

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

PUBLISHED FOR THE FORT JACKSON
WWW.FORTJACKSON.COM

100
A CENTURY OF SERVICE
FORT JACKSON ★ COLUMBIA, SC

'HE IS A SOLDIER'

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION GRANTED
FOR SIKH ENLISTEE, P.3

TEAMWORK MAJ. GEN. ROGER CLOUTIER REFLECTS ON HIS TIME HERE AT FORT JACKSON P.7

FORMER PRO FOOTBALL PLAYER JOINS THE ARMY P.8



ON THE COVER

Spc. Harpal Singh was recently granted a waiver to Army Regulation 670-1 that allows him to wear articles of faith, including a beard and turban. SEE PAGE 3.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

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.

TOMORROW

Change of command
Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier, will relinquish command of Fort Jackson and the Army Training Center to Brig. Gen. John P. Johnson at 9 a.m. during a change of command ceremony at Victory Field.

JULY 12

Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills
9 a.m.–noon, Room 222, Strom Thurmond Building. Learn how to prepare your resume for corporate America. Presented by SC BlueCross BlueShield.

TUESDAY

Home Buying Seminar
10 a.m.–2 p.m., NCO Club. Register at the housing office or by calling 751-5788 or 751-7566. The seminar is free to all ID card holders.

JULY 14

Support Military Spouses Job Fair
9 a.m.–1 p.m., 730 Polo Park Road, Columbia. The job fair is open to all spouses, veterans and active-duty service members. To register, visit www.supportmilitaryspouses.org.

JULY 2

Torchlight Tattoo and Fireworks
4–11 p.m., Hilton Field. This year's event includes a cannon salute to each state and territory, music by the 282nd Army "Victory" Band, and fireworks. The field opens at 4 pm and the Tattoo begins at 9 p.m. Lawn chairs and blankets welcome, but bleacher, grandstand seating available. No pets, coolers, alcohol, or personal fireworks. Food vendors are available at 5 p.m.

JULY 19

Steps to Federal Employment for Military Spouses
Steps to Federal Employment for Military Spouses, 9–11:30 a.m. Strom Thurmond Bldg., Room 222. Information on civil service and NAF employment. Targeted to military spouses, but open to all military and DOD ID card holders. To register call 803-751-9460/5452 or email sherry.r.major.civ@mail.mil.

4th of July 10K and 5K.

8 a.m. at Hilton Field. Sign up on line at jackson.armymwr.com.

JULY 21

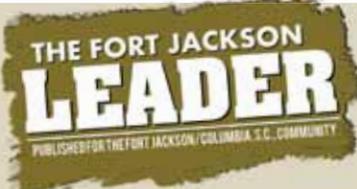
Neighborhood Huddle
Noon, playground on McLeod Court for residents of Pierce Terrace 1-7. Housing residents are invited to meet the housing staff and garrison leadership to discuss housing-related concerns.

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

The event is open to all children ages 9-18. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams in each division. To register, call the Youth Sports Office at 751-7451.

ROAD CLOSURES

Some Fort Jackson roads will be closed for repaving. Kemper and Manigault streets are scheduled to be closed between June 20 and Aug. 4 for road construction. Kershaw Street is scheduled to be closed Aug. 8 – 26. Road work is scheduled to be done one lane at a time on Forest Drive and Dixie Road between Aug. 29 and October 3. Drivers are cautioned to follow construction signs and signals from any flag men. For more information contact Jason Hinton at 751-3124 or via email at Harold.j.hinton@usace.army.mil.



Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

This civilian enterprise newspaper, which has a circulation of 15,000, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Fort Jackson Leader are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Jackson.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Camden Media Co. of the firms, products or services advertised.

All editorial content of the Fort Jackson Leader is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Jackson.

The Fort Jackson Leader is published by Camden Media Co., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Jackson.

The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising.

For display advertising rates and information call 803-432-6157 or write Camden Media Company, P.O. Box 1137, Camden, S.C. 29202. For classified advertising information only: call 800-698-3514 or e-mail pmathes@chronicle-independent.com or fax 803-432-7609.

For questions or concerns about subscriptions, call 803-432-6157. To submit articles, story ideas or announcements, write the Fort Jackson Leader, Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, call 803-751-7045 or e-mail fjleader@gmail.com.

- Commanding General Maj. Gen. Roger L. Cloutier Jr.
- Garrison Commander Col. James W. Ellerson Jr.
- Public Affairs Officer Michael B. Pond
- Garrison Public Affairs Officer Patrick Jones
- Command Information Officer Christopher Fletcher
- Editor Wallace McBride
- Staff Writer Robert Timmons
- Staff Writer Demetria Mosley

Website: www.fortjacksonleader.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/fortjackson
 Twitter: www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao
 Instagram: www.instagram.com/fortjacksonpao



By Demetria Mosley

'He is a Soldier'

Beard, turban exemption granted for Sikh enlistee

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Leader

For Spc. Harpal Singh, it was a life-time dream to serve in the Army. However, his religious beliefs could have kept him from serving.

Singh is a devout Sikh who follows the religions five articles of faith, or 5K's, of keeping unshorn hair and beard (Kes), wearing a knife (Kirpan) and metal bracelet (Kara), keeping a wooden comb (Kangha), and wearing special garments (Kachhera).

