SHOULDERING THE TASK

DRILL SERGEANT A TOP GRADUATE IN RANGER COURSE — PAGE 4
Staff Sgt. Matthew Vitug, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, was an honor graduate in his class at Ranger School. SEE PAGE 4.

The Thanksgiving dinner for retirees will be served from 1:30 to 4 p.m., Nov. 27 at Building 5454, the dining facility for 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment. The cost is $7.70 per meal. The discounted rate of $6.55 is available to spouses and dependents of enlisted personnel in pay grades E-1 through E-4. For more information, call 751-7274.

'Tis the season

Billy Swatzell receives a flu shot from Sgt. Allen Steele, Moncrief Army Community Hospital, at The Exchange Friday. For information on where and when to get flu shots, see Page 19.

THANKSGIVING MEAL SCHEDULE

The Thanksgiving dinner for retirees will be served from 1:30 to 4 p.m., Nov. 27 at Building 5454, the dining facility for 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment. The cost is $7.70 per meal. The discounted rate of $6.55 is available to spouses and dependents of enlisted personnel in pay grades E-1 through E-4. For more information, call 751-7274.

Thanksgiving meal schedule for units:

Nov. 26 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. 120th Adjuant General Battalion (Reception)  Bldg. 1875
Nov. 26 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Lightning Battalion; 2-39th  Bldg. 10401
Nov. 26 Noon to 2 p.m. Drill Sergeant School  Bldg. 9572
Nov. 27 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 369th AG Battalion; 187th Ordnance Battalion  Bldg. 2302
Nov. 27 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. 3-34th; 1-61st  Bldg. 11900
Nov. 27 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. 3-13th; 3-60th  Bldg. 5454
Nov. 27 Noon to 3 p.m. 2-13th  Bldg. 4270
Nov. 27 5 to 6:30 p.m. 1-34th  Bldg. 11500

Commanding General...................Maj. Gen. Bradley A. Becker
Garrison Commander....................Col. Michael S. Graese
Public Affairs Officer........................Michael B. Pond
Editor/Staff writer..........................Susanne Kappler
Staff writer.................................Wallace McBride
Staff writer.................................Andrew McIntyre

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The 2014 Fort Jackson Family of the Year is the Ewers Family. The family was nominated along with 21 other families who serve on Fort Jackson.

Each family was recognized by the Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker, Fort Jackson’s commanding general; his wife, Sherri; and Post Command Sergeant Major William Hain for its service at the Fort Jackson Family of the Year ceremony, Friday at the Solomon Center.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized with the rest of the families who dedicate so much to Fort Jackson,” said Matthew Ewers, a financial administrative specialist with the 81st Regional Support Command. “We are very proud to win this award because Fort Jackson is recognizing what we do as a family. My wife and I are very involved with Fort Jackson schools and with our three boys and their Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.”

Ewers is also an Army Reserve sergeant first class assigned to the 108th Training Command. His wife, Holly, among her many volunteer positions in the Fort Jackson community, is the president for the Parent Teacher Organization of C.C. Pinckney Elementary School. The Ewers have three children — Michael, 10, Aiden, 4, and Nicholas, 2.

“The Ewers family is very involved in the community,” said Marilynn Bailey, Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator. “They are always willing to lend a hand whenever they can, even when their plate is running over. They are an outstanding family.”

As the new Fort Jackson Family of the Year, the Ewers will take part in the installation’s holiday activities by lighting the Christmas tree and menorah at a ceremony at 5 p.m., Dec. 3 at Post Headquarters.

Bailey said the Family of the Year ceremony recognizes families’ contributions to the Fort Jackson community and builds family morale.

“These families make many outstanding contributions and sacrifices to the military and to the Fort Jackson community,” she said. “This celebration is also a part of the National Month of the Military Family. Families are being honored all over the nation. This event makes families feel special, and they are aware that the military cares.”

Each of the 21 families received a Thanksgiving dinner after the ceremony, a fruit basket, a plaque and a Department of the Army certificate of commendation signed by Becker.

Becker said he was proud of each nominated family and honored to be part of the event.

Andrew.R.McIntyre.civ@mail.mil

Families of the Year

Carole and Joseph Coveney, Garrison
Gregory and Melissa Welch, Garrison
Staff Sgt. Eric and Natalie Avalos, 3-13th
Staff Sgts. Emma and Charles Anderson, 1-34th
Sgt. 1st Class Jason and Lauri Duke, 3-34th
Sgt. 1st Class Felicia and Joshua Dahl, 1-34th
Command Sgt. Maj. Edward and Martha Ellis-Kelsey, 3-34th
Staff Sgt. Jacqueline and Michael Grotenhuis, 3-34th
1st Sgt. Gary and Master Sgt. Thipmalay Lynn, Lightning Battalion
Staff Sgt. Nolan and Maria McGee, 3-13th
Sgt. 1st Class Franklin and Jennifer Pipes, 1-34th
Staff Sgt. Tonya Robertson, 165th
Lt. Col. Scott and Lori Sonsalla, 3-34th
Sgt. 1st Class Joseph and Michelle Turley, 3-34th
Staff Sgt. Matthew and Judy Governor, 187th
Capt. Jeffrey and Leanne Kocian, 120th
Staff Sgt. Jeremy and Brandy Timm, 187th
Sgt. 1st Class Steven and Jamie Martz, 369th
Matthew and Holly Ewers, 81st RSC
Sgt. 1st Class Robert and Christina Holder, MEDDAC
Sgt. Demetria and Staff Sgt. Spencer Wilson, DENTAC

