

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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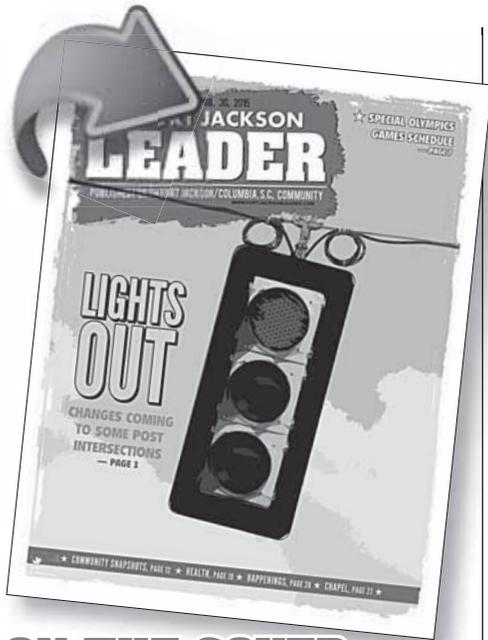
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# NEWS



## ON THE COVER

Illustration by WALLACE McBRIDE

A 2014 traffic survey has prompted changes at several intersections on Fort Jackson. SEE PAGE 3.



Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker, Fort Jackson commanding general, participates in his final town hall meeting April 23 at the post theater. Becker will relinquish command in May.

# Becker's final town hall overshadowed by RIFs

By WALLACE McBRIDE  
 Fort Jackson Leader

A proposed Reduction in Force loomed over the commanding general's final town hall event at Fort Jackson.

The April 23 event at the post theater was geared toward civilian employees of the Army Training Center, and dealt almost exclusively with a RIF anticipated to hit Fort Jackson in the near future. The public forum was the latest in a series to field questions from those affected by workforce reductions.

"For a lot of folks, this may be the last opportunity I'll have to talk with you all," said Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker, who will relinquish command of Fort Jackson at the end of May.

"And I know the reason you're all here and interested today is to talk about the reductions."

The proposal for how Fort Jackson would address the cuts was submitted to TRADOC a year ago, said Fort Jackson Deputy Chief of Staff Gerald Henderson, but the results are still pending.

"As it stands today, that RIF proposal has not been ap-

proved," he said. "It could get approved. ... It may not get approved. If it doesn't get approved, that means life just continues."

In 2012, the active component of the Army was 570,000 Soldiers, Becker said. The goal is to reduce that number to 450,000 by 2017.

"There's been a lot of turbulence during the last couple of years, not just here at Fort Jackson but all across the Army," Becker said. Those struggles have involved furloughs, force reductions and uncertainty. Throughout all of those, Becker said, the post's civilian workforce has remained "professional and dedicated."

"I just want to say thanks," he said. "I've really come to appreciate Fort Jackson and what you all do. Without our civilian workforce, we could not produce the Soldiers that we produce."

Becker said workforce reductions weren't expected to put the post's future in immediate peril.

"That is because there's no one else in the Army who can do what we do at the standard that we do it," Becker said. "I don't see anything changing as far as our overarching mission here."

Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil

“Without our civilian workforce, we could not produce the Soldiers that we produce.”  
 — Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker  
 Fort Jackson commanding general



Soon, the traffic lights at Jackson Boulevard and Hill Street will be shrouded and two-way stop signs unveiled.



Photos by CHRISTINE SCHWEICKERT

Troy Evans of the Directorate of Public Works refreshes the yellow lane dividers at the intersection of Lee Road and Hill Street. A 2014 traffic survey noted that many road markings were faded.

# Signs of the times

## Traffic survey prompts changes at intersections

By CHRISTINE SCHWEICKERT  
Fort Jackson Leader

Workers will shroud familiar traffic lights and unveil new stop signs Monday as the result of a recent study of traffic patterns on post.

Down the road, drivers also may expect new turn lanes and speed limits – although there’s no timetable on those.

“Our intersections and our (signage is) not set up properly,” said Matt Shealy, chief of the engineering division of the Directorate of Public Works. Some of the electronic “loops” that detect traffic are broken or paved over, and equipment that guides the timing of lights is antiquated, he said.

That means people may be sitting too long at lights, becoming irritated by the dearth of cross traffic.

“People get all spun up about how long they sit at traffic lights,” Shealy said. “Everyone has their own opinion for how long they should sit (there).”

“We feel a sense of urgency” about soothing people’s irritation.

Gannett Fleming Engineering Consultants of Harrisburg, Pa., conducted the traffic study in November 2014, as requested by DPW. Following study recommendations will bring Fort Jackson’s roads in line with nationwide industry standards.

The traffic study consisted of “counting cars and drawing some conclusions based on industry standards” – standards that insure that traffic on post runs like traffic off post.

Surveyors performed car counts in real time. That is, surveyors stood on street corners throughout post, counting such things as left turns at peak times. That “eyes on” approach tells engineers more than simple, mechanized traffic counts.

DPW will make and install some of the new signs and repaint traffic lane markings. The removed digital traffic lights will be laid aside to be cannibalized for spare parts.

