

THURSDAY, FEB. 21, 2019

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

"VICTORY STAIR"

**C.C. PINCKNEY
STUDENT WRITES
NEW SCHOOL
PLEDGE
- P11**

ALSO INSIDE:

**NEW SOUTH CAROLINA
ADJUTANT GEN.
ASSUMES
COMMAND, P6**

**ARMY FIELDS NEW
HANDGUN SYSTEM TO
MILITARY POLICE, P8**

**ARMY RECRUITING
SELECTS ATHLETES FOR
NEW FITNESS TEAM, P12-13**

PAVING THE PATH FOR EQUALITY

**FORT JACKSON CELEBRATES
AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK
HISTORY MONTH - P3**

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Army Chaplain shares grandfathers' servant leadership

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

It is a well-documented tradition in America for sons and daughters to follow in the profession of a parent or grandparent. In the case of U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School's Chap. (Maj.) Rob Belton, he follows in the path of his two grandfathers who were both Army chaplains during the Vietnam War era.

"I joined the Army for the legacy of service in my Family," Belton said.

Chaplain Belton is an ordained priest with the Anglican Church in North America, but like many others, he didn't begin his military career as a chaplain.

He entered military service as an Army Quartermaster Corps officer in 2001 through Army ROTC at Florida Southern College. He served as a platoon leader in a parachute rigger company at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and in a forward-deployed supply company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2002 to 2003.

"At Fort Lee my wife was working at the chapel as a youth group leader and I just kind of helped her out. I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed the ministry and the discipleship," Belton said. "I sensed this call to ministry, I wasn't quite sure what that meant, but I made the decision and took a step of faith to get out of the Army and go to Seminary."

He left active duty in 2005 to attend Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts. He graduated with the Master of Divinity in 2009. He served as a pastor in Maine after Seminary and also served as a chaplain in the New Hampshire Army National Guard.

He returned to active duty as a chaplain in 2011.

See **SERVANT:** Page 16



Courtesy photo

Maternal grandfather retired Chap. (Col.) James E. Shaw is awarded the Saint Martin of Tours award by the Army Chief of Chaplains, Chap. (Maj. Gen.) Paul K. Hurley for his service to the nation and to Soldiers as an Army Chaplain.

ON THE COVER

This year's Black History Month poster displays a man attired typical of a person from the early 20th century. The silhouette consists of numerous images of African Americans from all walks of life – a complete legend of individuals shown on the poster can be seen at www.deomi.org.

SEE PAGE 3



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GRAPHIC

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Paving the path for equality

Fort Jackson commemorates African American/Black History Month with the mayor

By ELYSSA VONDRA
Fort Jackson Leader

Columbia's first and current African American mayor, Steve Benjamin, called for the eradication of drugs, gang violence and the improvement of educational opportunities during Fort Jackson's 2019 African American/Black History Month Luncheon at the NCO Club Feb. 14.

Benjamin was the guest speaker at the event.

With a theme of black migrations, the focus centered on how accomplishments of African Americans have helped develop the United States and the world at large.

Benjamin, a native of Queens, New York and a University of South Carolina graduate, brought the theme to light and commented on the work that still needs to be done.

"We have major challenges that we're facing all across this country that are particularly pervasive in the African American community," he said.

He mentioned health disparities and a high prevalence of HIV, AIDS, obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

"We are indeed in a fight for the souls of our children, and we've got to redouble our efforts and make sure we preserve a world for them," Benjamin said.

Eradicating drugs and gang violence and improving the educational system is key, he added.

"Every generation must do better than the last generation," but kids of today don't all have the chance to succeed, he said.

Key to a brighter future is ensuring the opportunity for every person to achieve economic success, Benjamin added. "If you give someone a fair shot to make a living, it's amazing how many other issues take care of themselves."

He spoke on the world-changing differences seemingly normal people have made to improve the country.

"God called them," Benjamin said, and they answered, "Here I am; send me."

He said he hoped the audience would do the same, given the chance.

"We may not see each of your names in light," but it is servant leadership that makes this country the "wonderful land of milk and honey," he said.

Sarah Mae Flemming, a woman who is little known, but played a key role in the desegregation of buses in South Carolina, epitomizes servant leadership, he said.

Flemming, a native of Eastover, South Carolina, sat in the



Photos by ELYSSA VONDRA
Columbia's mayor, Steve Benjamin, speaks at the 2019 African American/Black History Month Luncheon at the NCO Club Feb. 14. Benjamin is the city's first African American mayor. He discussed the country's progress toward equality and the work that still needs to be done.

whites-only section of a Columbia bus in 1954, at the age of 20.

Benjamin said.

The bus driver confronted Flemming and reportedly hit her as she exited the bus.

"She doesn't see it coming: the outrage and humiliation,"

as she exited the bus.



The lawsuit she filed against the bus company laid the groundwork for other litigation including that of Rosa Parks.

"(Flemming's) actions were echoed across our nation," Benjamin said. "She wasn't looking for a fight, she wasn't looking for a cause ... She wasn't looking for history; history found her."

See **PATH:** Page 17

The Allen University Drumline, left, performs at the African American/Black History Month Luncheon Feb. 14. This is the first time in years that Allen University has had a drumline, and all of its current members are freshmen.

EVENTS

Community Calendar

FEB. 23

President's Day 5K Fun Run/Walk
8 a.m., Semmes Lake Recreation Area. For more information, call 751-3096.

Concealed weapon permit course

Fort Jackson will host a nine-hour concealed weapon permit course open to Family members and Fort Jackson employees. The course will take place at Range Operations on Dixie Road across from Range 6 at 8:30 a.m. Students must bring wrap around safety glasses, hearing protection, a hat with a brim, a collared / crew neck shirt, comfortable closed toe shoes, belt and pants, shirt or shorts with belt loops. Students are asked to bring their own hand gun, holster and 100 rounds of ammunition. Holsters may be provided by instructors for \$30. The class costs \$50 for Family members and Fort Jackson employees. The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up now. For more information call David Churilla at 803-261-2325 or via email at dchurilla2943@aol.com.

FEB. 24 - 28

Goodnight School

Fort Jackson schools will be hosting Goodnight School Feb. 24-28 as they celebrate Read Across America Week with bedtime story telling live on Facebook. Parents need to do the following to view the presentations: 1. Log in to Facebook. 2. Go to the parent teacher organization page for their school. Pierce Terrace will go live at 7 p.m. and C.C. Pinckney at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

FEB. 25

Author's Tea

8:15-9:15 a.m. Pierce Terrace Elementary, 1:15-2:15 p.m. C.C. Pinckney Elementary School. Parents are invited to visit their child's classroom as they share a piece of their writing. Refreshments will be served.

FEB. 27

Hump Day 5K

4:30 p.m. C.C. Pinckney Elementary School. Students and family members will run through the neighborhood as part of the 3rd Annual NEA Read Across America. Runners have the option of running 3.1 miles or a half mile. There is no registration fee, and the event is open to everyone with a valid Department of Defense ID card.

