third Tuesday of each month at Magruder’s Pub. The next Hunting and Angling Working Group meeting will take place 6 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Alpine Lodge.

Moncrief Army Hospital Clinic
Due to increased prescription volume as a result of Cold & Flu Season, the Refill Pharmacy is increasing the turnaround time for refilled prescriptions to 72 business hours. Please ensure refills are called in with sufficient time so that current prescriptions do not run out. The Pharmacy Department apologizes for any inconvenience that this may cause. For more information, contact the Moncrief Public Affairs Office at 751-2291.

Deadline for events to be included in the calendar or Happenings is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible. With any photo you submit, include IDs—rank, unit, and first and last names.

Questions? Call 751-7045.

Those wishing to purchase an annual mailed subscription for The Leader should contact the Camden Media Company at csmith@chronicle-independent.com or 803-432-6157.

The Fort Jackson Leader
Phone: 751-7488

FRIDAY

• Dragged Across Concrete (R) 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Dragged Across Concrete (R) 1 p.m.
• Us (R) 5 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Dragged Across Concrete (R) 1 p.m.
• Us (R) 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• Dragged Across Concrete (R) 2 p.m.
• Us (R) 5 p.m.

TICKETS

Adult: $6 / Child (6 to 11): $4

3-D TICKETS

Adult: $8 / Child (6 to 11): $6

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

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Calendar of Events

April
18, 25: Black Light Bowling at Ivy Lanes, 3 - 8 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-4759.
21: Easter Brunch at the NCO Club, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information please call (803)782-2218.
26: Family Fun Fair, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-1672.
27: Youth Fishing Derby and Sportsman’s Expo, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-3484.

May
4: Palmetto Trail Hike, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-3484.
5-7: Military Long Drive at the Fort Jackson Golf Club. For more information please call (803)787-4344.
10: Military Spouse Appreciation Day "Light Breakfast," 8:30 - 10 a.m. For more information please call (803)751-5256.
11: Beginners Archery at Heise Pond, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-3484.
12: Mothers’ Day Brunch at the NCO Club, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, please call (803)782-2218.
15: Shred Day at Recycle Center, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-4208.
16: Strongman/Woman Competition, 6 - 9 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-3096.

Easter Brunch at the NCO Club
Sunday, April 21, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
NCO Club, 5700 Lee Rd.
Serving specialty food, breakfast and lunch buffet with carving station, waffle station, and omelet station.
Reservations are required, purchase tickets in advance at NCO Club.
Adults $18.95, Children (ages 5-10) $9.50
Call the NCO Club at (803)782-2218 for more information

Youth Fishing Derby &
Sportsman’s Expo
Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Heise Pond, Semmes Rd.
Here’s an opportunity for children to learn and develop fishing skills and spend quality time with family in the great outdoors.
Subject matter experts will be on-site. Learn new skills like casting a line, making a feather quill pen and how to use a sportsman.
Youth fishing, ages 15 and younger, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Call Outdoor Recreation at (803)751-3484 for more information

2019 MILITARY LONG DRIVE CHAMPIONSHIP/ WORLD LONG DRIVE QUALIFIERS
May 7, 2019, Fort Jackson Golf Club Grandstand Seating and Concessions Open at 2 p.m.
Additional parking available at Victory Hall. Due to live telecast, please be in your seats by 4:30 p.m.
Call Fort Jackson Golf Club at (803)787-4344 for more information
Local equipment turn-in saves time and money

By ALEXANDRA SHEA
Fort Jackson Leader

Turning in military property can be a complicated task, but, thanks to the Fort Jackson Disposition Service, the turn-in process has become easier. The program saves valuable time and is local.

Most supply and property book personnel are familiar with the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office. However, DRM0 was taken over by the Defense Logistics Agency late last year. When this happened, Fort Jackson lost its ability to turn in excess and unserviceable equipment to a local warehouse.

This resulted in Soldiers and civilians transporting their equipment for turn-in to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, a two-to-three-hour drive across state lines.

“The command wanted to provide an avenue for the organization to minimize time on the road and a safe means of getting property from Fort Jackson to Fort Bragg,” said George Smith, deputy G4.

