

TRACKING ...

NEWS

DES adds number for mobile callers

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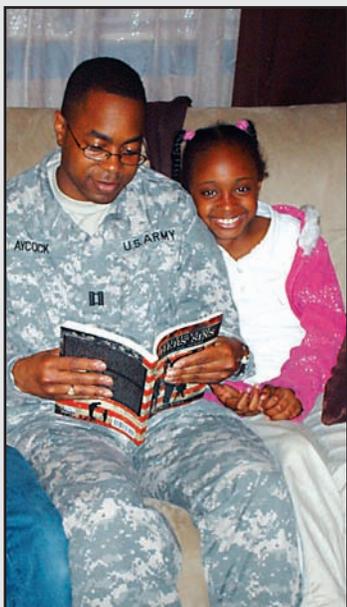
CHALKBOARD



Kids learn to fight grime at health fair

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UP CLOSE



Soldier pens book about fatherhood

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The Fort Jackson Leader



Thursday, April 1, 2010

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www.jackson.army.mil

Gator safe



Photo by SUSANNE KAPPLER

Keith Sutton, a game warden with the Directorate of Emergency Services, posts a sign alerting passers-by to the possibility of alligators living in the area. DES officials will put up signs near many of the posts' ponds and lakes.

DES: Reptiles not a nuisance on post

By SUSANNE KAPPLER
Fort Jackson Leader

In his 25 years on Fort Jackson, Randy Bundrick, game warden with the Directorate of Emergency Services, has seen an abundance of wildlife on post, but never came across an alligator.

He said he's heard second-hand accounts from several people who have had encounters with the reptiles, but nobody in his office has come across an alligator — until recently, when one of his colleagues happened upon one of the animals near a lake in the northwestern part of the installation.

"That's a lot of years for a little bit of sight," Bundrick said. "They're not just laying up all the time where people can see

them."

Col. Ronald Taylor, director of emergency services and provost marshal, confirmed the encounter.

"One of our game wardens happened to be walking around, just checking the area, and he came across the alligator," Taylor said.

The discovery was not surprising to him, he said.

"With any fresh water in South Carolina, there's a probability of having alligators in it," Taylor said. "You could have alligators in additional ponds on the installation and just don't know about it."

About 27 ponds and lakes are spread across Fort Jackson. Taylor said that DES has started putting up signs near bodies of water

to alert fishermen and other passers-by to the potential of coming across an alligator. At this point, he said, the animals are not considered a nuisance to the community.

"If the numbers grow to the extent where they are uncontrollable or if they got into the training areas, they'd have to be removed," Taylor said.

In fact, Doug Morrow, chief of the wildlife branch of the Directorate of Public Works' environmental division, said alligators are a valuable part of the eco system.

"They are an indigenous species to the South and Southeast," Morrow said. "They are predators. The smaller ones feed very heavily on turtles, snakes and amphibians

See ALLIGATORS: Page 6

New BCT focus hones Soldiers' skills

As you have likely seen in recent media coverage, we have begun making some changes in Basic Combat Training.

These changes will impact the way we teach and learn marksmanship, combatives, values and culture, as well as physical fitness. Simply put, what we are doing is making a major push toward a focus on the fundamentals.

The direction that we are taking was outlined a month back at the Initial Military Training forum, which was held in Columbia.

Change often brings criticism. Some will say that the Army is lowering the bar for its recruits. That could not be further from reality or the reasons for these modifications and enhancements.

Fort Jackson and the other Basic Combat Training centers will play a vital role in the training transition. Implementation will require hard work, determination and teamwork from everyone on Fort Jackson. The potential outcomes are promising.

One facet of the change is physical fitness. We have implemented Standardized Physical Training. The program is geared to increase the fitness of new Soldiers so

BRIG. GEN. BRADLEY W. MAY
Fort Jackson
Commanding
General



that they will be ready for a more rigorous PT routine once they reach the operational force. Another objective is to balance the goal of increasing capabilities while at the same time limiting the number of injuries that occur.

The program also promotes a progressive approach to fitness, meaning that we want Soldiers to improve and maintain the established level of fitness once they depart to their new duty stations. It's a system of training in phases while ensuring that Soldiers are always prepared for a wartime mission.

To illustrate this, in the past, when a Soldier was doing

sit-ups and push-ups, he or she didn't necessarily associate the exercise with his or her duties as a Soldier. Now when a Soldier does, for example, climbing drills or runs in short bursts of speed, he or she might not associate it at first, but eventually will recognize how the new regimen dovetails with Soldiering when he or she is in combat or competing for an expert badge.

The rationale behind the new PT regimen is consistent with the Initial Military Training objective that the Army leadership has in mind with core Soldiering skills. The Army has begun focusing its efforts on ensuring that we carry out the Army's mandate that Soldiers learn to do a number of basic tasks well so that they are prepared to adapt to future situations that they encounter.

The attempt to avoid overtraining does not mean that we will be undertraining. We are just targeting exactly what we are looking to accomplish and zeroing-in on that with precision.

All in all, we are certainly involved in some exciting transitions right now, and we are looking forward to the impact they will continue to have on the transformation of our Soldiers.

The Fort Jackson *Leader*

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Ask the garrison commander about: Gold Medal of Remembrance

What is the Gold Medal of Remembrance?

The Gold Medal of Remembrance was created by the director of the White House Commission on Remembrance to recognize and honor children who have lost a mother or father in service to our country. Eligibility for the Gold Medal of Remembrance is limited to children who have lost a parent in a theater of conflict during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. For additional information, contact 751-7820.

What is Survivor Outreach Services?

SOS is a joint effort between IMCOM and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command to support survivors of deceased active duty Soldiers. Call 751-4867 for more information.

I was excited to see the after-school options for youth offered by the EDGE! program, but when I went to enroll my children, I was told that my middle school child could attend free but that I had to pay for my 10-year-old. Why is my 10-year-old being discriminated against because of his age?

In 1999, Army leadership implemented a Middle School After School Program to target the needs of middle school youth, particularly from 3-6 p.m., which has been identified by research and crime statistics as high-risk times for youth involvement in at-risk behaviors. The program was fully funded to encourage all Army families to put their middle school youth in a safe, secure setting during the afternoon hours. In 2009, with the implementation of the EDGE program, Army leadership has continued its commitment to encouraging Army families to

COL. LILLIAN A. DIXON
Fort Jackson
Garrison
Commander



put their middle school youth in a safe, secure setting during the afternoon hours by fully funding the EDGE! program for the middle school age group. The cost of the EDGE! program for younger children is based on Army guidance of \$5 per hour. Most of the after-school EDGE! programs last 1 1/2 hours so the cost for younger children is \$7.50 per session.

FACT OF THE WEEK

Child, Youth & School Services implemented three new programs during 2009: Strong Beginnings — a pre-k program for 4-year-olds that is comparable to public school pre-k programs; HIRED!, a teen apprentice program for 15-18 year olds; and the EDGE!, an after-school activities program for youth that partners with other FMWR activities. For more information about Strong Beginnings, contact Thomas Manigo at 751-6225; for more information about the HIRED! Program, contact Corey Dwyer at 751-3977; and for more information about the EDGE!, contact Beverly Metcalfe at 751-3053.

To submit questions for the "Ask the Garrison Commander," call 751-2842, or e-mail scott.nahrwold@us.army.mil.

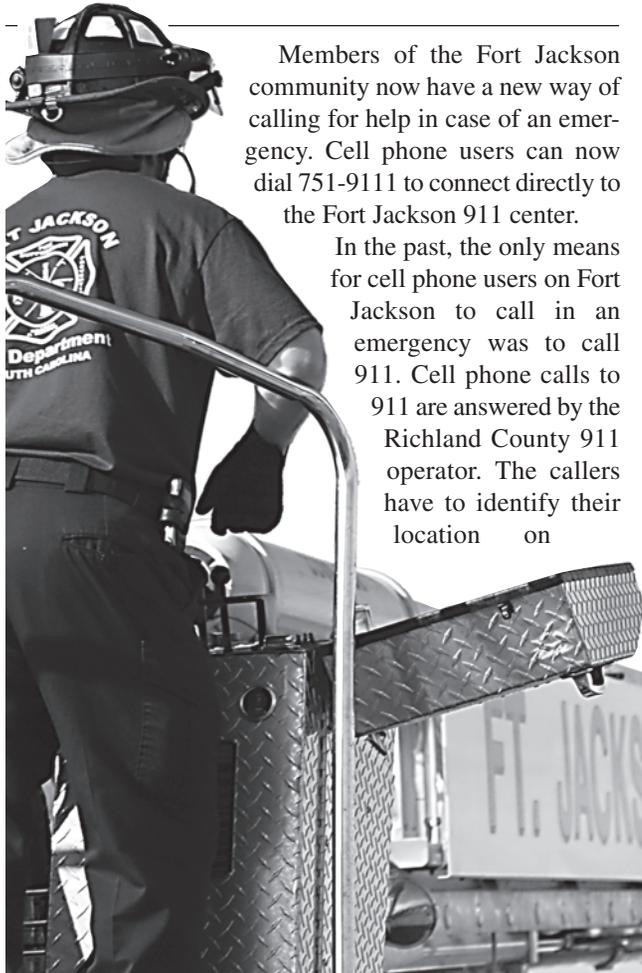


Article submissions are due two weeks before publication. For example, an article for the April 15 Leader must be submitted by today.

Announcements are due one week before publication. For example, an announcement for the April 15 Leader must be submitted by April 8.

Mobile callers get new 911 call option

By **SUSANNE KAPPLER**
Fort Jackson Leader



Members of the Fort Jackson community now have a new way of calling for help in case of an emergency. Cell phone users can now dial 751-9111 to connect directly to the Fort Jackson 911 center.

In the past, the only means for cell phone users on Fort Jackson to call in an emergency was to call 911. Cell phone calls to 911 are answered by the Richland County 911 operator. The callers have to identify their location on

Fort Jackson to be routed to the 911 operator on post, who then dispatches the responders.

Typically, the time it takes to transfer calls is less than one minute, said Bill Forrester, Fort Jackson fire chief. However, Forrester said the Directorate of Emergency Services wanted to provide cell phone users a way to connect to the correct emergency center without any delays.

Callers who dial 911 from any landline phone on Fort Jackson are automatically routed to the correct operator.

