Navigating Success
Fort Jackson schools have big plans for students in new year
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Community drums up support for post — Page 3
81st welcomes new top enlisted Soldier


DRILL SERGEANT ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Army’s drill sergeant program, TRADOC will host several events Sept. 12 at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School.

The Drill Sergeant School will host an outdoor social with catered dinner, various vendors, static displays and other activities. All past and present drill sergeants are asked to bring their campaign hats to the drill sergeant hat social. This event will be capped off with a mass formation photo, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony to officially celebrate the program’s anniversary.

A time capsule will be unveiled that allows drill sergeants to add their own piece of history. The time capsule will be sealed and won’t be opened for 25 years. Drill sergeants may also purchase a personalized drill sergeant brick paver with their names and dates served on the trail engraved. The brick pavers will be placed near the drill sergeant time capsule.

To register for the hat social, visit www.armydrillsergeants.com

The events scheduled for Sept. 12 are:
- Run with the drill sergeants, 6 a.m., Hilton Field
- Breakfast, 7 a.m., NCO Club
- Drill sergeant Hall of Fame induction ceremony, 11 a.m., Drill Sergeant School
- Drill Sergeant School tour and history showcase, 1 p.m., Drill Sergeant School
- Drill sergeant hat social and photo, 4 p.m., Drill Sergeant School
Community shows support for post

By SUSANNE KAPPLER
Fort Jackson Leader

Community members throughout the Midlands have pledged their support for Fort Jackson since the Army announced in March what the impact of continued force reductions could mean for the installation.

The Army is currently on track to reduce the strength of its active duty force from 562,000 to 490,000, but sequestration-level budget cuts could necessitate a reduction to 420,000 active troops by 2019.

Those cuts could force the elimination of 2,400 military and 700 civilian positions on Fort Jackson, according to the Army’s most recent Programmatic Environmental Assessment, or PEA, which was conducted for more than 30 military installations. Fort Jackson was not part of the Army’s original PEA in 2013, but was added this year in the Army’s supplemental PEA, or SPEA, in light of the possibility of automatic spending cuts, commonly known as sequestration, in 2016.

The community is invited to respond to the analysis until Aug. 25 by writing directly to the U.S. Army Environmental Command. However, community leaders have started consolidating the effort to gather support.

“The city of Columbia, specifically the chamber of commerce, is really taking the lead on organizing the response back to the Department of the Army. They have gone out in all different sectors of the local community to achieve that feedback,” said Col. Daniel Beatty, Fort Jackson chief of staff. “I’m not sure there’s any other community that has done that to date — at least in this much of an organized fashion.”

Beatty said it was refreshing to see the civilian community taking such an active involvement.

“I think it’s absolutely fantastic that they’re coming together, congregating as a community to provide that feedback,” he said.

Although the initial commenting period ends Aug. 25, community members will have another option to voice their opinion early next year in a public listening session in which DA officials will be present. The date, time and location of the session have yet to be determined.

Beatty explained that after the feedback has been gathered and analyzed, the Army will conduct a military values analysis, which will examine the installation’s infrastructure, and an analysis of the post’s operational and strategic importance before making a final decision about possible cuts on Fort Jackson.

“As we’re finding more and more often, in some cases people only know that we do Basic Combat Training. And I’m not sure they understand the plethora of other missions that we have,” he said. “This year, for example, we’re training about 42,000 basic combat trainees who are coming through here and another 29,000 training and education population students. It’s really mind-boggling when you think about how big and how complicated that actual training process can be.”

He reiterated that the projected cuts outlined in the SPEA are for assessment purposes and that a decision may not be made until the Army’s final troop strength will be determined.

“We think Fort Jackson is well-poised for a training and education base,” Beatty said. “We could do a lot for the Army. We’re set up very, very well and continue to update barracks and (other infrastructure). I think in the future that will bode Fort Jackson very well.”

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Editor’s note: Written comments about the SPEA may be submitted to: U.S. Army Environmental Command, ATTN: SPEA Public Comments, 2450 Connell Road (Building 2264), Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7664; or by email to usarmy.jbsaaec.nepa@mail.mil


The Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce petition to support Fort Jackson can be found at www.columbiachamber.com.

Soldiers salute during a recent Basic Combat Training graduation at Hilton Field. Members of the local community have expressed their support for Fort Jackson in light of possible budget cuts. 

Photo by DAVID SHANES, command photographer

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Gate 1
■ Closed

Gate 2
■ Open around the clock

Gate 4
■ Closed

Gate 5
■ 5 a.m. to 1 p.m., inbound and outbound traffic
■ 3:30 to 6 p.m., outbound traffic

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MRT instructor builds life skills

By ANDREW McIntyre
Fort Jackson Leader

Every day, the possibility of dealing with a setback is real — whether it is being late for work, having sick children or dealing with a car that won’t start. Overcoming a setback is defined as having resilience.

In 2009, the Army established the Master Resilience Training program, which is a component of the Army’s Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program to help Soldiers, families and civilians across the Army perform better and deal with various setbacks.

MRT trainers are stationed across the nation to teach their Army community members how to build resilience through personal and professional enhancement skills.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Evans, assistant primary instructor, Level 3 Master Resilience Trainer with the Master Resilience School on Fort Jackson, is one of 12 certified Level 3 instructors across the Army and is the only Level 3 certified Soldier teaching at the school.

He said he defines a setback as an activating event, and that event determines a person’s emotions and reactions.

“Teaching a Soldier how to control his or her thoughts, reactions and emotions during that activating event can turn a Soldier’s whole career around,” Evans said. “We have Soldiers that come here and are literally filing for divorce, and they leave here and their packets are shredded. Their marriage is revived. They have figured out how to communicate with someone.”

The Master Resilience School trains Level 1 and Level 2 courses. Level 1 is an intensive 10-day course, but Level 1 certified MRTs are only able to attend the Level 2 and Level 3 courses by recommendation from their co-workers and chain of command. Level 3 students are taught at Pennsylvania State University.

Evans said when he was selected to attend Level 1 training, he was serving as a drill sergeant and he admitted to having a preconceived idea about the training.

“MRT kind of gets that look like it’s ‘huggy-feely’ and ‘softer Army.’ It took me a day to realize that’s not what it is about — it is actually about being able to control your thoughts and figure out how I think about things is how I react and feel on a daily basis,” Evans said.

Evans said that his background as a senior mechanic, shop motor sergeant, drill sergeant and platoon sergeant have contributed to his ability to teach the MRT model to other leaders.

“I wish I would have had this training on multiple deployments, especially, with the platoon sergeant jobs and just understanding that people work differently,” he said. “(Knowing) how our thoughts drive our emotions, reactions and being able to tap into more of that with my Soldiers would have made me more of an effective leader, hands down.”

He explained that a lot of the NCOs, who come to the course are surprised to see a fellow NCO and combat veteran teaching the course.

“NCOs who come to the MRT course look at me like I am crazy when I get in front of the class, but once I start talking they can relate,” Evans said. “I think the school house benefits from having an NCO here rather than an all-civilian staff because Soldiers can look up and see a combat veteran and say, ‘This guy has done every job that you don’t want to do. If he can apply it to his everyday life then so can I.”

Evans says his experience and knowledge as a Level 3 MRT instructor has helped his family as well.

“I completely re-established my relationship with my teenager,” he said. “I have a 14-year-old and using the skills of ‘effective praise’ and being specific about the things he does right. We have a personal story on a daily basis of how much we’ve grown, because of us using those life skills.”

He said the skills allowed him to not only be there for his children when things go wrong, but also taught him how to be there when things go right — how to point out the things they do well and not just the things they do badly.

“All of my kids can tell you what an ‘iceberg’ is; they can to tell you what ‘active constructive responding’ is. That really just drives home that those are life skills,” he said.

Andrew.R.McIntyre.civ@mail.mil
WASHINGTON — The Army has confirmed what Soldiers have been hearing rumors of for months now — a new camouflage pattern for combat uniforms is on the way with a number of improvements.

Starting in the fall of 2015, the Army will begin issuing to new Soldiers an Army Combat Uniform that bears the Operational Camouflage Pattern. That same uniform will also become available in military clothing sales stores in the summer of 2015.

