

THURSDAY, FEB. 11, 2016

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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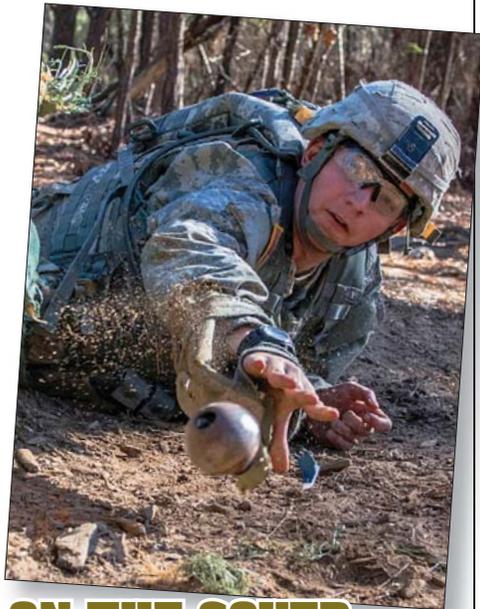
★ HOUSING
ALLOWANCE
RATES DROP
IN 2016
= PAGE 10

FIRE IN THE HOLE

TEACHING LIFE LESSONS ON THE HAND GRENADE COURSE P.12-13

***** **NO LIMITS:** ARMY REVEALS PLANS TO INTEGRATE *****
***** WOMEN INTO COMBAT ROLES P.6 *****

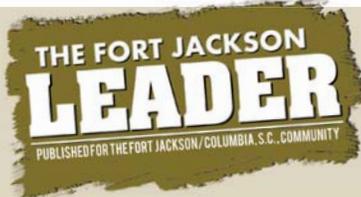
THE HISTORY OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS P15



ON THE COVER

Courtesy photo

A Basic Combat Training Soldier tosses a hand grenade on the post's assault course. **SEE PAGES 12-13**



Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Community Calendar

SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO
FJLeader@gmail.com

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

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

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names.

Questions? Call 751-7045.

TODAY

Exceptional Family Member Program Creative Journey
5-6 p.m., Joe E. Mann ballroom. Call 751-5256 to reserve a spot.

FEB. 17

Steps to Federal Employment for Military Spouses
9-11:30 a.m., Room 222, Strom Thurmond Building. For information, call 751-9460/5452, or contact Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil.

FEB. 19

171st Blackhawk Farewell Ball
5:30 p.m., Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The 171st Infantry Brigade will hold its Blackhawk Farewell Ball to commemorate the legacy of the 171st and honor its Soldiers, civilians and Families. Social hour at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., dancing at 8:30 p.m. Cost \$40 (E-4s and below), \$45 (E-5s, E-6s) or \$50 (E-7s and above, civilians). Limited child care available. Tickets available from the 171st Brigade.

Exceptional Family Member bowling outing
4:30-6 p.m., Century Lanes. Call 751-5256 to make a reservation.

FEB. 20

Healing Hearts 5K
8 a.m., Semmes Lake. Sign up on the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation website.

FEB. 22

Financial forum
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., NCO Club. Forum to encourage Soldiers, civilians and their Families to build wealth. Presented by Army Community Service, DOD Financial Readiness Campaign.

FEB. 26

African American History Month celebration
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Fort Jackson NCO Club. The guest speaker for the post's annual African American/Black History Month Observance is Bobby Donaldson, faculty principal of Preston Residential College and director of Columbia SC 63: Our Story Matters, a documentary history initiative that chronicles the struggle for civil rights and social justice in South Carolina.

FEB. 29

Scholarship seminar for military Families
9-10 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m., Room 222, Strom Thurmond Building. Only one session required. For information, call 751-9460, or email Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil.

MARCH 1

Resume Writing and Interview Skills Workshop
9 a.m. to noon, Room 222, Strom Thurmond Building. Workshop conducted by BlueCross BlueShield Human Resources Department. Excellent opportunity to network with BCBS personnel. Targeted to military spouses, but open to DOD ID card holders. To register call 80-751-9460/5256 or email Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil.

Healthy Relationships

11 a.m. to noon, Classroom 10, 5614 Hood St. Discussion-based class designed to foster emotionally healthy relationships. Open to all active duty, retirees, DOD civilians and qualified Family members. Call 751-6325 for information or to register.

AER Kickoff Luncheon

The Army Emergency Relief kickoff luncheon will take place 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NCO Club. The cost is \$10.50 at the door.

MARCH 2

Steps to Federal Employment for Military Spouses
9-11:30 a.m. Room 222, Strom Thurmond Building. For information call 751-9460/5452, or email Barbara.L.Martin10.civ@mail.mil

MARCH 3

Stress Management Class
11 a.m. to noon, Classroom 10, 5614 Hood St. Workshop designed to help participants manage the effects of stress. Call 751-6325 for information or to register.

MARCH 5

Dr. Seuss's Birthday Celebration
10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Solomon Center.

Storytelling, original poetry and story contest. A call for children and youth to submit original poems and stories on a topic of their choice. For more information, call 751-6150.

MARCH 7

Child Safety Awareness Initial Training
5-7 p.m. Classroom 10, 5614 Hood St. Two-hour initial training workshop helps participants recognize, identify and report child abuse. This class is a requirement for all law enforcement, legal, chaplains and CYSS volunteers/employees, teachers and other installation personnel whose employment requires contact with children. Certificates of completion will be provided upon completion. Call 751-6325 to register. Open to active duty, retirees, DOD civilians and qualified Family members.

MARCH 9

S.C. Midlands Job Fair
9-11:30 a.m. Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, S.C. More than 75 employers will be participating in the job fair. Jobseekers are not required to register for the event.

MARCH 12

Shamrock Shuffle 5K Fun Run/Walk
8-10 a.m., Semmes Lake Recreation Area, free event. Late Registration from 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Race starts promptly at 8 a.m.



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Photos by JENNIFER STRIDE

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Jackson, band master and commander of the 282nd Army Band, administers the reenlistment oath to Staff Sgt. Brian Mackie Feb. 2 at the band hall on post. 'Just because I've become promoted doesn't mean there are no challenges in front of me,' he said.

'The Army saved my life'

Military career rescues Soldier from economic disaster



Staff Sgt. Brian Mackie plays bass guitar with the Army Rock Band during a Dec. 6 concert for Soldiers at the Solomon Center

By JENNIFER STRIDE
Fort Jackson Leader

For Brian S. Mackie, with the 282nd Army Band, a complicated life and several careers caused uncertainty about his – and his Family's – future.