FEB. 27-28

Ammunition Amnesty

Fort Jackson will hold Ammunition and Explosives Amnesty Days from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to allow personnel and units to turn in unauthorized military small arms ammunition and training simulators that would ordinarily lead to a seri-

ous incident or disciplinary action without fear of reprisal. The amnesty program is not designed to circumvent the normal turn in procedures. The purpose of the day is to allow individuals/units opportunity to return military ammunition which has been stolen, misplaced or erroneously in their possession. On Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. Department of Defense identification card holders can turn in ordnance on Warehouse Row near the corner of Marion Avenue and Washington Street. Fort Jackson units can turn in ordnance at the Ammunition Supply Point Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those wishing to turn in other ordnance, or for more information contact Robert Weigand at the Garrison Safety Office at 751-8067 or at robert.k.weigand.civ@mail.mil.

March 1 AER Kickoff

5-7 p.m. Century Lanes. Fort Jackson is kicking off its annual Army Emergency Relief campaign from 5-7 p.m. March 1 at Century Lanes in order to bring awareness and raise funds to support our Soldiers and Families in need of emergency financial assistance. A unit bowling competition will begin immediately after the ceremony. For more information contact Capt. Victoria Wilson, AER Campaign Coordinator at 751-5209.

MARCH 5

Maude Lecture Series

2 p.m. Solomon Center. Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Edwards, Jr., chief of the General Officer Management Office in the Pentagon, will be the guest speaker at the Lt. Gen. Timothy Maude Leadership Lecture Series. The lecture series, named after the highest ranking Soldier to die in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, is aimed at providing advice to leaders and those in the Adjutant General branch. For more information call Lt. Col. Avi Grein at 751-8305 or via email at adam.w.grein@mail.mil.

APRIL 17-18

Babysitting Certification Training

Skies Building 6100 Chestnut Road, Teenagers 12 and older can sign up for babysitting certification. The course prepares teens to safely care for young children while using the Army Child & Youth Services 4-H curriculum. Teens start to understand the responsibilities of babysitting. The information the teens receive will provide them with information for them to become capable, caring, trustworthy and responsible sitters. They will also develop the confidence needed to handle situations that could happen when they babysit. The course also prepares teens in the business aspects of babysitting. For more information, call 803-908-8182.

**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 751-7045.

Those wishing to purchase an annual mailed subscription for The Leader should contact the Camden Media Company at csmith@chronicle-independent.com or 803-432-6157.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sportsman Advisory Council

Are you interested in learning more about the Fort Jackson Sportsman Club? Come to a meeting of the Sportsman Advisory Council Working Groups. The Cycling Working Group meets the third Tuesday of each month at Magruder's Pub. The next Hunting and Angling Working Group meeting will take place 6 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Alpine Lodge.

Moncrief Army Hospital Clinic

Due to increased prescription volume as a result of Cold & Flu Season, the Refill Pharmacy is increasing the turnaround time for refilled prescriptions to 72 business hours. Please ensure refills are called in with sufficient time so that current prescriptions do not run out. The Pharmacy Department apologizes for any inconvenience that this may cause. For more information, contact the Moncrief Public Affairs Office at 751-2291.

Thrift Shop hours

The Fort Jackson Thrift Shop will be open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



Fort Jackson Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

FRIDAY

■ The Kid Who Would Be King (PG) 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

■ The Kid Who Would Be King (PG) 1 p.m.
■ Glass (PG-13) 5 p.m.

SUNDAY

■ The Kid Who Would Be King (PG) 1 p.m.
■ Glass (PG-13) 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Now showings

TICKETS

Adult: \$6 / Child (6 to 11): \$4

3-D TICKETS

Adult: \$8 / Child (6 to 11): \$6

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

WWW.SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

23 Presidents' Day 5k Fun Run/Walk, 8 a.m. at Semmes Lake Recreation Area. For more information please call (803)751-3096.

March

2 Community Flea Market, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Solomon Center. For more information please call (803)751-4056.

2, 9 Teen Summer Employment Prep Workshop, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-5256.

7,14,21,28 Blacklight Bowling at Ivy Lanes 2-8 p.m. For more information please call (803)751-4759.

15 Fort Jackson Teen Job and Education Fair, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the NCO Club. For more information please call (803)751-5256.

15 The Commanding General's Scramble Golf Tournament, Shotgun start at 12 p.m. For more information please call (803)787-4437.

16 8th Annual Boxing Extravaganza, Solomon Center. For more information please call (803)751-3096.

16 St. Patrick's Day at Magruders Club & Pub, for more information call (803)790-0381.

23 Shamrock Shuffle Annual St Paddy's 5k Run/walk, 8 a.m. start time. Free to the Fort Jackson Community. For more information call (803)751-3096.



Win a Pot of Gold at Victory Bingo

12500 Huger St., March 1-17

Doors Open:

Thu. & Fri. 2 p.m. Sat. 1 p.m. Sun. 10:30 a.m.

Get an entry for each regular bingo game won during regular programs, Thursday to Sunday, March 1-17. Drawing will be at end of regular games Sunday, March 17, 2019.

\$1000 worth of gold coins
* Must be present to win!

Call Victory Bingo
at (803)751-3401 for more information



Register
by March 20

FAMILY CAMP OUT

at Weston Lake

March 23, 4 p.m. - March 24, 11 a.m.

The Outdoor Recreation staff will teach you how to pitch a tent along with some other basic camping skills. There will be games, crafts, campfire stories and of course s'mores!

\$8 per person includes food! Camping gear available for rent at Marion Street Station. Please reserve your gear ahead of time.

Call Marion Street Station
at (803)751-3484 to register.



Community Flea Market

Saturday, March 2, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Solomon Center, 6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd

2 Banquet tables and 2 chairs provided per vendor.
Canopies available first come, first served.

No food vendors allowed.

Registration Required.
Visit or call the Solomon Center Front Desk,
(803)751-4056



8TH ANNUAL BOXING EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, March 16, 6 p.m.

Solomon Center, 6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd

FREE ADMISSION

For more information contact
Cindi Keene at (803)751-3096



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Choose a Heart-Smart Lunch at Victory Hall Today.

3630 Semmes Rd. (803)782-8761

Lunch:
Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Smoothie & Beverage Service Only:
Monday-Friday, 2 - 4 p.m.



Photo by STAFF SGT. ERICA JAROS,

Maj. Gen. Van McCarty receives the colors from Gov. Henry McMaster during the Feb. 16. adjutant general change of command ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, S.C. The change of command ceremony recognized Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, Jr. as the outgoing adjutant general and welcomed McCarty as the incoming adjutant general.

South Carolina's new Military Department adjutant general assumes command

By SGT. BRAD MINCEY
South Carolina National Guard

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, Jr. relinquished command of the South Carolina Military Department to Maj. Gen. Van McCarty during a change of command ceremony, Feb. 16, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, South Carolina.

The ceremony recognized Livingston as the last popularly elected adjutant general in the U.S. and welcomed McCarty as the first appointed adjutant general for South Carolina.

Friends, family members, Soldiers, Airmen, State Guard members, state and federal government officials, and students from the Youth ChalleNGe Academy filled the hangar while music was provided by the 246th Army Band from the South Carolina National Guard and singers from Southern Wesleyan University.

"Changes of command are always significant events," said South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster. "The people of our state have fought for the people of South Carolina and the people of this country. They have fought, suffered and triumphed. I am

thrilled to be a part of this state."

One of the traditions conducted during a change of command ceremony is the passing of the colors from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander. McMaster received the colors from Livingston, signifying his relinquishment of command. McMaster then passed the colors to McCarty, signifying his assumption of command as the 29th adjutant general of South Carolina.

Looking out over the assembled crowd, McMaster stated what made this state great, is its faith and military.

