

# Army Chaplain Corps history on display at museum

**BV MEL SLATER Chaplain Center and School** 

On July 29 the Army Chaplain Corps will celebrate the 246th anniversary of its historic beginning. From the very moment in 1775 that Gen. George Washington was said to utter the words, "We need chaplains," they have been at the heart of every war in which this nation has fought, caring for the soul of the Army.

The rich history can be found at the Army Chaplain Corps Museum located on the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School campus at Fort Jackson. The museum recently reopened after being closed due to the COVID-19 pan-

Visitors to the museum travel from many parts of the country to look into the past.

The Chaplain Corps priority is people, said Marcia McManus, director of the museum. The stories are about people. Within the museum the stories come to life.

One story she spoke about was that of the SS Henry R. Mallory sinking.

"In case you don't know about the Mallory - also torpedoed by a German U-boat, but four days after the SS Dorchester, off the coast of Iceland," McManus said. "Five chaplains died that day, making that week in February 1943 the deadliest week in chaplain corps history."

The museum was authorized on Aug. 14, 1957 by General Order No 1-57 as a branch

See **MUSEUM:** Page 15



Marcia McManus, director of the Army Chaplain Corps Museum, stands before the display where on the island of New Guinea, World War II Soldiers from the 9th Ordnance Battalion used simple materials on hand to construct a chapel, the altar and its furnishings.

# ON THE COVER

Col. Kent G. Solheim, 165th **Infantry Brigade** commander. receives the unit colors from Fort Jackson Commander Brig. Gen. Patrick R. Michaelis during a change of command ceremony June 29 at Victory Field. - PAGE 3



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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For questions or concerns about subscriptions, call 803-432-6157. To submit articles, story ideas or announcements, write the Fort Jackson Leader, Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207, call 803-751-7045 or e-mail fjleader@gmail.com

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Photos by ROBERT TIMMONS

Maj. Paul Selzer, commander of troops during the ceremony, salutes the 165th Infantry Brigade Commander Col. Kent G. Solheim at the conclusion of the unit's change of command ceremony June 29 at Victory Field.

# 'Exact right person' takes command of Lightning Brigade



Col. Kent G. Solheim, 165th Infantry Brigade commander, speaks during a change of command ceremony June 29 where he assumed command of the brigade.

# **By ROBERT TIMMONS**Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Col. Kent G. Solheim took command of the Lightning Brigade from Col. Eric Flesch during a change of command ceremony at Victory Field June 29.

"It is my distinct honor to preside over today's ceremony and to share this special day with two dedicated officers," said Brig. Gen. Patrick R. Michaelis, Fort Jackson commander, during the ceremony. He presided over the ceremony that saw Flesch pass the unit colors to Michaelis, who then handed them to Solheim. "Today's passing of the colors represents the age old tradition of the transfer of the mantle of command, a turning of the page."

The passing of the colors also signifies the "welcoming of an exciting command team," he said.

"Col. Kent and Trina (Solheim) are the right command team to assume the mantle of leadership today," Michaelis said welcoming the Solheim Family. The new commander's "range of experiences give him the broad skills needed to lead the Lightning Brigade ... He has served and sacrificed at the forward edge of freedom."

Fort Jackson's 52nd Commanding General said Solheim's tenure here "will be challenging and it will be broadening."

Solheim, who enlisted as a Cavalry Scout in 1994, is the "exact right person" to hand the reins of command, Michaelis said

"What you will discover once again, is that when things are going right, they will lead you as much as you lead them," Michaelis said. "And when that happens the Lightning Brigade becomes unstoppable."

Solheim, who has had multiple operational assignments since graduating from Officer Candidate School in 1999, including numerous deployments with Special Operations Forces including as detachment commander in the 3rd Special Forces Groups' Crisis Response Force. His most recent assignment was as the Military Assistant to the Distinguished Chair of the Combating Terrorism Center, Ambassador Michael Sheehan.

"Kent now commands under 1,000 cadre, and on any given day, this team leads anywhere from 4,000 to 7,000 trainees 24/7 except for a short break over the winter holidays," Flesch said in his farewell speech.

Michaelis lauded Flesch for a "masterful performance by someone who has the knack to take difficult tasks and quickly make them easy for his Soldiers to execute."

See **LIGHTNING:** Page 12

# Jackson responds to 'dire need' for blood

**By ROBERT TIMMONS**Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Members of the Fort Jackson community laid back and stuck their arms out for a good cause June 28 as the installation held a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

Donating blood is very important, said Will Sexton, Fort Jackson fire inspector and blood drive ambassador, especially since there is a "dire need" for blood.

It's very important for the Fort Jackson community to give blood because "our blood not only helps our personnel who are part of the greater Columbia community, but also individuals who are in need of blood throughout the country."

According to the American Red Cross "every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood."

These include patients with cancer, trauma, sickle cell, burns and chronic diseases.

"The donations that we have been able to get from our donors has been down," Sexton said. "So we are actually in dire need of donations at this time. So it's critical to donate."