He had been faced with a multitude of issues that kept him from being promoted past sergeant.

All that was about to change.

In a matter of two days, he received a medal, got promoted to staff sergeant, and reenlisted.

"The Army saved my life," said now Staff Sgt. Mackie.

He had been recently discussing less-than-desirable future options with his wife, Tina, knowing his upcoming reenlistment as a sergeant would have taken him to the end of his military career – without a pension.

"Leading up to today, I was having those conversations with my wife – they were

very real," Mackie said.

He knew as a sergeant, his tenure of combined military service would be limited to 15 years according to Army regulations.

"I was coming up on my retention control point because of prior service," said Mackie. "It was paramount that I get picked up (for staff sergeant)."

And that is just what he did, though it hasn't been an easy road for him.

Mackie began his Army career in Nov. 1989, attending Basic Combat Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, then graduating from the Army's School of Music and spending his next four years in Japan.

"I was a trumpet player from 1989 to 1994," he said. "My break (in service after that initial tour) was 14 and a half years."

During Mackie's time away from the Army, he lived in Florida and was in a band that played at Disney World and a couple of other venues in the Southeast.

"We had two CDs – I was very active on the East Coast – it's how I lived for six

years," he said. "My (then future) wife put up with that."

He then became a stock broker in Melbourne, Florida, working for a small firm. Life was okay – until the economy tanked.

"There were all the mortgage-backed securities in the market," he said, and then the subsequent bank bailouts.

When the economic bubble burst in 2008, his employer eventually ran out of money to pay the staff and he was laid off in May, 2009.

"It was a Friday and stress set in because I had two small girls at home," he said. "My (soon to be) wife – she's an (operating room) nurse – was working and she made good money but it wasn't enough."

Property insurance and property taxes had skyrocketed and it seemed everything was over valued at the time.

He was suddenly lost and needed to figure out what to do next.



Courtesy photos



Vision quest

Above, Marilynn Bailey, with Army Community Service, and Malissa Welch, Fort Jackson SARC, build their vision boards during the Professional Mentorship Network – Female Forum luncheon Jan. 26. During the luncheon members were sat next to others with common interests and encouraged to build new relationships. Left, Staff Sgt. Rhiannon Gonzalez continues work on her Vision Board.

Post tax center opens for business

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Leader

Col. James Ellerson Jr., garrison commander, cut the ribbon on the Fort Jackson Tax Assistance Office Tuesday signaling the office was officially open.

The service is available only to active-duty personnel. Ellerson told the tax center staff their efforts are important even though customers “might not always be thankful.”

The office located at Bldg. 4330 Magruder Ave., a block south of Strom Thurmond Boulevard is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. daily. The office is also closed for all training and federal holidays.

Ellerson asked Kevin Nation, the Tax Assistance Office’s on-site coordinator, a few questions about services offered to while on a tour of the facility.

He asked what happens to Service members who have to pay.

“We can take their credit card information, or we can print out their forms so they can mail them in,” Nation said. The tax payer could then send a check with their paperwork, or work out payment arrangements with the Internal Revenue Service.

Nation also said using the tax center is better than using online tax preparation software as the center can find



Army News Service photo

Col. James Ellerson Jr., Fort Jackson’s garrison commander, and Kevin Nation, the post’s tax assistance on-site coordinator, cut the ribbon Feb. 9 opening the Tax Assistance Office.

military-specific deductions programs cannot.

Service members wishing to use the Tax Assistance Office’s services, must schedule an appointment prior to being seen. No appointments will be scheduled after 3:30 p.m. Call 751-5829 for more information or to set up an appointment.

The center has been operating since Feb. 9.

Life

Continued from Page 3

“What brought it all to a (head) was my daughter coming up to me and asking me ‘what are we having for dinner?’” he said with tears in his eyes, remembering that heart wrenching moment. “I didn’t want to ever have to answer that question again.”

He knew of only one thing that could keep his head above water and potentially save him – and his Family – the Army.

He immediately called the Army Liaison and reentered the Army at 39 years old that October.

“Since I’d already been to music school, they weren’t going to send me again so I had to pass a field audition with a 2.7 or higher, which is what you need to pass the course,” he said. “I got a 2.85.”

He went straight to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for the Army’s Warrior Transition Course, a five-week condensed version of Basic Combat Training before heading off to Fort Riley, Kansas in December 2009.

One of the first things he did was take some leave to go and marry his sweetheart Tina, who he had been dating for eight years.

Two weeks later, he was on his way to Iraq where he played many instruments while touring, but mostly bass guitar and percussion.

“We (the 1st Infantry Division Band) visited every Contingency Operating Base and Forward Operating Base that we had there,” said Mackie. “It was a great experience.”

Mackie said he believes that providing music to the troops, whether at a concert or ceremony, has a huge impact on morale and the bands are an integral part of Army life.

In September 2012, shortly after he returned to the states, he was reassigned to Fort Jackson, where “Chief (Thomas) Jackson, who was a sergeant first class and had been accepted into the warrant program, was my team leader,” he said. “He was very, very supportive.”

Things were definitely looking up for Mackie, happy to be back doing what he loved, but another of life’s interruptions would hit him with force once again.

“In February 2013 I was home on a Sunday morning and I went into (atrial fibrillation),” he said. “Apparently I was in a thyroid storm and that’s what caused it.”

At that time, he was a promotable sergeant in a sergeant first class position with the band.

He needed the experience because the changes in the Army’s promotion point system caused him to miss the cut-off points.

“I think that that was very important for me because I needed that leadership experience,” he said. “You know I’m older and it’s rough when your peers are 20 years younger than you.”

Mackie said it was a new stress but a good one.

“I had to deal with being a leader and also taking care of myself at the same time,” he said.

Mackie went through radioactive iodine treatment, “which basically killed my thyroid and then I had to start a regiment of artificial hormone – Synthroid (levothyroxine sodium tablets),” he said. “I have to take it for the rest of my life.”

The support he got from his leadership and the rest of the band members during that time helped him cope with the new medical challenges he faced.

Now Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Jackson, band master and commander of the 282nd Army Band says Mackie “has done well, faced every challenge and come out on top.”

“So it’s been rough, it’s been a battle,” he said. “With thyroid issues come weight issues and I’m vertically challenged so I really have to be on my game when it comes to diet and exercise because the Army doesn’t play around with that.”



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FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS



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at the **Strike Zone Snack Bar**
inside **Century Lanes**
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May not be combined with any
other offer or promotion.