## Down come lights, up go stop signs

Traffic lights will be removed and stop signs unveiled at the following five intersections May 4 as the result of traffic-survey recommendations. Road stripes and arrows will be repainted, and new signs will warn of stops and/or pedestrian crossings ahead.

- Jackson and Hill: two-way stops on Hill Street. Jackson Boulevard traffic will not stop.

- Lee and Hill: two-way stops on Hill Street. Lee Road traffic will not stop.

- Lee and Semmes: two-way stops on Semmes Road. Lee Road traffic will not stop.

- Marion and Semmes: stop sign at Semmes Road. Marion Avenue traffic will not stop.

- Marion and Washington/Anderson: two-way stops on Washington Road and Anderson Street will be added. Marion Avenue traffic will not stop.

The survey also recommends:

- adding a southbound right-turn lane at Strom Thurmond Boulevard and Lee Road, and an east-bound lane at Strom Thurmond and Jackson Boulevard.

- re-engineering Strom Thurmond at Magruder Boulevard to allow for easier turns.

- adding a roundabout at Lee and Hartsville Guard roads.

- adding traffic signals at Chestnut and Hartsville Guard roads.

- adding a roundabout at Dixie Road and Hampton Parkway.

- realigning the intersection of Dixie and Boyden Arbor roads to improve its geometry.

It also recommends replacing signs, and relaying turn and crosswalk markings because they are old or faded, and making several areas easier for pedestrians to negotiate.





# Asian American & Pacific Islanders Heritage Luncheon



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Guest Speaker



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Washington Office  
of the Governor of Guam

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3:30 — 6 p.m. Monday through Friday (outbound only)  
5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.





PHOTO BY JENNIFER STRIDE

## Touring the ranges

Lt. Col. Geoff D. Greene, left, commander of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, describes the newly renovated lanes at Omaha Beach Range to visiting Lt. Gen. Robert B. Brown, commanding general, Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, during a training event.

## Signs

Continued from Page 3

By the time the surveyors issue their final report in June, DPW will have an institutional leg up on recommended improvements.

Other improvements will be longer in coming, subject to approval and availability of financing.

One multi-phase recommendation suggests re-engineering several intersections to add turn lanes or traffic circles, improve geometry or make things safer for pedestrians.

When it comes to installing turn lanes, the focus is on the highly traveled Strom Thurmond Boulevard – the road most used by workers on post, as well as those attending graduation ceremonies.

Another recommendation is that speed limits be increased or decreased 5 mph in several locations. Surveyors arrived at those recommendations by observing whether drivers adhered to current limits.

Simply put, when a speed limit rises, scofflaws eventually win.

“You’re putting your faith in (the fact) that most people will drive with courtesy and common sense,” even though they’re breaching the existing speed limit, Shealy said. To recommend a new -- sometimes higher -- limit, surveyors throw out the fastest and lowest recorded speeds and hone in on the middle, banking on that common sense.

Lt. Col. Ray Stuhn, director of the emergency services, sees no difficulty in enforcing the new limits.

“(They’re) right in the ballpark of where they need to be,” he said – especially the recommendation for a raise to 40 mph at Semmes Lake. The old limit of 35 mph is “way too slow.”

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# Special Olympics events begin Friday

Organizers of the S.C. Special Olympics encourage spectators to attend the weekend's events, many of which open to the public. Understand, though, that some events may have very limited space.

## Friday

6:45 p.m. Spectators should be on hand to cheer post commander Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker and representatives of law enforcement throughout the state as they complete the Capitol to Cauldron Torch Run, which will end at the Solomon Center.

7:30-8:30 p.m. Opening ceremonies, Solomon Center

## Saturday

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bowling, Century and Ivy lanes (very limited seating)

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Various athletic events, Blythwood High School

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Softball, Hilton Field

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Badminton, Blythwood High School

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aquatics, Knight Pool (very limited seating)

9:30 a.m. to noon Power lifting, Vanguard gym

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Gymnastics, All-Star Gymnastics

11 a.m. to noon. Young athletes events, Blythwood High School. These events involve youngsters making their first appearance at the Special Olympics.



*Leader file photo*

Law enforcement officers from around South Carolina traditionally take part in the Special Olympics Torch Run each year. Above, runners arrive at the Solomon Center at the start of last year's opening ceremonies.



# Fort Jackson's Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration Saturday, May 16, 2015 Hilton Field, Fort Jackson, S.C.

Please join us in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War by honoring our Vietnam Veterans and giving them a welcome home they deserve.

## Events include:

- ♦ 5K run (8 a.m., Semmes Lake)
- ♦ Health Benefits Expo (9 a.m., Solomon Center)
- ♦ Parade (4 p.m.)
- ♦ Car Show
- ♦ The Moving Vietnam Wall
- ♦ Period Vehicles and Aircraft
- ♦ Vietnam Firebase
- ♦ Billy Currington Concert (7 p.m.)
- ♦ Fireworks

## For more information:

(803) 319-6520

FJVietnamVeteran2015@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/nsa2cbx>



# VIETNAM



Photos by JENNIFER STRIDE

## Night infiltration

Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment answer questions from local community and business leaders about their experiences in basic combat training at the Night Infiltration Course. The visitors were at the NIC as part of a visit Tuesday to learn about Fort Jackson. At left are tracks left in the sand by Soldiers crawling through the course.