Photo by ANDREW McINTYRE, Fort Jackson Leader
About five weeks into Ranger School, Staff Sgt. Matthew Vitug was ready to surrender.

It was during the second stage of the program, dubbed the Mountain Phase, that Vitug said he began to doubt his ability to follow through on his plans to become a Ranger. The Mountain Phase takes place miles away from civilization at Camp Merrill, located near Dahlonega, Georgia. He was tired, hungry and, during the night, fatigue was beginning to take its toll.

But fatigue alone wasn’t what haunted him.

“I started missing my kids and wife,” he said. “We had been walking, and it seemed like forever. Every step I took I wanted to quit. I started thinking about my kids and remembered watching ‘Frozen’ before I left.”

While making his way through the darkness, Vitug said he began to sing some of the songs from the Disney film, songs he had sung for his young daughter.

“There was this grown man singing songs from ‘Frozen’ in the middle of the night,” he said. “And I started thinking about what my wife would think if I quit. It was my ‘Come to Jesus’ moment.”

Ultimately, Vitug not only finished the course, but graduated with honors. He said it meant more than just crowning a three-year stint as a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson. It also meant realizing a professional goal he’s envisioned before joining the Army.

“I’ve been trying to get into Ranger School since about six months after I became a drill sergeant,” said Vitug, who is assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment. Vitug said professional and personal obstacles were preventing him from participating in the elite school, located at Fort Benning, Georgia. A chance encounter with Fort Jackson’s commanding general changed that, though.

Vitug said he met Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker during Victory Forge, an extended exercise that caps Army Basic Combat Training.

“He recognized that I was a third-year drill sergeant and asked me why I was doing a third year,” Vitug said. “I told him it was for Ranger School ... and that nobody wanted me to go.”

Becker personally signed off on Vitug’s request to attend the school, he said.

Vitug, whose military occupational specialty is military policeman, received the enlisted leadership award in his class.

“It could not be more proud of Staff Sgt. Vitug, though I am not surprised by his superior performance at the U.S. Army Ranger School,” Becker said. “Ranger School is the Army’s premier small unit leadership school, and Fort Jackson has some of the Army’s very best NCO leaders. Vitug is a perfect example of the high quality NCOs we have training and developing our next generation of Soldiers. Not only did Vitug complete one of the Army’s toughest schools, he stood out as the best of the best.”

Vitug said he appreciated the commanding general’s support.

“It was definitely a cool experience for General Becker to take a shot in the dark on this non-infantry, non-combat-arms guy who just wanted to go to Ranger School,” he said.

Vitug said his responsibilities as a drill sergeant did not allow him time to prepare for the physical and mental rigors of Ranger School. It might not have mattered if he had, though, because the physical challenges had little in common with the physical training tools found elsewhere in the Army.

Some of the physical training exercises are actually considered obsolete today, he said. That didn’t stop the instructors from demanding the best from their Soldiers, though.

“I remember looking back and thinking, ‘We’re in TRADOC. They have to stop.’ But there’s no repetition where they have to stop,” he said. “There’s no exercise they can or can’t do. They have their own way of weeding out the weak.”

The nature of the challenges varied throughout the 61-day course, but were always exceptionally challenging. Unsurprisingly, Soldiers began to wash out almost immediately. The class began with 386 people, he said. 31 graduated straight through; 85 Soldiers graduated in all.

“I don’t think there’s a way to prepare for the ‘suck’ of it,” Vitug said. “The rucksacks were just goddy — the winter packing list was 110 pounds and 160 pounds, depending on your place within the platoon. I didn’t prep for that here. My time as a drill sergeant didn’t allow me the time to prepare.”

The first day was a shock, he said. The majority of the Soldiers who wash out of Ranger School do so during the first four days, but Vitug said he was surprised when people began to drop out of the program within minutes of being rousted out of bed on the first day.

“The whole day I saw people getting dropped, for lack of attention to detail or quitting,” he said. “It was pretty insane, but it wasn’t much different than what we do as drill sergeants, providing organized chaos to a private. It was just amplified for us.”

He said the tone changed radically on the last day of testing.

“It was like we’d joined a brotherhood,” he said. “The guys who were jokingly this hell upon us were suddenly calling us by our names. They were trying to guide us, telling us what our obligations are now that we’re Rangers. It should be something we embody.”