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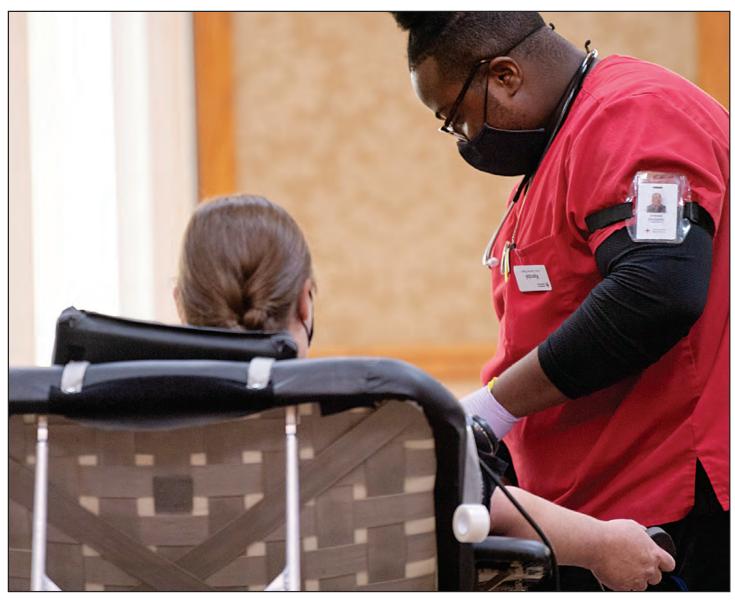
Will Sexton, Fort Jackson fire inspector and blood drive ambassador

Those wishing to donate can visit www. redcross.org to learn how to donate. Those looking to donate should be in good general health and not feeling sick; be at least 17 years old in most states; weigh at least 110 lbs; and have not donated blood in the last 56 days.

"Please don't disqualify yourself," Sexton added. "There's a lot of people who think that maybe because they were stationed in certain places or lived in certain places around the world that they're no longer able to donate.

"But I can speak first hand that is not the case. For years I wasn't able to donate because I lived in Europe, but that was rescinded, for most of Europe, about a year and a half ago. Now I have been donating every two months."

The installation holds community blood drives every quarter.





Above, Kendal Benjamin, a volunteer with the American Red Cross takes a donation from a member of the Fort Jackson community June 28 during a blood drive at the NCO Club. Left, Will Sexton, Fort Jackson Fire Inspector and blood drive ambassador, helps check in a volunteer to the Community Blood Drive held June 28 at the NCO Club.

Photos by ROBERT TIMMONS

# Jackson supports AER

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj.
Algrish Williams Sr. signs a check signifying the amount of donations collected for Fort Jackson's 2021 Army Emergency Relief campaign. This year the installation collected \$203,803 for Army Emergency Relief.

Photo by JOSIE CARLSON



# Army prepares to start FY 2022 under continuing resolution

**By DEVON SUITS**Army News Service

The Army expects to start fiscal year 2022 under a continuing resolution, as there is no indication that lawmakers will pass an appropriations bill before Oct. 1, the director for Army Budget said June 24.

The Army released its \$173 billion budget proposal for fiscal 2022 last month, prioritizing people, readiness and modernization efforts with a \$3.6 billion reduction from fiscal 2021's enacted budget, said Maj. Gen. Paul A. Chamberlain.

"Most of that reduction is attributed to force structure changes in the (U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility)," Chamberlain said during an Association of the U.S. Army Noon Report. "Those big changes are what drove the difference between fiscal 2021 enacted and the fiscal 2022 budget (request)."

Should a CR be necessary and enacted then the Army will be limited to fiscal 2021's enacted funding levels. And while last year's funding is greater than the current proposal, Chamberlain said, senior leaders will need to moderate their spending to account for the multibillion dollar difference between both budgets.

"The biggest challenge is the unknown," Chamberlain said, adding that a CR will limit the Army's ability to start new programs and projects, and prohibit a production rate increase, and slow the service's overall rate of execution.

"We don't ever want to look at a commander and say, 'We don't have enough money to do the mission," he said. "We have to be conservative in our approach (and determine) how much money we will need to allocate until a budget is fully enacted."

Chamberlain said that military personnel accounts are slated to see a \$1.2 billion increase under fiscal 2022 funding that includes a 2.7% basic pay increase for both Soldiers and Army civilians. Further, the proposal includes a 2.3% increase in basic allowance for subsistence and a 3.1% boost to basic allowance for housing.

"People are the Army's No. 1 priority," Chamberlain said. "There is additional funding for talent management programs for both military and civilians (to help put the) right Soldier or civilian in the right job, in the right place, at the right time."

The request also includes a nearly \$4 billion reduction in research, development, test and evaluation, or RDT&E, and procurement funding from fiscal 2021's enacted request, said Brig. Gen. Michael C. McCurry, the director of force development.

Despite the decrease, leaders prioritized funding to protect its six modernization priorities and 31+4 signature efforts and supports the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance, he added.

"Some of our adversaries took lessons from the last 20 years of the Army's contingency operations," McCurry said. "They are attempting to erode our competitive advantage and have specifically focused on their (anti-access and area denial) capabilities."

Leaders will continue aggressive reform efforts to free up more money through future "night court" sessions, McCurry said. The Army has already reallocated more than \$30 billion in support of its modernization priorities.

Chamberlain also mentioned reducing several enduring capabilities and programs in the Army's RDT&E accounts to support the increase in military personnel spending and offset a difference in the Army's operation and maintenance budget, which is \$700 million lower than the fiscal 2021 level.

The fiscal 2022 request is slated to eliminate seven programs, returning close to \$50 million in funding. The Army will also delay or reduce nearly 40 programs, which include support to enduring capabilities like the M1 Abrams, Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle, and the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, among others.

"The struggle there is we have picked all the low-hanging fruit," McCurry said. "Any further reduction would force us to make some hard choices between modernization priorities and the sustainability of enduring programs."

The Army needs timely, adequate, predictable, and sustained funding to meet current and future requirements and ensure that the Army can compete, deter and defeat the nation's adversaries, Chamberlain said.

# **SERVING WITH PRIDE:**

# LGBTQ Soldiers celebrate diversity

**By THOMAS BRADING**Army News Service

Soldiers representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community virtually celebrated Pride Month June 24 as part of a discussion that marked another step in the Army's growing recognition toward the LGBTQ community.

