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THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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★ CASUALTY NOTIFICATION
OFFICERS PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE IN TIME OF CRISIS

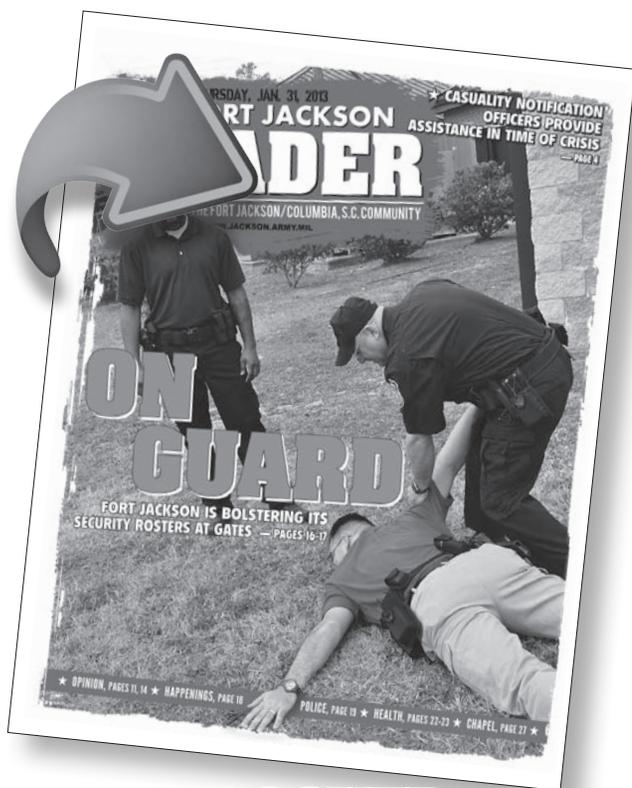
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ON GUARD

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ON THE COVER

Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

DA Police Lt. James Rowland instructs new gate guards on proper handcuffing procedures. Fort Jackson is preparing to add new guards to the post's gates. SEE PAGES 16,17.



Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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COMMANDER'S CALL

Focusing on our priorities

The fiscal situation is nothing we can't handle

One of my four "Commanding General's Priorities" is responsible stewardship, and I'm proud to say that here at Fort Jackson we do a great job properly managing resources to accomplish our mission.

The resources I'm speaking of are money, personnel, energy, water, the environment, equipment/weapons, post infrastructure, ranges, etc. Most often, the scarcest of those resources is money — well, we know that's true today. The Army faces significant budgetary uncertainty in the coming months, and we've been asked to take immediate steps to reduce expenditures. The fiscal situation and outlook are serious, but, in my opinion, it is nothing we cannot handle — we've certainly done it before.

The uncertain fiscal year 2013 funding caused by the combined effects of a possible yearlong continuing resolution and sequestration, along with the need to protect wartime operations, may result in particularly severe reductions to base operation and maintenance spending.

Due to this risk, the Army's senior leadership issued guidance to take immediate steps to reduce expenditures and conduct detailed planning in the event the budgetary cuts and shortfalls occur. At this point, the steps will focus on actions that are reversible if the budgetary situation improves and should minimize harm to readiness.

Given the magnitude of our budgetary uncertainty, the Army must act now to reduce its expenditure rate and mitigate budget execution risks in order to avoid even more serious future fiscal shortfalls. As noted, any actions must be reversible and minimize harmful impacts on Army readiness, particularly for personnel and units preparing to deploy.

Funding related to wartime operations and Wounded Warrior programs will be protected. In preparation for sequestration, Installation Management Command's operating budget was reduced by \$2.2 billion, of which \$2 billion was in facility maintenance, \$138 million was in base operations and \$64 million was in training support. To date, Fort Jackson received a reduction in facility maintenance budget of \$66.3 million, which includes \$52 million in Training Barracks Upgrade Projects.

The following directed actions will have some impact on Fort Jackson operations:

- Implement an Armywide hiring freeze effective immediately. Limited exceptions can be made for humanitarian and mission-critical purposes.
- Terminate all temp employees now and term employees when their appointment expires.
- Review current contracts and level of services pro-

vided to determine cost saving opportunities.

- Delay procurement of furniture and information technology equipment.
- Reduce temporary duty travel.
- Reduce utility consumption to the maximum extent possible.
- Execute a command-directed energy conservation program. The key element is direct involvement by commanders, noncommissioned officers and leaders at all levels to change learned behavior. Senior commanders will hold unit commanders, directors, tenants and heads of activities accountable for energy use in facilities they occupy.

- Temperature set points: Effective immediately, buildings will be heated to 68 degrees when occupied and to 55 degrees when not occupied. Buildings will be cooled to 78 degrees when occupied and 85 degrees when not occupied. Every degree difference yields a 1 to 2 percent reduction in annual heating/cooling cost.

- Take actions necessary to consolidate

units, organizations and functions. Close buildings and turn off utilities.

- Cease facility maintenance activities (repairs) not directly related to life, health or safety.
- Cease all restoration and modernization projects, to include TBUP projects. Exceptions may be granted on a case by case basis.

Despite our fiscal challenges, Fort Jackson's priorities remain the same: Quality of Life, training, leader development and responsible stewardship. Our vision is also unchanged:

- To be the preeminent training center in the Department of Defense.
- To be the best duty station, post, community and unit in which its team members have ever served.
- To create an environment in which everyone can take initiative, learn, grow, make honest mistakes, have fun and accomplish the mission.
- To be an Army Communities of Excellence award winner in 2014.

We will stay focused on both the vision and our priorities throughout this period of uncertainty, and I will keep you updated as the funding situation changes or as we receive additional guidance. I ask for everyone's understanding and assistance — please play your part. Regardless of what's on the horizon, Victory will continue to Start Here and we'll continue to accomplish our mission.

Victory 6

By BRIG. GEN. BRYAN T. ROBERTS

Fort Jackson
Commanding General



Follow Brig. Gen. Bryan T. Roberts at www.facebook.com/FortJacksonCommandingGeneral

LETTERS Editor

The Leader welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should include the name and hometown of the writer. The Leader reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, style, spelling and brevity. Send your letter to FJLeader@gmail.com. For more information, call 751-7045.

DoD expands women's combat role

By **CLAUDETTE ROULO**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Following a unanimous recommendation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced the end of the direct ground combat exclusion rule for female service members Jan. 24.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, the Joint Chiefs chairman, joined Panetta at a Pentagon news conference in announcing the policy change.

