

THURSDAY, DEC. 20, 2012

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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ON THE COVER

Photo by ANDREW McINTYRE

Pvt. Jamil Washington, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, leaves Fort Jackson Wednesday to spend the holidays with his family. SEE PAGE 3.

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COMMANDER'S CALL

Happy Holidays!

CG: Thank you for your service throughout year

Happy Holidays!

We have so much to celebrate this holiday season. I, for one, will celebrate having the opportunity to work with each of you as we continue to make the U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson the preeminent training center for the Department of Defense.

This year, I experienced first-hand the selfless service of so many Soldiers, Civilians and Family members, who took it upon themselves to ensure our post is operating at the highest standards in the Army.

To everyone who has extended a helping hand this past year, whether in a professional capacity or as a volunteer, thank you. Thank you for choosing to go the extra mile to make a difference for Soldiers, Civilians and Families.

As you reflect on last year's accomplishments and next year's objectives and goals, celebrate what you and your Family accomplish every day — making USATC and Fort Jackson a great place to live, work, raise a Family, and to develop Soldiers.

Let us all enjoy what the season offers, wherever we are, and enjoy time with friends and loved ones. If you are staying in the Columbia area during the holidays, please take advantage of all the wonderful events the city

has to offer our community.

We are fortunate to have the outstanding support of our friends in Columbia and the surrounding areas. Their efforts on behalf of our Soldiers and Families continue to be a source of strength, and we look forward to build on this wonderful relationship in 2013 and beyond.

When you gather to celebrate this season, please remember the many Soldiers and service members who cannot be with their Families this year, as they conduct our nation's business away from home, many of whom are in harm's way.

Also be mindful of those around us who may find this time of year difficult. For those who need assistance, our installations provide a number of Soldier and Family support services. If you are uncertain where to go, start with Army Community Services or the chaplain's office.

My Family and I want to thank each of you for your service, sacrifice and commitment to the U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson. We wish you a bountiful holiday and a healthy, happy New Year. We look forward to your safe return and a great year working together to make a difference!

Victory Starts Here and Happy Holidays!

Victory 6

**By BRIG. GEN.
BRYAN T. ROBERTS**

Fort Jackson
Commanding General

Season's Greetings



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

LETTERS

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

Victory Block Leave begins

Soldiers briefed on safety concerns prior to leave

By **WALLACE McBRIDE**
Fort Jackson Leader

Fort Jackson is going to be a quiet place for the next two weeks.

Soldiers began departing in droves Wednesday as the post begins Victory Block Leave, which leaves Fort Jackson almost empty of personnel until Jan. 3.

Of the more than 8,200 Soldiers currently in Initial Entry Training, 7,900 are taking leave, he said. Of those, more than 6,800 will return to Fort Jackson and the remaining will report to other units elsewhere.

“We’ve been working on this since May,” said Capt. Joseph Meyer, G3 office. “It’s something that involves command at all levels.”

Fort Jackson is operating three airport deployment nodes in Charlotte, Columbia and Atlanta, and an Amtrak site downtown. Departure and deployment nodes began operation Wednesday. It’s an annual event that affects every unit on post, said Lt. Col. Kevin Brill, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment.

“Everybody goes into a pause in whatever cycle they’re in,” he said. “We’ve been planning this for months. We know what day we’ll pause for everyone to accomplish Victory Block Leave, and we know when they come back. We also have a plan in place for when we start back up.”

But one battalion won’t have to return to Fort Jackson after the break to finish Basic Combat Training.

“This battalion is unique,” said Lt. Col. Eric Flesch, commander of 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment. “We’re not breaking, because we’re the last ones to graduate before block leave.”

The training cycle was condensed for these Soldiers to prevent them from having to return from Victory Block Leave to finish a single week of training.

“They all go on to AIT from here,” he said. “We’ve been preparing since the very beginning of this cycle. We knew we’d have the last cycle to graduate before Victory Block Leave, so we adjusted everything in this cycle, starting 11 weeks ago to line things up to get this group graduated and out on leave, safely.”

The Soldiers leaving Fort Jackson for the holidays are new to the Army, and part of the preparation for sending them off post for extended leave is to prepare them for potential safety issues.

“We’re sending thousands of Soldiers out on Victory Block Leave and want to make sure we talk to them before they head out,” said Sean O’Brian, head of Fort Jackson’s Safety Center. “It gives us one last opportunity to ... tell them to do the right things: wear their seat belts, don’t speed, don’t drink and drive, don’t ride with people who have been drinking. It also gives them the opportunity to get this information from people who have actually lived through some of this.”

Soldiers on leave will be contacted once before, and once after Christmas, and have signed “safety contracts.” Representatives with the South Carolina Highway Patrol spent four days this week speaking to more than 10,000 Soldiers about the realities of drunken driving. They brought with them a man who lost his son in a wreck a



Photo by ANDREW McINTYRE

Above, Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment sign out Wednesday morning before going on Victory Block Leave. Of the more than 8,200 Soldiers currently in Initial Entry Training, 7,900 are taking leave starting this week. Victory Block Leave ends Jan. 3



Photo by WALLACE McBRIDE

Left, Sgt. Bob Beres, commander of the community relations office for the South Carolina Highway Patrol, speaks Monday with Soldiers at the Solomon Center about the realities of highway safety, particularly the dangers of drinking and driving.

year ago.

