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# The Fort Jackson Leader



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# Winter break



Photo by CURSHA PIERCE-LUNDERMAN

Victory Travel staff members make flight reservations for Soldiers with Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment at the Joe E. Mann Center. Basic Combat Training Soldiers have been making travel arrangements in preparation for Victory Block Leave since Nov. 1.

## Post's Victory Block Leave under way

By CURSHA PIERCE-LUNDERMAN  
Fort Jackson Leader

As school children count down the final days until winter break, Fort Jackson is getting ready for its own vacation. This week, the Soldiers-in-training will be departing for Victory Block Leave from today until Jan. 2.

During this major operation, thousands of Soldiers will travel from Fort Jackson to places all over the country to enjoy the holiday season.

The Army Training Center G3, Victory Travel, Hoffman Travel Center and others have been working together in the Joe E. Mann Center since Nov. 1 to make travel

arrangements for every training Soldier planning to leave post during block leave.

"It's their decision on whether they would like to travel by bus, train, air, POV or hold over here. We help them out with it all," said Don Jackson with Victory Travel. "We're here because most Soldiers don't have access to computers during their time here, and our knowledgeable staff can get them the best rates on where they need to go. We've seen 43 training companies so far."

Soldiers have the option of leaving from the Columbia, Atlanta or Charlotte airports to fly home. They may also choose train or bus transportation, depending on the distance and cost. Some Soldiers have far-reaching travel needs and the staff rises to

the challenge of getting them home during the designated leave time.

"I'm trying to get to Hawaii to see my husband," said Pvt. Rosa Garcia of Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment. "We got married in Honolulu back in October, and I came here on Nov. 16. It'll be great to see him, and I'm really looking forward to getting away from this cold weather."

Pam Morrow, a seasonal employee with Victory Travel, was able to find a ticket for Garcia.

"Yesterday, I had a Soldier trying to get to Hawaii and it was \$1,900 so you just

See **EVENTS:** Page 11

# Milano: Make most of holiday season

**M**y wife, Kim, and I wish all of you a very joyous and safe holiday season.

Enjoy this very special time of the year and take the opportunity to spend some well-deserved down time with your family and friends.

I am extremely proud of each and every one of you. The Soldiers, civilians and Family members here on Fort Jackson are second to none. You hold a very special place in my heart and in the hearts of the community in which you live and work. All of you are critical to our mission and contribute greatly to the Army's overall mission.

I hope each of you takes advantage of our Victory Block Leave and, while doing so, I expect you to conduct yourselves responsibly and appropriately.

You are representing the U.S. Army at all times — 24/7/365 — in or out of uniform, on or off duty, supervised or unsupervised, you are the Army. Remember that discipline and Army pride do not take days off. And, while you are on leave, keep in mind that the media often looks for human interest stories, one of the most popular of which is a story about Soldiers returning home for the holidays.

If approached by the media in an airport or other public place during the holidays, do the Army proud. Be honest and forthright and only talk about what you know. It's OK

**MAJ. GEN. JAMES M. MILANO**  
Fort Jackson  
Commanding  
General



to share your feelings, but remember to stay in your lane and not to speak for other Soldiers or for the command.

Exercise good judgment and maintain good safety practices when taking part in any and holiday celebrations and festivities. As always, your welfare is my main concern. Under no circumstances do I want to lose any of you or find out that you have been injured in an accident that could have been avoided.

I am expecting you to do your part in taking care of yourself and all those around you. Keep your eye on the ball and your head in the game at all times and think before you act. Recognize and manage the risks associated with holiday celebrations, time off and traveling to and from.

If you are driving, be aware of safe vehicle operation and the rules of the road. Under no circumstances should you ever drink and drive or get into a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking — friends, Family members, whoever is behind the wheel after a few, they're wrong. Alcohol and driving are a deadly, no-win combination.

During this holiday season, take some extra time to reflect on our Soldiers and other military members who are not with their Families or at home because they are defending the many liberties and freedoms that make our country the greatest one in the world.

Again, have a very safe and joyous holiday season and return safely.

Cherish the opportunity to spend time with those close to you; you don't know if you'll be able to do the same next year. Ask any senior leader on this installation about how many of those special holidays and occasions he or she has missed throughout his or her career.

They're considerable, and so make the most of the time you have. Remember, your mission is not complete until you return safely to Fort Jackson. You are important to Fort Jackson's success and to the success of the Army as a whole. Happy holidays! Return safely!

Army Strong and Victory Starts Here!

## The Fort Jackson Leader

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# TRADOC commander emphasizes holiday safety

**T**he winter holiday season is a wonderful opportunity to visit Family and friends, take much needed time off from our daily routines, and reflect on accomplishments of the past year. I extend my heartfelt appreciation and special holiday greeting to all TRADOC Soldiers, civilians, and Family members, especially those with deployed loved ones.

This festive season can be especially dangerous for those who fail to recognize the special hazards that surround the winter holidays. At home, open flames from candles or fire places and holiday decorations can be a deadly mix. Space heaters and ornamental lights can easily lead to overloaded electrical circuits, while frayed electrical cords or defective lights present a shock hazard, especially to young children.

For many of our newest Soldiers, the two-week block leave during the holiday will be their first opportunity to return home since joining the Army. Ensure each Soldier receives a thorough safety briefing before he or she departs. Impress on the Soldiers how important they are to the Army and remind them that their behavior at home reflects not only on them individually, but on the Army as well.

**GEN. ROBERT CONE**

TRADOC commander



On the highway, plan ahead allowing ample time for traffic congestion and adverse weather conditions and be alert for impatient or impaired drivers. Even those remaining in the local area for the holidays need to be extra alert. It only takes a moment's inattention to become an accident victim. Stay alert, drive defensively, and don't drink and drive.

Your personal commitment and leadership can make the difference. Start your planning early and make safety awareness a holiday priority. I hope you all enjoy this special holiday season and return safely in the New Year.

Safety Starts Here! Victory Starts Here!



# Vehicle registration to be discontinued

By **DAWN BEAVER**  
*Special to the Leader*

As of Jan. 1, those entering Fort Jackson will no longer be issued vehicle decals. This policy change is aimed at eliminating the duplicated registration processes between the state and the military, post officials said.

“The intent is to eliminate the redundancy,” said Lt. Col. Raymond Simons, Director of Emergency Services.

States already verify insurance information upon issuing vehicle registrations, therefore it is unnecessary for the military to do so as well, Simons said. Current decals will remain valid, but it is not necessary to turn them in or renew them upon expiration.

The Department of the Army issued a recommendation this summer that the use of the decal system be eliminated; exact dates to implement the policy were left to the discretion of each installation’s commander. Fernando Vasquez, chief of Physical Security, stressed that the Army issued a recommendation, not a requirement.

That means that some installations have chosen to keep the decal system in place; those installations will now be responsible for funding their system rather than receiving Army-wide funding for it.

For those installations that are implementing the change, such as Fort Jackson, it is still mandated that all vehicles meet certain criteria in accordance to state and local laws. For example, drivers entering the installation will still be required to hold a valid driver’s license, and all vehicles must be registered and insured. Anyone entering Fort Jackson must also have a valid reason to do so.

Those in charge of implementing this new system on Fort Jackson said that they are taking every measure necessary to mitigate any safety risks that could be as-



*Photo by Susanne Kappler*

**Beginning Jan. 1, Fort Jackson will discontinue its vehicle registration, meaning the decals commonly seen on vehicle’s windshields, will no longer be distributed. Current decals will remain valid, but no more will be issued.**

sociated with the change.

“There is no such thing as an open post,” said Simons.

Simons added that every person entering the post will still be required to show a valid government-issued identification card, which will be scanned with handheld scanning devices.

“There will now be a 100 percent check using the scanners,” Vasquez said.

These handheld scanners cross-reference a national database, to include security and criminal databases.

Vasquez said that a major advantage of the new system is that security personnel will now be better able to screen each individual rather than just the vehicle. There is also a process that is under way for some contractors coming onto the installation. They will be required to undergo background checks and submit documentation showing proof of registration, insurance and reason for entrance as well, Vasquez said.