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(803) 751-4656

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SUNDAY, FEB 14 (1 - 8 p.m.)

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Lanes Bowling Center on Sunday,
Feb 14 for buy one, get one free
bowling and shoe rentals.

For more info, call 751-6138.



FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS

Family & MWR DART LEAGUE



At Magruders Club & Pub
3305 Daniel Dr. • 790-0381

League play will be every
Thursday at 5:30 p.m.,
beginning Feb 18.

Free and open to all DoD
ID cardholders.

Letter of Intent for teams
due by Thursday, Feb 11.

For more info, please call
751-8313 or 751-0891.



FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS

Family & MWR Fitness Presents

Black History Month

TRAIL WALK

Saturday, Feb 20 at 8 a.m.

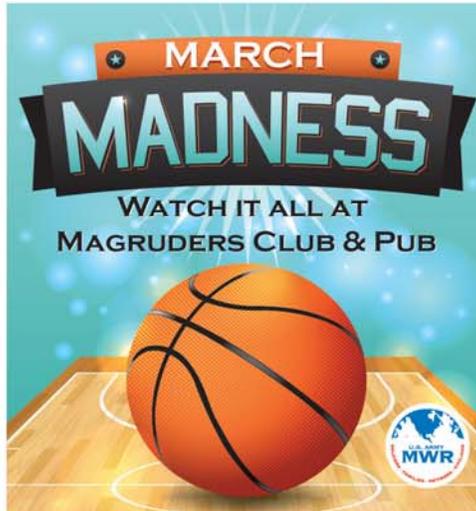
Meet at Sesquicentennial
Park (parking lot)
9564 Two Notch Road,
Columbia, SC 29223

Park admission
is only \$3.00!

For more info,
call 751-3700.



FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS



MARCH MADNESS

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Magruders Club & Pub March Madness Specials (March 15 - April 4, 2016)

- » Happy Hour:
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Half off all beer & house liquor!
- » Food & drink specials every
game night!
- » Bracket Challenge:
complete an entire bracket
correctly and win a prize!

3305 Daniel Dr. Fort Jackson, SC 29207
(803) 790-0381

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIREES FOR CIVILIANS



COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

IN FRONT OF THE SOLOMON CENTER
Saturday, Feb 27 (7 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Registration required and can be placed at the Solomon Center
front desk or by calling 751-4056. Tables can be requested at the
time of registration. Free Event. No Food Vendors allowed.



Leader file photo

Staff Sgt. Heather Marie Jacques, a drill sergeant with Foxtrot Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, practices with an M4 rifle on Fort Jackson's Argentan Range last October during master marksmanship training.

No Limits

Army reveals plans to integrate women into combat roles

By TERRI MOON CRONK
Army News Service

Senior Army, Navy and Marine Corps officials outlined plans to integrate women into combat roles before the Senate Armed Forces Committee recently, and agreed incorporating women into combat ranks is the right path for the future.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick J. Murphy, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley and Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert B. Neller updated committee members on the services' integration efforts.

Marine Corps leadership has "thoughtful and deliberate plans" to execute the transition effectively, Mabus said, adding the 231 female Marines who successfully completed the ground combat arms military occupational specialty training can immediately switch to those previously closed jobs.

The secretary said because the integration process includes training and education evaluation at every level from recruits to the highest levels of leadership, implementing that policy was a priority.

And while "suggestions" have been made to lower standards for female Marines to meet quotas, Mabus emphasized it's "an unacceptable notion" for every Marine, especially those women who choose to compete for those positions.

"It's unacceptable under the law, to me, (and) to every other senior leader in the Pentagon because it would endanger not only the safety of Marines, but the safety of our nation," he said.



Leader file photo

Pvt. Vanessa DaSilva, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, leads her squad over the low wall at the Fit to Win Endurance course on Fort Jackson.

Combat

Continued from Page 6

“Standards can never be lowered for any group or any job. Standards will evolve as threats evolve, but they will evolve for everyone equally,” Mabus said.

The Marine Corps also is ceasing its tradition as the only service branch that separates men and women in boot camp, he added.

Evolving gender dynamics

Fort Jackson is already prepared to deal with the evolving gender dynamics anticipated by the Army in coming years, said Lt. Col. James Allen, the post’s G3.

“Overall, I do not think there will be a noticeable impact to Fort Jackson,” Allen said. “We are already fully gender integrated in how we operate, how we train, and how we lead Soldiers.”

He said the post has already seen an increase in the number of visitors interested in observing how men and women are instructed.

“It’s no secret that we train well over half of the female Soldiers who enter basic combat training,” he said, “and since December we have had a series of visitors come to Fort Jackson to see how we do it.

“Everyone from foreign military representatives to other service representatives to the RAND Corporation has requested visits and walked through our facilities or reviewed our policies – from the very technical aspects of the separate and secure alarms systems to the methods by which we conduct gender integrated squad tactical training.”

Army needs maximizing

“As our Army gets smaller, our success increasingly depends upon our ability to maximize the contributions of every volunteer that fills our ranks,” Murphy said. “A Soldier’s ability to meet established standards that contribute to our success will remain our overriding factor moving forward.”

And to take advantage of America’s diverse and deep talents, the Army began its integration efforts several years ago, leading to three primary conclusions, he said:

- Every Soldier will have the opportunity to compete for every position to include infantry, armor and Special Forces;
- The Army’s high individual standard performance and professional conduct will continue to be based on requirements of the position and nothing else; and
- Enforcing the standards fairly and objectively will remain the guiding principle for mission success.

Murphy said he’s confident that integrating women into combat roles, while underpinned by strong leadership, will increase Army readiness.

“We will continue to monitor and report the lessons we learn so the Army can collectively integrate the force and share our experiences,” he said.



Leader file photos

Above, female Soldiers participate in some of the courses required as part of Basic Combat Training on Fort Jackson. Senior military officials recently revealed plans to integrate women into combat roles, a process which will require training and education evaluation at every level from recruits to the highest levels of leadership.

Murphy added, “The Army is prepared to act and benefit from integration – now.”

No Quotas, No Pressure

Fully integrating women into the Army will “maintain, sustain or improve” overall readiness, Milley said.

To be successful in this endeavor, he said, the Army must “maintain and enforce rigorous combat readiness standards, remain a merit-based results-oriented organization and apply no quotas and no pressure.”

To do so, the Army will put in place a “very deliberate methodical and transparent process,” Milley said.

Milley called the Army’s methodical approach to gender-neutral training for all Army officers, non-commissioned officers and junior enlisted members the leadership’s first principle to ensure success.