“We want to make sure we reach everyone,” said Sgt. Bob Beres, commander of the community relations office for the South Carolina Highway Patrol. “Drunken driving affects everyone; it doesn’t just affect the 16-year-olds or 55-year-olds on the roadway. Every one of us travels these roads and we want to make sure it’s safe for everyone. We also reach out to high schools, civic groups and churches.”

A small number of Soldiers are staying on post during

leave. Meyer said approximately 300 Soldiers are scheduled to stay behind. During the Soldiers’ time off, various activities will be offered.

“They’ll have Christmas dinner, there will be bowling tournaments, and some professional sports events are planned,” Meyer said. “They’ll also be able to participate in holiday shopping; and different veteran’s organizations are planning Christmas parties.”

Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil

Sponsorship program eases transition woes

By **KIM WHEELER**
Special to the Leader

Whether it is a military family's first or fifth move, relocating to a new place can be challenging. Fort Jackson's Sponsor-a-Spouse program aims to ease that process by providing information and resources that address each participating family's unique needs and questions.

Developed to enhance the Army Sponsorship Program and the post's family readiness groups, Sponsor-a-Spouse connects incoming spouses with those who already live on Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, or in the surrounding area.

The program focuses on welcoming incoming spouses, introducing them to the FRG, and setting the tone for a smooth transition, said Elizabeth Maher, Army Community Services outreach program manager.

When a family receives orders, it has the option to sign up for the pioneer program, which Maher said is currently only available to Fort Jackson and Army units located on Shaw AFB. The spouse is then connected with a certified spouse sponsor who has received formal training through the FRG.

"The volunteers are encouraged to contact the incoming family (members) before they arrive at Fort Jackson, to anticipate the needs of the family, provide information, be available for questions, and most importantly, welcome the new family to the unit and FRG," Maher said. "This simple act can set the stage for a positive experience at Fort Jackson."

Maher said a good example of the program's potential impact is the FRG for

Third Army/ARCENT, Headquarters/Special Troops Battalion, located on Shaw AFB.

The unit has offered the program for less than a year and has already sponsored more than 60 families, according to the unit's FRG leader Christiane Turlington. This, in turn, has contributed to increased participation in the FRG and improvement in the unit's morale.

Turlington said the program's success has gone beyond providing information and boosting morale to fostering friendships and a more seamless transition into the community.

"There are many spouses who have become close friends through this program," Turlington said, adding that many of their sponsors have taken extra steps to welcome new spouses, like taking them to lunch or meeting to go shopping. One sponsor even used videotelephony services to help an incoming spouse select a home to rent.

"Spouse sponsorship really alleviates the fear of the unknown," she said. "More people are saying they want to use this program."

Maher said that response illustrates how instrumental Sponsor-a-Spouse can be.

"This is an additional tool available to commanders to enhance their sponsorship programs," she said. "It builds relationships within the unit, establishes social connections, and increases participation in FRG groups — all of which lead to enhanced well-being, higher quality of life and stronger resiliency."

Maher said Sponsor-a-Spouse welcomes new volunteers and regularly conducts sponsorship training. To become a certified sponsor, contact your FRG to learn when the next training will take place.



Courtesy photo

NCO receives Purple Heart

Staff Sgt. Phillip Lawson, 120th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception), receives a Purple Heart in a ceremony Friday at the battalion. Lawson suffered a traumatic brain injury Feb. 2, 2007, while deployed to Ramadi, Iraq.





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

From left, Spc. Sarah Moses, Spc. Jeong Kim, Sgt. George Bryan, Spc. Joshua Hunt and Sgt. Alvin Henley perform holiday music at Moncrief Army Community Hospital Dec. 12. Members of the 282nd Army Band visited units and organizations around post to play seasonal favorites.

Band spreads holiday cheer around post

By ANDRE BUTLER
Moncrief Army Community Hospital

The 282nd U.S. Army Band paid a visit to Moncrief Army Community Hospital Friday to play music and carols for the holiday season.

Five members of the band played songs ranging from “Jingle Bells” to “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” for a crowd of onlookers who visited the facility from mid-morning to early afternoon.

“I remember when we used to play music for units during this time of year,” said Daniel Andreu, a retired sergeant first class formerly with the 282nd U.S. Army Band. “It gives us a great feeling seeing and hearing the band perform in this sort of way ... It is keeping folks like me in the true spirit of the season.”

As the morning went by, the Soldier musicians continued their quest of touching people with their music as they moved from the first floor lobby and the MACH Ur-

gent Care Clinic to the cafeteria.

“It is really nice to have these Soldiers come, visit and play for us here at Moncrief,” said Col. Mark L. Higdon, MACH commander. “This adds another layer to what we are trying to accomplish here daily for individuals who need our services. As with every day, the holiday season is all about caring for others, and sharing special moments with friends and family. And the Army band playing here today makes it feel extra special around our organization.”

Under the leadership Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan Ward, 282nd U.S. Army band commander and director, the unit sends different musical sections throughout post each year to play holiday music as a way of giving back to a community that gives all year long.

“There are three groups of us going around playing music on Fort Jackson today,” said Sgt. George Bryan, bugler and trumpet player for the band. “We are just trying to give something back to the community. It’s fun see-

ing people share in music with us. It’s amazing how much fellowship people at Fort Jackson have and display this time of year.”

