

THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 2013

THE FORT JACKSON

# LEADER

PUBLISHED

COMMUNITY

★ **MEDDAC WINS  
COMMANDER'S  
CUP TROPHY**

— PAGE 32

# MERRY MELODIES

**282<sup>ND</sup> ARMY BAND DELIVERS  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS** SEE PAGES 20-21

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS, PAGES 11-12, 14,16 ★ CHAPEL, PAGE 23 ★ FIRST RESPONDER, PAGE 33 ★

# NEWS



## ON THE COVER

Photo by SUSANNE KAPPLER

Staff Sgt. Patricia Conyers performs during the 282nd Army Band's holiday concert Sunday at the Solomon Center. **SEE PAGES 20-21.**



### Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Photo courtesy of the BASIC COMBAT TRAINING MUSEUM

## This week in history

On Dec. 22, 1917, Hardaway Contracting Co. completed the initial construction phase of Camp Jackson. Construction had started in June 1917, and between June and December, Hardaway had built roads, railroads, a water reservoir, water lines, sewers, and 1,519 buildings, including theaters, stores, kitchens, barracks, officers' quarters, training facilities, stables, warehouses, garages, an airfield, and a laundry facility. The camp had housing for 44,000 people, and by Dec. 31, the military strength of Camp Jackson was at 42,498. Given only six months and \$9 million, Hardaway Contracting Co. constructed one of the largest cities in South Carolina.

## DFAC HOLIDAY MEAL SCHEDULE

Military retirees and guests of ID card holders are invited to the holiday meal at the Quad Dining Facility, Building 5554. The meal will be served from **noon to 1:30 p.m., Dec. 25.** The standard meal rate is \$7.60. The discount meal rate for spouses and dependents of enlisted personnel in pay grade E-4 and below is \$6.45. For more information, call 751-6630/6631 or 751-7274/4015.

## HOLIDAY GATE HOURS

**Gate 1:** Closed Dec. 19 through Jan. 1.

**Gate 2:** Open around the clock.

**Gate 4:** Open from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 19-30 on weekdays only.  
Closed on weekends.  
Closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

**Gate 5:** Open from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 19-30.  
Open from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 19-30 for outbound traffic on weekdays.  
Closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

All gates will resume normal hours Jan. 2.



Photos by WALLACE McBRIDE

Soldiers line up for one of nine stations outside the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School last Friday as part of a privately owned vehicle safety check. Above, a drill sergeant leader checks the headlights and turn signals for a Soldier expecting to travel during Victory Block Leave.

# A preemptive holiday strike

## Drill sergeants help Soldiers prepare for personal leave

By WALLACE McBRIDE  
Fort Jackson Leader

Are you prepared for Victory Block Leave?

The U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School took no chances last week, inspecting dozens of vehicles belonging to Soldiers before they were allowed to leave post for the holidays.

“This is our preemptive ‘privately owned vehicle’ strike,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Endres, a drill sergeant leader at the school. “We want to make sure that Soldiers who are leaving will have a vehicle that is serviceable and safe to drive for the holidays. It’s all about safety.”

Soldiers take part in routine vehicle inspections throughout the year, he said, but a special event was organized last Friday at the school to make sure drivers were prepared for extended holiday leave. Nine stations were established in the school’s parking lot, with drill sergeant leaders looking for a variety of potential problems. Paperwork led off Friday’s inspection, with driver’s licenses, insurance and registration reviewed at the first station.

“At Station Two, we’re checking to make sure tire pressure is correct, especially on motorcycles,” Endres

said. “At Station Three, we’ll check their horn to make sure they have a signalling device in case there’s an accident or emergency.”

Subsequent stations inspect lights, turn signals, windshield wipers and windows. Seat belts are also inspected.

“We’ll also check under the hood, check the oil and transmission fluid, power steering fluid, coolant reservoir,” he said. “Then they’ll come to the final checkout station and we’ll collect their POV inspection sheet and make sure they’re good to go.”

Many of the potential problems could be corrected on-site, he said.

“If the battery needs a charge, we have a charger,” Endres said. “If they’re low on tire pressure, we have an air compressor to put air into the tires. We have some other tools if something minor needs to be repaired.”

More serious problems would result in a temporary halt of the inspection until the issues are corrected, he said.

“(The Soldiers’) supervisor would then take over and suspend the inspection so they can get the problem corrected, as long as it’s not a moving safety violation that would prevent them from driving the vehicle,” he said.

*Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil*



A drill sergeant leader reviews a driver’s paperwork during last week’s vehicle safety inspection.



*Courtesy photo*

More than 7,000 Soldiers attend a safety briefing at the Solomon Center to prepare them for Victory Block Leave. Safety experts informed the Soldiers about a number of topics, including the importance of wearing seat belts, the dangers of drunken driving and the need to stay drug-free.

## Safety briefings prepare Soldiers for leave

*From the Fort Jackson Safety Office*

More than 7,000 Soldiers filled the Solomon Center for four sessions of the Victory Block Leave consolidated safety briefings Dec. 7 and 8. The Fort Jackson Safety Center facilitated delivery of several subject matter experts' presentations.

Four South Carolina Highway Patrol officers used a rollover crash simulator to demonstrate how seat belts and properly installed car seats protect the vehicle's occupants in case of a crash.

The troopers were followed by members of the organization, Family of Highway Fatalities. The speakers talked about losing family members to vehicle accidents, emphasizing the importance of using seat belts, wearing motorcycle helmets, driving sober and avoiding

distractions while driving.

Investigators from the Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, warned the Soldiers about the lasting legal repercussions resulting from poor choices. Underage drinking, consumption of illegal drugs and illegal prescriptions and sexual assault may result in legal prosecution; loss of rank, pay and education benefits; loss of security clearance; a bad conduct discharge; and incarceration. The investigators reminded the Soldiers that although recreational use of marijuana is legal in Colorado and Washington, military members are prohibited from using the drug.