The participants shared personal stories and experiences, as well as equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts taken by the Army, along with how the policies have impacted their lives. The Soldiers also discussed the importance of LGBTQ representation within military ranks.

Every June, Pride Month is a national observance that is held to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, New York, in 1969, a historic tipping point within the gay liberation movement to empower all LG-BTQ Americans.

Since then the LGBTQ community has made significant progress toward equality. However, with change have come setbacks.

In 1993, the Department of Defense Directive 1304.26, commonly known as Don't Ask Don't Tell, or DADT, was written into law. The directive was a compromise measure that barred LGBTQ-identifying persons from military service, but also prohibited military personnel from discriminating against, or harassing, closeted gay and lesbian troops.

In 1984, when Maj. Rebecca A. Ammons, a transgender Army chaplain, first enlisted as a Marine, DADT did little to change her life. Even in 2011, after lawmakers repealed the directive, the repeal only ensured gay, lesbian and bisexual troops could openly serve. It did not permit transgender service members to serve.

"(DADT) wasn't even an issue" in the 80s, she said during the panel discussion. "I was explicitly asked on my (enlistment) forms: Are you gay? Of course, there wasn't even a block to say: Are you trans?"

Despite that, "I had this overwhelming compulsion; this need to serve," Ammons said. Yet, with that need came "this overwhelming feeling of isolation."

Two landmark events came years later. In 2015, the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act allowed all Americans, including service members, to marry their same-sex partners in all 50 states.



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Ijpe DeKoe, personnel security manager and equal opportunity leader for the U.S. Army Reserve, participates in a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer panel discussion June 24.

Before this, a handful of states legalized same-sex marriage. Since 2013, all same-sex spouses were eligible to receive identification cards and all associated benefits.

Another milestone within the military came earlier this year with a policy that allowed transgender individuals to openly serve.

These changes are reflective to the Army's direction of putting "people first," said retired Maj. Gen. Tammy Smith, moderator of the event.

Smith, who retired earlier this month, helped forge the Army's People Strategy, which focuses on individual Soldiers and how to deliberately manage their skills, improve their overall quality of life and develop a modernized talent management system.

"I had the privilege of working on the Ar-

my's People Strategy and the quality of life portfolio," Smith said, in her opening comments. "This is a tangible example that the Army means it when they say 'people first.' Our strength comes from diversity."

For the retired general, the purpose is simple: an inclusive Army means a more lethal, stronger force, she said.

"We've come a long way as an institution. I think it's important that we have people first, as far as a great No. 1 priority," said Col. Samuel P. Smith Jr., garrison commander of Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Truth seemed to be the theme of the night, as each panel member shared their own personal journey. The panel showcased an array of Soldiers, each with unique experiences and backgrounds, and who, according to the moderator, were examples of what the Army

of today represents.

Among the panel members was Ammons, who said the fear of coming out as transgender weighed heavily on the chaplain's shoulders. Ammons recalled the trepidation she felt when coming out to her peers, especially within a faith-based community she serves. She worried how they would respond to the news, she said.

Ammons publicly came out last July and with it came her name change and the aggressive medical procedures she planned to go through for her transition. She was surprised by how "heartwarming and honestly amazing" her fellow chaplains and other Soldiers have treated, and continue treating her, she said.

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# **Community Updates**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **Mask Policy**

Per Fort Jackson's updated mask wear policy, vaccinated personnel are no longer required to wear masks indoors or outdoors on post except while in medical facilities. Personnel are considered vaccinated 14 days after receiving the final vaccination shot.

## **Commissary Hours**

Effective July 1 the Commissary Hours are:

- Sunday: 11 a.m to 6 p.m.
- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (8-9 a.m. 65 and older with 8:30 a.m. early opening for those with disabilities)
- Wednesday-Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (9:30 a.m. early opening for those with dis-
- Friday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (9-10 a.m. 65 and older, with 9:30 a.m. early opening for those with disabilities)
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (8:30 a.m. early opening for those with disabilities)

## Library hours

The Thomas Lee Hall Library is open Mon.-Thurs. from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; from noon to 5 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; and closed Sundays and Holidays.

## **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 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, first 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 policy, dated May 25. For more information, call Army Community Service at 751-5256.

#### Fort Jackson Sound **Off Toastmasters Club**

The Fort Jackson Sound Off Toastmasters Club invites the community to join them every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for their weekly meeting held virtually via Zoom. The meeting ID is 825 3081 4697, and password: Soundoff. For more information, call Kamala Henley at (803) 236-0669.

#### 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-

## ID card policy extension

Due to the Department of Defense's limited ability to return identification card facilities to normal operations while continuing to comply with local pandemic safety precautions, uniformed services ID cards that expired between Jan.1, 2020 and July 31, 2021 are extended as follows:

- Aug. 31 for all foreign affiliates and their dependents
- Oct. 31 for dependents of active duty uniformed service members, and for Reserve and National Guard members and their dependents
- Jan. 31, 2022 for retirees and their dependents, and all other populations

USID cards that expired before January 1, 2020 or after July 31, 2021 have not been extended and will not be accepted. For more information, call 751-7115.

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

# Karaoke & Sandcastles

5-8:30 p.m. Weston Lake. This is a free event. Karaoke 5-8:30 p.m. Sandcastle judging begins at 7:30 p.m. Concessions available. Must be at least 21 years old to purchase alcoholic beverages. For more information, call 751-6990.

## **Auto Craft Shop closure**

The Auto Craft Shop will be closed July 4 for the holiday. It will reopen normal hours in July. For more information, call 751-6990.