To provide this convenience, Fort Jackson created its own disposition service that acts as a transportation conduit between the two military installations.

“You can schedule an appointment the first Wednesday of the month,” said Jenkinson Tindal, supply management specialist.

The drop-off location is a warehouse, located at Building 1905 on Ewell Road, that prepares equipment for shipping and temporarily holds this equipment until contracted transportation hauls it away to its final destination where it can be recycled, redistributed or sold to other agencies.

The warehouse is operated by Supply Technician Mike Hall. Here, Hall and his staff can help unload heavy equipment using a fork lift and show personnel how to palletize and properly band equipment for pick-up.

“All you have to do is get your items to our warehouse,” Hall said. “We will provide the assistance.”

While the turn-in process has become easier and more efficient, anyone turning in equipment should come prepared with the proper paperwork and be ready to help unload equipment.

“Ensure you have at least five copies of your (DD Form) 1348,” Hall said.

Equipment for turn-in will also need a spreadsheet containing an accurate count, description and national stock numbers for all equipment as well as any specialty forms such as a draining and cleaning statement or hard drive removal statement to ensure a smooth transaction. Once the equipment is collected, a bill of lading will be issued through e-mail for tracking purposes.

“You don’t have to use us. You can call DLA yourself and schedule your own truck,” Smith said. “The convenience (of using us) is if you don’t have lift capability for when the trucks come to you, they don’t provide forklifts, just drivers.”

According to Hall, these drivers have a “no touch” policy, which means they don’t provide packaging supplies for equipment turn-in or help with loading.

“We save a lot of time,” Smith said.

To schedule an equipment turn-in or for more information, contact the Fort Jackson Disposition Service at 803-414-2755.
Volunteer is part of Fort Jackson history

By ALEXANDRA SHEA  
Fort Jackson Leader

Fort Jackson has seen many changes and historical events throughout its history and Dorothy Brooks, a Red Cross Volunteer, has been working across Fort Jackson for most of it.

Brooks has volunteered on post for roughly 60 years and witnessed first-hand the desegregation of Basic Combat Training, the introduction of the Woman’s Army Corps and how World War II, Vietnam and the War on Terror affected Fort Jackson.

“My father was a volunteer firefighter,” Brooks said. “I think that I just picked up on it and I really enjoy it. I volunteer where I think I’m doing the most good.”

Her father carried the motto “neighbor helps neighbor.” Brooks, who continues to carry the motto, began her volunteer career at the Fort Jackson thrift store as a teenager.

“That was my first job as a volunteer on Fort Jackson,” Brooks said. “It was a fun time.”

Brooks stayed closely associated with the thrift store as she attended the University of South Carolina. There, she would purchase and sell items she needed from semester to semester while volunteering between her classes. She graduated with a Master’s of Education degree she would later use while working at the installation’s education center. There she administered military occupation specialty skill qualification testing and help create a language program for Soldiers being shipped to Germany or Korea.

Brooks saw many changes across the installation over the years. Once covered in wooden buildings housing only men, the installation began replacing these buildings with those made of stronger materials such as brick and added buildings for training the Women’s Army Corps.

“There were two (times I thought were) the most exciting,” Brooks said. “Vietnam and when women were integrated into training here on Fort Jackson.”

Brooks explained how many young men filtered through the post for BCT and Advanced Individual Training before shipping to Vietnam. She explained how “this post was humming.”

Brooks was not only present when women began conducting basic training on the installation, she also witnessed first-hand women being integrated into mixed male and female basic combat units for training.

“It was an exciting time,” Brooks said.

She has continued her volunteer work with various agencies across Fort Jackson including the American Red Cross, Fort Jackson thrift store, Veterans Affairs office, the animal shelter, University of South Carolina alumni events and the USO.

When asked, Brooks was unable to estimate the amount of hours she volunteers from month to month but claims she will continue her volunteer work as long as she is having fun. She explained how the work keeps her active within both the military and Columbia communities and “keeps her out of trouble.”