Bryan added that the band is a unit that not many people know.

“Some really don’t know there are true Soldier musicians in the Army,” Bryan said. “But yes, this is our job. As with all Soldiers in the military our primary job is defending our country, but when are not doing that, we are doing all the things musicians do to perfect our craft — practicing, playing at graduations and special events within our community.”

“The Army is made up of a variety of Soldiers with special skills,” said MACH Command Sgt. Maj. Vincent Bond. “What we see here today is another one of our fine units with outstanding Soldiers who defend our way of life as well as perform great music for our enjoyment. These are fine Soldier-artists keeping our country safe and making our holiday season more enjoyable with music.”

News and Notes

BLOCK LEAVE DFAC HOURS SET

During Victory Block Leave, the quad dining facility in Building 5454 will serve meals during the following times, except on holidays:

- Breakfast: 7 to 9 a.m.
- Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dinner: 4 to 6 p.m.

The hours for Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 are:

- Breakfast: 6 to 7:30 a.m.
- Lunch: noon to 2 p.m.
- Dinner: 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Regular DFAC hours will resume Jan. 4.

CREDIT MONITORING OFFERED

The state of South Carolina offers free enrollment in a credit monitoring service for one year for those affected by a recent security breach at the South Carolina Department of Revenue. Confidential information such as Social Security numbers, credit card numbers and bank account numbers as stated on state tax returns dating back to 1998 may be at risk. To enroll in the credit monitoring service, call (866) 578-5422 or visit www.protectmyid.com/scdor and enter the activation code "SCDOR123." Individuals and business have until Jan. 31 to sign up. For more information, visit www.sctax.org or call (800) 898-5000.

NEXT LEADER PUBLISHED JAN. 10

The next edition of the Fort Jackson Leader will be published Jan. 10. The Leader staff wishes all its readers Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.

BLOCK LEAVE GATE HOURS SET

Fort Jackson's Access Control Point hours will be modified during Victory Block Leave and for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. This adjustment will balance ACP hours with reduced operations on the installation. Additionally, DA security guards will complete their annual mandatory training requirements during this time. Holiday hours will take effect Saturday. Normal operations will resume Jan. 2.

WEEKDAYS

- Gate 1: 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Gate 2: open around the clock
- Gate 4: closed
- Gate 5: 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

WEEKENDS

- Gate 1: closed
- Gate 2: open around the clock
- Gate 4: closed
- Gate 5: 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

DEC. 25 AND JAN. 1

- Gate 1: closed
- Gate 2: open around the clock
- Gate 4: closed
- Gate 5: closed.

What is an economic bubble?

As a child, I enjoyed playing with bubbles, watching them form by slowly blowing into a liquid which seals around the growing pocket of air. How does this apply to an economic bubble?

Generally, economic bubbles behave similarly. If growth is too hasty or underfunded, the integrity of the sphere's supportive — yet thinning — lining can be compromised and the bubble will fail to form or will burst quickly. However, bubbles are more likely to form with a slow and steady stream of warm air and additional liquid to support its expanding structure. Like investors, children may have great pleasure in the repeated cycle of anticipating the impressive formation of their seemingly perfect and lofty flying sphere.

Generally, economic bubbles behave similarly. Like liquid, a product, industry or economy is filled with real or perceived value (air) due to perceived market conditions. Although this can greatly increase the size and impressiveness of its appearance, is the weight or mass of a bubble significantly changed by merely blowing hot air into it? Is it stable if the product (liquid)

FINANCIAL ADVICE

By SHAWN ANDERSON
Army Community Services
Financial Readiness

cannot support the unnatural growth?

For example, in the late 1990s the dot-coms were new and red hot as people began to realize the power of the Internet and new technological breakthroughs. Unfortunately, this led to poorly founded speculation in which many investors looked past the structural side of their investments. In 2000, the bubble burst as the market place naturally readjusted to a more sustainable state.

Following this, the housing bubble began and nearly everyone knew someone who was planning to make their fortune in real estate. With spouses taking on second jobs and risky loan terms, many families were willing to put themselves under great economic strain just to afford their piece of the American Dream. This was compounded further

as families increased their debt burdens through second and third mortgages in order to pay for home improvements and consumer spending. Although temporarily possible, was this sustainable?

As before, the cards came down. This was particularly difficult for military families. With negative equity in a home and a looming permanent change of station, how could they get out from underneath the mortgage?

Consider the current marketplace and a few questions. Does the current level of student, mortgage, consumer, municipal and international debt and means to solve it seem sustainable? Are mortgage and other bond rates naturally at historic lows or is this artificial? How might this affect recent activity in the housing and stock market? Are these activities sustainable? Why or why not and how can that affect a family? By understanding economic bubbles, a family can plan to minimize its exposure to these events. Those seeking to evaluate and improve their economic position can call ACS at 751-5256 to speak with a financial counselor.



Courtesy photo

Soldier performs at NBA game

Capt. Maxine Reyes, who serves as the director of the Basic Officer Leader Course at the Financial Management School, performs the national anthem before the Charlotte Bobcats game against the San Antonio Spurs Dec. 8. San Antonio won, 132-102.