The secretary also announced that the service branches will continue to move forward with a plan to eliminate all unnecessary gender-based barriers to service.

The change is intended to ensure that the best qualified and most capable service members, regardless of gender, are available to carry out the mission, Panetta said.

“If members of our military can meet the qualifications for a job, then they should have the right to serve, regardless of creed, color, gender or sexual orientation,” he said.

In a statement released following the announcement, President Barack Obama praised the decision.

“This milestone reflects the courageous and patriotic service of women through more than two centuries of American history and the indispensable role of women in today’s military,” the president said. The decision opens up about 237,000 positions to women — 184,000 in combat arms professions and 53,000 assignments that were closed based on unit type.

Women are an integral part of DoD’s ability to fulfill its mission, Panetta said.

“Over more than a decade of war, they have demonstrated courage, skill and patriotism, and 152 women in uniform have died serving this nation in Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said.

The new policy is the culmination of a process that began last year, a senior defense official told reporters today. More than 14,000 assignments in ground combat units or collocated with ground combat units were opened to women in February.

That extension of women’s roles had a positive impact, Panetta said at the news conference.

“Every time I’ve visited the war zone, met with troops, reviewed military operations, talked to wounded warriors, I have been impressed with the fact that everyone is committed to doing the job,” he said. “They are fighting and dying together. The time has come for our policies to recognize that reality.”



Photo by ERIN A. KIRK-CUOMO, DoD

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta hands Lt. Col. Tamatha Patterson a document he signed during a news conference at the Pentagon, Jan. 24, to lift the ban on women in direct ground combat roles.

The change ensured sufficient female mid-grade and senior enlisted and officers were in place to guarantee successful integration of junior personnel, a senior defense official said.

The secretary has directed the military services to undertake an evaluation of all occupational performance standards to ensure they are up to date and gender-neutral. Specialty schools will be included in the evaluation, a senior defense official said. The results of this evaluation are to be submitted to the defense secretary by May 15, while the entire process is to be completed by Jan. 1, 2016.

“We are all committed to implementing this change without compromising readiness or morale or our war-fighting capabilities,” Panetta said. “For this change in policy to succeed, it must be done in a responsible, measured and a coherent way.”

Occupations and assignments will open incrementally,

but “as expeditiously as possible,” a senior defense official said. “We would fully expect that ... we will open positions throughout the year as we go forward,” the official said.

Once the policy is fully implemented, military occupations will be closed to women only by exception, and only if approved by the defense secretary, a senior defense official said.

“I fundamentally believe that our military is more effective when success is based solely on ability, qualifications and on performance,” Panetta said.

“In life, as we all know, there are no guarantees of success,” he added. “Not everyone is going to be able to be a combat soldier. But everyone is entitled to a chance. By committing ourselves to that principle, we are renewing our commitment to the American values our service members fight and die to defend.”

Fort Jackson Gate Hours

Gate 1	5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 1:30 to 9 p.m.	inbound and outbound traffic, Monday through Friday outbound traffic, seven days a week
Gate 2	around the clock, seven days a week Commercial traffic on weekends only.	
Gate 4	5 a.m. to 9 p.m. closed Commercial traffic must use Gate 4 on weekdays.	Monday through Friday weekends
Gate 5	5 a.m. to 9 p.m.	seven days a week



Army photo

Soldiers carry the casket of a fallen service member during a burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Casualty notification officers are the first Soldiers to contact the family of a fallen comrade. More than 350 Fort Jackson Soldiers are qualified as casualty notification or casualty assistance officers.

CNOs/CAOs provide help in crises

By **KIM WHEELER**
Special to the Leader

His uniform was ready. The script he needed to recite was committed to memory. The training he had received was reviewed and fresh in his mind. But as hard as he tried, Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Diaz could not stop his heart from racing. The duty he was preparing to perform shook him more deeply than anything he had done during 12 years in the Army.

As he rang the doorbell and waited, he knew that nothing could prepare him to face a woman whose husband had died only hours ago and deliver the Army's notification and condolences.

"It's a hard thing," he said two months after acting as the casualty notification officer and casualty assistance officer for the family of a Fort Jackson Soldier who died in November. "I was going there to tell a woman that the man she slept next to, who she saw just that morning, was gone."

It was a duty that Diaz, a mechanic and module chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 187th Ordnance Battalion, said he did not expect to ever have to perform — even after he completed the two-day certification training in April and

added his name to his battalion's casualty notification officer/casualty assistance officer roster.

Battalions from around post use these rosters to provide certified Soldiers in the rank of sergeant first class or higher to notify or assist the families of Army casualties in 44 of the 46 counties in South Carolina, said Don Johnson, chief of Fort Jackson's Casualty Assistance Center. Currently, more than 350 Soldiers on post are certified to perform these duties, he said.

Once the CAC is informed of a casualty, a CNO is identified from one of these rosters, and within four hours of receiving the assignment goes with a chaplain to notify the Soldier's family "in a timely, professional and dignified manner," Johnson said. The CNOs are also tasked with gathering essential information from the family to pass along to the CAO before he or she first meets the survivors.

"I never in a million years thought I would get notified to do this," Diaz said. "At first, I wanted to say no, to tell them my uniform wasn't ready and I couldn't do it."

Diaz said he didn't feel confident that he would be able to keep from getting emotional himself seeing a family faced with such tragedy and grief. He had no way of

knowing just how much help he would be.

Normally, CNO and CAO duties are performed by two different Soldiers. After notifying the family and gathering the necessary information, the CNO will leave, having spent several hours with the family, Johnson said.

The CAO will then contact the next of kin within two to six hours to establish a time to come and help the family obtain the Soldier's remains, make funeral arrangements, transport family to funeral and unit memorial services, apply for benefits and entitlements and introduce the family to an Army Community Services Survivor Outreach Services coordinator who will help the family indefinitely once all benefits and entitlements are received. Johnson said CAO duties normally last four to six months.

Diaz knew this, but after delivering the notification, he realized how unique and difficult the family's circumstances were. The woman he had notified did not speak English or drive. Her family lived on another continent. She and her young children had relocated to South Carolina less than a month before her husband's death and knew no one in the area who could help them.

"I knew she had nobody," Diaz said. "I

kept thinking this family needs help and I had to look at it like, 'What if this was my family?' I had to be the best I could be for them."

A father of two young boys, Diaz resolved to treat the family as if it were his own. He requested permission to stay on as the CAO; the CAC consented.