“Female cadets and officer candidates who meet the gender-neutral standard will be given the opportunity to request either infantry or armor branches” by spring, he said, adding that every active-duty infantry, armor and field artillery battalion today already has women soldiers.

Integration is ‘Responsible’

When Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Dec. 3, 2015 opened all military occupations and positions to women, including combat roles, the Marines Corps began integrating all qualified Marines into previously closed MOSs in a well-planned responsible manner” based on Corps’ research, Neller said in his written statement submitted to the committee.

“We have already awarded additional MOSs to all Marines who earned it through primary MOS-producing schools,” he said, “and two female second lieutenants are now undergoing MOS training at the field artillery officer basic course.”

Marines who were awarded additional MOS qualifications also can now request formal reclassification for combat arms designation, he said.

“The Marine Corps is a learning organization,” Neller said in his written statement. “We will evaluate the success of our plan and inform in-stride adjustments throughout this ongoing process as we recruit, train, develop, deploy and retain the highest-quality force.”

Jennifer Stride contributed to this story.

“
We are already fully gender integrated in how we operate, how we train, and how we lead Soldiers.
”

— LT. COL. JAMES ALLEN,
Fort Jackson G3



"I BECAME A SOLDIER..."

Post commander Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier has an affection for talking to new Soldiers and hearing their stories. He says it reminds him that everyone on Fort Jackson is charged with building the best Soldiers in the world.

1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

ALPHA COMPANY



SPC. TUCKER BURNS, 24
Virginia Beach, Va.

"I decided to join the Army to do my part in consideration for achieving the goals that the nation works to accomplish at home and abroad."

"Most of the positive role models in my life were career military – seeing the way they carried themselves and were benefited by the military helped in shaping my decision to join – along with the added benefit of being able to help others every day.

"Basic Combat Training has been challenging – physically, mentally and emotionally – however, being able to overcome these obstacles has proven that this experience has demonstrated the ability in all of us to reach our own full potential and accomplish goals together."

BRAVO COMPANY

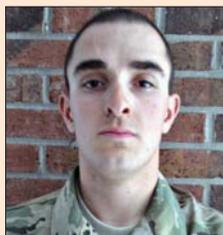


PVT. TONISE BRIGGS, 22
Dothan, Ala.

"I joined the Army for a number of reasons – my parents were both in the Army – my mom just retired and my husband as well as his brother and father were in too. I felt this was my way of life when nothing in the civilian world was working for me because the military is all I know and I knew my family would benefit from my decision.

"Basic Combat Training is hard – yes ... but I personally think it can be as easy as you make it. Helping your battle buddies, doing your best in training and listening to your drill sergeants are the things that can make your experience easier. I've learned that I can be a little harsh sometimes, but I have been working on having more patience."

CHARLIE COMPANY



PVT. MATTHEW NEAL, 20
Lexington, Ky.

"I joined (the Army) because I wanted to serve my country and make my family proud. My uncles on both sides (of the family) influenced me – one was a Marine and the other (was in the Army) in the 101st Airborne Division.

"(In Basic Combat Training) I learned to be more confident in myself and learned to become stronger in both mind and body.

"I am a 25 Bravo, (information technology specialist). I'm already good with technology, so I figured it was a perfect fit."

"(My family is) extremely proud of me and proud of the fact that I chose to serve for my country and the veterans and Soldiers that have come before me.

"Always keep your head up, be confident and always strive to be better. I'd like to retire from the Army later in life."

DELTA COMPANY



PVT. EAMONN DUGGAN, 22
New York, N.Y.

"When I was a kid, on Sept. 11, 2001 my home city was attacked early in the morning. I wanted to join the Army to prevent tragedies like that from happening again.

"Watching the further development of me and my buddies (was the good thing about Basic Combat Training). I learned to push my mind and my body to levels I once thought unobtainable. It has been an honor to watch my battle buddies grow as one collective unit.

"(I am a) 35F intelligence analyst. Maybe one day in the future I could work for federal law enforcement.

"I believe (my family is) proud of me. Even though it is very early in to my time of service, they know I have put in a lot of hard work. They keep me motivated to work harder."

ECHO COMPANY



SPC. JON MORRISON, 30
Jacksonville, Fla.

"I joined the Army because I believe in our Constitution and the values it represents, such as freedom, diversity, religious freedom and democracy. I also joined to leave Jacksonville and travel.

"What has been good about Basic Combat Training is the physical training and getting in shape, instilling self-discipline, and growing or maturing in interpersonal skills.

"My military occupational specialty is 13D, which is field artillery tactical data systems specialist. I chose it because it is a combat position and it will put me closest to the fight – because I believe in the American Constitution, our values and (I) will defend it.

"My family is somewhat supportive of my decision to join the Army, but it was more of a personal decision to join."

ECHO COMPANY



SPC. PABLO ARROYO, 23
Fayetteville, N.C.

"My mother, Martha Arroyo, and father, Pablo Arroyo, were a huge influence on my decision to join the Army. My father served in the 82nd Airborne and my mother retired from Fort Bragg. Being born and raised in Fayetteville, next to Fort Bragg, I always had the Army in my heart. I always knew that I wanted to join, but my mother always advised me to go to school first and join as an officer. I obtained my degree in biology pre-med from Campbell University and now I'm on my way to officer candidate school at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"I have learned how to work with so many different personalities – how to take charge and lead those personalities so that they will listen and get the job done."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AER SCHOLARSHIPS

The application period for the Army Emergency Relief scholarship will be open until May 1. AER supports the Spouse Scholarship Program – for full- or part-time students – and the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children who are full-time students. Applicants must provide grade transcripts, the Student Aid Report from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and a Soldier's Leave and Earnings Statement. AER awards needs-based scholarships of varying amounts. Information on both scholarships is available at www.aerhq.org or by contacting Angela Crosland at 751-5256.

MACH SICK CALL

The Moncrief Army Community Hospital sick call – in the Urgent Care Clinic/Integrated Medical Health Home waiting room – is for only permanent-party members on active duty whose primary-care managers are at the hospital or Moncrief Medical Home. Soldiers in training will be seen at McWethy Troop Medical Clinic. Sick call is for acute care only. Appointments for routine care will not be made during sick call hours. Patients may sign in from 5-7 a.m. Monday through Friday (excluding training/federal holidays), or call in for appointment at 751-4464. The sick call appointment line will not schedule appointments after 7 a.m. Prospective patients must be signed in or call before 7 a.m. to schedule a same-day appointment. For other appointments, call 751-CARE (2273) between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

24/7 TRICARE NURSE HELPLINE

TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line provides instant access to a team of registered nurses who can answer urgent and acute health-care questions, giving TRICARE beneficiaries assessments of their symptoms and suggesting what next steps to take. For toll-free assistance with urgent

medical needs 24/7, call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) and press option 1.

