

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021

THE FORT JACKSON
LEADER
"VICTORY"

FORT JACKSON
FAMILY TAKES PRIDE IN
THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD
- P3



INSTALLATION UPDATES MASK POLICY - P2



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Installation updates mask policy

Leader Staff Reports

Vaccinated personnel on post are no longer required to wear a mask except in medical facilities, Fort Jackson announced Tuesday in an update to its mask wear policy.

Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander, wrote "Personal discipline and integrity will get us one step close to normal" as he signed the updated mask wear policy.

According to the updated policy, personnel are considered vaccinated 14 days after receiving the second vaccination shot or the single Johnson & Johnson shot.

Leaders can ask for proof of vaccination provided that Department of the Army civilians are not asked for proof of vaccination for purposes of determining telework status. Employees of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities can ask patrons for proof of vaccination.

Individuals who choose not to offer proof of vaccination will be considered unvaccinated, according to the policy.

Under the policy, "unvaccinated personnel will continue wearing masks inside Department of Defense facilities and social distance to the extent possible." Unvaccinated personnel outdoors wear a mask when social distancing is not achieved.

See MASK: Page 13

ON THE COVER

Fort Jackson announced an update to its mask wear policy this week. Vaccinated personnel on post are no longer required to wear a mask except in medical facilities.

- SEE THIS PAGE

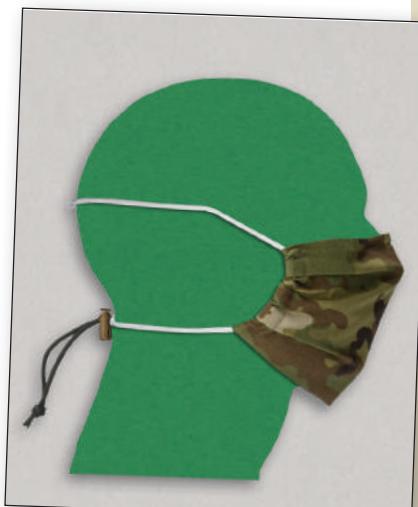


Illustration by WALLACE McBRIDE

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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ing a mask when outdoors or in office spaces and office buildings, regardless of their ability to social distance. Additionally, fully vaccinated personnel are exempt from wearing a mask when off the installation (subject to any state or local restrictions).

Q. Are mask requirements lifted for the PX, Commissary, medical/dental facilities, CDC/SAC, and designated MWR facilities?

A. Our medical and dental facilities have patients that are sick and/or have comorbidities, so in an effort to reduce risk to our community, all personnel will wear masks in those facilities.

Fully vaccinated personnel do not need to wear masks in non-patient care areas. (e.g private offices PX, commissary, MWR facilities). Unvaccinated personnel must wear masks inside all Fort Jackson facilities.

Q. If I am fully vaccinated, may I elect to wear a mask while on Fort Jackson?

A. Yes. You are free to wear a mask even if you are fully vaccinated.

See QUESTIONS: Page 14

MASK POLICY Q&A

Q: How does the new FJ mask guidance apply to me?

A: Masks are required in medical facilities on Fort Jackson in all patient care areas (regardless whether or not involved in patient care). All patients are required to wear masks in health care facilities. Vaccinated staff are allowed to unmask in administrative spaces where no patient care is being conducted. Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks with the exception of when inside of health care facilities. Fully vaccinated is defined as more than 14 days from the final vaccine dose (two doses for the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine).

Q. If I am fully vaccinated, where does the new mask exemption apply?

A: Fully vaccinated personnel are exempt from wear-



Photo by JOSIE CARLSON

Command Sgt. Maj. Algrish Williams, left, and 165th Infantry Brigade leadership pose with Velasquez Family members May 18 after receiving their certificates.

Fort Jackson Family takes pride in their neighborhood

By JOSIE CARLSON
Fort Jackson Leader

Earth Day brought a lot of people outside to take care of Fort Jackson but one Family in particular went above and beyond.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Velasquez, a drill sergeant with 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, and his Family were recognized by Garrison leadership for the Family's efforts to clean up their neighborhood.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Algrish Williams thanked the Family at a ceremony in the Fort Jackson Family Homes Office. "Thank you all for doing what normally we would ex-

pect to see people do in front of their homes but at the end of the day you guys went so far above and beyond ... thank you for going out and just trying to make Fort Jackson Family Homes better."

Each member of the Family received a certificate of appreciation which read, "In great appreciation for your efforts to keep our Fort Jackson Family Homes and its neighborhood clean, the United States Army Garrison Fort Jackson thanks you for taking time out of your day to go beyond your home boundaries to clean up your neighborhood. Your pride in community, dedication and selfless service reflects great credit upon you your family the

organization and the United States army.

Vanessa Velasquez said in Hawaii, their previous duty station, it was normal for children to go on field trips to pick up trash at the beach for Earth Day. Her son wanted to know what they would be doing for Earth day here. Velasquez called her husband to ask if they had vests and supplies and they quickly set out to clean and make the community look better.