# **Outdoor Rock Painting**

10-11 a.m. June 19. 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-

# **Privately Owned Weapons Day**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aachen Range. With hunting season approaching Outdoor Recreation will open Aachen Range for privately owned weapon use. Shoot at targets out to 200m, paper targets, and spotting scopes are provided. Patrons can shoot rifles or

# **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 we 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.

pistols at a day rate or an hourly rate. Preregister at Marion Street Station: \$25 per person for all-day (4 hour), \$10 per person per hour (preregister), \$15 per person per hour (day of onsite/cash only). Ensure all weapons are registered on post. No automatic weapons or .50 cal allowed. Ages 12 and up, 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. For more information or to register. call 751-3489.

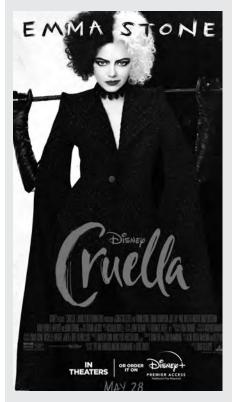
#### **Lot Party Workout**

9 a.m. Solomon Center. An in-person and virtual event providing a physically fun family outing; celebrating the importance of staying and being will with fitness. For more information call 751-3700.

# **JULY 24**

# **Festival of Fitness**

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Weston Lake. The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting a day-long festival of fitness in the Weston Lake Recreation Area. The festival includes an Aerobathon: 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. with workouts every 30 minutes. Lectures will take place from: 1-3 p.m. with an obstacle course. Lunch will be provided. Participate live or virtually on Facebook. Register by calling 751-3700/5253 and select your lunch choice. Please continue to monitor the Fort Jackson website and social media pages for updates to Fort Jackson COVID-19 policies.



# **Fort Jackson Movie Schedule**

3319 Jackson Blvd. Phone: 751-7488

#### **JULY 10**

■ Cruella (PG-13) 2 p.m.

## **JULY 17**

■ Spirit Untamed (PG) 2 p.m.

# **JULY 24**

■ Peter Rabbit 2:

The Runaway (PG) 2 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.

WWW.SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM

# **'WHY I SERVE'**

# 3RD BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

# **PFC. CARLTON POTTER, 21**Brandon, Florida

"My Family who've served and Nick Bare's YouTube videos were influential to me joining the Army."

"Before joining, I imagined Basic Combat Training would have a lot of yelling directly in my face and push-ups."

"The most challenging thing about BCT was not hav-

ing consistent motivation, especially when I didn't get much sleep."

I would advise someone planning to start BCT to, "be in as good of shape as you can before showing up."

"My MOS is 25N – Nodal Network Systems Operator. I chose this MOS because it offers a lot of certificates and education."



# PVT. PRESTON KEAHI, 18 Ewa Beach, Hawaii

I was most influenced to join the Army by "my Family and friends."

"I thought Basic Combat Training was going to be tough, but after watching a couple of videos, I knew it would be a walk in the park."

"The most challenging thing about BCT is the Sprint-Drag-Carry exercise."

"Listen, pay attention to everything the drill sergeant teaches you and you'll be squared away," is advice I'd give to someone planning to start basic training.

"My MOS is a 15T – Black Hawk Helicopter Mechanic. I chose this MOS because I wanted something that could transfer to the civilian world."



# PVT. THADDEUS MURPHY Atlanta

"I joined the Army to improve my life."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be physically and mentally challenging before joining."

"The most challenging part of Basic Combat Training was being disciplined."

If someone is planning to start BCT, I'd tell them, "it's 20% physical and 80% mental."

"My MOS is 91F – Small Arms/Artillery Repairer. I chose this MOS because I always loved weapons."

# **SPC. ANTHONY AIELLO, 30** *Rome, New York*

"I joined the Army because I always wanted to fly helicopters in the Army."

"I imagined there would be a lot of yelling in Basic Combat Training."

"The hardest part of Basic Combat Training was dealing with younger trainees."

"Keep your head up and always give 100%," is advice I would give someone planning to join the Army.

"My MOS is 09W – Warrant Officer Candidate. I want to fly helicopters."



# PFC. TREVOR WHITE, 24

Boise, Idaho

"My beautiful wife Katelynn, supportive parents, leaders and mentors throughout my life influenced me to join the Army."

"I imagined Basic Combat Training to be physically and mentally challenging."

"The most challenging things about Basic Combat

Training were the Meals Ready-to-Eat."

"Keep your head up and start preparing early," is advice I'd give someone planning to join the Army.

"My MOS is 25S – Satellite Communications Systems Operator. I chose this MOS because I enjoy a mental challenge and enjoy the mysteries of space."



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Photos by JOSIE CARLSON

Trainees from 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment listen to Justin 'J.P.' Lane share his story June 23. Lane toured Fort Jackson June 22-24 as part of the Army-wide Holistic Outreach and Engagement Campaign.

# Faith inspires retired Soldier, motivational speaker

By JOSIE CARLSON Fort Jackson Leader

"We have a special guest for you and a special treat for you here this morning," Lt. Col. Larry Steward, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment commander, said as he greeted his unit's trainees following morning physical training June 23. "I want to introduce our special guest. His name is Justin P. Lane, "J.P." for short. He's a proven warrior, he enlisted in the Protected Vehicle. military in 2008. And as you can see he is a double amputee."

A part of the Army-wide Holistic Outreach and Engagement Campaign, retired Spc. Justin Lane, (J.P.) is touring TRA-

joined the Army as a combat engineer at the age of 20 in 2008. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, where he performed route clearance, searching for improvised explosive devices.

"I was blown up three separate times, and the third one got me," Lane said.