The Army recently granted him and other Sikh Soldiers exemptions to the Army's wear and appearance regulation, AR 670-1.

Basic Combat Training "is going excellent," he said during a break in training at Fort Jackson's Confidence Course. "I am privileged to be here."

"It has always been a dream of mine to be in the Army," he said flashing a bright smile. "I have tried for the last five years to get into the Army and to get a waiver."

The Army granted many waivers for Sikh Soldiers in the past few years. Recently, Singh and two other Soldiers were given a waiver. In 2010, the first Soldier since 1984 to receive a waiver of this kind walked in formation at Hilton Field carrying his company's guidon during his basic training graduation.

The 34-year-old from San Francisco has excelled so far in his Army career. Only a few weeks into BCT, and he has shot expert on the rifle range and is close to scoring a 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

"I have to improve my form in my push-ups, I hit the max but some didn't count," he said.

Even though he is originally from Punjab, India where it is very warm, South Carolina humidity is tough on him because he lived in the San Francisco Bay area where it is very dry. He said the humidity has affected his form and he needs to work through it.

Singh's drill sergeants call the 34-year-old a model Soldier.

Staff Sgt. Gregory Lenksi, a drill sergeant with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, said, "He's been an outstanding Soldier ever since we've had him. As far as being a drill sergeant for him, it's been good having him. He is a leader within the platoon and he has maintained high PT average and a good weapons qualification."

The accommodations the Army has given Singh is pretty basic, Lenksi said.

“

It has always been a dream of mine to be in the Army. I have tried for the last five years to get into the Army and to get a waiver.

— Spc. Harpal Singh

”



Photo by **ROBERT TIMMONS**

Spc. Harpal Singh, with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, helps move his platoon's water hydration carriers during training at the Fort Jackson Confidence Course. Singh and another Soldier going through training with a different company, were recently granted waivers to Army Regulation 670-1 so they can wear articles of their faith including beards and turbans.



Courtesy photo

Junior leaders

Junior enlisted Soldiers from Moncrief Army Community Hospital attended training for the Junior Leadership Development Program at the Basic Combat Training Museum here at Fort Jackson. The program is intended to equip junior non-commissioned officers with the tools needed to become better leaders and improve professional development. ‘Our junior Soldiers are the future of our fighting force, and we must equip them with not just skills, but knowledge,’ said Staff Sgt. Robert W. Burns III, of MACH. ‘Doing this will ensure that they continue lead the way in the world.’

MACH to hold Change of Command Ceremony

Col. Eric S. Edwards will become the new commander of Moncrief Army Community Hospital in a ceremony to be held Monday, June 27 at 8 a.m. on the hospital lawn. Edwards will assume command from the outgoing commander, Col. Traci E. Crawford.

Some of Edwards previous assignments include serving as Chief, Program Analysis/Evaluation, TRI-CARE Regional Office West; Deputy Commander for Administration/Chief of Operations, Medical Task Force 31 in Operation Enduring Freedom; and then G8, Pacific Regional Medical Command/Tripler Army Medical Center. Edwards served as the Executive Assistant to the Army Surgeon General and Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command; and subsequently as battalion commander, Brooke Army Medical Center Warrior Transition Battalion. Most recently



EDWARDS

he was assigned as the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School/Health Readiness Center of Excellence before attending National Defense University.



CRAWFORD

Crawford’s next assignment will be as deputy commanding officer for Brooke Army Medical Center located on Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

‘Go Wild’ with Army digital photo contest

Army Reserve Sustainability Programs is hosting its first “Go Wild” Digital Photography Contest in honor of World Environment Day, which is bringing worldwide awareness to wildlife causes this year.

Soldiers and Civilians of all ages may capture photographs of wildlife including animals, plants and insects and submit them to usarsustainability@gmail.com by Sunday, July 10. All entries should include the photographer’s name, the location where the photograph was captured, the name of the species in the photograph, and the title of the photograph.

The winner will receive some eco-friendly prizes, and the winning photograph may be featured in future Army Reserve Sustainability Programs publications, such as the “Soldiers for Sustainability” quarterly newsletter.

Photos submitted must be the original work of the photographer. No wildlife should be harassed or harmed during photography. Photographers should not endanger themselves during photography. All submissions should be in JPG format at a resolution of 300 dots per inch.

Call 910-570-8906 or visit usarsustainability.com/WED2016 for more details.

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 outbound traffic only.
- Open 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

FOLLOW FORT JACKSON ONLINE
WWW.FORTJACKSONLEADER.COM



@FORTJACKSONPAO





FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

WWW.FORTJACKSONMWR.COM



DEEP SEA FISHING TRIP

Saturday, July 23 (2:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.)
Departs from Marion Street Station.

Only \$120 per person.
Price includes transportation, boat ticket, fishing equipment, and bait.

Would you like the ultimate experience in Deep Sea Fishing? Join us for an entire day trip out to the Gulf Stream. Red snapper, trigger fish, flounder, amber jack, and spade fish are just a few of the types of fish you may haul in. No matter what your level of skill, the boat staff will work with you to ensure you have a memorable trip.

For more info, call 751-3484.