“(The new) number does not replace what’s already in existence. It’s just an additional avenue you have now,” Forrester said. “Really, we were targeting the cell phone user audience. Still any hard-wire phone on Fort Jackson — you dial 911, you’re going to get a Fort Jackson 911 operator.”

Forrester said that callers can still call 911 from their cell phones, but have to remember to immediately tell the operator that they are on Fort Jackson to avoid unnecessary delays. He said he encourages members of the Fort Jackson community to program the new number, including the area code, into their cell phones.

Fort Jackson residents who use Internet phone services should ensure that 911 calls are routed to the correct location, Forrester said.

“It’s essential that if you have an Internet phone service ... you need to contact your provider and register your 911 number with the local 911 center, which

is Fort Jackson,” he said.

Members of the community should not be afraid to call 911 or 751-9111, Forrester said.

“Never, ever, ever hesitate to call 911,” he said. “We hear all the time, ‘We didn’t want to bother you. We’re not really sure if it’s an emergency.’ Let us make that determination; 911 is there to help you. If you even contemplate that it may be an emergency, call 911.”

Callers who do make the call should never hang up until they are told to hang up, he added. Forrester also emphasized that it is important to have as much information as possible when calling 911.

“Always be prepared to give the operators all the information they ask for. At a minimum, you need to provide an address,” he said. “If (the callers) don’t know an address, then we don’t know how to get to them. And that is particularly important to the military units. A lot of times (callers) don’t know what building number they’re in. They know they’re in unit 2-13, for example. We can get the address from that information; it’s just going to take us a little bit longer.”

Callers who don’t call from a building should give the operator information that makes it easy to be located, such as street names, range number, fire break identifier or GPS coordinates.

Finally, callers should always leave a phone number, Forrester said.

“The operators will obtain pertinent information to start a response,” he said. “Then they’re going to dispatch to the corresponding fire, police or Emergency Medical Services units. Then they’re getting back with the caller to get some more detailed information to provide to the responders.”

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Talking ordnance



Photo by CRYSTAL LEWIS BROWN

Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan Muhammad, ordnance regimental sergeant major, speaks to a group of noncommissioned officers at Anderson Street Chapel March 26. Muhammad’s talk was part of a daylong visit in which he toured the 187th Ordnance Battalion training sites and participated in a simulator training exercise. He also toured the Army Logistical University and discussed how the school was a way for Soldiers to gain credits toward a degree.

True blue



Photo by KRIS GONZALEZ

From left: Staff Sgt. Juan Bernal, Staff Sgt. William Carrigg, and Staff Sgt. Justin Richardson, sport their newly earned Expert Infantryman Badges during a ceremony Friday at Hilton Field. Among the 48 Fort Jackson Soldiers who received the EIB badge, they were the only three named “True Blue,” which means they received perfect scores during the testing. To see video of these and other Soldiers competing for the EIB, log onto <http://www.vimeo.com/10469378>.

Post preps for conversion to GS

By **CRYSTAL LEWIS BROWN**
and **DEB MERCURIO**

Starting next month, about 220,000 Department of Defense employees currently under the National Security Personnel System will begin returning to General Schedule status.

And Fort Jackson staffers are doing what they can to make sure the transition is a smooth one.

Sheila Webb, a labor specialist at Fort Jackson's Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, is serving as the action officer for the installation's NSPS transition.

"The big concern right now is making sure the position descriptions are accurate," she said.

Those employees transitioning from NSPS who have concerns that their position descriptions are incorrect should speak with their supervisors, managers or commanders to try to have the issue resolved.

"It's very important that (these employees) do their research," she said.

Webb said that the transition date for TRADOC employees is set for May 23.

Like Webb, Bill Smith, G8/director of resource management said that he is focusing on position descriptions for the 51 TRADOC employees who fall underneath his purview. Smith is the TRADOC representative for the transition.

"Our focus right now is just the position description review and making sure that (employees) are working with their CPAC (liaisons)," he said.

Approximately 245 TRADOC employees are affected by the transition, Webb said.

As for those assigned to IMCOM organizations, "We are moving out smartly to implement the Army's guidance and will transition our employees out of NSPS on Aug 15," said John B. Nerger, executive director of IMCOM.

Nerger made the following key points about the changeover:

— Employees will not suffer a loss or decrease in their current pay.

— NSPS remains the pay system until the transition is complete. IMCOM members must continue to work according to that system, such as using established performance objectives and conducting interim assessments.

— Employees converting GS system will return to the Total Army Performance Evaluation System, which has remained the performance management tool for most Army non-NSPS employees.

"We are working hard to ensure a smooth conversion process for everyone affected by this change," Nerger said.

Last October, President Barack Obama signed the 2010 National Authorization Act, which abolished NSPS, a pay-for-performance system, requiring all employees to be transitioned out of NSPS no later than January 2012. However, a small percentage of the workforce will be placed in acquisition or laboratory demonstration personnel sys-

tems.

Webb said the Fort Jackson CPAC staff is working to help those involved in the transition. She is also encouraging transitioners to take online training to better familiarize themselves with classification systems and other GS information, and specifically recommends two courses — "Classifying Positions under GS: A Primer for Supervisors" and "GS 101."

"We're just trying to stay a step ahead," she said. "As long as we stay a step ahead, I think we will have a smooth transition."

According to the Army NSPS Transition Plan, the Armywide transition is scheduled as follows:

Civilian Human Resources Agency, May 9; TRADOC, May 23; U.S. Army Reserve, June 20; IMCOM, Aug. 15; Office Chief, National Guard Bureau, Aug. 15.

The Fort Jackson CPAC office will also host a town hall meeting sometime this month to address the NSPS conversion to GS.

For questions or concerns, contact Webb at 751-5796 or Collette Bagwell at 751-6379.

For a list of frequently asked questions, or to complete the online training, visit www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.

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Editor's note: Deb Mercurio works with IMCOM Public Affairs.

“ We are working hard to ensure a smooth conversion process for everyone affected by this change.”

— **John B. Nerger**
IMCOM executive director

Who's that cat?



Photo courtesy MARCELA OLESON

Roger Marshall, 5, tells his version of Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat" during Pierce Terrace Elementary School's reading celebration Friday. As part of the celebration, the school's students dressed up as storybook characters and retold their favorite tales.

Open up!



Photo by SUSANNE KAPPLER

Capt. Cassandra Joseph, a dentist with Fort Jackson's DENTAC, examines the teeth of Darien Hall, 4, during the Colgate Van's visit to the Main PX Tuesday. Throughout the day, children received free dental screenings and education on dental health and hygiene.



Photo by KEITH SUTTON Directorate of Emergency Services

Alligators, like the one spotted by Keith Sutton near one of Fort Jackson's lakes — and shown here — blend in well with their environment, which can make them hard to spot. Officials with the Directorate of Emergency Services ask outdoorsmen on Fort Jackson to be mindful of their surroundings.

Alligators not a cause for panic

Continued from Page 1

like frogs and other reptiles. They keep things in balance as a predator. In any natural eco system you have to have a healthy predator-prey balance to keep the wild populations in check."

Though there have been several alligator sightings, Morrow said, in his opinion, people are seeing the same one or two animals — which are all located in the same general area — each time.

Morrow said he has seen what he thinks is the same alligator several times throughout the past 10 years.

"I saw it last year, got a pretty good look at it and I estimated it's probably about 7, at the most 8 feet, in length," he said. "I've never seen more than one — that doesn't mean there might not be more than one."

ALLIGATOR SAFETY TIPS:

- Do not feed alligators. By feeding alligators, they come to associate humans with food.
- Keep your distance.
- Never disturb a nest or small alligators. The nesting season starts around June.
- Keep your pets or children away from alligators.
- Don't swim in areas that are known to have alligators.

Taylor said that although the presence of alligators on Fort Jackson is no cause for panic, people should follow safety precautions. He said he discourages members of the community to

look for alligators.

"I would recommend that people don't go alligator hunting or sightseeing. Stay away from them," Taylor said. "If you want to see an alligator, go to the zoo. Don't go to the pond and look at them, because you just put yourself in danger of something happening. ... If you do see them, turn the other way and walk away. Don't approach them."

Bundrick said that he and the other five game wardens are always on the lookout for potentially harmful animals and advises outdoor lovers to do the same.

"When we go around the ponds, we make sure we're looking at all times for not only alligators, but water moccasins and copperheads, so we're alert at all times," he said.

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CPAC CORNER Planning for retirement

One of the most important steps in planning for retirement will be to request an estimate. Those within five years of retirement eligibility, may request an estimate from the Army Benefits Center-Civilian. Civilians may request one estimate per year. This estimate will serve as a valuable tool in the retirement planning process. Civilians will be able to determine if all of their service is in their Official Personnel Folders, if all their service is creditable for retirement or if they need to make de-

posits for periods of service. Civilians will also be able to see how reductions and deductions will impact their annuity. Future salary increases and leave accruals will not be projected. The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will only use the balance that shows in payroll at the time the office works on the estimate.

Once the estimate has been requested, the ABC-C will request the civilian's OPF from his or her servicing Civilian Personnel Operations Center. Upon receipt of the OPF, the

civilian's estimate will be worked in a first-in, first-out manner. The estimate can be requested via the Interactive Voice Response System by calling 1-877-276-9287 or TDD at 1-877-276-9833. The counselor will ask for the civilian's desired date of retirement.

This process only provides an estimate; the Office of Personnel Management is the final adjudicator of the civilian's annuity. This estimate does not obligate the civilian to retire nor does it serve as the civilian's retirement application.

Housing Happenings

□ Spring Eggstravaganza, April 2, noon to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. The event will also mark the beginning of the Army Survey. Return the survey soon for the maximum number of entries for raffle prizes.

□ Volunteers are needed to serve as mayors and vice mayors for the housing community. Anyone interested in becoming a mayor or vice mayor should contact Vickie Grier at 751-7567.

□ On-post residents should contact Balfour Beatty Communities at 738-8275 to update their contact information and PCS status.

□ Spring is finally here and the grass will be cut more frequently. Please help the landscapers by keeping yards free of debris on the scheduled landscaping day.

□ Join Balfour Beatty Communities for events and activities. All events are free to residents and take place at the Community Center.

□ Be mindful of children at play during spring break. The Community Center offers a Wii gaming console, and Internet cafe, a boundless playground and other activities for children. The center's business hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

□ Relocation for families into junior NCO housing is ongoing. Senior NCO homes are scheduled to become available in early summer. Field grade officer homes are scheduled to become available this summer.