With the help of a translator and a friend of the widow's who traveled from out of state, Diaz was able to help her fill out all of the necessary paperwork, handle the logistics of relocating her family quickly, and coordinate details for her husband's memorial service and burial, including the international travel of relatives for the funeral.

"If you sincerely care, no matter what, it's going to be hard," he said. "But it helped me not to feel so bad to be moving around so much, to be able to help her with so much."

Diaz also volunteered to present the Soldier's posthumous awards to his family at the funeral, an act that allowed him to meet the Soldier's extended family and cement a "special bond" with the family that he said continues even now that they have relocated and his role in their recovery has come to an end.

"After doing this," he said, "I would do it again. Definitely."



Follow the Leader on Twitter at www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao for breaking news and updates.

News and Notes

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST SCHEDULED

The Fort Jackson National Prayer Breakfast event is scheduled from 8 to 9:30 a.m., Tuesday at the Solomon Center. The featured speaker will be Navy Chaplain (Capt.) Kyle Fauntleroy, commanding officer of the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center. Tickets are available through unit command sergeants major and first sergeants or at the Installation Chaplain's Office. A free will offering of up to \$5 will be accepted at the door. For more information, call 751-6318/3121.

LEGAL NOTICES

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Staff Sgt. Roderick M. Day must contact 1st Lt. Brett Rigby, the summary court martial officer for the Soldier. Day passed away Jan. 1 in Columbia. To contact Rigby, call 751-6471 or email Brett.W.Rigby.mil@mail.mil.

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Shawn C. Adolphus Sr. must contact Capt. Marshan Daymon, the summary court martial officer for the Soldier. Adolphus passed away Jan. 19 in Georgia. To contact Daymon, call 885-7462 or email Marshan.Daymon.mil@mail.mil.

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Sgt. Timothy W. Brown must contact 1st Lt. Marcus Nix, the summary court martial officer for the Soldier. Brown passed away Jan. 26. To contact Nix, call (210) 573-1272 or email Marcus.Nix@us.army.mil.

Take inventory of your assets

In the personal finance arena, the focus is on budget and money management; savings and investing; and retirement. However, an important element that is sometimes overlooked is the financial statement called the balance sheet. This financial statement takes an inventory of all assets (everything you own) and liabilities (everything you owe or expenses) at a specific period in time. A balance sheet will provide you with your net worth. You can prepare a balance sheet at the end of every month, one every six months or at the end of the year. Knowing your net worth can help you answer the following questions:

- Is my net worth growing?
- Are personal goals being realized?
- Am I setting aside enough for emergencies?
- Has my debt increased or decreased?
- Am I saving enough for retirement?

Remember that old accounting equation: Assets minus liabilities equals net worth? It applies in your personal financial life, too. You should consider preparing a personal financial balance sheet at the end of each month to determine your net worth.

First, list all assets in a column. Locate the equity or current market value of the asset. Be sure to list all funds in checking and savings accounts, IRAs and money market accounts, stocks and bonds. Do not forget your retirement accounts, mortgages, land, rentals, cars and motorcycles. Add up the column and put your total at the bottom.

Next, start a new column for liabilities. This column will list all credit cards, personal loans, mortgage and car loans and their current balances. This column can also be broken out to reflect short-term and long-term liabilities. Short-term liabilities will be paid off within one year.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

By **CHRISTINE JULIUS**
Army Community Services
Financial Readiness



Long-term liabilities take more than a year to be paid off. If there is uncertainty about whom you owe, pull your credit reports from www.annualcreditreport.com. Total all liabilities.

The last step is to subtract your total liabilities from your total assets. The number will allow you to answer the questions asked above. The goal is to be able to answer each question with confidence and to realize what areas need work to obtain financial goals.

For assistance or other financial information, call Army Community Services at 751-5256 and ask to speak with a financial counselor.

Partnership announced

Brig. Gen. Bryan Roberts, Fort Jackson commanding general, speaks at a press conference Tuesday in Columbia. He was joined by, from left, Paul Fant, president of the Carolina Gas Transmission Corporation; Steve Benjamin, Columbia mayor; and Patricia Moore-Pastides, wife of University of South Carolina president Harris Pastides. The press conference announced the launch of a citywide public service initiative, 'One Columbia: City Serve.' The initiative is scheduled to take place April 20-28 and will bring together various government, private, military and non-profit organizations to improve the quality of life in Columbia.

Photo by ANDREW McINTYRE





A DREAM REMEMBERED



Photos by ANDREW McINTYRE

The Fort Jackson community celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with a luncheon at the Solomon Center Friday. Tickets to the event sold out in advance. Above, The Lower Richland High School Choir entertains the audience with gospel music. Top left, Brig. Gen. Barrye Price, director of human resources policy and deputy chief of staff, G-1 at the Pentagon, gives a presentation discussing little-known facts about King. Left, essays and drawings made by students of C.C. Pinckney Elementary School are on display.



Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

Breaking ground on new headquarters

From left, Capt. Vernon Stevenson, Thad Quarles, a project manager with engineering consulting company Futurenet, and 1st Sgt. Sean Sellers break ground on the construction for a new building for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment last week. Tasked with training new Soldiers on basic rifle marksmanship and combat indoctrination ranges such as Victory Tower, the present headquarters building occupies an old warehouse that has no plumbing. The new headquarters building is being constructed next to this facility, and will provide latrines, running water and showers.



Courtesy photo

Postal clerks retiring

Sparkle Clark and Gloria Woods, who work as postal clerks on Fort Jackson, are retiring today. Woods and Clark combined for more than 66 years of service with the United States Postal Service.



Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

Coordinating emergency efforts

R.J. Frazier, all hazards emergency manager for Fort Jackson, conducts Incident Command Systems training Tuesday at the Directorate of Emergency Services. The training, which seeks to create a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management system, included Emergency Operations Center technicians, fire fighters, law enforcement officers, Red Cross representatives and other agencies tasked with responding to emergencies in the Fort Jackson area.

Are you a bricklayer or cathedral builder?

Last week, our commanding general wrote about the many positive changes occurring across the installation. Sometimes I think it is very easy, particularly for those of us who have been here for a while, to take a very cynical approach to what we see. We base our attitudes on a time when there was little growth, when our construction highlight was relocatable trailers on Tank Hill and when driving through our housing area could leave you downright depressed.

In my first assignment here, I was the director of Victory University, and one of the events we did with our students was to take them to a unit and allow them to observe a Basic Combat Training battalion “pick up/receive” a new class of Soldiers. I left early to find the unit location, and I remember walking into the unit area and calling back to one of our cadre to complain that someone had given me the wrong address, because these buildings were obviously abandoned, had been for a while and were most likely condemned.