Lane was on a mission, July 2, 2011, when his vehicle was blown up by a 200 lb roadside bomb. It was the first roadside bomb to penetrate an RG31 Mine-

Lane suffered 26 injuries, including losing both legs, his right arm and pelvis snapped in half. He lost his four front teeth, and everything in his torso was destroyed by shrapnel except for his heart

weeks and had 28 surgeries. "This completely changed my life," Lane said.

"Doctors said I wasn't going to be able to do many things, like use prosthetics because my legs were so badly damaged," Lane said. "Also, that I wouldn't be able to speak properly or sing ever again because of a tracheotomy. With each day, I am proving them wrong."

Lane spoke candidly with the trainees of 2-39, "I'm not gonna lie, you guys are family. And I'll tell you the truth. I almost took my life 12 times. A dozen times I would look in the mirror and see somegether." body I didn't want to be dealing with the rest of my life ... But one of the things that the Army taught me was never give DOC units and sharing his story. Lane and left lung. He was in a coma for six up, never surrender ... no matter what we

may face, we're strong enough to handle anything."

Lane gives credit to his wife Crystal for being a huge support in his life.

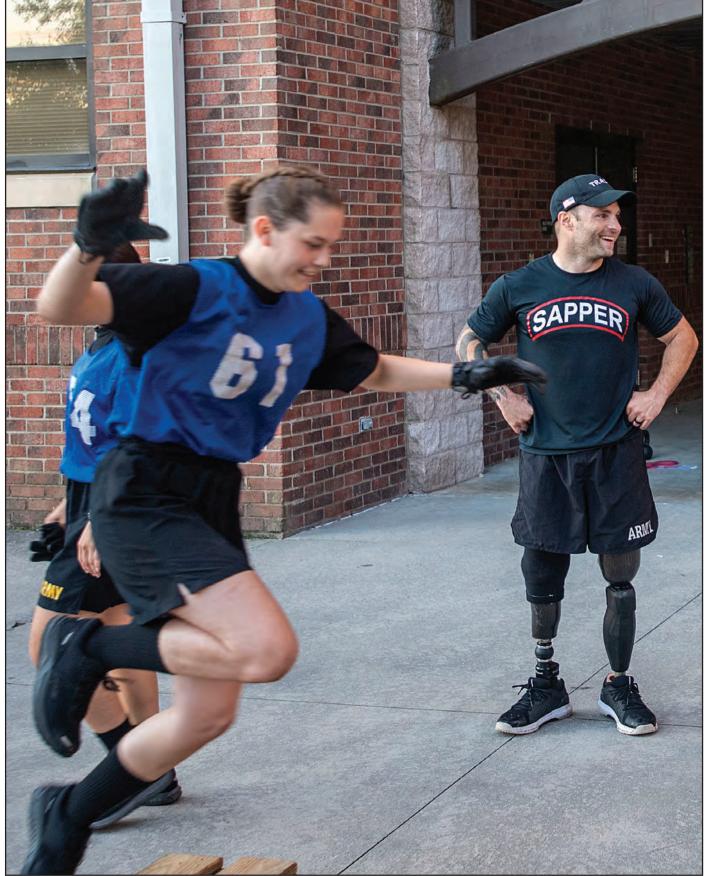
"I was blessed to have found someone who not only loves me for me, but also supports my career and my passion of singing," he added. "Crystal, now my beautiful bride as of February 2018, has been a huge support for me and given my life more purpose. We now work together inspiring couples around us, telling them the amazing story of what brought us to-

He also says his faith is the reason for everything he does.

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DOCTORS SAID I WASN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO MANY THINGS, LIKE USE PROSTHETICS BECAUSE MY LEGS WERE SO BADLY DAMAGED ...

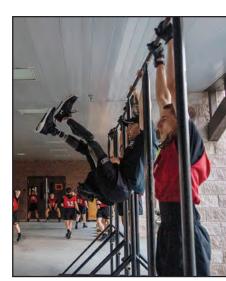
J.P. Lane





Justin 'J.P.' Lane and his wife Crystal watch the BCT graduation ceremony for 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment June 24.





Justin 'J.P.' Lane watches trainees from 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment conduct physical training June 23. Lane toured Fort Jackson June 22-24 as part of the Army-wide Holistic Outreach and Engagement Campaign.

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# Lightning

Continued from Page 3

The mission of changing civilians into Soldiers was different over the past year as the pandemic affected how training could be accomplished.

"Our leaders said we had a new enemy and we were at war," Flesch said. "While many stopped working, or others worked from home, you can't quite do that for basic training. We had to fight that enemy head on, and we had to continue the mission ... Many in this team have been at war before,

but this was different. Just by being in the fight, they were exposed - they exposed themselves but many times their Family too. This enemy was attacking the home front at the same time - some teammates even losing Family and friends."

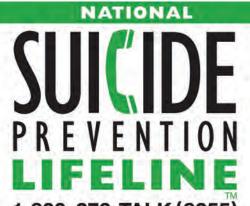
Solheim thanked Michaelis and Flesch for their kind words.

Flesch is a "tough guy to follow," Solheim said. "You know, battalion commander, G3, brigade commander – he's got it figured out. You have left a legacy the general has already spoken about ... You have lead this formation through the most challenging of times. All my respect to you, and all of my best wishes to you on your future assignment."

Solheim also spoke of the professionalism he notices from unit cadre in action as he toured the brigade footprint with Command Sgt. Maj. Roberto Guadarrama, the 165th's senior enlisted leader. They noticed a trainee having difficulty going over a high obstacle and the company first sergeant and unit cadre helping her through "what was a personal crucible for her." They witnessed what he expected to "be a defining moment in that Soldier's life."

He said it gave him perspective because it happens every single day on Fort Jackson.