□ To date, 72 families have moved into new homes.

□ Families who are relocated because of construction are reimbursed for the cost of the move and the cost to transfer telephone, cable and Internet access.

□ All residents are encouraged to be cautious around the construction sites.

CMS Corner

The Customer Management System at Fort Jackson is a three-tiered feedback system established to determine the satisfaction of those who work, train, live and play on the installation.

CMS includes the Interactive Customer Evaluation system, Community FIRST/AFAP and Customer Service Assessments.

This feedback enables the garrison to focus on specific actions aimed at improving customers' experiences of post services.

A complete list of Community FIRST issues can be found at <http://www.jackson.army.mil/WellBeing/well-being.htm>. New issues may be submitted on the site as well, by clicking on "Submit an Issue or Recommendation" or on the Community FIRST/AFAP Logo.

Whether it affects individuals and constituent groups at the installation level or throughout the Army, feedback is important.

Become a friend of CMS on Facebook by logging on to www.facebook.com. Search for CMS Fort Jackson.

"Let your voice be heard!"

CONTACTING THE LEADER

To contact the *Leader* about story ideas or announcements, e-mail FJLeader@conus.army.mil or call 751-7045.

Stamp unveiled



Photo by DARCIE FOUSTE, Adjutant General Corps Museum

From left, Henry Howe, curator of the U.S. Army Finance Corps Museum, Harry Spratlin, U.S. Postal Service, and Stewart Moore, anchor for television station WIS, unveil a stamp in honor of veteran and cartoonist Bill Mauldin during the broadcast of the Sunrise Show Wednesday. Mauldin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, was known for his World War II depictions.

DADT changes implemented

By ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Pending a congressional decision on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, the secretary of Defense implemented changes to current military regulations last week to ensure a "fairer and more appropriate" enforcement of the law.

Effective immediately, there will be changes in how military separation investigations are conducted and what kind of information can be used as "credible information" in homosexual conduct discharges.

"I am determined that we in the department carry out the president's directive on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' in a professional and thorough way," said Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, during a press conference.

For example, information given to lawyers, clergy, psychotherapists or medical professionals in confidence will not be used for the purposes of discharging service members.

The military will also be more cautious in examining facts before initiating an inquiry, taking into consideration that hearsay or falsified information could be presented by someone who wants to do the service member harm. For example, investigators will require accusations made by third parties to be given under oath and will ignore most anonymous complaints.

The new changes also raise the rank of officers who are

authorized to initiate fact-finding inquiries or separation proceedings to generals or flag officers. The revisions apply to all open and future cases, and all branches of the military must modify their regulations within 30 days.

Passed by Congress in 1993, the law allows homosexual service members to stay in the military as long as they hide their sexual orientation.

President Barack Obama urged Congress to repeal the law in his Jan. 27 State of the Union address, and since then the possible effects of letting homosexuals serve freely in the military have been under examination.

Gates has asked the commander of U.S. Army Europe, Gen. Carter F. Ham, and the Pentagon's chief legal counsel, Jeh C. Johnson, to issue recommendations by Dec. 1 on how to integrate openly gay service members into the armed forces. A working group will spend the next several months traveling to military installations to learn how service members might react to a potential repeal.

Gates said he didn't recommend a change in the law before completing an internal study. The Army's chief of staff, Gen. George W. Casey, agreed.

"I do have serious concerns about the impact of the repeal of a law on a force that's fully engaged in two wars, and has been at war for eight and a half years ... we just don't know the impacts on readiness and military effectiveness," Casey said during a Senate hearing.

Last year, 428 service members were discharged from the military under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

News and notes

BOSS SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

Spc. Christian Noa, administration clerk for the Noncommissioned Officers Academy and an active member of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, was recently named the BOSS Soldier of the Month. Noa ensures NCO Academy Soldiers receive organization information.



NOA

MRT SCHOOL RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

The ribbon cutting for the Master Resilience Trainer course building is scheduled for Monday, 10 a.m. at 3216 Magruder Ave.

HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING

A historical marker unveiling to commemorate the desegregation of Fort Jackson Schools is scheduled for 2 p.m., Wednesday, at the Hood Street Annex.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

Fort Jackson's Days of Remembrance ceremony is scheduled for April 11, 9:30 a.m. at Memorial Chapel. The guest speaker will be Abraham Getman, a Holocaust survivor.

DSS DRILL SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

Staff Sgt. Demian Vonzalu was recently selected as Drill Sergeant of the Year for the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School. Vonzalu will go on to compete against other drill sergeants from across the post in Fort Jackson's Drill Sergeant of the Year competition, which is scheduled for April 19-23.



April 2 — 6 p.m.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians:
The Lightning Thief PG 118 min.

April 3 — 6 p.m.

Cop Out R 110 min.

April 4 — 6 p.m.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians:
The Lightning Thief PG 118 min.

April 8 — 2 p.m.

Cop Out R 110 min.

April 8 — 5 p.m.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians:
The Lightning Thief PG 118 min.

Fort Jackson Reel Time Theater

(803) 751-7488

Closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Ticket admission

ADULTS \$4

CHILDREN (12 and younger) \$2

Visit afes.com for listings

School becomes grime scene

By KRIS GONZALEZ
Fort Jackson Leader

Lorenza Cardwell and fellow schoolmate Francisco Pagan were practically skipping from corner to corner of the C.C. Pinckney Elementary gymnasium March 26 as they participated in the school's first health fair.

They had nearly reached the last of four educational booths when they were stopped in their tracks.

"Hands up," said someone behind them.

The students turned slowly and saw a man donned in a white protective suit approaching them.

The man, resembling a character from the television series CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, was actually Kenneth Cobb, a grime scene investigator with the Moncrief Army Community Hospital Preventive Medicine.

Cobb and fellow GSI investigator, Capt. Marla Washington, were there to help educate students about ways to stop the spread of infection.

In a case of "whodunit," the GSI unit pretended to investigate the sudden illness, likely caused by a bacterial infection, of a student at the school.

Cobb and Washington selected some children (the usual suspects) and sprayed their hands with a concoction of fake germs. They then directed the students to put their hands in a detection device used to shed light on the crime — the crime of spreading grime, that is.

What the black light revealed was small traces of pseudo bacteria in the ridges between the students' fingers and faint rings of make-believe microorganisms around their wrists.

"It's an easy fix with proper hand washing," Cobb said, who later remarked he was impressed by the students' enthusiasm for committing to fight grime and to learn healthier ways of living.

"The kids were excited to get this information to the point that I know they will use this information," he said.

Allison Plyler, school health nurse, collaborated with members of Fort Jackson's as well as Columbia's health community to arrange the fair, which consisted of four interactive stations to teach students not only proper hand washing, but also good nutrition, dental care and fire safety.

"That's what the health fair was all about — anything that promotes developing healthy lifestyles," Plyler said. "Although (students) learn some of these things in their science and health classes, this way, they can actually see health (education) in action."

Kathy Williams, EdVenture Children's Museum's health education manager, brought her friend Stuffee, the museum's gigantic doll with removable plush organs, to teach the children about the dynamics of



Photos by KRIS GONZALEZ

The Tooth Fairy, aka Cynthia Good, a dental therapist with DENTAC, teaches Wyatt Hurst, 8, the proper way to brush his teeth at the children's health fair March 25 at C.C. Pinckney Elementary School.

digestion and the importance of good nutrition for keeping bodies healthy from both inside and out.

The Tooth Fairy, Cynthia Good of DENTAC, taught students the proper way of brushing, flossing and taking care of their teeth. In the process, Good taught EdVenture robot Mo (short for Molar) a thing or two about good oral health. Before hearing the children singing rhymes about dental care at the fair, Mo didn't know a thing about toothpaste, fluoride or floss, said Sara McGregor, an EdVenture health educator.

And at their booth, members of Fort Jackson's Directorate of Emergency Services explained to the students the importance of knowing when to call and not to call 911, how to prevent fires and during each session, had one student demonstrate the familiar "stop, drop and roll."

Later that afternoon, the health educators moved the fair to Pierce Terrace Elementary where the younger students there were given the opportunity to partake in the interactive learning event.

Kris.Gonzalez1@us.army.mil



Capt. Marla Washington, of Moncrief Army Community Hospital's preventive medicine, places the hands of Francisco Pagan, 10, under a black-light detection device to reveal pseudo-germs.

Father's sins inspire Soldier

Captain pens book while wife is in Iraq

By KRIS GONZALEZ
Fort Jackson Leader

In 1991, having endured a tumultuous childhood, 18-year-old Edwin Aycock joined the Army in search of a better life. During the next 18 years, he prevailed in the face of many challenges, conducting some of the most difficult missions, serving in foreign lands as well surviving the trials of combat.

In 2009, his wife deployed to Iraq, leaving him to face his most demanding mission yet, temporary single-parenthood. Now he was responsible for raising his 7-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son and performing all the daily tasks his wife had so effortlessly done.

Little did he know that none of his training, badges or degrees would prepare him for such things as taming his little girl's hair or making sure his son's homework was finished every night.

During the next 12 months, Aycock would develop a greater appreciation for his wife's dexterity as a mother; an appreciation that would make him reflect on his own parenting skills and decide what kind of father he wanted to be for his children.

As he examined the dichotomy of his upbringing and what he was trying to achieve, he recognized he lacked the first-hand experience to create a healthy family environment.

He was determined that the lack of guidance from his abusive, alcoholic father would not keep him from nurturing his own brood. He would draw upon the values instilled in him by the military to better himself as a man and, more importantly, as a dad.

Aycock said he felt compelled to write about the struggles and revelations he had during his time as "Mr. Mom."

Four months and 230 pages later, Aycock had written a book geared toward parents who, despite their backgrounds, want to be better moms and dads.

Though the book, "Corrections of Fathers' Sins: Good Fathers are Made...not Born," is fiction, it is loosely based on some



Courtesy photo

Capt. Edwin Aycock gives his daughter Brittany, 8, and son, Darius, 12, a heart-to-heart talk about the reasons their mother deployed to Iraq and why both he and his wife choose to serve in the Army. In his book, "Corrections of Fathers' Sins: Good Fathers are Made...not Born," Aycock asserts that the values military members adopt while serving can help make them better parents, regardless of their upbringing.

of Aycock's childhood experiences, he said.