That was my first and very lasting impression of Fort Jackson. I remember walking away thinking to myself, “Good gosh, we have all those Soldiers, all those leaders, and this is what we accept. And worse yet, we have the families of those Soldiers visit, and this is how they see America’s Army.”

It just so happened that these barracks were the ones that sat closest to our main gate. The main gate had an old trailer that was falling apart that someone had relocated from a range and placed at that gate for the guards to stay warm. Those buildings have long since been gutted, renovated, and are now proudly housing the 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment. That gate has now been totally reconstructed, and is a thing of beauty. If you come through that area now, your first and most likely, lasting impression will be a positive one.

My point is that times are indeed changing. We have the opportunity to be part of an installation that we can be proud of. Here are some thoughts on how we embrace this effort and take it to a higher and sustainable level.

As in almost everything we do, true change begins with the individual. The will and discipline to make a difference rests in each of us and begins with a sense of ownership. That ownership can be tied to a piece of ground, a cubicle, a building, a GSA van or a platoon of Soldiers. Neglect, damage or misuse of government property is something that is not leveled against some invisible entity considering we are the government.

That problem comes back to rest at our doorsteps — we are just too naïve to understand the impact of the sum of our individual actions. For example, you back your GSA van into a telephone pole because you were not really paying attention because you were talking on your cell phone. We lose the use of that van. Several people have to file reports. We share a van with some other unit, which makes things harder. Someone gets assigned to investigate. Someone has to pay the repair bill. Someone’s rates most likely go up as a result. That someone is us, whether you spell it, us or U. S. it doesn’t matter.

We have to look really hard at ourselves. Are our actions reflective of our spoken desires? Next, studies have shown that the person most capable for changing



Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

Recent renovation of Gate 2 made the main entry point of Fort Jackson much more appealing than it had been for years, which is one of the visual signs of change on the installation.

COMMENTARY

By
**GERALD
HENDERSON**
*Fort Jackson
deputy chief of staff*



an individual’s behavior is not his leader, teacher or family member; it is the individual’s peers.

Think about the strength of that conclusion and how it could be applied if we truly policed ourselves. Think about what could be if none of us walked past a problem and looked away, if we respectfully challenged our peer’s actions or behavior, if rather than talk about what we should do, we did it and pulled our peers along with us.

Visual signs of change occur because of attitudinal changes — changes that cannot be seen or measured, but permeate and inspire us all. It starts with the individual, it boils down to ownership, but if we want to maximize the potential of all individuals we must have a method to harness that energy.

Recently, I read articles on several sports franchises that were introspectively looking at themselves to widen their fan base, create new fans, improve their image and become a model franchise within their respective leagues. In one particular case, the franchise identified

101 potential things about the organization that could be changed to improve the organization. It included things like additional benefits for season-ticket holders, changes to players’ uniforms, halftime entertainment, a new LED scorer’s table, and improved quality of promotional giveaways.

The organization developed its list by allowing fans to provide initial input and then vote on those items that were most important. Once done, the franchise developed a method that allowed its fans the opportunity to see the status of each action and to offer continuous feedback, ultimately providing the fans the opportunity to provide a direction to the organization. That organization is now doing quite well compared to a few years ago.

It is very easy to draw a parallel between Fort Jackson and that franchise. At Fort Jackson, we are all about creating more fans, more devoted fans and giving those who work and live at Fort Jackson an opportunity to be a part of where the installation focuses its efforts. We gather that feedback through a variety of channels. We host a variety of councils, meetings and committees that are provided for attendees to provide input. We have ICE cards, surveys and other methods for soliciting feedback, but I have never felt comfortable that these methods reach the intended audience, the grass root level.

One of the potentially best solutions to providing this feedback is through our quarterly installation town hall meetings. By design, these allow you the opportunity to

See **CHANGE:** Page 14

Leader deadlines

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.
For example, an article for the Feb. 14 Leader must be submitted by today.
Announcement submissions are due one week before publication.

For example, an announcement for the Feb. 14 Leader must be submitted by Feb. 7.
Send your submissions to FJLeader@gmail.com.
For more information, call 751-7045.

Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle's honorees

DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE



Staff Sgt. Vili Moeolo
Company D
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Daniel Romney

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Spc. Virgil Binion

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pfc. Philipmandy Baliola

HIGH BRM

Pvt. Shaylise Honjo



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Harris
Company E
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Israel Maleck

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

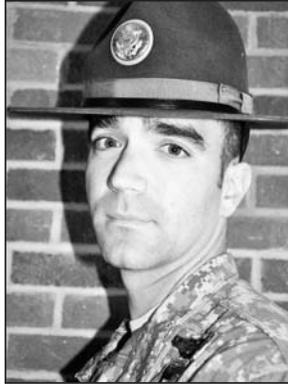
Spc. Shamsoun Dikori

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pfc. Heather Simmons

HIGH BRM

Spc. Gregory Bodnar



Staff Sgt. Bobby Brooks
Company F
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE

Spc. Shawn Bomar

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Lauren Tangonan

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pvt. Corey Lee

HIGH BRM

Spc. Tyrell Jackson

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at <http://www.vimeo.com/user3022628>

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Like us on Facebook.

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Change

Continued from Page 11

come together with your peers, leaders and representatives across the post in an effort to improve ourselves. There are no subjects that are off limits. You can discuss schools, housing, child care, the Exchange, the Commissary, gate hours, traffic, safety, security — any area that you think needs attention; there are no restrictions.

Here's the problem. For the last several years, attendance at the town hall meetings has steadily declined. Regardless of how many free pizzas are offered — our

speakers still outnumber our participants. We achieve next to nothing, and the energy and effort that goes into pulling it all together leaves you questioning the value.

The command is determined to change this. Our desire is to fill a building with people — people who want to bring about positive change. We want to take those ideas and put them into action, and during each subsequent town hall, update the status for each and solicit new ideas. These ideas become nested into our strategic plans and help shape our budgets and goals.

We are going to change our approach to these meetings, do a better job of publicizing, put more command emphasis on attendance and attempt to reach out to all people who live, work and play here.

When the opportunity comes, we ask that you make

the commitment to come and share your thoughts. Again, it starts with you and this is your opportunity to make a difference.

Each of us has the opportunity to make a difference, positive or negative, through words or silence, through action or inaction. It depends on you and how you see yourself. A good friend of mine shared with me this parable the other day. It asks the question, "Are you a brick layer or a cathedral builder?" Three bricklayers working side by side were asked what they were doing. The first brick layer said, "I'm laying bricks." The second one said, "I'm feeding my family." The third one said, "I'm building a cathedral."