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Eighty employers visited the Solomon Center Tuesday to meet with veterans and military retirees as a part of the nationwide “Hiring our Heroes” campaign.

“This is the fourth year, and I believe we have more employers here today than we’ve had in any of those four years, so it’s exciting time. It really shows that Columbia is the most military friendly community in the U.S.,” said Boyd Jones, chairman of the board of the Columbia Chamber.

Ernie Lombardi, Southeast senior regional associate for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, said the idea of the “Hiring our Heroes” job fair is straightforward.

“The whole premise of “Hiring our Heroes” is very simple,” Lombardi said. “We have more than 200 veterans and retirees here today and, we want to put these veterans, retirees, military spouses — whatever they might be — in front of the employers to have a one-on-one, face-to-face conversation about the opportunities these employers have to offer and give these veterans and spouses the opportunity to talk about what it is they do.”

The job fair opened with an address from the Fort Jackson Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker.

“This is a tough time for all services,” Becker said. “The military across the board is drawing down, and we’re asking some really terrific folks to leave the service. In some cases, some of those people have served a long meaningful service and have chosen to retire and transition. ... We have a lot of folks transitioning, and this is really important opportunity for them to continue their service within our communities by finding meaningful employment.”

Darrell Bell, a retired Army National Guard Soldier was among the job seekers at the event.

“I came out because I need employment, so I came to see what was available,” Bell said. “The employers are really excited and eager to hire. Many of the employers are accepting resumes on the spot, giving business card and some are sending you to their website to submit your resume.”

Carolyn Andrews, Fort Jackson’s transition services manager for the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program, said in many cases the dialogue for employment will continue after the job fair.

“There is a Hiring our Heroes website. Those who pre-registered for this event will be able to have dialogue with their employers through the ... website after they meet here today,” Andrews said. “Any veteran or retiree can register at any point. The good thing is that once (the job seekers) register they are connected with employers, and when opportunities come up they will be notified.”

Adanis Vasquez, who served in the Marine Corps, said he was able to follow up with an application that he submitted a few days ago.

“I talked with one of the employers that I submitted a resume to, and I met one of the recruiters here. He gave me his card and told me to give him a call him. I will, who knows what will come from that, but it helped,” Vasquez said.

Becker thanked all the employers for their support and the veterans for their service. He wished them the best of luck on their transition.

“I just want to tell you that the Army in all components — active, Reserve and the National Guard — we stand behind you as a Soldier for life through this transition, and it obvious by the turnout here of all these employers that this community stands behind you as well,” Becker said.

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The Army and the RAND Corporation are working together to conduct a Soldier needs assessment survey through December at 45 Army installations.

Today’s Soldier Survey is available online to randomly selected active-duty Soldiers, who will be notified by email that they have been selected to participate.

Soldiers will be able to respond to questions on problems they and their families have experienced over the past year. The results of the survey will help senior leaders identify the needs of Soldiers and their families, how Soldiers prioritize those needs and how the Army can best address the most pressing unmet needs — whether through Army-provided services or community and non-federal entity partnerships.

“The challenges that face Soldiers and families are complex and diverse,” said Gen. Raymond Odierno, Army chief of staff. “As Army leaders, we’re asking for input from our Soldiers to help us prioritize resources and services most important to them and to their families. We must ensure that support services are both needed and effective.”

“This survey is a path for Soldiers to help senior Army leaders understand the Soldier’s point of view,” said Cara Sims, RAND project manager. “We need to understand how Soldiers prioritize problems and how they address those problems.”

“Especially in a time of declining resources, the Army wants to be sure it is prioritizing services that are important to Soldiers,” Sims said. “We want to be sure that services are effective in helping Soldiers manage their needs and the needs of their families.”

Traditional Department of Defense and Department of Army-provided services or community and non-federal resources are valued the most by Soldiers and family members.

The Army evaluations ask Soldiers and family members about their use of existing on-post programs. This survey, however, places the experiences of today’s Soldiers first, asking what types of problems they recently experienced, how they prioritized problems, if they sought help from Army or non-Army resources, and if they ultimately received the support they needed.

“Unchecked problems among Soldiers and their families can grow into time-consuming distractions for them, for units, and for commanders,” Sims said. “Unmet needs can negatively affect Soldier and family well-being as well as unit morale, retention and readiness.”

For more information, visit http://www.rand.org/surveys/todays-soldier.html.
**USACHCS receives Columbia Choice Award**

Chaplain (Col.) Pete Sniffin, right, deputy commandant of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, accepts the Columbia Choice Award in the category New Construction and Site Development Nov. 12 at the Columbia Museum of Art. The award was presented by Columbia Green and the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission to recognize businesses, organizations and individuals whose work has significantly enhanced the appearance and quality of life in the Columbia area. USACHCS received the award in recognition of its Chaplains Memorial Garden. Also pictured is Mark Schimoeller of Southern Vistas, Inc., who designed the memorial.