Speaking about going out with her kids, Vanessa said, "Hopefully it taught them how to take care of the planet and take care of our community ... that's what I was trying to do, I was not expecting to be recognized for it."

**THANK YOU FOR
GOING OUT AND
JUST TRYING TO MAKE
FORT JACKSON FAMILY
HOMES BETTER.**

Garrison Command Sgt.
Maj. Algrish Williams

*Photos by MEL SLATER*

Pfc. Mason Calhoun, introduces his Family members during the Advanced Individual Training graduation ceremony for 56M, religious affairs specialist, of class 21-007 May 13.

Families return to Chaplain School graduations

By MEL SLATER**Army Chaplain Center and School**

There is an often used quote that says, "The Army enlists Soldiers, but reenlists Families."

U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School Commandant, Chap. (Col.) Bryan Walker offers a different perspective.

"Without the support of Families and friends we would not have people in the Army," Walker said. "When a younger person makes a decision to come in, they talk to Family members. If a Family member says, 'no' that's the worst thing you can do, they don't come in the Army. When the Family says we're supportive, then they come in."

Families were very much a part of May 20 activities as Soldiers in class 21-008 graduated from their seven-week training course to earn the 56M, religious affairs specialists, military occupational specialty.

The Soldiers were allowed to meet with their Family members who attended after the graduation. The Families had not seen their Soldiers since they left for Basic

Combat Training weeks before.

The last in-person graduation was held in March 2020. The graduations are held in the Chaplain School Auditorium on the campus grounds at Fort Jackson.

It was the second class of the school year to have Family members in attendance. There was one Soldier in the previous class who had Family members in attendance, but there were seven Soldiers with Families in attendance for the class 21-008 graduation.

Each of the Soldiers stood and proudly introduced their Family members in attendance at the graduation. Chaplain School senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. John Tanchak joked with one of the Soldiers.

"Holy cow! You have about 30 people back there," Tanchak said. "It's been some time since we've had Families here. (It has been) like over a year. So give them all a round of applause. Thank you for coming, thank you for your sons or your daughters, for your future husbands or wives. Thank you so much for letting them serve."

See **CHAPLAIN:** Page 13



Pfc. Mason Calhoun, introduces his Family members during the Advanced Individual Training graduation ceremony for 56M, religious affairs specialist, class 21-007 May 13.



Photos by JOSIE CARLSON

Soldiers speak with two deputies recruiting for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office during a career fair at the NCO club May 19.

Job fair brings 18 employers to Fort Jackson

By JOSIE CARLSON
Fort Jackson Leader

The Fort Jackson Transition Assistance Program hosted an in-person career fair May 19 at the NCO Club open to Department of Defense ID card holders to allow employers to present their employment opportunities to Soldiers, spouses, veterans and retirees.

Lewis Kellam, director of human resources, opened the event by thanking the employers who participated in the event.

"Your efforts today will help us combat the challenges that these transitioning veterans and their family members are facing in obtaining employment," Kellam said.

Eighteen organizations from various industries signed up to have a table at the career fair.

Deputy John Fulton and a team of recruiters traveled from Tampa, Florida, to recruit

for Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

"The reason we come up here is to continue to help Soldiers transition to the civilian life," Fulton said. "I'm a retired Army Soldier. I retired in 2016. I figured this event would be a great way to show other Soldiers who are either getting out or getting ready to retire how to find another career. If you want to continue to work, (if you have) that passion to help people, this agency is a great agency to work for."

Carolyn Andrews, transition services manager, said employers who come to the career fair know the individuals seeking employment come with a certain skill set and have great transition skills.

"This is a collaborative effort that they always support because they see the value in our Soldiers and their Families," Andrews said.

Other organizations represented included, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Veterans Affairs and other local and national firms.



A Soldier speaks with representatives from Amazon during a career fair at the NCO club May 19.

MAHC victim's advocate garners spirit award

By REGINALD ROGERS
Moncrief Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Betsy Upton chooses to find happiness in the compassion and selfless service of assisting others with their problems, no matter how big or small. It was that mentality that helped her earn the Spirit Award as she completed the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program career course April 30.

Upton, a native of Catheys Valley, California, left Fort Jackson to attend the Army's

SHARP Academy Class 21-004, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas March 21. She now works as a SHARP victim's advocate at Moncrief Army Health Clinic. She said it is the ideal job for her, as she enjoys helping others.

"My whole life, I've always advocated for others," she said. "I am a big sister. I am the oldest of four, so there's lots of advocating there. I've always been able to identify when someone needs something, and they just can't say it. I've always recognized that look. I'm not sure if it's a gift or a curse, but I can pick someone out in the hallway with no problem."

Upton said when she saw that there was an opening for a victims' advocate at Moncrief, she knew it was the job for her.

"I knew this was the whole thing for SHARP and for the Army, I knew this was what I've wanted to do. It started when I was a private first class. You can't do it unless you're at least a staff sergeant, so I made it a goal that as soon as I was eligible, that's what I was going to do," she continued.