One major change is that there will no longer be specific gates and lanes to enter

the post. Instead, all gates will be accessible to all drivers. The area previously designated as the sign-in area will now be a search inspection area.

Simons said that random searches will be conducted by security personnel at all gates, and that there will be an increase in inspections. Vasquez said that there will also be increased patrols and anti-terrorism measures taken.

Both Simons and Vasquez said that drivers can expect delays at the gates while the new system is being implemented.

## Fort Jackson CFC raises \$500k for charities

By **SUSANNE KAPPLER**  
*Fort Jackson Leader*

The 2011 Combined Federal Campaign drew to an official close Monday with a recognition luncheon at the Officers’ Club. However, federal employees still can contribute to their favorite charities until the end of the day.

This year, the Midlands Area CFC raised more than \$1.1 million, including about \$500,000 in contributions from the Fort Jackson community.

Tammy Huddle, director of the Midlands Area CFC said she was grateful for each contribution.

“It was a great CFC effort, and we look forward to 2012 and having another great campaign on post,” Huddle said.

Maj. Gen. James Milano, who at the beginning of the campaign set a goal of \$750,000 for Fort Jackson, said that although the post did not meet that number, at least the past years’ negative trend of declining contributions had ceased.

“We’ve been working this (campaign)

hard,” Milano said. “We have a great team that put a lot of hard work into getting the word out and advertising this and contacting people.”

The Fort Jackson CFC project officer, 1st Lt. Lydia Berry, said she is grateful for the generosity of the Fort Jackson community, especially in a challenging economic climate.

“I think a lot of people on the fort were really generous,” Berry said. “The outcome ... was awesome. I’m grateful.”

During the luncheon, various on and

off-post organizations received awards for their participation. Silver certificates were given to agencies with per capita giving of \$40-75. Gold certificates were awarded for per capita giving of at least \$76. Organizations with a double-digit percentage increase in contributions received the merit award. The Eagle Award was presented to four agencies based on total money raised, increase in giving, highest per capita giving and highest participation.

*Susanne.Kappler1@us.army.mil*

## Housing Happenings

### COMMUNITY UPDATES

- ❑ All housing offices will close at noon, Dec. 21. For housing emergencies, call 338-4809. Regular business hours will resume the following day. Balfour Beatty offices will remain open. Housing offices will also close Dec. 26. Call 787-6416 for emergencies.
- ❑ Learn more about the different housing offices by visiting [www.jackson.army.mil/sites/info/pages/389](http://www.jackson.army.mil/sites/info/pages/389).
- ❑ Be sure to disconnect water hoses to prevent pipes from freezing/bursting during the colder months. Freezing/bursting pipes can cause water damage to the home and valuables inside.
- ❑ Operating a home-based business: In order to operate a home-based business, residents must receive prior approval and obtain a solicitor's permit. To receive this permit, complete a solicitation packet from the Directorate of Emergency Services Military Police Station located at 5499 Jackson Blvd. It is also necessary to complete a request form from the Balfour Beatty Communities Management Office at 520 Brown Ave. The completed solicitation packet and request form must be returned to DES for review and approval/disapproval. Types of home-based businesses requiring this permit include, but are not limited to: Avon, Longaberger Baskets, Mary Kay, etc. This requirement is in accordance with Fort Jackson regulations and is required of all on-post residents.
- ❑ Contact the Community Management Office for details on how to receive prorated rent for Pierce Terrace 5.
- ❑ Energy conservation tip: Reduce water usage by running the dishwasher when it is full, but not overloaded.
- ❑ Be sure to turn off Christmas lights when leaving for extended periods.
- ❑ The Christmas decoration contest is under way. Homes must be decorated by dusk, Thursday for judging. Winners will receive a \$50 gift card.
- ❑ Refer someone to move on post to receive \$300. The is for December only.
- ❑ Any residents who have not received a utility statement from Minol should contact the company at 1-888-636-0493.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

- ❑ To date, 556 homes have been completed.
- ❑ Only 54 homes in the junior noncommissioned officer housing area remain to complete the 610 new homes planned for the area.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Send all submissions to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com). For more information, call 751-7045.

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# Retention goals changing

By **CURSHA PIERCE-LUNDERMAN**  
*Fort Jackson Leader*

The days of an iconic Uncle Sam wanting everyone to join the U.S. Army are coming to an end. At the Commanding General's Retention Awards Luncheon Dec. 9 at the Officers' Club, there was a recurring message of retaining quality Soldiers over large quantities of Soldiers.

The 165th Infantry Brigade received a retention excellence award for being the first to accomplish its retention mission. The 171st Infantry Brigade, 193rd Infantry Brigade, U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School and U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School were also recognized for reaching their retention goals.

Maj. Gen. James Milano, Fort Jackson's commanding general, took the opportunity to thank career counselors for their efforts and remind all leaders to enforce Army standards in regard to keeping Soldiers.

"There's no gray area with standards," Milano said. "Either you meet them or you don't. For those who can't maintain the standards of our Army, it is time for

them to get filtered out. We need to keep those doing well and setting the example."

Fort Jackson's mission of training Soldiers makes the post a special case in regards to retention, according to command career counselor, Sgt. Maj. Robert Collier.

"We have a small population of Soldiers in their re-enlistment window here so the retention mission might be around 40-50 Soldiers, for example, and many of them are drill sergeants," Collier said. "For drill sergeants, they are on the go from Day One of that cycle until graduation day. The workload is heavy for them and you really bring up a huge question when you ask if they want to re-enlist."

The 165th Brigade retention team found that many of their Soldiers were willing to stay Army, so the brigade was able to quickly meet retention goals.

"Most drill sergeants that I've come in contact with want to stay in. They enjoy what they do and they want to continue," said Sgt. 1st Class Danelle Magalit, brigade career counselor. "Every job has its up and downs, whether in the civilian

world or military, and they are aware of that. I encourage them to stay on and take advantage of benefits they won't find on the civilian side."

If Soldiers want to stay in the Army, their options are more limited than in the past, according to Collier. "The Army has to become more streamlined because we can't just pay extra people these days. Now you are placed in a smaller re-enlistment window, and if you don't re-enlist then, you stand the chance of not re-enlisting at all."

Collier said the Army's retention efforts are changing because the organization is moving away from having one-dimensional Soldiers.

"We are building multifaceted, plug and play Soldiers who can fit into any position interchangeably. We are the standard the world looks to and must continue to be, while evolving into an even greater force than ever before," Collier said. "When Fort Jackson keeps Soldiers, like we have here, we make sure the Army can continue doing great things in the future."

*Cursha.Pierce@us.army.mil*

## Good-bye shake



*Photo by JAMES ARROWOOD, command photographer*

**Columbia Mayor Steven Benjamin shakes hands with outgoing Post Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Stall during Stalls's relinquishment of responsibility ceremony Thursday at Post Headquarters. Stall, who arrived at Fort Jackson in October 2008, will assume another command sergeant major position with the 4th Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colo.**

**News and Notes**

**DECA HOLIDAY HOURS SET**

The Fort Jackson Commissary will be open Dec. 19. The store will close for the day at 4 p.m., Dec. 24 and remain closed Dec. 25. Normal hours will resume Dec. 27. The Commissary will be open during normal hours Dec. 31 and be closed Jan. 1. It will re-open Jan. 3.

**DMPO RELOCATES TEMPORARILY**

The Defense Military Pay Office will temporarily move to Rooms 100 and 240 at the Strom Thurmond Building Dec. 19. Duty hours will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**171ST RELOCATES**

The 171st Infantry Brigade headquarters is now located at 4310 Magruder Ave.

**GATE 1 CLOSURES FOR HOLIDAYS**

Gate 1 will be closed from Dec. 23-26. The gate will resume its normal operating hours Dec. 27.

**FREE USC TICKETS AVAILABLE**

Victory Travel is giving away free tickets for Saturday's University of South Carolina basketball game against the Ohio State Buckeyes. Tickets are limited to four per ID card holder and cannot be reserved by phone.