Photo by JULIA SIMPKINS, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

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**SSI celebrates native American heritage**

The Soldier Support Institute celebrated National American Indian Heritage Month Tuesday with a special video screening that showcased the contributions of Native American Soldiers to the ‘code talkers’ initiative during World War II. Right, Alan Linnemann, president and chairman of the board of directors for the Native American Indian Chamber of Commerce of South Carolina, is the guest speaker for the event. Linnemann is the first non-Native American to be elected to the position.

Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE
Fort Jackson recycles

Above, Robert Sloan, a civilian with the Defense Logistics Agency, throws electronics cords into the e-waste bin at the Fort Jackson Recycle Center Friday. The Environmental Division hosted America Recycles Day, which is nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and buy recycled products. The Recycling Center collected 280 pounds of tires, 20 pounds of batteries and 6,500 pounds of e-waste. Left, Pvt. Thomas Rios, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, and William Sexton, a firefighter with the Fort Jackson Fire Department, unload a truck with fire extinguishers to be recycled. The Recycling Center collected almost 400 fire extinguishers Friday.

Photos by ANDREW McINTYRE
I swear

Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker, Fort Jackson commanding general, pictured on the screen, swears in future Soldiers from the Columbia Recruiting Battalion during the Colonial Cup steeplechase Saturday in Camden.

Wildcats honor veterans

Maj. Gen. Janet Cobb, commanding general of the 81st Regional Support Command, is the guest speaker at the seventh annual Capital City Club of Columbia’s Veterans Day Celebration Nov. 11. The 208th Army Band performed a tribute to veterans during the event.

Photo by L.A. SULLY U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Columbia

Photo by Staff Sgt. Toshiko Gregg
81st Regional Support Command
Army completes study about force reduction

By CATHY KROPP
U.S. Army Environmental Command

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The Department of the Army announced the availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact for the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment.

The Army evaluated the environmental impact of potential reductions of active-component Soldiers and Army civilians at 30 installations. The Army determined that there are no significant impacts, other than socioeconomic impacts, and that preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

As a result of current budgetary projections, the Army must reduce its Active Component end strength to a level below that analyzed in the January 2013 Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The supplemental environmental assessment built on the 2013 assessment and analyzed the impact of a potential reduction of an additional 70,000 Soldiers and associated Army civilians, down to an Active Component end strength of 420,000. These reductions are necessary to meet the spending levels required by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Nearly all Army installations will be affected in some way by the reductions. The 2013 assessment evaluated 21 Army installations and joint bases where Army stationing changes could result in the inactivation and restructuring of brigade combat teams, or a combined loss of 1,000 or more Army employees during by fiscal 2020. With deeper reductions now anticipated, the supplemental assessment evaluated the original 21 installations for greater cuts as well as nine additional installations.

Both the 2013 assessment and 2014 supplemental analyzed potential reductions at Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Drum, New York; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Irwin, California; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Stewart, Georgia; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and, United States Army Garrison Hawaii — Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The supplemental also analyzed potential reductions at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Fort Meade, Maryland; Fort Rucker, Alabama; Joint Base San Antonio — Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and USAG Hawaii — Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

The Army received more than 110,000 comments on the supplemental programmatic environmental assessment from members of the public, members of Congress, state and local officials, tribal governments, regulators, state and local agencies and officials, special interest groups and nonprofit organizations, civic groups, public service organizations, academia and private businesses.

Many of these comments emphasized the seriousness of potential economic impacts, which is consistent with the Army’s conclusion that the impacts would be significant at most installations. Socioeconomic impacts are of particular concern to the Army because they affect communities around Army installations and joint bases.

Decisions on which units and organizations will be selected for reductions have not yet been made. The analysis of environmental and socioeconomic impacts will help force structure decision-makers as they identify the specific units and organizations that will be reduced in the upcoming years.

The Finding of No Significant Impact for the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment is now available. The study examined the impact of possible force reductions on 30 Army installations, including Fort Jackson. No final decision on force reductions has been made.

As part of the force structure decision process, the Army will conduct local community listening sessions to receive public input that will be considered in the force structure decisions process. The schedule for community listening sessions will be announced locally.

Welcome to the Army

Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker, Fort Jackson commanding general, swears in future Soldiers from the Columbia Recruiting Battalion during the University of South Carolina men’s basketball game versus Baylor Tuesday in Columbia.

Derby girls

Joy Recc-Her with the Columbia QuadSquad takes on a competitor during a roller derby bout Saturday at the Solomon Center. The QuadSquad hosted two visiting teams during the event.
FORT EUSTIS, Va. — The leader of the command responsible for shaping the future Army shared some of his leadership principles and insights with Army civilians during a professional development session here, Nov. 4.

Gen. David Perkins, commanding general of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, began the discussion at Fort Eustis’ Wylie Theater with an overview of TRADOC’s role in the big picture, so civilians could better understand how they support the command and the Army.

“Our job, in the institutional part of the Army, is to make sure that when our Soldiers are sent into battle, they have the full weight and might of the United States behind them,” he said.