The question is — are you a bricklayer or a cathedral builder?

ACS Calendar of Events — February

MONDAY, FEB. 4

☐ **Military scholarship seminar for family members** — 1 to 2 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862

TUESDAY, FEB. 5

☐ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; W.R. Rogers Adult Education Center, 750 Old Clemson Road; to register, call 736-8787/3339

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6

☐ **Post newcomer orientation/tour** — 9 to 11 a.m.; Post Conference Room
 ☐ **Key caller/sponsor a spouse training** — 10 a.m. to noon; Family Readiness Center; to register, call 751-7220.7352
 ☐ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222

THURSDAY, FEB. 7

☐ **Phase II Levy overseas brief** — 10 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
 ☐ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 12:30 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; W.R. Rogers Adult Education Center, Old Clemson Road

FRIDAY, FEB. 8

☐ **Military scholarship seminar for family members** — 9 to 10 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

☐ **Teen summer employment 101 workshop** — 9 a.m. to noon; Family Readiness Center; for more information and to register, call 751-4862
 ☐ **FRG leadership and treasurer/funds control/fundraising workshop** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Family Readiness Center; to register, call 751-7220/7352

MONDAY, FEB. 11

☐ **Interactive interviewing skills workshop** — 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862

TUESDAY, FEB. 12

☐ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
 ☐ **Job searching strategies for military spouses** — 8:30 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862

☐ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; W.R. Rogers Adult Education Center, Old Clemson Road

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13

☐ **How to make the job fair work for you** — 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862
 ☐ **FRG leadership and treasurer/funds control/fundraising workshop** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Family Readiness Center; to register, call 751-7220/7352
 ☐ **EFMP sweetheart social** — 5 p.m.; Main Post Chapel, open to EFMP families

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

☐ **Phase II Levy overseas brief** — 10 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
 ☐ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 12:30 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; W.R. Rogers Adult Education Center, Old Clemson Road

FRIDAY, FEB. 15

☐ **Hearts Apart and Foreign Born Spouses Valentine Social** — 6 to 8:30 p.m.; for more information and to register, call 751-9770/1124

TUESDAY, FEB. 19

☐ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
 ☐ **Resume writing/interviewing skills workshop** — 9 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862
 ☐ **EFMP bowling** — 3 to 5:30 p.m.; Century Lanes; call 751-5256 to register
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; W.R. Rogers Adult Education Center, Old Clemson Road

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

☐ **Financial readiness for first term Soldiers** — 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Education Center, Room B206
 ☐ **Steps to federal employment for military spouses** — 9 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862
 ☐ **Total Army sponsorship training** — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 213
 ☐ **FRG leadership and treasurer/funds control/fundraising workshop** — 5:15 to 8:30 p.m.; Family Readiness Center; to register, call 751-7220/7352

THURSDAY, FEB. 21

☐ **Financial planning for initial PCS move** — 9 to

10:30 a.m.; Education Center, Room B206

☐ **Phase II Levy overseas brief** — 10 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
 ☐ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 12:30 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; W.R. Rogers Adult Education Center, Old Clemson Road

SATURDAY, FEB. 23

☐ **Teen summer employment 101 workshop** — 9 a.m. to noon; Family Readiness Center; for more information and to register, call 751-4862

MONDAY, FEB. 25

☐ **Her War Her Voice support group: Poetry and trauma** — 6:15 p.m.; Family Readiness Center

TUESDAY, FEB. 26

☐ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
 ☐ **Job searching strategies for military spouses** — 8:30 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862/5256
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; W.R. Rogers Adult Education Center, Old Clemson Road

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

☐ **Military scholarship seminar for family members** — 1 to 2 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862
 ☐ **EFMP support group** — 4:30 to 6 p.m.; Community Center Conference Room

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

☐ **Phase II Levy overseas brief** — 10 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
 ☐ **Key caller/sponsor a spouse training** — 10 a.m. to noon; Family Readiness Center; to register, call 751-7220.7352
 ☐ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 12:30 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
 ☐ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; W.R. Rogers Adult Education Center, Old Clemson Road
 ☐ **Social connections through hobbies** — 6 to 8 p.m.; Lake Carolina

All ACS classes require registration and are subject to change. To register, call 751-5256/4862/6325.

Free child care may be available for events. For more information on child care, call 751-1124.



Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.

For example, an article for the Feb. 14 Leader must be submitted by today.

Leader deadlines

Announcement submissions are due one week before publication.

For example, an announcement for the Feb. 14 Leader must

be submitted by Feb. 7.

Send your submissions to FJLeader@gmail.com.

For more information, call 751-7045.

All Along the Watchtower

Fort Jackson adding to its roster of gate guards

By WALLACE McBRIDE
Fort Jackson Leader

Three armed men surrounded John DeMarco, a former Soldier who spent four years of his career stationed on Fort Jackson. The sun was shining, the weather was mild and none of the drivers passing by the Fort Jackson Directorate of Emergency Services building on Jackson Boulevard seemed to notice the scenario playing out behind the building.

"Are you thinking about doing something stupid?" DA Police Lt. James Rowland asked DeMarco.

"No, sir," he responded as the trio moved to circle him.

Rowland was instructing the men on how to approach a belligerent visitor to Fort Jackson, the kind of situation all three will have to occasionally deal with in their new jobs as gate guards. Their training that afternoon included the use of handcuffs, the use extended batons and unarmed self defense.

Fort Jackson is working to bolster its roster of guards, presently training three new guards for duty with a handful more expected to join their ranks in coming weeks.



Victor Cole removes his handcuffs from his belt at the start of Tuesday's gate guard training exercise.

"We went from 58 to 37 gate guards last year," said Lt. Col. Raymond Simons, director of emergency services for Fort Jackson. "At that time, we had contract security guards as well as Department of the Army security guards. But, when we lost that contract, we lost our contract security guards."

Since then, Fort Jackson has been able to replace a fraction of the lost job slots, with only 23 of the authorized 37 guards on duty by the end of 2012, said Fernando Vasquez, chief of physical security for the post.

"The new guards have to have some kind of guard or law enforcement experience," Vasquez said. "For the most part, we're looking for veterans, but they'll all have to undergo three weeks of training as mandated by Army regulations."

Four more gate guards are in the process of being hired, he said.

"People are going to expect the same level of service with 37 guards that they were getting with 59 guards," Vasquez said.