To view the ceremony in its entirety https://www.facebook. com/165InfantryBrigade/videos/334016244840244



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# Change to policy allows transgender Soldiers to serve openly

**By DEVON SUITS**Army News Service

Transgender personnel and individuals with gender dysphoria who can meet the Army's standards for military service can now serve openly in their self-identified gender, according to a new policy approved this month by the Army secretary.

Army directive 2021-22 changes the service's retention, separation, in-service transition, and medical care standards for transgender personnel and refines entry criteria for individuals with gender dysphoria, following Department of Defense guidance, said Maj. Gen. Douglas F. Stitt, military personnel management director.

"People are the strength of our Army," Stitt said. "Our ability to assess and retain qualified personnel provides a more diverse and stronger Army, enhancing readiness."

A Soldier's gender identity will no longer be a basis for involuntary separation or military discharge, denied reenlistment or continuation of service, or subjected to adverse action or mistreatment, the policy states.

The updated policy will apply to all activeduty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, U.S. Military Academy cadets, and contracted Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets. Military medical providers will provide medically necessary care for transgender Soldiers following guidelines by the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and the Army surgeon general, Stitt said.

"Every Soldier is different," Stitt said.
"When a military medical provider gives diagnosis of gender dysphoria, that Soldier will need to sit down with their chain of command and medical provider to determine what is medically necessary for an effective transition."

Commanders should approach a Soldier's gender transition in the same way they approach any Soldier receiving any other necessary medical treatment, the policy reads. Leaders must also do their part to minimize the impact on mission readiness, all while balancing the Army's needs with the desires of the transitioning individual.

Once a Soldier is stable in their selfidentified gender, they can then request to change their gender marker in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS. Once the change is complete, all policies and standards for that given gender will then apply, the policy reads.

Individuals will then be expected to meet



U.S. ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Soldiers with the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion participate in a drill and ceremony competition June 4 at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

all uniform, grooming, body composition, physical readiness, and drug-testing standards. Similarly, a Soldier's identified gender in DEERS will permit them to access gender-specific facilities, such as bathrooms and showers.

# Recruitment

Transgender personnel and individuals with gender dysphoria must meet all applicable medical accession standards to gain entry into the Army, the policy reads.

Before the updated Army guidelines, individuals with gender dysphoria were presumptively disqualified unless stable for 36 months and willing and able to serve in their biological sex, Stitt said. Under the new guidance, this duration to meet standards is now 18 months of stability and the person can serve in their self-identified gender.

"This gives the Army a bigger applicant

pool to consider," Stitt said.

Applicants must present documents to validate their self-identified gender, such as a birth certificate, U.S. passport, or a certified copy of a court order reflecting one's self identified gender, the policy states.

If an individual cannot meet a medical criterion, they can request a waiver for evaluation under DOD and Army policies. The standard for approval will be determined individually and must be in the Army's best interests after a thorough review of the individual's potential.

# **Equal opportunity**

The Army must continue to operate in an environment free from harassment and unlawful discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, Stitt said. Training on the new policy will be necessary to ensure

proper integration throughout the force.

Over the next year, the service will launch a three-tiered training model, starting with the Judge Advocate General, Medical and Chaplain Corps, and Inspector General personnel, Stitt added.

The second tier will follow shortly after and provide education to leaders and supervisors, followed by unit-level training during the third tier.

All training on the updated policy must be completed no later than June 25, 2022, Stitt said. The Army will then have until September 2022 to adjust existing instruction blocks to train personnel on gender dysphoria and any changes to DOD and Army transgender policies.

"Department of Defense policy allows transgender personnel to serve openly," Stitt said. "Now we have the Army policy to support it."

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# Museum

Continued from Page 2

The museum was authorized on Aug. 14, 1957 by General Order No 1-57 as a branch museum at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School then located at Fort Slocum, New York. Since its establishment, the museum has moved with the Chaplain School to Fort Hamilton, New York, Fort Wadsworth, New York, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and in 1995 to Fort Jackson. It has been a certified U.S. Army museum since 1994 by the U.S. Army Center of Military History. In 2012, the museum's name changed from U.S. Army Chaplain Museum to U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Museum.

The Chaplain Corps Museum is dedicated to the history of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps from 1775 to present. Items on display include: Medal of Honor recipients; historical documents, posters, newspapers, photographs and religious publications; uniforms and insignia; chaplain equipment, to include: chaplain kits, Communion sets, and vestments; and humanitarian and special ministries.

One of the significant donations include one of the Four Chaplains medals, or Special Medal of Heroism posthumously awarded in 1961 by Congress to the four chaplains who gave up their life jackets and went down with the ship when the SS Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-boat Feb. 3, 1943. The four chaplains were Catholic priest John Washington, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Dutch Reformed Clark Pol-



Photo by MEL SLATER

The display for The Four Chaplains at the Army Chaplain Corps Museum on Fort Jackson. The Special Medal of Heroism posthumously awarded in 1961 by Congress to the chaplains who gave up their life jackets and went down with the ship when the S.S. Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-boat Feb. 3, 1943.

ing and United Methodist George Fox. The medal will only be awarded to these four. The museum's medal was awarded to Chaplain John Washington and donated by his niece and nephew. They also donated his Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart.

There are also many stories about the religious services and the ingenuity of Soldiers, such as William Leonard.