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS



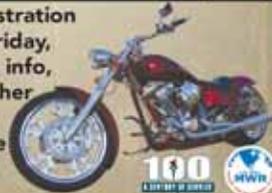
FREE EVENT

AUTOCRAFT CAR & BIKE SHOW

At Patriot's Park
(next to Palmetto Falls)

Saturday, July 30 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Car and bike registration due by COB on Friday, July 29. For more info, contact Ken Fletcher at 751-5755 or Chuck Stoudemire at 751-0891.



FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS



FAMILY EVENING BOWLING SPECIAL

Families* can enjoy unlimited bowling on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8 p.m. at Century Lanes Bowling Center.

*Adults must bowl with their children. No unaccompanied children will be permitted.

ONLY \$5 (per Family member, per visit. Shoes not included.)
4464 Gregg Street • (803) 751-4656

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS



EQUIPMENT RENTALS!

Marion Street Station is excited to announce we are now accepting reservations for all equipment 60 DAYS IN ADVANCE!

Items available for rent include:

- » 2 Jet Skis
- » 22 foot Pontoon boat with 115 hp motor
- » Bass boat with a 50 hp motor
- » Fish/Ski combo boat with a 90 hp motor
- » 15 foot inflatable slide
- » Snow cone machine
- » Popcorn machine

For reservations or inquiries please stop by Marion Street Station at 4522 Marion Ave. or call (803) 751-3484

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS

6th Annual Family & MWR NATURAL BODYBUILDING Physique & Figure Competition

FORT JACKSON, SC
JUNE 25, 2016
6:00 P.M.

At The Solomon Center
6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd.

Competition Categories

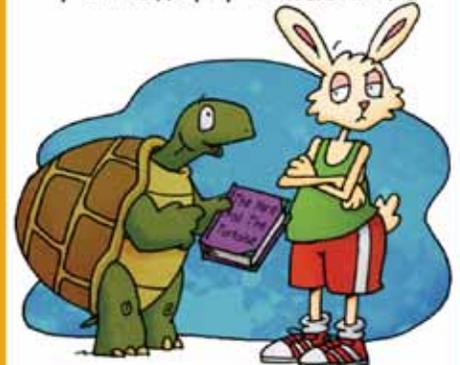
Men's Bodybuilding, Men's Physique, Women's Physique, Women's Figure, NEW - BIKINI DIVISION and Master's Division.

FREE ADMISSION

This event is open to all Military, Civilian Employees & Civilians to compete. For more information, call Pam Long at 751-3700.

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS

"The Tortoise and the Hare" performed by: Porkchop Productions



Join us at the Post Library
Friday, July 8 (10 a.m.)
Free event! Everyone is welcome!

Thomas Lee Hall Library
4679 Lee Road • (803) 751-5589

FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS

SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN!

Available Monday - Friday at the NCO Club
5700 Lee Road, Fort Jackson, SC • 782-2218

Fried Chicken is served as part of the all-you-can-eat buffet every Monday - Friday from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for only \$8.75.



FOR SOLDIERS FOR FAMILIES FOR RETIRES FOR CIVILIANS



Photo by DEMETRIA MOSLEY

Pvt. Rico Davidson, left, and Pvt. Tiniko Davidson, right, of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment made a pact to each other when enlisting in the Army to keep each other safe, watch each other's backs and make sure they do the right thing.

'If you do it, I'll do it'

Brothers attend basic training together

By **DEMETRIA MOSLEY**
Fort Jackson Leader

Knowing that college wasn't the right choice for either one of them, two brothers decided to pledge their allegiance to the Army with the agreement that they would keep each other safe, watch each other's back and make sure they do the right thing.

So far, Pvt. Tiniko, 18, and Pvt. Rico Davidson, 20, of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment have kept that promise to each other.

"We both came up with the idea of 'why don't we try the military' and I was like 'if you do it, I'll do it.' So we went to the recruiter's office the same day and signed the papers," said Rico.

While it's not unusual for family members to be at the same training facility at the same time. It's not common for them to train with each other within the same company.

The Davidsons enlisted under the Buddy Program which allows recruits to attend basic training, choose the same military oc-

cupational specialty and attend Advanced Individual Training with up to five of their friends.

Being two years apart in age, the brothers are used to being around each other. Knowing that the two were going to stay by each other's sides helped ease the hesitation their grandmother and mom had of them pursuing a career in military service.

"We had to tell them we weren't going infantry. We had to explain that we weren't going to be going to war and shooting guns and promise that we would help each other out," said Tiniko.

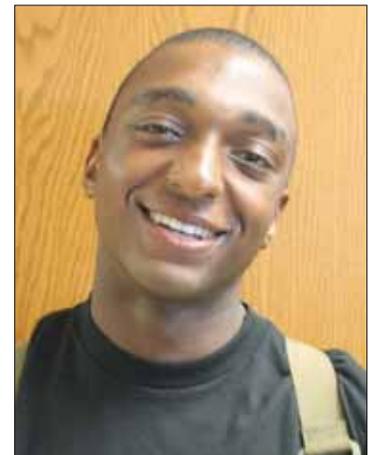
The MOS they choose is 92A, Automated Logistical Specialist. They would be in charge of warehouse activities such as stocking, shipping, and receiving stock.