# Soldiers spark students' imaginations

By 1ST LT. ANTHONY N. D'ELIA  
S3, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment

In many ways, the day was just like any other for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion 34th Infantry Regiment.

They conducted training — both varied and dynamic — from swinging high in the air at the Confidence Obstacle Course to urban-combat operations at the Urban Assault Course.

But this recent Friday morning brought something different — the focus was not just on trainees but on the young minds at Killian Elementary School participating in Readers Become Leaders Day.

Readers Become Leaders is an annual program designed to encourage young students to embrace reading and stress its importance to success, by providing positive role models to read books to students ranging from ages 6 to 11.

“The program has been going on for seven years,” said Sheila Wilson, Killian’s REACH coordinator. “We started with approximately 75 readers, and this year we have grown to near 200.

“The 1-34 Infantry has worked with us through every year, and this is the biggest showing of Soldiers we have had yet.”

Ten Soldiers have volunteered as readers.

First Lt. Kate Priebe of Delta Company read “Bright Stanley and the Cave Monster” by Matt Buckingham to a kindergarten class. The students were on the edge of their seats as Bright Stanley, an adventurous fish, swam the depths of a deep ocean cave, finding surprises around every corner.

After the readings, the children asked questions —



*Courtesy photo*

**1st Lt. Brian Heath, of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, reads the book ‘Painter and Ugly’ by Robert Blake to students at Killian Elementary School.**

some about the books, others about being a Soldier. Cadre members explained how important reading and learning is to becoming not just a Soldier but being successful in life.

The children weren’t the only ones to enjoy the day.

Sgt. Michelle Figueroa of 1-34 Infantry’s S1 Section came back from her last reading session of the day with

a smile a mile wide and eyes that lit up her face as she described to her fellow Soldiers the interaction she had just had with a kindergarten class.

“I loved this!” she proclaimed.

Maj. Paul M. Sheppard, executive officer for 1-34, found the children engaged, excited and engrossed.

# Logistics:

## Finding the best way to solve vexing issues

By **CHRISTINE SCHWEICKERT**  
Fort Jackson Leader

The language of logistics flowed freely at Fort Jackson's first-ever sustainment forum, where more than 100 Soldiers and civilians discussed everything from making sure those in basic training have clean underwear to repairing their broken weapons.

Emphasis for the April 23 gathering at the Joe E. Mann Center was on best practices, although the floor also was open for complaints – as long as those complaints led to suggestions for improvement.

"The level of professionalism (at Fort Jackson) is not what it should be," declared Sgt. 1st Class James Sowers of the 171st Infantry Brigade. Everyone on post should look himself in the mirror every day, Sowers said, to ask whether he or she is doing everything possible to make improvements.

And each logistician "should be one of the first people to show up in the morning and the last one to leave" in order to improve performance across post, he said.

Lt. Col. Sarah Small and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Emmaline Tallmore guided the morning's discussion and introduced those who manage departments that repair faulty heating and sewers, provide laundry service and dispense the right-size uniform or body armor.

Small stressed that the meeting was intended to "raise the level of sustainment efficiency and understanding on post."

When comments leaned toward complaint, she asked those attending to think about possible solutions.

Representatives of the 171st, 165th and 193rd Infantry Brigades spoke on ways they had improved efficiency that including such efforts as the best way to track fuel keys to training for new personnel. Scattered applause and "hooahs" greeted the suggestions.

Then, for at least 20 minutes, Deputy Commanding Officer Col. Mark Shade took notes on Soldiers' complaints and suggestions, promising a personal response.

The day carried with it a potential for information overload – how much each basic training soldier pays for laundry per cycle, how to maintain the tags on Soldier's uniforms – information intended to help the NCOs and officers present help their Soldiers while helping offices on post improve their service.

"We're able to do that a whole lot better if you give us feedback," said David Monkowski of the Logistics Readiness Center.

Small said she hoped the forum would be the first of a series of semiannual briefings.

"This gives (logistics officers) the opportunity to talk to someone, not go through seven layers" to address their needs, she said.

She thought Sowers' remarks resonated especially strongly with the audience, showing them that it was their task to "learn to lead by example."

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*Courtesy photo*

## Modern life

Chuck Heard, information technology specialist for the Army Chaplain Center, discusses classroom modernization efforts to a group of civilian military leaders from USAG on April 22.



## Youth of the Month

Davion Jackson has been selected Youth of the Month for April at Fort Jackson's Youth Center. Davion, 15, is a sophomore at Richland Northeast High School. He was selected because of his willingness to help and his positive attitude.

*Courtesy photo*

# Army ad aims at more than recruiting

By **LISA FERDINANDO**  
Army News Services

WASHINGTON — “They didn’t join this team to win championships, or become famous, or get their own signature shoes,” intones a just-released Army commercial.

“They joined because there is important work to be done, and only some able to do it.”

The 60-second commercial will help reposition the Army brand, dispel myths and allow the American people to better understand and value the institution, said Mark S. Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for marketing. The new campaign is intended to showcase the strength, versatility and professionalism of the force.