PERSONAL VEHICLE SAFETY

Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians should be aware that some of their personal vehicles are subject to manufacturers' safety recalls. Vehicle owners may see whether their vehicles are subject to recall by visiting vinrcl.safercar.gov/vin/.

FOR FAMILIES

■ Army Community Service will offer citizenship classes from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday evenings, at the Sandhills Branch of the Richland County Library and 8:30-10 a.m. Fridays in Room 222 of the Strom Thurmond Building on post. Classes will prepare permanent legal residents for citizenship. For information, call 751-5518.

■ The Foreign-Born Spouse Group is an opportunity for those from different cultures to meet and get to know one another, and to become more familiar with life in America. For information, call 751-1124/9770.

■ Those needing to brush up on their English may attend classes on English as a Second Language. Classes and materials are free to ID cardholders and DOD employees. For information, call 751-1124, or email Miranda.O.Broadus.civ@mail.mil.

■ The Hearts Apart support group aims to help Families who are separated from their Soldiers. For information, call 751-9770/1124.

■ On-post mothers are invited to "No Excuses, Mom" weekly exercise sessions. Those living in the Balfour Beatty communities meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays at 520 Brown Ave. Residents of other communities meet at the SKIES building at 6100 Chesnut Road. Participants should provide their own water, towels and mats.

HOUSING NEWS

■ Hours for Balfour Beatty Community Center are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

■ If you will be on leave for an extended period, call the work-order desk at 803-787-6416 to ask housing personnel to check on your house while you are away.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop will offer karaoke and giveaways during Valentines Week. Winter clothing will not be accepted after Feb. 23, and summer clothes will be accepted beginning March 8. The Thrift Shop is at 4713 Lee Road, in the Mini Mall. Call 803-787-2153 for information, or visit 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday or 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday. Consignment hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and bookkeeping hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

SPORTS NEWS

■ The recreation division of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation has several events on tap for the coming weeks:

Through Feb. 26 – Spring sports registration. Soccer, \$25 for those ages 2 to 5, \$40 for those 6 to 16. Track and field \$40 for those 6 to 14. Travel baseball \$45 for those 9 to 14.

Today – Intramural, recreational dart league letters of intent due at Recreational Programming. League play will begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Magruder's Pub. League open to ID cardholders older than 18.

Feb. 20 – "Healing Hearts" 5K, 8 a.m., Semmes Lake. Sign up on FMWR website.

■ Fort Jackson's youth soccer, track and field, and baseball teams need knowledgeable coaches willing to give up evenings and Saturdays this spring. Those interested in coaching – and having their own children play for free –

may contact Darius Lane, youth sports and fitness director, at 751-7451.

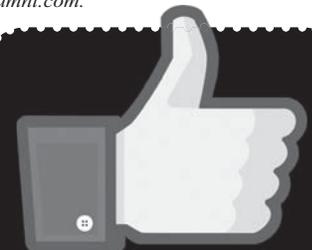
EVENTS OFF POST

WOMEN VETERANS INTERACTIVE

The Columbia chapter invites female veterans to join to help one another make the transition from military to civilian life. Prospective members will meet at noon Saturday at the Big Red Barn Retreat, 8034 Winnsboro Road in Blythewood. For more information, visit www.womenveteransinteractive.org.

OFFICER CANDIDATE REUNION

Alumni are invited to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Army Officer Candidate School on April 24-28, 2016, at the Double Tree Hotel, 5321 Sidney Simmons Blvd., Columbus, Georgia. The event will include tours, a memorial/monument walk, a Hall of Fame induction ceremony and an award dinner. Cost is \$111 per night. For reservations, call 706-327-6868. Members and those who wish to become members may attend. For further information, call Nancy Ionoff at 813-917-4309 or visit www.ocsa-lumni.com.

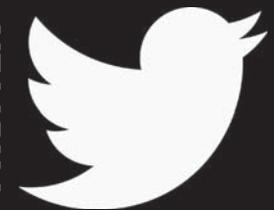


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Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd. PHONE: 751-7488

Friday

"The Hateful Eight" (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday

"The Forest" (PG-13) 2 p.m.
"The Revenant" (R) 4 p.m.

Sunday

"The Revenant" (R) 2 p.m.
"The Forest" (PG-13) 1630

Wednesday

"Daddy's Home" (PG-13) 2 p.m.
"The Revenant" (R) 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 19

"The Forest" (PG-13) 7 p.m.



TICKETS

Adult: \$5.50
Child (6 to 11): \$3

3-D TICKETS

Adult: \$7.50
Child (6 to 11): \$5

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

WWW.SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM

A competitive market

Housing allowance rates declining in 2016

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Leader

New Soldiers to Fort Jackson could find their paychecks lighter as housing allowance rates have dipped.

The decreases were partially caused by Congress calling for Service members to pay one percent of Basic Allowance for Housing each year for five years. The five-year plan was implemented to reduce personnel costs. The cost to cover renters' insurance was also eliminated starting in 2015.

BAH rates have also declined due to the local housing market, said Emma Watson, Fort Jackson's housing division chief.

BAH rate cuts were part of a compromise between House and Senate armed services committees on the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act. The Act also called for increased co-pays for off-post prescriptions.

According to the Defense Travel Management Office, BAH is an allowance prescribed by duty location, pay grade, and dependency status. It provides uniformed Service members equitable subsidy based

on housing costs in local civilian housing markets when government quarters are not available.

Watson said the BAH rates are affected by off post rental rates within a reasonable commuting distance.

Local housing costs are compiled by a third party, contracted by the Army, with input from the Fort Jackson Housing Division. Rates are then finalized by the Office the Secretary of Defense Compensation.

We do a comparison of rental properties "to ensure an accurate correlation between the rental rates and the housing allowance," Watson said.

OSD sets housing-type based on the annual salary and dwelling type for the civilian population. For example, individuals outside the gate making \$25,000 "typically" live in an apartment, those making \$45,000-\$50,000 live in townhouses or duplexes, and those making over that will typically reside in single homes.

"Based on those anchor points, we go out and look at rental rates, minus utilities, for apartments, townhouses, duplexes, and single homes," Watson said. "It's a compar-

ison of dwelling type to salary."