Upton joined the Army in 2011, as she wanted to follow in the military footsteps of both of her grandfathers, one of which was in the Army during World War II, and the other an Air Force veteran. She said the enjoyment of her Army experience has come as no surprise.

"It's different for me," she explained. "I

MY WHOLE LIFE,
I'VE ALWAYS
ADVOCATED
FOR OTHERS.
I AM A BIG
SISTER. I AM
THE OLDEST
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SO THERE'S
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THERE.

STAFF SGT.
BETSY UPTON



Photo by REGINALD ROGERS

Staff Sgt. Betsy Upton, a Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention Program Victims' Advocate assigned to Moncrief Army Health Clinic, receives the Spirit Award from Combined Arms Center Chaplain Col. Michael Jeffries, upon completing the SHARP Career Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upton attended the course from March 21-April 30.

was one of those people who went into the recruiting office and told them exactly what I wanted. I had my plan and that was what they did. However, they knew nothing about the job that I wanted, so they had to look in a manual.

"Well, the manual is designed to say all of the good things and bring people in (to the Army). So, in reality, you really don't know what you're going to do because it doesn't work that in. I was already prepared for (Army life), so it wasn't much of a shocker," added Upton, whose military occupation specialty is 68M, Nutrition Care Specialist.

She said the SHARP career course provided in-depth knowledge about processing

sexual harassment and sexual assaults, to include the legal and readiness aspects of the cases, and the Army's prevention efforts.

Upton said being named as the Spirit Award winner was an amazing experience for her. She explained she was honored to receive an award for just being herself.

"It felt amazing. I actually gave myself a 'golf clap,'" she said. It felt great because I really do try to always embody that, and without pushing my bias or opinions on people, I also try to get them out of their comfort zones and see how people really are.

Upton said part of the course discussion included male victims and male empowerment.

"That's what I'm really passionate about," she explained. "Also about seeing that someone who is 6'2, 240 pounds who is just as vulnerable as someone like me, who's about 5'3 and 120 pounds."

She said she looks to bring the same elements that allowed her to become the Spirit Award winner back to her Moncrief family.

"I don't change being me. I just keep doing what I'm doing. The Army's complicated because there are a lot of different people who make up the Army. Meeting other individuals and seeing their tactics and what they do in their environments, allows me to bring the lessons learned back and adapt that for us," Upton said.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent Services is moving

The Parent Central Services Team will be located in the following Child, Youth Services locations June 1, in order to provide the best customer service to you, no matter where you are:

- Scales CDC Bldg. 4581 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Imboden CDC Bldg. 5979 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- SKIES, Bldg. 6100 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (recommended for all Youth Sports/SKIES registrations)
- Joe E. Mann Bldg. 3392 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information call, 751-4824/4865

S.C. Retiree Bulletin

The Fort Jackson Retiree Bulletin can be accessed on the Fort Jackson website at <https://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-human-resources/military-personnel-division/sfl-rso>. Retirees can request a copy of the Retiree Bulletin by e-mail or regular mail by contacting the Retirement Services Officer at 751-5523.

Reporting Abuse

Every Soldier and member of the military community should report information about known and suspected cases of spouse abuse to include intimate partner violence and child abuse to the Fort Jackson Reporting Point of Contact (military police). The 24-hour report line is (803) 751-3113. If you would like to schedule a "Healthy Relationship" training or talk to a Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate, call the 24-hour response line at (803) 429-4870.

Post Newcomers Orientation

9 a.m., Post Theater, 1st Thursday of every month (except federal holidays). The orientation is mandatory for all Soldiers and required for all Department of the Army Civilians arriving to Fort Jackson. It is a great opportunity for spouses to receive first-hand information about the valuable resources on and around Fort Jackson. Please note, everyone in attendance will be required to adhere to the updated mask police, dated May 25. For more information, call Army Community Service at 751-5256.

AAFES hiring

Army & Air Force Exchange Service is hiring. Join the AAFES family by applying at applymyexchange.com. For more information, call (803) 782-7739 ext. 123 or 121.

Community Resource Guide

Searching for Fort Jackson resources? The installation has a Community Resource Guide at: <https://crg.amedd.army.mil/guides/tradoc/jackson/Pages/>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MAY 31

Memorial Day

11:30 a.m. Centennial Park. Fort Jackson will remember and honor those who died for

our country in active military service. Take time to remember the sacrifices of those who gave their all. The ceremony is by invitation only.