The Army also has begun using the #ArmyTeam hashtag to promote the new marketing campaign on social media.

“This is an extraordinarily great insti-

tution that does so many different things to make people’s lives better, to make America better, and to make the world better,” Davis said.

The commercial, he said, shows that the Army has the “greatest set of capabilities and competencies of any institution on this planet.” In the commercials, Soldiers fill a variety of roles, including warfighters, doctors, lawyers, aviators, technicians and proud members of their communities.

“One day they may be asked what they did to make a difference in this world,” the commercial says. “They can respond, ‘I became a Soldier.’”

The advertisement closes with an image of an elderly veteran saluting, and then the words: “Join the team that makes a difference.”

As part of the “repositioning” its brand, the Army no longer will use the words “Army Strong” in external communications, Davis said – the public isn’t sure whether the words refer to physical,

“  
One day they may be asked what they did to make a difference in this world.

— **Mark S. Davis,**  
deputy assistant secretary of the Army

emotional or mental strength.

Davis said the new efforts also would seek to turn around misperceptions, such as that anyone can join or that the Army is a “last resort” for people who can’t otherwise find jobs.

Only a small portion of the American population can join the Army, as a result of physical, medical or other factors, Davis said. Even if someone did join, he or she still wouldn’t necessarily be able to

meet the challenges of service.

On the other end of the spectrum are people who somehow think the Army is reserved only for the elite.

To have the message sink in, the Army is boosting the frequency and reach of its outreach, Davis said. Declining to reveal a project that remains somewhat “secret,” he did say that the new campaign was just beginning.

Once the American people better understand and value the Army, they will be more likely to support, recommend or consider serving in it, said James Ortiz, director of marketing at the Army Marketing and Research Group.

“Their opinions and misperceptions took a long time to be formed,” he said. “It’s going to take some exponentially greater time to undo them, and then to present reality.”

Until now, the Army ran shorter commercials with less reach as it aimed at recruiting young men. This commercial, Ortiz said, is for America at large.

IN FOCUS



Photo by JENNIFER STRIDE  
Students in Tomica Bynum's first-grade class at Pierce Terrace Elementary School run off their excess energy doing back-and-forths on the lawn of the Basic Combat Training Museum on Tuesday. It was among the activities on post in April that celebrated the Month of the Military Child.

# MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



Photo by CHRISTINE SCHWEICKERT  
Coach Seamster attempts to use his height to block a shot by sixth-grader Shawn Mills during the basketball game Friday between students and faculty at C.C. Pinkney Elementary School. Unbeknownst to him, the ball already is on its way to the net.



Photo by JENNIFER STRIDE  
First-grader Karli Ping of Pierce Terrace Elementary School loves, loved, loves the Jeeps on display behind the Basic Combat Training Museum. Earlier, she had "ack-acked" at imaginary targets from atop a Humvee.



Photo by CHRISTINE SCHWEICKERT  
Jean Bustamante and Berzayda Salas alternately cheer on faculty and staff or students at Friday's basketball game.

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Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

At left, Erica Parks, Fort Jackson health promotion officer, and Sarah Porter, Fort Jackson Health Promotion Program assistant, provide surveys to visitors at last week's ATC Town Hall meeting at the post theater.

## How healthy is Fort Jackson?

By WALLACE McBRIDE  
Fort Jackson Leader

The Community Health Promotions Council has asked Fort Jackson's workforce and families to take the temperature of the installation.

The council has advertised heavily and distributed widely a Community Strengths and Themes Assessment polling Soldiers, Family members, retirees and civilian employees about their perspectives on health issues at Fort Jackson.

"We want to know where we need to improve," said Erica Parks, Fort Jackson health promotion officer. "We want to take those pressing public-health issues and concerns and see if we have resources on the ground (to manage) them."

If the installation cannot deal with all health issues directly, it may have to turn to others in the community — helping "us identify who we need to build relationships with outside of the gate," Parks said.

Among the questions on the survey are:  
\* What are the top five health problems in your community?

\* What are the three most important factors for a healthy community?

\* Do you participate in programs on the installation?

The survey is available on Sharepoint for anyone with a Common Access Card, she said. The post's Public Health Command office also is taking the survey directly to the public in search of feedback from family members and civilian employees.

"There are eight other installations that have done this survey," Parks said. "Across the board, most of them have had very poor turnout for getting feedback ... from civilians, Family members and retirees."

At Fort Jackson, hard copies of the survey have been circulated at such recent events as Big Day Out and the ATC Town Hall Meeting.

"I just love getting out in the community and seeing people face to face," said

Sarah Porter, Fort Jackson Health Promotion Program assistant. "Sometimes there can be a disconnect. You can stay in the office and people don't know you. It's important for me as a public health official to go out into the community."

Parks said that for the survey to be productive, the installation must trust that it has value.

"People don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care," Parks said. "When it comes to public health, you have to go out into the community ... and you have to go back and let them know what you're doing with their input."

More than 200 surveys have been collected so far, Parks said. The goal is to collect 1,400 from the post's 3,500 Soldiers and civilian employees by June 16.