From the institutional point of view, that means TRADOC’s job is to make sure the Army’s brigades and battalions are filled with Soldiers who are well-trained, educated and equipped. But equipping Soldiers is more than just issuing rifles, pistols or artillery, he said. It’s making sure that Soldiers have been given the right ideas, grounded in solid lessons learned, so they are prepared to solve problems.

“TRADOC is the intellectual foundation of the future of the Army. We are the ones who think through all the concepts and doctrine, and it starts with your ideas. Eventually, it ends up in tanks and Bradleys, but it starts with you,” Perkins said.

Solving the right problems was a major principle Perkins shared with the more than 200 civilians in attendance and thousands of others across the command who listened online.

“Remember — as you get promoted to higher and more senior positions, it is more important for you to spend your time asking the big questions and focusing on the right problems instead of wasting time chasing small answers,” Perkins said.

To illustrate his point, Perkins discussed the recently released Army Operating Concept and how his team, led by Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster and the Army Capabilities and Integration Center, focused on asking and addressing the Army’s big questions and that answers to those questions will drive the force for generations.

Perkins said he believes that TRADOC was originally built after Vietnam to drive dramatic change for the Army, and will do so again during this period when the force needs to reposition for the future.

“We design and build the Army. TRADOC changes the Army — that is what we do. Our job is not to maintain the status quo. Other services and countries visit us to see how we do it because we are good at it, and we have a history of it,” Perkins said.

To further emphasize TRADOC’s importance to the Army, Perkins pointed to Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dailey, TRADOC’s senior enlisted adviser, who will become the next sergeant major of the Army. Dailey will join Gen. Martin Dempsey, the current chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as recent TRADOC leaders who have moved on to pivotal Army and Department of Defense positions.

“IT is very powerful to see others interact with a sense of honor,” Perkins said. “They are representing not only themselves, but their organization and the United States Army. They have a sense that they are a steward of the reputation of the Army for decades to come.”

Perkins ended the discussion by imploring the audience to go out and engage with others to explain the size and scale of the Army because many have no idea what the Army does every day.

“It’s amazing when you stop and think that the Army is an organization of 1.2 million Soldiers with a multibillion-dollar budget that hires 10,000 new Soldiers every month, and gives 500 Soldiers a new job every day,” Perkins said.

“The Army gets things done because of people like you. We have a very dedicated workforce that has given a lot to our profession, and that makes us very unique.”

Editor’s note: To watch the full discussion, including Perkins’ insights on the new Army Operating Concept and how it compares to AirLand Battle (Field Manual 100-5), visit TRADOC’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/usarmytradoc.
SAN ANTONIO — The U.S. Army Installation Management Command released “IMCOM 2025 and Beyond,” a new campaign plan operationalizing the commanding general’s vision for the organization.

This plan provides a road map for IMCOM’s future and serves as a change management document that focuses the command’s collective efforts, prioritizes resources and continues the exchange of information, Lt. Gen. David Halverson, IMCOM commander, wrote in his preface.

IMCOM operations must be nested within the U.S. Army senior leaders’ priorities, Halverson said.

IMCOM is transforming to support and enable Army Force 2025 and Beyond with services to support and enhance the readiness of a smaller, regionally aligned and globally responsive force.

IMCOM 2025 and Beyond contains three lines of effort that are designed to set the conditions for success as the command transforms to support the force of the future: professional installation management workforce, effective base operations support services and infrastructure sustainment and revitalization.

Though this plan begins in fiscal year 2015 and covers a seven-year period, the strategy looks past 2025. The plan applies to all IMCOM components: headquarters, regions, Army Environmental Command and garrisons. The document directs garrison commanders to incorporate this strategic framework into their overall installation plan.


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**Fort Jackson Thanksgiving Gate Hours**

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<td>Gate 5</td>
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**Normal hours will resume Nov. 29.**
WASHINGTON — Changes with the Joint Travel Regulations could affect Soldiers’ next permanent-change-of-station moves or how they are reimbursed for temporary duty assignments.

Army uniformed and civilian travelers are directed to use their government travel credit cards for PCS moves, said Harvey Johnson, the director of the Defense Travel Management Office.

The Air Force has a similar policy already in place, Johnson said, and the Marine Corps is preparing to implement its own administrative message regarding use of the government travel card for permanent changes of station.

“The Navy is conducting a pilot (program) to use the card for PCS, so I believe it’s imminent for all the services,” he noted.

The change applies to both uniformed and civilian personnel in each of the services, Johnson said.

“Ultimately, we want to extend this initiative to all federal civilians and uniformed members, because at the end of the day, we believe it’s the right thing for our cardholders,” he said.

REDDUCING THE FISCAL BURDEN FOR MOVERS

By using the government travel card, movers no longer are forced to pay out of pocket for moving expenses, Johnson said. The new policy also generates a number of other benefits, including eliminating the need to apply for advance travel pay and reducing the chance of becoming delinquent on a personal credit card.