Vasquez does not anticipate the addition of these guards to have a significant impact on traffic flow at the gates, he said.

"Right now, we're operating with less than 37 guards, but I think they're doing a great job," Simons said. "If there are any more changes, they won't be transparent to the public. If we extend hours, though, it will be based on decisions made by the garrison commander and commanding general."

By Feb. 17, the post should have 33 guards trained and working the gates, Vasquez said.

Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil



DA Police Lt. James Rowland, left, instructs John DeMarco on the correct use of an extended baton during a group training session Tuesday outside the Directorate of Emergency Services. The guard roster was reduced in 2012 after the elimination of a private service contract. DeMarco is one of three men now training for work as a gate guard on Fort Jackson.



Top, Victor Cole observes as DA Police Lt. James Rowland demonstrates the proper use of handcuffs. Middle, Rowland, Cole, John DeMarco and Brandon Hillian practice using the extended baton. Above, DeMarco walks through a handcuff exercise with Cole as Hillian observes in the background.



Jesse Davis, one of the men training for duty as a gate guard, spent Wednesday morning participating in operations at Gate 2.

CMYK

CMYK

27" WEB-100

Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 9

CYSS sweetheart ball

7 to 9 p.m.; Solomon Center

Tickets are available at all CYSS locations.

Friday, Feb. 15

Hearts Apart and Foreign Born Spouses Valentine's celebration

6 to 8 p.m.; Joe E. Mann Center

For more information and to register, call 751-9770/1124. Registration is required by Feb. 12.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Seminar: How to make the job fair work for you

9 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222

To register, call 751-4862.

Tuesday, March 5

2013 Hiring our Heroes veterans event

9 a.m. to noon; Solomon Center

To register, visit www.hoh.greatjob.net.

Announcements

SAT, ACT TESTING

The Fort Jackson Education Center will administer SAT testing Feb. 22, March 8, April 5, May 3 and June 7. ACT testing is scheduled for Feb. 8, March 15, April 12, May 10 and June 14. Testing is available to eligible service members only. For more information and to register, call 751-5341.

RECLAMATION SALE

A military clothing reclamation sale is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, at 2570 Warehouse Row. The cash-only sale is open to military personnel of all ranks and to military retirees. For more information, call 751-7213.

NFFE ELECTIONS

The National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 1214 will hold elections Feb. 12 at the Union Hall. The polls will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Any member who has paid dues and is in good standing is permitted to vote.

The candidates for president are Jeffery Richardson, Directorate of Emergency Services; Melony Peters, Training Support and Schools Directorate; and Theodore Cole, 171st Infantry Brigade. For a list of candidates for all positions, email usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.jackson-nffe-1214@mail.mil.

PAALS PATRIOTS CLASS

Palmetto Animal Assisted Living Services will offer a free class to active-duty Soldiers and veterans who are experiencing emotional difficulties in response to combat experiences. The class, PAALS Patriots, focuses on working with service dogs in training. It will also incorporate work with therapy horses. The six-week class will begin in February and is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays at the Main Post Chapel. For more information, call Jean Rogers at 920-0042.

MUSEUM CLOSURE

The Basic Combat Training Museum will be closed Feb. 25 through March 8 for outdoor renovations.

LIFEGUARD CLASSES

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is offering lifeguard certification classes every month. For more information, call Amanda Orduno at 751-4796.

DART LEAGUE SIGN-UP

Letters of intent for darts are due to the Sports Office today. The league is open to all DoD ID card holders and will begin play 5:30 p.m., Feb. 7 at Magruder's Pub. For more information, call 751-3096.

SOCCER SIGN-UP

Letters of intent for unit-level 11-person soccer are due to the Sports Office Feb. 7. For more information, call 751-3096.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 5K

Registration for the Black History Month 5K fun walk/run is open. The run is scheduled for 8 a.m., Feb. 23 at Hilton Field Softball Complex. Race-day registration is open from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Pets or bicycles are not allowed. For more information, call 751-3096.

FREE COMIC BOOK

A free Avengers comic book for military children, titled, "Double Vision," is now available at the Exchange.

GARDEN PLOTS RENEWAL

Garden plots in Victory Garden and in family housing are up for renewal. Permits are valid for 12 months, beginning Friday. Garden plots are issued first to permanent party Soldiers, then to retired service members. Remaining plots are available to civilian employees. For more information, call 751-7126.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Army Emergency Relief is now accepting applications for the MG James Ursano scholarship. The scholarship program assists spouses and children of active and retired Soldiers in obtaining a four-year undergraduate degree. Recipients must apply each year and may receive assistance for up to four years. For more information, visit www.aerhq.org.

COMMISSARY NEWS

Students can now apply for the 2013 Scholarships for Military Children Program. The program awards at least \$1,500 at each commissary. Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of

business Feb. 22. For more information, visit www.commissaries.com or www.militaryscholar.org.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Golden Carriage Program provides free ball gowns for spouses of active-duty service members E5 and below.

No winter clothing will be accepted after March 6.

Applications for the summer hire program can be picked up at the Thrift Shop. Applications may not be turned in before April 9.

Visit the community calendar at www.jackson.army.mil for a full listing of calendar events.

Send your announcements to fjleader@gmail.com.



Friday, Feb. 1 — 7 p.m.

This is 40 R

Saturday, Feb. 2 — 2 p.m.

The Hobbit:
An Unexpected Journey PG-13

Sunday, Feb. 3 — 2 p.m.

This is 40 R

Wednesday, Feb. 6 — 1:30 p.m.

Skyfall PG-13

Wednesday, Feb. 6 — 4:30 p.m.

Red Dawn PG-13

For more listings, visit www.aafes.com or call 751-7488.

Retiring from service

Six members of the Fort Jackson community are honored for their service during Retirement Review Tuesday at the Post Theater. The retirees are 1st Sgt. Pamela Frazier, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Wolff, Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Smith, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Harris, Sgt. Troy Bentley, and Lillie Foxx.

Photo by DAVID SHANES, command photographer



Follow parking restrictions

*From the Directorate
of Emergency Services*

Recent emergency responses to unit areas have identified issues with improperly parked vehicles, unauthorized unit designated parking spaces, and equipment storage areas that violate Unified Facilities Code (UFC) 4-010-02, DoD minimum antiterrorism standoff distances for buildings, Fort Jackson and national fire safety codes, and emergency response vehicle access requirements.