**CAREER LECTURES SCHEDULED**

Four 20-minute lectures discussing career options in oral surgery, nutrition, gum surgery and restorative dentistry are planned from 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 21 at Oliver Dental Clinic. The lectures are geared toward spouses, college students and high school students. Space is limited and RSVP is required. To reserve a seat, call 751-6213.

**ROAD CLOSURE SCHEDULED**

A portion of Strom Thurmond Boulevard between Marion Avenue and Caldwell Dental Clinic is closed for construction. Motorists may turn either left or right onto Marion Avenue. The dental clinic is accessible from the opposite direction using Strom Thurmond Boulevard.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of John W. Oxendine should contact 1st Lt. Paul J. Fosse Jr., the summary court officer for the Soldier. Oxendine passed away Nov. 27. Fosse can be reached at 751-2629 or email [paul.fosse@amedd.army.mil](mailto:paul.fosse@amedd.army.mil).

# Captain America hits post

*From the Exchange Public Affairs*

In 1941, Joe Simon and Jack Kirby created a symbol of the American spirit which instilled both patriotism and pride in the Military and American citizens.

He fought alongside troops in the trenches and they called him Captain America.

Marvel Comics (through their Marvel Customs Solutions division) and the Army & Air Force Exchange Ser-

vice are teaming up once again to publish an all-new, 22-page story starring Captain America: The First Avenger.

The 12th installment of the free comic book, written by William Harms, drawn by Michael Avon Oeming and colored by Nick Filardi, is available at the Fort Jackson Exchange.

"Everyone at Marvel Entertainment is so appreciative of all that the Military does to ensure our freedom. It was an honor to work with the top talents that brought this thrilling Captain America adventure to life in the mighty Marvel

manner," said Bill Rosemann, Marvel editor.

The book, which features a cover by Butch Guice and Bettie Breitweiser, tells the tale of a young recruit struggling through boot camp and how he beats the odds with a little help from Captain America.

"In this issue, we see Cap dig deep to persevere against great odds," said Rosemann. "That story in turn inspires a Soldier to push past boundaries he thought he couldn't overcome and achieve success."

## Change of command



*Photo by JESSE STEPHENSON, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School*

**Chaplain (Col.) David Colwell takes the guidon from Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Donald Rutherford during a change of command ceremony Friday at the Solomon Center. Colwell takes over as commandant of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School from Chaplain (Col.) David Smartt, who is retiring.**

## Leader deadlines

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.

For example, an article for the Jan. 19 Leader must be submitted by Jan. 5.

Announcement submissions are due one week before publication.

For example, an announcement for the Jan. 19 Leader must be submitted by Jan. 12.

Send your submissions to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com).

For more information, call 751-7045.



# DoD aims to empower troops financially

By **ELAINE SANCHEZ**  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — The need for quality financial education and protections for service members and their families will not diminish even as more than a decade of war begins to draw to a close, a Defense Department official said.

“Even though the force will be transitioning — we hope, of course, out of a high-operations tempo — over the next five or six years, we can’t presume our service members and their families will have more stability at the end of the day,” Robert L. Gordon III, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, told a group of financial experts earlier this week.

Speaking at the Financial Fitness Forum in Washington, Gordon stressed the importance for the Defense Department, other government agencies and financial institutions to continue working together to improve military families’ financial well-being. The forum was hosted by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Office of Servicemember Affairs.

Representatives from a host of banks, defense credit unions and other financial organizations and institutions attended the forum to identify the most pressing financial issues

service members and their families face and to brainstorm ideas to help them. It’s a young military force, Gordon noted, citing 46 percent of service members are 25 or younger. They start families younger than their civilian counterparts, and are highly mobile, moving every two to three years.

Youth combined with financial inexperience may expose service members to unfamiliar financial products with new terms and options, “leaving service members to make decisions and take what’s handed to them without a full understanding of conditions of product to accommodate their needs,” Gordon said. “Who do they trust?”

Compounding the issue, the nation’s been embroiled in economic turmoil over the past five years, and military families aren’t immune, he noted. Many families depend on two incomes, but spouses can have a tough time finding employment as they contend with a struggling economy, frequent moves and deployments.

As a result, military members may find themselves vulnerable to quick fixes and poor financial choices, Gordon said.

Gordon called on financial institutions to play a role in the military community’s financial education so they’re better equipped to make “informed and judicious” choices.

“We need assistance to help service members and their

families take advantage of opportunities,” he said. “We need to forge a partnership that educates and empowers them (and) it will take the commitment of everyone in this room.”

Gordon cited the Defense Department’s Military Spouse Employment Partnership as an example of a partnership that “will pay enormous dividends for military families.”

The DoD has partnered with companies large and small, stateside and overseas, to offer spouses employment opportunities. The program includes banks and credit unions, Gordon noted. The goal, he said, “is to help our spouses to not just gain a job, but the potential of an ongoing career.”

Since the program’s inception in June, MSEP has gained 96 partners — 11 from financial institutions — with more than 200 employers in the cue. Spouses can browse through more than 120,000 jobs located around the globe, Gordon said, noting more than 15,000 jobs — from a global account executive to a pastry chef — already went up on the website over the course of the morning.

“What a significant opportunity for our spouses to be able to find a career choice,” he said. In the long term, aiding spouses with careers will help military families bridge a time of transition, he added, when a number of service members will be entering the workforce as veterans.

## Longtime post employee retires

By **KAREN SOULE**  
*Fort Jackson Public Affairs Office*

After 32 years of federal service, Hazel Kelly will retire Dec. 31. She has served 24 years as Fort Jackson’s executive services officer. Hazel began working for the Army in Germany as the V Corps Army community services officer and in Washington, D.C., as an alcohol and drug abuse prevention specialist.

As the ESO, she often becomes the face of Fort Jackson for the many community members and retirees who visit and take part in ceremonies.

“She has a very special place in her heart for those of advanced age, and I have watched her countless times make them feel special and welcome through her attentiveness,” said Gerald Henderson, deputy chief of staff.

He also said she is very proud of the reputation Fort Jackson has in the community and added that through her work, Kelly has contributed to the positive relationship the installation has with community members.

Asked what she will not miss about working, Hazel said the stress, the commuting and the 5 a.m. alarm clock.

But, she added, “I will always love the Army and what it has done for me. Life is like traveling down a road with stops along the way.

“As I leave Fort Jackson, I am anticipating another stop. What I will miss most are my buddies and the young Soldiers I have worked with over the years.”



**KELLY**

## U.S., Iraq forge new relationship

By **JIM GARAMORE**  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — With the last U.S. troops leaving Iraq, a new relationship between Iraq and the United States will stand front and center, President Barack Obama said.

Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki spoke at a White House news conference as the last 5,500 U.S. troops in Iraq prepare to leave. When Obama took office there were 150,000 American forces in the country.

“This is a season of homecomings, and military families across America are being reunited for the holidays,” Obama said. “In the coming days, the last American Soldiers will cross the border out of Iraq, with honor and with their heads held high.”

The president and the prime minister discussed the continuing U.S.-Iraqi relationship, and plans to “normalize” relations between the two countries. Obama called for “an equal partnership based on mutual interests and mutual respect.”

Iraq has made tremendous progress since the coalition toppled Saddam Hussein from power in 2003. There have been free and fair elections, Iraq’s economy is growing faster even than that of China, and Iraqi security forces “have been in the lead for the better part of three years, patrolling the streets, dismantling militias, conducting counterterrorism operations,” Obama said.

“Today, despite continued attacks

by those who seek to derail Iraq’s progress, violence remains at record lows,” Obama said. “And Mr. Prime Minister, that’s a tribute to your leadership, and to the skill and the sacrifices of Iraqi forces.”

As the war ends, Iraq will not stand alone, the president said.

“Today, the prime minister and I are reaffirming our common vision of a long-term partnership between our nations that is in keeping with our Strategic Framework Agreement, and it will be like the close relationships we have with other sovereign nations,” Obama said. “Simply put, we are building a comprehensive partnership.”