“We want to make sure that people still have it within their budget to continue to travel,” he said, “but we’ve got to travel smarter, more efficiently and try to return money back to the Department of Defense.”

Every time travelers use their government travel card, their service receives a rebate, Johnson said. A 5-percent increase in usage across the department generates an 11-percent rebate, he said, adding that “services get that money back in their budgets, … a return on investment that the policymakers are forced to pay out of pocket for moving expenses, Johnson said.

The Joint Travel Regulations and the Joint Federal Travel Regulations were consolidated into one regulation in October 2013, so all travelers now have one volume to refer to for questions about official travel, Johnson said.

In accordance with a recently updated regulation, Soldiers and DA civilians must use their government travel card for permanent-change-of-station moving expenses.

An extensive list of authorized expenses can be found at Appendix G of the Joint Travel Regulations, he said, which is available at http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/travelreg.cfm. Travelers may also call the Travel Assistance Center at 1-888-HELP1GO, which is open around the clock, Johnson added.

INCIDENTAL EXPENSE DEFINITION CHANGING

An expanded definition of what constitutes incidental expenses during official travel went into effect last year, he said. The change will save the department about $18 million annually, Johnson said.

Per diem payments are made up of lodging, meals and, for travelers in the continental United States, a $5 daily incidental payment. The definition of what qualifies as an incidental expense — which travelers are expected to pay for from that $5 daily payment — now includes ATM fees, baggage tips for uniformed personnel and, within the continental United States, laundry expenses, Johnson said.

“These were previously expenses that were miscellaneous reimbursable expenses,” he noted.

The expanded definition will affect only a few travelers, Johnson said, and no one should end up paying out of pocket. For example, only about 13 percent of travelers were claiming ATM fees, he said, and they averaged out to about 76 cents per day, well below the flat $5 daily incidental payment.

“This incentivizes people to plan ahead,” Johnson said. “Should you make an ATM withdrawal? Certainly, if it’s necessary. Should you make one every day? I would offer there’s probably a better way to plan for that.”

If travelers find their average incidental expenses are in excess of the incidentals payment, they should contact their approving authority to ensure actual expenses are authorized on their travel orders.

Mission-related expenses continue to be reimbursable, and should not be confused with incidental expenses, he noted.

“So, if my mission calls for … (me) to do certain things — make an extraordinary amount of phone calls using the hotel phone, or other mission-type expenses — they are still reimbursable,” Johnson said.

Travelers should still ensure that their approving authority has approved such expenses, he added.

BEHIND THE POLICY DECISION

The travel management office used three guiding principles when considering these policy changes, Johnson said.

First, do no harm — reducing costs to the government shouldn’t come at the expense of travelers, he explained.

Second, Johnson said, “We’re looking to fairly compensate travelers for expenses occurred.”

And third, use data to test and back up recommendations.

“I truly believe the data tells the narrative. As you start to look at the data from prior years, … the picture becomes quite clear on what sort of travel solutions are out there,” he said.
Smokeout encourages quitting tobacco

By BETHANN CAMERON
U.S. Army Public Health Command

Did you know that just 20 minutes after a person quits smoking, his or her heart rate and blood pressure drop? Did you know that after 12 hours, the carbon monoxide level in the blood drops to normal? Today is the Great American Smokeout Day — a day to encourage smokers to make a plan to quit using tobacco for the day and go smoke-free for 24 hours.

About 42 million Americans still smoke cigarettes. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths each year or one out of every five deaths. According to the recent Department of Defense Survey of Health-Related Behaviors, at least 24 percent of military personnel reported smoking cigarettes.

Smoking is especially hazardous for Soldiers. Tobacco use decreases Soldier readiness by causing impaired night vision, respiratory illnesses, delayed wound healing, increased surgical complications and by accelerating hearing loss. Tobacco not only stains your teeth, but also increases surgical complications and by accelerating vision, respiratory illnesses, delayed wound healing, heart disease, stroke and lung cancer. It causes health problems in infants and children such as asthma, bronchitis and other lung diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over the past 50 years, 2.5 million adults who were nonsmokers died from secondhand smoke.

Today, join people around the world to support quitting tobacco for the Great American Smokeout. If you smoke, make a pledge to quit. If you don’t smoke, help someone to quit.

Here are a few tips to help:

PLAN AHEAD

- Change your daily routine for that day to help you break the habit. e.g. by taking a different route to work.

- Get rid of all tobacco in your house or car.
- Remove cigarettes, ashtrays, lighters and matches in your house, car or other locations.