To receive extra reassurance that they would be okay, their grandma called their Great Aunt Vickie Grier who works on Fort Jackson as a housing specialist at Single Soldier's housing.

Grier told her they would be fine. "I've been at Fort Jackson for a long time. I know the type of people that work



RICO DAVIDSON



TINIKO DAVIDSON

here. They are the best," she said "I knew they were in great hands so I wasn't worried about them."

Grier said it's been awhile since she's seen the brothers and can't wait to cheer

for them at graduation.

Rico and Tiniko are currently in the blue phases of Basic Combat Training. After they graduate, they will go to Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee.



Teamwork

Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier shares thoughts on Fort Jackson

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Leader

Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier, Fort Jackson commander, will relinquish command to Brig. Gen. John P. Johnson Friday in a ceremony at Victory Field. He sat down briefly with the Fort Jackson Leader to reflect about his time commanding the post.

What will you remember most about your time at Fort Jackson?

"That's a great question. I think the people. It's truly different groups of people – the Soldiers, the cadre. Before I came here I had no idea how hard they work. Our civilians and Soldiers, who train Soldiers on post – the tight knit Family that this installation is. The community is another group that I will remember. I can't think of a more military-friendly community than Columbia and the Midlands, and how good they have been, not only to my Family, but to our Soldiers.

"The Soldiers, the citizen-volunteers, who come in every single week. You know we started, 'I became a Soldier' in the Leader because there are so many neat stories. Those are the three main groups. It's the people, I think, that will make the lasting impression I will have of Fort Jackson."

Of all the things accomplished at Fort Jackson while you were here, what are you most proud of?

"The first thing is, I didn't do anything. It was the people underneath that are able to take ideas and translate them into actionable plans and things on the ground. I am most proud of the team work of the organization and how we all came together to accomplish the mission here.

"I think we made some really solid improvements to basic training. We've increased rigor in Victory Forge. We've empowered drill sergeants. I am really proud how the Army Training Center has come together to really boil down what we need to do here – that is produce Soldiers who can shoot, move and communicate, who are physically fit and well-disciplined. I'm most proud of how we moved in that direction.

See **CLOUTIER**: Pages 12-13

“

The first thing is, I didn't do anything. It was the people underneath that are able to take ideas and translate them into actionable plans ...

— Maj. Gen.
Roger Cloutier

”



Photo by DEMETRIA MOSLEY

'A LEG UP'

Spc. Daryn Colledge

Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment

"I've had the opportunity to work hand and hand with a lot of military members through the NFL. Soldiers have always been a class of individuals that I hold in high regard. That's why I decided I wanted to stand shoulder to shoulder with them."

Colledge is a former lineman for the Green Bay Packers, Arizona Cardinals and Miami Dolphins. During his fifth and final season in Green Bay in 2010, the Packers won the Super Bowl.

"I was going to originally join the Army out of high school, but I was fortunate enough to get an athletic scholarship to play football at Boise State University. I (then) played in the NFL for nine years and, after I retired, I was too young to not do anything. I felt like the climate in the world was changing and it was time for me to get off the couch and serve my country.

"It's difficult being 34 (in basic combat training) and dealing with 18- and 20-year-olds. For some Soldiers I've offered guidance and tried to be a mentor and offer leadership ... and some Soldiers don't want to hear that. Some of them have taken that advice to heart and used it to their advantage.

"I knew that when I joined I would be in this situation, and I thought I had the best advantage to try to give these Soldiers a leg up ... let them know what the future is going to look like and some of the pitfalls that I've seen or experienced in my life.

"A lot of Soldiers that are ready to join the Army at Fort Jackson I'm proud to call battle buddies, partners and brothers.

"I think every mother always worry when their son or daughter decides to take the step to take up arms and defend their country, but I've gotten nothing but overwhelming support from all the members of my Family."

– Spc. Daryn Colledge, 34

"I've always been a hands-on guy, outdoor guy. So things like field training exercise, grenade courses, dealing with the shooting ranges, that's all stuff that interests me. The great thing about basic training is that you're consistently learning, and I'm the type of person that wants to constantly grow and develop. Every day is excellent to me because I get to learn something new. This last week has been the hardest week because now we're not doing anything. We're just cleaning stuff."



See **COLLEDGE**: Page 14

Katona takes command of 193rd

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Leader

The 193rd Infantry Brigade said goodbye to one commander but welcomed another at Victory Field Tuesday when Col Milford H. Beagle Jr., passed the reins of the brigade to Col. Michael T. Katona during a change of command ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier, Fort Jackson commander, said it was a somber occasion to lose Beagle, who was instrumental in training thousands of Soldiers.

"It is, however, a joyous day as we get the pleasure to welcome Mike and his wife Kathy and their girls Natalie, Ava and Audrey as they join the Fort Jackson Family fresh from the National Defense University in D.C.," Cloutier said.

Commanding the 193rd is a major undertaking as the unit trains thousands of Soldiers each year that can be called upon by the President when he needs to draw a "line in the sand," he added.

"Over the past two years over 50,000 Soldiers were trained by the 193rd," said Cloutier. "These 50,000 civilian-volunteers raised their right hand to volunteer to stand in the gap for freedom – to take a stand against any terrorism or threat to this great nation. These volunteers were transformed into American Soldiers."