JUNE 2

Pillowcase Project

4 p.m. The American Red Cross is offering a free virtual youth disaster preparedness presentation for elementary-aged kids at Fort Jackson. Kids will receive an emergency preparedness activity book and an age appropriate presentation to help teach them how to stay safe during a disaster. The Pillowcase Project presentation, tailored for children in grades 3-5 (ages 8-11), is a 40- to 60-minute virtual presentation that teaches children to identify the best ways to stay safe during emergencies and gain knowledge and skills to use during emergencies. Use passcode 06022021 and join by Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88602410197?pwd=em5KMjhLbkFPd3U0Vy9VRmpMeExrdz09>

JUNE 7-30

StoryWalk at Patriots Park

Sunrise to Sunset. Patriots Park. Outdoor recreation and the Post Library host a StoryWalk in Patriots Park. Follow the story pages of a select novel by walking through a course lined with excerpts from the book. For more information, call 751-6990.

JUNE 15

Garrison Change of Command

11 a.m. Victory Hall. Col. John "Wes" Hanks will relinquish command of USAG Fort Jackson to Col. Ryan M. Hanson during a change of command ceremony.

Shred Day

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 5671 Lee Road. Fort Jackson's Recycling Center will host a Shred Day to help the community dispose of papers that need shredding. The services will be open to unit, office, and the personal needs of the Fort Jackson community. For more information, call 751-4208.

JUNE 19

Outdoor Rock Painting

10-11 a.m. Thomas Lee Hill Library. Come paint your very own rock and then you can choose to keep it or hide it around Fort Jackson for others to find. Then keep a lookout for rocks that other people have painted. All supplies will be provided. For more information, call the library at 751-5589.

JUNE 20-25

Young Heroes Adventure Camp

A Young Heroes Adventure Camp for youth of deployed service members will be held at Camp Long, near Aiken, S.C. For the child to be eligible, the service member must be deployed or have returned from deployment in the last six months. The camp is for youths ages 12-16. The camp, sponsored by the South Carolina 4-H, will include a

**SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
FJLeader@gmail.com**

Deadline for events to be included in the calendar or Happenings is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible.

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names. Questions? Call 751-3615.



Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY

- Mortal Kombat (R) 2 p.m.
- Separation (R) 5 p.m.

JUNE 6

- Here Today (PG) 2 p.m.
- Wrath of Man (R) 5 p.m.

JUNE 12

- Those Who Wish Me Dead (PG) 2 p.m.
- Spiral: From the Book of Saw (R) 5 p.m.

TICKETS

First Run
Adult: \$8.50 / Child (6 to 11): \$6.50

Other

Adult: \$6.50 / Child (6 to 11): \$4.25

- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

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'THIS IS MY SQUAD'

U.S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CENTER AND SCHOOL

PVT. JONATHAN DOWLER

Greenfield, Maryland

"Joining the Army was the change I needed to discover a new me."

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist. This MOS chose me and I love being able to help Soldiers."

"I will continue my service to help Soldiers grow."



SPC. MICAH McCRARY

Knoxville, Tennessee

"I joined the Army to complete four years as a Religious Affairs Specialist while I also pursue my Master of Divinity degree."

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist. I chose this MOS so I could learn from the enlisted unit ministry team position and eventually become a chaplain."

"I enjoy this MOS because I can spread the Gospel and be there for Soldiers that need a helping hand."

"I plan on serving for many years to come."



PVT. ESMERALDA GUTIERREZ GONZALEZ

Los Angeles

"I joined the Army to provide a better future for my Family."

"My MOS is 56M - Religious Affairs Specialist. This MOS chose me, as if it was a calling from God."

"I enjoy this MOS because it gives me an opportunity to help others and learn about new religions."

"I will continue serving to keep my Family together."



MONCRIEF ARMY HEALTH CLINIC

STAFF SGT. JAMELYNN NON

Mount Holly, New Jersey

"I come from a generation of Family members that served within the military, and it was innate (to me) to continue the legacy of service. It has always been my desire to be a part of something bigger that would challenge me daily in a way that affords personal growth and development (while) providing opportunities to give back to others. I also wanted my children and their children to reap the benefits of the foundation set. My favorite mantra is, 'As iron sharpens iron', this is at the center of my 'why.' It is the team, the comradery, the ability to impart, and (the desire to) create impact for positive change as to why I joined the Army."

"My MOS is 68W - Combat Medic Specialist. I selected this MOS because of my love for medicine, and I wanted to be a part of a field where I could provide care to others in need."

"What I enjoy most about my job is the ability to educate others on ways to improve or maintain their health, and work with a diverse group of people. There are always advancements in technology and standards of care, which contributes to lifelong learn-



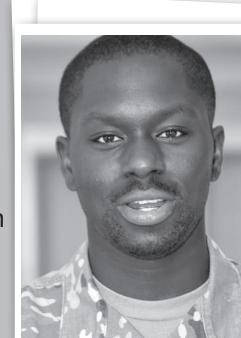
SGT. JAMES AKINOLA

Philadelphia

"I joined the Army for a few reasons but mainly to serve this country, get back into shape, and a change in scenery."

"My MOS is 68W - Combat Medic Specialist. I chose a healthcare specialist to strengthen my foundation in healthcare and to ultimately help others heal and return to duty."

"I enjoy providing health services for those in need."