"Thank you generals for making this the home of the free," he added.

Once McMaster finished his remarks, Livingston stepped to the podium and thanked family members, service members, and others who supported him throughout his military career.

"All of you have been invited to this event because you have been a part of our lives and part of the history of the great National Guard," Livingston said.

See **GENERAL:** Page 15

Fort Jackson: HOUSING NOTES

Updates from Housing Services

■ **Mayors Needed:** The Mayoral Council is looking for volunteers to serve as mayors for the Fort Jackson Housing Communities. Becoming a part of the council allows you to be a voice for the community. Your voice can bring ideas and suggestions to residents for improving the quality of life while residing on Fort Jackson. In addition to receiving credit for volunteer hours, you will get to meet new people and receive valuable training. Child care is provided at no cost while performing mayoral duties. Interested residents should contact Vickie Grier at usarmy.jackson.imcom-atlantic.mbx.fort-jackson-dpw-housing@mail.mil, or 751-7567.

■ **Juvenile Curfew & Supervision of Children and Resident Guide Review:** The housing office encourages residents to take time to review the Juvenile Curfew & Supervision of Children Policy and Resident Guide to ensure policies and guidelines are adhered to (i.e. wading pools, unattended children at the playgrounds, etc.) The resident guide can be viewed at www.fortjackson-familyhomes.com. You may pick up a copy of the Juvenile Curfew & Supervision of Children Policy from the Housing office located at 4514 Stuart Ave.

■ **Voice Broadcast:** We would like to remind our residents to ensure our management office has your most current phone number and email address. Our One-Call system is used to deliver emergency weather updates, reported utility outages, scheduled maintenance that may interfere with your day-to-day plans, and weekly event updates. If you have opted out or changed your phone number and would like to receive them again, please contact our office at 803-738-8275. Don't forget to like us on Facebook at *Fort Jackson Family Homes*.

■ **Refer a Friend:** Unlimited Refer-a-Friend Rewards. If you are a current resident with Balfour Beatty Communities and you invite a friend to live with us, we will take \$500 off your next month's rent. Some restrictions apply. For more information, call 803-738-8275.

■ **PCS Rewards:** Save time and money by staying with Balfour Beatty Communities. Our residents are number one, and we want to reward our loyal customers. If you are a current resident relocating to a community where Balfour Beatty Communities manages the housing, choose to stay with us and we'll offer you a \$250 reward. Contact our office for details and to view our locations.



Photos by SGT. 1ST CLASS JEFF MULLETT

Personnel from around the 81st Readiness Division travel to Fort Jackson to be certified as Additional Duty Safety Officers. Instead of sitting in a classroom for all of the training, the 81st Safety Office coordinated with ECS-124 to conduct some of the training on the equipment stored there.

ECS helps keep Army ready for deployment

By SGT. 1ST CLASS JEFF MULLETT
81st Readiness Division

Walking through the bays at an equipment concentration site can be pretty impressive. There are large amounts of equipment and machinery stored and available for use throughout the Reserve system as well as for the active Army.

An ECS is similar to a motor pool but manned by full-time civilian staff.

The primary reason for the existence of these facilities centers on storage and movement of that equipment, as well as keeping it at “10/20” standard, or ready for deployment. Safety, and the implementation of safety procedures, is key to managing ECS and Area Maintenance and Supply Area facilities properly.

The 81st Readiness Division Safety Office conducts classes annually to certify personnel at those facilities. The classes for personnel assigned as Additional Duty Safety Officer last one week and cover comprehensive safety topics as well as new procedures and processes designed to keep personnel, equipment and the environment safe.

“We are all ADSOs and each year they [the 81st RD Safety Office] give the class,” said Donald McLean, a Heavy

Maintenance Equipment Repairer who works at AMSA 47G in Miami. “We come out here to learn new things to take back to our shops and implement them.”

The 81st RD hosted this week’s classes at the ECS on Fort Jackson for shop employees from across the division’s nine states. They traveled to learn things such as how to properly dispose of hazardous spills, or oil leaks; how to identify safety violations and whether to report them or act to correct them.

“It’s one of the better courses I’ve been to,” said Aaron Jacobowski, who works at AMSA 145 located in Huntsville, Alabama. This class allowed for the personnel attending to go out to the ECS storage yards and go over the equipment. “It’s interesting being able to identify the faults and stuff.”

Many of the participants have been to more than a few of these classes; however there are a few who are new to the process. Norberto Velasquez works at ECS 126 in Juana Diaz Puerto Rico and came to Fort Jackson to attend his first training.

“It’s my first class,” he said, “Some of the things you thought were right, but they were wrong.”

The bottom line is readiness, and safety is instrumental in readiness.



Personnel who work for ECS-124 are on hand to answer questions and to assist in teaching shop personnel about proper safety practices on Army Facilities during Additional Duty Safety Officer classes.



Photo by LEWIS PERKINS

The Army began fielding the modernized M17 and M18 Modular Handgun Systems to the Military Police School in December. The handgun will be the standard issue sidearm in the Army.

Army fields new handgun system to military police

By **DAWN M ARDEN**
Army News Service

The U.S. Army began fielding M17 and M18 Modular Handgun Systems to the Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood in December to replace the force's aging Beretta M9, a weapon that has been in use since the mid-1980s and is quickly reaching its serviceability limits.

Military policemen across the Army, including Fort Jackson, will be issued the new sidearm.

Sporting an integrated rail system, a polymer grip module and self-illuminating sights, the modernized 9 mm pistol produced by Sig Sauer couldn't have come at a better time, according to Mark Farley, USAMPS deputy commandant.

"The (Beretta M9s) we currently have are breaking more often, which causes readiness issues," Farley said.

He explained that the school's M9s have fired on average about 20,000 to 30,000 rounds when a typical handgun will last through only about 10,000 before they start to have significant issues.

"With these 17 and 18s, you won't get degradation of the barrel until after 25,000 rounds. The new MHS has an exponentially longer lifespan or life expectancy," added Gary Homer,

USAMPS instructor.

Homer said every MHS is test fired before leaving the factory with 13 rounds – three to break in the weapon and 10 to test accuracy. He said each one must hit 10 out of 10 at 25 meters in a smaller than 3-inch group attesting to the gun's accuracy level.

Both Farley and Homer agree one of the biggest selling points of the new MHS is the modular grips, which come in small, medium and large that allow for the pistol to be modified to the individual shooter.

"The Military Police Corps, is about 16 percent female Soldiers, so this is a big deal when you're talking about Soldier lethality and accuracy," Farley said. "For all Soldiers to be able to hold that weapon with a proper grip and use the right fundamentals of firing – it's very important in order for them to be able to engage the target and thereafter. One size does not fit all."

In addition to being able to add lights to the guns with the rail system, John Scarbrough, USAMPS instructor/writer, said another thing he likes about the modernized weapons is the consistent trigger. He said this will help the MP students coming through the school's many courses.

"There is a more consistent trigger so you don't have to get used to 12 and then a 4 1/2 or 5 1/2 pound trigger," Scarbrough

said. "Your first shot is the same as your 17th shot."

He said the trigger pull in conjunction with the modular grips will improve overall accuracy.

"We have had students before who had to use two fingers to pull the trigger due to strength because of their hand position, or they're holding the gun in an awkward position so it's not managing recoil," Scarbrough said. "Those are the two biggest things that I think will help out whomever is shooting them."