Units must comply with the current UFC, which prohibits the parking of any vehicle within 12 feet of any building designated a high risk target (for example barracks or a primary gathering facility), or a mission essential vulnerable area (such as a power generation building, electrical substation, or natural gas node). Additionally, storage of equipment that impedes the access or egress from a building is prohibited. The Fort Jackson regulation on fire safety codes states the following rules for parking:

- Vehicles must not be parked within 15 feet in any direction of a fire hydrant.
- Vehicles must not be parked in areas where a building's exit travel will be obstructed.
- All vehicles parked inside a garage or a repair garage must have the key left in the ignition in case of a fire or other emergency.
- Vehicles must not be parked in fire lanes. The large walkways leading to unit areas are designated as fire lanes.
- Vehicles must not be parked in any way that would



block fire protection devices such as Fire Department connections, sprinkler system features, and post indicator valves.

- Vehicles must not be parked in any troop formation area under the starship barracks.

The Directorate of Emergency Services will notify units of violations by placing notes on vehicles and equipment that need to be moved. Citations will be issued for vehicle and equipment owners who have not taken corrective actions.

For more information, call Fire Prevention at 751-1611 or the antiterrorism officer at 751-2132.

Court martial

U.S. V. PUENTES

A military judge accepted Sgt. Elizabeth Puentes' guilty plea on one charge of larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500 during a special court-martial Jan. 28.

Puentes was sentenced to 3 months confinement and reduction in rank to E3.

Puentes was assigned as a drill sergeant to the 193rd Infantry Brigade.



twitter

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MACH employee honored for volunteerism

By **ANDRE BUTLER**

Moncrief Army Community Hospital

A Moncrief Army Community Hospital technician was recently presented with a citation for his volunteer efforts throughout South Carolina.

Allen Gotbeter, a supply technician at MACH, and a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, received the President's Volunteer Service Award Jan. 13 in Orangeburg for volunteering countless hours to various causes across the state.

"Allen has donated an extensive amount of his personal time to youth and other venues in South Carolina," said Gerry Kirkland, state chairman for the South Carolina Elks Drug Awareness Program. Kirkland like Gotbeter is a member of the Elks, and they have known each other for the past six years.

Kirkland is also the one who nominated Gotbeter for the award.

"He is an exceptional individual," Kirkland said. "Throughout his years of volunteer service, Allen has (clocked more than) 4,000 hours helping others."

Gotbeter is known for his "Hoop Shoot" program in the community.

"When I think of Allen, 'Hoop Shoot' comes to mind," Kirkland said.

He is the pioneer of the program that is designed to help

children from 8 to 13, Kirkland said.

"The program is a free throw competition for girls and boys in the area," Gotbeter said. "The contest starts out locally and (ends) up on the national stage."

The winner of the national competition has his or her name enshrined on a plaque in the Basketball Hall of Fame. Soldiers volunteer and help with the program.

"It's just amazing to see how the kids interact with the Soldiers who help me out," Gotbeter said. "The Soldiers think it is pretty cool too. ... The kids like to high-five the service members whenever they see them."

Gotbeter said seeing the children smile makes it worth it to him. Veterans are also a major priority for Gotbeter and the organization.

"We volunteer our time to our veterans because they deserve it," he said. "And as our motto states, 'As long as there are veterans, we are there to help them,' whether in the hospital or not."

Gotbeter also volunteers time to the drug awareness program.

"Where we can assist in the community, we do," he said. "There are a lot of kids out there who need our help and guidance. ... That is why we volunteer."

Kirkland views Gotbeter's volunteer service as above and beyond the norm.

"He is an American in all aspects of the idea," Kirkland said. "Allen is the perfect example of the type of person deserving of such an award."



Photo by STAFF SGT. TOMEKA DeBRUCE, MACH

Allen Gotbeter, a supply technician with Moncrief Army Community Hospital, received the President's Volunteer Service Award Jan. 13.

MACH UPDATES

TRICARE CHANGES FOR RESERVES

Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve need to switch to an electronic form of payment. TRICARE now only accepts monthly premium payments using recurring automatic payments by credit or debit card or by recurring electronic funds transfer from a linked bank account.

For more information and to set up automatic payments, contact your regional contractor. Contact information is available at www.tricare.mil/contacts.

ACCESS CALL CENTER CHANGE

Moncrief Army Community Hospital beneficiaries will no longer be able to call the Access Call Center to leave a voice

message to request an appointment, effective Friday. Patients may call the Access Call Center at 751-CARE (2273) to schedule an appointment from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit www.tricareonline.com

MACH WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

The Pathway is a free weight management program provided by MACH's Nutrition Clinic. Introductory classes are offered 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at MACH, Room 8-85. "Lunch with the Dietitian" will be offered the second Wednesday of the month in the MACH Dining Facility from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. For more information, call 751-2489.

Like the Leader on Facebook. Log on to your account and search for "Fort Jackson Leader."



**Your health care
is a click away**

**Moncrief Army Community Hospital
Integrated Health Clinic
Medical Home**

With online services from Army Medicine Secure Messaging Service you can:

- Book appointments
- Request/review lab and test results
- Request medication refills
- Request a referral
- Email your doctor a question
- Schedule web visits with your doctor

It's health care that clicks.

To register for online services ask your health care team in the Integrated Health Clinic Medical Home or visit: <http://www.relayhealth.com>.



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WTU town hall focuses on healthy lifestyle

By **ANDRE BUTLER**

Moncrief Army Community Hospital

The Warrior Transition Unit conducted a “Health and Wellness” town hall meeting Jan. 17 at Vanguard Gym to weigh in and start the unit’s “Biggest Loser” contest which continues through March.

Unit leaders organize town hall meetings to provide Soldiers and their family members with information on important issues facing the organization.

“We host these meeting monthly to determine and assess our command climate as well as check on our Soldiers and their families,” said Maj. Lisa Yanity, WTU commander.

“Our unit is very unique,” Yanity said. “We are set up to help Soldiers transition back to military service or achieve their veteran status. But in doing so we need to make sure our service members understand they are still a part of a military organization, and there are standards and regulations that we must follow — which is why the contest is one way the WTU can come together and support each other with weight loss.”

The Army has always been keen on health, nutrition and overall Soldier well-being. And the military is just one of a many organizations to celebrate March as Health and Nutrition Month.

“There are three main pillars of fitness and readiness that the Army has always instilled in the force — spiritual, emotional and physical awareness,” said Sgt. Maj. Vincent Bond, Moncrief Army Community Hospital command sergeant major. “And physical ability is directly related to nutrition. What we eat gives us the fuel needed to perform our duties as warfighters. (This) is a part of the performance triad consisting of activity, nutrition and sleep.”