This year, a sergeant with dependents receives \$1,392 a month down, \$24 from 2015, while a sergeant major's BAH with dependents dipped \$36 to \$1,773. Meanwhile, the allowance for a lieutenant colonel with dependents declined \$261 to \$2,067 per month, and a colonel's subsidy dropped \$267.

"The rental market is very competitive," she said. "When rentals sit vacant, owners and property managers may lower their rent to attract tenants and this has a direct impact on the BAH reporting." Lower rent means lower BAH rates.

But not all rates "will decrease, some grades saw an increase this year. "The rate is based on the market rate outside the gate and some properties were higher this year," Watson concluded.

Soldiers assigned to Fort Jackson prior to Jan. 1 are not affected by the change in BAH rates as they are grandfathered. This applies whether they reside on or off the installation.

See **HOUSING:** Page 14



A sergeant with dependents:

\$1,392 a month ...

\$24 less than
2015.

A sgt. maj. with dependents:

\$1,773 a month ...

\$36 less than
2015.

A lt. colonel with dependents:

\$2,067 a month ...

\$261 less than
2015.

Career

Continued from Page 4

Mackie has since been medically cleared for duty and says he's good to go.

After overcoming that hurdle, Mackie completed a tour in Korea and returned to Fort Jackson in February 2015 to embark on his current tour.

"My first sergeant here helped me secure a slot in a Non-commissioned Officer Education System Advanced Leader Course, where I obtained my (additional skill identifier) C1, (which means Army band (large) qualified)," he said. "I needed that to make E6."

He graduated with a 98.76 grade point average, though he was still number 6 out of 16.

"That's how competitive our field is," he said.

Mackie has been in the Army now for 11 and a half years, six of those have been overseas and he says he is grateful because his wife and three step daughters have supported him and stuck by him through it all.

Tina brought her daughters into his life those many years ago and they are "like my own daughters – I've raised them since they were 3, 5, and 7," he said.

Lindsey is now 18 years old, Tiffany 20, and Kiersten 22.

"They've all ridden the roller coaster with me," Mackie said.

Mackie says all the girls are strong willed and stubborn.

"What I've tried to instill in them that I want them to be able support themselves so when they enter into a relationship and get married, it's out of want and not necessity," he said.

Mackie is stubborn too and has the will and desire to get the most out of the Army.

"The leadership I have here this time has pushed me to go to Master Resiliency School, which I needed," said Mackie.

Attending Army educational training can help Soldiers earn promotion points.

Once all of the schools had been completed, the Family settled, and his health on an even keel, Mackie was hoping to make the promotion list again – and actually get promoted this time. It turned out he was in for a couple of well-deserved days that once again changed his world for the better.

On Jan. 29, Fort Jackson's Deputy Commander, Col. Mark Shade awarded Mackie the Army Achievement Medal for serving as a bass guitar and percussion player for the U.S. Army Central change of command and numerous holiday concerts, thus contributing to the "resounding success" of the mission.

But that wasn't the best thing that happened to Mackie.

Early Feb. 2, Mackie got promoted in front of his Family and the rest of the band – meaning he could stay Army and eventually retire.

"(Mackie) is a great guy – some of us have been working with him, studying and doing what we can to help get him ready for promotion," said one of his battle buddies, Staff Sgt. Jessica Smith "He definitely worked hard and it is well deserved."

Once he was promoted, he immediately reenlisted and hopes to stay and complete 30 years of service if he can.

"Just because I've become promoted doesn't mean there are no challenges in front of me," he said.

"I still have to plan for a future and I don't know where the Army will send me next but I'll go there, I'll hold my head up high and I'll do the same thing that I've done here and everywhere else I've been, because I truly believe in what I do!" Mackie was congratulated by Family and fel-



Photo by JENNIFER STRIDE

Battle buddy and fellow band member, Staff Sgt. Jessica Smith, gives Staff Sgt. Brian Mackie a congratulatory hug Feb. 2 after Mackie's promotion ceremony and reenlistment.

low band members after the ceremony.

He says it's been a long road with challenges, but he wouldn't change a thing.

"My story is my story – it's not bad, it's not good but it might be something someone else needs to hear," he said. "If I could make one point the strongest, you know it would be that it's hard enough in today's Army being a Soldier, but if you don't have the support system in place, either with the relationships you have with your battle buddies at work or the support system of the Family, you're not going to be successful because (life is) all stress and it all compounds and we're only so strong – and that's what makes us who we are – the ability to have emotions."



'A POWERFUL EXPERIENCE'

Hand grenade course offers unique learning opportunities to new Soldiers

By SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN HAMILTON
108th Training Command (JET) Public Affairs

In preparation for their culminating event, Victory Forge, Soldiers in their seventh week of Basic Combat Training with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment at Fort Jackson took to the hand grenade assault course to refine their individual skills and boost their confidence as they headed into the next week's exercise.

On the course, Soldiers are given a series of stations to maneuver through as buddy teams, where they combine individual movement techniques with cover and concealment and engage targets in bunkers and trenches with hand grenades from the standing, kneeling, and prone positions.

"I think the hand grenade assault course serves its purpose by proving to that Soldier in training that they can do more than they thought possible," said Staff Sgt. Jonathon Martin, a drill sergeant with Charlie Company.

For most, this is the first, and possibly the last time they will experience a course like this: a course designed to test a Soldier's physical and mental limits but also develop a sense of cohesion and working within the team concept.

Martin sees the course as more than just another Army Warrior task to check off a list. He sees it as a powerful tool to prove to Soldiers they are capable of accomplishing things they never thought possible.

"When a challenge like this is presented, go put this grenade in the front of that bunker, it provides a great opportunity for personal growth and development by taking them out of their comfort zone and gives them a specific standard to meet," Martin said.

"If you can push yourself to accomplish tasks outside your normal expectations, then suddenly other difficult tasks become more achievable."

Martin, an infantryman, who has been on the trail for nearly eight months, says that although the hours are long and he misses his old assignment as an infantry squad leader in an airborne unit, he enjoys the training environment as well.

"It's a powerful experience to see citizens transform from civilians to Soldiers in a matter of weeks," he said.

"There are always the great success stories as well as harsh defeats in every class. Not everyone has what it takes to become a Soldier. But by the end of each training cycle, I feel proud to know that I am contributing to the Army in a very profound way."



Photos by SGT. 1ST CLASS BRIAN HAMILTON

While training on the hand grenade assault course, Soldiers are tasked with combining individual movement techniques with cover and concealment while engaging targets in bunkers and trenches.