Farley agreed and said it's not just the equipment that's being modernized. He said USAMPS recently changed their qualification tables as well.

"It came at the right time where we were trying to make training a little more stringent and harder. This gun won't make it easier, but it will ease some of the transition on this new qualification table that is just now being exposed to Soldiers in the field," Farley said. "It wasn't coordinated but it worked out well."

Farley said they are excited about the new gun, adding that it's long overdue. "The sooner we can get it fully fielded to the operational units and the full training base then operational readiness will be enhanced."

So far the school has only received a few hundred of these systems, but is expecting to receive roughly 1,400.

Jackson police's tip of the week - local travel

Fort Jackson Police Department

Every day we travel outside of our homes and go about our business in the local community. We should maintain a degree of situational awareness when we travel for work, shopping, dropping kids at school, or any other events. Here are some basic questions and suggestions that you can ask yourself or implement while planning a personal security protocol:

Evaluate your vehicle from the security perspective:

- Vehicle alarm present/used?
- What anti-theft measures exist?
- Communication capability?
- Use of services that provide driver assistance?
- Vehicle should not contain visual means of identifying you or your corporate affiliation.
- Vanity license plates.

- Vanity license plate frames.
- Corporate/organizational decals or logos.
- Home owner association decals.
- Articles or printed material routinely left inside that is observable from the outside.
- Determine your time and place predictability based on:
 - Time you normally leave for work.
 - Time you normally come home.
 - Routine or periodic activities
 - Anything else that might set a pattern
 - Vary your routes as much as practical.
 - Vary the times of your arrivals and departures for routine functions as much as possible.
 - Vary the locations of things that you can control as much as possible
 - Remain aware of your surroundings at all times.
 - Always leave room for maneuvering.
 - Remain situationally aware of the envi-

- ronment.
- Don't enter into areas where you observe things that make you uncomfortable.
- Identify potential safe haven locations and learn how to get to them.
- Police Stations
- Fire Stations
- Hospitals
- Government facilities with police/security
- Check for surveillance activity:
 - Suspicious or unexplainable activity in your neighborhood.
 - Suspicious or unexplainable activity during your travel to or from the office.
 - Correlation with your movements.
 - Repeated sightings of same person or vehicle without plausible explanation.
- How do you determine if the vehicle you see behind you is simply heading in the same direction as you or is following you?

- Do something logical that would cause an illogical reaction.
- Examples of logical actions that would cause illogical responses:
 - Speed up or slow down.
 - Change lanes.
 - Signal for turns you don't take.
 - Enter parking lots.
 - Take the long way to your destination.
 - Go around the block.
- Make record of suspicious activity.
- Note physical descriptions
- Note vehicle make, model, color and license numbers.
- Report suspicious activity.
- Have means of communication available to you at all times.
- Tell others of your departure and arrival plans.

See **TRAVEL**: Page 18

FORT JACKSON WORSHIP SCHEDULE

CATHOLIC Sunday

- 7:30 a.m., Confessions, Solomon Center
- 8 a.m., IET Mass, Solomon Center
- 8:30 a.m., Anglican/Liturgical Service, Lightning Chapel
- 9:30 a.m., CCD, Education Center
- 9:30 a.m., Mass, Main Post Chapel
- 10:30 a.m., Reconciliation (after Mass or by appointment), Main Post Chapel

Monday through Thursday, First Friday

- 11:30 a.m., Mass, Main Post Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Sunday**
10:30 a.m., Worship Service, Magruder Chapel

EASTERN ORTHODOX

- Sunday**
9 a.m., Worship and Liturgy, Hospital Chapel

JEWISH

- Sunday**
■ 9:15 a.m., Worship, Anderson Street Chapel
- 10:15 a.m., Fellowship, Anderson Street Chapel

LATTER-DAY SAINTS Sunday

- 10:30 a.m., Worship Service, Anderson Street Chapel

ISLAMIC

- Friday**
12:45 p.m., Jumah Services, Main Post Chapel

Sunday

- 8 a.m., Islamic Studies, Main Post Chapel

PAGAN

- Sunday**
11 a.m., Pagan Circle Sacred Well Congregation worship and study, Solomon Center

HISPANIC PROTESTANT

- Sunday**
9 a.m., Worship Service, Magruder Chapel

PROTESTANT

- Sunday**
■ 8 a.m., Worship Service, Main Post Chapel
- 8:30 a.m., Anglican/Liturgical, Lightning Chapel
- 9 a.m., Service, McCrady Chapel (SCARNG)

- 9:15 a.m., Adult Bible Study, Main Post Chapel
- 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, Main Post Chapel
- 10 a.m., Gospel Worship Service, Daniel Circle Chapel
- 11 a.m., Service, Main Post Chapel
- 11 a.m., Chapel Next, Lightning Chapel
- 5 p.m., Aspire! Protestant Youth, Chaplain Family Life Center

Monday

- 6:30 p.m., Women's Bible Study, Main Post Chapel

- 7 p.m., Protestant Men of the Chapel, Bible Study, Chaplain Family Life Center

Tuesday

- 9 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Main Post Chapel

Wednesday

- Noon, Protestant Bible Study, SSI Library
- 7 p.m., Gospel Bible Study, Daniel Circle chapel

Thursday

- 11:45 a.m., Fresh Encounter Bible Study, Chaplain Family Life Center

ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- **Anderson Street Chapel**, 2335 Anderson St., 751-7032
- **Lightning Chapel**, 9476 Kemper St., 751-4101/4542
- **Chaplain Family Life Center**, Bldg. 5460, 751-4961
- **Daniel Circle Chapel**, 3359 Daniel Circle, 751-1297/4478
- **Education Center**, 4581 Scales Ave., 751-5341
- **Fort Jackson Garrison Chaplain and Religious Support Office**, 4356 Hardee St., 751-3121/6318
- **McCrady Chapel**, 3820 McCrady Road at McCrady Training Center, 751-7324
- **Magruder Chapel**, 4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883
- **Main Post Chapel**, 4580 Scales Ave., 751-6469/6681
- **Warrior Chapel (120th Adjutant General Battalion)**, 1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427

'I BECAME A SOLDIER ...'

SPC. STEPHANIE CARLSON, 27
Stratford, Iowa



"I felt a patriot's burden to join the Army to serve God and country. My senator, Joni Ernst, and Maj. Katherine Barton are tremendous leaders and members of the Iowa Army National Guard. They inspired me to join. There have been many great veterans who deserve to see the next generation step up."

"In my short time, the Army has been a strong organization full of great people. I've been impressed by the dedication and loyalty of those in uniform. It's what I was hoping to experience."

"Basic Combat Training was physically and mentally challenging for a number of reasons. The most challenging aspect was serving as a student leader."

My MOS is "09S — Commissioned Officer Candidate. I want to be an officer so I can lead my fellow Soldiers and positively influence others."

"I'm proud to be a Soldier. I'm looking forward to Officer Candidate School and serving with the great men and women in uniform."

SPC. ROBERT QUEZADA, 24
Hayden, Idaho



"I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. I've always had the dream of serving our great country."

The Army is "not at all" what I thought it would be before I joined. "We all wear the same uniform, and we're one big Family."

The most challenging part of Basic Combat Training was working with "other people, or fellow trainees."

My MOS is "09S — Commissioned Officer Candidate. I chose it because I want to lead by the example that people in leadership positions display."