Obama and Maliki discussed how the United States could help Iraq train and equip its forces the same way America helps other nations around the world. “Given the challenges we face in a rapidly changing region, we also agreed to establish a new, formal channel of communication between our national security advisers,” the president said.

The U.S.-Iraq relationship, he said, will boost regional security.

“Just as Iraq has pledged not to interfere in other nations, other nations must not interfere in Iraq,” Obama said. “Iraq’s sovereignty must be respected.”

The drawdown in Iraq has allowed America to refocus resources and achieve progress in Afghanistan, put al-Qaida on the path to defeat and to better prepare for the full range of challenges that lie ahead, the presi-

dent said.

Maliki thanked Obama for America’s commitment to his country.

“Anyone who observes the nature of the relationship between the two countries will say that the relationship will not end with the departure of the last American Soldier,” Maliki said through a translator.

The United States and Iraq worked together to defeat terrorism and al-Qaida in Iraq, the prime minister said. Now the two countries can work together in peace to put in place the Strategic Framework Agreement “in the economic sphere, as well as in educational and commercial and cultural and judicial and security cooperation fields,” Maliki said.

Iraq still needs U.S. help to bulk up its security forces — especially in areas of training and equipping. Iraq has ordered 18 F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft and plans to order another 18.

Obama saluted the sacrifices of U.S. and Iraqi service members, noting the two countries will continue to work together toward a promising new future.

“A war is ending, a new day is upon us,” the president said. “And let us never forget those who gave us this chance, the untold number of Iraqis who have given their lives, more than 1 million Americans — military and civilian — who have served in Iraq, nearly 4,500 fallen Americans who gave their last full measure of devotion, tens of thousands of wounded warriors and so many inspiring military families.”

# Events planned for 'holdover' Soldiers

Continued from Page 1

never know. You try ticketing a few different ways to see what will work best for the Soldiers," Morrow said. "This Hawaii ticket is \$1,300, and I was able to issue two tickets so she could use her pay advance to cover half of it. That can only be done here."

Soldiers have the option of using up to \$700 in advance pay to cover their tickets, since many of them have not earned enough money to afford travel expenses.

Even with the option of advance pay and help from Victory Travel, some Soldiers will choose to stay at Fort Jackson during the holidays. The cadre of 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment will help those Soldiers, often called "holdover" Soldiers, have an enjoyable time in the Columbia area during block leave.

"We're tracking all of the Soldiers during the leave, whether they stay here or go home," said Sgt. 1st Class Marilyn Shaw with the Army Training Center G3.

"The ones in the holdover unit will have a

calendar full of things to do here."

Soldiers will see Riverbanks Zoo's Lights Before Christmas, go to the movies, and attend University of South Carolina, NFL and East Coast Hockey League

“ We just want to make sure everyone is where they want to be and (be) safe for the holidays this year. ”

— Sgt. 1st Class Marilyn Shaw  
Army Training Center

games during Victory Block Leave.

Shaw said that safety and accountability of Soldiers are the main goals for the Army Training Center during Victory Block Leave.

"Things have been going well with the travel plans here so far. We just want to make sure everyone is where they want to be and (be) safe for the holidays this year."

Cursha.Pierce@us.army.mil



Photo by CURSHA PIERCE-LUNDERMAN

**Julie Neal with Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation reviews a travel itinerary with Pvt. Tessa Dempsey. Dempsey will be taking a break from training with Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th Regiment to visit her family in San Francisco during Block Leave.**

# Tips help parents choose kids' furry friends

By VICKY DERDERIAN

Army Public Health Nursing, MACH



This is a time of the year when Santa brings not only toys, but often a soft, fluffy four-legged animal as a new addition to the family. The topic of pet ownership, including the pros and cons, must be discussed with the real care providers — the parents.

Although pets can be a real asset and life expanding experience for a child, it is important to choose a pet that is right for your family, your home and your lifestyle. Parental involvement, discussion and planning are essential to help make pet ownership a positive experience for everyone. Pets can help children learn some of the basic and fundamental skills that can be applied to interpersonal relationships as they grow into adulthood.

EdVenture Children's Museum recently added a new permanent exhibit called "Wags and Whiskers." This exhibit is geared toward children ages 5-12 and their caregivers and emphasizes responsible pet care. Visitors can take on the roles of clinic customers, veterinarian or groomer. Children can put on a lab coat and venture into the world of veterinary medicine. They can examine the animal, review the chart and X-ray, and use a pet scanner to make a diagnosis. In the examination/grooming area, visitors can bathe, groom and medicate both dogs and cats.

Families are encouraged to think about which type of pet is best for them by taking into consideration their living space, activity level, budget, etc. A pet will be recommended (or not) based on their answers. The interaction will realisti-



cally portray the responsibilities of pet ownership in a humorous fashion. The cost of pet ownership will be provided with additional information on spaying and neutering.

Choosing the right pet for the right age is essential, a few considerations may include:

## TODDLERS

Toddlers are curious and like to touch. When selecting a pet with a toddler in the home, it would be prudent to keep in mind that a child this age is going to pull fur, limbs, ears and tails. Take care to select a pet that can handle being touched in this way. Also keep in mind that this curious toddler may explore the pet's food and water dishes, the cat's litter box and, if there is an aquarium on site, the electrical wires and aquarium water.

## 3-5 YEARS OLD

This is an age when a child is learning about contact and empathy. Some experts recommend a guinea pig for this age. Guinea pigs like to be held and seldom bite. They have a whistle when they are happy and excited that most children find amusing. Children at this age can also assist

with the care of the animal by filling the water bottle and food dish.

## 5-10 YEARS OLD

Attention spans are generally inconsistent within this age group. Small pets such as: gerbils, guinea pigs and goldfish are often recommended. With supervision, children can take on more of the responsibilities of caring for a pet. This is also a great time to reinforce good hygiene habits around pets with an emphasis on hand washing.

## 10-13 YEARS OLD

Children in this age group have a great interest in animals and have a good capacity for responsibility. They are ready for a dog or cat as a pet. They are able to take on more of the responsibility of the care by feeding, cleaning a litter box, brushing and exercising the pet. A child of this age can also participate in dog training classes.

## 14-17 YEARS OLD

Teens tend to be very busy. Even though they have the capacity and skills to care for most any pet, they do not always have or take the time to properly care for a pet. Birds and aquarium fish are often a choice for this age. Keep in mind, that when the child goes off to college the pet usually stays behind at the home.

There is something to be said about the unconditional love and affection that only a pet can provide. Even though the ultimate responsibility of pet ownership falls on the parent, pets can be a wonderful addition to a family. They often boost self-esteem, empathy and sensitivity in the growing child. The furry creatures are used in many medical settings to ease stress and pain. The essential element is to take the time to research and explore the options of pet ownership and determine what is best for your family.