Stationed on the island of New Guinea during World War II Soldiers from the 9th Ordnance Battalion used simple materials on hand to construct a chapel, the altar and its furnishings. Their chaplain, Catholic priest William Leonard donated the

altar and all the accoutrements to the museum in 1973. The candlesticks are made from 40mm shells; the altar supports are 90mm shells; the bookstand is welded heavy gauge wire with a hammer and wrench worked into the back and crossed forming to symbolize the Chi Rho, or monogram of Christ. The hammer and wrench were the tools of the ordnance. There's also an impressive crucifix hand carved by one of the men, Pvt. Clarence Staudennayer, in the unit using nothing but broken beer bottle glass and a pocket knife. Leonard was so impressed with the crucifix that he allowed Staudennayer to carve his name, hometown, and date on the reverse side. Other items in the set include a stoup made from a 90mm shell and a censor constructed from a jeep piston and bicycle chain.

"It is really ingenious how everything came together and an excellent example of teamwork to produce a unique and functional chapel in 1944," McManus said.

The unit and the altar were moved to Lingayen January 1945, during the invasion of Luzon. It was later set up in Manila, Philippines. There in September 1945, on the day dedicated by Presidential proclamation to thanksgiving for victory and peace, Mass was celebrated by H.E. Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and military vicar of the American Forces for 6,000 troops at Rizal Stadium.

Chaplain Leonard received his official discharge from the military in 1946 and was allowed to bring the altar and its accoutrements to his home at Boston College. It remained there until he donated it to the Museum in 1973.

To see and learn more, visit the Army Chaplain Corps Museum. It is open Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and closed on weekends and holidays.

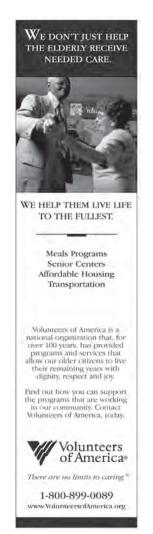
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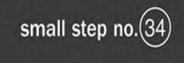
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# Retirement Review

The following Soldiers were recognized during the June Retirement Review: Sgt. 1st Class Keith R. Laird, 25th Attack Squadron, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; Sqt. 1st Class Linda C. Mosley, U.S. Central Command, Qatar; Sgt. 1st Class Danielle L. Brown, 81st Readiness Division; Sqt. 1st Class Sundiayta Thompson, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Nigel A. Clements, U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Spartanburg, S.C.; Sgt. 1st Class Jose J. Pacheco, 165th Infantry Brigade; and Staff Sgt. Michael B. Gary, U.S. Army Central, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

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# Army leaders call for record updates prior to IPPS-A Release 3

By ERIC PILGRIM Army News Service

Army leaders called for Soldiers to update their records prior to Release 3 of Integrated Personnel and Pay System.

"I need you to update your personnel records," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston. The Army's top enlisted advisor recently reached out to the entire Army force, alerting Soldiers to a new human resources and pay system expected to go live Dec. 21.

Called the Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army, the system is expected to revolutionize personnel and pay actions for all Soldiers.

"These innovative capabilities will bring Army HR into the 21st century," wrote Grinston to the force, "but we need your help to ensure the system's success in December."

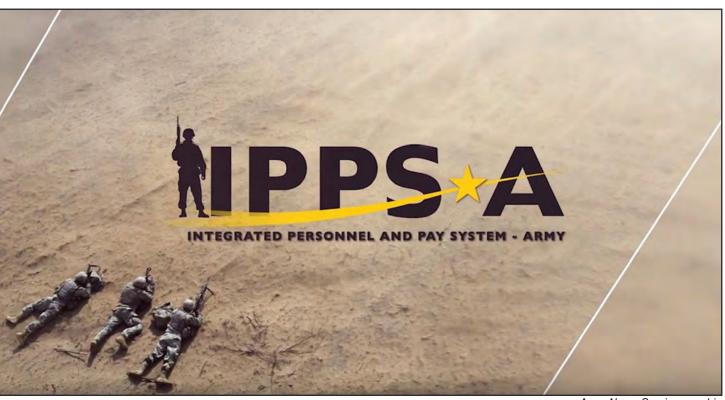
IPPS-A first came on the scene with the Army National Guard in January 2019. The system was intended to be a modern, digital way to accomplish human resources missions. Two-and-a-half years later, IPPS-A is prepared to reach the hands of active duty and Reserve component Soldiers, as well. The goal remains the same.

"IPPS-A will modernize Army human resources, support the Talent Management infrastructure, and make personnel transactions transparent and mobile," said Army officials. "The new pay system is light years ahead of the legacy systems, and is able to communicate with supporting personnel systems.

"Soldiers will have the ability to securely make personnel, talent management, and pay changes from a cell phone."

Prior to the release of IPPS-A, Soldiers needing to update records or create pay and personnel actions have had to generate paper-driven transactions at unit S1 or installation personnel offices. One of the issues with the old way of doing business involves the sheer number of them – about 200 human resources and pay systems and over 650 interface and data exchanges between internal and external systems.

According to the Army, the manual transactions are by nature not fully auditable, cyber or information-assurance compliant, nor



Army News Service graphic

Army officials are encouraging Soldiers to update their personnel files from now until Dec. 1, 2021, when they will migrate all personnel records from the three components to the latest version of the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army. The system is expected to go live Dec. 21.

do they allow for easy tracking of knowledge, skills or behaviors of Soldiers within the three Army components.

The ushering of IPPS-A's Release 3, however, is expected to close all those gaps and put the power of tracking human resource actions into the hands of individual Soldiers.

"This change is innovative and very necessary," said Army officials. "With more than 1.1 million users on a system with capabilities that are able to expand with time, IPPS-A is becoming the new Army pay system and is revolutionizing Army pay and personnel for the future."

One member of the IPPS-A team said on Jan. 7 that the testing phase for Release 2 helped them lead to its successful implementation, which also allowed them to usher in Release 3.

"We started with Pennsylvania. We cut their data over, so everything they were doing had real live impacts," said Maj. Leonard Baklarz, the Release 2 lead. "It was not a canned situation event. The data was real."