That message was emphasized by Sandra Barnes, with the Fort Jackson Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program. Barnes reminded the Soldiers that they will undergo a urinalysis when they return from block leave. Urine samples will be tested for various substances, including prescription drugs. She reminded Soldiers not to take

medication prescribed to other people or share medication. If service members are prescribed medication from a doctor while on leave, they must bring the prescription with them when they return to Fort Jackson.

Finally, Wilfredo Solis and Nalan Miles of the American Red Cross Fort Jackson station provided information on the Red Cross emergency notification system. They emphasized that Soldiers must keep their commanders informed of any emergency situation that may result in a request for leave extension. Only the Soldier's commander can approve a leave extension before the leave expires. The Red Cross will verify emergency information, as required. Solis and Miles pointed out that the Soldier — not a family member — must contact the Red Cross. The Soldier will be assigned a case worker, who will request key information related to the situation. The American Red Cross toll-free emergency contact number is (877) 272-7337.



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# Army mother deploys with Air Force daughter

By **ANDRE BUTLER**

*Moncrief Army Community Hospital*

After years of being at war, service members are no strangers to deployments. Siblings have deployed together and so have father-son teams.

But rarely have there been stories of mothers and daughters who serve in conflict together. But they exist, and another duo made the journey together late this year.

First Lt. Erin Troxell, Moncrief Army Community Hospital Department of Behavioral Health Social Work Services assistant chief, and her daughter, Senior Airman Hannah McGill, Air Force crew chief with the 12th Air Combat Division at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, deployed to Afghanistan. McGill left the U.S. in September and her mother deployed in October — both just before this holiday season.

The two expressed their emotions upon hearing the news of their deployments.

“We were pretty excited when we found out,” Troxell said. “We thought it would be a good chance that I would be in stationed in Kandahar. We talked about having coffee at the Green Bean. Hannah has deployed there before, and she gave me information about the area.”

McGill said the two deploying to the same region was hard to believe.

“Deploying with my mother almost feels unreal,” McGill said. “We are in different branches and complete opposite career fields, but are coming together to support the same deployed mission. The opportunity to serve together is incredible.”

The pair had already made plans for being stationed together.

“We have talked about this, and if we are both at (Kandahar Air Field) we want to get on a physical fitness routine that will allow us to both max our PT tests. We are both close to that goal now, but to work on it together would be so cool,” McGill said.

“Hannah joined the military when she was 18 years old. We have been separated for three years, and this would give us a chance to spend much-needed time together,” Troxell said.

As it turned out, Troxell and McGill did not get the op-



*Courtesy photo*

**First Lt. Erin Troxell, right, a social worker at Moncrief Army Community Hospital, and her daughter, Senior Airman Hannah McGill both deployed to Afghanistan around the same time this year.**

portunity to be co-located, but they do communicate. Troxell also has plans to see McGill before Christmas.

“I haven’t been able to see Hannah yet,” Troxell said. “I have a special privilege four day (pass), awarded to each service member in the 98th Combat Stress Control to be completed Dec. 21-24. I anticipate seeing Hannah in Kandahar.”

Troxell admitted that it’s better than when her daughter deployed last year.

“It was awful,” Troxell said. “I was in training and she was in Afghanistan, so it was hard to talk to or communicate with her. If things weren’t going well and she called me crying, there was nothing I could do.”

McGill already knows what the first words to her mother will be when she sees her on the ground in Afghanistan.

“We’ve talked about this too, and it’s as simple as, ‘I love you,’” she said. “I know my mom came in to the armed forces later in life and partly because of my service and her brother’s, my uncle,” she said. “She recognized the need for good mental health services for Soldiers, so we both support each other toward two different missions. I’m a reminder to her about military combat issues, and she’s a reminder to me about resiliency and mental health strength.”

Troxell is on a nine-month deployment while McGill continues to rotate through four-month missions in the country.

## MACH UPDATES

### MACH MAIN ENTRANCE CLOSED

The main (ground floor) entrance at Moncrief Army Community Hospital will be closed for renovation through July 31. Visitors are asked to pay attention to the signs posted for entry into the hospital and patient drop-off.

### URGENT CARE HOURS CHANGE

Beginning Dec. 19, the Urgent Care Clinic at Moncrief Army Community Hospital will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Patients need to sign in before 9:30 p.m. Patients who need emergency care should call 911 or proceed to the nearest emergency room. Patients enrolled in TRICARE Prime

who need non-emergency care can schedule an appointment online at [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com), call their primary care provider or call 751-CARE (2273) during regular duty hours.

### IMMIGRATION EXAMS

The Department of Preventive Medicine at Moncrief Army Community Hospital provides complete immigration exams, including physical exams, tuberculosis screening, laboratory tests and immunizations for TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries. The Department of Preventive Medicine is located at 4555 Scales Ave. To schedule an appointment, call 751-5251.

## Victory Block Leave mail instructions

Mail for trainees staying on Fort Jackson during Victory Block Leave should be sent before Dec. 27.

Any mail received after Jan. 2 will be returned to sender.

Mail not properly addressed will not reach the Soldier. Use the following format to address the letter:



PVT John or Jane Smith  
ATTN: Holdover Company  
3-60th INF REGT  
5482 Jackson Blvd.  
Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207

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## News and Notes

### URGENT CARE HOURS CHANGE

Beginning today the Urgent Care Clinic at Moncrief Army Community Hospital is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Patients need to sign in before 9:30 p.m. Patients who need emergency care should call 911 or proceed to the nearest emergency room. Patients enrolled in TRICARE Prime who need non-emergency care can schedule an appointment online at [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com), call their primary care provider or call 751-CARE (2273) during regular duty hours.