Soldiers are expected to retire their current uniform and begin wearing the new pattern by the summer of 2018.

The uniform bearing the new pattern will be largely the same as what Soldiers wear now, except that the lower leg pockets will be closed by a button instead of the “hook and loop” fabric fastener on the current Army Combat Uniform, or ACU. Soldiers complained that fastener made too much noise in combat environments, officials said. The insert pockets for knee pads and elbow pads will also be removed from the new uniform, according to Program Executive Office Soldier.

Other changes that will be considered by the 2015 Army Uniform Board include:

- elimination of the mandarin collar and replacement with a fold-down design;
- change of the infrared square identification for friend or foe, known as the IFF tab;
- elimination of the drawstring on the trouser waistband;
- removal of one of three pen pockets on the ACU sleeve;
- removal of pockets for knee pads and elbow pads.

These last four potential changes have not yet been approved, but are being considered, according to PEO Soldier.

Currently, Soldiers wear the ACU with the Universal Camouflage Pattern, or UCP. By 2018, they will be wearing an Army Combat Uniform with the “Operational Camouflage Pattern.” The fabric of the uniform, the cut, the placement of pockets and other details will remain the same. It is only the geometry and palette of the camouflage pattern printed on the fabric that will change.

The cost of uniforms with the new pattern will be comparable to the current uniform. At the Fort Myer, Virginia, military clothing sales store, for instance, an ACU top now sells for approximately $45. The pants sell for around $45 as well. A cap sells for about $8.

According to the 2014 pay charts, online at www.dfas.mil, enlisted Soldiers receive between $439 and $468 annually to buy new uniforms — that includes replacing the outgoing UCP ACU with the Operational Camouflage Pattern ACU.

Soldiers will have about three years — the time between the first availability of the uniform in military clothing sales in 2015 and the time they are required to wear it in 2018 — to transition the contents of their clothing bag to the new look. They will also have more than $1,300 in clothing allowance at their disposal to make that happen.

The new pattern is different, but visually compatible with what Soldiers wear now in Afghanistan. It does have the same acronym, however. In Afghanistan, Soldiers wear the “Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern,” called OCP for short. The new uniform pattern is also called OCP.

“The Army is naming the pattern the Operational Camouflage Pattern to emphasize that the pattern’s use extends beyond Afghanistan to all combatant commands,” said one senior Army official in a July 31 press release.

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Making student loans more affordable

On June 10, President Barack Obama announced and signed new executive actions that will help borrowers with their student loan debt. The executive action will allow up to 5 million borrowers to cap their student loan monthly payments at 10 percent of their income through a “Pay As You Earn,” or PAYE, option. PAYE is targeted toward struggling borrowers with newer loans. This option is not available to students with older loans (those who borrowed before October 2007 or who have not borrowed since October 2011). Older student loans borrowers will not see any changes to their existing payments.

The executive action also directs the secretaries of education and the treasury to work together to provide education to student loan borrowers and their families and help borrowers with student loan debt. Below are excerpts of the six directives provided to the secretaries of education and the treasury:

- Strengthen incentives for loan contractors to serve students well: The Department of Education announced that it will renegotiate its contracts with federal loan servicers to strengthen financial incentives to help borrowers repay their loans on time, lower payments for servicers when loans enter delinquency or default, and increase the value of borrowers’ customer satisfaction when allocating new loan volume. These changes will improve the way that servicers are compensated to better ensure high-quality servicing for student loan borrowers.

- Ensure active-duty service members get the relief they are entitled to: The Servicemember Civil Relief Act requires all lenders to cap interest rates on student loans to 6 percent for eligible service members. The Department of Education — including federal student loans — at 6 percent for eligible service members. The Department of Education already directs its loan servicers to match their student borrower portfolios against the Department of Defense’s database to identify eligible active-duty service members. Now, the Department of Education will reduce those eligible service members.

The Department of Education is redoubling its efforts to identify borrowers who may be struggling to repay and provide them with timely information about their options supporting them through the repayment process and helping them avoid or get out of default. The department will also evaluate these strategies to identify which can be used on a larger scale and which are the most effective.

- Promote stronger collaborations to improve information for students and families: All student borrowers are required to receive loan counseling when they first borrow federal student loans and when they leave school, but little is known about the effectiveness of these programs. Working with student debt researchers and student advocates, the Department of Education and the Department of Treasury will also develop and launch a pilot project to test the effectiveness of loan counseling resources, including the Department of Education’s financial awareness counseling tool. Moving forward, the administration will continue to engage organizations, institutions of higher education and others to make sure that all borrowers have access to the resources and information they need to responsibly manage the repayment of their student loans. These new directives will be in place no later than December 2015. If you are currently struggling with your federal student loans and need help, Army Community Service is available to assist. Call 751-5256 to schedule an appointment with a financial counselor.


FINANCIAL ADVICE

By CHRISTINE JULIUS

Army Community Services

Financial Readiness

need for additional paperwork. It will also provide additional guidance to Federal Family Education Loan Program servicers to provide for a similar streamlined process.

- Work with the private sector to promote awareness of repayment options: The Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Education will work with Intuit, Inc. and H&R Block, two of the largest tax preparation firms in the U.S., to communicate information about federal student loan repayment options with millions of borrowers during the tax filing process — a time when people are thinking about their finances. In addition, the administration will work with Intuit to explore ways to communicate with federal student loan borrowers through Intuit’s personal financial management product, Mint.com.

- Use innovative communication strategies to help vulnerable borrowers: Too many borrowers are still unaware of the flexible repayment options currently available to them, especially when they run into difficulties in managing their payments. The Department of Education is exploring strategies to identify borrowers who may be struggling to repay and provide them with timely information about their options supporting them through the repayment process and helping them avoid or get out of default. The department will also evaluate these strategies to identify which can be used on a larger scale and which are the most effective.

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News and Notes

RUN FOR THE FALLEN

Survivor Outreach Services will host its annual 5K Run/Walk for the Fallen at 7:30 a.m., Aug. 16 at Hilton Field. Race-day registration is available at 6:30 a.m.

WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY

A luncheon in observance of Women’s Equality Day is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 26 at the NCO Club.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

A luncheon in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 19 at the NCO Club. The theme is, “Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action and a future of success.” For more information, call 751-4591.

Information subject to change.

VISIT THE LEADER ONLINE

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Reel Time Theaters

Ft. Jackson Movie Schedule

Friday August 15
Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13) 7 p.m., 9:45 a.m.

Saturday August 16
Skydance Advance - Free Admission

Sunday August 17
Deliver Us From Evil (R) 1 p.m., 9:00 a.m.
The Purge: Anarchy (PG-13) 4 p.m., 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday August 20
The Purge: Anarchy (PG-13) 1 a.m., 11:45 a.m.
Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13) 4 p.m., 11:45 a.m.

Friday August 22
Pole-Max Fire and Rescue (PG) 7 p.m., 9:30 a.m.

Saturday August 23
The Road (PG) 1 p.m., 11:30 a.m.

Sunday August 24
Elongated Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday August 27
Pole-Max Fire and Rescue (PG) 4 p.m., 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday August 27
Pole-Max Fire and Rescue (PG) 7 p.m., 9:20 a.m.

Friday August 29
Elongated Planet of the Apes (PG-13) 7 p.m., 9:10 a.m.

Saturday August 30
The Purge: Anarchy (PG-13) 1 p.m., 11:30 a.m.

Sunday August 31
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13) 4 p.m., 11:30 a.m.

Monday September 1
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13) 1 p.m., 11:30 a.m.

Hercules (PG-13) 4 p.m., 11:30 a.m.
The signs on the bulletin boards at Pierce Terrace Elementary School read “Under Construction” Tuesday morning. The hallways were mostly quiet, save for the occasional sounds of staff and faculty moving about as they prepared their classes for the return of students Monday.

Teachers at Fort Jackson’s two elementary schools spent much of the day in group sessions, where they shared ideas on how to reach their goals for the coming year.

