FORT JACKSON - SOUTH CAROLINA

Retiree Bulletin

VOLUME 1 * 2005

From the Chairman ....

In the last bulletin Col (Ret) Jack Hupp began by saying that "change continues to be a key word at Fort Jackson." While there are no additional changes to the key leadership on Fort Jackson to report, there is on the Retiree Council. Back in October I was given the privilege by BG (P) Turner to become the new Retiree Council Chairman and I would like to thank him for this opportunity and his faith, confidence and unrelenting support of our retiree community.

Allow me a moment to introduce myself. My name is Col (Ret) Mike Molosso, USA and I retired in February 2003 after just a little less than 28 years of service. My final duty station was here at Fort Jackson where I served at the Soldier Support Institute as Commandant of the Adjutant General School, Chief of the Adjutant General Corps and Chief, Army Bands. I am a member of the Military Affairs Committee for the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the National Executive Council of the AG Regimental Association, the AUSA and the MOAA. I am married with two children (one in college and one in kindergarten and that is not a typo). We have lived in NE Columbia since summer of 2000.

Before I go any further, thanks to Jack Hupp for his personal support and for the loyal "above and beyond the call" service he has provided Fort Jackson and the entire Columbia area community for these many years. I learned many years ago that trying to fill the shoes of a great American patriot and icon like Jack Hupp is impossible, so my plan is to simply wear my own shoes and do my best to continue the tradition of excellence and service to the retiree community that Jack has so ably fostered and accomplished. Thanks Jack. Your legacy will live on for many years to come. Best of Luck and keep hitting them "Long and Straight" out there at our tremendous Fort Jackson Golf Course. Maybe we can have a strategy session or two out there one of these days!

Please take a few minutes and work your way through the rest of this bulletin. You will find a great deal of info on current events and support here at Fort Jackson.

A key topic this time around is the 2005 Retiree Appreciation Day which has been expanded to two days this year. It will occur on 29-30 April and we are very excited about its prospects. There is a flyer with information on the agenda on page 6 of this bulletin. I ask you to read it thoroughly. For those who have come and supported us every year you will see changes from past years and additions (hopefully for the good) that I believe will enhance your RAD experience. For those who have not attended in the past, this year is a great time to start. There will be a variety of activities designed to inform you, allow you to renew old friendships, start new ones and experience first hand that Fort Jackson considers each and every one of us important and committed to providing the very best support they can. I would like to strongly encourage all to attend. I think you will be very pleased with what you see and take away. It should be a great time. I would also suggest you get your RSVPs in as early as possible. We expect record attendance this year.

By now, you should be very aware of the strong interest BG (P) Turner has in supporting our retiree population and the priority he has given that support. On the day he assumed command it was one of his key, stated priorities and he continues to express his appreciation for our service and demonstrate his commitment to our support. At the October Retiree Council meeting, he once again, reinforced his position and commitment. We are extremely lucky to have a leader like him. I am confident he will continue to do whatever he can to ensure we feel welcome and supported.

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From the Chairman
(continued)

I am very excited and honored to be given this opportunity. There is no greater responsibility for a retiree than to be given the responsibility to help watch over the continued support of those who have selflessly served their Nation. Have no doubt in your mind, whether you retired many years ago or last week, the Retiree Council and I are here for you and interested in doing our best to represent your interests. I encourage you to seek me out or one of the other members listed on this bulletin if you have input or issues. I can't promise action or change on each individual issue, but I can assure you your input will be heard and considered. A special thanks to Jim Rodgers and the Enlisted Retiree Association for inviting me to their dinner at the NCO Club in November. It was a wonderful evening and a pleasure meeting everyone. Thanks to all the members for your hospitality and I look forward to doing it again.

Thanks to Col Eddie Stephens, Col (Ret) Scott Nahrwold, Col (Ret) Bob Youmans, and the entire Garrison Staff, Col Jim Baunchalk and the Moncrief Hospital staff and the many other agencies across Fort Jackson for their continuing support of our community. We greatly appreciate your friendship, support and efforts on our behalf. A special thanks to our RSO, 1SG (Ret) Karen Williams, for everything you do.