### WELCOME CENTER RELOCATES

The Welcome Center is temporarily located at the Directorate of Emergency Services at 5499 Jackson Blvd. All incoming permanent-party Soldiers who report after normal duty hours have to report to DES to sign in to Fort Jackson. To inprocess, all permanent-party Soldiers report to Room 200, 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd., between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. For more information about the Welcome Center, call 751-3149. For more information about inprocessing, call 751-7673.

### HAMPTON PARKWAY PAVING

A Hampton Parkway repaving project is under way, DPW has announced. The plan is to pave one lane at a time so that traffic can flow on the other three lanes. The project is scheduled to be completed no later than Dec. 30. Any questions or concerns, should be directed to Danny Moss at 751-1409.

### ACTIVE SHOOTER EXERCISE

Moncrief Army Community Hospital will conduct an active shooter exercise tomorrow from 8 to 8:30 a.m. This exercise will reinforce employee training on responding to an active shooter in the facility. Remember, this is only an exercise.

### COLEMAN GYM HOURS CHANGE

Beginning Jan. 2, Coleman Gym will open at 5:30 a.m.

### MICC RELOCATES

MICC Fort Jackson, commonly known as the Contracting Office, will temporarily relocate to 10788 Hampton Parkway for six to nine months. The relocation takes place through Friday. During the move, all phone and computer access will be interrupted or unavailable.

### GATE 2 CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY

Construction to replace the swing gates at Gate 2 with new bollards began Dec. 1. The project is estimated to be completed in about 70 days. Normal gate hours are not expected to change, except during Victory Block Leave.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION CHANGES

Because of staff reductions, Fort Jackson Army Continuing Education no longer offers counseling services on Mondays. Appointments are needed for counseling. Education inprocessing briefings will take place at 9:15 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, but not on the third Tuesday of the month. Services for Soldiers who are PCSing are still available on a walk-in basis. Soldiers who ETS or retire need to make an appointment. The computer lab remains open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 751-5341.

*Information subject to change.*



*Army photo*

**Army officials emphasize safety when decorating for the holiday season.**

# Deck the halls safely this year

*From the Fort Jackson Safety Center*

While decorating your home for the holidays, it is natural for your main area of focus to be on how it looks. However, given the safety hazards that are inherent in holiday decorating, it is crucial that safety is a foremost concern.

Follow these basic safety guidelines to help prevent serious electrical and fire hazards as you decorate your home and yard this season:

### CHRISTMAS TREES

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.
- Cut one to two inches from the base of the trunk immediately before placing the tree in the stand and filling the stand with water to ensure water absorption.
- Because heated rooms dry out live trees rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water by refilling daily.
- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." This label indicates that the tree is more

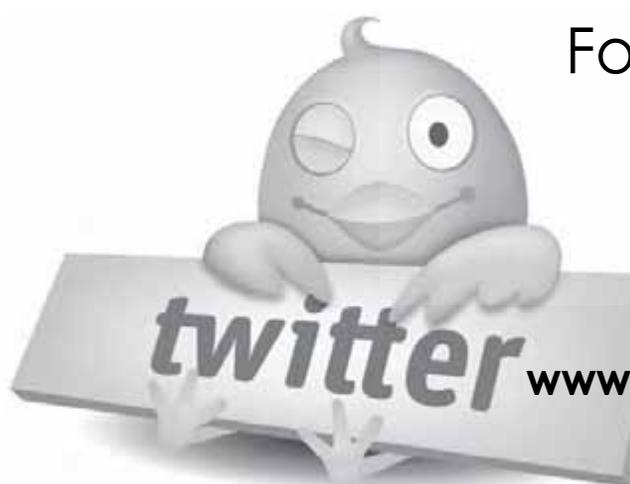
resistant to burning.

- Don't use electrical ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings.
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces, radiators, and space heaters.
- When trimming a tree, only use non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.

### CANDLES

- Avoid using candles when possible. Consider using battery-operated candles in place of traditional candles.
- Never leave an open flame unattended. Keep burning candles within sight.
- Place lighted candles away from combustible material such as other decorations and wrapping paper.
- Take care to place candle displays in locations where they cannot be knocked over.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other greenery.
- Extinguish all candles before you go to sleep, leave the room or leave the house.

*Editor's Note: Information from the Electrical Safety Foundation International was used in this article.*



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*Photos by KARA MOTOSICKY, Public Affairs Office*

Col. Stephen Yackley, Fort Jackson deputy commanding officer, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Benson, Fort Jackson installation command sergeant major, lead a team of Fort Jackson Soldiers in saluting the Army memorial wreath during the Wreaths Across America ceremony Saturday at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery. The ceremony and wreath-laying were part of an annual event held nationwide to remember veterans during the holiday season.

# Wreaths Across America



Above, a family member snaps a picture after laying a wreath on a loved one's grave. Right, a JROTC cadet from Westwood High School in Blythewood straightens a ribbon on a wreath after placing it on a grave.



Courtesy photos

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School students celebrated the Festival of Trees event by decorating artificial trees to reflect what they've learned in Social Studies classes. Left, the Regions of the United States Tree highlights the ways in which resources permitted the growth of economies. Right, the World History: Ancient Civilizations Tree highlights the geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of the early civilization of Egypt.

# Students celebrate Festival of Trees

From C.C. Pinckney Elementary School

Students with C.C. Pinckney Elementary School celebrated its Festival of Trees event Nov. 21. Artificial trees were decorated with student work that correlated to social studies standards. All trees were assigned a "DoDEA standard name tag." This student-centered activity served as an

out-of-the box way of teaching content using an approach to thinking that encourages students to synthesize, create, design and connect learning. The trees will remain on display in the cafeteria throughout December.

The "Continuity and Change in Communities Tree" highlights the physical and human geography of some of the students. It focuses on community resources and helpers who work to influence growth and change of communities.