SGT. LEONARDO FIGUEROA

Orlando, Florida

"I joined the Army as an opportunity to learn a new skill set as I have never worked in the medical field. Also, as a way to continue my civilian education while serving in the US Army."

"My MOS is 68P - Radiology Specialist. I selected this MOS because I saw it to be challenging and a skill that I can use outside of the military as well. Radiographers play a vital role in healthcare. More and more, doctors are relying on the precise diagnostic tests that radiography equipment provides ... Radiologic technologists can play an important role in helping prepare patients for those tests both physically and emotionally."

"This job is great for those who wish to be in the medical field, are creative, wish to help others, and have great attention to detail. Becoming a radiologic technologist is like having the best of both worlds: you're highly involved with people, and you get recognition as a highly trained professional."





Far away
From all they knew,
With hearts of pride
And courage true,

Vowed to serve
As freedom's light,
And through their strength
Our nation's might,

They gave all
Our brave defenders,
Where poppies lie,
We will remember.



PoppyInMemory.com

REMEMBER SAFETY ON Memorial Day Weekend

Fort Jackson Safety Office

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. It is also the unofficial start of summer, and as you head to the beach, the pool, or to the mountains for a camping vacation, we encourage you and your family to keep safety in mind.

Statistics show that accident rates climb during extended holiday weekends, so we all need to re-focus on safety both at work, and at home. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration tracks the number of traffic fatalities that occur over selected holiday periods in order to illustrate the risks of holiday highway travel:

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY 2019

Total Traffic Fatalities: 453
Alcohol Related Traffic Fatalities: 170
Percent Alcohol Related: 37%

*Source - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration FARS data

Remember to drive sober, rested, adhering to posted signage and or existing driving conditions. Always travel with all occupants secured with seatbelts and never attempt to multi-task while operating a motor vehicle.

SUN SAFETY

Summer means fun in the sun! But be safe – don't let a heat-related illness ruin your day.

- Avoid sun exposure during the hottest hours of the sun's rays.
- Apply sunscreen with a SPF (Sun Protec-

tion Factor) of at least 15, paying special attention to the face, nose, ears and shoulders.

- Wear a hat.
- Wear sunglasses with UV (Ultraviolet) Protection.
- Drink plenty of water and non-carbonated drinks, even if you do not feel thirsty.

PANDEMIC SAFETY

Please don't drop your guard now and become overwhelmed by pandemic fatigue. Keep alert to the lurking potential dangers of the virus:

- Follow mask policies and rules
- Avoid large crowd gatherings
- Maintain social distancing

GRILLING SAFETY

Always read the use and care manual before operating your grill.

- Never leave grill unattended when in use.
- Reheat grill to no higher than medium-high. Temperature of grill should be 400 to 450°F because high heat and excess fat can cause flare-ups.

If flare-ups do occur, move food to a cooler spot on the grill or temporarily cut off the air supply by closing lid or shutting the air vents.

- To avoid flare-ups you should drain off excess marinade or oil before putting food on grill, trim excess fat to 1/4-inch on steaks and chops, and remove skin and excess fat from chicken pieces.

BOATING SAFETY

Whether you're the captain of a schooner or a passenger on a ski boat, following safety

guidelines ensures your safety and that of other seafarers.

- Be weather wise: Sudden wind shifts, lightning flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing. Bring a portable radio to check weather reports.

Bring extra gear you may need:

A flashlight, extra batteries, matches, a map of where you are, flares, sun tan lotion, first aid kit, extra sunglasses. Put those that need to be protected in a watertight pouch or a container that floats.

- Tell someone where you're going, who is with you, and how long you'll be away.
- Then check your boat, equipment, boat balance, engine and fuel supply before leaving.

WATER SAFETY

The American Red Cross is brimming with water safety tips to keep your family safe this summer. The most basic: Learn to swim! Take some lessons at your local pool. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. And always swim with a buddy; never swim alone.

The American Red Cross has swimming courses for people of any age and swimming ability. To enroll in a swim course, contact your local Red Cross chapter.

- Swim in supervised areas only.
- Obey all rules and posted signs.
- Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.
- Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS



Photo by EARL JONES



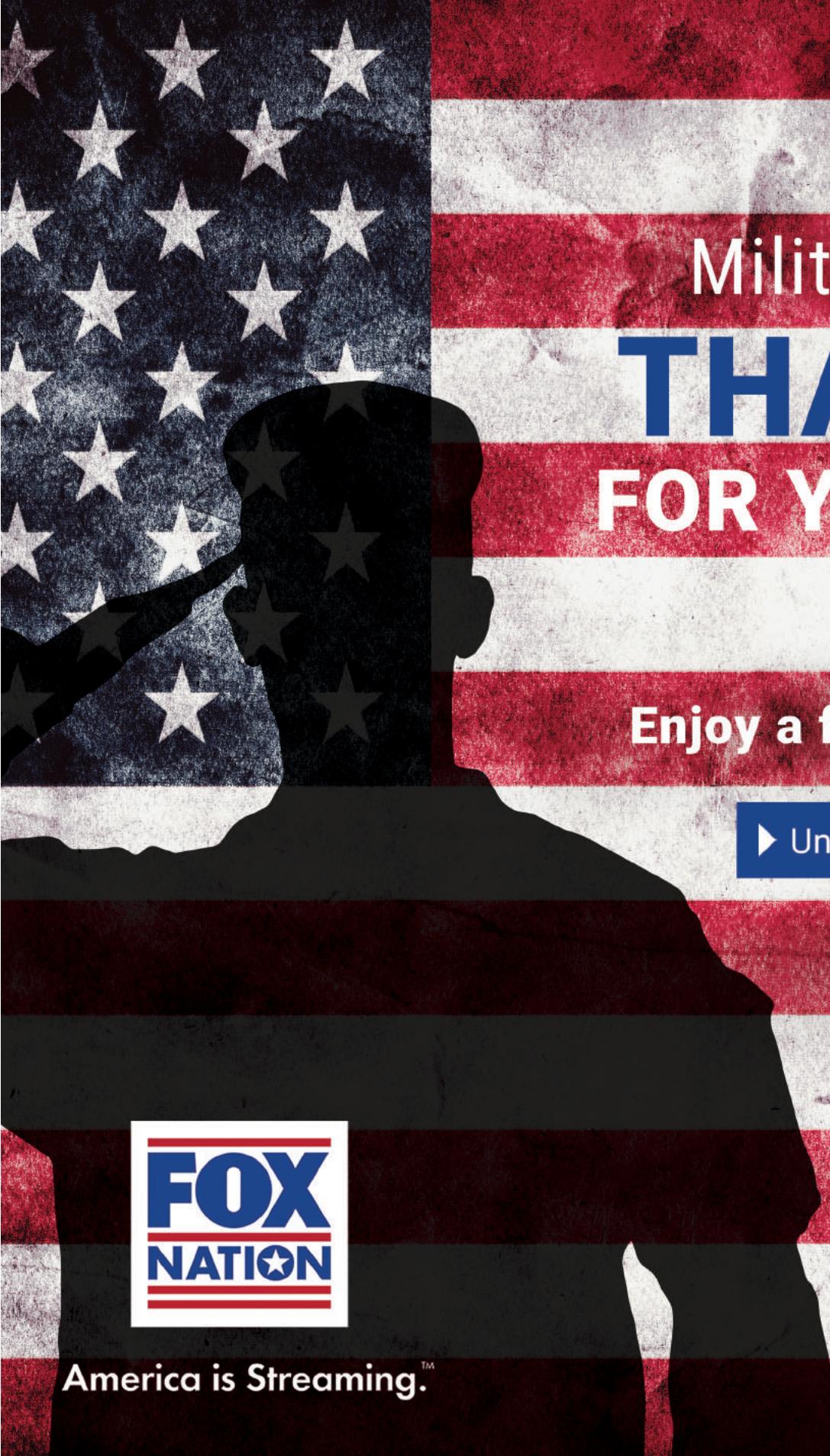
Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

A day on the greens

Golfers descended on the Fort Jackson Golf Club May 21 at the Commanding General's Quarterly Gold Tournament. Before hitting the course, they signed in, above, and practiced, left and below.



Military & Veterans
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FOR YOUR SERVICE**

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Mask

Continued from Page 2

Fort Jackson unvaccinated personnel may remove masks in the following instances and maintain social distancing when possible:

- a. When alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door.
- b. For brief periods of time when eating and drinking.
- c. When lowered briefly for identification or security purposes.
- d. When necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.
- e. When conducting physical readiness training indoors or outdoors. Wear masks while moving between workout areas and machines, but may remove masks at the workout stations.
- f. When conducting a strenuous outdoor activity, such as road marching or negotiating an obstacle course, where a sweat-soaked mask may hinder the wearer's breathing.
- g. Live-fire training and any event when the training audience or cadre must wear eye protection.
- h. When wearing a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive mask during training.

Trainees who are vaccinated wear purple beads on their Ogden cords to help identify those who have been vaccinated.

The updated policy can be found on the Fort Jackson website at: <https://home.army.mil/jackson/index.php/about/COVID-19-Prevention-and-Updates>.

Chaplain

Continued from Page 4

As the Army nears its 246th Birthday on June 14, the Chaplain School acknowledges our Army Soldiers serve the nation with honor and dignity, bringing a variety of skill-sets in career choices as chaplains and the 56M, religious affairs specialists. The chaplain and religious affairs specialists embody the core Army values as they work together as part of the unit ministry team to provide religious support services to our Soldiers, Families and Army civilians.

The next generation of religious affairs specialists of class 21-008 are now prepared to join Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard units worldwide to perform their roles in caring for the soul of the Army.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other worldwide events will provide the test of their courage and patriotism.

