



# FRG HAPPENINGS



STB, Third Army, ARCENT

1 November 2012

## FRG Says Relax!

The FRG Spa Day, October 5, 2012, was a huge success. We extend a big "thank you" to Debbie Bowen for treating Soldiers, Civilians,



and Spouses to an afternoon of relaxation and beauty. Services included brow shaping, massages, and professional makeup services. If being pampered weren't enough, refreshments and giveaways were also provided. Above all, the chance to gab with good friends and new friends gave everyone a stress-free end to their workweek! If only every week could end this well!

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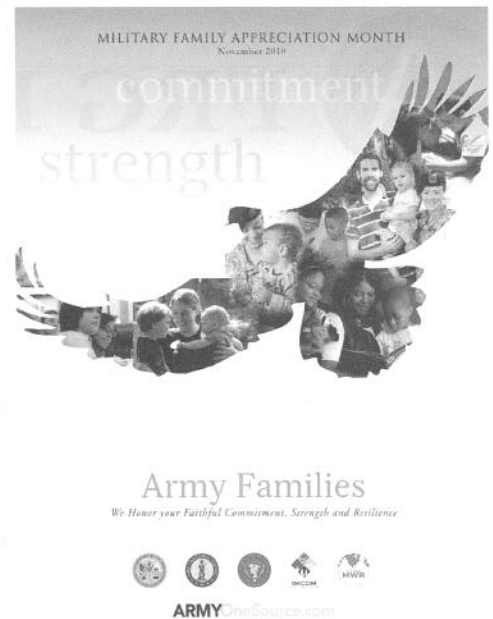
**Did you know?** The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is on both Shaw AFB and Ft. Jackson? Call Cheryl Jackson, Ft. Jackson EFMP Manager, at (803) 751-5256 or Jerome Brown, Shaw AFB EFMP Manager at (803) 895-1252 for information and assistance with your EFMP needs.

## Military Family Appreciation Month Salute to Our Third Army/USARCENT Families

"Just as our troops embody the courage and character that make America's military the finest in the world, their Family members embody the resilience and generosity that make our communities strong. They serve with heroism in their homes and neighborhoods while they are without the comfort of having loved ones nearby."  
President Obama

The President's quote above applies to our Families as much as it does to the audience to which he spoke. Third Army/USARCENT Families, like all military Families are passionate...about everything. They give their all, whether it's volunteering with the FRG, in their kids' schools, or in the community. What's even more impressive is that some do so while balancing careers, home life, kids, and education. Third Army/USARCENT spouses, like all military spouses, start a life of service every bit as valuable as their Soldier. Spouses are always willing to lend a hand, whether it's at home or in a foreign country. They are resilient and the kids are just as amazing, as they go about changing schools on an average of six to eight times during their parent's career. This month we also remember those extended Family members who are often forgotten: grandparents, brothers/sisters, uncles/aunts, and a host of other relatives who are there to encourage the Soldier as he/she serves. We appreciate the military Family!

*Submitted by R. Cynthia Jacobs, Family Readiness Programs Manager*



### FRG Member Spotlight Tracey Levens

Tracey Levens is originally from Luling, TX. She, along with husband Jeremy and son David reside in Elgin, SC. Tracey works as a Human Resources Specialist in the Third Army G1. She loves to spend time with family, working out, and soaking up the great South Carolina weather on her bicycle. Tracey is an avid reader and, like many of us, believes in the power of retail therapy! When asked what advice she has for other spouses living away from their home post or base, as many of our Third Army Families do, Tracey offered a few personal keys to success:

"Being involved in church and having a church family provide a great support system and keep our family connected with our community. Living in a close, friendly neighborhood is also essential to successful off post living. I recommend getting to know your neighbors and watch out for each other."

Fun fact: Tracey is a Fantasy Football fanatic!

**From Your FRG Leader...** November is usually the month when many people take a moment to reflect on what they are thankful for in their lives. I could make a long list of all the things/people I am grateful for, but I won't bore you with the details. However, I will share one thing I am thankful for because it involves you as a member of the Family Readiness Group (FRG). During this season in my life, I am very thankful for our FRG. The Third Army HQ/STB FRG is my passion, hobby, volunteer job, and source for friendships.

I have a passion for serving Army Families. I would rearrange my schedule, skip a meal, or drive a hundred miles if it meant I could help a Family. Volunteering as the FRG Leader allows me to make a difference in the lives of our Third Army Families.

Believe it or not, the FRG is also my hobby. I enjoy planning parties and events. When I was stationed in Bosnia in '99 on active duty, I had the extra duty of planning all of the holiday events for our unit. At the time I joked that my second career would be party planning. Thirteen years later, here I am planning events for the FRG and having fun in the process.

The FRG Leader position provides me purpose. All three of my children are in school full time and my husband is deployed. I could choose to pout and miss my family, but rather I stay active with volunteering.

Through the FRG I have met wonderful people, many with whom I have developed close friendships. I know if I was ever in a pinch, I could call any number of them and they would help me. I am thankful for our FRG and the people in it who make serving as the FRG Leader rewarding and fun. I am also very thankful for your friendship.