"The Regions of the United States Tree" highlights the

ways in which resources permitted the growth of economies, how these resources have and are being used, and their impact on the emergence of cities in various regions.

The "Discovery of the Americas Tree" highlights the beginning of the journey as it focuses on the routes of early explorers and the early explorations of the Americas.

The "World History: Ancient Civilizations Tree" highlights the geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of the early civilization of Egypt.



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*Photo by DAVID SHANES, command photographer*

## Meet the new band leader

Warrant Officer Thomas Jackson Jr. takes command of the 282nd Army Band during a ceremony Tuesday at the band's headquarters. He replaces Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Brazier Jr., who retired. Jackson returns to the 282<sup>nd</sup>, where he served as an enlisted Soldier before attending Warrant Officer School.

## 33 years of service

Brig. Gen. Bradley Becker, left, congratulates Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis King on retiring after 33 years of service. King, a native of Gosport, Ala., most recently served as the command sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment. He is a veteran of two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, respectively.

*Photo by DAVID SHANES, command photographer*





Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

### Fort Jackson Victory Run

Shortly after finishing his own run, Fort Jackson Commanding General Brig. Gen. Bradley Becker, right, cheers on Soldiers in training early Tuesday morning. The postwide Victory Run put 7,000 Soldiers through the paces in a route that stretched all around post.



### Operation Homefront

Volunteers prepare buggies to be delivered to the vehicles of needy Soldiers and their families last Friday at the Solomon Center. The event was part of Operation Homefront, which provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of service members and wounded warriors. Last Friday, families were given two bags of food, enough to prepare a holiday meal, with Walmart, Balfour Beatty Communities and other local community volunteers on-site to help load vehicles.

Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE



Photos by REGINA HANSON, C.C. Pinckney Elementary School

### What a hoot!

Stanley Rikard, a wildlife biologist with the Directorate of Public Works, gives a presentation about owls to students at C.C. Pinckney Elementary School. Rikard also talked about what other animals make their home on Fort Jackson. In addition, students got to look through a tree top peeper, a device to research nesting cavities.



Photo by MASTER SGT. RICARDO GUTIERREZ, Moncrief Army Community Hospital

### MACH hosts holiday ball

Brig. Gen. Bradley Becker, Fort Jackson commanding general; his wife Sherri; Col. Mark Higdon, Moncrief Army Community Hospital commander; and his wife, Jennifer, welcome Soldiers, family members and hospital staff to the MACH holiday ball Saturday at the NCO club. More than 400 people attended the ball. Mrs. Becker greets Capt. Antoine Barry during the reception.



*Courtesy photo*

### Spreading holiday cheer

Drill sergeants with the 120th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) visit The Haven in the Summit, a senior living facility specifically designed for memory care. The Soldiers conducted a ceremony honoring veterans, gave out Christmas gifts and conducted a social hour with the residents.



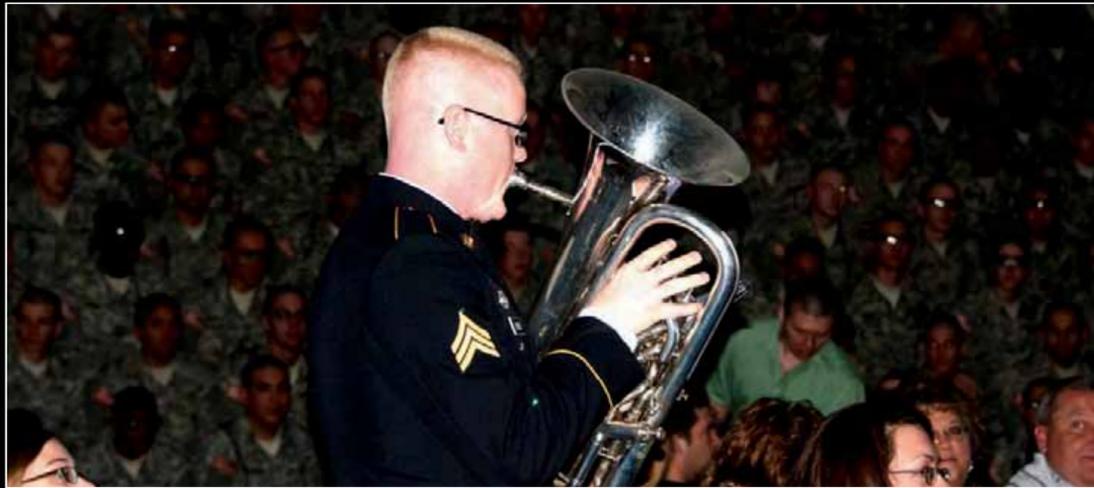
*Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE*

### National Guard turns 377

From left, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, Adjutant General for South Carolina, and Brig. Gen. Bradley Becker, commanding general of Fort Jackson, watch as Chief Warrant Officer 5 Julia Mosman and Pvt. Maria Medina cut the cake to celebrate the National Guard's 377<sup>th</sup> birthday. The event was held on post last Friday at the U.S. Army Basic Combat Training Museum. Mosman and Medina are the oldest and youngest members, respectively, of the National Guard assigned to Fort Jackson.

# Spreading holiday cheer

Fort Jackson entertains Soldiers with some seasonal sounds



Photos by SUSANNE KAPPLER

The 282nd Army Band entertains Soldiers and civilian guests during its annual holiday concert Sunday at the Solomon Center. Right, Spc. Richard Walburn and Staff Sgt. Patricia Conyers sing together during a set by the 'Ear Assault' show band. Top, Sgt. Luke Beck joins the crowd as he performs 'Auld Lang Syne' on the Euphonium as part of the band's tuba-euphonium quartet. Center, band members invite Soldiers in the crowd to dance along. Bottom, Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Brazier conducts his final concert as an Army band leader. Brazier retired Tuesday. The band's selections included many new and holiday favorites.