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CG, CSM send holiday message to workforce

It's been immortalized in carols as "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," and it is for the Army's home. It's a wonderful time to be part of U.S. Army Installation Management Command. We have an incredible workforce and mission. Ours is a diverse team made up of Soldiers, civilians and family members. The IMCOM team hails from every corner of the globe, with differing cultures and beliefs — all united in the service of others. It's just the right mix to support troops, provide programs and offer world class customer service to the best trained Army in the world. Whether celebrating Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or time among family and friends during this holiday season, know that you are a valued member of the team. Command Sgt. Maj. Rice and I can never thank you enough for the life of service and sacrifice you've chosen and for the opportunity to share that with you here at IMCOM, the Army's home.

We hope that this holiday season provides opportunities for reflection, recreation and renewed commitment to improvement. Team, we've accomplished a lot in the last 10 years — developing our workforce, being good stewards of financial and environmental resources, improving the quality of life in Army communities worldwide. IMCOM is a world-class operation because of you.

Our mission is complex — a job that continues 24

COMMENTARY

By
LT. GEN. MICHAEL FERRITER
 and
COMMAND SGT. MAJ. EARL RICE

IMCOM

hours a day, seven days a week. While some can rest briefly, others may not. Remember your teammates who will be manning facilities, serving chow to deployed troops or helping newly arrived families find lodging. This is the essence of what we do every day — provide a quality of life commensurate with their quality of service.

Now, more than ever, is the time to remember your family and extended Army family as well — battle buddies, co-workers and the person next to you. As you travel or attend celebrations, be mindful of your actions and surroundings, keeping safety and responsibility to your teammates and families in mind.

We wish you and your families a happy holiday



season, prosperous New Year and look forward to starting 2013 with each member of this team, ready, resilient and committed to the next step in enhancing the lives of our Soldiers. Army strong!

Third Army supports holiday food drive

By SPC. SHARMAIN BURCH
Third Army/ARCENT

Service members from Third Army/ARCENT and 20th Fighter Wing, comprising Team Shaw, visited Palmetto Chapel at Shaw Air Force Base, Dec. 7, to support volunteers at Palmetto Chapel as they joined in efforts to provide for families in need this holiday season.

Senior leaders, which included Brig. Gen. Rex A. Spitler, Third Army/ARCENT director of strategy and effects, along with Air Force Col. Lance A. Kildrand, 20th Fighter Wing, vice wing commander, gathered at the chapel to support Operation True Giving and to show the volunteers their appreciation. OTG supports service members, veterans and families at Shaw and the Sumter community. The program provides an opportunity for people to sponsor families in need around the holiday season and give them donations of food, clothing or toys.

The Soldiers of Third Army/ARCENT donated more than 400 non-perishable food items, canned goods and baking supplies to help families with their holiday dinners.

“As members of Team Shaw we take pride being given the opportunity to join in efforts to give back to the community, as the community has welcomed Third Army in so many ways since we’ve been here,” Spitler said. “This is a small token of our appreciation, to be able to give back to those in the community, whether they are military members or non-military.”

The program, based at Shaw, has been in operation nearly three decades. Volunteers of the operation, including World War II veteran Charles Berard, started collecting donations during the fall months to give the donated items to families of Operation True Giving and residents of Sumter County by December, said Michelle Vance, an OTG volunteer and Sumter County resident.

“This time of year is more about giving than receiving, so we collect names of families in need from various



Photo by SPC. SHARMAIN BURCH, Third Army/ARCENT

Sgt. 1st Class Cragg Mickens, Third Army/ARCENT non-commissioned officer supply specialist, contributes to the canned good drive in Patton Hall Dec. 7. The food drive fueled the program, Operation True Giving Project, which is supported by the 20th Fighter Wing chaplain.

organizations in the downtown Sumter community and from military service members here and match them with sponsors who donate so many wonderful items,” Vance said. “This holiday season, we have 88 families, including people in nursing and veteran homes, as well as single parent families.”

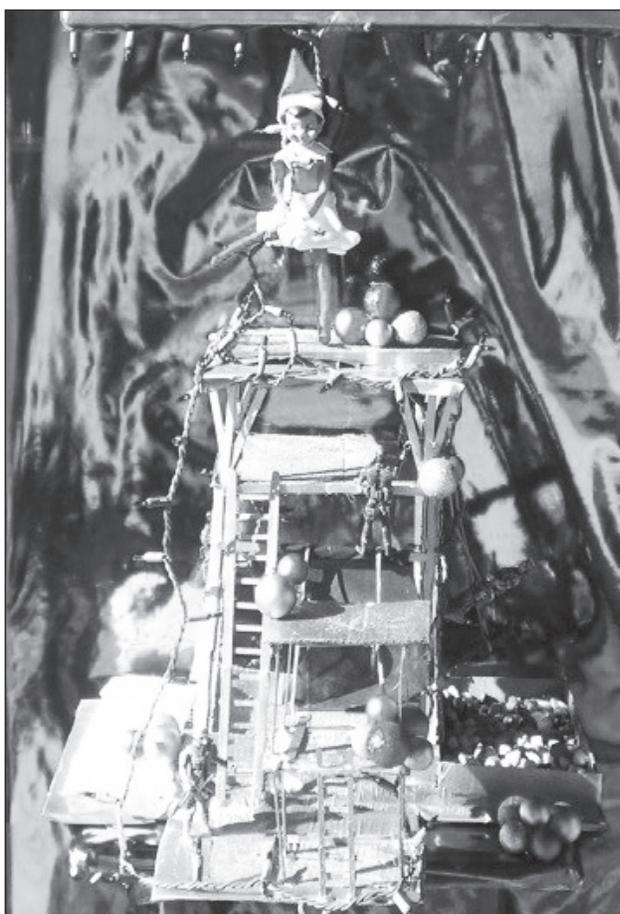
The officers spoke to the volunteers as they expressed special thanks for their dedication and time to continue to help families each year.