"This year has tested our Soldiers in more ways than one, but we are committed to ensuring that our People remain ready for any challenge in defense of our country," Sergeant Major of the Army Michael A. Grinston said recently.

The Chaplain School looks forward to seeing more Family members attend graduations.

"I think having Families join us for graduation has boosted morale and excitement among the graduates. Onlookers getting to see Soldiers hug their Families and the explosion of excitement is contagious among cadre and students," said Initial Military Training Division Chief, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Archie Durham. "Going forward the prospect of the pandemic easing and more Families attending will generate even more enthusiasm among all students

about to take on the name, religious affairs specialist."

The Chaplain School's Training Directorate and IMT Leadership extended an invitation to immediate Family members and friends to attend the graduation of Advanced Individual Training Soldiers in the Chaplain School Auditorium.

The guidelines for attendance:

- All attending Family members and guests over the age of 16 must be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus to enter the installation. Proof of vaccination is required upon arrival.
- Family members are allocated some time to spend with their Soldier after graduation.

Facebook live is available for those who are not able to attend.

For more information about AIT graduation attendance, contact Sgt. 1st Class Niesha McKnight at niesha.c.mcknight.mil@mail.mil or (803) 751-8938.

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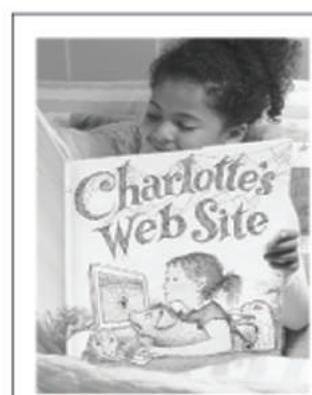
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Retirement Review

Fort Jackson honored the service of nine Soldiers during the retiree review May 25. The retirees are: Lt. Col. Lucas Hale, 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; Maj. Natacha Cerisier-Whetstone, 369th Adjutant General Battalion; Sgt. Maj. Jamaal D. Young, U.S. Army Central, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; 1st Sgt. De-Ion R. Grandison, 2503rd Digital Liaison Detachment, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; 1st Sgt. Jason W. Allman, 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment; 1st Sgt. Ronald D. Oxley, 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment; Sgt. 1st Class Mark Peck, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Terrance Hutcherson, 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; and Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Brime, U.S. Army Central, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

Screenshot

Questions

Continued from Page 2

Q. Do I have to provide proof of my vaccination?

A: To protect the health and safety of the Fort Jackson community, personnel not wearing a mask should provide proof of vaccination upon request. Personnel must wear a mask in lieu of disclosing their vaccination status.

Q: Can a supervisor ask a Soldier about his/her vaccination status?

A: Yes. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) only applies to covered entities, principally health care professionals and those working in a medical facility. To ensure compliance with Department of Defense and Army public health guidance concerning mask requirements in DOD facilities, commanders and supervisors may ask personnel in the workplace for information about receipt of the vaccine. Such inquiries are not a HIPAA violation. A Soldier misrepresenting their vaccination status may be punished under the UCMJ.

Q: Can a supervisor ask a DA Civilian about his/her vaccination status?

A: Yes, but only to ensure compliance with DOD and Army public health guidance concerning mask requirements in DOD facilities. Supervisors may not ask about an employee's vaccination status in order to make decisions about how and when employees report to the workplace instead of teleworking.

Q: Can a leader ask a contractor about his/her vaccination status?

A: Yes, but only to ensure compliance with DOD and Army public health guidance concerning mask requirements in DOD facilities.

Q: Some in my organization are vaccinated and others are not. As a supervisor, do I enforce the mask policy the same for everyone (i.e. all or none) within my organization?

A: No, the new DOD mask policy applies to individuals based on their unique vaccination status.

Q: If I have been vaccinated, do I still need to complete the mandatory health screening upon entry to Fort Jackson and Partners in Excellence unit buildings on the installation?

A: No, on Fort Jackson the COVID screen-

ing into buildings has been terminated so health screenings are no longer required. BCT and AIT Soldiers still have some PCS screening that must be executed.

Q: If I am vaccinated, do I still have to wear my mask off-post?

A: No, unless a local business establishment requires a mask. Follow local level directives.

Q: Is the mask policy punitive in nature?

A: Yes. Unvaccinated individuals who fail to abide by the restrictions in the Fort Jackson mask policy and General Order # 4 are subject to disciplinary action, including punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Civilians who violate the policy are subject to adverse administrative action or a bar from post. An unvaccinated patron refusing to wear a mask in a Fort Jackson facility can be refused service and asked to leave the facility.

Q: If in a DFMWR facility and an employee asks for proof of vaccination and I refuse can I be prevented from using the facility?

A: Yes. If asked for proof and you do not wish to verify, then you are considered unvaccinated and must wear a mask. If you refuse to wear a mask for the safety of other patrons

you can be asked to leave the facility.

Q: If I am vaccinated must I comply with the social distancing rule?

A: No. But you can still maintain social distance if you choose.