“Our theme for this year is ‘Navigating Success in the 21st Century and Beyond,’” said Pierce Terrace Elementary School Principal Tammy Shadd. “We’re moving toward integrating technology into all of our classrooms and making sure our students are not only prepared now, but also for the future.”

“We’re all about 21st century skills,” said C. C. Pinckney Elementary School Principal Annie Crandle. “The students are collaborating and responsible for their own learning, while the teachers are facilitators to guide them into that learning.”

Among these tools is a program called Pixie, a software tool designed to let students combine text, images and sounds to develop creativity skills. Shadd said the program is being used by kindergarten students.

“They’re creating books and doing research,” she said. “They’re able to do much more than we could as young students in elementary school, because they’re using technology — and technology makes everything easier.”

This year’s theme is not aimed solely at students, Crandle said. It’s also about getting teachers accustomed to using developing technology in the classroom.

“Teachers need to utilize technology in teaching the students, and students need to also use that technology,” she said. “It’s not about students just sitting in front of a computer, but having to work together to research something and create something new.”

Shadd said the learning curve might be steeper for some teachers than many of their students. “My 4-year-old can use my iPhone better than I can,” Shadd said.

Tuesday’s faculty meetings were intended to help teachers set professional development goals for the new school year.

Preventing for the future
Teachers getting ready for start of the new school year

By WALLACE McBRIDE
Fort Jackson Leader

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See SCHOOLS: Page 12
On any given day, Fort Jackson community members and visitors might see a family of Canada geese waddling across the street or flying overhead. Douglas Morrow, chief of the Wildlife Branch with the Directorate of Public Works, said that Fort Jackson is home not only to the geese, but to the majority of indigenous wildlife species that can be found in South Carolina.

“We’ve taken residence in (the animals’) neighborhood. They have not come to us — we have come to them. They have been here a lot longer than we have,” Morrow said.

Morrow said residents have reported seeing white tail deer, snakes and foxes roaming around in their backyards and throughout the training areas. He said it is important that everyone remember to enjoy the animals from afar, not to feed them and to report sightings to the Department of Emergency Services if the animal’s behavior is a threat to the local community members.

“Residents should keep in mind that wildlife has a high potential for carrying diseases or elements that harbor disease such as bacteria and insects,” Morrow said. “As long as you don’t have close contact with these animals or their feces you run less risk of becoming contaminated.”

Morrow recalled an experience about a year ago when foxes in South Carolina had an outbreak of distemper. Foxes on Fort Jackson had succumbed to this disease, and community members were reporting that foxes were out during daylight hours, allowing humans to get close to them and wandering around post without awareness.

“If an animal is displaying very unusual behavior, aggressive nature or has lost its fear of humans then ... people should report that animal,” he said. “Especially if the animal has tried to attack someone, Directorate of Emergency Services needs to be called.”

Morrow said that if an animal is not behaving aggressively, community members need to call the Directorate of Public Works service order desk to make the Wildlife Branch aware of the situation.

“The best course of action is keeping your distance,” he said. “We definitely do not want people trying to pet the animals. We do not want people trying to feed any wildlife on Fort Jackson or stray animals. ... When people start to feed certain animals, that’s when we begin to have human/wildlife conflicts. For example, people will start to feed deer in their back yard because they just like to observe them.”

He added that backyard bird feeders are acceptable. Morrow said community members can best help sustain the environment for Fort Jackson wildlife by just watching the wildlife from a distance.

Andrew.R.McIntyre.civ@mail.mil

Wild about Fort Jackson
Post residents, employees share space with local fauna

By ANDREW McINTYRE
Fort Jackson Leader

A gaggle of Canada goose stops traffic on Strom Thurmond Boulevard Tuesday while crossing the road. The geese are a frequent sight on Fort Jackson, which is home to many species of wildlife native to South Carolina, including deer, snakes, raccoons and foxes.

A raccoon baby sits on a tree at Fort Jackson.

Visit the Fort Jackson Leader website at www.fortjacksonleader.com
Exercise emphasizes fundamentals

By SGT. 1ST CLASS GARY A. WITTE
642nd Regional Support Group

It’s a return to fundamentals for Army Reserve Soldiers at the Regional Readiness Training Exercise in Georgia and South Carolina this month.

During deployments, Soldiers don’t always get assigned to tasks that match their specialties. Artillery gunners might escort convoys while cooks might be placed on base security. Even during training events, troops can be placed in standardized scenarios unrelated to their military occupations.

The 642nd Regional Support Group is currently leading a two-week annual training event at Fort Jackson and Fort Stewart, Georgia, tailored to those occupations. Almost 700 Soldiers from across the southeastern United States are taking part in the exercise known as R2TE, which began Aug. 4.

Col. Tucker Wilson of Alexander City, Alabama, the 642nd Regional Support Group commander, said the exercise is designed to provide these troops with relevant training in a tactical environment. This will allow Soldiers to improve their readiness and work on their mission specialties while on an active duty post.

“It makes sure Soldiers sharpen their individual skills,” Wilson said. “This allows our Soldiers to get back to the basics of what they were trained to do when they joined the Army.”

A dozen units, including quartermaster, human resources and transportation companies, are participating under two task forces at the installations. Events include weapons qualifications, driver training, recovery operations, physical training tests, mounted land navigation, medical screenings and reacting to contact classes.

The operation will culminate in two separate 72-hour tactical field exercises.

Wilson said transportation units will conduct driving missions, quartermaster units will work in military warehouses and the cooks will be making meals for their fellow Soldiers the whole time.

Because the units will conduct the events as a team, Wilson said it should help their cohesion.

“To me, it’s going to boost morale,” he said.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Zimmerman, command sergeant major for the 642nd Regional Support Group, said that in the 1980s the Army lived by the philosophy that “everything is training and training is everything.”

“(Army leaders) took their role of making Soldiers and units proficient in the core tasks of being able to shoot, move and communicate to survive in combat very seriously,” he said. “We have allowed ourselves to become accustomed to showing up at a training site and having someone else — another unit altogether or sometimes even contractors — train our Soldiers.”

Now, with the drawdown of deployed forces as well as a drawdown of personnel and resources, Zimmerman said the Army will return to this training philosophy, using every waking opportunity to train individual and collective tasks.

The 642nd Regional Support Group, based in Decatur, Georgia, is one of five subordinate units reporting to the 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in Orlando, Florida. The 642nd Regional Support Group has command and control of Soldiers throughout the southeastern United States in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Mississippi. It comprises 16 Army Reserve units.

Second Lt. Danny Moreno of Miami, executive officer of the 873rd Quartermaster Company, gives a safety briefing to Soldiers before they zero their weapons during the Regional Readiness Training Exercise Aug. 4 at Fort Jackson. Almost 700 Reserve Soldiers from across the southeastern United States are taking part in the exercise known as R2TE at Fort Jackson and Fort Stewart, Ga.

1st Lt. Akebia Williams, headquarters platoon leader for the 824th Quartermaster Company, zeroes her rifle during marksmanship training Aug. 4 at Fort Jackson. Her unit is one of a dozen from across the southeastern United States taking part in the two-week event, known as R2TE.
An instructor at the Soldier Support Institute is among the competitors for a slot on the All Army men's softball team.

Staff Sgt. Danny Rogers, a Basic Officer Leaders Course instructor, will be attending tryouts at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, beginning Tuesday. There are 15 slots available on the team, with 25 Soldiers scheduled to participate in tryouts.

Men's and women's teams for Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines participate in the All-Armed Forces tournament, which takes place Sept. 10-15 at Fort Sill.

“We compete in a nine-game round robin contest, basically playing each service three times,” Rogers said of the softball competition. “After that, whoever has the most wins takes home the gold medal that year.”

He said he’s not expecting a gold medal to come easily, though.

“This will probably be one of the toughest Armed Forces Championships in a while,” Rogers said. “Everybody in the Army will do their best, and hopefully we’ll come out with our third gold medal in a row.”

Rogers previously played on the 2010 All Army men’s softball team and went on to participate on the All Armed Forces Team that same year. His first involvement with a softball team took place long before that, as a batboy for his mother’s team in Wisconsin when he was 10 years old.