Brooks explained volunteers are essential and people should get involved in their own communities and volunteer their time. It gives a volunteer an opportunity to help out a fellow neighbor, meet new people and know what activities are going on within their area.

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer on the installation is encouraged to contact the Fort Jackson Volunteer Coordinator Marilyn Bailey at 751-5256.

Dorothy Brooks has volunteered at various agencies across the installation for roughly 60 years. She has witnessed many historical changes and events here, including desegregation of Basic Combat Training, the introduction of the Woman’s Army Corps and how World War II, Vietnam and the War on Terror affected Fort Jackson.

FULL MOON SALE!

From now until the rise of the full moon April 19, get THE LEADER absolutely free* at newsstands.

*Offer also good after April 19.

BUT WAIT...THERE’S MORE!

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From school uniforms to ACUs and back

Split Training Option enlists high school juniors

By ELYSSA VONDRA
Fort Jackson Leader

Some high school students reach beyond the typical jobs offered to them — flipping burgers or checking out groceries — and get their first part-time work experience with the Army.

The Split Training Option allows 17-year-old juniors in high school to join the Army Reserves or the Army National Guard with parent or guardian permission, training as a senior with a local unit one weekend per month. They get paid for staying in shape and keeping on track to graduate.

“It helps students to get a jumpstart,” said Lt. Col. Charles White, a Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps instructor at Blythewood High School in Richland School District Two.

While other seniors fret about what they’re going to do with their future, Split Option participants have already made a decision and “can just kind of coast through their senior year” without that added anxiety, added Staff Sgt. Briana Popp, an Army recruiter for the Army Reserve.

Once they have their high school diploma in-hand, “they’re able to roll right in” to either college — paid for at least partially by the Army — or a job, Popp said.

They go through the 10 weeks of Basic Combat Training during the summer after their junior year and return to school to graduate before shipping off for Advanced Individual Training; they are normally home by fall to start college.

Tuition assistance pays $4,500 annually to the student’s university, and the GI Bill pays full-time students $384 per month directly, with the Montgomery GI Bill kicker offering an additional $100, $200 or $350 monthly, depending on how the recruit scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test.

The South Carolina National Guard offers up to an additional $4,500 annually to its members’ universities through the College Assistance Program to pay for costs remaining after TA has been applied.

Some schools drop their tuition rates for current or former military members.

The University of South Carolina reduces them by 40 percent for Reservists, Popp said, but “it all depends on the school.”

“College is always in the back of my mind,” said Nicholas Bostick, 17, a junior at Blythewood who signed up to join the Army Reserves through the Split Training Option this summer.

“I was inspired to learn what the military does,” Bostick added. “(Joining the military) was a lifelong goal.”

When students return, “they’re totally different,” White said. “They become more mature.”

It helps students to get a jumpstart.
— Lt. Col. Charles White

See SCHOOL: Page 17

Nicholas Bostick, above, is a 17-year-old junior at Blythewood High School who has signed up to take part in the Split Training Option program this summer. The program allows members of the Army Reserve and National Guard to complete Basic Combat Training before graduating high school, in-between their junior and senior years.
**Deadline to transfer GI Bill benefits coming this July**

By DEVON L. SUITS  
Army News Service

Soldiers with more than 16 years of service who want to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill to a dependent must do so before July 12, or risk losing the ability to transfer education benefits.

Last year, the Department of Defense implemented a new Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Education Benefits, or TEB, eligibility requirement, which instituted a “six- to 16-year cutoff rule,” said Master Sgt. Gerardo T. Godinez, senior Army retention operations NCO with Army G-1.

Soldiers who want to transfer their education entitlement must have at least six years of service, he said. All Soldiers must commit to an additional four years of service to transfer their GI Bill.

Soldiers who are currently going through the medical evaluation board process cannot transfer GI Bill benefits until they are found fit for duty under the new DOD policy.

“For Purple Heart recipients, (all) these rules do not apply,” Godinez said.

Prior to the new policy, there were no restrictions on when a Soldier could transfer their education benefits.

Since 2009, more than 1 million Soldiers have transferred their GI Bill benefits, Godinez said.