"I look forward to giving my best, and I hope to continue to serve for a long time."

SPC. SOFIA DIAZ-RITZ, 32
Fayetteville, North Carolina



"I grew up in a Navy family, and I always wanted to join the military. I love the lifestyle, camaraderie and opportunities for professional growth. The Army had the best options for getting the MOS I wanted."

The Army is what I thought it would be before I joined. "I lived near Fort Bragg for nine years and have several friends in the Army. I had a good idea of what to expect regarding the physical fitness required and what the culture would be like."

"The most challenging aspect of Basic Combat Training was having the mental strength to push ourselves further even when reaching muscle failure. Needless to say, we did a lot of pushups."

My MOS is "35D — Military Intelligence. I chose intel because I enjoy research and sorting through data, and I enjoy challenging my mind."

PFC. MAXIMILLIANO ESTRADA, 22
Midland, Texas



"I joined the Army because I wanted to provide a better life for my wife."

"I hadn't had any expectations (about what the Army would be like before I joined) aside from doing what I needed to and performing the best I could."

"The most challenging aspect of Basic Combat Training was dealing with the other trainees. Living in close quarters and being forced to work with people you barely know makes it harder."

My MOS is "35N — Signals Intelligence Analyst. I chose it because I enjoy challenging myself."

"I look forward to pushing myself and others around me to be the best they can be."

SPC. ANTHONY SMITH, 25
Gainesville, Florida



What influenced me most to join the Army was "9/11. I had the passion to serve since I was a kid."

"The Army is everything I expected (it to be before I joined) and more."

"The Forge and the ruck marches" were the most challenging parts of Basic Combat Training.

"My MOS is 09S — Commissioned Officer Candidate. I wanted to lead future Soldiers and become a better leader."

"I look forward to my long Army career and all the opportunities it may bring."

SPC. GRANT MATTINGLEY, 31
Charleston, South Carolina



"I have always wanted to join the Army since I was a kid. I never did in college and always regretted it."

The Army is what I thought it would be before I joined. "It pushed my endurance and tested my leadership abilities."

"Being away from my Family" is what I found most challenging about Basic Combat Training.

My MOS is "09S — Commissioned Officer Candidate. I always wanted to be an officer."

My experience "was fun."

Student writes new school pledge

By ELYSSA VONDRA
Fort Jackson Leader

A third grade student is the author of C.C. Pinckney Elementary School's new pledge students and staff will recite every day for the foreseeable future.

Evie Ford, native of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, won out over roughly 290 competitors in their bid to pen the new pledge.

Every C.C. Pinckney student, grades second through sixth, had the opportunity to submit a pledge.

Ford's stood out, as hers was the only entry that incorporated both staff and students.

She said writing it came to her easily.

"It took me two minutes, to be exact" to complete the first and final draft, Ford said.

She thought of it all by herself, inspired by her second grade experience and her two years in Girl Scouts.

In second grade, Ford said her teacher had the students promise to be respectful and to commit to learn something every day after saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Girl Scouts, "you do your best, and

you learn," Ford said.

"Every student should be respectful," try hard and focus on learning, she added.

Her pledge is based on those themes.

"Hers was just perfect," said Theresa Harvey, C.C. Pinckney principal, calling it "timeless."

Harvey said that is important, because this will be the school pledge for as long as she is principal, even after Ford is no longer a C.C. Pinckney student.

"It was a pledge that everyone could actually commit to and do every day,"

Harvey said. "The teachers are committing to learn something."

Harvey said she appreciates that the pledge requires "the same commitment" from pupil and instructor alike.

"(In) a lot of school pledges ... it's usually only the students" who participate, Harvey added. This pledge brings everyone on the same page.

It shows that adults are always learning, too, and that growth doesn't end with childhood, Harvey added.

See **PLEDGE:** Page 18



Photo by ELYSSA VONDRA

Evie Ford, third grade student at C.C. Pinckney Elementary school, holds the new school pledge that she wrote, side-by-side with principal Theresa Harvey. Ford's piece was selected to be the one-and-only C.C. Pinckney pledge out of nearly 300 student entries. It stood out as the only entry that incorporated both staff and students.

C.C. PINCKNEY PLEDGE

TEACHER: I will be respectful!
STUDENTS: I will be respectful!

TEACHER: I will do my best!
STUDENTS: I will do my best!

TEACHER: I will learn today!
STUDENTS: I will learn today!

EVERYONE: C.C. Pinckney School:
Achieving student success!
All day! Every day!





Spc. Jacob Plaff performs an overhead squat during the U.S. Army Warrior Fitness Team tryouts. Photo by LARA POJNRIER

BESTRONG

Army Recruiting selects athletes for new competitive Warrior Fitness Team

By Army News Service

Fifteen Soldier-athletes will be the first members of the new Warrior Fitness Team, the latest addition to the U.S. Army's reach-out program developed to support the fitness efforts of Soldiers and their families.

The program, which runs across the Army, is designed to help Soldiers and their families stay healthy and active during their military careers.

The new Warrior Fitness Team has been established as part of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command to help create awareness about cancer opportunities and benefits of service among a highly motivated and physically qualified population.

"It is an opportunity to provide education and promote holistic health and well-being," said Capt. Allison Brager, one of the 15 selected for the team. "It's a chance to plan my career around my lifestyle by engaging in a community that values the pursuit of excellence, embodies the 'Iron Philosophy,' and inspires others to reach their goals."

Brager is a neuroscientist currently working at Walter Reed National Institute for Medical Research in Washington, D.C.

Brager and the other Soldiers who attended the team tryouts faced three grueling individual workouts and one team workout to test their physical capabilities.

"As I walked through those doors of the gym (for tryouts), it was like my mind had not yet caught up with my body," said Staff Sgt. Neil French, who was selected for the team. "I knew where I was, but the realization that what I've been training for was finally here."

French, a military intelligence analyst with 8th Army in South Korea, said he had a passion for fitness since he was a child. Because his grandfather was a Marine, French originally wanted to join the Marine Corps, but he decided the Army was a better option for him due to greater opportunities for schools and training.

"The Army has provided me with so many amazing experiences and opportunities," French said. "Because of the Army I've been able to learn a new language, meet amazing people who have become like a second family, and travel to places I never thought I'd go."

See **FITNESS**: Page 19

Congratulations to the members of the new

U.S. Army Warrior Fitness Team:
 ★ Capt. Allison Brager: Neuroscientist, Walter Reed Medical Research Center, Washington, D.C.

★ Staff Sgt. Gabrielle Burgholzer: Special Operations Recruiter, Special Operations Recruiting Battalion, Honolulu, Hawaii

★ Capt. Kasandra Clark: Aviation Officer, 2nd Battalion 3rd General Support Aviation, Fort Stewart, Georgia

★ Capt. Deanna Clegg: Logistics Officer, 46th Aviation Support Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington

★ Pvt. 1st Class Jesse Coleman: Infantryman, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana

★ Staff Sgt. Neil French: Intelligence Analyst, 8th Army, Camp Humphries, South Korea

★ Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Fuhman: Recruiter, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Tampa recruiting Battalion

★ Capt. Brian Harris: Aeromedical Evacuation Officer, 1-23rd Aviation Regiment, Fort Rucker, AL

★ Spc. Justin Loy: Infantryman, 1-5 IN, 1-25 SBC T, Fort Wainwright, Alaska

★ Capt. John Murphy: Logistics officer, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado

★ Spc. Jacob Plaff: UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter repairer, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, Fort Bliss, Texas

★ Capt. Rachel Schneider: Optometrist, West Point Medical Command, New York

★ Capt. Ashley Shepherd: Battalion Commander, Baltimore Recruiting Battalion, Baltimore, MD

★ 1st Lt. Chandler Smith: Captains Career Course, Fort Benning, Ga.

★ Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Zayas: Military Police Platoon Leader, 89th Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas

NEWS

FORT JACKSON SCHOOL MENUS Feb. 21-27

Thursday
Breakfast: Assorted cold cereal, biscuit with jelly, applesauce or juice cup, assorted milk.
Lunch entree: BBQ chicken on a bun, tater tots or vegetable blend, applesauce or juice cup, assorted milk.

Friday
Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, tropical fruit or cocktail/orange wedges, assorted milk.
Lunch entree: Assorted pizza, seasoned corn, seasoned broccoli, orange wedges/tropical fruit or cocktail,

assorted milk.
Monday
Breakfast: Pancake minis with syrup, apple wedges or mandarin oranges, assorted milk.
Lunch entree: Grilled cheese sandwich, tater tots or seasoned spinach, apple wedges or mandarin oranges, assorted milk.

Tuesday
Breakfast: French toast sticks with syrup, cinnamon applesauce or juice cup, assorted milk.
Lunch entree: Corn dog nuggets, baked beans or baby carrots with dip, cinnamon applesauce or juice cup, assorted milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast: Assorted yogurt, assorted muffins, diced or sliced peaches or pineapple chunks, assorted milk.
Lunch entree: French toast sticks with sausage, hash browns or celery with dip, diced or sliced pears or pineapple chunks, assorted milk.

Menu subject to change without notice.

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HIGH BRM
Pvt. Trevor York

HIGH APFT
Spc. Leslie Richardson

Staff Sgt.
Lucas Broxson
Bravo Company
3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry
Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
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Spc. Joseph Eicher

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Spc. Nicole Lopez

HIGH BRM
Pvt. James Shermin

HIGH APFT
Spc. Annaliesa Fistek

Sgt. 1st Class
Ashley Adams
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3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry
Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
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**SOLDIER OF
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Pvt. Maximilliano Estrada

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Griffin Harrison

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Mark Green

Sgt. 1st Class
Raymond Priebe
Delta Company
3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry
Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
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**SOLDIER OF
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Pvt. Jeffery Tucker

HIGH BRM
Spc. Christopher Giles

HIGH APFT
Pfc. Maggie Lane

Staff Sgt.
Thomas Johnston
Echo Company
3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry
Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
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Spc. Tara Caudill

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Pfc. Andrew Chauvette

HIGH BRM
Spc. Cody Karl

HIGH APFT
Spc. Paola Teranhernandez

Sgt. 1st Class
Roxana McCauley
Alpha Company
1st Battalion, 34th Infantry
Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
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Spc. Dominico Bowen

**SOLDIER OF
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Spc. Cassandra Kern

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Ryan Sexton

HIGH APFT
Spc. Carmen Montero

Staff Sgt.
Allison Gardner
Bravo Company
1st Battalion, 34th Infantry
Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
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Spc. Braden Younkin

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Spc. Kaitlyn Brewington

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Raden Holmes

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Copland Zaunbrecher

Staff Sgt.
William Schmidt
Charlie Company
1st Battalion, 34th Infantry
Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
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Pvt. Talyiana Evans

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Spc. Mary Sarsfield

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Blake Blair

HIGH APFT
Spc. Roger Kilgore

Staff Sgt.
Maria Rivera
Delta Company
1st Battalion, 34th Infantry
Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER
OF THE CYCLE**
Pvt. Potter Mason

**SOLDIER OF
THE CYCLE**
Spc. David Forney

HIGH BRM
Pvt. Veronica Ocelo

HIGH APFT
Pvt. Ennis Foster

General

Continued from Page 6

"I did a little quick math, and if I spent about 30 seconds thanking each of you, five hours later I would be talking to an empty hangar. So what I thought I would do is spend a little bit of time reflecting on what we have done together."

Livingston discussed successful wartime missions, as well as stateside missions during state emergencies and natural disasters, and "Team S.C.," a collaboration between the South Carolina National Guard and South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

Livingston joined the South Carolina National Guard in March 1978, and was commissioned through the Palmetto Military Academy, Officer Candidate School. He served as Task Force 218th Commander from June 2004 to January 2005 and Joint Task Force Phoenix commander from May 2007 to April 2008. More recently, Livingston served as The Adjutant General of South Carolina since January 2011. After 41 years of service in the South Carolina National Guard, Livingston will retire from the U.S. Army in March 2019. He has been married to his wife, Barbara, for 42 years and they have four children. He is also the President and CEO of Gregory Electric, located in Columbia.

Once his remarks were completed, for his years of dedication and service, Livingston was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation by Air Force Gen.

Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. He was also awarded the South Carolina Guardsman Retirement Medal by McMaster and, to his surprise, the Palmetto Cross by incoming commander McCarty.

For the past five years, McCarty has served as the deputy adjutant general for South Carolina. Now, he assumes command as the first appointed adjutant general for South Carolina.

"It is truly an honor and a privilege to be appointed by Governor McMaster to serve as the adjutant general of the great state of South Carolina," McCarty said. "I pledge to you and the state of South Carolina that I will do my all each and every day to make the military department of South Carolina an extraordinary organization."

McCarty went on to state, thanks to the efforts of Livingston as adjutant general, there is a firm foundation that he can continue to build upon.

McCarty attended The Citadel, and graduated in 1982 with a Reserve commission in the Field Artillery. He served in command of units from batteries to brigades. His first command was Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion 178th Field Artillery. He also served as Regional Police Advisory Commander for Operation Enduring Freedom and Commander of the 59th Troop Command, as well as additional commands. He and his wife, Susan, have been married for 36 years and have five children.

The ceremony concluded with a benediction given by retired Chaplain (Col.) Steven Stugart and a trooping of the line of the assembled troops before the playing of the Air Force and Army songs.

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Servant

Continued from Page 2

He headed back to Fort Bragg as Battalion Chaplain for 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He also served with Special Operations during his time at Bragg. His assignments included operational deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve.

Belton is currently assigned to USACHCS as Instructor of World Religions, Culture, & Conflict.

Belton's grandfathers almost met as both served in the Americal Division, at almost the same time.

The paternal grandfather, retired Chap. (Maj.) Robert T. Belton, entered active duty as a chaplain in 1966 served until 1986. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a hospital chaplain from 1967 to 1968. He served as battalion chaplain from 1970 to 1971 assigned to 4th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division known as The Americal Division.

He died summer 2018 in Tacoma, Washington; Belton had the honor of preaching his grandfather's funeral sermon.

"Grandpa Belton taught me about the unity that Christians have in Christ regardless of their denomination. He shared a story about a theological discussion with a Roman Catholic priest in a foxhole in Vietnam with mortars falling all around," Belton said. "It was dark, you couldn't see a thing and their right hands met in Christian brotherhood and fellowship. It's central and really, really important for followers of Jesus to remember."