Before I wrap up, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to each of you for your service to our Nation and your continued support. The legacy of service you left behind is embodied in today's outstanding leaders and service members. They continue to protect our Nation and its interests around the world, most visibly, in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those leaders you helped train, mentor and grow are now allowing us and the rest of our Nation to go to bed much more safe and secure than we would be otherwise. Don't forget to say a prayer for all those great Americans in harm's way and their families. Thanks again, to every retiree and your families for all you have done and continue to do to support our Military, our Community and our Nation.

Have a great day and I look forward to seeing you at our Retiree Appreciation events in April. God Bless you, your families and the United States of America.

Very Respectfully,
Mike Molosso, Col, USA, Retired

Directorate of Human Resources

We are so excited about the two-day Retiree Appreciation Day. Fort Jackson and the city of Columbia can't wait to honor the great men and women who have so honorably served this great nation. Please put 29 and 30 April 2005 on your calendar and let us know if you can attend the golf tournament, bowling tournament or dinner. Please call/email/write with any suggestions to make the event even better. The Retirement Services Officer is Ms. Karen Williams and she can be contacted at the same numbers listed below.

Retiree Services

The Retirement Services Office is located in the Strom Thurmond Building, Bldg 5450, Room 2030, located on Strom Thurmond Blvd. Ft Jackson, SC 29207. The hours of operation are from 0730 - 1630, Monday - Friday (closed on all Federal holidays). The phone number is (803) 751-6715/5523. Karen.Williams@jackson.army.mil

To maximize your benefits see the following South Carolina websites:
Shaw Air Force Base:
https://wwwmil.shaw.af.mil/
Naval Weapons Station:
http://www.nwschs.navy.mil/
Marine Corps Air Station:
https://www.beaufort.usmc.mil/
Marine Corps Recruit Depot:
http://www.mcrdpi.usmc.mil/

Medical News

PHARMACY

Toll-free (refills):	866-489-0950
Refill (local):	751-2250
Main Outpatient Pharmacy: 0730-1730 (M-F),	
Refill Pharmacy: 0900-1800 (M-F)	
Main Outpatient	751-2385
Refill, Voice	751-4609
Refill, Automated	751-2250

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MEDICAL NEWS CONTINUED -

NOTE: NEW!! Before your spouse, family member or close friend involved in your healthcare can pick-up your prescriptions, we require your signed authorization. You can pick-up an authorization form in the pharmacy or in Medical Correspondence, Room 903. Kathleen Bryant, RHIT HIPAA Privacy Officer (751-4510)

The Call-In refill system has two changes: Controlled substances (number starts with a 3) can only be refilled at the Main Pharmacy Hospital. They can still be called in but must be picked up at the Hospital site. Due to the large volume of refills, the refill turn-around time is now 48 hours minimum. Call in before noon on Monday and it will be ready for pickup by Wednesday. Call in by Friday noon, and it will be ready on Tuesday. Calls made after 1200 will be processed one day later.

Helpful websites:
http://www.moncrief.amedd.army.mil and http://www.tricare.osd.mil. Check out a new Office of Personnel Management website: www.opm.gov/healthierfeds

TRICARE Online Would you like to make an appointment 24 hours a day, seven days a week? Now you can by visiting http://www.tricareonline.com

For additional info, go to our website: www.moncrief.amedd.army.mil

Moncrief's POC can be reached at 751-0338. Please look for a computer kiosk set up across from the MACH information desk to assist with registration if necessary.

New toll-free number for 803-751-CARE (2273): 877-273-5584.

Army Career Alumni Program

All Army retirees are authorized to utilize ACAP services on a lifetime basis. Retirees' spouses and dependents are also eligible for service. All other retirees are eligible for 180 days following their retirement. Come see us in building 4600, Strom Thurmond Blvd. Hours of operation 0800-1600, 751-6062

Well Being

Fort Jackson continues to lead the way with the integrated issue resolution process Community FIRST! (Feedback, Issues, Resolutions and Solutions Today!), a cooperated effort between Well-Being, AFAP and the Garrison. In the past, the annual Army Family Action Plan Symposium was the only forum available to address community concerns.

Well-Being and Community FIRST! are committed to seeing our Fort Jackson community receive immediate attention to their issues of concern. Community FIRST! is simply an enhancement of the AFAP process to increase the efficiency of the issue solicitation and resolution process. The program is administered quarterly instead of yearly. Issues important to the community can now be submitted through Community FIRST! issue sheets on the regularly-updated Well-Being page of the Fort Jackson website, Interactive Customer Evaluation links, or by using ICE customer comment cards located throughout the post community.