He got the opportunity to play on an Army team in 2000 at Fort Drum, New York, where he discovered there is more to the game than pitching, batting and throwing, he said.

“I was still pretty young and had to grow up a little bit, in regards to the sport,” he said. “When you first start playing, you want to hit the ball as hard as you can. Once you get seasoned, you learn it’s more about placing the ball as hard as you can.”

In 2010, during a team trip from Fort Benning, Georgia to Panama City Beach, Florida, he said his coach insisted they get a better look at some of the towns they were passing through.

“There’s a museum on the way, there’s a national swamp on the way ... not only were we playing softball, but we were learning about the areas we were visiting,” he said. “Softball is awesome, but it’s more about the people you get to meet.”

Rogers, who plays second and third base, said he has been running drills to keep his skills polished.

“I practice with a group of guys, but when they’re not available, I hit off a tee,” he said. “My wife hits me ground balls, and she’s very supportive, too.”

None of this would be possible without the cooperation of commanders at the SSI, he said.

“I have a great chain of command,” Rogers said. “My chain of command supports what I do. We’re Soldiers first, and we all realize that. But, without a good chain of command backing me, I couldn’t do it.”

Those selected to the All-Armed Forces team will continue on to the Amateur Softball Association’s national championship tournament in Oklahoma City.

Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil

C. C. Pinckney Elementary School Principal Annie Crandle leads teachers in a professional development session Tuesday afternoon to discuss the school district’s goals for the new year.

“By WALLACE McBRIEDE
Fort Jackson Leader

‘It’s more about the people’
SSI instructor looks to make All Army men’s softball team

Staff Sgt. Danny Rogers, an instructor at the Soldier Support Institute, is competing for one of 15 slots on the All Army men’s softball team later this month. He previously played on the team in 2010.

“Schools
Continued from Page 9

“They were very energetic, enthusiastic and eager,” Crandle said. “The teachers are excited about the new year because it’s all about the students and making them successful.”

Part of preparing for the new school year involved moving the second grade class from Pierce Terrace to C.C. Pinckney during the summer. Crandle said classroom space was the deciding factor in moving the class to the post’s other school.

“The move up here was very successful,” she said. “It was a team effort from administrators to faculty and staff and support staff.”

Soldiers with the 165th Infantry Brigade help teachers move classroom items.

“They were very, very resourceful,” Crandle said. “We also have the 171st Infantry Brigade supporting our schools and students. We’re expecting a great year.”

Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil
FORT EUSTIS, Va. — After a week of challenging competition, the command responsible for training the Army chose its best Soldiers during the 2014 Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year ceremony, Aug. 8 at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command named Sgt. 1st Class David Smith, representing U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky, as TRADOC’s 2014 NCO of the Year and Spc. Joshua Roberts, representing the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, was named TRADOC’s Soldier of the Year.

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dailey, TRADOC’s command sergeant major and ceremony host, said the competition provided an opportunity to spend time with the best of the best.

“It is an absolute pleasure to spend time with the quality we have in this room … you truly represent your commands, and I am extremely proud to have spent a week with you and watch you perform,” he said.

The performance, a weeklong competition packed with various tasks, ranging from a 12-mile road march to a “stress shoot,” was physically and mentally challenging, day in and day out, according to TRADOC’s NCO of the Year.

“You were physically pushed to your limits, and mentally — having all of the steps to your warrior tasks and battle drills while you’re being physically challenged — it was tough, absolutely tough,” said Smith, a senior military instructor at the University of North Georgia.

Smith and Roberts will represent TRADOC at the U.S. Army Best Warrior Competition in October at Fort Lee, Virginia.

Staff Sgt. Christina Stentiford, representing the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, checks her target during the M4 qualification zeroing event of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command NCO and Soldier of the Year competition Aug. 5 at Fort Eustis, Va.

Although the days were challenging, Smith said the NCOs displayed exceptional professionalism and teamwork during the competition.

“We had such a great group of NCOs,” he said. “At night, we all would just help each other before the next day’s events, so the competitors were working with each other to help each other.”

In addition to helping one another, Smith said the NCOs and Soldiers in the competition provided something even more valuable.

“Coming here and competing with these noncommissioned officers and Soldiers — it reenergizes you and motivates you to be the best Soldier you can possibly be.”

Roberts, who currently serves as the executive assistant for the MSCoE command sergeant major, said the variety of events — including an unexpected “stress shoot,” where competitors had to practice field medical aid on a simulated casualty, dragging it 200 meters to safety all while under fire, kept competitors on their toes.

“It was a complete surprise for us,” Roberts said. “We just thought we were going to a zero range and we were going to qualify with pop-ups.”

TRADOC’s Soldier of the Year said the broad range of tasks made the competition interesting.

“We went from shooting to a stress shoot going straight into (nuclear, biological, chemical) operations, and then we got thrown into teaching a foreign national how to tear apart and put together a weapons system that they had never seen before,” Roberts said.
WASHINGTON — A new Army Physical Fitness Uniform will become available service-wide, beginning in October next year.

Its design is based on Soldier feedback, said Col. Robert Mortlock, program manager, Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

There will be a three-year phase-in program, and the cost will be about $3 less than the current IPFU, or Improved Physical Fitness Uniform, he said.

The Army Physical Fitness Uniform, or APFU, program was actually initiated because of Soldier feedback. A February 2012 Army Knowledge Online survey of some 76,000 Soldiers found that Soldiers had issues with the IPFU, he said. They liked its durability but believed the IPFU’s textiles had not kept pace with commercially-available workout clothes.

They also had concerns with other things, particularly modesty issues with the shorts, especially in events like sit-ups. Those concerns were expressed by male as well as female Soldiers.

The issue was of such concern that Soldiers were purchasing spandex-like under garments to wear beneath the trunks, Mortlock said.

Another issue was that there were not enough female sizes in the IPFU, he said, meaning IPFUs that would fit all shapes and sizes.

PEO Soldier worked closely with the Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center to develop a new PT uniform that met Soldier concerns but did not cost more than the IPFU. The APFU met the goal of controlling costs and improving performance by adopting lighter high tech moisture wicking fabric. The APFU introduces multiple sizes, including female sizing, and has solved the modesty issue, Mortlock said.

The fabric of the trunks will continue to be made with durable nylon fabric, but it is lighter than and not as stiff as the IPFU trunks. Also, there will be a four-way stretch panel inside the trunks, sort of like bicycle pants, which eliminates the need for Soldiers to purchase their own under garments. The trunks include a bigger key pocket and a convenient and secure ID card pouch.

In all, some 34 changes were made to the new APFU.

The APFU has five parts: the jacket and pants, which resemble warm ups; trunks or shorts; and the short- and long-sleeve T-shirts, he said. The ensemble is modular, meaning parts of the APFU can be mixed and matched, for example, short- or long-sleeve T-shirts with the pants or trunks. During PT formations, the platoon sergeants will determine the appropriate combo.

Soldier feedback not only determined the form, fit and function of the APFU, it also determined its look. The Army made prototypes of the APFU in a variety of colors and designs and took them to a series of Soldier town halls at Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Soldier feedback was solicited about the design features as well as the preferred color scheme.

Then, the Army launched a second AKO survey, in which more than 190,000 responded, Mortlock said. Soldiers overwhelmingly favored a black T-shirt with gold lettering and a black jacket with gold chevron and the Army logo.

Then it was on to testing.

About 876 Soldiers at Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Joint Base Lewis-McChord; Fort Bragg; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Hood and Fort Jackson wore the APFU during PT for a three-month period, providing feedback on form, fit, comfort and so on, Mortlock said. The APFU was also tested for things like durability, laundering, fiber strength, color fastness and color maintenance after laundering.

A key part of testing addressed the concern of some Soldiers that a black shirt may cause over-heating. Instrumented tests showed that the lighter weight material and superior moisture wicking fabric more than compensated for any increased heat from the dark material.

The response to the APFU was “overwhelmingly positive,” Mortlock said, particularly with the trunks.

Not only that, Soldiers said they wear the APFU on weekends and off-duty outside the installations, Mortlock said, adding that many said they wouldn’t wear the current IPFU off-duty. That means communities across the country will soon see Army pride as Soldiers do their workouts.