“To transfer their GI Bill, Soldiers have to go into milConnect website, login with their common access card, then select the tab that talks about the transfer education benefits,” Godinez said.

If a Soldier needs additional help, they can visit their installation’s service and career or education counselors. In July, the new rules will be in effect and those Soldiers with more than 16 years of service will not be eligible to transfer education benefits.

“Soldiers need to (review this benefit) to make an educated decision,” he said.
‘I BECAME A SOLDIER ...’

SPC. MARCUS ALFORD, 27
Athens, Georgia

"I became a soldier because I wanted to be a Soldier. The Army is more than just a job within my company. It’s a team, and to lead would allow me to separate myself (from others) as a potential candidate for an upper level executive job within my company. That is what influenced me most to join the Army.

"Learning to deal with so many different types of attitudes and personalities" was the most difficult part of Basic Combat Training, for me.

"The Army is way more than what I thought it would be. I looked only at the benefits, but now I have a sense of pride in the history and values of being a Soldier."

My MOS is ‘09S – Commissioned Officer Candidate. The Army, to me, is a team, and to lead would be awesome."

PVT. CATHARINE MARTINEZ, 19
Alexandria, Virginia

"My Family did everything to ensure my success and happiness: I grew up with the value of selflessness. There is no better place in pursuing it than in the U.S. military. True Soldiers would do anything for their battle buddies to their right and to their left."

The most challenging part of Basic Combat Training was "motivating (my) buddies through rough times. It takes a true leader to keep morale high and to continue fighting to the end."

My MOS is ‘35T – Military Intelligence Systems Maintainer and Integrator. I chose it because it sounds interesting and challenging."

PVT. SHAYLA CANDELARIA, 20
Albuquerque, New Mexico

"I wanted to try something new. I have so much pride in my country (that) joining the Army was the perfect idea. My MOS is ‘92Y – Unit Supply Specialist. I chose it because I like handling paperwork and stock. I like to know that everything is set and organized."

"I loved Basic (Combat) Training. I learned a lot about myself in such a short period of time. It is an amazing experience. I plan on making this a career."

PVT. DYLAN HAWKES, 27
Denver, Colorado

"I was pursuing a better career with good benefits to start and build a Family. My wife of seven years was supportive and helped me do all of our research. I also have very close friends in the Army that confirmed the sense of Family and support that the Army could provide; that influenced me most to join the Army."

"The biggest challenge (for me, during Basic Combat Training) was keeping my battle buddies focused on following the Army values. Helping those around me (to) be the best they could be was my biggest challenge and success."

My MOS is ‘17C – Cyber Operations Specialists. Cyber security is a large and growing field that I was interested in as a civilian, so it only made sense to pursue it with the Army."

"I have enjoyed the Basic (Combat) Training experience overall and am very excited about all of the places the Army will take my Family and me."

PVT. MADELINE TORRES, 19
Perris, California

"I think my biggest influence in joining the Army would have to be my father. He is prior service and has always been my idol, and once he found out I was enlisting, his face lit up like a Christmas tree. I want to make my parents proud."

"The Army is way more than what I thought it would be before joining. I knew it was going to be hard, but I never knew how difficult it would be when you don’t have your Family to talk to 24/7. There were a lot of mental blocks that I faced throughout training, times when I wanted to go home, but I always remembered my dad and how proud he would be to see me graduate."

"The most challenging part of Basic (Combat) Training was being away from Family ... not being able to call or hear their voices was difficult." My MOS is ‘25U – Signal Support Systems Specialist. I chose it because I love anything dealing with technology."

PFC. ALEXA VALENCIA, 21
Perris, California

"What influenced me the most into joining the Army was prior military schooling and the ambition to not just serve my country, but also serve for the ones standing next to me, my battle buddies."

"(The thing) I found the most challenging about Basic Combat Training was the new and better adaptation (of me) from the civilian world to the military world."

My MOS is ‘92R – Parachute Rigger. I chose this MOS to eventually become an Airborne Ranger."

"I look forward to gaining knowledge and growing as a person through(out) my military career."