# Saluting this BCT cycle's honorees

**DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE**



**Staff Sgt. John Han**  
Company A  
1st Battalion,  
61st Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Cody Powell

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Benjamin Robinson

**HIGH APFT SCORE**  
Pfc. Brittany Sebastian

**HIGH BRM**  
Pvt. David Rose

**SUPPORT AWARDS OF THE CYCLE**

**DFAC SUPPORT**  
Laurie Swader

**FAMILY SUPPORT**  
Heather Cummings

**SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT**

**171ST INFANTRY BRIGADE**  
Capt. Marshall Farris  
Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick Brown  
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Fulton  
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Pelkey  
Sgt. Charles Henigin  
Sgt. Steven Moser  
Spc. Arkadiusz Siwinski

**193RD INFANTRY BRIGADE**  
Master Sgt. Gunner Hulie  
Spc. Brock Jacobs



**Staff Sgt. Curtis Swarengen**  
Company F  
1st Battalion,  
61st Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Zachary Bolte

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Spc. Joseph Delehanty

**HIGH APFT SCORE**  
Pvt. Jerick Ello

**HIGH BRM**  
Pvt. Jordan Lee

**TRAINING SUPPORT**  
Wardrick Griffin  
Lyle Daniels

## Training honors



**2nd Lt. Desiree Bussiere**  
Distinguished honor graduate  
Adjutant General School



**Sgt. 1st Class Rochelle Jones**  
Cadre of the cycle  
187th Ordnance Battalion



**Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kimes**  
Instructor of the cycle  
187th Ordnance Battalion

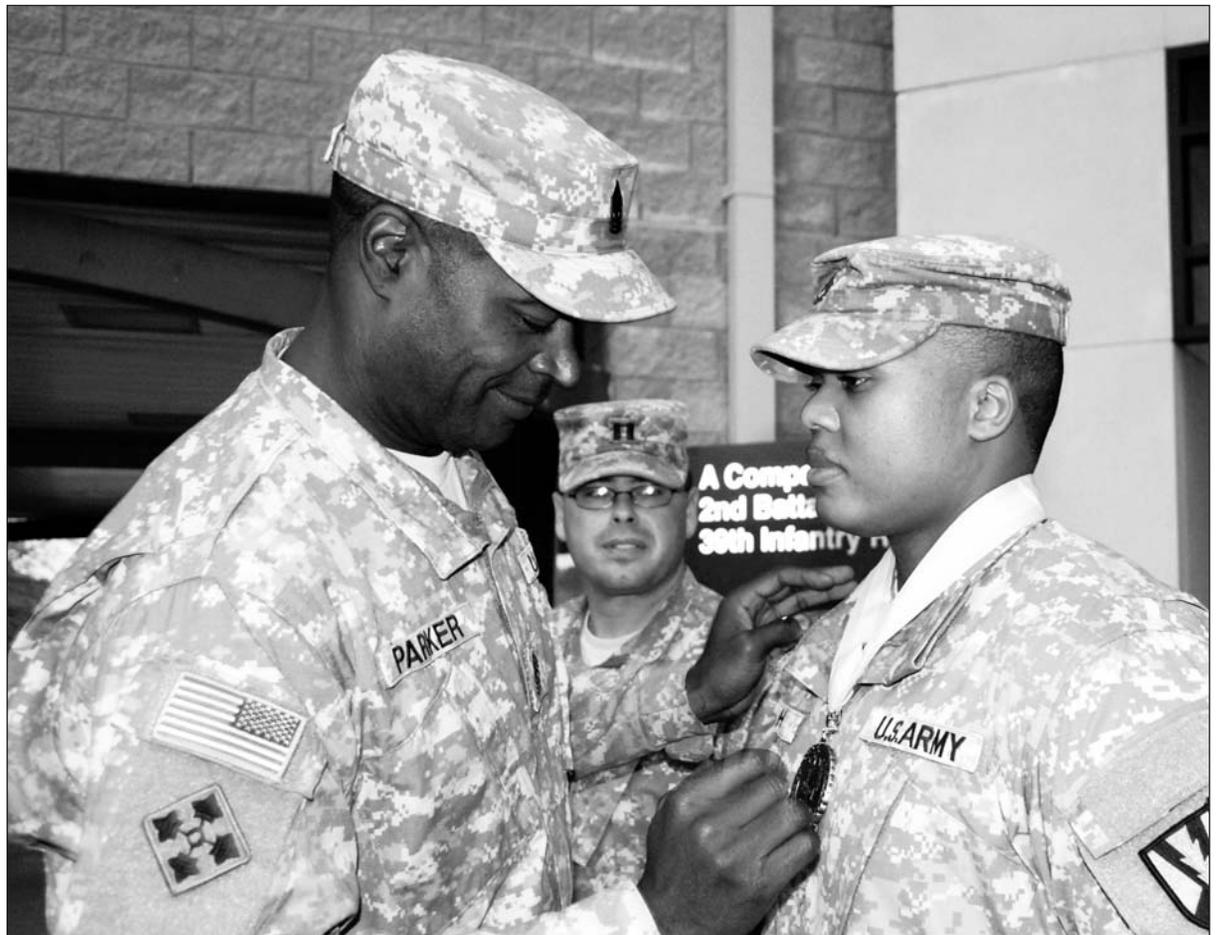
**187TH ORDNANCE BATTALION HONORS**

**CADRE OF THE CYCLE**  
Staff Sgt. Curtis Esterline

**INSTRUCTOR OF THE CYCLE**  
Staff Sgt. Martin Russell

**DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATES**  
Pvt. Lily Gajo  
Pvt. Troy Pletcher  
Pvt. Derek Dutcher  
Pvt. Jeffrey Montgomery

## High honors



*Courtesy photo*

**Sgt. Maj. James Parker, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, presents Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Hill, a drill sergeant with Company A, with the Order of St. Maurice. The honor is awarded to Soldiers who have served the infantry community with distinction, demonstrated a significant contribution in support of the infantry and represent the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence and dedication to duty.**

## Leader deadlines

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.

For example, an article for the Jan. 19 Leader must be submitted by Jan. 5.

Announcement submissions are due one week

before publication.

For example, an announcement for the Jan. 19 Leader must be submitted by Jan. 12.

Send your submissions to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com).

For more information, call 751-7045.



## At your service

Phone numbers and operation hours for key post facilities

<b>All South Federal Credit Union</b>	782-9830	Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>American Red Cross</b>	751-/4329/5923	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Andy's Fitness Center</b>	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 hour on training and federal holidays
<b>Army Career Alumni Program</b>	751-4109/4104	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
<b>Army Community Service</b>	751-5256	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Army Continuing Education Services</b>	751-5341	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
<b>Army Substance Abuse Program</b>	751-5007	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
<b>Bowling, Century Lanes</b>	751-6138	Closed Monday; Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. to midnight; Sunday, 2 to 10 p.m.
<b>Bowling, Ivy Lanes</b>	751-4759	(For use by Soldiers in training): Thursday, 1 to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Saturday, 1 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Car Care Center</b>	782-1639	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Chaplain Museum</b>	751-8827/8079	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Child and Youth Services</b>	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.
<b>Civilian Personnel Advisory Center</b>	751-3219	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Class VI</b>	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.
<b>Clinical Army Substance Abuse Program</b>	751-6597	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
<b>Coleman Gym</b>	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.
<b>Commissary</b>	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.
<b>DA Photos (TSC)</b>	751-7592	Monday-Thursday, 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
<b>Defense Military Pay Office</b>	751-6669 (Soldiers)	Monday-Friday, 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4 p.m. Civilians should call 751-4914.
<b>Dental Clinics</b>	751-5178/6017	Monday-Friday, 7:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
<b>Family Health Center</b>	751-2273	Monday-Friday, 7:20 a.m. to 8 p.m.; training holidays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Family Life Resiliency Center</b>	751-4961	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Florist</b>	738-1812	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
<b>Fort Jackson National Cemetery</b>	699-2246	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
<b>Furniture Store</b>	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.
<b>Hospital Retail Annex</b>	782-1263	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>ID Section</b>	751-7731	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Legal Assistance and Claims</b>	751-4287/3603	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>LCI-SSSC</b>	790-5306	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Main Outpatient Pharmacy</b>	751-2259	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>MG Robert B. Solomon Center</b>	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.
<b>Military Clothing Sales Store</b>	787-5248	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Movie Theater</b>	751-7488	Hours vary
<b>National Federation of Federal Employees</b>	751-2622	
<b>NCO Club</b>	782-2218	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Open later for entertainment and special events; call for details and times.
<b>Officers' Club</b>	751-4906	Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday brunch, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
<b>Palmetto Falls Water Park</b>	751-3381	**Closed for season**
<b>Perez Fitness Center</b>	751-6258	Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; weekends and training holidays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Pharmacy Annex (PX mall)</b>	751-2250	Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Pool, Knight</b>	751-4796	Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
<b>Pool, Legion</b>	751-4796	**Closed for season**
<b>Post Exchange</b>	787-1950/1951/1952	Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
<b>Post Library</b>	751-5589/4816	Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Post Office</b>	782-8709	Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Recycling Center</b>	751-4208	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
<b>Reuse Center</b>	751-5121	Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
<b>Safety Center</b>	751-6004	Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
<b>Gate 1 Express</b>	782-2076	Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
<b>Gate 2 Express</b>	790-4478	Open 24 hours a day
<b>SSI Retail Annex</b>	738-9189	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
<b>Thrift Shop</b>	787-2153	Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
<b>Vanguard Gym</b>	751-4384	Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1 to 8 p.m.
<b>Vehicle Registration</b>	751-5887	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Veterinary Clinic</b>	751-7160	Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<b>Weston Lake</b>	751-5253	Oct. 1 through April 30: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; May 1 through Sept. 30: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Anything we missed? E-mail us at [fjleader@gmail.com](mailto:fjleader@gmail.com).