It is narrated by a young man who recalls past abuses by his father and events that influenced him along his journey to manhood, he said.

"This book is interesting because it's told from a kid's point of view," said Juliette Skerrit, operations assistant for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, who was among the first to read the recently published book.

Aycock works in tasking, which is in the same office as Skerrit.

"As a parent you're always wondering what your kids are thinking," Skerrit said. "This book explains how the boy saw his father figure."

Skerrit said she found humor in the narrator's recollection of the 1980s customs and fads, but what she really appreciated was Aycock's brief analyses of the boy's experiences at the end of each chapter.

Aycock, who has a bachelor's and a mas-

ter's degree in professional mental health counseling — and is working on a doctorate in counseling education and supervision — used his educational background to analyze the effects of the family's dynamics on the boy.

Gerald Henderson, post deputy chief of staff, who also read the book, said he related to the narrator because of his own childhood relationship with his stepfather.

"He (the narrator) and I come from similar backgrounds," Henderson said. "It brought me back to a lot of things that I had experienced and had thought about but had never put into words."

Henderson said reading the book helped him gain perspective about his role as a father.

"Ultimately you have to take those responsibilities you have as a parent seriously and understand the impact (they are) going to have on that child not only at that time, but also later on in life; on his or her ability

to function as an adult and as a parent," Henderson said. "It's something that lives with you for the rest of your life. Parenting is a lifelong responsibility."

Skerrit said, "The book shows you that regardless of the situation you were brought up in, regardless of your background, you can make the changes as a parent so that your children and future generations don't have to continue the same abusive cycle. You can be a better parent to your child."

Both Skerrit and Henderson said the book was a quick read, only taking each of them about two days to finish.

"Every page made me want to read more," said Skerrit, who enjoyed reading the book so much, she gave a copy to her grown daughter who has young children.

Aycock has already written 40 pages of his second book, he said.

Skerrit said she can't wait to read the sequel.

Kris.Gonzalez1@us.army.mil

Power of resurrection provides hope

By **CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) MONICA LAWSON**
1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you." (Matthew 28: 1-7)

In a few days we will celebrate what we have come to know as Easter or Resurrection Day. It is on this day that Christians all over the world rejoice over the incarnate Lord's resurrection from the dead three days after being crucified.

His resurrection comes as the fulfillment of the promise and prophecy that he made to his disciples that in three days his body — his temple — would be raised from the dead. This event is recorded in each of the four gospels. Each of the four gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, present the event from a different perspective. This account, as recorded by Matthew, focuses on two women who were also followers of Jesus. Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," who was not the mother of Jesus.

As the women made their way to the tomb, they felt the earth move. Even after the earthquake, which was caused by an angel rolling the stone away from entrance of the tomb, the two women kept moving toward the tomb. The angel told them not to be afraid because Jesus, who had been crucified, was not there. He had risen from the dead just as he had told them he would. The charge that the angel gave them is no different from the one that Jesus gives us to go out and tell others about our risen savior, because he lives.

To be resurrected is to take on a rebirth, reappearance, a restoration, a renewal and a revival. Everything that we are and have and ever hope to be, all that we believe in, is predicated on the reality of the resurrection. There would be no Christianity if there were no resurrection. Evangelical writer and minister John MacArthur, in his sermon titled, "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ," makes the following statement: "Conversely because there is a resurrection, all elements of our faith are affirmed as true in every sense. The resurrection then is the cornerstone of our faith."

To some it may sound crazy to believe in the supernatural because it requires faith; the faith to believe what others may say is impossible. But with God, all things are

possible.

Before you give up on what looks like a dead situation, you should know that God can resurrect it; he can bring it back to life. He can resurrect your marriage, he can resurrect your finances and he can resurrect your relationship with your family. Too many times, we stop short of God's intended outcome for our life because the situation looks helpless and hopeless.

His resurrection gives us comfort, confidence and hope. Psalms 119:50 states: "Your promise revives me; It comforts me in all my troubles." The blessed assurance of his resurrection gives us confidence. The word of God tells us in Ephesians 3:2 that "because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence." Psalms 27:13 says I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. We have assurance in the resurrection because of the hope that God gives us.

The foundation of all our hope is found in his resurrection and this hope will not lead to disappointment. For it was Jesus who said, "Because I live, ye shall live also." It was Jesus who said in John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

When I have found myself at some of the "damp and dark" places and points in my life, I remember the songs that we sang in church when I was a little girl growing up in Alabama. Songs that spoke to me even though I was a child; songs that I knew gave me hope in the power of God to change any situation.

One of my favorites songs was "Because He Lives," written by Bill and Gloria Gaither. The song came about as a testimony of what God can do in the midst of and after our trials and tribulations have taken us to the pit of desperation, depression and despair. His resurrection power can deliver us.

In my Web search for the lyrics I came across the following story on http://www.hymnlyrics.org/mostpopularhymns/because_he_lives.html.

"In the late 1960s, while expecting their third child, the Gaithers were going through a traumatic time. Their first-born, Suzanne, was 4, and her sister Amy was three months old. The timing for another baby wasn't ideal. On top of that, Bill was recovering from a bout with mononucleosis. The breakup of the marriage of Bill's sister, Mary Ann, had left his family devastated. What's more, a close friend's accusation that Bill and Gloria were using their ministry just to make a buck blindsided the couple and plunged Bill into

Holy week services

PROTESTANT

- ☐ Through Friday, Protestant worship services, noon to 1 p.m., Memorial Chapel. A small lunch will be provided.
- ☐ Friday, The Passion of Jesus, Part 1, 7 p.m., Solomon Center. Free and open to the community
- ☐ Friday, Good Friday service, 7 p.m., Magruder Chapel
- ☐ Sunday, postwide Easter service, 8 a.m. Solomon Center, includes Part 2 of The Passion of Jesus
- ☐ Sunday, 9 a.m., McCrady Chapel
- ☐ Sunday, Daniel Circle Chapel gospel service, 9:30 a.m., Post Theater
- ☐ Sunday, Protestant service, 9:30 a.m., Main Post Chapel
- ☐ Sunday, 11 a.m., Memorial Chapel

CATHOLIC

- ☐ Today, Holy Thursday, 7 p.m., Main Post Chapel
- ☐ Friday, Good Friday, 7 p.m., Main Post Chapel
- ☐ Saturday, Easter vigil, 9 p.m., Main Post Chapel
- ☐ Sunday, Easter service, 9:30 a.m., Solomon Center
- ☐ Sunday, Mass, 11 a.m., Main Post Chapel
- ☐ Sunday, Easter service, 8 p.m., McCrady Chapel

LITURGICAL/ANGLICAN

- ☐ Sunday, 8 a.m., Anderson Chapel

a deep depression."

Gloria also remembers it as a time of fear and sadness. The educational system was being infiltrated with the "God is dead" idea, while drug abuse and racial tension were increasing. The thought of bringing another child into the world was taking its toll.

But after a simple prayer by one of Bill's close friends - a prayer that commanded the devil to back off — both Bill and Gloria recall that the strength of the Holy Spirit seemed to come to their aid. Christ's resurrection, in all its power, was reaffirmed in their hearts. They were assured that the future, left in God's hands, would be just fine.

In July 1970, a healthy baby, Benjamin, was born. Inspired by the miracle of their son's birth, "Because He Lives" poured out of the Gaithers' grateful hearts. The song clearly affirms the hope believers have in Christ. We can face tomorrow, with all its uncertainty, as we realize that God holds the future and makes life worth living."

The words to this song are:

God sent his son, they called him Jesus, he came to love, heal, and forgive.

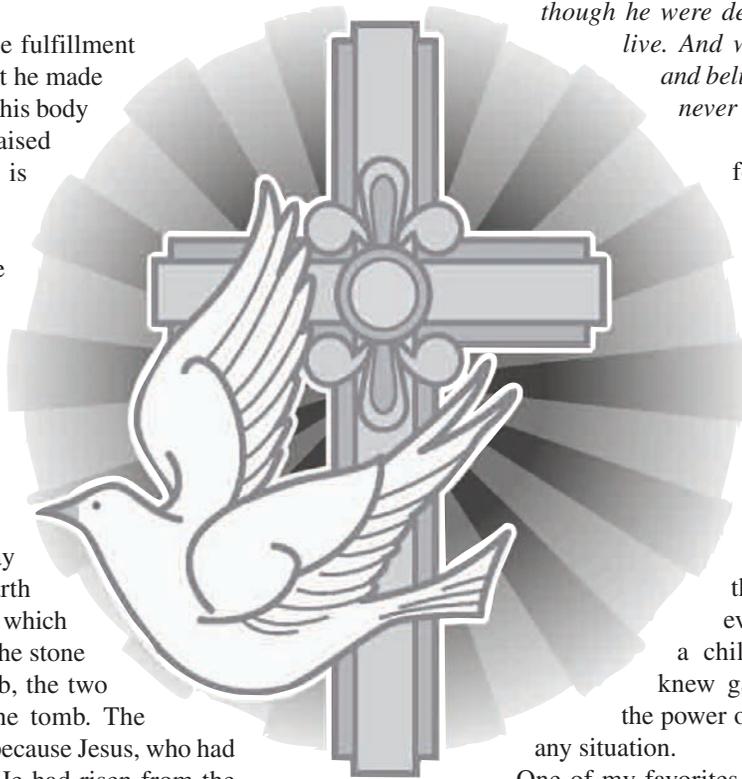
He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my savior lives.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives!

The question I pose to you today is do you believe in the assurance and the power of his resurrection; and if not, why not? If you once believed but for whatever reason your faith has been replaced by fear and your witness has begun to waiver, why? Has your spiritual life begun to slowly die? Does the light on the path to your future look dim? Do you find yourself on the outside of the tomb looking in?

Then I challenge you to go in search of the one who can heal and give you hope for a bright future. Because he lives; Jesus lives.



Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle's honorees

DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE



**Sgt. 1st Class
Trinket Martinez**
Company A
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF
THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Devon Remington

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pfc. Neal Lagola

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pfc. Eric Norflett

HIGH BRM

Pfc. Joshua Grantham
Pfc. Timothy Wolcott
Pvt. Marques Webb



**Staff Sgt.
Ebony Williams**
Company B
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF
THE CYCLE**

Pfc. Christopher Bray

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Kevin Kelly

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pvt. Brian Nevitt

HIGH BRM

Pvt. Joshua Demers
Pvt. Tyler Smith



**Staff Sgt.
LaMyra McGee**
Company C
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF
THE CYCLE**

Pfc. Brittney Rosberg

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

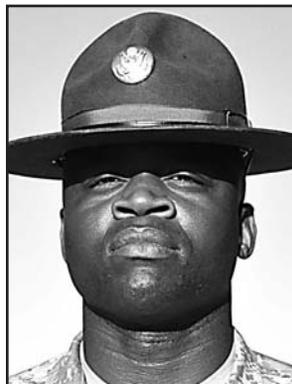
Pfc. James Sigl

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pfc. James Sigl

HIGH BRM

Pvt. Mitchel Hardy
Pvt. Erik Voie
Pvt. Logan Houser



**Sgt. 1st Class
Decory Williams**
Company D
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF
THE CYCLE**

Spc. Alexandria Davenport

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

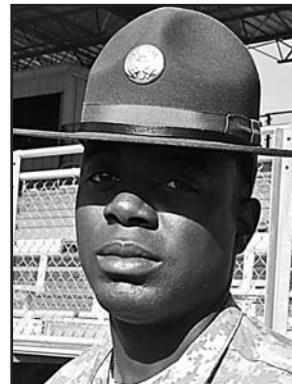
Pfc. Mia Dalton

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pvt. Charlores Dudley

HIGH BRM

Pvt. John Medlock



**Sgt. 1st Class
Raymond Scott**
Company E
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF
THE CYCLE**

Pfc. Charles Carlisle

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

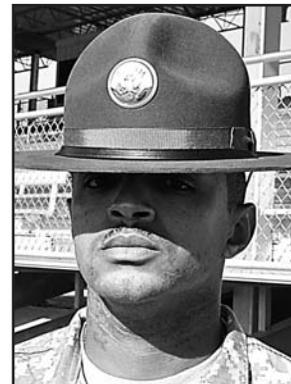
Pvt. Colleen Lester

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pfc. Evan Carlucci

HIGH BRM

Pvt. Trevor Lafalce



**Sgt. 1st Class
Jaamal Golden**
Company F
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF
THE CYCLE**

Pvt. Michael Curtis

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Christopher Castillo

HIGH APFT SCORE

Spc. Renee Serell

HIGH BRM

Pvt. Aaron Sumagaysay

SUPPORT AWARDS OF THE CYCLE

STAFF SUPPORT OF THE CYCLE

Spc. Allison Edouard

TRAINING SUPPORT AWARD

Staff Sgt. Brandon Gonzales
Staff Sgt. Ametzaid Briton-Rustemeyer

SERVICE SUPPORT AWARD

Clifford Brown
Felicia Grate
Robert Hilton

DFAC AWARD

Carolyn Nobel

Drill Sergeant School honorees



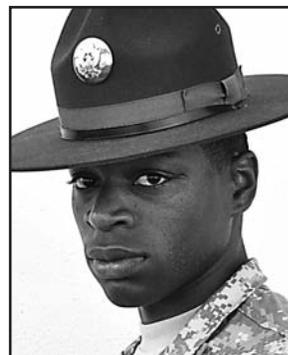
BARBOSA



ARENIVAS



BRESSNER



KING

The drill sergeant leader of the cycle is Staff Sgt. Giovanni Barbosa. This cycle's Drill Sergeant School honor graduates are Sgt. 1st Class Laura Arenivas (honor graduate), Staff Sgt. Virgal Bressner (leadership award) and Sgt. George King (physical fitness award).

LEADER INFORMATION

- ❑ Article submissions are due two weeks before the scheduled publication. For example, an article for the April 15 *Leader* must be submitted by today.
- ❑ Announcements are due one week before the

scheduled publication. For example, an announcement for the April *Leader* must be submitted by April 8.

- ❑ Send all submissions to FJLeader@conus.army.mil.
- ❑ For more information on how to submit articles or announcements, call 751-7045.

Upcoming ceremonies

CHANGES OF COMMAND

- ❑ Recruiting and Retention School: Col. James Comish will relinquish command April 27, 10 a.m. at the Officers' Club. The incoming commander will be announced at a later time.
- ❑ 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment: Lt. Col. Collin Fortier will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Glenn Blumhardt May 18, 9 a.m. at the Officers' Club.
- ❑ 2nd Battalion, 307th Field Artillery Regiment: Lt. Col. Richard Howard will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Michael Angell May 21, 10 a.m. at the 157th Infantry Brigade headquarters.
- ❑ U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School: Col. Samuel Boone will relinquish command to Col. David Smartt, May 26, 2 p.m. at the Solomon Center.

CHANGES OF RESPONSIBILITY

- ❑ 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment: Command Sgt. Maj. Leon Green will relinquish responsibility to Sgt. Maj. Michael McIntosh April 9, 10 a.m. at the battalion headquarters.

If any of the information changes, please send updates for changes of command and changes of responsibility to FJLeader@conus.army.mil or call 751-7045.

The *Leader* covers changes of command and responsibility for battalion-level or higher organizations only.

Recurring meetings

WEEKLY

Walking away stress

Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m., at the pecan orchard near the post office on Early Street, 751-6325.

Play group

Mondays, 10-11:45 a.m., Room 8, 5615 Hood St., for children 4 and younger, 751-1071/6304.

Range control briefing

Mondays and Fridays, 1 p.m., Education Center, Room 302, 751-7171.

Columbia Composite Squadron (Civil Air Patrol)

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Owens Field, main conference room. E-mail tom.alsup@gmail.com or visit www.scwg.cap.gov.

Helping Everyone Reach Optimum Strength

Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, seventh floor. Open to combat veterans and their family members, 751-2160/2183.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Main Post Chapel, Bible study and fellowship. Home schoolers are welcome. Free child care is available. E-mail pwocjackson@yahoo.com.

Military Widows/Widowers Association

Sundays, 2 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, eighth floor, 787-2469.

MONTHLY

Fort Jackson Spouses' Club

Monthly meetings, visit www.fortjacksonspousesclub.com or e-mail Ft.JacksonSpousesclub@yahoo.com.

Fort Jackson Bass Club

First Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Joe E. Mann Center. Open to active duty, retirees, DoD civilians, reservists, veterans and family members. Visit www.jacksonanglers.com.

Weight Loss Surgery Support Group

— Second and fourth Monday of the month, noon, Weight Management Center, 180 Laurel St.
— Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Palmetto Health Baptist Breast Health Center, 1501 Sumter St., ground level, Meeting Room 2.

Seabees

Second Monday of the month, 7 p.m., West Metro Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, 755-7792 or 755-0300.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 641

Second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., 534 S. Beltline Blvd., 782-5943 or 782-0148.

La Leche League breastfeeding support group

First Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, Room 8, 5615 Hood St., 751-5256/6325.

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

First Tuesday of the month, 11:30 a.m., Post Conference Room, www.jackson.army.mil/360/SA/MC/home.htm.

American Legion Post 182

First Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Officers' Club, 351-2333.

National Federation of Federal Employees

Second Tuesday of the month, 11:30 a.m., 4405 Forney St., first floor, 751-2622 or NFFE@conus.army.mil.

Disabled American Veterans

Second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 511 Violet St., West Columbia, 796-7122.

Fleet Reserve Association Unit 202

Third Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m., 2620 Lee Road, 482-4456.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Gandy-Griffin Post 4262

Third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., 5821 North Main St., 754-1614 or 447-2320.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 303

Third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 6, 200 Pickens St., 312-4895.

Purple Heart #402

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 6, 200 Pickens St., 351-2333.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

First and third Wednesday of the month, 1:30 p.m., 4405 Jackson Blvd., 751-1148.

American Red Cross

New adult volunteers orientation, second Wednesday of the month, 9 a.m. to noon, 571-4329.

Victory Riders Motorcycle Club

First and third Thursdays of the month, 5 p.m., Magruder's Club. E-mail sec@fjvictoryriders.com.

The Rocks Inc., James Webster Smith Chapter

Third Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Post Conference Room, 751-1898.

Society of American Military Engineers

Fourth Thursday of the month, 11:30 a.m., 254-0518 or 765-0320.

MEDPROS training

Third Friday of the month, 1-4 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, Room 9-83. E-mail Jaclynne.Smith@amedd.army.mil.

Retired Enlisted Association

Third Friday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, third floor, 740-2319 or e-mail jrogers11@sc.rr.com.

Chrome Divas of Columbia

Second Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m., 606-5402 or www.thebikerchicks.com.

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.

Ladies Auxiliary Post 641

Second Sunday of the month, 3 p.m., 534 S. Beltline Blvd., 782-5943 or 782-0148.

The Ladies Auxiliary Post 4262

Second Sunday of the month, 5 p.m., 5821 North Main St., 754-1614.

Combat Vets Motorcycle Association

Third Sunday of the month at noon, (774) 451-7504, e-mail armyaguiar@yahoo.com or www.combatvet.org.

SUBMISSIONS

To submit a recurring meeting, e-mail the name of the group, when and where the meeting takes place and contact information to fjleader@conus.army.mil.

Calendar

Today

Fort Jackson School Board meeting
4 p.m., Hood Street Annex auditorium

Friday

The Passion of Jesus, Act 1

7-8 p.m., Solomon Center
Act 1: The Crucifixion. Call 751-3121 for information about this free event.

Sunday

Commissary closed

The commissary will reopen for normal business Tuesday.

The Passion of Jesus, Act 2

8-9 a.m., Solomon Center
Act 2: The Resurrection. Call 751-3121 for information about this free event.

Tuesday

AUSA Membership Luncheon

11:30 a.m., Officers' Club
Association of the United States Army membership luncheon. Steve Spurrier will serve as guest speaker. E-mail c3601@ausa.org for information.

Wednesday

Historical marker unveiling ceremony

2 p.m., Hood Street annex
The unveiling will commemorate the desegregation of the former Fort Jackson Elementary School.

Thursday, April 8

Military Chaplains Association meeting

Noon, Officers' Club
Call 206-4702 for information.

Friday, April 9

SPVA membership drive

11 a.m., Perez Gym
The Southeastern Paralyzed Veterans of America is hosting a membership drive and cookout. Call 629-5589 for information.

Tuesday, April 13

The Rocks Inc. meeting

5:30 p.m., Post Conference Room
RSVP by April 12 at 665-8260.