3RD BATTALION, 39TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

NEWS

April 18, 2019

The Fort Jackson Leader
Keeping sunny days bright
Post holds annual summer Safety Symposium

By ELYSSA VONDRA
Fort Jackson Leader

No matter how brightly the sun shines or how sweetly the birds chirp, even the most fun day at the beach can go south quickly when heat stroke sets in, someone starts to drown or a natural disaster hits an unprepared community.

Preventing summertime injury is the goal of the Fort Jackson Safety Office’s annual Safety Symposium, this year held April 16 at the Solomon Center.

“Safety is a mission enabler, and not an inhibitor,” said Ronald Ross, installation safety manager, who helps organize the event. That was the theme of this year’s symposium.

“We add value to the mission; we don’t take away from the mission accomplishment,” Ross added.

Jose Martinez, whose job revolves around maintaining safety off-post, said he brought his son, 10, and daughter, 13, to the symposium “so they can see what all we actually do throughout the day” to ensure that safety standards are upheld at Fort Jackson.

Both on and off-post supporters highlighted risk mitigation strategies Tuesday.

The American Red Cross, the Exceptional Family Member Program, the Exchange, Palmetto Health, the Fire Department, and the Army Substance Abuse Program were a few organizations represented.

“It’s like a safety … reminder,” Ross said. “We want people to get focused in on summer so they can be safe.”

Memorial Day through Labor Day is when Fort Jackson sees a particularly high volume of safety concerns, Ross said.

Vacations, water activities, instances of hurricane and temperatures are at their heights during this time of year, leading to an uptick in injuries and fatalities caused by driving, swimming and heat-related accidents, he added.

“Heat injury can happen at any time if you’re not hydrating yourself,” Ross said.

“It’s imperative that we prevent shock” in overheated Soldiers, added Dwight Blue, plans and operations specialist of the 165th Infantry Brigade, who helped demonstrate ice sheet application — one potentially lifesaving remedy.

Those in danger of serious heat-induced injury can be wrapped in cooled sheets, either wet or dry, to quickly reduce their body temperatures.

“A lot of times they’re in training and they’re talking and they’ll just fall out,” Blue said. Many aren’t acclimatized to South Carolina summers.

The Safety Symposium “gives (the community) a wakeup call,” Ross said. It gives attendees advice on how to stay safe while enjoying the great outdoors when the weather heats up.

For those unable to attend the symposium, Ross said the biggest advice the Safety Office can give is to do internal risk assessments on any planned activities and put strategies into place to mitigate risk of anything going wrong.

Gary Wilkerson, emergency manager for Moncrief Health Clinic, advised attendees to prepare for unexpected, inevitable disasters, too, especially with hurricane season coming up.

“We can put together your building again. The community can come together and we can get it cleaned up,” Wilkerson said. “We can’t fix the fatality.”

Sometimes “we get numb to the sirens going off. We get numb to the weather reports,” avoiding that and planning ahead is key, Wilkerson said. “Most people don’t make a plan. Most people will spend more time planning their spring break vacation than they will making a plan on how to respond to a disaster.”
Fawns are spotted frequently on-post during the warmer months, the deer reproduction season. The Wildlife Branch notes even though fawns may be by themselves during the day, they typically have not been abandoned. Daytime is when a doe will leave her baby in a protected, shaded area to attend to her own business.

By ELYSSA VONDRA
Fort Jackson Leader

Geese nesting in the waterpark, fawns snoozing under cars, vultures roosting in the housing area: Springtime can bring animals up-close-and-personal with humans at Fort Jackson.

The installation’s Wildlife Branch has some advice on how to handle these types of encounters.

If you spot wildlife, “avoid the area if at all possible, since there’s a whole lot we can do,” virtually all native species are protected under federal regulations, said Doug Morrow, Wildlife Branch chief.

“You can observe from afar, but give the animals their space,” added Travis Dodson, Fort Jackson wildlife biologist. “Don’t touch them into your own hands.” If the bird or animal is causing a problem, calling the Wildlife Branch is the best option.

“The spring and summer months are the time when there’s a unique human-wildlife interaction,” Morrow said. “It’s a busy time for many of the wildlife species.”