The APFU will come in two types — the Clothing Bag variant, and the Optional APFU, which will be visually the same as the APFU issue variant, but uses some different materials. The individual items of the two variants can be mixed together. The Optional APFU variant will become available first when it arrives in Army military clothing sales stores some time between October and December.

The Clothing Bag issue variant will be issued to Soldiers from the clothing initial issue points, starting between April and June, and to Reserve, National Guard, and Senior ROTC Soldiers in July and August 2015. The APFU will be phased in as the IPFUs are used up and worn out. The mandatory wear date will go into effect approximately October 2017, or about three years after the APFU is introduced.

In conclusion, Mortlock said the Army reached out to Soldiers at “multiple touch points to ensure we got this right. The message is, ’We’re listening to Soldiers. We’re continuing to listen to Soldiers, and this is the Soldiers’ selection, and Army leaders went along with this.’”
WASHINGTON — A suspicious package arrives in the mail. An employee is acting erratically. A group is seen surveying an Army installation. A social media contact you’ve never met has taken a keen interest in your unit’s movements.

Members of the Army community need to be aware of their surroundings and report anything that seems out of place, in order to protect the safety of the entire Army family, said Col. Bob Willis, the chief of the Office of the Provost Marshal General Operations Division.

“Be vigilant. If you see something suspicious, report it,” he said.

Willis spoke in an interview marking the Army’s fifth annual Antiterrorism Awareness Month. Even though the awareness month is August, the message of vigilance must resonate the whole year with Soldiers, family members and civilians, he said.

“Some of the most damaging attacks against our country — be that violent acts against people, the destruction or theft of information, and acts against our facilities — have originated from small groups or lone actors,” Willis said.

The threat of homegrown violent extremists, insider threats, and active shooters is now more prevalent than ever, he said.

Priorities for this year’s antiterrorism efforts, Willis said, include exercises that focus on an active shooter, as well as swarm attack responses and ensuring contractors are properly vetted.

TOP ARMY PRIORITY

In a tri-signed letter for Antiterrorism Awareness Month, Secretary of the Army John McHugh, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno, and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III underscored the importance of vigilance.

“We urge all commanders to actively engage with your Soldiers, civilians and families, conduct training and exercises, and sponsor events that reinforce the importance of protecting our communities against the persistent terrorist threat,” the Army leaders said.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

The iWatch Army is a focus every year, in which everyone in the Army community has a responsibility to report suspicious activity to the proper authorities, Willis said.

Although the Army does a great job in training Soldiers and civilians in antiterrorism efforts, family members are important components, too who need to be included to enhance the already strong efforts on Army installations.

“I really encourage commanders at all levels in the field to take the intent of these efforts, take the policies, train their organizations, train their Soldiers and civilians, and certainly include the family members in the training,” he said.

Suspicious activity can be reported in a person’s chain of command or to military police or security professionals on installations.

The Army will examine and develop case studies of attacks that happen in the United States and around the world, whether involving the Army or not, said James Crumley, Office of the Provost Marshal General, Antiterrorism Branch.

“We try to use these events to capture lessons learned and push them out to the field to try to prevent or minimize the loss of life or damage to Army critical infrastructure,” he said.

It is important for the Army to work closely with civilian agencies to “build networks and to use what works for them so we can protect our forces, civilians and family members,” Crumley said.
Army riggers support air drops in northern Iraq

By STAFF SGT. SHAWN NICKEL
U.S. Central Command

U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND AREA — U.S. Army parachute riggers at two bases in the Central Command region are assembling pallets of food and water for humanitarian air drops in the vicinity of Sinjar, Iraq.

The aid was assembled after the Iraqi Government sent a request for humanitarian assistance to displaced citizens through the Department of State. As of today, U.S. military aircraft had delivered more than 73,000 meals, ready-to-eat, known as MREs, and more than 15,000 gallons of fresh drinking water, to displaced Yezidis seeking refuge from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant terrorists.

“When you need something like this, you need it right now,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Schwarz, deployed from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, serving with the 11th Quartermaster Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 82nd Sustainment Brigade. “Air drop of the aid bundles allows U.S. forces to deliver those supplies to people who are in a land-locked environment, or the main supply routes are not open or available to them.”

The food and water is placed in a Container Deliver System, or CDS, which is a cardboard container placed on a dampening material called a “honeycomb.” The supplies are tied together with webbing and fixed to a self-deploying parachute. These one-time-use containers are designed to be quickly opened to deliver supplies as fast as possible after they are dropped from cargo aircraft.

Making quick work of the project, the 18 riggers from the 11th Quartermaster Company can assemble 40 CDS bundles of water in two hours.

Parachute riggers from the 11th Quartermaster Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 82nd Sustainment Brigade, palletize water for a humanitarian air drop, Aug. 6, to displaced Yezidis near Sinjar, Iraq.

“Parachute riggers from the 11th Quartermaster Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 82nd Sustainment Brigade, palletize water for a humanitarian air drop, Aug. 6, to displaced Yezidis near Sinjar, Iraq.

By STAFF SGT. SHAWN NICKEL
U.S. Central Command

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department’s top voting official recently provided absentee voting tips and re-emphasized the importance of registering, requesting ballots and voting early in the process.

“The most important thing to remember when dealing with absentee voting is to start the process early,” said Matt Boehmer, director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, in an interview with DoD News.

“You can use the federal postcard application, or FPCA, to both register to vote and to request your absentee ballot,” Boehmer said. “And you can use our online assistant tools that walk you through the process.”

Boehmer discussed why it is important to notify election officials of where to send ballots and how to do so.

“You actually have to tell them,” he said. “Your address isn’t updated when you move, so we strongly suggest that you fill out a new federal postcard application when you move.”

There are also a few things to keep in mind when dealing with the absentee voting process.

“Don’t use the federal postcard application if you plan on voting in person at the polls. Instead, use your state form. Also, don’t forget to check your inbox for your ballot if you’ve requested to receive it by email.”

Boehmer added that voters should remember to send in the ballot as soon as possible.

“When you get your ballot, vote it, sign it and send it,” he said.

In the event that a service member or family member doesn’t receive the ballot in time, Boehmer said a backup ballot can be used.

“If, by the first of October, you haven’t seen your state ballot, use our backup ballot, and you can get that at www.fvap.gov.

“If the state ballot comes in after you have sent in your backup ballot, simply fill out the state ballot,” Boehmer continued, “and send it in, but don’t worry — your vote will only count once.”

There is also help available for those wishing to vote who may feel overwhelmed by the process.

“That’s why FVAP is here,” Boehmer said. “We know that the process of absentee voting can seem overwhelming, but the tools that we have available at www.fvap.gov help make the process easier.”

Other options for assistance include contacting a voting assistance officer, calling 1-800-438-VOTE or sending an email with any questions to vote@fvap.gov.

Boehmer also shared how service members can help raise awareness about the FVAP.

“Simply spreading the word is the best way that service members can help. You can find us on Facebook (and) on Twitter. Also, sharing information with your unit and family members is a great way to help out.”

FVAP is here to help throughout the 2014 election cycle, Boehmer said.

“For those service members and their families who want to vote, we want to make sure that they can vote and know how to do it.”
WASHINGTON — Army researchers are working on developing vaccines for the deadly Ebola virus, as well as combating the spread of the virus and caring for those who are infected. The virus has recently killed more than 1,000 in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

One of these researchers is Dr. Randal Schoepp, a diagnostics specialist and chief of the Applied Diagnostics Branch, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, known as USAMRIID.

Schoepp spoke by telephone from Monrovia, Liberia, with WAMU radio talk show host Kojo Nnamdi about efforts to fight the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Colleagues at USAMRIID, along with researchers from Public Health Canada, helped develop the serum given recently to two U.S. medical workers, Dr. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol, who contracted the virus while working with patients infected by Ebola in West Africa, Schoepp said.

“The serum is ‘basically a cocktail of three humanized, monoclonal antibodies produced in tobacco plants,’” he said. Humanized, monoclonal antibodies are derived from animals whose protein sequences have been altered to more closely resemble those produced by humans.