Beagle helped create a "culture formed on developing experts" in training. Katona, a "proven combat warrior," has worked with Cloutier in the past.

In his brief speech as the new brigade commander, Katona recalled how Cloutier developed leaders "in real time. Just like Maj. Cloutier developed Capt. Katona 17 years ago while I was attempting to maneuver my new mech infantry company."

After watching him struggle Cloutier "not wanting to be shy, ran down the mountain he was standing on, kicked my gunner out of my Bradley and jumped in next to me and said, 'Let me show you how to do this, brother.'"

The new 193rd commander has "exactly the right skills to continue the upward trajectory of the brigade. Mike and I have served together before. I know all his weaknesses and I have dirt on him," Cloutier joked during the ceremony.

"I have no doubt that the 193rd will be in good hands."

Katona has deployed numerous times to Afghanistan and Iraq including as commander of 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. He has been assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment, 1st Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division.

Cloutier said Katona and his Family have moved "to the most military-friendly



Photo by **ROBERT TIMMONS**

Col. Michael T. Katona, commander of the 193rd Infantry Brigade, receives the unit colors from post commander Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier during a change of command ceremony June 21 at Victory Field.

town in America" and will have a great tour at Fort Jackson. "Embrace the community and they will embrace you."

The great responsibility and "sacred burden" of training Soldiers rests squarely

on Katona now that he is in command, Cloutier added.

Beagle leaves to become the executive officer to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Daniel B. Allyn.

'I BECAME A SOLDIER ...' **1ST BATTALION, 13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**

PFC. VICTORIA L. JACKSON, 29

Houston



"I joined the Army to help pay off college loans."

"Working out daily and learning new things," are what's good about Basic Combat Training."

My military occupational specialty is "92G – Food Service Specialist." I chose it "because there wasn't much available."

My Family is "happy to see me go into something new."

"I look forward to seeing where the military could take me. I joined for help with school loans, but I want to take it a step further."

SPC. ALEX BAUTISTA, 26

Murrieta, California



"I joined the Army to carry on my father's legacy as a Soldier."

"My favorite part of Basic Combat Training has been meeting other future Soldiers."

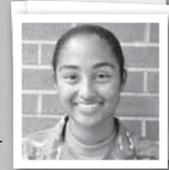
"I am a 09S – Commissioned Officer Candidate, because I wanted to be a good leader for my peers."

"My Family is proud and excited to visit me at my first duty station."

"I look forward to seeing how the Army's needs change in the next 10 years."

PVT. CORALMA FELIZ, 19

Stamford, Connecticut



"I joined the Army to finish college. I always wanted to be part of something more. I always thought I was meant to do something else."

"Meeting new people from different parts of the U.S.A" is what has been good about Basic Combat Training.

I am a "92A – Logistics Specialist. I like having things together, and making sure everything is in the right spot."

"My Mom is really proud of me. They always wanted me to do something big."

PFC. TRAVIS R. GRAY, 23

Hanoverton, Ohio



"I joined the Army to better myself as an individual, to pay for my school, and to better my career options."

The best part of basic training is "the amount of information learned and the hands-on training."

I am a "91C – Utilities Equipment Repairer. I chose it because it was the only available military occupational specialty at the time to pay back my student loans."

"My Family is very happy for me, as well as being very proud."

SPC. ZHAOYANG CHEN, 26

Chengdu, China



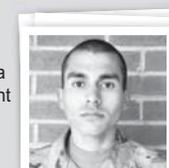
"I joined the Army to get discipline and teamwork training, get the GI Bill for future education, and a fast pass to get U.S. citizenship."

The best part of Basic Combat Training was that "drill sergeants are all very professional, battlefield and weapons training is exciting, and I get to a closer look at how American Soldiers are becoming stronger."

I am a "92Y – Unit Supply Specialist. I like math and I focus on details. This MOS is the best for my interests."

PVT. CHRISTIAN CORTEZ, 24

Cayey, Puerto Rico



"I joined the Army to become a warrior, learn new skills, represent the United States like many men and women who have lived and died for our freedom."

"Learning new skills, the tough training that has taught me that I can surpass my limits" is what I found good about basic training.

My MOS is "92A – Automated Logistical Specialist. I chose it because I want to provide materials and equipment to my fellow battle buddies and do my part in the Army."

Niger soldiers learn U.S. Army training techniques

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Leader

Fort Jackson is so well known for its training prowess that military personnel from across the globe converge on the post to learn more about how America trains its Soldiers.

Four senior and seven junior leaders with Forces de Armees de Niger, or FAN, have been here since June 13 to discover ways to professionalize their basic training. The FAN is the armed forces of the African country of Niger.

During their visit, the soldiers were integrated into different training battalions to learn more about the red, white and blue phases of Basic Combat Training. They met with drill sergeants, drill sergeant leaders, Soldiers in Training and Fort Jackson leadership to better understand how, and why, the Army trains the way it does.

They also were in for a few surprises, including Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier Fort Jackson commander, welcoming them and speaking to them in fluent French, the national language of Niger.

Niger shouldn't be confused with Nigeria, as the former was a French colony

and the latter a former British colony.