His 90 year-old maternal grandfather, retired Chap. (Col.) James E. Shaw was drafted by the Army in 1950, but entered active duty as a chaplain in 1959 where he served from 1959-1983. He served one tour in Vietnam from 1969-1970 as the 23rd Infantry Division chaplain for the 23rd Infantry Division.

"Grandpa Shaw in many times and in many ways impressed upon me this importance as chaplains to remain faithful to our ecclesiastical endorser who sends us into the Army as chaplains, we've always have to faithfully represent them," Belton said. "There's no such thing as a generic chaplain."

Belton is grateful for the opportunity to share with his grandfathers the common bond of faith.

"I learned so much from them about following Christ faithfully," Belton said.

In addition to his grandfathers, Belton also has an uncle who is an Army chaplain. Chap. (Col.) Jonathan Shaw is a senior staff officer at the Office of the Chief of Chaplains in Washington D.C.



Photo by STAFF SGT. MATTHEW BRITTON

Col. Scott Gilman, the U.S. Army Central Training and Exercises division chief, briefs senior leaders from USARCENT, the U.S. Army Reserves and the U.S. Army National Guard during the Operation Spartan Shield Community of Excellence Forum at Patton Hall on Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., Feb. 6.

USARCENT hosts Operation Spartan Shield Community of Excellence

By STAFF SGT. MATTHEW BRITTON
U.S. Army Central

United States Army Central hosted an open forum Feb. 5-6, 2019, at Patton Hall, welcoming U.S. Army Reserve and National Guardsmen who have troops serving in Central Command's area of responsibility.

"Operation Spartan Shield Community of Excellence is a forum to bring National Guard and Reserves general officers together to talk about Operation Spartan Shield and what is happening in theater when it deals with Compo 2 (Component 2, National Guard) and Compo 3 (Component 3, Army Reserves) units," said Col. Darius Gallegos, the deputy director of the USARCENT Army Reserves Engagement Cell. "It allows senior leaders from both compos to come together and share common challenges and provides a way for us to overcome them together. In the USARCENT AOR, the National Guard and Army Reserve make up anywhere between 50 to 58 percent of Army forces at any given time."

State Partnership Programs were also a main point of discussion. An SPP links a state's National Guard with the equivalent military forces of another partner nation in a mutually beneficial relationship. In 25 years, the program has built 75 relationships with 81 nations around the globe. Through cooperation, the two partnered forces help each other reach security goals, as well as state and DOD directed foreign policies.

The forum connected the adjutant generals of their state's National Guard, who are in charge of their individual SPP, to the active component combatant commander and other supporting officers at USARCENT.

"Coming here, first of all, gives me an azimuth check of what the mission looks like and what my Soldiers are doing overseas for the CENTCOM area," said Maj. Gen. Durr Boyles, adjutant general, Mississippi National Guard. "We're also an SPP partner. That is a state partnership with Uzbekistan, which is also a CENTCOM country. It also gives us some reference point as I engage a partner country what the goals are for CENTCOM and USARCENT so that I can be a messenger for not only CENTCOM and USARCENT but the United States of America, as we develop that partnership."

Another advantage of this forum is the ability to share tactics and techniques across the total Army, which comprises the active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve. As missions are completed by units on the ground, the incoming unit may not be of the same component.

"It's great being able to share some of the lessons that we're learning from their deployment over there," Boyles said. "They followed an active component and they're being followed by an active component. (There are) a lot of moving parts to that, and so being in this forum helps us have better visibility on that."

See **SHIELD**: Page 23

Path

Continued from Page 3

History found Benjamin, too, when he was elected as the first African American mayor in the city's history in April 2010.

Voter turnout for that year's mayoral election was record-setting.

In 2013, Benjamin was reelected to office by a 30 percent margin.

"That is a landslide; that is a beat down ... however you want to put it," said Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander, when he introduced Benjamin at the luncheon. "He has a list of accolades that are endless ... You only have to spend a few minutes with him to understand why."

Beagle called him a "proven visionary" and a friend and advocate of Fort Jackson.

Benjamin has been active in law and politics for years.

He was appointed as director of the state Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services at the age of 29, after attending the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Along with his role as mayor, Benjamin is president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, chairman for Municipal Bonds for America, and teaches a class at the UofSC.



Brig. Gen. Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., Fort Jackson commander, left, introduces the guest speaker of the 2019 African American/Black History Month Luncheon Feb. 14. Columbia's first and current African American mayor, Steve Benjamin, spoke on this year's theme: black migrations.

Photo by ELYSSA VONDRA

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Pledge

Continued from Page 11

Kerrie Ammons, C.C. Pinckney speech pathologist, called it an “equal opportunity” pledge. Ford said she thought, “This will make a good pledge for everybody,” teachers and students alike.

The idea to adopt a school pledge based on the school vision of achieving student success, all day, every day, came from the belief that “everybody should have a shared belief ... shared values,” Harvey said. Ford’s pledge “really evoked that ... everybody can live by (her words).”

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance is a vow to the country and it’s shared values, the school pledge narrows in on the specific beliefs of C.C. Pinckney, Harvey added.

Ford took the idea of a schoolwide pledge to heart, Harvey said, by getting everyone to promise to be a part of that culture and by capturing the ideals of the school vision.

The school surprised Ford with the announcement that she had won in front of the entire student body.

An assembly to announce gift card winners of the recent Math Night at the Commissary included the unexpected reveal that Ford had written the winning C.C. Pinckney Pledge.

“I was like, ‘oh my god,’” Ford said, commenting that she didn’t expect to win. “It just feels awesome.”

Travel

Continued from Page 9

Suggested equipment for your vehicle:

- Cellular telephone.
- Disposable camera with flash, kept in foil wrapper.
- Hand held marine air horn.
- Three cans of flat tire fix it
- Flashlight

- Basic tool kit
- Road flares
- Automobile glass breaker & seatbelt cutting tool

Suggested modifications you should consider for your vehicle:

- Small ABC fire extinguisher
- Small medical kit
- Window tinting to darkest level allowed by state law.
- Upgraded tires and brakes.
- Full size spare tire and run-flat tires.
- Locking gas cap.

- Install bolt/rivet through tail pipe.
- Keep tires at recommended pressure.

Other things for you to consider:
 ■ In minor traffic accidents drive to well lighted, well populated area before stopping.

- If problem arises drive straight to police station.
- If carjacking occurs, give them the vehicle.
- If shooting starts - keep the vehicle moving.

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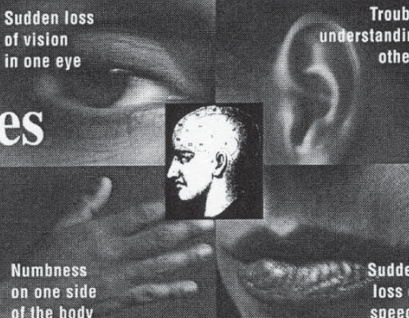
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Fitness

Continued from Page 13

While French, Brager and the other Soldiers selected for the team demonstrated their physical skills at tryouts, that was not the only test. A personal interview was also an important part of the process, as these Soldiers will serve as ambassadors for the Army's recruiting effort.

The members of the team are coming from a variety of locations and occupations. Many of the team members are already nationally ranked competitors, who will now have the opportunity to compete in black and gold uniforms on behalf of the U.S. Army. The team will participate across the nation in various fitness competitions, to include CrossFit competitions and World-Class Strongman Competitions.