## Got your back

SaRatta Reeves and Chris Sanders of Catharsis Productions present 'Got Your Back' to Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Frennier, senior enlisted leader, and Soldiers and civilians of U.S. Army Central. Reeves and Sanders interacted with the audience during their dynamic, interactive lecture to explore how bystanders can intervene to stop potential sexual violence and challenge victim blaming attitudes.

*Photo by  
STAFF SGT. CARLOS CAMPOS,  
U.S. Army Central*



# Policy gives sergeants direct AER access

*From the Army News Service*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Army Emergency Relief announced that beginning Jan. 1, all sergeants and above can submit requests for financial assistance directly to their installation AER office.

Until now, staff sergeants and below were required to have the recommendation of their company commander or first sergeant before requesting AER assistance. Now, sergeants and staff sergeants can apply for assistance directly.

“Based on feedback we received from senior Army leaders, including the sergeant major of the Army, we decided that this is the right thing to do,” said AER’s director, retired Lt. Gen. Robert Foley. “Over the last decade, these leaders have been entrusted with increasing levels of responsibility and have demonstrated the required trust and confidence to warrant this change.”

A policy change which became effective Sept. 30, enabled sergeants first class to go directly to AER for

assistance. Before that, AER policy allowed only master sergeants and above direct access to AER assistance. Now all noncommissioned officers, officers and warrant officers can apply directly to their local AER office.

Soldiers E-1 thru E-4 are still required to complete the AER application and submit it to their company commander or first sergeant, for their recommendation, officials pointed out.

In addition to providing no-interest loans and grants for emergency travel, initial rent deposits and vehicle repairs, AER continues to be the organization of choice for Soldiers’ unique financial needs, to include household and appliance repair, dependent dental care and initial home furnishings.

Army Emergency Relief is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to Soldiers, active and retired, and their families. Since its incorporation in 1942, AER has provided more than \$1.5 billion to more than 3.5 million Soldiers, families and retirees.



# Searching for my star

By **CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) PAUL FRITTS**  
*Soldier Support Institute*

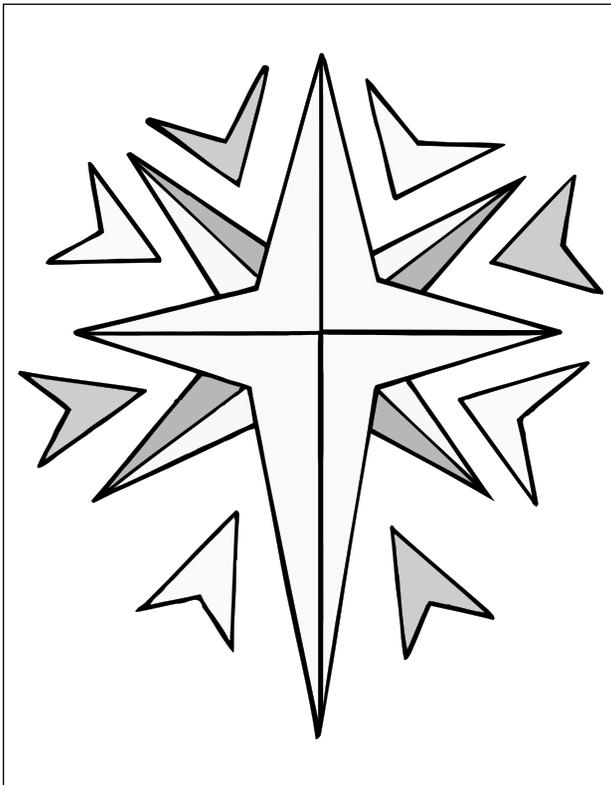
It was the night before Christmas 2005, and I was in Iraq with a religious support mission to accomplish — fly on a Blackhawk to al Kaisik, an Iraqi Army base, and conduct chapel services for the few hundred American Soldiers stationed there. But I wasn't feeling any Christmas spirit.

My wife challenged me that night to quit complaining about my trip and to focus instead on the meaning of Christmas. She said, "Tonight while you are flying over the desert, look for the star." I looked for the star in the sky that Christmas Eve, but a thick blanket of clouds above (and within) made for nothing to see but darkness.

The trip was unexpectedly long and difficult. At various times I looked up at the night sky. Sometimes I saw stars, sometimes I didn't. But the star for which I was challenged to look wasn't in the sky. It was at the moment when I failed to see with my eyes that I finally saw with my heart.

The Christmas star isn't a point of light in the sky, but represents an attitude and a relationship. It's a reminder of the birth of Jesus, the gift of grace his birth brings, and to be thankful for what is often taken for granted, like the gift of salvation.

On New Year's Eve 2005, I stood outside at midnight with my fellow Soldiers. As the howitzer batteries fired white phosphorous illumination rounds to ring in the new



year, I made a thankfulness "gut check."

Through the deafening booms of the big guns a mile away, I heard a still, small voice in my head telling me just to be thankful. Period. As I watched the bright flares float slowly to the ground, I realized they looked like stars.

## VICTORY BLOCK LEAVE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Sunday, Dec. 22

- 9:30 a.m., Protestant, Main Post Chapel
- 10:15 a.m., Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 11 a.m., Protestant, Memorial Chapel
- 11 a.m., Chapel Next (contemporary), Bayonet Chapel
- 11 a.m., Catholic Mass, Main Post Chapel

### Tuesday, Dec. 24

- 6 p.m., Candlelight service, Main Post Chapel
- 11:30 p.m., Vigil Mass, Main Post Chapel

### Wednesday, Dec. 25

- 9 a.m., Anglican, Anderson Chapel
- 11 a.m., Catholic Mass, Main Post Chapel

### Thursday, Dec. 26

- 11:30 a.m., Catholic Mass, Main Post Chapel

### Friday, Dec. 27

- 11:30 a.m., Catholic Mass, Main Post Chapel

### Sunday, Dec. 29

- 9:30 a.m., Protestant, Main Post Chapel
- 10:15 a.m., Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 11 a.m., Protestant, Memorial Chapel
- 11 a.m., Chapel Next (contemporary), Bayonet Chapel
- 11 a.m., Catholic Mass, Main Post Chapel

### Tuesday, Dec. 31

- 11:30 a.m., Catholic Mass, Main Post Chapel

### Wednesday, Jan. 1

- 11:30 a.m., Catholic Mass, Main Post Chapel

The following services will not be conducted during Victory Block Leave: Church of Christ, Hispanic Protestant, Jewish, Latter Day Saints and Muslim.