You can drop off or mail your issues to the Well-Being office at U.S. Army Garrison, Attn: Well-Being Management Office, 4325 Jackson Blvd., Fort Jackson, SC 29207.

The issues are worked immediately through the Community FIRST! process. Focus groups will be held by constituent group to review issues and surface any new issues. This office will direct the issue to the proper directorate or organization. Issues that are beyond the scope of the installation will be discussed by the Well-Being Action Council and voted for forwarding to higher headquarters. Feedback from Community FIRST! and ICE are part of the Well-Being process that focuses on individual and constituent needs of the community.

The issues and responses for FY04 and 1st Quarter, FY05 can be found on the Well-Being page of the Fort Jackson website. The next Town Hall meeting will be in late March. Issues surfaced in 1st and 2nd Quarter, FY 05 will be discussed during this Town Hall Meeting. The Garrison Leadership and Directorates will be present. There will be more information to follow. For more information on detailed issues or questions please go to the Fort Jackson Well-Being Homepage:

http://www.jackson.army.mil/WellBeing/wellbeing.htm

Legal Advice

Tips on Purchasing a Timeshare
CPT John C. Koch

Planning your next vacation? Perhaps you have considered purchasing a timeshare. Timesharing is a popular way to take a vacation, but problems can occur. The promoters' glamorous promises are not fulfilled, projects go bankrupt, trades for exotic spots don't materialize and those who bought under pressure come to regret their hasty decisions.

Many sellers of timeshares offer gifts to get you to listen to a sales presentation. Remember that the free gift or vacation certificate is an inducement for you to listen to a sales presentation for an offer that involves a large sum of money. Purchasing a timeshare is a major investment and you want to know what you are buying. Ask questions and do not sign anything unless you are fully aware of the consequences.

There are two basic types of timesharing plans. In a deeded plan, you buy an ownership interest in a piece of real estate. In a non-deeded plan, you buy a lease, license, or club membership that lets you use the property for a specific amount of time each year for a specific number of years. With both types, the cost of your unit is related to the season and the length of time that you want to buy.
While many timeshare ventures have been successful, problems can arise for buyers in several areas. One reason why people buy timeshares is the convenience of pre-arranged vacation facilities. Consider whether you'll be able to use a timeshare facility year after year. Are your vacation plans sometimes subject to last-minute changes, or do they vary in length and season from year to year? Does the property have flexible use plans? Are you, and will you be, in good enough physical and financial health to travel to your timeshare?

Consider the total costs when purchasing a timeshare. The total cost includes mortgage payments and expenses, such as travel costs, annual maintenance fees and taxes, closing costs, broker commissions, and finance charges. Annual maintenance fees can range from $300 to $500 and must be paid whether or not you use the unit. To help evaluate the purchase, compare the total timeshare costs with rental costs for similar accommodations and amenities for the same time and in the same location.

Don't act under impulse or under pressure. Take the documents home to review. Ask a professional to review the paperwork before you buy. If the seller won't let you take the documents, or tells you that this is a “one-shot” deal, just say no. If the contract does not provide a “cooling-off” period during which you can cancel and get a refund, ask to include this clause.

Before you sign a contract, be sure to get answers to the following questions in writing:

* Does your contract give you an ownership, lease, or a security interest?
* If a leasehold timeshare, how long is its duration?
* Can you sell your timeshare yourself, or does the developer have exclusive sale rights?
* If your title is for ownership, make sure that the contract waives the “right to partition” so that another tenant can't compel the sale of the whole unit to get cash for his share.
* Make sure that the contract is specific about maintenance fees. If such fees are not listed, will you be handed a bill for additional costs in several years?
* Will the fee increase each year?
* Make sure the developer owns the property. If he holds it under a lease, is it certain that you have your right to occupancy every year for the duration of your contract?
* Make certain all promises made by the salesperson are written into the contract.

Before signing, contact the Better Business Bureau and consumer protection office to make sure that your resort will be a good place to vacation.

If you purchase and are not satisfied with the facilities, you can file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by contacting the Consumer Response Center by phone: toll-free 1-800-FTC-HELP (382-4357); TDD: 202-326-2502; by mail: Consumer Response Center, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580, or through the Internet, using the online complaint form at http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/consumer/htm.