Q: If I am not vaccinated, must I maintain social distance?

A: Yes to the extent possible. There may be times when social distancing is not possible. The important action is to remain masked if you are not vaccinated.

Q: Do I have to comply with the mask policy while on leave or traveling to my next duty station or first unit of assignment?

A: Yes. Soldiers traveling to or on leave in route to their next duty assignment or first unit of assignment must comply with the Fort Jackson mask policy until they sign into their next duty station or first unit of assignment.

Q: If I am unvaccinated and traveling to my first unit of assignment with my parents, do I have to comply with the mask policy?

A: Yes. You are subject to the Fort Jackson mask policy until you sign into your first unit of assignment.



Beauty visit

Above, Marley Stokes, 2021 Miss South Carolina USA, and Fort Jackson Post Command Sgt. Maj. Philson Tavernier laugh during a meet and greet at the May 20 Basic Combat Training graduation of the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment. Stokes and Miss South Carolina Teen Augusta Roach visited the installation to get an understanding of basic training. Far left, Benjamin, a graduation attendee, speaks with Stokes. Left, Stokes and Roach pose for a photo with Staff Sgt. Lynn Suzuki, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment.

Photos by VERAN HILL

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CR-012956 5/21



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CASE NUMBER 2018-ES-27-00062

SUMMONS

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Plexiglas team wins CYS award



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Col. John ‘Wes’ Hankins, garrison commander, hands commander’s coins to members of the Child, Youth Services Plexiglas team members Maurice Turner, Saint Gilbert Charrelus, Michael Cornelius and Paula Currier during an awards presentation ceremony May 20.

By ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Four members of the Child, Youth Services Plexiglas team were awarded a CYS Award of Excellence May 21 for their efforts to protect children from COVID-19.

Maurice Turner, Saint Gilbert Charrelus, Michael Cornelius and Paula Currier received the award that represented the entire CYS world and not just Fort Jackson. The team put up Plexiglas dividers in the CYS areas to help keep children safe during the pandemic.

“The most important result is the ability of children and youth ... to be able to smile, and talk at mealtimes, and feel safe doing so,” said Sunny Bolton, Fort Jackson’s CYS coordinator. “Being able to spend time at meals and talk about the day, the food, the things that have been going on, has been critical to the mental health of children.”

The Plexiglas dividers also helped “bring a sense of normalcy back to the programs,” Bolton added.

The team was shocked to learn they had won an award.

“It was totally unexpected,” Turner

said. “It’s really an honor.”

Garrison leaders praised the team as being a reflection of Fort Jackson team work.

“This is reflective of the culture and innovation that we’ve had across the entire CYS and (Child Development Centers) and has a meaningful impact on the mission here at Fort Jackson,” said Col. John “Wes” Hankins, Garrison commander.

“Your efforts enabled CYS to lead the way for Jackson to start turning services back on,” he added.

In May 2020, CYS was the first on-post agency to reopen on post after being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The dividers helped CYS help the rest of the post move forward as it slowly recovered from the pandemic.

Not only did their efforts enable Fort Jackson’s Basic Combat Training units, and other organizations on post to keep going forward, but “the childcare being provided across the installation to help it reopen back up,” Hankins said. It allowed the missions to be successful because “those parents had some place to take their kids every day.”

Finance special guest visits SSI

By JOSIE CARLSON
Fort Jackson Leader

Lt. Gen. Thomas A. Horlander, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, visited the Finance and Comptroller School May 20-21.

During his visit, Horlander interacted and provided leader development with every class including Advanced Individual Training, Advanced Leader Course, Senior Leader Course, Basic Officer Leaders Course, and Captains Career Course.

As a primary military advisor to the Army’s senior leadership, Horlander was able to provide perspective and insight on strategic budgetary issues and other policy issues and their effects on the FC branch.

Horlander participated in a field exercise focused on Finance and Comptroller Operations supporting large scale combat operations, conducted physical training, held open forum discussions, and recognized several cadre members

for their commitment to developing FC Soldiers.

As Horlander spoke to the Soldiers in 36B, Finance Technician AIT, he talked about initially enlisting without knowing what his long term plan was, but pointed out that now he has been in the Army for 39 years.

He also explained all the opportunities the Army has afforded him such as travel and education.

“It ain’t like we’re making tons of money. But if you decide to serve your country in uniform, you will be a very wealthy person. There is more to riches than just money,” Horlander said.

Col. Greg Worley, commandant of the Finance and Comptroller School, shared the importance of Horlander’s visit.

“Fort Jackson and the Soldier Support Institute is the center of gravity for everything in the Finance and Comptroller branch.” Worley said. “We are at an inflection point in our history as we look to support the Army in LSCO/multi-domain operations, and Lt. Gen. Horlander’s guidance has been invaluable. His wise counsel and support for our branch has made a profound impact.”



Photo by JOSIE CARLSON
Lt. Gen. Thomas A. Horlander, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, answers questions from Finance and Comptroller AIT students May 21.

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