The regular worship service schedule will resume Jan. 5.

All services are available to Initial Entry Training Soldiers during Victory Block Leave.

### ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS

- Anderson Street Chapel**  
2335 Anderson St., corner of Jackson Boulevard, 751-7032
- Bayonet Chapel**  
9476 Kemper St., 751-6322/4542
- Daniel Circle Chapel**  
3359 Daniel Circle, corner of Jackson Boulevard, 751-1297/4478
- Education Center**  
4581 Scales Ave.
- Family Life Chapel**  
4580 Scales Ave, corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard (inside of Main Post Chapel), 751-5780
- Magruder Chapel**  
4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883
- Main Post Chapel**  
4580 Scales Ave, corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard, 751-6469/6681
- McCrary Chapel (SCARNG)**  
3820 McCrary Road (located at McCrary Training Center)
- Memorial Chapel**  
4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324
- Warrior Chapel (120th AG Bn.)**  
1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427
- Installation's Chaplain's Office**  
4475 Gregg St., 751-3121/6318

*Happy Holidays*

The Fort Jackson Leader staff wishes you and yours a happy holiday season and a great 2014.  
The next issue of the Leader will be published Jan. 9.

## Calendar

**Wednesday, Jan. 8**

### Retired Officers Wives luncheon

Noon, Solomon Center

RSVP by Jan. 3. For more information, call 788-1094 or 783-1220.

**Friday, Jan. 24**

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Solomon Center

The guest speaker will be retired Maj. Gen. Abraham Turner

## Announcements

### HOLIDAY HOURS

#### ■ AAFES:

##### □ Main Exchange:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

##### □ Burger King Express:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

##### □ Cinnabon:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

##### □ Taco Bell:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

##### □ Manchu Wok:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

##### □ Anthony's Pizza:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

##### □ Charley's Steakery:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

##### □ Burger King:

- ◆ Closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 1

##### □ Popeye's Chicken:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, closed

##### □ Hospital PX:

- ◆ Dec. 19 and 20, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 23 through Jan. 3, closed

##### □ Post Theater:

- ◆ Dec. 24 through Jan. 1, closed

##### □ Gate 1 Express:

- ◆ Dec. 19 through Jan. 1, closed

##### □ Gate 2 Express:

- ◆ Dec. 26-30, 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 5 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

##### □ Class VI:

- ◆ Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

##### □ Furniture store:

- ◆ Dec. 24-25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 26-28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 29, noon to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, closed

##### □ Military clothing:

- ◆ Dec. 21-22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 23-25, closed
- ◆ Dec. 26-27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 28-29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 30 through Jan. 1, closed

##### □ Car care center:

- ◆ Dec. 25, closed
- ◆ Jan. 1, closed

##### □ SSI troop store:

- ◆ Dec. 20 through Jan. 6, closed

##### □ Reception station troop store:

- ◆ Dec. 13, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 14-28, closed
- ◆ Dec. 31, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 1, closed
- ◆ Jan. 2, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 3, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

##### □ AIT troop store:

- ◆ Dec. 19 through Jan. 3, closed

##### □ Perez Gym troop store:

- ◆ Dec. 19 through Jan. 3, closed

##### □ Coleman Gym troop store:

- ◆ Dec. 18 through Jan. 2, closed

##### □ Tank Hill troop store:

- ◆ Dec. 18 through Jan. 2, closed

#### ■ Commissary:

- Dec. 23, open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Dec. 24, open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 25, closed
- Dec. 26, closed
- Dec. 31, open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Jan. 1, closed

■ **Dental clinics:** Closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. The dental clinics will also be closed from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Dec. 6 and 13. All dental emergencies should report to the Urgent Care Clinic.

■ **Basic Combat Training Museum:** Closed Dec. 25 through Dec. 29.

■ **Adjutant Generals and Finance Corps Museums:** Limited hours Dec. 23 through Jan. 3. Visitors should call 751-1747 before planning a trip to the museum.

■ **Century Lanes Bowling Center:** closed Dec. 23-35; Dec. 30; and Jan. 1. Open from 2 to 8 p.m., Dec. 22, 26, 27, 28 and 29. Open from 2 to 9 p.m., Dec. 31.

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE HOURS

The Legal Assistance Office now sees walk-in clients from 9 to 11 a.m., Wednesdays. The office will no longer accept walk-in clients on Thursdays. Walk-in hours are designed to provide a quick consultation with an attorney and are not appropriate for more lengthy matters such as preparations of wills and advance medical directives. For more information, call 751-4287.

### COMMISSARY ID CARD SCANNING

The Fort Jackson Commissary now scans customers' ID cards during check-

out. The scanning helps verify eligibility, determine usage by service and improve the Commissary benefit. For more information, click on the Customer Service tab and visit the FAQ section at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

### HAND BELL CHOIR

The Main Post Chapel hand bell choir is rehearsing Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at the chapel. The first performance is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Dec. 22. For more information, email [paul.d.fritts.mil@mail.mil](mailto:paul.d.fritts.mil@mail.mil) or [deborah.f.lyle.civ@mail.mil](mailto:deborah.f.lyle.civ@mail.mil).

### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

■ The Army Engineer Spouses' Club announced the 2014 Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the 2014 Geraldine K. Morris Award. For more information on the scholarships, visit [www.armyengineer-spouses.com/scholarships.html](http://www.armyengineer-spouses.com/scholarships.html).

■ Applications for the 2014 Scholarships for Military Children program are available at commissaries worldwide or at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org). Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 28. For more information, call (856) 616-9311 or email [militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com](mailto:militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com).

### SAT/ACT TESTING

The Education Center will administer SAT testing on Jan. 30, May 29 and Oct. 30. ACT testing will be available July 31. Testing is available to eligible service members only. For more information and to register, call 751-5341.

### COMMISSARY HOLIDAY SPECIALS

The Commissary offers special in-store promotions throughout December. For more information, visit [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

### EXCHANGE RETURN PERIOD

The Exchange has extended its return/exchange period for all items purchased between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24. Items can be returned until Jan. 31 with a sales receipt.

### AAFES PICTURE CONTEST

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Homeward Bound picture contest is open through Dec. 31. Authorized shoppers can submit a photo or video of a military welcome home experience for a chance to win a \$10,000 Exchange gift card. For more information, visit [www.shopmyexchange.com/homewardbound](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/homewardbound).

### PWOC MEETINGS

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel fellowship hall. For more information, email [Jackson@pwoc.org](mailto:Jackson@pwoc.org).

### FIRST TIMER CLINICS

The Fort Jackson Education Center will offer First Timer Clinics for service members needing assistance navigating the GoArmyEd Portal. The sessions will be held every other Friday at 9:15 a.m. On

alternating Fridays, clinics will be held for service members seeking to transfer educational benefits to dependents and complete a 22-1990 to initiate benefits will be held at 9:15 a.m. Both clinics will take place at the Education Center's Multi-Use Learning Facility. For more information, call 751-5341.

### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

■ The Thrift Shop is looking for a cashier and a floor monitor.

■ Units can pick any business day to work at the Thrift Shop. Units who supply at least four people to work for two hours will receive a donation. For more information, contact Kim at the store.

■ The Thrift Shop will be closed Dec. 20 through Jan. 7.

■ Winter clothes are now accepted.

■ The Golden Carriage Program provides free ball gowns for spouses of active-duty service members E-5 and below.

*Information is subject to change. Visit the community calendar at [www.jackson.army.mil](http://www.jackson.army.mil) for a full listing of calendar events. Send your announcements to [fjleader@gmail.com](mailto:fjleader@gmail.com). Announcements are due one week before the publication date.*

## Housing happenings

### MAYORS NEEDED

The mayoral council is looking for volunteers to serve as mayors for the Fort Jackson housing communities. Being a part of the council allows residents to be a voice for the community. Child care is provided while performing mayoral duties. Positions are currently available in Pierce Terrace 1, Pierce Terrace 2, Pierce Terrace 3, Pierce Terrace 5, Pierce Terrace 6, Pierce Terrace 7 and Howie Village. Interested residents should contact Vickie Grier at 751-7567.

### HOUSING REFERRAL CHANGES

Effective Jan. 1, the Army Housing Referral Network website will no longer be an official DoD website. Service members should visit the housing office for listings of local rentals. DoD is in the process of developing a new website, which is scheduled to go online July 1.

### HOLDIAY TRASH PICKUP

Trash pickup is scheduled for Dec. 23 and 30. Recycle and bulk pickup is scheduled for Dec. 24 and 31.

### HOUSING ON FACEBOOK

The Housing Services Office is now on Facebook. Look for "Fort Jackson Housing Division."

### 2014 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

The Housing Services Office is in the process of developing housing seminars for 2014. Community members can provide feedback about which classes they are interested in. Topics may include homeownership, short sales, purchasing distressed properties, for sale by owner, etc.

# Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle's honorees

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



**Staff Sgt. Christopher Doktor**  
Company A  
3rd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Krystain Tellez

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**

Spc. Kristian Delafeld



**Staff Sgt. Marcus Brantley**  
Company B  
3rd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Kory Armstrong

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Robert Lump



**Staff Sgt. Angel Acosta**  
Company C  
3rd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**

Pfc. Brent Veney

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**

Spc. Curtis Kock



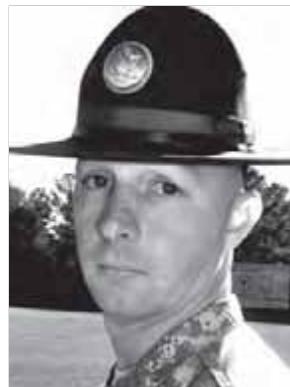
**Staff Sgt. Scott Morgando**  
Company D  
3rd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Samuel Howell

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**

Spc. Donald Vidovic



**Staff Sgt. Jared Erickson**  
Company E  
3rd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Brittney Cobb

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Aaron Oseiwusu



**Staff Sgt. Denver Kinard**  
Company F  
3rd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**

Spc. Curtis Cross

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Derek Zimmers

## Weekly honors



**Cpl. Jay Yang**  
Soldier of the Week  
USARCENT



**Staff Sgt. Derick Hicks**  
Drill Sergeant of the Cycle  
Task Force Marshall

*vimeo*

Watch Fort Jackson video news stories and  
Victory Updates  
at <http://www.vimeo.com/user3022628>.



Photos by WALLACE McBRIDE

Racking up 2,094 points during this year's athletic season, MEDDAC was awarded the Commander's Cup trophy during last week's sports banquet.

# MEDDAC wins 2013 Commander's Cup

By WALLACE McBRIDE  
Fort Jackson Leader

When the proverbial dust had settled Friday at the Solomon Center, MEDDAC had won this year's coveted Commander's Cup.

When MACH Commander Col. Mark Higdon took the podium to accept the award, though, his gratitude was directed toward Cindi Keene, the post intramural sports coordinator.