Initially, the researchers looked at six antibodies. Three of the most promising were then down-selected, he said, and were tested on non-human primates at various concentrations and time periods throughout their infections.

The results of the studies showed that when these antibodies were administered in the final, most advanced stages of Ebola, the primates recovered.

“That’s huge in our field,” he said.

If the two Americans recover, the next step for researchers is to develop clinical trials, he said, adding that it’s way too early to make conclusions about the efficacy of the treatment.

Schoepp has been working in West Africa for a number of years on diagnostics for other viruses. In 2006, he conducted research on Lassa Fever in Sierra Leone. Like Ebola, it is a viral hemorrhagic fever, meaning that one of the symptoms is bleeding caused by damage to the vascular system.

Lassa differs from Ebola in that it predictably occurs in about the same time every year, he said, with about 500 to 700 cases.

But Schoepp found that of those cases, only 30 to 40 percent were Lassa. So he began to study the 60 to 70 percent that were not and found that they were closely related to the Zaire strain of Ebola.

Since Schoepp’s diagnostics research on the Zaire strain has been carried out for a number of years, he said he’s hopeful some of that will be useful in studying the West African Ebola.

Working in West Africa is particularly challenging, he explained.

“We have to bring almost everything with us,” he said. “When we arrived here in Liberia, we had to set up the entire laboratory, train the staff and then supervise them as they help fight the disease in their own country.”

Diagnostics, Schoepp’s specialty, is detective-like work.

The strategy involves using a molecular assay such as PCR, or Polymerase Chain Reaction, that looks for particular signatures in the genome of the virus, he explained.

Another approach, he said, involves the use of immunodiagnostics to detect either the virus or detect the antibodies in an infected person. He credits USAMRIID with testing some of the early antibodies IgM, or Immunoglobulin M, and the later antibodies IgG, or Immunoglobulin G, which appear after the Ebola virus attacks.

Researchers at USAMRIID are “trying to continue to improve on those assays to make them easier and more specific and sensitive,” he added.

One of the biggest hurdles to fighting the Ebola, he said is not medical, but rather cultural.

“Most who contract Ebola get it when preparing the bodies of loved ones for burial.”

“In Africa and other regions of the world it’s traditional to wash the body, to caress the body, to kiss the body,” he said.

In some of the more isolated societies, people even drink the blood of the dead as a way to honor them, he added.

So these practices “are leading to an increase in the number of infections we’re seeing,” he said. These cultural practices are “very delicate to deal with in West African societies. You have to tread very lightly and bring it to them in a way they’ll understand so they consider changing those practices. We haven’t made it to that point yet. That’s why we’re seeing this outbreak continue.”
HAPPENINGS

Calendar

Monday
Employee Assistance Program supervisory training
1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Post Conference Room
For more information, call 751-5007/4785.

Tuesday
Victory Spouses club membership drive
4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Joe E. Mann Center
Open to spouses of active-duty and retired service members and DoD civilians regardless of the service member’s rank. For more information, visit http://vcswebmaster.wix.com/victory.

Tuesday
Date night — ScreamFree Marriage
5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Solomon Center
To register, call 751-4865/4825. Limited child care is available. To receive child care, call 751-4865/4825.

Wednesday
FREE MOVIE SCREENING
The movie “When the Game Stands Tall” will be shown for free at 2 p.m., Saturday at the Fort Jackson Post Theater. For more information, call 751-7007/4785.

Wednesday
Shred Day
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Recycling Center
For more information, call 751-4208.

Announcements

WORSHIP SERVICE CANCELLATION
The Daniel Circle Chapel Gospel Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. is cancelled Sunday because the chapel staff will participate in a family retreat. The 10:30 a.m. service will operate with minimal staffing. For more information, call 751-4478.

FREE MOVIE SCREENING
The movie “When the Game Stands Tall” will be shown for free at 2 p.m., Saturday at the Fort Jackson Post Theater. For more information, call 738-0467 or 790-1645.

SCREAMFREE MARRIAGE TRAINING
A ScreamFree Marriage training seminar is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, at the Solomon Center. The training is designed for people who are interested in obtaining ScreamFree Marriage leader certification. For more information, call 751-6325.

SECURITY OFFICE CLOSURE
The Installation Security Office will be closed from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 27, for training. For emergency assistance during that time, call 238-4404.

PHYSICAL SECURITY CLOSURE
The Directorate of Emergency Services Physical Security Office will be closed Aug. 29. Normal hours will resume Sept. 2.

ID CARD OFFICE HOURS
The ID card offices at the Strom Thurmond Building in rooms 109, 114 and 200 will continue to operate on an appointment-only basis. Limited walk-in slots are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. in Room 109. Once walk-in slots are filled, customers will be given the option to make an appointment or visit an alternate ID card facility for service. Appointment hours are from 9:40 a.m. to 4:10 p.m., Monday through Friday in rooms 109 and 200. To make an appointment, visit https://rapidappointments.dmdc.osd.mil. For more information, call 751-6024.

TRICARE WEBSITE CHANGES
The TRICARE website has been redesigned. A login button for quick access to services was added, and the navigation menu was simplified. Visit www.tricare.mil.

MARRIAGE RESILIENCY CLASS
The Chaplain Family Life Center will conduct marriage resiliency classes Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. until Aug. 21. A meal will be provided. For more information and to register, call 751-4949.

ACS NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY
The Army Community Services needs assessment survey is under way through Sept. 15. The survey aims to measure usage and helpfulness of ACS programs and services. Its purpose is to identify emerging needs related to the Army way of life. To access the survey, visit www.armymwr.com/ACS-survey.

AAFES NEWS
■ The Main Exchange will have a hunting sale Aug. 22-28.
■ A free food tasting truck will be at the Gate 2 Express from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 27.

CYSS TRANSPORTATION SIGN-UP
Child, Youth and School Services offers transportation to and from CYSS before- and after-school care locations for certain Richland 1 and 2 schools. For more information, call 751-4865.

COMMISARY NEWS
The Commissary back-to-school sales event will run through Wednesday.

COMMISARY NEWS
Commissary gift cards may be purchased by anyone, but only authorized patrons are able to redeem them. Gift cards are available at commissaries worldwide and online at www.commissaries.com.

YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION
Tackle football registration for children 7-12 years old is under way through July 31. Registration for cheerleading (ages 3-12); flag football (ages 4-8); soccer (ages 3-16); and cross country (ages 7-14) is under way through Aug. 22. Coaches are needed. For more information, call 751-5040/7451.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION
Registration for Pierce Terrace and C.C. Pinckney elementary schools runs through today. Registration packets may be picked up at either school during office hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Pierce Terrace Elementary School at 782-1772 or C.C. Pinckney Elementary School at 787-6815.

AMU SHOOTING CLINIC
The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Georgia, will host the seventh annual USAMU Action Shooting Junior Clinic Oct. 30 through Nov. 2. The clinic is an advanced workshop open to children and youth 9-18 with experience in action shooting disciplines. The deadline to apply is Oct. 1. For more information, visit www.usamu.com or call 706-545-9402.

SAT TESTING
The Education Center will administer SAT testing Oct. 30. Testing is available to eligible service members only. For more information and to register, call 751-5341.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS
■ The Thrift Shop will not accept summer clothes after Sept. 4. Winter clothes will be accepted after Sept. 9.
■ September through November are college months at the Thrift Shop. Customers wearing a college shirt or hat will receive a discount.
■ The Golden Carriage Program provides free ball gowns for spouses of active-duty service members E5 and below.

Information is subject to change. Visit the community calendar at www.jackson.army.mil for a full listing of calendar events.

Send your announcements to fjleader@gmail.com.
Announcements are due one week before the publication date.

Housing happenings

COMMUNITY YARD SALE
A community yard sale is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sept. 13. The registration deadline is Sept. 10. For more information and to register, email emcdaniel@bbcgrp.com or call 738-8275.