“Our participation to donate to families and citizens in need provides us an opportunity to demonstrate our willingness to serve,” Spitler said.

Elf takes Victory Tower

The Elf on the Shelf, a character in a popular children’s Christmas book, paid a visit to Fort Jackson recently. A handmade replica of the elf on top of Victory Tower was spotted on post last week.

Courtesy photo



Traffic adjustments on tap

From the Directorate of Emergency Services

The Directorate of Emergency Services continuously monitors and analyzes traffic patterns on the installation for areas that can be improved.

This information, along with input from a 2011 traffic study and constructive input from the community at large, allows for the adjustment of traffic signals, speed limits, signs and pavement markings to enhance traffic flow.

In the near future, adjustments

will be made to traffic signals on Strom Thurmond Boulevard in order to eliminate unnecessarily long green times for cross streets. For the long term, repair of automatic signal activation sensors at key intersections is being considered.

Some recent improvements include speed limit adjustments on Marion Avenue during physical training hours, a speed limit increase on Moseby Street, signage adjustments at both Commissary Way and the Hood Street Child Development Center area and the retiming of the traffic signal at Lee and Semmes roads.

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Log on to your account and search for
“Fort Jackson Leader.”

Post participates in nationwide VTC exercise

By **ANDRE BUTLER**

Moncrief Army Community Hospital

The Emergency Management Institute, a department of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is conducting a series of virtual tabletop exercises, in which key members of the Fort Jackson community took part by video teleconference Friday at Moncrief Army Community Hospital.

The exercise was geared toward helping emergency managers across the United States validate their emergency management and operations plans.

"The virtual tabletop exercise involved key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting and can be used to assess plans, policies, training and procedures," said R. J. Frazier, the chemical, biological, radiological and emergency management officer for Fort Jackson. "This is a new program, and the training event was the fourth of a series of training modules."

The scenario used for the tabletop exercise was one focused on a highway hazardous material incident.

"This virtual exercise enabled participants to exercise their knowledge, skills and abilities needed to effectively

conduct all-hazards emergency preparedness, response and recovery," according to an information paper by EMI.

The information paper stated the VTTX is a pre-package set of exercise materials requiring reduced effort by participating organization. The new delivery method should allow affected communities to share real-time information on highway hazardous materials related to preparedness, response and recovery with all participants to address concerns and solutions for the incident.

Also, according to the document, the hazardous event allowed players to better coordinate their response operations with counterparts from local governments, other state governments, federal government agencies, private sector organizations and nongovernmental agencies and organizations. The exercise leveraged video teleconferencing technology to reach remote sites and provided a virtual, experiential education environment to exercise and enhance critical response and recovery tasks.

Those participating in the exercise from the Fort Jackson community included Frazier; Capt. Thomas Costeira, Moncrief Army Community Hospital radiation officer; and Barry Field and Theodore Byrd, both with Emergency Medical Services.

Those participating came away from the event with their own experiences.

"The VTC is important to MACH and the installation because it gave us the opportunity to evaluate our emergency operations response plan to a highway hazardous material incident without putting anyone in harm's way," Costeira said.

"It provided installation CBRN planners an opportunity to rehearse tactic and techniques that would be crucial if such an event transpired on one of our installation-adjointing highways," Frazier said.

The theme of being prepared and training was at the forefront of the exercise.

"As the officer in charge of the hospital decontamination team, it gave me a chance to see how subject matter experts from across the nation plan and react to such an event," Costeira said. "This information can be used to realistically train our decontamination team members to effectively respond in such a situation. It is very important to train as you fight and fight as you train."

EMI will continue to facilitate training modules each month through August 2013. Each VTC will concentrate on a different hazard, either man made or nature driven.



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

Children visit MACH

Col. Mark Higdon, Moncrief Army Community Hospital commander, speaks with Trinity Latimer, 5, in front of the hospital as her mother, Alison, and MACH Command Sgt. Maj. Vincent Bond look on. Trinity and a group of other children visited MACH Dec. 12 to spread some holiday cheer.

MACH UPDATES

PHARMACY HOLIDAY HOURS

Moncrief Army Community Hospital outpatient pharmacy hours of operation for Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The refill pharmacy hours of operation for both days will be 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Moncrief Medical Home pharmacy hours for both days will be 8 a.m. to noon. Moncrief Medical Home will close 3 p.m. Friday for a holiday celebration.

TRICARE CHANGES FOR RESERVISTS

Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve need to switch to an electronic form of payment before Jan. 1.

TRICARE will only accept monthly premium payments using recurring automatic payments by credit or debit card or by recurring electronic funds transfers from linked bank accounts beginning Jan. 1.

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

DRUG RECALL

Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Inc. is conducting a voluntary recall for select batches and strengths of Atorvastatin calcium tablets. The recall affects 10 mg, 20 mg and 40 mg strengths packaged in 90- and 500-count bottles. The batches may contain glass particles smaller than 1mm.