Photo by KARA MOTOSICKY, Public Affairs Office

The graves at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery are adorned with wreaths Saturday during a Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony.



Photo by JAMES ARROWOOD, command photographer

A Soldier holds a memorial wreath that was used in Saturday's ceremony. About 1,400 wreaths were placed at the cemetery's grave sites.

# In remembrance

*Volunteers lay wreaths at national cemetery*



Photo by JAMES ARROWOOD, command photographer

Active and retired service members of all branches prepare to lay wreaths for each service at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

27" WEB-100  
Bagpiper Edward Wilkes performs during the Wreaths Across America event as the Patriot Riders motorcycle group stand guard with American flags. Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization that places wreaths on graves at veterans' cemeteries across the nation on the second Saturday in December.

Photo by JAMES ARROWOOD, command photographer



## Calendar

**Wednesday, Jan. 4**

**Post newcomer orientation and tour**  
9 a.m., Post Conference Room

**Thursday, Jan. 5**

**1-34th ribbon cutting**  
2 p.m., 12000 Dixie Road

## Housing events

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

**Every Monday in December, 3 to 4 p.m.**

**Kids' snacks**

Children receive free snacks while supplies last.

## Announcements

### NEC CLOSURE

The U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center will be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday for its holiday party. For immediate assistance, call (866) 335-2769.

### DMPO CLOSURE

The Defense Military Pay Office will be closed from noon to 2 p.m., Friday for its holiday party.

### ACS HOLIDAY HOURS

Army Community Services will operate on a limited-hour schedule during the holidays. ACS hours of operation will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 23-30. ACS will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. An Army Emergency Relief case worker will be on

call for valid emergencies only. To reach the case worker, call 751-5256 and leave a detailed message. For financial emergencies, call the American Red Cross at 877-272-7337.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the main entrance parking lot of Moncrief Army Community Hospital in front of the Troop Clinic from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., today. To sign up or to get information on additional blood drives on post, call 360-2036.

### ACES NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Army Continuing Educations Services is conducting its annual needs assessment survey. The survey gathers information for planning customer-relevant continuing education programs. The survey can only be conducted on computers that read Common Access Cards. To access the survey, visit <https://secureweb.hqda.pentagon.mil/Checkbox/Survey.aspx?s=70328bd5cd5446f08b7e69fb5526d56c>. For more information, call 751-5341.

### FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Financial Peace University will meet at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 5 at the Family Life and Resiliency Center. To sign up for the 13-week class, visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com). For more information, call 931-206-2969.

### AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a DoD agency, is accepting nominations for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Nominations may be submitted through Jan. 16. For more information, visit [www.freedomaward.mil](http://www.freedomaward.mil).

### MG URSANO SCHOLARSHIP

The MG James Ursano Scholarship Program offers scholarships for dependent

children of active, retired and deceased Soldiers. The scholarships are awarded based on financial need, academics and leadership/achievement. The deadline to apply is April 2. For more information, visit [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org) or call (866) 878-6378.

### THREAT AWARENESS REPORTING

Briefings for the postwide Threat Awareness Reporting Program, formerly known as SAEDA, are scheduled for 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Jan. 10, 17 and 24. Briefings are also scheduled for 10 a.m. Jan. 12, 19 and 26. The briefings will take place at the Post Theater.

### SPOUSE ASSISTANCE CHANGES

Effective with the academic year 2012/2013, Army Emergency Relief will consolidate its overseas and stateside spouses education assistance programs. All spouses will be allowed to attend school part-time or full-time. Funding will be available for fall and spring semesters only. Other changes include minimum credit hour requirements, scholarship eligibility and a modified overseas application process. For more information, call 751-5256 or email [education@aerhq.org](mailto:education@aerhq.org).

### BOSS CLOTHING DRIVE

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will conduct a clothing drive through today. For more information, call 751-1148.

### HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

The Victory Chapter Sergeants Major Association 2011 Holiday Extravaganza is scheduled for 6 p.m., Saturday at the NCO Club. Tickets cost \$25. For more information, call (919) 605-4283.

### CHANGE IN HOURS

The Personal Property Office has changed its hours of operations for walk-in services. The new office hours are: 7:30

a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (limited services from noon to 4 p.m.); Tuesdays; 7:30 a.m. to noon, Thursdays. For more information or in case of emergencies, call 751-5137/5138.

### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop will be giving out one free Christmas basket each Wednesday after 1 p.m. The Thrift Shop will accept Christmas items through today.

The Thrift Shop will be closed Dec. 27 through Jan. 5. No consignments will be accepted Dec. 20 through 22 and Jan. 10 through 12.

The Thrift Shop's Cinderella Project has free ball gowns for sergeants and below and spouses of active-duty sergeants and below.

*Visit the community calendar at [www.jackson.army.mil](http://www.jackson.army.mil) for a full listing of calendar events. Community announcements may be edited to comply with Leader style and Public Affairs regulations.*

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Send all submissions to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com). For more information, call 751-7045.

For information about classified advertising, contact Camden Media Co. at 432-6157. Classified ads may also be faxed to 432-7609.

For information about display advertising, contact Kathy at 786-5681.

The *Leader* welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should include the name and hometown of the writer.

Letters should also include a phone number for verification purposes.

The *Leader* reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, style, spelling and brevity. Send your letter to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com).

# Magic of Christmas promises peace

By **CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) COLT RANDES**  
1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment

Christmas is a time of wonder for people of all ages. It has a way of transporting us back to childhood with the anticipation of hearing nine flying reindeer tapping on the roof, or of package upon package wrapped tauntingly under a meticulously adorned fir or spruce.

There is a unifying effect to the season. Busy families take an overdue pause from the pace of life to visit their loved ones and refresh the ties that bind them. People choose this season, perhaps as no other, to reflect on the progress or decline of the closing year. With the New Year come resolutions to experience more of what the bells on Christmas day proclaim, "Peace on earth, good-will to men."

What we yearn for is a peace that transcends the season and points to a fundamental change in the way we engage the inner chambers of our hearts and the other faces in our world. This sense of peace, even during the holiday, can be quite elusive. The harder we strive for it the more slippery it becomes. Perhaps we could take a lesson from history and the submission of an unlikely victim.

C. S. Lewis in his best loved children's book, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, highlights the principle that in the darkest of times — when evil and hate seem to be victorious — there is a force more powerful yet that will rise to answer the wrong. Edmond's treachery led to the submission of the powerful Aslan to the cold knife of the White Witch. What the witch did not know, nor could have known, was that there was a magic more powerful and ancient than the Stone Table



upon which she based her hope of victory. Lewis wrote of this deeper magic, "that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backward." Grasping the significance of Christmas morning and responding in awe to this holiday (holy-day) is to experience the shock on the face of the witch at the sight of life from death.

Our lesson from history comes from the Christmas of 1914 when the last truce of its kind was experienced in a time of war. The deeper magic of Christmas was experienced in the form of a truce on Christmas day between miles of trenches in battle-torn Europe. One participant recalls:

"First the Germans would sing one of their carols and then we would sing one of ours, until when we started up 'O Come All Ye Faithful' The Germans immediately joined in singing the same hymn to the Latin words 'Adeste Fideles.' And I thought, well, this was really a most extraordinary thing — two nations both singing the same carol in the middle of a war."