FORT JACKSON LEADER
Stay informed on Fort Jackson events and issues by visiting www.jackson.army.mil or access The Leader Online at www.fortjacksonleader.com

Morale, Welfare & Recreation Activities

Palmetto Falls Water Park Set To Start Second Season

Palmetto Falls Water Park, MWR's newest family outdoor recreation facility opened last summer. The Waterpark will officially open for its second season on Memorial Day Weekend, 2005.

The park features a 10,000-square foot main pool, 800 linear foot “lazy river,” a large “corkscrew” water slide, two large speed slides, two small speed slides for the children's activity pool, a toddler pool and a four-lane lap pool. A snack bar is also on site.

The park is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and primarily serves DoD identification card holders (all Soldiers and family members; military retirees and their family members; and DoD civilian employees and their families). For more information call ticket office at (803) 751-3381

Palmetto Falls Water Park

2005 Admission Rates	E1 - E4 & Families	E5 - E6 & Families	E7 & Up, Retirees, DOD Civilians & Families	Non ID Card Holders
* Daily	$2.50	$3.50	$4.50	***$7.50
Punch Card (10 Visits)	$15.95	$20.95	$25.95	N/A
Season Single	$35	$50	$60	N/A
**Season Family	$80	$110	$130	N/A

Community Concert Series Begins 3rd Year on April 16

The Fort Jackson Officers' Club kicks off free Community Concert Series for their third year with all the great variety, bands, food and entertainment you have come to expect.

All concerts are free and open to everyone. You do not have to be an officer or a member of the club. You can even bring your civilian friends! The first concert will feature a BBQ Rib Cook-Off.

At press time the 2005 Concert Series acts were in the process of being selected and confirmed. If there is a particular band or genre of music you would like featured, call Theresa O'Hagan at MWR Marketing, (803) 751-6990 or send an email to opshalt@jackson.army.mil.

The concerts, normally held on Saturdays, begin at 4:30 p.m. on the lawn adjacent to the Officers' Club. For more information call 782-8761.

Sgt. Suds Car Wash Opens

Americans love their cars. Many people devote a lot of time and energy to taking care of their cars. For some cleaning the car is a regularly scheduled, enjoyable event. For others it's a chore that should be put off as long as possible usually to the point when it is either too embarrassing or too dangerous to drive.

This February it became easier for everyone to keep their vehicle squeaky clean with the addition of Sgt. Suds Car Wash located next to Burger King on Strom Thurmond Blvd.

The car wash was built at no cost to the Government. The Public Private Venture (PPV) Program began in 1996 as an alternative to the traditional NAF Major Construction Program whose funding had diminished. PPV gives installations the opportunity to provide wanted services or facilities to Soldiers and their families by using other people's money. The public-private sectors partner to create a “win-win” agreement delivering morale-enhancing programs in exchange for a long-term real estate lease (at a fair market rental rate) and access to the military community. The developer is solely responsible for constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility. MWR is the point of contact for questions or comments.

The car wash is a self-service, 24-hours a day operation. Customers can choose to use the coin operated cleaning bays or an automatic drive-thru service. The bays are taller than the average car wash to accommodate buses and military vehicles. Using the automatic, drive-thru car wash, costumers can choose a $4, $5, $6 or $7 wash. Patrons may pay with cash or use credit cards for the drive thru service. The self-service bays are coin-operated.

BEATING OUR DRUMS TO THANK YOU

Need a hotel room?
Call
Victory Travel
1- (800) 221-3503
or
(803) 751-5812
for special government rates.

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS

FRIDAY APRIL 29TH & SATURDAY APRIL 30TH

FRIDAY

Golf Tourney

Ft Jackson Golf Club
9 am Start * Captain's Choice
$30 Member, $40 Non-Member
Register before 04/22/05
Call FJGC 787-4437 for details

No-Tap Bowling Tourney

Century Lanes Bowling Center
1:00 - 2:00 Registration * 2:00 Start
$15 includes shoe rental and prizes
Note: No-Tap simply means that the first ball thrown will count as a strike if 8 pins fall (for women) and 9 pins fall (for men). Register before 04/22/05
Call 751-6138 for details