LIFWORKS EVENTS
■ Monday, 10 to 11 a.m., teddy bear picnic
■ Aug. 22, 5 to 7 p.m., bunco night
■ Aug. 28, noon to 1 p.m., neighborhood huddle for PT5 and PT7, Carter Road pavilion
■ Aug. 29, 5-7 p.m., bingo night
All events take place at the Community Center unless otherwise noted. For more information and to register, email emcdaniel@bbcgrp.com or call 738-8275.

REN T CONCESSIONS
Current residents who refer a friend to live on post will receive $600 when the friend moves in. Other concessions include reduced rent for non-renovated homes in PT5 if you move in during August; and free prorated rent for August for homes in PT5 and PT7. For more information, call 738-8275.
Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle’s honorees

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

Staff Sgt. Joshua Morgan
Company B
2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

Sgt. 1st Class David White
Company D
2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

Sgt. 1st Class Merton Houston
Company F
2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

THAI ARMY CAPT. HOMAN UMISSAPANIK
International honor graduate
Basic Officer Leaders Course
Adjutant General School

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spec. Thomas Lagemann

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spec. Patrick Roy

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spec. James Aracne

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spec. Jennifer Lena

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Matthew Kendell

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Heather Smith

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Charles White

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Rory Johnson

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE
Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Berry

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Kilian Wald

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Patrick Roy

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Randell Herring

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Elvin Rosadorosario

Weekly honors

2nd Lt. Katharina Schreier
Distinguished honor graduate
Basic Officer Leaders Course
Adjutant General School

Thai army Capt. Jittamart Larlam
International honor graduate
Basic Officer Leaders Course
Adjutant General School

2nd Lt. Alex Anderson
Distinguished honor graduate
Basic Officer Leaders Course
Adjutant General School

Saudi Arabian army 1st Lt. Ahmed Alayyad
International honor graduate
Basic Officer Leaders Course
Adjutant General School

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Thomas Lagemann

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Sgt. 1st Class David White

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Sgt. 1st Class Merton Houston

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Courtney Scovell

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pvt. Jennifer Lena

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Matthew Kendell

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Charles White

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Berry

HIGH BRM
Sgt. 1st Class Merton Houston
Company F
2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment

HIGH BRM
Pvt. David White

HIGH BRM
Spc. Patrick Roy

HIGH BRM
Spc. Randell Herring

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Kilian Wald

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Patrick Roy

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Randell Herring

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Elvin Rosadorosario

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Elwin Rosadorosario

LEADER DEADLINES

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication. For example, an article for the Aug. 28 Leader must be submitted by today. Announcement submissions are due one week before publication. For example, an announcement for the Aug. 28 Leader must be submitted by Aug. 21.

Send your submissions to FJLeader@gmail.com. For more information, call 751-7045.
Back-to-school time calls for vaccinations

By MONICA BULLOCK
U.S. Army Public Health Command

Back-to-school events are drawing near this August, and it is a prime time for making sure that children are up-to-date on all their immunizations.

WHAT IS IMMUNIZATION?
According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, immunization refers to the process by which a person becomes protected against a disease, usually through vaccinations. A vaccination uses a weakened or partial virus or bacteria to trigger an immune system reaction. The immune system reaction reduces the chances of developing illness if a person is later exposed to the actual virus or bacteria.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE VACCINATED?
"Vaccinations are the most effective protection against disease," said Lt. Col. Laura Pacha, disease epidemiology program manager at the U.S. Army Public Health Command. "Through vaccinations, naturally occurring smallpox was eliminated around the world. Routine childhood vaccinations have meant some diseases, like polio, have been eradicated from the United States. The impact of others has been greatly reduced. However, these diseases, including polio, still circulate in other parts of the world, so reintroducing them to the U.S. may be only a plane ride away."

Not only should adults be vigilant in their vaccinations to prevent spreading diseases to their children and others, but the children themselves need the protection.

"Children are a vulnerable population," said Maj. Jasmine Peterson, an Army public health nurse at USAPHC. "The risk of spreading disease among them is higher due to their interaction with other children in various settings."

WHAT VACCINES ARE RECOMMENDED?
The required vaccinations vary between states and different ages. For more information contact your health care provider or local health department. Here is a list of commonly required vaccinations for children:

- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- DTaP or Tdap (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Polio
- Varicella (chickenpox)

BENEFITS OF GETTING IMMUNIZED
Army public health experts say the advantage of vaccinations is not just protection for the individual who chooses to be immunized.

"When enough people in a community have immunity to a disease, opportunities for an outbreak are reduced because protected individuals interrupt disease spread," Pacha said. "Even more importantly, vulnerable persons who cannot receive certain vaccines — such as infants, pregnant women or immunocompromised individuals — get some protection because the spread of contagious disease is contained."

Additionally, health experts say that when people choose not to get immunized, outbreaks of a disease can occur.

"Unfortunately, in some communities, immunization rates have dropped, and we see outbreaks of diseases we thought had been controlled," Pacha said.

Measles is just one example. According to the CDC, there have been multiple outbreaks of measles across the United States in 2014, almost 600 cases.

"Most of the cases had never received measles vaccination," Pacha said. "This is the highest number of cases since 2000, when measles was considered eliminated from the United States — and the year isn’t over yet."

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF IMMUNIZATIONS
According to Army public health nursing personnel, common side effects resulting from a vaccination shot, if any, would be redness, swelling or soreness at the site of the injection. There could possibly be a low-grade fever that goes away after a few days. More serious side effects are exceptionally rare.

"If your child has any health concerns or special health needs prior to the shot, contact your health care provider and discuss the best course of action," Peterson said.

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT VACCINATIONS
Some people believe that there is a possibility that the vaccine could actually give you the real virus and cause you to be very sick. Health experts say vaccines cannot cause your children to contract the actual disease.

Another misconception is that “natural infection” is preferable to vaccine-induced immunity.

“Natural infection is unpredictable and risky. Severe or even fatal illness could result,” Pacha said. “Preventing illness and its complications are precisely the reasons vaccines were developed.”

Prescription home delivery available
TRICARE beneficiaries can switch to home delivery for any medication taken regularly. There are several ways to switch:

- Call Express Scripts at (877) 363-1303.
- Ask your provider to fax your prescription to Express Scripts at (800) 895-1900.
- Ask your provider to e-Prescribe to “Express Script Mail Pharmacy.”
- Mail your prescription along with a completed mail order form to Express Scripts Inc., P.O. Box 52150, Phoenix, Az. 85072-9954.

The first shipment will usually arrive within two weeks. Switching to home delivery can also save money — $38 for every brand-name drug compared to using a network pharmacy. In addition, there is no copay for a 90-day supply of generic drugs. Express Scripts stocks all drugs on the TRICARE formulary.

Follow the Leader
Twitter: www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao.
Just about anything you can think of comes with a variety of choices. It should come as no surprise that health care has many different facets as well. Today, many people are eager to know more about ways to help take care of their health themselves. Some gravitate to alternative health care for cost reasons. Some believe there are real benefits to different types of care. And some just are curious. Alternative health care has been around for centuries. Many practices continue to thrive alongside western medicine. With the cost of health care continuing to rise, people are ready to get involved in their wellness.

In order to raise awareness and improve education about alternative health care, the FMWR Fitness Department has scheduled its first Alternative Health Fair. The goal is to bring experts together to enlighten the community on their chosen alternative health careers.

The FMWR Alternative Health Fair is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 25 at the Solomon Center. Lectures from experts are set from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m. Please visit www.fortjacksonmwr.com/fitness for details on lecturer topics and the designated time slots. This event is free, and all are encouraged to attend and learn more about alternative health care. For more information or to have an exhibit booth, call 751-5768.

Do you want to know more about reflexology, acupuncture, becoming a raw foodist, maybe trying Tai Chi for your health? The Alternative Health Fair is designed to answer those questions and more. Experts in these and other areas will be in attendance to deliver lectures on alternative and complementary health. Speakers will overlap, so attendees are encouraged to select topics that are most interesting to them. The fair will also include interactive exhibit booths. Attendees are invited to try some of the remedies featured.

Alternative health care also includes exercise and a healthy diet. These lifestyle habits have been a part of my life for many years. I embraced a healthier way to care for my body long before it was popular or fashionable. It is encouraging to see many others now involved with improving their overall health with easy alternative steps such as eating right, exercising, getting proper rest and drinking more water, to name a few.