During this season, many are busy reproducing and tending to their newborns, so the department gets numerous calls about seemingly abandoned fawns, nesting birds and other wildlife turning up in inopportune places around the installation, Morrow said.

Problems like aggressive nesting birds are “temporary,” Morrow said. “The problem will resolve itself.” Protective behaviors decrease as babies grow up.

“If you see a bird nest with eggs, the best advice is to leave it alone,” Dodson said.

Be aware of geese nests; geese get protective of their youth during this season. Stay clear of them, Dodson advised.

“Geese will actually make a little run at people if they get too close to the nest,” he said. “The mother goose will typically give warning, flapping her wings at perceived predators.”

If nests are in places that interfere with the mission of the Army or the livelihood of residents, the Wildlife Branch will remove them. The department is the only entity permitted to remove nests on-post.

PHOTO SHOT

Geese, above, and owls, below, are two species Fort Jackson sees popping up more during spring and summer, the reproduction season for many species on-post. The installation’s Wildlife Branch says community members can observe them from afar, but advises people not to get too close, especially to geese, a species that can exhibit protective behaviors over their youth.
Chaplain School employees learn their true colors, about others

By MEL SLATER
Army Chaplain Center and School

U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School faculty, staff, and Chaplain Captains Career Course students participated in a True Colors Workshop on-post March 28. This is the fourth workshop conducted at the school by Janice Campbell, a certified True Colors facilitator and the Chaplain School’s chief of faculty and staff development. Campbell has more than 20 years’ experience as an educator.

“I got started conducting the training after taking an abridged version of it myself,” Campbell said. “I realized the value in its benefit to any organization – especially ours since the Chaplain School is undergoing a major transformation and reorganization.”

Participants learned about themselves and others through role play, completing the simple assessment, and sharing findings and ideas with colleagues and coworkers.

The workshop helped attendees determine who they are through a series of personality self-assessment tools. The participants were then divided into four teams. They sat at different tables with different color themes and various objects for team exercises.

The colors orange, gold, green and blue were used to differentiate the four central primary personality types. These colors lay the foundation for fun and insightful personality identification. Blue is associated with authentic, empathetic, passionate traits. Gold is associated with responsible, dependable and organized traits. Green is associated with analytical, intellectual and visionary traits, while orange is associated with freedom, action and adventurous traits.

The workshop teaches participants and organizations how to identify and recognize different personalities and better understand themselves and others. By embracing each individual’s personality type and valuing their differences, work and personal teams can significantly improve communication and ultimately, performance.

“It positively impacts the work environment via improved overall communication, employee attitudes and opinions, as it contributes to employee growth and development,” Campbell said.

USACHCS Advanced Individual Training Instructor Staff Sgt. Travis Kennedy lauded the training.

“The training was a lot of fun,” Kennedy said. “I also learned a little more about myself and my coworkers. My color is blue. I will definitely recommend this training to my fellow instructors.”

Campbell has plans to conduct at least four more sessions at USACHCS to help ensure that the entire center and school ‘speak’ the same language and understand themselves and others.

For more information about the four-hour long training contact Janice Campbell at Janice.s.campbell.civ@mail.mil.
Saluting this BCT cycle’s honorees

DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE

Staff Sgt. Devon Harbin
Alpha Company
3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Alexa Valencia
SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Marcus Alford

Staff Sgt. Kreshonda Smith
Bravo Company
3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Janine Noel
SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Loran Jones

Staff Sgt. David Drugach
Charlie Company
3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Taylor Perry
SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Austin McGinnis

Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Martinez
Delta Company
3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Madeline Torrez
SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Shayla Candelaria

Sgt. 1st Class Erica Martinez
Echo Company
3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment
SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Dylan Hawkes
SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Catherine Martinez

Fawns are sometimes spotted under parked vehicles on-post during the warmer weather months. The Wildlife Branch asks the community to call if they see animals in potentially dangerous places around the installation.

Animals

Continued from Page 13

If a fawn is found in an unusual place, like under a parked car or in the shade in front of a building, both of which happen from time to time on-post, “leave the fawn alone, wherever it’s found,” Morrow said. “The fawn has not been abandoned.”