Part of the implementation of Release 3 is a downloadable device app that puts the power of human resources directly into the hands of Soldiers. Soldiers can visit IPPS-A's mobile website to learn more.

At the site, Apple users are provided a link to the app in the Apple Store. Android users can visit the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's secure App Gateway to access that app download.

"Soldiers will have access to their own personal information 24 hours a day and mobile self-service capabilities," said Army officials. "IPPS-A's ability to combine personnel and pay functions (e.g., a promotion or call to active duty) will address current inefficiencies caused by complex interfaces among +30 'stove-piped' HR systems."

The IPPS-A website also offers up-todate information on all new releases and THESE INNOVATIVE CAPABILITIES WILL BRING ARMY HR INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston

upgrades, including their functionalities and capabilities.

Army officials said that while unit personnel offices will still be involved in personnel actions, IPPS-A puts the onus on Soldiers to ensure their records are accurate, before and after all IPPS-A information is migrated.

"The most authoritative source of correct (human resource) data," said Army officials, "is the individual Soldier."

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Photos by JOSIE CARLSON

Justin 'J.P.' Lane, far left, conducts physical training with trainees from 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment June 23. Lane toured Fort Jackson as part of the Army-wide Holistic Outreach and Engagement Campaign.

# **Faith**

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"My faith is the only reason I have strength to do what I do," he said, "... my prosthetics are not comfortable, they're painful every single day ... My faith is the thing that gives me strength, and helps me realize that my mind is a powerful thing and some days I'm going to have bad days where my mind will try to convince me that I'm not worth being, that this is too hard and life is too hard. But what kicks in is my faith to give me the purpose, and that strength and that reminder that I'm here for a reason that I do have a purpose that I can overcome anything."

Besides being a motivational speaker, Lane is also a recording artist, and performed at the inaugurations for both President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump.

Along with the trainees of 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, Lane's visit to Fort Jackson also included students at the Chaplain School, Soldier Support Institute, and the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment graduation ceremony.

Lane and his wife enjoyed their visit to Fort Jackson. "The professionalism that Fort Jackson shows on a daily basis was beyond expectations. It's always an amazing opportunity to witness trainees become U.S. Army Soldiers. We can't wait to come back." Lane said.

# **Pride**

Continued from Page 6

But isolation still happens. That feeling, whether caused by orientation or gender, can be "incredibly isolating and damaging," said Master Sgt. Ijpe DeKoe, an Army reservist who was among the plaintiffs linked to the Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage.

"It took me years to understand that kind of trauma. Years later when I look back, I'm very troubled by anyone who has to go through that for whatever reason," he added.

# **Finding support**

One way to overcome isolation, according to the panelists, was finding the right support group.

"It took me a while (to be true to myself)," Col. Smith said. "I had a close circle of friends who helped me through it, which is important if you are isolated, so I was very fortunate to have a very close circle of friends who helped me along this journey."

For years, Col. Smith struggled with his orientation. In 2004, amid DADT, he knew it was time to be honest with himself, to be honest with the girl he was dating and to his family, he said. However, the missing piece was his career. Outside of his small support group, he could not be open to the Army.

He questioned whether or not he could endure 20-plus years in the Army while internally struggling with his orientation. "I didn't know whether the two could align: me being gay and serving in the Army," he said.

Even when he came out to his friends and Family, the colonel still felt closeted at work. He couldn't talk about his boyfriend. Instead of saying his partner's name, he used a traditional girl's name with the same first letter. He couldn't have certain pictures on his desk. He couldn't talk about his weekend plans with coworkers.

"I love the Army, and I was a good (Soldier)," he said. But "I could not be myself."

Instead, Smith "got used to it," he said. "That's just the way things were. I accepted that."

As time passed, the colonel became more confident in his orientation. "As I matured, I realized I (wasn't) being authentic and at some point, I think people are going to see through

me, and some leaders did that," he said.

Not only did he feel transparent, but Smith also felt like he owed it to the people he worked with, his subordinates, and himself to stop being fake. "I had to be authentic, or it was going to cost me my career," he said.

Once DADT was overturned, "it was like a big weight lifted off your shoulders," Col. Smith said, no longer feeling like he had to think carefully about how he discussed his love life to ensure he followed DADT policy.

# 'Be visible'

Despite mostly upbeat cheerfulness displayed during the panel, the Soldiers understood the challenges closeted Soldiers, not be ready to come out, may feel.

"Understand that this environment is open and inclusive and it welcomes you," said Capt. Julian Woodhouse, an officer in charge of the 315th Military History Detachment in Manhattan. "As long as you work on your internal value and your internal love for yourself, because that's the biggest enemy we all face.

"Be visible so that Soldiers who are also queer (or questioning) can feel comfortable seeing someone in leadership," Woodhouse said. "They can be proud of who they are and not having an issue with communicating that."

Capt. John Cloutier, a cyber officer with the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade, echoed Woodhouse's sentiment to closeted Soldiers. "Be visible, but not everyone is going to want to have lunch with you or talk about their deepest feelings," he said.

"Some people may not be comfortable putting a picture on their desk. But do something as simple as mentioning what you did over the weekend, using the right pronouns because people pick up on that stuff," he said.

"The more we are visible, the more people will realize there are LGBT people all around, and it is OK," Cloutier added.

According to Ammons, the first step all Soldiers should take, regardless of orientation, is simply to understand each other, "as opposed to judging and putting people in a box," she said. "We need to learn to listen and understand.

"People who identify under the greater LGBTQ umbrella, and those who don't, whether allies or adversaries, need to take the time to understand each other first," she said. "Meet me as a human. I will meet you as a human first, and we can figure out the other stuff later."