"I'd like to give credit to Miss Keene and what she's done," Higdon said. "She's all over this post, sending out reminders about games that are coming up. We had a great time this year. I know everyone sitting in this room did. It's a pleasure to receive the trophy, but it's a pleasure to participate in what we get to do here on Fort Jackson. And I want to thank everyone for that."

The event's guest speaker was Jerry Myers, associate baseball head coach for the University of South Carolina. He shared the stories of two athletes recruited into the baseball program at USC, only to find they had previously untapped strengths.

The first player joined the team as a hitter, but discovered his abilities as a pitcher far surpassed his mediocre skills with the bat. Even when he was able to help the team win games with his arm, he still thought of those games as anomalies in his career.

"He still said he was a hitter first, he wasn't really a pitcher," Myers said. "The next two years, he proceeded to be our number-one pitcher. He went 20 starts

in a row without a miss for two years running, which is almost impossible. He has as many accolades as a college baseball pitcher as you can have in the program." He has since been called up to the major leagues.

"He finally admits he's not a hitter, he's a pitcher," Myers said.

Another player started all four years of his college career without distinguishing himself, he said. Myers spoke about a consistent, if unspectacular baseball player that could play second base. He ended every season under the impression he would be replaced the following year by a more versatile player, but kept finding his name on the roster as it was published each year.

"He kept on playing and started all four years, but never really hit until his senior year," Myers said. "He ended up having a great last year. We couldn't find anyone to replace him: he had the grit, had the character that we couldn't take out of our lineup. (He) ended up being the MVP of the 2012 College World Series, and is playing in the minor league system with the L.A. Dodgers now."

Myers said the team's realistic approach to nurturing talent has been a key factor in its success.

"That's what our program's been all about," he said. "It's a little more 'blue collar' than some of the other programs in the country. We call ourselves the Average Joes, even after the College World Series a couple of years ago. We're just a bunch of guys that got along and pulled together, and we pride ourselves on our program that way."

Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil

## 2013 WINNERS

**WINTER BASKETBALL**  
Runner Up: 1/34th  
Champs: MEDDAC  
Basketball Sportsmanship  
Award: Staff Sgt. Robert  
Gibson, 171st

**INDOOR VOLLEYBALL**  
Men's League  
Runner Up: 187th  
Champs: MEDDAC

**CO-ED LEAGUE**  
Runner Up: SSI  
Champs: MEDDAC

**GOLF**  
Intramural  
Runner Up: 2/13th  
Champs: TSB  
Recreational  
Runner Up: Heavy Hitters  
Champs: DPW

**STRONGMAN**  
Overall Male: Sgt. 1st Class  
Jason Diaz - 1/34th  
Overall Female: DS Marilyn  
Rattler - 2/39th

**SOFTBALL**  
Intramural  
Runner Ups: RRS (TSB)  
Champs: MEDDAC  
**Men's**  
Runner Up: 2/60th

Champs: MEDDDAC  
Softball Awards: Staff Sgt.  
Brian Kirschner and  
Sgt. Maideah Afrika

**COMMANDER'S  
CUP BOWLING**  
Runner Up: Unit - 17th MP's  
Champions: 187th  
Master Sgt. Xavier Terrell  
(has won High Game and High  
Series 3 years in a row)

**SAND VOLLEYBALL**  
Runner Up: 1/34th  
Champs: 17th MP's  
Volleyball Award: 1SG  
Richard Healy

**FLAG FOOTBALL**  
Runner Up: 17th MPs along  
with 4/10th  
Champs: 175th  
Maintenance  
(second year in a row)  
Football Award: Staff Sgt.  
Ricardo Williams "Speedy  
Gonzalez"

**COMMANDER'S CUP**  
Champions: MEDDAC  
(2,094 points)  
Runner Up: SSI  
(1,302 points)  
3rd Place: 187th  
(1,197 points)

**Information**

Call 911 (or other local emergency number) when it is safe to do so.

You should provide the following information to the Police or the 911 Operator:

- Location of the shooter
- Number of shooters
- Physical description of shooters
- Number and type of weapons the shooter has
- Number of possible victims

**Coping with an Active Shooter**

- Be aware of your surroundings and possible dangers
- Take note of the nearest exits in any facility you visit
- If you are in an office at the time of an attack, stay there and secure the door
- Only as a last resort should you attempt to take action against the shooter

**Antiterrorism  
Active Shooter  
Community Response**

**U.S. ARMY Army Strong**



**Coping with an Active Shooter**

**Evacuate      Hide      Take Action**

**U.S. ARMY Army Strong**



# Help prevent active shooter incidents

*From the Directorate of Emergency Services*

Although law enforcement first responders are critical in ending an ongoing active shooter event, they could do so much more with the assistance of vigilant citizens to prevent the shooting from occurring.

After 9/11, America took the important action of involving everyday citizens into the team protecting the homeland through the "See Something, Say Something" program. This same approach can be used to prevent active-shooter incidents.

Reviews of past active shooter events have shown that vital information, which was known to someone, was withheld from law enforcement. Information also indicates that the active shooters obtained their weapons from their family home or the home of a relative. Additionally, shooters sometimes show signs of preparation for their shooting event by either speaking with others about their plans or rehearsing for the event. They may also post comments or videos on social media sites before conducting their shootings. In the majority of recent events, this information was never shared with law enforcement.

Fort Jackson's first responders are well-trained and rehearsed in responding to active shooter events. However, they also possess the investigative ability to respond to information indicating that a potential shooter event may be in the planning stages.

Law enforcement alone cannot prevent such events from occurring. It takes the entire community working together. Report suspicious activity, threats heard in the workplace or in school. No one will lose their civil liberties if they are abiding by the law, and others will not have to forfeit their civil liberty to life if the information provided prevents an active shooter event from occurring.



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