Thursday-Friday, April 15-16

Reclamation sale

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 2570 Warehouse Road
Both days are open to all ranks. Cash only.

Housing events

All events are held in the Community Center, 520 Brown Ave., unless otherwise specified. Call 738-8275 for information.

Friday

Spring Eggstravaganza

Noon to 3 p.m.
Lunch will be provided to residents, followed by an Easter egg hunt. Residents will also receive free flowers and mulch.

Thursday, April 8

Neighborhood Huddle

10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 13

Neighborhood Huddle

5 p.m.

Every Thursday

Kids' Day

10 a.m.

Fitness challenge

4 p.m.
Open to anyone older than 16.

Announcements

FCC PROVIDERS TRAINING

Fort Jackson Child, Youth and Schools Services is currently seeking Family Child Care providers. The next Family Child Care orientation training is scheduled for May 10-14. Applications must be turned in by April 30.

The FCC program offers employment for military spouses who enjoy working with children. FCC providers who can accept children younger than 2 are especially needed. FCC providers must be: living in government quarters on post, or be a Department of Social Services registered off-post provider. An amnesty program is available for those who are providing child care on post but are not certified.

Call 751-6234 for information.

RICHLAND ONE TRANSFER DATES

Parents requesting a school transfer for children within Richland must do so by May 1. Application forms are now available at www.richlandone.org. To download a form, click on the "departments" tab on the home page and then click on "Registrar's Office." Forms may also be

picked up at the Registrar's Office, 1310 Lyon St. Call 231-6944 for information.

ESSAY CONTEST

Children are invited to participate in this year's Month of the Military Child essay contest. The theme is "How the military has impacted your life." Age groups are: 5-10 and 11-16.

One winner will be selected from each age group. Be sure to include contact information on the essay. Winners will be notified April 30. The contest runs April 1-April 23. E-mail RosenbergJ@aafes.com for information.

SPRING BREAK FUN

School Age Services Spring Break Fun and Games is scheduled for next week. Care is available 4:30-6:30 p.m. Use of extended hours (before 6 a.m.) requires a statement from the sponsor's unit. Activities include: pitch, hit and run competitions; library field trip; bowling; skating and movies.

SPVA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Southeastern Paralyzed Veterans of America is seeking volunteers and disabled veterans for planting day at the Fort Jackson garden plot, located on Washington Road next to the Victory Fuel Station. The planting day is scheduled for 10 a.m., Friday. Lunch will be served. Items needed: fertilizer, garden boxes, seeds, plants and more. For information call, 629-5589, 782-2587 or 348-0833.

YOUTH TECHNOLOGY LABS

Fort Jackson youth in grades six through 12 now have access to computers in the youth technology labs. The middle school program lab hours are 2:30-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Pinckney Elementary Annex Building. The teen program lab hours are 6-9 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 2-6 p.m., Saturday, at the Youth Center. Call 751-4865 or 751-6387 for more information.

PROCTORING SERVICES

The Fort Jackson Army and Continuing Education System has discontinued its test proctoring services. Students requiring a test proctor should contact their schools to make other arrangements for proctoring. Students are also encouraged to coordinate with schools within the first two weeks of each semester to select an approved proctor or obtain appropriate approval for a

proctor candidate.

SPRING FLING GOLF

The AGCRA Carolina Chapter is hosting a Spring Fling golf tournament April 9 at the Fort Jackson Golf Course. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The format will be captain's choice. Prizes for first, second and third place will be awarded. For information, call 751-3144 or 751-3158 or e-mail Larry.D.Brown3@conus.army.mil or Dion.Simpson@conus.army.mil.

Visit the community calendar at www.jackson.army.mil for a full listing of calendar events. The community calendar is located at the bottom of the Fort Jackson home page.

Off-post events

CIB MEETING

The Combat Infantryman Association is scheduled to meet April 13 at American Legion Post 6, 200 Pickens St. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Active duty Soldiers, retirees and veterans are invited. Call 351-2333 for information.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING DINNER

The Indian Waters Council, Boy Scouts of America Friends of Scouting dinner is scheduled for April 15 at Seawell's, 1125 Rosewood Drive. Reception begins at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m. Togo West, former secretary of the Army and secretary of Veteran's Affairs, is guest speaker. Call 348-5646 for information.

MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Richland County Public Library Foundation has established the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship. The \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded annually from 2010 through 2013. Call 929-3424 or visit www.myRCPL.com/foundation.

SWEET POTATO FESTIVAL

The 2010 Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival is scheduled for April 24, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Hopkins Adult Activity Center, 150 Hopkins Park Road. The free festival features a parade, sweet potato pie contest, arts and crafts show, talent show, step teams and more. Artist and pastor H.E. Dixon will be the special guest. Call 776-2778 for information.



**Follow the Fort Jackson Leader on
Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FortJacksonPAO>
for breaking news, videos and more.**

FIRST RESPONDER

The following are incidents compiled from reports, complaints or information received from the Fort Jackson Provost Marshal Office.

The incidents reflected are not an adjudication attesting to the guilt or innocence of any person and are provided for informational and reflective purposes only.

Col. Ronald F. Taylor

*Director,
Emergency Services/Provost Marshal*

Sgt. Maj. Glen W. Wellman III

Provost Sergeant Major

Billy Forrester

Fire Chief

CASES OF THE WEEK

❑ A civilian was denied entry to Fort Jackson after attempting to enter post with a sword in his vehicle, Military Police said. According to Fort Jackson regulation, blades longer than 6 inches, including swords, are considered weapons and are not allowed on post.

❑ A Soldier was arrested for shoplifting after he left the Main PX without paying for two video games, MPs said. AAFES security called the MPs after the Soldier concealed the items in his waistband and left the store, MPs said. The value of the items was \$119. The Soldier was released to his unit.

❑ A Soldier was charged with assault after striking another Soldier with a combat

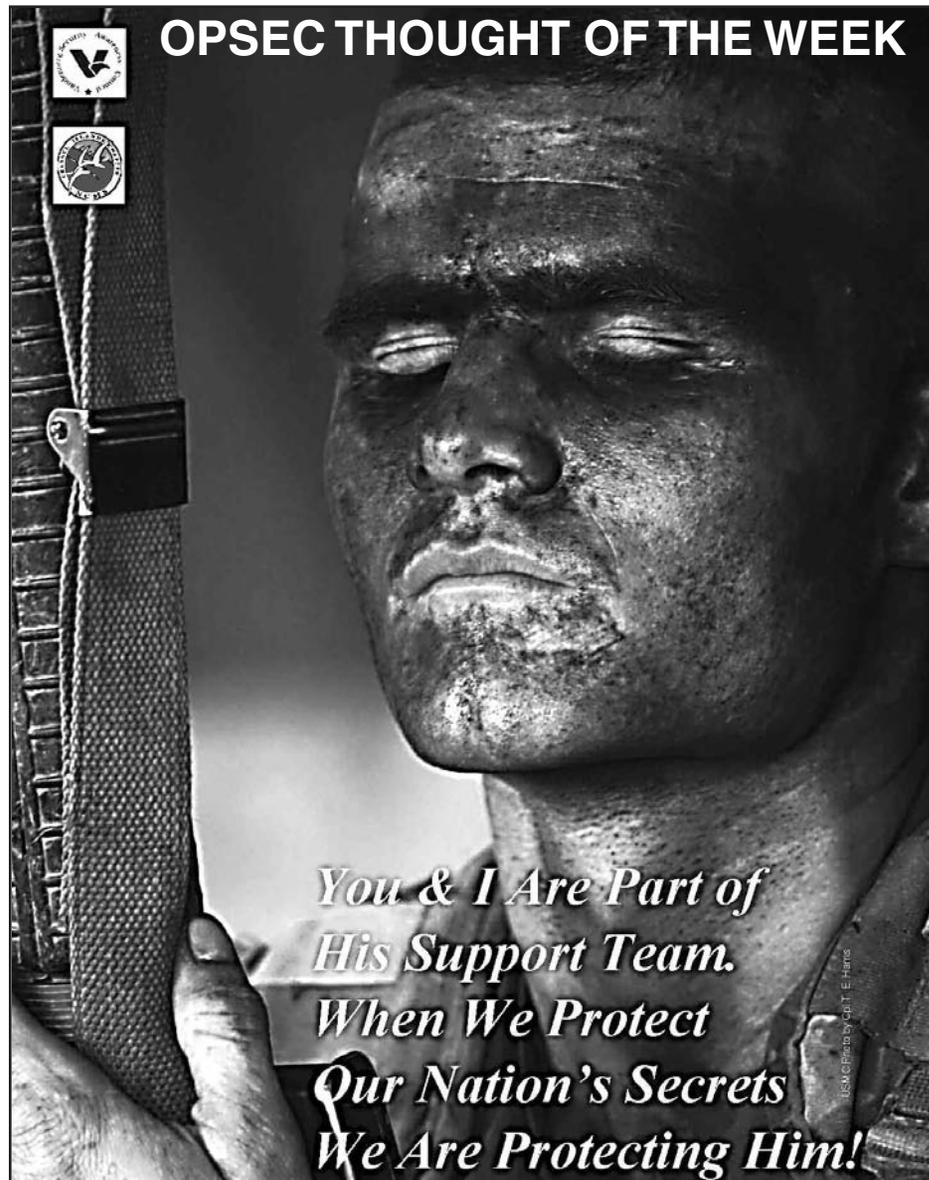


helmet, which resulted in a minor head injury, MPs said. The Soldiers were arguing when the fight turned physical, MPs said. The injured Soldier was taken to Moncrief Army Community Hospital for his head wound. The other Soldier was taken to the Provost Marshal's Office and was later released to his unit.

❑ Gas service to the housing area was shut off for much of the afternoon Friday after the Fort Jackson Fire Department responded to a report of a gas leak in the construction area, said FJFD officials. A contractor installing phone lines accidentally damaged a gas line. Services were restored after the line was repaired.

crimestoppers
1-888-559-TIPS
www.midlandscrimestoppers.com

OPSEC THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



*You & I Are Part of
His Support Team.
When We Protect
Our Nation's Secrets
We Are Protecting Him!*

Don't let a heat injury take you out of the fight



- Call 911 at the first sign of heat injury (including mental status change).
- Use ice sheets
- Give the Soldier sips of water
- Monitor him or her at all times.