ON THE WEB

For more information on tobacco reduction and cessation, visit these websites:
- U Can Quit 2: www.ucanquit2.org
- American Lung Association: www.lung.org/stop-smoking/how-to-quit/
- American Cancer Society: http://www.cancer.org/Healthy/StayAwayfromTobacco/index
- Become an EX, Online Tobacco Cessation Program: http://www.becomeanex.org

Smokeout encourages quitting tobacco

MACH holiday hours

- All Moncrief Army Community Hospital outpatient services will be closed Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving, except the Urgent Care Clinic, which will be open from 3 to 7 p.m.
- Outpatient clinics will be open Nov. 28 with reduced staffing.
- The flu clinic will be closed Nov. 28.
- The pharmacy will be closed Nov. 27. On Nov. 28, the outpatient pharmacy will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The refill pharmacy will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The Nurse Advice Line is available around the clock by calling 1-800-TRI-CARE (874-2273). Registered nurses are available to answer questions, give health care advice or help beneficiaries find a doctor.

Flu shot schedule

Moncrief Army Community Hospital will offer a free walk-in influenza vaccine clinic for beneficiaries ages 4 and older.

- Solomon Center: Nov. 24, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Patients who are enrolled at Moncrief Medical Home may receive influenza vaccines from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:40 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays.

Influenza vaccines are also available on the 10th floor at MACH for beneficiaries 4 and older during the following times:

- Mondays, Tuesdays: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Thursdays: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Fridays: 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 751-4669.

Walk-in flu shots for children 3 and younger are available at MACH, Room 6-39, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In addition, TRICARE retail network pharmacies will administer free seasonal influenza vaccines during the 2014/2015 flu season. Beneficiaries who receive the influenza vaccination from non-military facilities are asked to provide immunization data to the MACH shot immunization team on the sixth floor of the hospital.
HAPPENINGS

Calendar

Tuesday, Dec. 2
Time Warner job fair
Noon to 3 p.m., Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
Open to all ID card holders. For more information, call 751-5256.

Wednesday, Dec. 3
Christmas tree and menorah lighting ceremony
5 to 6 p.m., Post Headquarters

Friday, Dec. 5
Foreign Born Spouses and Hearts Apart holiday celebration
5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Main Post Chapel
For more information, call 751-9770/1142 or email patricia.a.guillory@us.army.mil.

Announcements

DES CLOSURE
The Police Administration Office with the Directorate of Emergency Services will be closed Nov. 27-28.

COMMISSARY HOLIDAY HOURS
The Commissary will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday. In observance of Thanksgiving, the Commissary will be closed Nov. 27 and 28. Normal hours will resume Nov. 29.

CENTURY LANES HOLIDAY HOURS
Century Lanes Bowling Center will have the following hours in observance of Thanksgiving:
- Nov. 26: 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 27: closed
- Nov. 28: 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Nov. 29: Noon to 10 p.m.
- Nov. 30: 1 to 8 p.m.

282ND HOLIDAY CONCERT
The 282nd Army Band will perform a free holiday concert at 7 p.m., Dec. 8 at the Koger Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for photos with Santa. For ticket information, call 777-5112.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK
Army Continuing Education joins forces with educators from across the country to celebrate American Education Week through Friday. This year’s theme is, “Army Continuing Education — Army Strong. Education Stronger.” The Army Continuing Education System offers a variety of programs to assist Soldiers in obtaining a college degree and some certifications. Once a degree plan is established, Soldiers may apply for tuition assistance and enroll in class via the GoArmyEd portal. For more information, call 751-5341 or visit the Education Center at 4600 Strom Thurmond Blvd.

CPAC HEALTH FAIR
The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct a health fair from 9 a.m. to noon, today in the Marion Room at the Solomon Center. For more information, call 751-4016.

SMOKING CESSION WEBINAR
TRICARE and Military OneSource are hosting a webinar to educate TRICARE beneficiaries about the resources available to them to quit using tobacco products. The webinar is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m., today. To register, visit https://gotomeeting.com/register/296946266.

YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION
Registration is open through Dec. 5 for youth basketball (ages 4 to 15) and cheerleading (ages 3 to 15). Participants must be registered with Child, Youth and School Services and have a current physical on file. Coaches are needed. For more information, call 751-5040/7451.

IMMIGRATION EXAMS
The Department of Preventive Medicine provides a physical examination, tuberculosis screening, laboratory tests and required immunizations for TRICARE beneficiaries who need to complete an immigration exam for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 751-5251.

SPORTS SHORTS
- Turkey Trot 5K run/walk, 8 a.m., Saturday, Semmes Lake. Registration is available from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.
- Sports banquet: 11:30 a.m., Dec. 9, Solomon Center. The event is open to anyone who has participated in the sports program throughout the year. Call the Sports Office to RSVP.
- Letters of intent for intramural basketball are due to the Sports Office Dec. 10. The coaches meeting is scheduled for Jan. 8 at Coleman Gym. League play starts 6 p.m., Jan. 13 at Coleman Gym.
- IAABO clinic for basketball officials and scorers, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 11 and 12, Joe E. Mann Center. For more information, call 751-3486.
- Power lifting meet, AAPL and APL sanctioned, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 17, Solomon Center. Weigh-ins are scheduled for 6 p.m., Jan. 16. For more information, call 751-3486.
- Boxing smoker, 5:30 p.m., Feb. 21, Solomon Center.
- Belongings meet, AAPL and APL sanctioned, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 17, Solomon Center.