"We're doing activities that let us reach individuals that others have not been able to reach," Parks said. "We want to have a true sample representation of the Fort Jackson community."

## Moncrief receives dual accreditation

By NICHOLAS SPINELLI  
MACH PAO

Moncrief Army Community Hospital passed its recent accreditation inspection with scores above the national average, receiving full accreditation as a hospital and a behavioral health facility.

The Joint Commission on hospital accreditation inspected Moncrief on April 7-9.

"Thanks to our exceptional staff and patient care we provide to every patient every day, we will be accredited for another three years," said Col. Traci Crawford, Moncrief commander. "Moncrief is not only a great place to receive health care, it is a great place to work. I am so proud of my staff."

The Joint Commission is an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies more than 20,500 American health-care organizations and programs. Every three years, it evaluates hospital functions such as patient safety and quality of care.

"Joint Commission accreditation provides hospitals with the processes needed to improve in a variety of areas, from the enhancement of staff education to the improvement of daily business operations," said Mark Pelletier, chief operating officer for the Joint Commission's Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations. "In addition, our accreditation helps hospitals enhance their risk-management and risk-reduction strategies."

Moncrief has worked three years to earn its dual accreditation.

"We have been preparing for this inspection for the last three years," said Candice Dulaney, Moncrief Joint Commission coordinator. "It's not something you plan for at the last minute but something you should be ready for at all times."

The survey found five areas for improvement, Dulaney said — only one of which directly affected patient care.

"We took the last set of recommendations very seriously, and I think our hard work was apparent in the lack of findings this go-around," she said.

### LEADER DEADLINES

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication. Announcement submissions are due one week before publication.

Send your submissions to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com). For more information, call 751-7045.

# Drink in the summer fun, but keep safety in mind

By **SANDRA BARNES**  
Army Substance Abuse Program

School will be out soon, pools will be open and the Fort Jackson community will be looking for fun ways to cool down as summer heats up.

As you head to the beach, ballpark or picnic with friends, the Fort Jackson Army Substance Abuse Program reminds you, keep safety in mind. Minimize risks and to look out for one another — especially when your plans include alcohol.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than

10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in 2012 — one every 51 minutes.

The summer represents one of the most dangerous and deadly times of the year on the nation's roadways because of a significant increase in the number of alcohol-related traffic crashes and fatalities. That's why the ASAP office wants to remind anyone planning to imbibe this summer to choose a sober designated driver before you party.

The increase in alcohol use throughout the summer — and particularly around Memorial Day and the Fourth of July — makes the hottest months a grim time



## Safety Tips

For information on highway safety, visit [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov). For questions about substance abuse, call the ASAP office at 751-5007/6597.

for law enforcement, emergency medical staff, and the friends and families of those harmed or killed in alcohol-related crashes.

If you do become impaired by alcohol, ASAP reminds you, ask a sober friend for

a ride home, use public transportation, call a cab, ask a friend or family member to come get you, or just stay where you are and sleep it off.

And, of course, always remember to wear your safety belt when driving or riding in a car. It's still your single best defense against death or injury in a crash.

Preventing alcohol-related crashes is a team effort.

When impaired drivers get behind the wheel, they put their lives and the lives of all their fellow motorists at risk. Driving impaired is simply not worth any of the pain you can cause yourself or someone else.

# Future college freshmen face threat of meningitis

From staff reports

High school seniors making plans for college should think about immunizing themselves against a significant health threat on campus: bacterial meningitis.

"College freshmen are at a heightened risk for contracting bacterial meningitis because of their community settings, such as living in dorms and residence halls," said Col. Margaret Yacovone, chief of the Immunization Healthcare Branch at the Defense Health Agency. The military recruit population is similar to the college population in age and close living quarters, Yacovone said, which is why recruits at all basic-training centers must

be immunized against meningitis.

Meningitis is an infection of the membrane covering the brain and the spinal cord.

It spreads through coughing and sneezing, and direct contact with someone who is infected. Direct contact can include the sharing of eating utensils, cigarettes, cups, lip balm or a kiss. Any item an infected person touches by mouth can pass on the disease.

"Between 9 (percent) and 12 percent of people who develop invasive meningococcal infections can die from it, even with appropriate antibiotic therapy," Yacovone said. "Up to 19 percent will have permanent complications, including hearing loss, neurologic damage, loss of a limb or other complications."

Meningococcal sepsis, a bloodstream infection, occurs in 5 percent to 20 percent of invasive meningococcal infections, and has a fatality rate of nearly 40 percent.

"Meningococcal disease rates in active-duty military personnel were far above the general population at one time," Yacovone said. "But with the introduction of the vaccine, rates have decreased more than 90 percent since the early 1970s."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most effective way to protect people from certain types of bacterial meningitis is to be vaccinated.

TRICARE covers age-appropriate doses of vaccines recommended by CDC at no cost. To learn more, visit [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).



## Parents, you don't need a degree to understand financial aid offers

By **ANGELA CROSLAND**  
*Army Community Service*

After years of packing lunches, shepherding field trips and attending parent-teacher conferences, you're finally ready to send your child off to college. Now comes the hard and sometimes confusing task of choosing the right school.