"It was really interesting," said FAN Lt. Col. Aboubacar Issoufou, a commander at Niger's training school. "It made us really feel at home."

Cloutier spoke about his wish to visit the FAN's training during his next assignment as AFRICOM chief of staff.

When Cloutier asked them how they liked South Carolina, they answered it was "too hot."

FAN Lt. Ismael Amadou Hamani, said even though it was hot and humid during the first part of their stay, "the weather is better here than there."

"We saw a different way of training Soldiers, and also how to increase security," Issoufou said after meeting with Sgt. Maj. Edward Roderiques, the deputy commandant of the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy. "We got to see how Soldiers work together."

Roderiques explained to the team what it takes to be a drill sergeant leader and when asked if there were ever soldiers from other nationalities trained there, he said a South Korean drill sergeant candidate will soon be going through training.

See **TRAINING:** Page 15



Photo by **ROBERT TIMMONS**

Two soldiers from the Forces de Armees de Niger, or FAN, watch intently as Soldiers in Training navigate the Skyscraper obstacle at the Fort Jackson confidence course.



Left, Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier, outgoing commanding general of Fort Jackson, chats with Gary Sinese prior to a musical performance by the actor last September on post. Center, Cloutier thanks a volunteer during a Helping Hands award celebration. Cloutier will relinquish command tomorrow to Brig. Gen. John P. Johnson in a ceremony at Victory Field. Right, Cloutier speaks with members of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks football team prior to the coin toss of the game against the Citadele.

Cloutier

Continued from Page 3

"In terms of Garrison and our partners in excellence, we made some significant improvements to the installation. We've got a long-term vision now, and I think we are moving in the right direction. So I'm really proud of that. I'm also proud of how the community came together during the flooding and how not only were we able to take care of ourselves and the Soldiers in Training, but also assist the community during that time of crisis.

"There are so many things to be proud of. But, I am most proud of the Soldiers and civilians on this installation and the hard work they do. They are the unsung heroes, who like I say, are linemen who block every day."

There have been numerous partnerships with the local community, such as the University of South Carolina football team. In your opinion why it is important for the installation to work well with the local community?

"I think everybody benefits. When I was talking to President (Harris) Pastides (USC president) early on when I first got here, we both realized we deal with the same population in

terms of the performance triad. USC and the other institutions in town were all kind of dealing with the same problems. So coming together has been beneficial to everybody.

"I think it is important to partner because a majority of our Soldiers live out in the community. We are part of the Columbia/Midlands area. We shop in the stores. We work in the establishments. So we are building the sense of community support – in other words – telling the Army story. A lot of great things occur inside the gate of Fort Jackson and I think its important that people outside the gates understand what goes on here. Furthermore, we have a lot we can learn from each other.

"Working with the USC football team, for example, when Coach (Will) Muschamp said he was interested in (partnering) to work on mentorship and developing natural leaders – we can help. It takes two hands to clap, we are one of those hands the community is the other. Together, I think, we all get better."

When looking back at all your assignments during your career, how would you rate Fort Jackson?

"Before I came here I would've said, 'Argh, Fort Jackson,' because I had never been here, but it's been one of the best assignments I have had in the Army. The mission is clear, we have the resources to get it done, the people are phenomenal

(they are hand picked; the best the Army has to offer), and the community is amazing.

"I went around as part of listening sessions to almost all of the military installation in CONUS. This is the most military-friendly community I have ever been in.

"My wife and I are disappointed because we really wanted to stay another year, but in the Army we are Soldiers. When the Army says you move, you move."

Is there anything would you have liked to have accomplished before you had to leave?

"There are a couple more tweaks we would like to do in regards to basic training. We have a good vision for where we want to go. We had a training conference out at (the McCrady Training Center) where we really looked at basic training in 2020 and beyond – where we need to get to and what we want to do.

"I would like to have been here to get some of the infrastructure work we've been focused on (completing). (Some are) a new 120th (Adjutant General) Reception complex, we are working through Semmes Lake (issues), we've got some World War II wood that needs to come down, installation paving projects, and Soldier barracks (renovations and construction). So there is a lot of infrastructure stuff that we have planned that I would have liked to have been done on my watch, but General Johnson is a great man and he is a great

Soldier. This is like a relay, we will hand the baton off to him and he will keep running."

Is there anything you would like to say to the members of the Fort Jackson community?

"On behalf of Diane, my daughter Haley, my son Cameron and my son Roger, who is now a Soldier serving at Fort Benning, thank you to the community for making us feel so welcome, and making us feel like part of their Family. My daughter is going to go to school at the University of South Carolina, which we never would have considered before we got here.

Thank you to the Soldiers and civilians here on Fort Jackson who do a phenomenal job transforming citizen-volunteers into Soldiers, and the sacrifices they make every day that people don't even know about.

"When I say that folks on Fort Jackson are truly linemen on our team that block on every play and never get any credit. I mean that. Thank for what you do every day. We build strategic readiness here at Fort Jackson, and the Army could not accomplish its mission without you. So never, ever, confuse your proximity to the fight with your importance to the mission. You are incredibly important to what the Army does and you are some of the finest Soldiers and civilians I've worked with. You are consummate professionals, so thank you for what you and your Families do, and thank you for your service to the country."