Dinner & Dance

Ft Jackson NCO Club
6:15 cocktails * 7:00 dinner
Live Music * Dancing * $13.95 per person
Guest Speaker LTG John A. Dubia, USA Retired
Co-Chairman, Army Retiree Council
Make reservations by 04/22/05
Coat & Tie for Men; Appropriate Dress for Women; Uniforms Welcomed.
Call 782-2218 for details

SATURDAY

Retiree Recognition Ceremony

9:00 am * Darby Field
Guest Speaker, COL Jack Hupp, USA Retired
Static Displays * Light refreshments served

Retiree Expo

9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Community Activities Center
Strom Thurmond Blvd.
Displays * Information Booths
Discounts * Prizes
Refreshments Served

Agencies Represented Include:
Combat Related Special Compensation
Tricare * Delta Dental
Medicare* Dentac * Meddac * MWR
Vehicle Registration * AAFES * Commissary
SC Dept of Veterans Affiars * Vet Clinic
Legal Assistance * Defense Finance & Accounting
Armed Forces Retirement Home
AER * TREA & SJA

ID Card Services Available at the CAC
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

SEE ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM PAGE 7

R.A.D. CLIP & MAIL REGISTRATION FORM

Retiree Appreciation Days - Ft Jackson, South Carolina

If you plan to participate in the golf tournament, bowling tournament, and/or attending the dinner - please return this form by April 22, 2005 to: **Fort Jackson MWR Business Operations, 3392 Magruder, Ft Jackson, SC 29207**

Full Name: _____ Rank: _____

Address: _____ _____City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email:_____ _____

Spouse/guest name: _____

Golf Tourney yes ___ no ___ handicap ____ spouse/guest yes ___ no ___ handicap ____

Bowling Tourney yes ___ no ___ spouse/guest yes ___ no ___

Dinner yes ___ no ___ spouse/guest yes ___ no ___

or email ALL info to: _mwrallyourlife@jackson.army.mil by April 22, 2005 please.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation Activities

(continued from page 5)

CAC (Community Activities Center) Renaming and Dedication 29 March, 1030 hours

The public is invited to the renaming and dedication of the Community Activities Center (CAC) on March 29th at 10:30 am. The facility is being renamed: **MG Robert B. Solomon Center.**

Golf Club Membership Drive

The 2005 Membership Drive at Fort Jackson Golf Club is in full swing! From April 15th through June 15th, FJGC is conducting a membership drive with TWO options you can take advantage of.

OPTION #1 - sign up for a **one month trial membership** that requires payment of daily cart and user fees.

OPTION #2 - receive your **first month free** when signing up for a one-year membership.

For more information call the Fort Jackson Golf

Miniature Golf Coming Soon

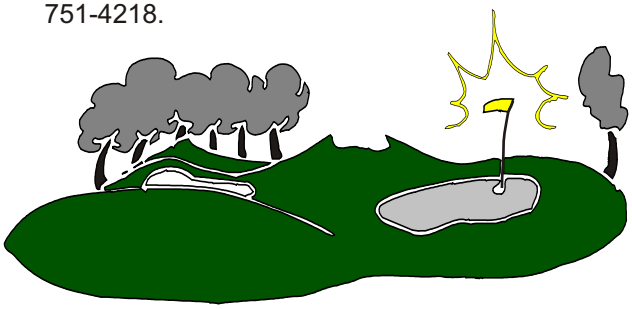
MWR is planning the opening of its newest facility Palmetto Greens Miniature Golf in early spring.

This new scaled down18-hole golf facility will be located adjacent to the Community Activities Center (CAC) and Palmetto Falls Water Park, providing hours of fun for every age group.

Although miniature golf has been a favorite game for many decades, it has evolved away from its early day predecessors of windmills and obstacles into a sport.

Today's miniature Golf Courses are “golf in miniature” facilities featuring miniature replicas of regulation golf's “Famous Holes.” Expect undulations, contours, moguls, water, sand and vegetation traps on Palmetto Greens.

Palmetto Greens will offer the player many of the challenges of real golf. Enjoy 18 holes of golf surrounded by a lush, botanical garden setting with meandering streams and waterfalls, beautiful fountain displays and realistic rock sculpturing.

This new facility will provide a park-like setting for the whole family.

For more information contact Kris Roth at 751-4218.