MACH and Moncrief Medical Home pharmacies do not have any of the affected lot numbers in their current inventory. To check which lot numbers are affected, visit www.ranbaxy.com/atorvastatin.aspx.

Patients who own drugs of the affected lot numbers should contact their pharmacy to inquire about exchanging the product.



A DAY TO REMEMBER

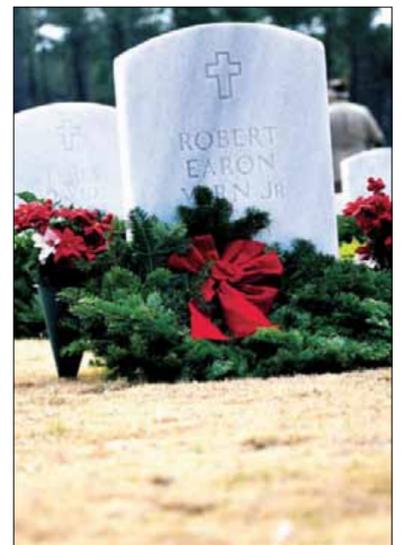
CMYK

CMYK



Wreaths Across America

More than 2,500 people helped to place 2,000 wreaths on gravesites at Fort Jackson National Cemetery Saturday. The ceremony, sponsored by Wreaths Across America, included presentations of memorial wreaths for each branch of service by active service members and veterans from each branch in remembrance of all who have served. Top left, the color guard was provided by the South Carolina Air National Guard. Above, retired Marine Lt. Col. John Marcucci; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Jerry Brown; Col. Stephen Yackley, Fort Jackson deputy commanding officer; and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Hagen salute as the bugler plays Taps. Far left, Yackley and Hagen place the Army's memorial wreath. Additional support for the event was provided by the 171st Infantry Brigade.



27" WEB-100

Photos by KARA MOTOSICKY, Public Affairs Office

The Christmas surprise

By **CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) DAVID W. ACUFF**
Deputy installation chaplain

*He who is without flesh becomes incarnate; the Word puts on a body;
the Invisible is seen; He whom no hand can touch is handled;
the Timeless has a beginning; the Son of God becomes Son of Man.
Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.
The renovation of everything ...*

Gregory of Nazianzus

There is a lot not to like about Christmas. The cheesy music playing over parking lots; the blinding and garish displays; the cheery attitudes when everyone knows that come

Dec. 26 it's back to dog-eat-dog. "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men?" We have all learned better. But yet.

But yet there is in all of us some faint spark that hopes love is stronger than hate, that hopes good is stronger than evil. No matter how hardened and cynical one might become, there remains that hope.

Christmas is a journey in search of a timeless moment when God shines through the darkness. That timeless moment ambushes us. It is a flash of illumination soon gone — the light of a candle in a child's eyes, a song that instead of reaching for your wallet reaches your heart, a homeless man in the shadows you suddenly see for the first time as a child of God.

It is during this time every year that God is searching for a room in the inn, a place to stay. May that place be in each of you. Merry Christmas.



VICTORY BLOCK LEAVE WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

DEC. 23

- 9:30 a.m. Protestant, Main Post Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Gospel Service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 11 a.m. Protestant, Memorial Chapel
- 11 a.m. Chapel Next (contemporary), Bayonet Chapel
- 11 a.m. Mass, Main Post Chapel

DEC. 24

- 6 p.m. Candlelight Service, Main Post Chapel
- 11:30 p.m. Vigil Mass, Main Post Chapel

DEC. 25

- 9 a.m. Anglican, Anderson Chapel
- 11 a.m. Mass, Main Post Chapel

DEC. 26

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

DEC. 27

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

DEC. 30

- 9:30 a.m. Protestant, Main Post Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Gospel Service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 11 a.m. Protestant, Memorial Chapel
- 11 a.m. Chapel Next (contemporary), Bayonet Chapel
- 11 a.m. Mass, Main Post Chapel

DEC. 31

- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Main Post Chapel
- 10 p.m. to midnight Watch Night Service, Daniel Circle Chapel

JAN. 1

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

The following services will not take place during Victory Block Leave: Church of Christ, Hispanic Protestant, Jewish, Latter Day Saints and Muslim.

All services are open to Initial Entry Training Soldiers during Victory Block Leave.

The regular worship service schedule will resume Jan. 6 with the exception of the Gospel Service, which will take place at 10:15 a.m., Jan. 6 and will resume its normal schedule Jan. 13.

ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS

Anderson Street Chapel

2335 Anderson St., corner of Jackson Boulevard, 751-7032

Bayonet Chapel

9476 Kemper St., 751-6322/4542

Daniel Circle Chapel

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

Main Post Chapel

4580 Scales Ave, corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard, 751-6469/6681

Memorial Chapel

4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324

Installation's Chaplain's Office

4475 Gregg St., 751-3121/6318

Follow the Leader on Twitter
at www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao.

Calendar

Dec. 27

High school and college students Mouth Guard and Panorex Day

Oliver Dental Clinic

For more information, call 751-1624/6213.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Retired Officer's Wives Club meeting

11:30 a.m.; Officers' Club

The guest speaker will be Bert Goolsby, author and retired judge. RSVP by 3 p.m., Jan. 4. To RSVP, call 788-1094 or 783-1220.

Announcements

CHRISTMAS TREE GRINDING

The Fort Jackson Recycling Center will accept Christmas trees for grinding Dec. 26 to Jan. 4. The Recycling Center is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays.