“

My wife and I are disappointed because we really wanted to stay another year, but in the Army we are Soldiers. When the Army says you move, you move."

— Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier

”

Leader file photos

CMYK

CMYK

277 WEB-100

Colledge

Continued from Page 8

"I'm a 15T, a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter Repairer. I'm (already) a private pilot. I grew up flying with my father. My father flew a bush plane in Alaska, where I'm from. So I've always had a passion for flying. When I got in the NFL and had a little bit of money in my pocket, I (learned) to fly and became a pilot, and I've been chasing that passion ever since. The Army gives me the opportunity to continue flying, but also work on helicopters, which is something I've been interested in. I've always been interested in mechanics.

"My long-time goal is to do this until I'm told I can't do this anymore. This will be the last thing I do. I did the NFL, now I'm done with that ... and now I have a situation where this will be my career until I retire. I was fortunate enough to do whatever I want to do, and what I want to do is serve my country.

"I think every mother always worries when their son or daughter decides to take the step to take up arms and defend their country, but I've gotten nothing but overwhelming support from all the members of my family.

"Basic combat training is hard in it's own way, but for me the Army is easy because it's just hard work. You show up on time, they feed you, they clothe you and you just work as hard as you can, and that aspect I really enjoy the Army. I can get onboard with it because (it's all just) hard work and that's something you don't necessarily just find out in the civilian world."



Photo by DEMETRIA MOSLEY

Staff Sgt. Rolando Pravo supervises Spc. Daryn Colledge, of Delta Company 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, as he completes a set of pull-ups. Colledge played for the NFL for almost a decade before deciding to join the Army National Guard.

Training

Continued from Page 11

“It is really interesting because I think that to be a good leader you must leave good impressions,” Issoufou said.

Issoufou said that during their tour of the USADSA, they were able to find what they were looking for. He added his group was able to view ways to increase their professionalism during the training.

While on post, the group was separated into two groups based on their ranks. The senior leaders left Fort Jackson June 19, while the junior leaders witnessed in-depth how Soldiers are integrated in the U.S. Army from reception at the 120th Adjutant General Battalion, shipped to their basic training companies, and trained during all three phases of training.

The group watched how the Army trains Soldiers to fire weapons and saw how they react under fire at the night infiltration course. They also saw how males and females interact during training.

Hamani said he was impressed with the U.S. Army drill sergeants and “the hospitality of American Soldiers.”

The FAN leaders said they found many things they want to bring back to their training.

“I want to bring back the organization, instilling the will into the soldier, the quality of the training,” Hamani said.

“It is really good how they train the trainees without any harm,” Issoufou said.

“I think the weeks we spent here are going to be very useful,” he said. “That is what I am looking for as the commander of the training school.”



‘Strawberry Fields Forever’ MEDDAC Soldiers and their families visited Cottle Strawberry Farm in Hopkins, South Carolina, last Sunday. The Father’s Day trip also doubled as an opportunity for the new command group to meet Soldiers in an informal setting.

Courtesy photos

HONORS

Saluting this BCT cycle's honorees

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



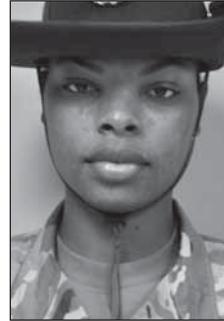
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Navarro
Alpha Company
1st Battalion, 13th Infantry
Regiment



Staff Sgt. Ryan Cope
Bravo Company
1st Battalion, 13th Infantry
Regiment



Staff Sgt. Maria Fisher
Charlie Company
1st Battalion, 13th Infantry
Regiment



Staff Sgt. Kasha Davis
Delta Company
1st Battalion, 13th Infantry
Regiment

HONOR GRADUATE OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Jessie Hall

HONOR GRADUATE OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Ingold Guttenbell

HONOR GRADUATE OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Shawn Leitten

HONOR GRADUATE OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Jonathan Chavez

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Franti Tanner

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Alison Mrowinski

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Brian T. Cummins

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Daryn W. Colledge

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Korey Whitley

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Richard Alexander

HIGH BRM
Pfc. Daniel Rodriguez

HIGH BRM
Pfc. James Essner

HIGH APFT
Spc. Kristen Charleville

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Anthony Bramante

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Mercedes A. Pasillas

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Alexandria M. Elisio

SOCIAL MEDIA DECEPTION

15% of social media users publically share their birthday.
17% post what high school they attended.
29% don't use strong passwords.*

Others can use YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION to deceive you and seem trustworthy.

What are you sharing?
Where are you sharing it?
Who are you sharing it with?

**YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION:
PROTECT IT FROM
EXPLOITATION**

Know the Risk
Raise your Shield

Maximize your social media privacy settings.
"Friend" only those you know and trust.

*Source: NextAdvisor

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT NCSC.GOV

'The great American pastime'

Blowfish host free baseball game for Soldiers in Lexington

By **SGT. DARRYL L. MONTGOMERY**
319th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

The Lexington County Blowfish celebrated Fort Jackson and its 100 years of military service June 11 during its annual military appreciation night.