Emergency numbers:

Cell phone users: 803-751-9111.
Alternate 1: Range control via radio.
Alternate 2: Range control at 751-7171/4732.
Alternate 3: MP desk at 751-3113/3114/3115.

Never leave the Soldier unattended!

**911 & ICE:
At the first sign — every time.**

Wacky canines to get their day at dog show

For the fourth year in a row, Fort Jackson dog lovers can show off their best friends in the wackiest dog show ever, the April Fool-ish Dog Show, April 11 at the Youth Sports Complex.

The annual dog show is just one of the many activities in support the Month of the Military Child and the Army Family Covenant.

Dogs who never bark to wake the dead in the middle of the night, have coats that are always smooth and shiny, breath like perfume, and never, ever leave puddles on the floor, may not be the dogs to bring to the Child, Youth and School Services April Fool-ish Dog Show.

Competition will be "ruff" and could get a little hairy. All participants will receive a "doggy bag" for participat-



Courtesy photo

Ed Perez takes a closer look at one of the "fierce" competitors at last year's Annual April Fool-ish Dog Show.

Army Family Covenant

By **THERESA O'HAGAN**

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

ing, but first-, second-, and third-place awards will be given in the following categories: prettiest eyes, hairiest dog, longest tail, most diva-like, celebrity/owner look-alike, longest ears, best costume, best kisser, most unique trick, ya gotta love me, most mysterious heritage, best senior, cutest puppy and best vocal performance.

There will also be a separate show for those children who don't own a live dog, but have a lifelike "stuffed" dog. Categories for that show include: least obedient, squeezeziest, most inanimate, biggest and most resembling a real dog.

More than 30 dogs of all shapes and sizes participated in last year's event.

"This year we expect even more dogs and will have a very hard time deciding on the winners," said Beverly Metcalfe, director of the EDGE! program.

"I don't think any dog has ever left empty handed. Or is that empty pawed?"

Every year all of the dogs are wonderful. Of course, the very smart ones know how to influence the judges by turning on the charm and literally kissing up to them," said one of the judges who chose to remain anonymous. "This is one contest where licking or jumping on the judge will give you a distinct advantage."

Show hours will be from 2-4 p.m. with registration beginning at 1:30 p.m. Contestants are urged to pre-register for the event. Registration is free with a donation of old towels, blankets, dog toys, leashes or treats. All proceeds will be donated to the Fort Jackson Veterinary Clinic. Pre-registration packets may be obtained at any CYSS location or at the CYSS Central Enrollment Office in the Joe E. Mann Building, 3392 Magruder Ave. For further information, contact Beverly Metcalfe at 751-3053.



The EDGE! classes

□ Earth Smart Craft, Thursdays, 3:30-5 p.m. at the Community Center. Children 9-15 can celebrate Earth Day every Thursday in April by creating crafts from things that would normally be thrown away.

□ Biking on the Edge, Mondays and Fridays, 4-5:30 p.m. at the Youth Services Center. Children 10 to 15 years old can learn the rules of the road and the best places to bike on Fort Jackson. The classes wrap up with a postwide bike rodeo May 1.

□ Voyage on the Titanic, Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m. Assume the identity of a passenger on the Titanic and explore the reasons why the ship sank. For 9 to 16-year-olds.

□ Raise a Racquet, Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., tennis courts, Brown Avenue. Tennis classes are open to 9 to 16-year-

olds.

□ Egg-stravaganza, Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., 5955-D Parker Lane. Dye, boil, devil, scramble and eat eggs. Open to 9 to 16-year-olds.

□ Tend My Garden, Wednesdays, 4-5:30 p.m., Marion Street Station. Help green the world by learning to grow flowers, herbs and vegetables. Open to 9 to 15-year-olds.

The EDGE! offers free classes as part of the Army Middle School and Teen Initiative for those older than 10 years old. For children 9-10 years old, classes are \$5 per hour. Register online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil>. Become a fan of the Fort Jackson EDGE program on Facebook. For more information, call Beverly Metcalfe at 751-3053.

FMWR calendar

THURSDAY

- Visit Century Lanes for food, fun and bowling.
- Magruder's Pub and Club is open for lunch.
- Victory Bingo, 2-11 p.m.
- Sleepy story time, 6:30-7 p.m., post library. Come in your PJs and go home ready for bed.

FRIDAY

- Visit the Officers' Club, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the Blue Plate Specials.
- Victory Bingo, starts at 2 p.m.
- Artistic Expressions with Jake, 6:30 p.m., Teen Room at the Youth Services Center.
- Dance to a variety of music provided by DJ Randall at Magruder's Club, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Magruder's Club is located in the back of Magruder's Pub. Cover charge is \$5 for civilians and \$3 for military.

SATURDAY

- Step Team practice, 2 p.m., dance room at the Youth Services Center.
- Victory Bingo, starts 4 p.m.
- Classic Soul Saturday, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., Excalibur Room at the NCO Club. Cover charge is \$5 for civilians and \$3 for military.
- Rock-n-Glow bowling, 9-11 p.m., Century Lanes. The cost is \$9 per person and includes unlimited bowling and shoes.

SUNDAY

- Victory Bingo, starts 10 a.m.
- Family day at the Youth Services Center, 2-6 p.m.
- Easter Sunday brunch, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Officers' Club, featuring an omelet bar, waffle station, carved meats, dessert station, champagne/mimosa station, children's creative center, face painting, entertainment by Sarah Dippity. The cost is \$12.75 for adults, \$4.50 for children 4-11.

TUESDAY

- Paper beading, every Tuesday, 3:30-5 p.m., 5955-D Parker Lane. Free for middle school students and teens. Participants must be registered with CYSS.

WEDNESDAY

- Visit the Officers' Club, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for Mongolian BBQ buffet.
- Get your party on at the NCO Club, 8 p.m. Cost is \$5 for military, \$7 for civilians.
- Karaoke night with Tom Marable, Magruder's Pub. Cost is \$3 for military, \$5 for civilians.

For a complete calendar of FMWR events, visit www.fort-jacksonmwr.com.

ONGOING OFFERS

- Child, Youth and School Services provides free child care and youth programming on Saturday for active-duty parents who must work as a mission requirement, and parents who are in the National Guard or Reserve during battle training assembly. Child and youth programming is available to other parents at an hourly or daily rate.
- Enjoy resort accommodations for between two and six people with the Armed Forces Vacation Club for less than one would pay for some hotels. For details, call the reservation center at (800) 724-9988. Be sure to say you are a first-time Armed Forces vacation caller. Fort Jackson's installation number 164.

Prevention key to health

MACH preventive medicine department offers classes

By **KENNETH COBB**

Moncrief Army Community Hospital

Many deaths that occur in the United States each year are preventable. According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the five leading causes of preventable deaths in the United States are tobacco smoking, obesity, alcohol consumption, infectious disease and toxicants.

Aware that many deaths and injuries are preventable, the Department of Defense is working hard to keep its Soldiers, family members, retirees and civilian employees healthy. The Army has a preventive medicine regulation written specifically for this purpose. It states that the Army will "enhance and sustain optimal levels of health and fitness of all Army personnel by applying the principles of population medicine to promote health and prevent and minimize the impacts of diseases and injuries." This means that the Army will practice preventive medicine.

Preventive medicine or preventive care refers to measures taken to prevent diseases (or injuries) rather than curing them or treating their symptoms. At the basic level, examples of preventive medicine include hand washing and immunizations. Preventive care may include examinations and screening tests tailored to an individual's age, health and family history. When a patient visits his or her health care provider, and that provider recommends that the patient lose weight, stop using tobacco, eat healthy and exercise, or get immunized for influenza, the provider is

practicing preventive medicine.

There is also a higher level of preventive medicine practice. This is performed by the Moncrief Army Community Hospital, Department of Preventive Medicine in support of the Fort Jackson community. DPM consists of five sections which are Army Public Health Nursing, Army Hearing Program (Audiology), Occupational Health, Environmental Health and Industrial Hygiene. They provide the following services:

- Travel medicine clinic (by appointment)
- Child and youth services consulting
- Health education
- Tobacco cessation program
- Tuberculosis control clinic (by appointment)
- Civilian fitness program
- Immunization recommendations and education
- Preventive medicine briefings to Soldiers, commanders and units
- Epidemiologist for outbreak investigations
- Epidemiology and control of infectious diseases of military significance to include TB, STDs and HIV
- Occupational medicine care (by appointment)
- Liaison service among local, state and federal agencies as applicable to military medical requirements.
- Environmental Health Services
- Medical threat briefings
- Food service sanitation
- Field sanitation team training/Ccertification
- Industrial hygiene services

Call 751-5200 for information on how to obtain DPM services.

Retirees, medically retired veterans may qualify for DoD, VA TRICARE benefits

TRICARE Management Activity

Service members who became ill or injured while serving on active duty and are then medically retired have health benefits available to them through both the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Like all retirees, medically retired veterans can choose TRICARE Prime where it is available, or TRICARE Standard and Extra if they are not eligible for Medicare. Their family members have the same TRICARE choices. Veterans who are eligible for Medicare because of disability must maintain Medicare Parts A and B to keep their TRICARE coverage.

Retirees with a service-connected

disability rated at 50 percent or higher; who are unemployable due to the service-connected disability or; who are seeking care for the service-connected disability are automatically eligible but must request care from Department of Veterans Affairs.

Almost all VA health care facilities are part of the TRICARE network, however treatment of TRICARE beneficiaries is provided on a space and resource available basis only. When choosing to use their TRICARE benefit, retirees may be authorized to receive non-service related care at participating VA medical centers, a military treatment facility or a TRICARE network provider. Representatives are available at VA facilities to assist veterans who are eligible for TRICARE and VA health care, and VA

liaisons and benefit counselors are available at many MTFs to assist veterans transferring from Defense Department to VA care.

Veterans can learn about the different financial responsibilities for TRICARE-covered services and VA benefits by contacting their TRICARE regional contractor, or VA Health Benefits Service Center at 877-222-VETS. Regional contractor contact information can be found at www.tricare.mil/contactus.

There are many programs available through TRICARE, VA, the armed services and TRICARE's regional contractors supporting veterans who became ill or were injured serving on active duty.

Visit www.warriorcare.mil for more information about these resources.

MACH updates

BLOODMOBILE VISIT

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile visited MACH last week and volunteers collected 34 pints of blood. The blood drive exceeded the Red Cross goal, making for a fitting end for Red Cross Appreciation Month, which is March.