TARP BRIEFINGS

Threat Awareness Reporting Program briefings are scheduled for the following dates at the Post Theater:

☐ Jan. 14; 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

☐ Jan. 17; 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

☐ Jan. 24; 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

☐ Jan. 28; 3 p.m.

CIF INVENTORY CLOSURE

Central Issue Facility will be closed Jan. 14 to 18 for its annual inventory. Soldiers and civilians who are required to clear the installation during this time should schedule an appointment before Jan. 14 by calling 751-6524/2870/2739. CIF will resume normal business hours Jan. 21. For more information, call 751-7213.

CI RECRUITING TEAM VISIT

The Army counterintelligence special agent recruiting team will conduct information briefings 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Jan. 25, at the Education Center. The presentations are primarily aimed at Soldiers in the grade of senior E4 and junior E5. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Monica Backlund at (520) 533-5952 or at monica.backlund.mil@mail.mil.

POST THEATER UPGRADES

The Post Theater will upgrade to a digital projection system, which will enhance the quality of the screenings and will allow the theater to show 3D movies.

HIRED! LOOKING FOR APPRENTICES

The HIRED! apprenticeship program is looking for children of Soldiers and DA employees who are 15-18 years old and are interested in a 12-week apprenticeship on post. For more information, call 751-1136 or visit www.fortjacksonmwr.com/cyss/hired.

4-10TH RELOCATION

The 4th Battalion, 10th Infantry Regi-

Training honors



DINSMORE



STEIB

Staff Sgt.

Gregory Dinsmore

Drill sergeant of the cycle
Company B

Task Force Marshall

Staff Sgt.

Brennon Steib

Drill sergeant of the cycle
Company C

Task Force Marshall

ment has moved to 3225 Magruder Ave.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Army Emergency Relief will begin accepting applications for the MG James Ursano scholarship Jan. 1. The scholarship program assists spouses and children of active and retired Soldiers in obtaining a four-year undergraduate degree. Recipients must apply each year and may receive assistance for up to four years. For more information, visit www.aerhq.org.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Wounded Warrior Project and Operation Homefront are offering emergency financial assistance to service members and veterans who incurred a physical or mental injury, illness or wound, which was not due to their own conduct and coincident to their military service on or after Sept. 11, 2001. For more information, visit www.operationhomefront.net.

PHOTO CONTEST

To honor military families, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation has launched the "My Army life in photos" contest in conjunction with Shutterfly. For more information, visit www.armymwr.com/photocontest.aspx.

AAFES REWARDS GOOD GRADES

Students who have a B average or better on their report cards can participate in the Exchange's "You Made the Grade" program to receive free and discounted products. Students should present their report card and military ID at the Exchange to participate.

COMMISSARY NEWS

☐ The Commissary will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday. It will be closed Tuesday and resume normal hours Wednesday.

☐ The Commissary will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 31. It will be closed Jan. 1 and resume normal hours Jan. 2.

☐ The Commissary Reward Card is now available at the store. The card lets customers access digital coupons and redeem them in any commissary. To register the card, visit www.commissaries.com/rewards/index.cfm.

☐ Commissary gift cards are available at

www.commissaries.com.

☐ For more Commissary news, visit www.commissaries.com.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

☐ The Thrift Shop will be closed Friday through Jan. 7. Regular hours will resume Jan. 8.

☐ All Christmas items on display must be removed by today or will become Thrift Shop property.

☐ No consignments will be accepted Tuesday through Jan. 10.

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

Visit the community calendar at www.jackson.army.mil for a full listing of calendar events. Send your announcements to fjleader@gmail.com.

Housing happenings

OFFICE CLOSURE

Housing Services, RCO and Furnishings will be closed Dec. 24 and 31. Balfour Beatty Community offices will be closed Dec. 22, 25, 29 and Jan. 1.

AWAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Residents who are away during the holidays for an extended period of time should inform Military Police. MPs will provide a courtesy check on the home.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Holiday decorations must be removed within 14 calendar days after the holiday. Rooftop decorations are prohibited. Nails, spikes, building staples or any other type of fastener that leaves permanent damage are also prohibited. Live Christmas trees must be placed in a stand with a basin that is continually filled with water.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST

Judging for the best outdoor Christmas decoration will be at sundown Friday. Winners will be announced Dec. 27.

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

Bring your plastic bags to the Community Center for recycling. Residents will be entered into a drawing for a gift card once

per every 20 bags turned in.

TRASH PICKUP

Residents are asked to place trash cans curbside the night before service is scheduled. Once the trash can has been emptied, it should be stored away properly.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Boats, campers, trailers, jet skis and other recreational vehicles must be stored in the RV storage lot on Essayons Way. These vehicles are not permitted to be parked in the housing area. To reserve free space and for more information, call 751-9339.

SELF HELP

The Self Help Center offers lawn mowers for check-out. The center is located on Ivy Road and is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 787-6416.

CPAC CORNER

☐ The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will be closed Friday at noon for the office's holiday party and will reopen Monday.

☐ The Office of Personnel Management has updated retirement forms SF 3107, 3107 Schedule D and SF 3107-1 for FERS employees. Any retirement or disability retirement application for employees with a separation date after Dec. 31 must use the new forms. The forms are available at www.opm.gov/forms/html/sf.asp. For more information, call the Army Benefits Center at (877) 276-9287.