One author records, "'YOU NO FIGHT, WE NO FIGHT' was the most frequently employed German message. Some British units improvised 'MERRY CHRISTMAS' banners and waited for a response." There was a sense of solemnity and a call to humanity that over wrung the peel of war and an unspoken truce was born if but for a day.

The closing stanza of Longfellow's poem (Christmas Bells) turned carol (I heard the Bells on Christmas Day) signals the end of despair:

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

There is magic in the Christmas season. One form comes with striving for more and expectations to impress and amass. Another, the deeper magic, calls us to lay down our arms in surrender to him who took a traitor's death to make a wretch his treasure. Consider what stalemates could be ended this season with the gift of forgiveness extended and received.

Allow the magic of the season to slow the pace and soften the heart that it may take hold of the peace it craves. May God bless you and yours.

## VICTORY BLOCK LEAVE WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

### SPECIAL SERVICES

- Dec. 24  
6 p.m. Candlelight Service, Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 25  
10 a.m. Christmas Day Service (lessons and carols), Anderson Street Chapel
- Dec. 31  
9 p.m. Watch Night Service, Daniel Circle Chapel

### PROTESTANT

- Dec. 18  
9:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 11 a.m. Memorial Chapel
- 11 a.m. Chapel Next, Bayonet Chapel
- Dec. 25  
9:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel

- 11 a.m. Memorial Chapel
- Jan. 1  
9:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Gospel service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 11 a.m. Memorial Chapel
- 11 a.m. Chapel Next, Bayonet Chapel

### MASS

- Dec. 18  
11 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 19  
11:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 20  
11:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 21  
11:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 22  
11:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 24  
11:59 p.m. Midnight Mass, Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 25

- 11 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 27  
11:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 28  
11:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Dec. 29  
11:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- Jan. 1  
11 a.m. Main Post Chapel

The regular Catholic Mass schedule will resume Jan. 3. All regular worship services, including Church of Christ, Hispanic Protestant, Jewish, Latter Day Saints and Muslim services, will resume Jan. 8.

### 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
- Education Center**  
4581 Scales Ave.
- Family Life Chapel**  
4580 Scales Ave, corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard (inside of Main Post Chapel), 751-5780
- Magruder Chapel**  
4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883
- Main Post Chapel**  
4580 Scales Ave, corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard, 751-6469/6681
- McCrary Chapel (SCARNG)**  
3820 McCrary Road (located at McCrary Training Center)
- Memorial Chapel**  
4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324
- Warrior Chapel (120th AG Bn.)**  
1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427
- Installation's Chaplain's Office**  
4475 Gregg St., 751-3121/6318



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Courtesy photo

Perez Fitness Center reopened in September with extensive upgrades, including updated lobby and free weights area. The center was among the installation's numerous recreation facilities upgraded this year.

## FMWR facilities get overhaul

By **THERESA O'HAGAN**  
Family and Morale,  
Welfare and Recreation

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Community Recreation Division had a busy 2011; upgrading facilities, building new ones and enhancing all Outdoor Recreation opportunities. A lot has been accomplished in the last 12 months, but the community recreation staff is not ready to rest on its laurels. Improvements will continue in the new year.

### FITNESS CENTERS

Perez Fitness Center opened its doors in September after a major facility renovation and fitness center upgrades continue. Perez Fitness Center's renovation included a new roof, new HVAC system, bathrooms, lobby and free weight area, new lights and electrical upgrades. Vanguard gym's roof was replaced. Coleman Gym is having a new roof installed and new central heating and air systems installed and should be completed around March of 2012.

The Army expended more than \$40 million on the sustainment, restoration and modernization of existing fitness facilities at several installations. Fort Jackson requested \$4.7 million for facility improvements and was among the several installations that received funding.

### WESTON LAKE

A 3,000-square-foot operational center is being constructed at Weston Lake. The

center will be the new home for the lake's check-out center, RV and cabin reservations, staff office, retail sales area, concession area, bathrooms, shower and changing rooms, lifeguard and first aid room and storage areas. Weston Lake recently opened 21 new RV pads. An additional 13 RV sites are planned.

"The old sites were more than 25 years old and they desperately needed to be upgraded," said Mike Elkins, chief, of the Community Recreation Division.

The new pads feature connections for water, satellite and WiFi as well as electricity in 30 and 50 amp electrical connections. Modern luxuries like this make sure patrons definitely don't have to "rough it." In addition each pad will soon come equipped with a fire ring and picnic table.

"The new pads offer our ... customers the nicest RV pads in the area and at a great cost," Elkins said.

### SKREET AND TRAP RANGE

The Skeet and Trap range located at Aachen Range is complete and offers shooters 24 lanes for rifles and pistol shooting and now a new skeet and trap range. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays. The rifle range hours are 8 to 11:30 a.m. and the skeet range hours are noon to 3 p.m. Patrons must have a registered weapon, bring their own ammo and sign in at the site.

The cost for skeet and trap is \$6 per round, and each shooter is required to bring his or her own ammo. Ammo for skeet and

trap must be size 9 shot. The rifle and pistol area fee is \$3 per shooter. Skeet and Trap competitions for ID card holders are being planned throughout 2012.

### PAVILION, VOLLEYBALL COURT AND SUPER SHELTER

The new multi-purpose area located next to the Solomon Center is now open. This area offers a 60-foot by 60-foot super shelter, sand volleyball area, bathrooms and a storage facility. The area is a popular destination every Wednesday for family days and will be used as an extension to the water park during Palmetto Falls' open season — Memorial Day through Labor Day.

"I am excited about the new area; groups can use the water park, reserve the super shelter, play beach volleyball and also take advantage of Palmetto Greens miniature golf," Elkins said.

The area can be reserved for group picnics, organizational days and other group functions. The sports program will offer beach volleyball this summer as a new initiative for the intramural sports calendar. Reservations for the multipurpose area can be made at the Solomon Center or by calling 751-4218.

The new Weston Lake Operations Center, RV area, Skeet and Trap Range and the multipurpose area were built and constructed with funds from the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Command, Atlantic Region's grant programs. Each of the projects was constructed by local contractors and cost less than \$750,000.

## FMWR calendar

### THURSDAY

- ☐ Visit **Century Lanes** for food, fun and bowling.
- ☐ **Victory Bingo**, 2 to 11 p.m.
- ☐ Sleepy Storytime at the **Post Library**, 6:30 to 7 p.m. Come in pajamas and go home ready for bed.
- ☐ **Magruder's Pub and Club** happy hour, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Appetizers are available, while they last.

### FRIDAY

- ☐ Look what I can do, **Thomas Lee Hall Library**. Call 751-5589 for more information.
- ☐ Visit the **Officers' Club**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the seafood buffet.
- ☐ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 2 p.m.
- ☐ 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. Every other Friday, sing along to Linda's Carraoke Karaoke. Be early for happy hour, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Appetizers are available, while they last.
- ☐ Every Friday is Artistic Expression with Jake at 6:30 p.m. in the Teen Room at the **Youth Services Center**.

### SATURDAY

- ☐ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 1 p.m.
- ☐ Step Team practice, 2 p.m., dance room at the **Youth Services Center**.
- ☐ 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.

### SUNDAY

- ☐ Try Hickory Bistro at the **Officers' Club**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Get your favorite breakfast or lunch dishes at a new lower price.
- ☐ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 10 a.m.
- ☐ Every Sunday is Family Day at the **Youth Center**, 2-6 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

- ☐ Victory Readers Club, 6 to 8 p.m., **Post Library**.
- ☐ **4-H Club** meets 4 to 5 p.m. For grades 1-5. Call 751-1136 for information.