In some cases, location is a big factor. But if all else is equal, the choice may come down to which school offers the most attractive financial aid.

Understanding financial-aid packages can be confusing.

Start by breaking down each package to look closely at what it includes.

Your student won't have to repay scholarships and grants, but do look for particular conditions such as maintaining a certain grade point average.

If your child's schedule will allow it, consider work-study – an on-campus job.

Loans are another option. Subsidized loans are based on financial need and typically offer more attractive repayment plans and interest rates than unsubsidized loans.

Your goal should be getting your child out of school with the least amount of debt possible.

Financial-aid packages that offer more scholarships and grants can lower the amount of debt, but you still must evaluate the “free” money against the price of tuition. Subtract scholarships, grants and work-study income from the total cost of attendance to get a clear picture of what you will have to pay with loans or out of pocket.

Simply paying tuition isn't the only thing to consider, either.

Books, meal plans, transportation and other personal expenses can throw you for a loop if you don't plan. For example, if you live on the East Coast and your child wants to attend school on the West Coast, what would transportation costs be?

Keep in mind that some states may offer generous packages based on your military service or your child's grade-point average. Just be sure you're comparing apples to apples and not forgetting details of the total cost.

For guidance, check with the counselors at your child's high school, or the college or university he or she is considering. You can get a better idea of what costs to expect.

Many schools offer workshops to help you make a more informed decision.

You also can take advantage of the workshops offered by Army Community Service. For information on those, call 751-5256.

## Tuition-assistance tool is attuned to troops' needs

By **SGT. 1ST CLASS TYRONE MARSHALL**  
*DOD News, Defense Media Activity*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has introduced an online tool tailored to Soldier-students' unique educational needs.

“Tuition Assistance DECIDE ... is a tool tailored to the unique needs of our Service members,” said Dawn Bilodeau, chief of voluntary education for the Defense Department. “It's designed to support their decision-making in areas such as selecting schools or choosing programs to enroll in.”

The tool went online this month.

“Our military students tend to be part-time students,” Bilodeau said, “and Tuition Assistance DECIDE is really designed to enable them to search through schools that Service members are attending just like them.”

TA DECIDE can provide information on everything from the likelihood a student will complete a course to cost or graduation rates from a particular school.

“The benefit of using this particular tool is that you know that the schools that are in there are trustworthy, because we vetted them,” she said. “They've signed an agreement with Department of Defense that they're going to adhere to certain principles of excellence.”

TA DECIDE can help students compare more than 2,600 schools eligible for tuition-assistance benefits.

“It allows service members to search by a whole host of parameters,” Bilodeau said. For example, service members interested in an associate's degree or in a certain program can search by those filters to find schools that meet the criteria they see as important.

Every year, 300,000 Service members use tuition assistance to take classes.

TA DECIDE is available at <http://www.dodmou.com>, the website for the memorandum of understanding that participating schools sign. Click on “Tuition Assistance DECIDE” to use the tool.

# Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle's honorees

DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE, Photos by OITHIP PICKERT, Public Affairs Office



**Staff Sgt.  
Jordan Ludvigson**  
Bravo Company  
3rd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Mariah Sontag

**SOLDIER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Peighton Morlan



**Staff Sgt.  
Nicholas Seys**  
Charlie Company  
3rd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Sharod Coes

**SOLDIER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Dennis Alexander



**Sgt. 1st Class  
Julius R. Marmito**  
Delta Company  
1st Battalion,  
65th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Brenda G. Acevedo

**SOLDIER  
OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Nathan C. Cannon



## Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. PHONE: (803) 751-7488

**Friday, May 1**  
Home (PG) 1900

**Saturday, May 2**  
The Gunman (R) 1400  
Get Hard (R) 1630

**Sunday, May 3**  
The Divergent Series: Insurgent  
(PG-13) 1400

**Wednesday, May 6**  
The Gunman (R) 1400  
Get Hard (R) 1630

**Friday, May 8**  
Get Hard (R) 1900

**TICKETS**  
**Adult:** \$5.50  
**Child (6-11):** \$3

**3D TICKETS**  
**Adult:** \$7.50  
**Child (6-11):** \$5

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



# HAPPENINGS

## Calendar

### Friday

#### First Friday golf tournament

1 p.m. at the Old Hickory, Fort Jackson Golf Club.

### Saturday

#### Whitewater rafting trip, including kayaking, whitewater rafting, adventure course

10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Departure from Marion Street Station. Cost \$14 per person. For information, call 751-3484.

### Sunday

#### Origami workshop for children ages 9 to 12

2-3 p.m., Thomas Lee Hall Library. For information, call Kristen Gripp at 751-5589.

### Monday

#### Child-safety awareness initial training

5-7 p.m., classroom 10, 5614 Hood St. Seminar on how to recognize, report child abuse. For information, call 751-6325.

### Monday, Tuesday

#### Military clothing reclamation sale

8 a.m. to 3 p.m., 2570 Warehouse Road. The sale is open to military and military retirees. Cash only. For information, call 751-7213.

### Tuesday

#### Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Observance Luncheon

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Fort Jackson NCO Club. For information or tickets, call 751-8863 or 751-2990.