Acupuncture is among the methods represented at the Alternative Health Fair Aug. 25.
**Recurring meetings**

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

- **Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting**
  - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m., 9810 Lee Road., 751-6597.
- **Columbia Composite Squadron (Civil Air Patrol)**
  - Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Owens Field, main conference room, Tom.Alsup@gmail.com or www.scwg.cap.gov
- **Family story time**
  - Fridays, 11:30 a.m., Post Library, 751-5589
- **Helping Everyone Reach Optimum Strength**
  - Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, seventh floor. Open to combat veterans and their family members.
- **Play group**
  - Wednesdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Room 8, 5615 Hood St., for children 3 and younger, 751-9035/6325.
- **Protestant Women of the Chapel**
  - Mondays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, Main Post Chapel, jackson@pvoc.org
- **Range control briefing**
  - Mondays and Fridays, 1 p.m., Education Center, Room 302, 751-7171
- **Sergeant Audio Murphy Club Association study hall**
  - Thursdays, noon, NCO Academy conference room, www.facebook.com/FSAMCA
- **Toastmasters International**
  - Wednesdays, 11:40 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Main Post Chapel, 629-7696 or (910) 224-8307.
- **Veterans of South Carolina**
  - Tuesdays, 9 a.m., Flying J truck stop at 5901 Fairfield Road, VOSC@sc.rr.com
- **Walking away stress**
  - Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m., at the pecan orchard near the post office on Early Street, 751-6325.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

- **92nd Buffalo Chapter 20 DAV**
  - Third Saturday of the month, except July and August, 11 a.m., DAV Headquarters 511 Violet St., West Columbia, 260-1067.
- **Adjutant General’s Corps Regimental Association, Carolina Chapter**
  - Second Tuesday of the month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., NCO Club, 751-3014.
- **American Legion Post 182**
  - First Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Officers’ Club, 351-2333.
- **American Legion Post 195**
  - Fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., 534 Wildwood Lane, Lugoff.
- **American Legion Louis D. Simmons Post 215**
  - Fourth Sunday of the month, 5 p.m., 2432 Chapelle St., 765-0175.
- **American Legion Riders Motorcycle Group**
  - Fourth Sunday of the month, 7:30 p.m., American Legion Post 195, 534 Wildwood Lane, Lugoff, 699-2598 or alrpost195@gmail.com.
- **American Legion Riders Motorcycle Group**
  - Third Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 6, 200 Pickens St., 360-3830.
- **Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers**
  - First and third Wednesday of the month, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Single Soldier Complex, Building 2447, 751-1148.
- **Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers**
  - Second Wednesday of the month during the school year, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., meeting at the Single Soldier Complex, Building 2447, for transportation to Forrest Heights Elementary School, 751-1148.
- **Combat Vets Motorcycle Association**
  - Third Sunday of the month at noon, (774) 451-7504, e-mail armyagustar@yahoo.com or visit www.combatvet.org.
- **Disabled American Veterans Chapter and Auxiliary, Woodrow Wilson Chapter #4**
  - Second Monday of the month (September through June), 6 p.m., 511 Violet St., West Columbia, 467-8355 or gbake12@sc.rr.com.
- **Fleet Reserve Association Branch and Unit 202**
  - Third Tuesday of the month, 12:30 p.m., 2620 Lee Road, 647-0040 or turner6516@gmail.com.
- **Fort Jackson Bass Club**
- **Fort Jackson Homeschoolers**
  - Second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For time and location, call 419-0760 or email johnlazzi@yahoo.com.
- **Gold Star Wives, Palmetto Chapter**
  - Second Sunday of the month, 3 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, Third Floor conference room, 695-5345.
- **Ladies Auxiliary Louis D. Simmons Post 215**
  - Fourth Sunday of the month, 3 p.m., 2432 Chapelle St., 765-0175.
- **Ladies Auxiliary YFW Post 641**
  - Second Sunday of the month, 3 p.m., 534 S. Beltline Blvd., 782-5943 or 782-0148.
- **Ladies Auxiliary YFW Post 4262**
  - Second Sunday of the month, 5 p.m., 5821 North Main St., 754-1614.
- **MEDPROS training**
  - Third Friday of the month, 1-4 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, Room 9-83. E-mail Erica.Aikens@amedd.army.mil.
- **National Federation of Federal Employees**
  - Second Tuesday of the month, 11:30 a.m., 4405 Fortey St., first floor, 751-2622.
- **National Active and Retired Federal Employees**
  - Chapter 87
  - Second Friday of the month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Seawell’s, 1125 Rosewood Dr., kathrynhensley@hotmail.com or 351-6698.
- **Purple Heart #402**
  - Second Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, third floor, 740-2319 or e-mail jrodgers11@sc.rr.com.
- **Seabees**
  - Second and fourth Monday of the month, 7 p.m., West Metro Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, 755-7792 or 755-0300.
- **Sergeant Audio Murphy Club Association**
  - First Tuesday of the month, noon, NCO Club, www.facebook.com/FJSAMCA.
- **Sergeants Major Association**
  - Last working Thursday of the month, 4:30 p.m., Magruder’s Pub, 338-1904, William.Huffin@us.army.mil.
- **Society of American Military Engineers**
  - Fourth Thursday of the month, 11:30 a.m., 254-0518 or 765-0320.
- **SWAMPFOX Warrant Officer Association**
  - First Thursday of the month, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Officers’ Club, johnny.myers@us.army.mil.
- **The Rocks Inc., James Webster Smith Chapter**
  - Third Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Post Conference Room.
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars Gandy-Griffin Post 4262**
  - Third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., 5621 North Main St., 754-1614 or 447-2320.
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 641**
  - Second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., 534 S. Beltline Blvd., 782-5943 or 782-0148.
- **Veterans of South Carolina**
  - First Tuesday of the month, noon, Reflection Club House at 2 Cassia Ct., VOSC@sc.rr.com.
- **VFW Post 4262**
  - Second Monday of the month, 5 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, third floor, 740-2319 or e-mail jrodgers11@sc.rr.com.
- **Weight Loss Surgery Support Group**
  - Second and Fourth Monday of the month, noon, Weight Management Center, 180 Laurel St.; Second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Palmetto Health Baptist Breast Health Center, 1501 Sumter St., ground level, Meeting Room 2.

To submit a recurring meeting, email the name of the group, when and where the meeting takes place and contact information to fjleader@gmail.com.
PROTESTANT

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

- **Monday**
  - 7 p.m. Women’s Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel

- **Tuesday**
  - 9 to 11:30 a.m. Women’s Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel

- **Wednesday**
  - 6 p.m. Gospel prayer service, Daniel Circle Chapel
  - 7 p.m. Gospel Bible study, Daniel Circle Chapel

- **Thursday**
  - 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fresh encounter Bible study, Chaplain Family Life Center

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

CATHOLIC

- **Monday** through **Thursday**

- **Friday**
  - 7 p.m. Women’s Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel

- **Saturday**
  - 5 to 6:30 p.m. Club Beyond youth group, Chaplain Family Life Center

ANGLICAN/LITURGICAL/EPISCOPAL

- **Sunday**
  - 8 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

ISLAMIC

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

JEWISH

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

JEWISH

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

LATTER DAY SAINTS

- **Sunday**
  - 9:30 to 11 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel
  - 3 to 5 p.m. LDS family social, Anderson Street Chapel
  - 7 to 8 p.m. LDS scripture study, Anderson Street Chapel

ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS

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

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

- **Daniel Circle Chapel**
  - 3359 Daniel Circle, corner of Jackson Boulevard, 751-1297/4478

- **Education Center**
  - 4581 Scales Ave.

- **Chaplain Family Life Center**
  - 5460 Marion Ave (to the side of the POV lot), 751-4961

- **Magruder Chapel**
  - 4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883

- **Main Post Chapel**
  - 4580 Scales Ave., corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard, 751-6469/6681

- **McCrady Chapel (SCARNG)**
  - 3820 McCrady Road (located at McCrady Training Center)

- **Memorial Chapel**
  - 4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324

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

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