### ONGOING OFFERS

- ☐ The Officers' Club specializes in wedding receptions, anniversaries, promotions and other special occasions. For more information, call 782-8761.
- ☐ The NCO Club breakfast buffet is 6 to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.75 for children 4 to 10 years old. Lunch is 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and is \$8 for adults.
- ☐ Child, Youth and School Services provides child care and youth programming on Saturdays at no cost for active-duty parents who must work to meet mission requirements. Others requiring care may sign up, but will pay the usual hourly rate. For more information, call 751-4865.
- ☐ The Officers' Club is open for lunch Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

# Air monitoring goes mobile

By **JANE GERVASONI**

*U.S. Army Public Health Command*

The U.S. Army Public Health Command has a new weapon in its arsenal to keep Soldiers and retirees, their families and Army civilians safe from airborne environmental hazards.

Environmental health experts at the USAPHC have equipped a Mobile Ambient Air Monitoring System capable of rapid deployments to locations affected by air quality hazards such as Arizona, which experienced heavy smoke from recent wild fires.

"We deployed the MAAMS at the request of the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center Preventive Medicine Department to monitor air quality for the Fort Huachuca community," explained Terry Meade, MAAMS project manager in USAPHC's Deployment Environment Surveillance Program.

"Our job was to determine if the air quality in the Fort Huachuca community was affected by the particulate matter and gasses produced by the wild fires," he said.

Contaminants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone and carbon monoxide are found in the air we breathe, but high concentrations of these compounds along with high amounts of particulate matter (dust) can cause breathing problems. The equipment in the MAAMS monitors meteorological conditions including temperature, air pressure, wind speed and wind direction, as well as these contaminants.

"People on the installation were fortunate the winds were in their favor and kept most of the smoke to the south," Meade explained.

The equipment is designed to support environmental assessments like this. The USAPHC also has three trailer-mounted MAAMS, but the Fort Huachuca deployment was the first for the truck-enclosed system.

The system is a self-contained, envi-



*Photo by CHRISTINA GRABER, U.S. Army Public Health Command*

**The USAPHC Mobile Ambient Air Monitoring system vehicle is capable of rapid deployments and is often used to monitor air quality.**

ronmentally controlled vehicle housing a suite of instruments that continuously monitors for pollutants. USAPHC uses Environmental Protection Agency criteria in determining air quality.

"Our work at Fort Huachuca provided us with a better overall picture of the community's air quality. From a public health standpoint, having a complete picture during a situation like this enables us to identify potential health effects and give information to commanders so they can provide necessary warnings appropriate for the conditions," explained Lt. Col. Sheryl Kennedy, DESP program manager.

"We learned a lot on this deployment," Meade said. "We learned to be aware of logistical considerations including locations of power sources and Internet connections to ensure data transfer back to our headquarters. It gave us the opportunity to anticipate problems so we can prepare in advance for contingencies to ensure mission success. The science behind what we do is unique — being able to provide important health surveillance data rapidly will help commanders make science-based deci-

sions to keep their people safe."

"We hope to raise awareness in the military community of the capabilities of the Mobile Ambient Air Monitoring System," Kennedy said. "We want commanders to be aware that this tool is available to them to provide real-time air-quality monitoring."

"The USAPHC is looking at other locations that may benefit from the mobile monitoring capabilities of the MAAMS equipment," said Meade. "We are discussing the feasibility of deploying this type of monitoring platform in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to help assess air quality issues within Afghanistan."

"The rapid deployment capability of the system and its ability to collect real-time data is a real asset that commanders can resource during serious incidents where air quality is a concern," said Brig. Gen. Gregg Potter, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, Fort Huachuca, during his observation of the vehicle's performance.

*Editor's note: Information contributed by the Fort Huachuca Scout Newspaper.*

## MACH UPDATES

### DECEMBER FLU SHOTS

Seasonal flu shots are available to eligible beneficiaries 4 and older. Dates and times vary. The schedule for **Room 6-67 at Moncrief Army Community Hospital** is as follows:

Vaccinations will be given at **MACH, Room 6-67**, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 20, 22. Vaccinations will be given 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday. The vaccination schedule for the **Main PX** is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday. The schedule for the **Solomon Center** is 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday. The schedule for the **Commissary** is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., today. Children 3 and younger may be vaccinated at the Family Health Clinic on a walk-in basis.

### SOME TRICARE DATA LOST

Some TRICARE patients may have been affected by the loss of some data by SIAC, one of TRICARE's contractors, officials recently reported. Computer tapes containing personally identifiable and protected health information of patients in Texas, or those who may have had laboratory exams sent to Texas, may be affected. The risk of harm from the missing data is expected to be minimal. The contractor will provide one year of credit monitoring and restoration services to patients who express concerns. Concerned patients may call (855) 366-1040, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, for more information.

### TRICARE PRIME ENROLLMENT

MACH currently has TRICARE Prime enrollment availability for active duty family members and retirees and their family members. Pediatric enrollment is also available. For more information, visit the TRICARE service center on the 10th floor.

### LASIK SURGERY

The MACH Ophthalmology Clinic offers pre-operative screening exams and post-operative care for Laser Refractive Surgery. The service is available to eligible active-duty Soldiers. The surgery will be conducted at Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart, Ga. To be eligible, Soldiers must have 18 months left of active-duty service. For more information, call 751-5406.

### MEDICAL HOME ENROLLMENT

Moncrief Medical Home continues enrollment to all active duty family member beneficiaries in all zip codes within the Columbia area. Visit the Fort Jackson TRICARE Service Center on the 10th floor of the Moncrief Army Community Hospital and complete the TRICARE Prime Enrollment and PCM change form.



Watch Fort Jackson video news stories at <http://www.vimeo.com/user3022628>



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# 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.

## Lt. Col. Raymond Simons

*Director, Emergency Services/Provost Marshal*

## Sgt. Maj. Bruce Sirois

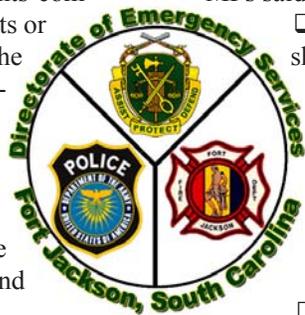
*Provost Sergeant Major*

## Bill Forrester

*Fire Chief*

## CASES OF THE WEEK

□ Military Police are investigating the theft of a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation enclosed trailer from a parking lot, MPs said. The trailer contained 100 galvanized steel barricades. The value of the stolen items is approximately \$12,000



MPs said.

□ A Soldier was charged with shoplifting in connection with the theft of two packs of cigarettes from the Express, MPs said. The value of the items was \$7, MPs said. The Soldier was released to his unit.

□ A civilian was arrested at a construction site in connection with active warrants for his arrest for drug charges and failure to appear, MPs said. He was transported to the Provost Marshal's Office to await extradition and was subsequently turned over to Calhoun County law enforcement.

## TIP OF THE WEEK

The garrison commander and the fire chief have amended the local FJ REG 420-90 to include the use of outdoor fire pits. The guidelines are listed below.

For the purpose of this regulation, the term "fire pits" refers to outdoor fire pits, fireplaces and chimineas. Outdoor fire pits must be commercially manufactured.

Self-made fire pits are strictly prohibited. Commercially manufactured fire pits shall not be used indoors, on porches, in garages or in carports. Fire pits shall be under close supervision by an adult at all times when in use. The only materials that may be burned in fire pits are raw, untreated wood. A garden hose must be available at all times during the use of the fire pit. Fire pits must be of a type approved by the Fort Jackson Fire Department, enclosed on all sides, with a cover.

Fire pits must be located at least 10 feet away from combustible materials and/or all buildings when in use. After using the fire pit, hot coals and embers must be completely extinguished with water. In addition to these requirements, users must follow all manufacturers' recommended procedures and safety precautions.

To schedule an inspection of your fire pit call the Fire Prevention Branch at 751-1610/1611/5239/1411.

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1-888-559-TIPS  
[www.midlandscrimestoppers.com](http://www.midlandscrimestoppers.com)

## Simons promoted

Lt. Col. Raymond Simons, Fort Jackson's provost marshal and director of Emergency Services, was promoted during a ceremony Friday at the Directorate of Emergency Services Building.



**SIMONS**

**facebook**

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