“It’s the deer’s natural behavior;” a doe will leave her offspring in a cool and seemingly protected place during the day and return to care for it at night. It’s a “defense mechanism,” Dodson said. It gives the doe time to feed and do other “deer things” without having to worry about its baby’s safety.

Fawns may also run to potentially dangerous, shaded places if they’re spooked during the heat of the day, Morrow added.

If an animal, such as a fawn, could incur harm where it is found, call the Wildlife Branch at 751-6857 or 751-4793, but don’t approach it. It is illegal to be in possession of a deer outside of hunting season, Morrow said.

Some animals may impede the training mission, like killdeer nesting in physical training areas, as happens almost every year, Morrow said.

Others can interfere with human activity, like the flock of geese that recently attempted to nest in Patriots Park and the vultures — with the capability for destruction, like pulling off windshield wipers and damaging rooftops — that temporarily roosted in housing. In these cases, too, Morrow said community members should get in contact with the department.

During this time of year, “we do start to get more people encountering snakes,” Dodson added.

“Leave them alone,” he advised. “For the most part, they’re not going to hurt you;” they don’t want anything to do with people.

Snakes are a protected species, so residents aren’t permitted to kill them. If a snake is causing a problem in a building, those affected can give the Wildlife Branch a call, he said.

Employees at the branch are trained to mitigate the problems in compliance with federal regulations.
S.R. Anderson, Attorney At Law
Former JAG Officer

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Vietnam - Iraq - Afghanistan

Please note: The image contains a mix of text and images, including advertisements and notices. Unfortunately, the text is not clearly legible in the image provided.
School
Continued from Page 8

Rather than being focused on themselves, they think in terms of “we as a team” and become more responsible and respectful to leadership, White said.

White makes students aware of the program if they express an interest in enlisting in the military immediately after high school.

“…We facilitate them getting to a recruiter … trying to get them the best job they can get,” White said.

Participation rates vary from year to year. Last summer, one Blythewood student went through the program. A few years ago, there were seven.

Bostick, a Columbia native and JROTC cadet, said he “immediately sprung” when he heard about the program.

He has a Family history in the military; his mom was in the Air Force and his uncle served in the Army.

“They were in full support (of me signing up),” he said. “I saw opportunity to go junior year … (and) I don’t like to let chances go by … I tried to jump on it.”

College students are also eligible to participate in the Split Option program. It allows them to get their Army training in without having to take a break from school.

“A lot of the college students that we meet … don’t like to miss a semester,” Popp said.

While participants may miss a few days of school at the beginning or end of the year as they train, without the program “they can miss a good semester or two,” Popp said.

Joining provides recruits with “a lot more job opportunities,” Popp said. These positions can range from infantry to administrative to logistical in nature, often ones with short AIT so students can “jump right in,” depending on the needs of the Army at the time.
FORT JACKSON SCHOOL MENUS

April 18-24

Thursday
NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK

Friday
NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK

Monday
Breakfast: Pancake minis with syrup, apple wedges or mandarin oranges, assorted milk.

Lunch entree: Fish nuggets, french fries or seasoned spinach, apple slices or mandarin oranges, assorted milk.

Tuesday
Breakfast: French toast sticks with syrup, cinnamon applesauce or juice cup, assorted milk.

Lunch entree: Cheeseburgers, baked beans or seasoned carrots, cinnamon applesauce or juice cup, assorted milk.

Wednesday
Breakfast: Assorted yogurt, assorted muffins, diced or sliced pears or pineapple chunks, assorted milk.

Lunch entree: French toast sticks with sausage, hash browns or seasoned peas, diced or sliced pears or pineapple chunks, assorted milk.

Menu subject to change without notice.

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LUNCH PRICES

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Reduced: Month: $8 / Per day: $.40

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Financial fitness is in your hands

By ALEXANDRA SHEA
Fort Jackson Leader

Financial fitness and resiliency can be a tough task to accomplish within military Families. April is Financial Capability Month, and Fort Jackson’s Army Community Service stands ready to help Families make and meet financial goals.