AMMUNITION HOF NOMINATIONS
The Ammunition Hall of Fame is accepting nominations through Nov. 30. For more information, visit www.jnc.army.mil/Historian/HallOfFame.aspx or email usarmy.ria.jnc.mbx.ammo-hall-offame@mail.mil.

AFES NEWS
- The Exchange will be closed Nov. 27 in observance of Thanksgiving. The store will open at 4 a.m., Nov. 28 for “Black Friday.”
- AFES has started its free layaway program for holiday shoppers.
- AFES is extending its return policy for items purchased from Nov. 1 to Dec. 24. Items may be returned or exchanged until Jan. 31.
- AFES is conducting a “Sweet Holiday Story” contest through Dec. 25. Authorized shoppers may submit an essay of up to 500 words about one of their favorite holiday memories for a chance to win gift cards of up to $1,000. For more information, visit www.shopmyexchange.com/patriot-family.

MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR
Operation Homefront is seeking nominations for the 2015 Military Child of the Year. Nominees must be legal dependents of Service members and between 8 and 18 years old. Nominations close Dec. 12. For more information, visit www.militarychildoftheyear.org.

COMMISSARY NEWS
The Commissary rewards card allows shoppers to use digital coupons at any commissary. For more information, visit www.commissaries.com/awardssubscribe.cfm.

Housing happenings

RENT CONCESSIONS
Reduced rent is available for non-renovated homes in PT5 with a November move-in date. The offer is open to all DoD, retiree or active-duty applicants. Active duty junior non-commissioned officers will receive $500 off pro-rated rent in new construction homes with a November move-in date. For more information, call 738-8275.

LIFEWORKS EVENTS
- Ladies’ night: 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 25. The event will feature wine glass craft, a cocktail and book club information. For more information, call 738-8275 or email emc@daniel@bbcgp.com.
- Stop by the Community Center for a current copy of the LifeWorks calendar.
- All events take place at the Community Center unless otherwise noted. For more information and to register, email emcdaniel@bbcgp.com or call 738-8275.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
Residents may nominate other residents for doing random acts of kindness until Nov. 30. Send your nomination to emcdaniel@bbcgp.com.
Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle’s honorees

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

Weekly honors

Staff Sgt. Shaunda Zachery
Drill sergeant of the cycle
Task Force Marshall

Derrick Manuel
Civilian of the cycle
Task Force Marshall

Announcements should be typed and no more than 45 words. All submissions may be edited to comply with Leader style and Public Affairs regulations. Send all submissions to FJLeader@gmail.com. For more information, call 751-7045.

For information about classified advertising, contact Camden Media Co. at 432-6157.

Classified ads may also be faxed to 432-7609 or emailed to sbranham@chronicle-independent.com.

For information about display advertising, call Betsy Greenway at 432-6157 or email bgreenway@chronicle-independent.com.

Want more Fort Jackson news?

Watch Fort Jackson video news stories and Victory Updates at https://www.youtube.com/user/FortJacksonSC

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Fort Jackson Leader
Published for the Fort Jackson / Columbia, S.C. Community

Visit the Leader online at www.fortjacksonleader.com
### Worship Schedule

#### 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, Magruder 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, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, Fox/Poling Lab

  **Protestant Bible Study**
  - **Monday**
    - 7 p.m. Women's Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
  - **Tuesday**
    - 9 to 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
  - **Wednesday**
    - 6 p.m. Gospel prayer service, Daniel Circle Chapel
  - **Thursday**
    - 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fresh encounter Bible study, Chaplain Family Life Center

  **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**
  - 7 p.m. Women's Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
- **Tuesday**
  - 9 to 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
- **Wednesday**
  - 6 p.m. Gospel prayer service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- **Thursday**
  - 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fresh encounter Bible study, Chaplain Family Life Center

#### ISLAMIC
- **Sunday**
  - 7:30 a.m. Confessions, Solomon Center
  - 8 a.m. IET Mass, Solomon Center
  - 9:30 a.m. Religious ed class for adults (September through May), Education Center
  - 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

  **ANGRICAN/LITURGICAL/EPISCOPAL**
  - **Sunday**
    - 8 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

  **JEWISH**
  - **Sunday**
    - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Worship service, Memorial Chapel

  **CHURCH OF CHRIST**
  - **Sunday**
    - 11:30 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

  **LATTER DAY SAINTS**
  - **Sunday**
    - 9:30 to 11 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

  **ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS**

  **Anderson Street Chapel**
  - 2335 Anderson St., 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

  **U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School**
  - 10100 Lee Road

  **Warrior Chapel (120th AG Bn.)**
  - 1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427

  **Installation Chaplain’s Office**
  - 4475 Gregg St., 751-3121/6318

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**Report Suspicious Activity or Behavior**

**iWATCH ARMY**

See Something  Say Something

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