### Healthy Relationships

11 a.m. to noon, classroom 10, Family Advocacy Program, 5614 Hood St. For information, call 751-6325.

### Resume-writing and interviewing-skills workshop

9 a.m. to noon, Room 222, Strom Thurmond Building. For military spouses but open to all DOD cardholders. For information, call 751-5256 or email [Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil).

### Wednesday

#### How to Create Your Dream Job: Merging Your Passion and Skill Set

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information and location, call 751-5256 or email [Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil).

### Stress management

11 a.m. to noon, classroom 10, 5614 Hood St. For information, call 751-6325.

### Thursday, May 7

#### Fort Jackson newcomer orientation

8 a.m., NCO Club, 5700 Lee Road. Family members of Soldiers new to Fort Jackson learn what services and activities are available on post and attend a Basic Training graduation. Those desiring free child care must call 751-4865 to make a reservation.

### Friday, May 8

#### Steps to Federal Employment for Military Spouses

9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Room 222, Strom Thurmond Building. For information, call 751-5256 or email [Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil).

### Saturday, May 9

#### Thanking the Troops Tennis Clinic

Clinics throughout the day at the Semmes Road tennis

courts for those aged 4 to adult. Free to all DOD ID cardholders. For information, call Cindy Keene at 751-3096.

### Sunday, May 10

#### Mother's Day brunch

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Officers' Club. Cost \$17.95 for members, \$21.95 for nonmembers, \$6.95 for children 4 to 11. For reservations, call 782-8761.

#### Mother's Day buffet

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the NCO Club. Cost \$15.95 for adults, \$8 for children 4 to 11. For reservations, call 782-2218.

### Tuesday, May 13

#### Officers' wives luncheon

11:30 a.m. social, noon lunch, at the Fort Jackson Officers Club. To make or break reservations, call 788-1094 or 783-1220 by 3 p.m. May 8.

### Saturday, May 16

#### Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration

Fort Jackson will honor veterans on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The day's events will include a 5K run beginning at 8 a.m., a health-benefits expo and a parade at 4 p.m. For information, call 319-6520 or email [FJVietnamVeteran2015@gmail.com](mailto:FJVietnamVeteran2015@gmail.com).

### Saturday, May 23

#### Scavenger hunt bike ride

8 a.m., Marion Street Station. Bikes and helmets will be provided. For information, call 751-3700.

#### Carolina Maude Foundation golf tournament

1:30 p.m., Fort Jackson Golf Club. For information, visit [www.agregimentalweek.com](http://www.agregimentalweek.com).

### Thursday, May 14

#### Creative Journey

5-6 p.m., Joe E. Mann Center ballroom, 3392 Magruder Ave. Open to those enrolled in Exceptional Family Member Program. For information, call 751-5256.

### Monday, May 18

#### Child-safety awareness training refresher

5-6 p.m., classroom 10, 5614 Hood St. Seminar on how to recognize, report child abuse. For information, call 751-6325.

### Wednesday, May 20

#### Job-Searching Strategies for Military Spouses

8:30 a.m. to noon, Room 222, Strom Thurmond Building. For information, call 751-5256 or email [Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil).

### Thursday, May 21

#### Anger management

11 a.m. to noon, classroom 10, 5614 Hood St. For information, call 751-6325.

11:45 a.m., at the Thomas Lee Hall Library. Antonio Elmaleh, author of the Civil War novel "The Ones They Left Behind," will outline the parallels between Soldiers' experiences during the Civil War and today.

### Friday, May 29

#### Bowling outing

4:30-6 p.m., Century Lanes Bowling Center, 4464 Gregg St. Open to those enrolled in Exceptional Family Member Program. For information, call 751-5256.

### CIF CLOSURE

The Central Issue Facility will be closed for its semi-annual

inventory June 15-19. Personnel scheduled to depart during that period must call CIF at 751-6524/2870/2739 to schedule an out-processing appointment as soon as possible. CIF will handle emergencies during that time. Emergencies do not include direct exchange, in-processing, routine transactions or out-processing. CIF will resume normal operations June 22.

## Announcements

### WORKSHOP FOR HR PROFESSIONALS

A "Combat to Corporate" military workshop for human-resource professionals will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 28, at the NCO Club. Registration is required. For information, visit <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/message/568941>. To register, email [kymila.k.cheese.mil@mail.mil](mailto:kymila.k.cheese.mil@mail.mil) or [peggy.m.henderson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:peggy.m.henderson.mil@mail.mil).

### SUMMER READING BOOK DRIVE

The Fort Jackson Housing Mayoral Council is holding a book drive to promote summer reading. Drop off new or gently used books at the Thomas Lee Hall Library, the Fort Jackson Housing Office or C.C. Pinckney Elementary School until May 22. Book giveaways will be 1-5 p.m. June 5 and from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 6 at the Solomon Center.

### OBSTETRICS BRIEFING

Pregnant Soldiers and their Family members may attend an hourlong overview of the new Parent Support Program, from 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, in Room 8-85 of Moncrief Army Community Hospital. For information, call 751-6325/9035/6724/2731.