DFAC UPDATE

Renovations at the MACH dining facility are ongoing. Staff and visitors can eat and be served in the dining area. The DFAC is located on the fourth floor and is now serving premium coffee and teas.

MACH PATIENT ENROLLMENT

While MACH is currently unable to enroll adult active duty family members, there are open pediatric TRICARE Prime enrollment spaces for active duty families. Other family members may choose from a list of primary care managers that are in the TRICARE Prime civilian network.

OUTPROCESSING PROCEDURES

Soldiers must clear the Army Substance Abuse Program, Social Work Services and Behavioral Health prior to leaving the installation. Outprocessing includes a review of medical records and provides an opportunity for the Soldier to receive behavioral health care at his or her gaining installation. Outprocessing hours are 8-11 a.m., Tuesdays and 1-4 p.m. Thursdays at MACH Room 7-90. For more information, call 751-2235.

ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC

The MACH Orthopedic Clinic is currently scheduling only active-duty Soldiers for follow-up appointments. For assistance obtaining orthopedic care, call the referral center at 751-2363.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow MACH on Twitter at www.twitter.com/machcsd to receive announcements for same-day appointments.

Become a MACH "fan" by logging into Facebook and searching "Moncrief Army Community Hospital." The MACH Facebook page provides appointment updates, calendar events, job listings and more.

TRICARE ONLINE

TRICARE Online is an interactive site that offers Moncrief-enrolled TRICARE Prime beneficiaries the ability to book appointments with their primary care managers and receive information on Moncrief clinics and services.

TOL also offers a medication interaction checker, general health and wellness resources, and separate games and health information for children. Visit www.tricare.mil for information.

APPOINTMENTS

Call 751-CARE (2273) to make an appointment with a MACH provider. Call toll-free at 877-273-5584. To cancel an appointment after hours, call 751-2688. Visit the MACH Web page at <http://www.moncrief.amedd.army.mil> for more information.



The Leader welcomes reader submissions. Submissions may be edited for style, grammar and length. Send submissions to FJLeader@conus.army.mil.

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication. For example, an article for the April 15 Leader must be submitted by today.

Announcements are due one week before publication. For example, an announcement for the April 15 Leader must be submitted by April 8.

For information about classified ads, call 432-6157 or e-mail the ad to skaress@ci-camden.com. For information on display advertising, call Kathy at 786-5681.

Act spells relief for military spouses

By **CAPT. PATRICK BARRETT**
Legal Assistance Office

As April 15 quickly approaches, there are a few things a Soldiers need to know that might benefit their tax filing this year. In November, the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act became law. The MSRRA is effective for the tax year 2009 and future years. When the military orders service members to move, spouses who move with them often have to pay taxes in a new state or locality. The MSRRA was designed to alleviate new tax burdens.

The MSRRA amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act so that when a service member leaves his or her home state in accord with military orders, the service member's spouse may retain residency in his or her home state (provided that the residence/domicile of the spouse and service member is the same) for purposes of taxation (both income and personal property), after relocating from that state to accompany the service member.

There are three important things to understand. First, a state cannot tax income earned in that state by the military spouse if the military spouse and Soldier both have established residency outside the state and are present in the state solely due to the Soldier being assigned to that state.

Therefore, if a Soldier is a California resident and is stationed at Fort Jackson, and his wife, who is also a California resident, joins him at Fort Jackson, South Carolina cannot tax the income earned by the wife while she is here. Instead, she would be subject to California for income tax purposes.

Next, the MSRRA does not change how domicile/residency is established or maintained, and does not provide a means for a spouse to simply choose the same domicile as the Soldier. A military spouse cannot simply pick a state of legal residence. He or she must demonstrate physical residence and indication of his or her intent to remain in the state permanently. The protection of the MSRRA only exists when the Soldier and spouse have the same state of legal residence.

Finally, a Soldier who is not a legal resident of the state but earns non-military income in that state is still subject to state taxation on the non-military income earned in the state.

For example, a Soldier is a resident of

California and is stationed at Fort Jackson. He picks up a part-time server job at a local restaurant. South Carolina is able to tax this income because his restaurant wages are non-military income.

Before claiming MSRRA protection, a taxpayer needs to be cautious. Requests to assert the MSRRA and seek refunds of state income tax withholdings may be met with inquiries into the military spouse's status, domicile of the Soldier and domicile of the spouse.

Spouses must be prepared to provide proof substantiating their claim of domicile and MSRRA relief from taxation.

This will not always be easy or possible. Also, there will probably not be a uniform response from all state taxing authorities or from employers on applying the MSRRA. Finally, a taxpayer should only claim MSRRA if it will be a benefit to him or her.

If a Soldier and his spouse are residents

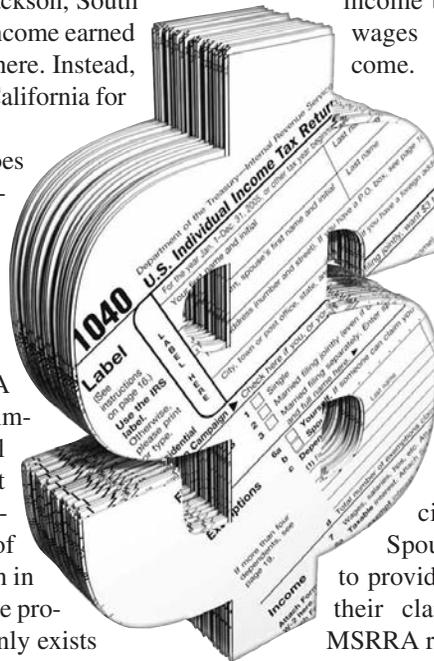
of Massachusetts and get stationed in Alaska (which has no income tax), it is not in the spouse's best interest to claim protection under the MSRRA. Likewise, if a Soldier's new state has a lower tax rate than his previous state, it would be beneficial for the spouse to claim residency in the new state for tax purposes.

Here are a few examples of how the MSRRA is applied.

A Soldier is a resident of Texas. The spouse takes the required steps to establish and maintain residency in Texas as well. The Soldier is assigned to Virginia and the spouse moves to Virginia to live with the Soldier. She gets a job in Virginia. The spouse can assert the MSRRA and Virginia cannot tax the spouse's income earned in Virginia.

In the next scenario, the Soldier is a resident of Texas. He is assigned to Virginia, and while in Virginia, he meets and marries his spouse who is working in Virginia. The MSRRA does not permit the spouse to claim Texas residency, because she has no legitimate tie to Texas. Further, her residency is different from that of her husband's.

For more information on the MSRRA, call the Legal Assistance Office at 751-4287. Call the Installation Tax Center at 751-JTAX to have taxes filed.



Superman!



Armed Forces Sports photo

James Johnson, a drill sergeant with Fort Jackson's 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, seems to take flight as his opponent spins him around during the 2010 Armed Forces Wrestling Championship at Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 18-22. Johnson won a gold medal in the 162.8-pound weight class and will go on to compete in the 27th World Military Wrestling Championship in August in Lahti, Finland.

Army couple run 50 miles for wounded warriors

By **SGT. MICHAEL J. MACLEOD**
Army News Service

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq — Separated by seven time zones, the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, a deployed U.S. paratrooper and his stateside wife celebrated the strength and resiliency of America's wounded warriors with synchronized 50-mile runs late last month.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Bruch, a platoon sergeant and military policeman with the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, and Tammy Bruch, a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina, each ran 50 miles, supported by friends, relatives and Jason Bruch's unit, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

"I've had a lot of guys get (post traumatic stress disorder), and they have to live with it the rest of their lives. I want to let them and the many other wounded warriors know they are not forgotten," said the Soldier, who is on his fourth deployment to Iraq.

The idea came to the couple through Jason Bruch's interaction with Operation Proper Exit, a program that allows wounded service members to visit the place of their injury to enable psychological healing.

He was also influenced by 2nd Lt. Richard Ingram, a Soldier with whom he currently serves, who lost his left arm to an improvised explosive device during a prior deployment to Iraq.

The date, March 20, was picked because it is the an-

niversary of the invasion of Iraq.

"This is a great project for a very special group," said Lt. Col. Douglas Stitt, commander of 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "He's willing to go the extra mile and then some," Stitt said.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Martin Jr., the highest-ranking enlisted Soldier in the battalion, added, "We have a bunch of Soldiers who care about our fellow Soldier, those who have been wounded in combat and those who are not able to get out and maybe participate the way they want."

Jason did 10 five-mile laps around Camp Ramadi, the U.S. military base where his unit has been deployed since August 2009. Tammy's course traveled around Fort Bragg, N.C., and neighboring Pope Air Force Base.

Jason's run began at dusk; Tammy's began several hours after sunrise.

"I could not believe how many people were inspired by what Jason and I were doing — the support and encouragement was really overwhelming," said Tammy, now a reservist who left active duty in 2007.

The 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion rear detachment and Jason's relatives organized individuals to run with Tammy, and many of her relatives traveled from out of town to support her. More than a dozen women from the company Family Readiness Group pushed strollers along part of the course in support, she said.

On Camp Ramadi, the run drew 30 participants, though many fewer planned to run the entire 50 miles.

One of those who did was Lt. Col. Mark Jablow, commander of the 82 Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squad out of Baghdad, who was visiting his airmen in Ramadi.

Though Jablow runs several marathons a year, the farthest the Brooklyn, N.Y., native had run prior to the Wounded Warrior Run was 36 miles around the island of Diego Garcia.

"I'll run any race and run any distance to be with the guys," said Jablow. "It never entered my mind that I would not finish, though after 35 miles, it was kind of rough."

In addition to the runners, several paratroopers marched 15 miles with rucksacks, and one, 25 miles. Members of Jason's squad provided much of the support.

"If it wasn't for all these aid stations out here and all these people out here pushing me, there's no way I would have made it," said Jason, who finished the run in 9 hours, 32 minutes.

Before this run, his farthest distance had been 35 miles. "I hit the wall at 20, 35 and 45 miles," he said of the sensation familiar to marathon runners with total energy depletion.

The couple met while deployed to Baghdad in 2005. Tammy introduced Jason to long-distance running.

"When we first met, she could smoke me," he said.

One of Tammy's goals is to run a marathon in every state. She has run four marathons since Jason deployed in August.