“Good healthy diets are important to a Soldier’s lifestyle,” he said. “And in order for us to continue being an elite force, we must follow the principles and guidelines given to remain healthy.”

The WTU also asked Moncrief Army Community Hos-



Photo by STAFF SGT. TOMEKA DeBRUCE, Moncrief Army Community Hospital

First. Lt. Jordan DeMay, a dietitian with Moncrief Army Community Hospital, talks with Soldiers of the Warrior Transition Unit about nutritional health before the start of the unit’s ‘Biggest Loser’ contest Jan. 17 at Vanguard Gym.

pital’s Nutrition Care Division to offer pointers to Soldiers who are participating in the competition.

“I spoke to them about basic nutritional health,” said 1st Lt. Jordan DeMay, MACH chief installation dietetics and Patient Center Medical Home dietitian. “And I provided information on self evaluation and (the Soldiers’) diet and activity. I wanted the Soldiers to know and understand that they needed to establish good goals aimed at improving behaviors related to their health.”

Currently, 123 Soldiers are assigned to the WTU.

She said she wanted to give everyone able to participate in the event the opportunity to do so.

“We are a very adaptable unit,” she said. “Everyone, regardless their injury, can take part in the competition,” Yanity said.

“It is our responsibility to make sure our Soldiers are positively engaged in activities geared toward them staying healthy,” Yanity said.

Imagination is part of our nature

By **CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) GEORGE PERRY**
2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

We live in a world saturated with the products of human imagination. Whether it is the ever-growing capabilities of our phones, or the inescapable flood of advertising around us, modern America is a wildly imaginative place.

This thing we call imagination is part of our nature, because the one who created us in his image has an indescribable imagination. Psalm 8:3 says, *“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained ...”*

Sadly though, in this fallen world, imagination is often a source of vast wickedness. Genesis 6:5 says, *“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*

Consider the instant availability of pornography on cell phones — devices that did not even exist just a few years ago. Of course, healthy material is also available in vast variety.

How can we check on our own imagination? What goes on inside us (and inside those around us) is often revealed by words. Matthew 12:34 reminds us that *“... out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”* Of course, some of us are pretty good at keeping secrets. Yet there is still one who knows *“... for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts.”* (1 Chronicles 28:9)

A second way we see imagination at work is in people's conduct. Isn't that just what all kinds of coaches and motivational speakers tell us? Visualize — dream big! Jeremiah 7:24 tells us, *“They hearkened ... walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.”* We act on our imagination.

If much of what we say and do is guided by our imagination, and if much of our real nature is revealed in what goes on in our imagination, then this is certainly a place



Photo illustration by METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

The writer encourages readers to feed their imagination rightly and let their words reflect their hearts.

of spiritual conflict for us. *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Doubt is imagination gone sour. We lose confidence as we fall under the power of fear. False confidence and overconfidence are dangers, but true confidence is what moves us forward as far as we can go. Valid confidence

makes us a blessing to ourselves and to others.

The world draws us into imaginary scenes that make us dissatisfied with reality. Many relationships and marriages have been spoiled by ideas of what should happen or how things should be — ideas that were not real or were not appropriate. We see things that make us dissatisfied, so we do the wrong thing looking for the satisfaction that we think should be ours.

Let me conclude with three suggestions:

- Feed imagination rightly, not wrongly.
- Monitor your tongue to see your heart.
- Deliberately yield to the Spirit.

Worship & Praise

PROTESTANT

- Sunday
 - 8:30 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel (first service)
 - 9 a.m. McCrady Chapel (SCARNG), McCrady Training Center
 - 9:30 a.m. Hispanic, Post Theater
 - 9:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
 - 10:15 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel (second service)
 - 10:45 a.m. Sunday school, Main Post Chapel
 - 11 a.m. Memorial Chapel
 - 11 a.m. Chapel Next, Bayonet Chapel

Protestant Bible Study

- Monday
 - 7 p.m. Women's Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
- Tuesday
 - 9:30 a.m. to noon Women's Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
- Wednesday
 - 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fresh encounter Bible study, Chaplain Family Life Center

- 6 p.m. Gospel prayer service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 7 p.m. Gospel Bible study, Daniel Circle Chapel
- Saturday
 - 8 a.m. Men's prayer breakfast (PMOC), Main Post Chapel (every second Saturday of the month in the activity room)

Protestant Youth of the Chapel

- Saturday
 - 11 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel youth group, Dorn VA Hospital (first Saturday of each month)
- Sunday
 - 5 to 6:30 p.m. Club Beyond youth group, Chaplain Family Life Center

CATHOLIC

- Monday through Thursday
 - 11:30 a.m. Mass, Main Post Chapel
- Sunday
 - 8 a.m. IET Mass, Solomon Center
 - 9:30 a.m. CCD (September through May), Education Center
 - 9:30 a.m. Religious ed class for adults (September through May), Main Post Chapel
 - 9:30 a.m. Religious ed class for children (September through May), Main Post Chapel
 - 10:30 a.m. Reconciliation (after Mass or by appointment), Main Post Chapel
 - 11 a.m. Mass (Main Post Chapel)
 - 12:30 p.m. Catholic youth ministry, Main Post Chapel

- Wednesday
 - 7 p.m. Rosary, Main Post Chapel
 - 7:30 p.m. RCIA/Adult inquiry (September through May), Main Post Chapel

ANGLICAN/LITURGICAL

- Sunday
 - 8 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

ISLAMIC

- Sunday
 - 8 to 10 a.m. Islamic studies, Main Post Chapel
- Friday
 - 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. Jumah services, Main Post Chapel

JEWISH

- Sunday
 - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Worship service, Memorial Chapel
 - 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Jewish book study, Post Conference Room

CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Sunday
 - 11:30 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

- Wednesday
 - 3 to 5 p.m. LDS family social, Anderson Street Chapel
- Wednesday
 - 7 to 8 p.m. LDS scripture study, Anderson Street Chapel

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.
- Chaplain Family Life Center**
5460 Marion Ave (to the side of the POV lot), 751-4961
- Magruder Chapel**
4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883
- Main Post Chapel**
4580 Scales Ave., corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard, 751-6469/6681
- McCrady Chapel (SCARNG)**
3820 McCrady Road (located at McCrady Training Center)
- Memorial Chapel**
4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324
- Warrior Chapel (120th AG Bn.)**
1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427
- Installation Chaplain's Office**
4475 Gregg St., 751-3121/6318