Financially resiliency starts with a plan, but sometimes life events happen that derail the best laid plans. Good news is, there are financial experts who stand ready to help empower Families to make a plan and provide resources to help achieve these plans to include emergency relief.

“One of our big pushes this month is literacy,” said Angela Crosland, financial readiness program manager at ACS. “There are so many creditors out there who are looking to capitalize on a person’s lack of knowledge.”

Throughout this month, ACS is offering a “lunch-and-learn” lecture every Tuesday. The remaining class topics for the month are retirement benefits and Veteran Affairs benefits. Each class will help attendees maximize their benefits.

For those unable to attend the classes, individual appointments can be made with a financial counselor to discuss the classes and more. Each appointment can provide tailored information and resources for each Family’s financial needs.

Improving financial resiliency can save a Family time and money. According to Crosland, it is not uncommon for rental companies to check a credit report before renting a home to someone. Depending on the credit score, a renter could have to pay additional money to secure a rental property compared to someone with a higher credit score. This could also mean someone with a lower credit score wishing to buy a car could have to pay a much higher percentage rate for a car loan, costing hundreds to thousands more.

“There’s huge benefits to reducing debt and being financially savvy altogether,” Crosland said.

ACS financial counselors can also educate Families about investment tools such as Roth IRAs, stock market portfolios and savings accounts. These tools could be beneficial for people who have saved money and would like to invest in a long-term product that can have produce yields for their retirement years.

Counselors can even provide assistance during emergencies, such as the death of a Family member or loss of a Family home due to a fire. ACS can assist with using the Army Emergency Relief Agency and put a Family in contact with the ACS Loan Closet.

While some programs through ACS are for military personnel only, most classes and counseling services are offered to all DOD ID card holders.

“We don’t turn anybody away,” Crosland said. “Those that are in support of our service members and Families, then we are in support of them as well.”

To make an appointment or to RSVP for a “lunch-and-learn,” contact ACS at 751-5256.
The MTRS Talon robot is one of many tools Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams use to find, approach and retrieve or destroy Unexploded Ordinances. Recently, a Fort Jackson EOD team was deployed to recover a suspected UXO item that was reported by some school-aged children. Equipment such as the Talon was used to remove the inert UXO item that appeared to be a military decoration. Anyone who finds suspected UXO is encouraged to call 911 immediately.

Examples of Unexploded Ordinance that Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams use for training. Items like these are sometimes found outside Fort Jackson training areas. If found, people are encouraged to not touch the device. Back away and call 911 to report its location.

See
Continued from Page 20

Smith stressed that finding actual live UXO doesn’t happen often outside of training areas and that most items that are found end up being training aids and suspicious packages, such as forgotten backpacks.

If someone finds any potential UXO, they are encouraged to back away and remember the location the item was found. Call 911 and follow the dispatcher’s directions. The response time for emergency services is between five and seven minutes, Smith said.

“Unless it’s a really busy day like family day or graduation, it’s normally seven minutes or less,” he added.

Smith reinforced calling 911 in the event any UXO or suspicious packages are found. The 911 system uses Global Positioning System to pinpoint the location of a phone call so that resources can be accurately dispatched.

“If you see something, say something,” Smith said. “If you think it’s an IED or just looks strange, go ahead and make the call.”
APRIL 2019 MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

UNITED STATES ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
www.ArmyMWR.com/MOMC
Parents and students of C.C. Pinckney Elementary School celebrate the Month of the Military Child with a scavenger hunt April 12. Students visited various stations around the school, where they could play games, learn about safety from Fort Jackson’s fire and military police departments and try on things Soldiers use to perform their jobs. Each student was given a sheet to have checked off at each station that could be turned in for a prize once complete. Attendees also had a chance to watch military working dog demonstrations and play with the loudspeaker and sirens of a military police patrol car.
“Our fixed-price menu features hand-cut beef, poultry, pork and lamb served tableside. The salad buffet selection, which includes fresh seafood and sushi, rivals any other in the Carolinas. We invite you to come enjoy the feast.”

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