Sgt. First Class Anthony Fuhrman, an Army recruiter, is one of the members heading to the team's first official competition, the Arnold Festival USA Feb. 28-March 3 in Columbus, Ohio. Fuhrman recently won the World's Strongest Man competition in his category and placed second on the premiere episode of Dwayne Johnson's show "The Titan Games."

In addition to competitions, the team members will participate in community engagement activities across the country to share their personal Army stories and educate potential Soldiers and their influencers about the career, leadership and training opportunities the Army offers.

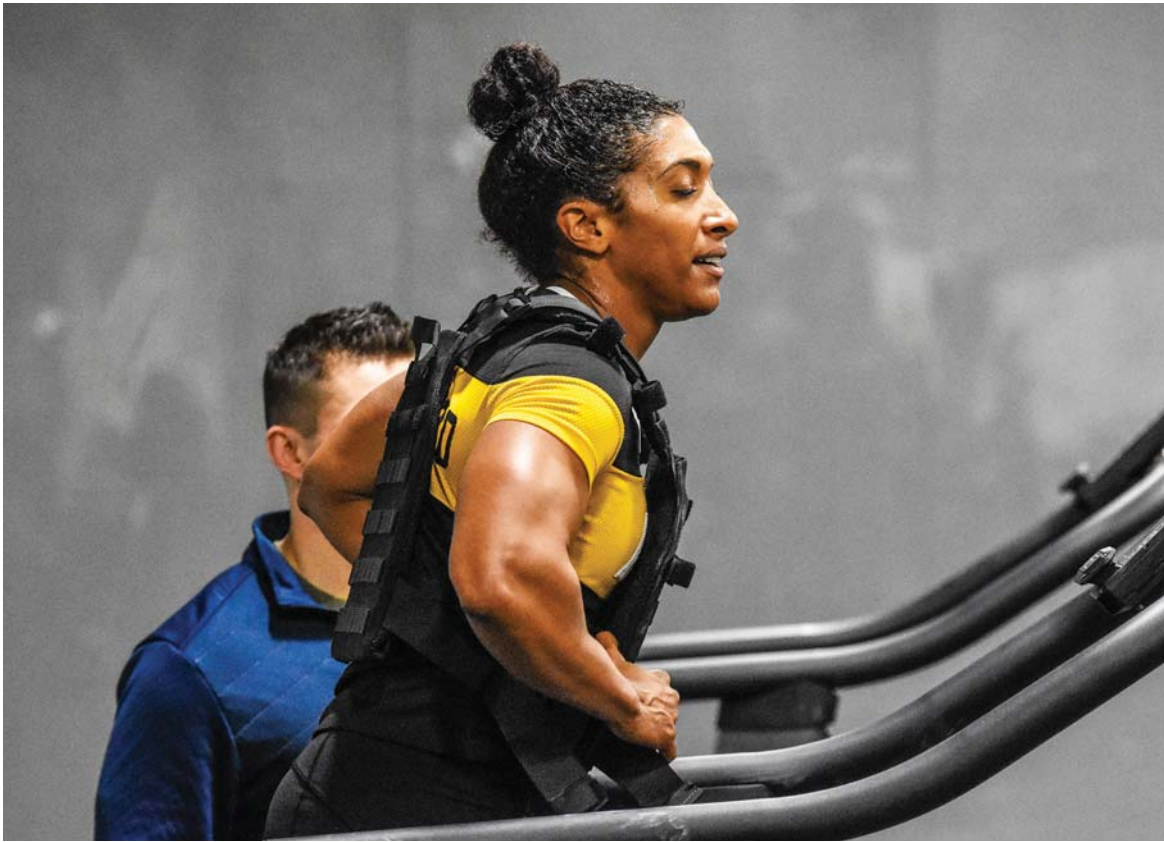


Photo by LARA POIRRIER

Capt. Ashley Shepherd runs on the Assault AirRunner during the U.S. Army Warrior Fitness Team tryouts.

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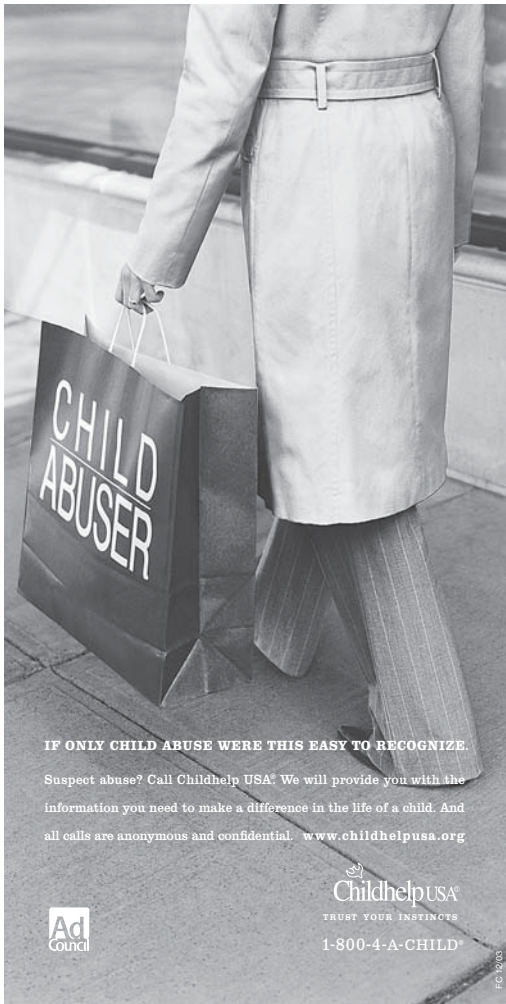
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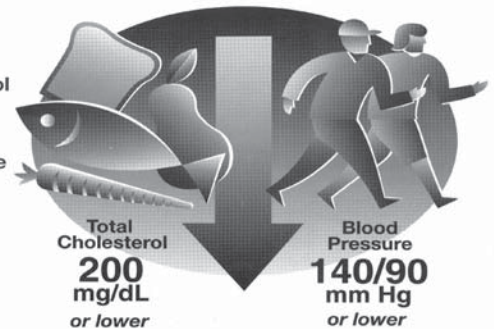
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Shield

Continued from Page 16

While attendees mainly focused on their respective branches, some also have command of joint forces who support the missions aligned to CENTCOM's AOR.

"I also command Air Force assets," Boyles said. "I have re-fuelers, cargo carriers, C-17s that are in the CENTCOM area continuously. So having that visibility also helps me with

those units. I can go back, and we can have a discussion about what's on the ground and what they can expect about the missions coming to them."

Having a mission like Operation Spartan Shield, a mission that builds partner capacity in the Middle East promotes security, enhances readiness and strengthens the ability to rapidly respond.

"This mission really enhances our preparedness," Boyles said. "I use the (phrase), 'we're not your granddaddy's Cadillac anymore'. The National Guard used to be a strategic force, we're now an operational force for the Army and the Air Force."

Those who are able to serve their country in this unique mission are eager to do so.

"I've got 4,000 [service members] deployed to the CENTCOM AO, they want to be there," Boyles said. "They came from schools. They came from auto mechanic jobs. They came from professional jobs back in Mississippi. They want to take time away from that job and go serve their country in uniform in a contentious AO. They're some of your best Soldiers. They'll also go back into their communities and ... tell their stories. They bring the nation closer, and they build support for the operations we're doing overseas. So let's never discount the value that the National Guardsman brings to the table."

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