More than 900 Initial Entry Training Soldiers attended the baseball game at the Lexington County Baseball Stadium to enjoy the "great American pastime," according to Carl Blackstone, president and chief executive officer of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

"This is a great opportunity for us to have more interaction between Fort Jackson and the community," Blackstone added. "We have a great partnership with Fort Jackson, and we would like to thank Fort Jackson for helping make this happen."

Due to the Soldiers in attendance being in training for the last several months, many of them have not had the opportunity

to leave the post and relax. Blackstone said he is happy to have been able to help provide them the chance to come out and enjoy themselves for an evening.

"We really appreciate Lexington County for hosting this event. For the last nine weeks, we've been stuck in the barracks doing basic training stuff, so, this is a really good boost for morale," said Spc. Mary K. Tran, a Syracuse, New York, resident currently assigned to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment. "The staff here have been really welcoming and have taken good care of us!"

Wells Fargo provided food and drinks for the Soldiers in attendance.

Holt Chetwood, the Midlands Marketing President for Wells Fargo, wanted the Soldiers to know he and his family really appreciate their service to the United States of America.

"Fort Jackson has a major impact on our community," Chetwood said, "and we wanted to take this chance to celebrate



Photo by SGT. DARRYL L. MONTGOMERY

More than 900 Initial Entry Training Soldiers stationed on Fort Jackson attended the baseball game at the Lexington County Baseball Stadium for the Lexington County Blowfish Military Appreciation Night.

them and thank them for their service."

"The relationship between Fort Jackson and our community dates back 100 years,"

Chetwood said, "and I'd like to thank you all for your service and for being the greatest part of our country."



Photos by ROBERT TIMMONS

Spc. Harpal Singh, with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, and other Soldiers in his platoon organize the unit's water hydration carriers as other Soldiers in their platoon go through the Slide to Victory.

Singh

Continued from Page 3

“He gets an exception to AR-670-1 as far as his uniform and how he maintains his faith,” the drill sergeant with 2nd Platoon said. “He wears a black turban during PT hours and an OCP camouflaged turban when in duty uniform. He is allowed a beard and longer hair.”

There is no particular length his beard can be, but it does have to appear neat and orderly.

Singh said he didn't see himself being treated differently from any other Soldiers.

“I usually get a questions like, why do I have a beard and what's my faith,” he said minutes after going through the Slide to Victory at the Confidence Course. “Once I explain to them it turns into a positive experience and a positive reaction. They are very accepting.”

The turban itself represents a symbol

of equality because centuries ago there was a caste system and the turban is a symbol of pride and equality.

Sikhism is a monotheistic religion whose members are “supposed to help others and supposed to fight for others who can't defend themselves. We fight for justice. We are also supposed to share the food and cannot have it.”

The cadre was thoroughly trained before Singh arrived.

“We were prepared before he even made it to Charlie Company,” Lenski said. “We had his information and the exception to policy memo given out by the TRADOC commander and it hasn't been an issue.”

His life with other members in his platoon, “is normal, they don't treat him any different,” said Staff Sgt. Oscar Gal-damez, another of Singh's drill sergeants for his platoon. “It's like us, we don't treat him any different. He is a Soldier, he's a basic entry Soldier and we treat him the same way as every other Soldier.”

Another Sikh Soldier is going through Basic Combat Training's Red Phase.



Spc. Harpal Singh, shows off one of the five articles of his Sikh faith, a metal bracelet called a Kara.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

AND FREE CONCERT
FEATURING GRAMMY
AWARD WINNING ARTIST **MIYA**

At Hilton Field • Saturday, July 2 • Gates open at 4 p.m.
Concert opens with **The Root Doctors** at 7 p.m.

Fireworks at dark. Food and beverage concessions will be available for purchase.

No coolers. No Pets. No items prohibited by post security. Chairs & blankets may be brought in for seating.

Free and open to the public.



Concert hosted by Greg Henderson.



FOR SOLDIERS

FOR FAMILIES

FOR RETIREES

FOR CIVILIANS

PALMETTO FALLS WATER PARK SEASON MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON SALE NOW AT VICTORY TRAVEL!

6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd. Fort Jackson, SC 29207 • 751-5812.



**All DoD ID Cardholders:
Only \$50 for a Family of 4!**

Additional Family members are only \$10 each!

- » Single Memberships for DoD ID Cardholders are \$20 available at Victory Travel.
- » Non-Affiliated civilians can purchase Family Season Memberships for \$99
- » Single Memberships are \$45 online at www.fortjacksonmwr.com. Just scroll down to the blue area and click the Webtrac link. Some restrictions apply.

Upcoming events:

- » June 24 - Swim a lap Day. See Waterpark staff for details.
- » June 28 - Sunglasses Day Show your season membership and get a free pair of sunglasses while supplies last.



LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Through Wednesday, June 29

**GET A FRIED
OR GRILLED
CHICKEN SALAD
FOR ONLY \$5**

at The Strike Zone Snack Bar located inside Century Lanes Bowling Center.



(May not be combined with any other offer.)
4464 Gregg Street • (803) 751-4656

FOR SOLDIERS

FOR FAMILIES

FOR RETIREES

FOR CIVILIANS

FOR SOLDIERS

FOR FAMILIES

FOR RETIREES

FOR CIVILIANS