CMYK

CMYK

27 WEB-100

FLOOD ASSISTANCE AWARDS

At an awards ceremony Friday on Fort Jackson, people who had gone above and beyond during the October flooding were officially recognized.

Col. James Ellerson Jr., garrison commander, presented achievement medals for civilian service, commander's awards for civilian service, letters of appreciation, monetary awards or command coins to 30 civilian employees for their outstanding performance and dedication.

Dan Ahern, director of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Scott Nahrwold, garrison deputy commander, recognized 25 FMWR employees with certificates of appreciation "for exceptional efforts and dedication following the 4 October 2015 flooding on Fort Jackson and the Columbia area."

Col. James Ellerson Jr., garrison commander, presents firefighter Shane W. Morris an achievement medal for civilian service for outstanding service during the October flooding.

Photo by JENNIFER STRIDE



Housing

Continued from Page 10

Residents living in on post housing have landscaping, trash removal, water/sewage and utilities included in their rent. New homes are metered for electricity and if usage exceeds the baseline, residents will be charged the overage. The good news is if they are under their baseline, they will receive a refund check from us, said Melissa Robinson with Balfour Beatty.

The decreases in BAH over the past few years have caused Balfour Beatty to look closely at some of the services they provide, but they're still able to provide LifeWorks programs that include various family wellness activities for residents at no costs.

Balfour Beatty community center includes an Internet café, exercise room, meeting room and a full kitchen for our residents to use and a boundless, playground is available for special needs children as well as other outdoor amenities.

Sometimes "they are not seeing all those extras," she said.

"I've seen a lot of tenants leave to go live off post and then after finding out we provide more for the money say, 'I want to come back on post,'" said Robinson.

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ A CENTURY OF BLACK LIFE, HISTORY AND CULTURE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Throughout America's history, from the Battle of Lexington to the Battle for Fallujah, black Soldiers have honorably answered the call to duty, serving with great valor and distinction in America's armed forces.

Each February, the U.S. Army celebrates and pays tribute to African American Soldiers and recognizes the important contributions they have made in past wars and are continuing to make today in overseas contingency operations.

Throughout the month, The Leader will highlight their accomplishments during different times in the Army.

1861-1865: CIVIL WAR

When Union troops invaded Confederate states, thousands of black slaves flocked to Union camps for a chance to fight — and a chance for freedom. Many of these men were unofficially allowed to enlist in the Union Army.

After President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Jan. 1, 1863, black Soldiers were officially allowed to participate in the war.

Black Soldiers distinguished themselves in battle on numerous occasions. On Feb. 1, 1863, Col. T. W. Higginson, commander of the 1st Regiment South Carolina Volunteers (Union), gave this report after the St. Mary's River expedition in Georgia and Florida: "No officer in this regiment now doubts that the key to the successful

Fort Jackson's African American History Month celebration

The post's annual African American/Black History Month Observance takes place 11:30 a.m., Feb. 26, at the Fort Jackson NCO Club. The guest speaker for the event is Bobby Donaldson, faculty principal of Preston Residential College and director of **Columbia SC 63: Our Story Matters**, a documentary history initiative that chronicles the struggle for civil rights and social justice in South Carolina.

prosecution of this war lies in the unlimited employment of black troops ... It would have been madness to attempt (the battle), with the bravest white troops, what I have successfully accomplished with the black ones."

Approximately 186,000 black Soldiers — including 94,000 former slaves from Southern states — ultimately served in the Union Army and 38,000 were killed in action. The Confederate Army recruited a handful of black Soldiers in March 1865, but they were still being organized when the war ended, and they never saw action.

1863: 54TH MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY

In early 1863, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, an all-black regiment of the Union Army, was activated. More

than 1,000 blacks — about 25 percent of whom were former slaves — from 24 states and several countries enlisted in the regiment.

Frederick Douglass, best known as a black orator and abolitionist, was also instrumental in the Union victory of the Civil War. He urged Lincoln to free slaves and to arm all blacks willing to fight. Douglass, a former slave, recruited his own two sons to serve in the Union Army.

Douglas also helped to establish the all-black 54th Massachusetts Regiment of the Union Army.

On Aug. 13, 1863, Douglass was directed by the secretary of war to travel from his hometown of Rochester, New York, to Vicksburg, Mississippi, "to assist in recruiting colored troops."

The 54th proved their bravery during the storming of Fort Wagner on James Island, South Carolina, July 18, 1863. The 54th led several white regiments in the assault, through darkness and across a marsh with water 4-feet deep.

During the battle, Sgt. William H. Carney, a former slave, became the first of many black Soldiers who later earned the Medal of Honor. After the regimental commander, Col. Robert Gould Shaw, was killed, Carney climbed the fort's parapet and retrieved the Union flag from the slain color bearer.

Despite being wounded in the chest, arm and legs, he planted the flag atop the fort, which greatly inspired his fellow Soldiers.

More than a third of the regiment were killed or wounded during the fighting. The battle was immortalized in the 1989 film, "Glory."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ANGLICAN/LITURGICAL

Sunday
8:30 a.m., worship, Bayonet Chapel

CATHOLIC

Sunday
■ 7:30 a.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation, Solomon Center
■ 8 a.m., Mass, Solomon Center
■ 10:30 a.m., Reconciliation (after Mass or by appointment), Main Post Chapel
■ 11 a.m., Mass, Main Post Chapel

Monday through Thursday, first Friday
11:30 a.m., Mass, Main Post Chapel

Wednesday
7 p.m., Rosary, Main Post Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

JEWISH

Sunday
■ 9:15 a.m., worship, Memorial Chapel
■ 10:15 a.m., fellowship, Post Conference Room

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Sunday
9:30 a.m., worship, Anderson Street Chapel
Wednesday
■ 3 p.m., Family social, Anderson

Street Chapel
■ 7 p.m., scripture study, Anderson Street Chapel

MUSLIM

Sunday
8 a.m., Islamic studies, Main Post Chapel

Friday
12:45 a.m., Jumah services, Main Post Chapel

PAGAN

Sunday
11 a.m., Pagan Circle Sacred Well Congregation meeting, Magruder Chapel

PROTESTANT

Sunday
■ 9 a.m., service, McCrady Chapel (SCARNG), McCrady Training Center
■ 9 a.m., Hispanic service, Magruder Chapel
■ 9:30 a.m., service, Main Post Chapel
■ 9:30 a.m., Chapel Next Bible study, Bayonet Chapel
■ 10 a.m., worship, Daniel Circle Chapel
■ 10:45 a.m., Sunday School, Main Post Chapel
■ 11 a.m., service, Memorial Chapel
■ 11 a.m., Chapel Next, Bayonet Chapel
■ 5 p.m., youth group, Chaplain Family Life Center

Monday
7 p.m., Protestant Men of the Chapel

Bible study, Chaplain Family Life Center

Tuesday
9 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel
Bible study, Main Post Chapel

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

Thursday
11:45 a.m., Fresh Encounter Bible study, Chaplain Family Life Center

ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS

Anderson Street Chapel, 2335 Anderson St., 751-7032

Bayonet Chapel, 9476 Kemper St., 751-6322/4542

Chaplain Family Life Center, 751-4961

Daniel Circle Chapel, 3359 Daniel Circle, 751-1297/4478

Education Center, 4581 Scales Ave.