Friday, Dec. 21 — 5 p.m.

Alex Cross

PG-13

Saturday, Dec. 22 — 2 p.m.

Winnie the Pooh

\$1 family day

Sunday, Dec. 23 — 2 p.m.

Alex Cross

PG-13

Friday, Dec. 28 — 5 p.m.

Wreck-It Ralph

PG

Saturday, Dec. 29 — 2 p.m.

The Man with the Iron Fists R

Sunday, Dec. 30 — 2 p.m.

Wreck-It Ralph

PG

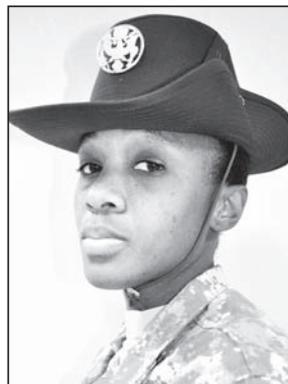
For more listings, visit www.aafes.com or call 751-7488.

Adults: \$5

Children (6-11 years old): \$2.50

Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle's honorees

DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE



**Staff Sgt.
Randy Dedeugd**
Company A
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

**Sgt. 1st Class
Jeremy Mathis**
Company B
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

**Staff Sgt.
Rudy Kulp**
Company C
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

**Sgt.
Sophia Ellis**
Company D
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

**Staff Sgt.
Reuben Roundtree**
Company E
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

**Staff Sgt.
Eric Ellis**
Company F
1st Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Ron Souder

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Joshua Schirard

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Spc. Brendan Cahill

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Lamar Greene

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Andy Kim

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Eric Dragland

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Jarone Shaw

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Spc. Hannah Hinkson

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Scott Richwine

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Tyler Verry

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Nicholas Mohr

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE
Pfc. Gregory Bell

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Mark Waters

HIGH APFT SCORE
Pfc. Stephanie Phillips

HIGH APFT SCORE
Pvt. Frank Martineau Jr.

HIGH APFT SCORE
Pvt. Elizabeth Caulder

HIGH APFT SCORE
Pvt. Robert Holk

HIGH APFT SCORE
Spc. Demmaje Brownfranklin

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Kyle Craine

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Dylan Hanson

HIGH BRM
Pfc. Preston McEntire

HIGH BRM
Pfc. Joshua Siddall

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Joseph Irazarry

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Ruben Sombrero

At your service

Phone numbers and operation hours for key post facilities

All South Federal Credit Union	782-9830	Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
American Red Cross	751-/4329/5923	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Andy's Fitness Center	751-4177	Monday-Friday, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; call for hours on training and federal holidays
Army Career Alumni Program	751-4109/4104	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Army Community Service	751-5256	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Army Continuing Education Services	751-5341	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Army Substance Abuse Program	751-5007	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Basic Combat Training Museum	751-7419	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Family Day, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Bowling, Century Lanes	751-6138	Monday, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:45 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 8 p.m.
Bowling, Ivy Lanes	751-4759	(For use by Soldiers in training): Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Saturday, 1 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.
Car Care Center	782-1639	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Chaplain Museum	751-8827/8079	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Child and Youth Services	751-4865	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	751-3219	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Class VI	782-1601	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Clinical Army Substance Abuse Program	751-6597	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Coleman Gym	751-5896	Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; weekends, training holidays and holidays except Christmas and New Year's Day, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Commissary	751-5789	Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
DA Photos (TSC)	751-7592	Monday-Thursday, 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
Defense Military Pay Office	751-6669 (Soldiers)	Monday-Friday, 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4 p.m. Civilians should call 751-4914.
Dental Clinics	751-5178/6017	Monday-Friday, 7:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Family Health Center	751-2273	Monday-Friday, 7:20 a.m. to 8 p.m.; training holidays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Family Life Resiliency Center	751-4961	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Florist	738-1812	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Fort Jackson National Cemetery	699-2246	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Furniture Store	787-9175	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Hospital Retail Annex	782-1263	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
ID Section	751-7731	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Legal Assistance and Claims	751-4287/3603	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
LCI-SSSC	790-5306	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Main Outpatient Pharmacy	751-2259	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
MG Robert B. Solomon Center	751-4056	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Military Clothing Sales Store	787-5248	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Movie Theater	751-7488	Hours vary
National Federation of Federal Employees	751-2622	
NCO Club	782-2218	Temporarily closed
Officers' Club	751-4906	Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday brunch, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Palmetto Falls Water Park	751-3475	Closed for the season
Perez Fitness Center	751-6258	Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; weekends and training holidays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Pharmacy Annex (PX mall)	751-2250	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Pool, Knight	751-4796	Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Pool, Legion	751-4987	Closed for the season
Post Exchange	787-1950/1951/1952	Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Post Library	751-5589/4816	Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Post Office	782-8709	Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Recycling Center	751-4208	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Reuse Center	751-5121	Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Safety Center	751-6004	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Gate 1 Express	782-2076	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gate 2 Express	790-4478	Open 24 hours a day
SSI Retail Annex	738-9189	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Thrift Shop	787-2153	Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Vanguard Gym	751-4384	Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1 to 8 p.m.
Veterinary Clinic	751-7160	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Victory Travel	751-5812	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on federal holidays
Weapons Registration	751-5887	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anything we missed? E-mail us at fjleader@gmail.com.