### BRIGHT HONEYBEE EXPLORER PLAY GROUP

Parents may learn age-appropriate play to help newborns to 3-year-olds improve social, cognitive and motor skills. Classes will be 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, in classroom 8, 5614 Hood St. For information, call 751-6325/9035/6724/2731.

### SCHOOL NEWS

South Carolina requires all rising seventh-graders to receive booster shots against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough by the start of the 2015-16 school year. For information, call 785-2698.

### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

- The Thrift Shop is looking for employees ages 16-21 who would like to earn \$1,000 for a summer's worth of work. For information, call 787-2153.
- Consignors are eligible for the Thrift Shop's layaway and credit program.
- The Golden Carriage Program provides free ball gowns for spouses of active-duty service members in the rank of sergeant and lower.

### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

■ Applications for ThanksUSA scholarships will be accepted through May 15. The scholarships are available to children and spouses of Service members. For information, visit [www.thankusa.org/scholarship-program](http://www.thankusa.org/scholarship-program).

### COMMISSARY NEWS

■ Visit [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) for the latest news, to see what is on sale, to create a shopping list and more. To access the latest sales flyer, click on "Sales and Events" in the "Shopping" tab. The "Savings Aisle" allows visitors to see every product on sale after selecting a specific store. Shoppers also may find advice and recipes under the "Healthy Living" tab.

# Worship Schedule

## ANGLICAN/LITURGICAL

**Sunday**  
8:30 a.m., Bayonet Chapel (Com-  
munion observed every Sunday.)

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Sunday**  
11:30 a.m., Anderson Street Chapel

## ISLAMIC

**Sunday**  
8-10 a.m., Islamic studies, Main  
Post Chapel

**Friday**  
12:45-1:30 p.m., Jumah services,  
Main Post Chapel

## JEWISH

**Sunday**  
■ 9:30-10:30 a.m., worship, Memo-  
rial Chapel  
  
■ 10:30-11:30 a.m., book study,  
Post Conference Room

## LATTER-DAY SAINTS

**Sunday**  
9:30-11 a.m., Anderson Street  
Chapel

**Wednesday**  
3-5 p.m., LDS family social, Ander-  
son Street Chapel

**Wednesday**  
7-8 p.m., LDS scripture study, An-  
derson Street Chapel

## PROTESTANT

**Sunday**  
■ 9 a.m. service, McCrady Cha-  
pel (SCARNG), McCrady Training  
Center  
■ 9:30 a.m., Hispanic service,  
Magruder Chapel  
■ 9:30 a.m. service, Main Post  
Chapel  
9:30 a.m., Chapel Next Bible study,  
Bayonet Chapel  
■ 10:30 a.m., gospel worship ser-  
vice, Daniel Circle Chapel  
■ 10:45 a.m., Sunday School, Main  
Post Chapel  
■ 11 a.m. service, Memorial Chapel  
■ 11 a.m., Chapel Next, Bayonet  
Chapel  
■ 5-6:30 p.m., youth group, Chap-  
lain Family Life Center  
**Monday**  
■ 7 p.m., women's Bible study  
(PWOC), Main Post Chapel

■ 7 p.m., men's Bible study  
(PMOC), Chaplain Family Life  
Center

**Tuesday**  
■ 9-11:30 a.m., women's Bible study  
(PWOC), Main Post Chapel

**Wednesday**  
■ 7 p.m., gospel Bible study, Daniel  
Circle Chapel

**Thursday**  
11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Fresh En-  
counter Bible study, Chaplain Family  
Life Center

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

**Sunday**  
■ 7:30 a.m., Sacrament of Recon-  
ciliation, Solomon Center  
■ 8 a.m., Mass, Solomon Center  
■ 10:30 a.m., Reconciliation (after  
Mass or by appointment), Main Post  
Chapel  
■ 11 a.m., Mass, Main Post Chapel  
Monday through Thursday, first  
**Friday**  
11:30 a.m., Mass, Main Post Chapel  
**Wednesday**  
7 p.m., recitation of the Rosary,  
Main Post Chapel

## ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS

**Anderson Street Chapel,**  
2335 Anderson St., 751-7032  
**Bayonet Chapel,**  
9476 Kemper St., 751-6322/4542  
**Chaplain Family Life Center**  
5460 Marion Ave. (to the side of the  
POV lot), 751-4961  
**Daniel Circle Chapel,** 3359 Daniel  
Circle (corner of Jackson Boule-  
vard), 751-1297/4478  
**Education Center,** 4581 Scales  
Ave.  
**Installation Chaplain's Office,**  
4475 Gregg St., 751-3121/6318  
**McCrady Chapel (SCARNG),** 3820  
McCrady Road (at McCrady Train-  
ing Center)  
**Magruder Chapel,** 4360 Magruder  
Ave., 751-3883  
**Main Post Chapel,** 4580 Scales  
Ave. (corner of Strom Thurmond  
Boulevard), 751-6469/6681  
**Memorial Chapel,**  
4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324  
**U.S. Army Chaplain Center and  
School,**  
10100 Lee Road  
**Warrior Chapel (120th AG  
Bn.),** 1895 Washington St., 751-  
5086/7427

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