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

McCrady Chapel, 3820 McCrady Road (at McCrady Training Center)

Magruder Chapel, 4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883

Main Post Chapel, 4581 Scales Ave., 751-6469/6681

Memorial Chapel, 4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324

U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, 10100 Lee Road, 751-8887

Warrior Chapel (120th Adjutant General Battalion), 1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427

Fort Jackson Gate Operation Hours

GATE 1

Open 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday through Friday for
inbound and outbound traffic.

GATE 2

Open around the clock daily.

GATE 4

Open 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday through Friday for
inbound and outbound traffic.

GATE 5

Open 5-10 a.m. Monday
through Friday for inbound
and outbound traffic.
Closed 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Reopened 4-6 p.m. for out-
bound traffic only.

Open 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Satur-
day and Sunday.

History

Continued from Page 15

1867: BUFFALO SOLDIERS

Black Soldiers fought so bravely and ferociously during a battle with Cheyenne warriors in 1867 that the Cheyenne nicknamed them “Wild Buffalo.”

Over time, the term “Buffalo Soldiers” was used for all black Soldiers who served during the Indian Wars. Buffalo Soldiers had the lowest desertion rate in the Army in spite of their poor living conditions on the frontier.

In 1868, Cathay Williams became the first black female Buffalo Soldier—she disguised herself as a male.

Henry O. Flipper, a Buffalo Soldier, became the first black Soldier to be accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. The Soldiers built roads and telegraph lines, guarded stagecoach and mail routes, escorted supply trains and survey parties and went on scouting patrols.

Source: www.defense.gov

INFOGRAPHIC SOURCES

¹ George O. Tamblin, “Buffalo Soldiers.” *The American Mosaic: The African American Experience*, ABC-CLIO, 2016.

² *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*. Ed. John Hartwell Moore. Vol. 1, 2016.

³ Bureau of Land Management

BUFFALO SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN WEST ★★★

25,000

The number of African Americans estimated to have served in the U.S. Army between 1866 and 1917. ¹

Buffalo Soldiers have been commemorated with statues and museums in such places as FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kansas, FORT BLISS, Texas, JUNCTION CITY, Kansas, and TUCSON, Arizona. ²



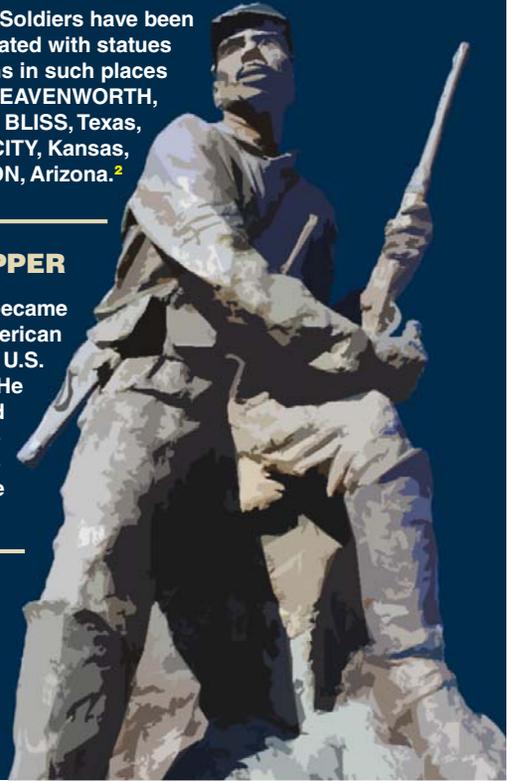
LT. HENRY FLIPPER

In 1877, FLIPPER became the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy. He refused a command position in the Liberian Army to take a role as officer in the Buffalo Soldiers. ²

23

The number of African Americans who received the Medal of Honor between 1870 and 1898. ³

Before the National Park Service was created, Buffalo Soldiers were among the first park rangers. ³





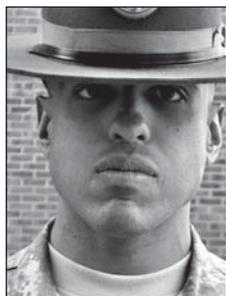
Photos by JENNIFER STRIDE

Sweetheart ball

More than 350 moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents and children danced the night away at the Sweethearts Ball held at the Solomon Center Saturday night.

Saluting this BCT cycle's honorees

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



**Staff Sgt.
Giovanni Rubio**
Alpha Company
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment



**Staff Sgt.
Donald Tubaugh**
Bravo Company
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment



**Staff Sgt.
William Nalls**
Charlie Company
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment



**Staff Sgt.
Derrick Laster**
Delta Company
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment



**Staff Sgt.
Geraldine Ximenez**
Echo Company
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

**HONOR GRADUATE
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Daitlin Nichols

**HONOR GRADUATE
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Christopher Erwin

**HONOR GRADUATE
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. David Modispaw

**HONOR GRADUATE
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Nicholas Simon

**HONOR GRADUATE
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Eric Kron

**STUDENT LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Scott Maraldo

**STUDENT LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Emmanuel Montenegro

**STUDENT LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Emilie Sheridan

**STUDENT LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Nicholas Davis

**STUDENT LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Breann Ankenman

HIGH BRM
Spc. Lucas Eldridge

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Gabriel Saenz

HIGH BRM
Spc. Cooper Lemons

HIGH BRM
Pvt Thailus Mitchell

HIGH BRM
Pfc. Essien Ahensah

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Kevin Schmidt

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Eric Ford

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Samuel Strom

HIGH APFT
Spc. Nicholas Simon

HIGH APFT
Spc. Samuel Garman



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