Christiane

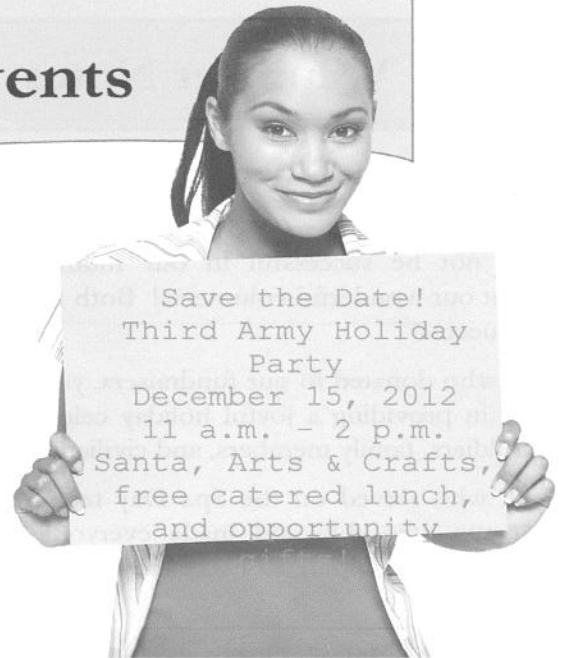
# Upcoming FRG Events

## FRG Meeting

November 1, 2012, 6:30 p.m.  
Patton Hall Lucky Conference Room  
Combatting the Holiday Blues  
Please enter through the front doors.

## Third Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off!

November 7, 2012  
Gazebos across from Patton Hall  
Families will enjoy BBQ, sports games, and a chili cook off. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Obtain and return the entry form at STB or by email from [turlingtonc@hotmail.com](mailto:turlingtonc@hotmail.com) by 31 OCT.



## Third Army 94th Birthday Celebration

WHO: Soldiers, DAC, Family Members and Community Partners  
WHEN: 7 NOV  
WHERE: Field/Gazebo across from Patton Hall  
WHAT: Sport Events, BBQ and Chili Cook Off  
WHY: To recognize our lineage and continue to build esprit de corps within our formation and with our community partners



### 2nd Annual CHILI COOK OFF Sponsored by the FRG

Trophies awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Best chili earns the traveling trophy for their section.

Pick up and return entry forms at STB or email [turlingtonc@hotmail.com](mailto:turlingtonc@hotmail.com) for digital forms. Must enter NLT 31 OCT

Chili Cook Off starts at 12:00pm  
Awards presented at 2:00pm



POC for the celebration is CPT Colon 885-8016  
Uniform: Appropriate civilian attire

## Enlisted Spouses Club Bazaar

November 3, 2012  
Volunteer to help staff the FRG information table. We will be reaching out to new spouses and promoting our upcoming holiday party and chili cook-off. For more details and to volunteer, go to <http://www.timetosignup.com/thirdarmyfrg/signupsheet/12218>

## FRG Breakfast Tacos Fundraiser

November 16, 2012, 8-10 a.m.  
Patton Hall East Atrium  
Start your day off right with a tasty breakfast! Proceeds benefit the FRG holiday party. Volunteer to serve at <http://www.timetosignup.com/thirdarmyfrg/signupsheet/12219>  
Please enter through the east entrance.

## Volunteer Notes

### Our Sincere Thanks...

To all who volunteered at the October fundraisers, we would not be successful in our fundraising endeavors without our wonderful volunteers! Both fundraisers were a great success!

To all who donated to our fundraisers, your generosity will go far in providing a joyful holiday celebration for all of our Soldiers, family members, and civilians.

To all who served on the Spa Day team, you made the event run smoothly and made everyone feel welcome! Thank you for helping to make the event so enjoyable for our members!

To our new Spouse Sponsors, Marcela Johnson, Amy Phillipy, Laura Rogers, and Shawna Hillferty, for helping welcome our new Families arriving this winter. Welcome to the Spouse Sponsorship Team!

### Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed for face painting and also to assist children in the arts & crafts area during the Holiday Party. Volunteers would work one shift, not the entire party. Shift length depends on the number of members who volunteer. If interested, please email Chrissy Neely at [urichyia@yahoo.com](mailto:urichyia@yahoo.com) or Amanda Brown at [amandabbrown81097@yahoo.com](mailto:amandabbrown81097@yahoo.com)

## Member Notes

Do you have reason to celebrate? Would you like to share a birth, engagement, or marriage announcement in our newsletter? Send your newsletter submissions to the newsletter POC Jodie Smith at [jodiesmith8@gmail.com](mailto:jodiesmith8@gmail.com). All submissions must follow all Army regulations and policies and must be received by the 15th of the month.

## Social Groups: What's Your Niche?

*Several social groups are available to help you meet new friends and foster relationships. All social groups are open to family members, Soldiers, and Civilians. Let us know if your "niche" is missing. Maybe you can start a new social group!*

### Book Club: Nov 13

***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption***  
by Laura Hilibrand

Email Irma Stafford at [irma.stafford@live.com](mailto:irma.stafford@live.com) for more details.

### Lunch Bunch

Email Amanda Brown at [amandabrown1097@yahoo.com](mailto:amandabrown1097@yahoo.com) to be added to the monthly evite.

### Bunco: Nov 5

Date change due to Election Day.  
Email Christiane Turlington at [turlingtonc@hotmail.com](mailto:turlingtonc@hotmail.com) for details.

### "Third" Friday Breakfast Group

Email Laura Rogers at [laurajeang@gmail.com](mailto:laurajeang@gmail.com) for details.

### Columbia Social Club

Email Kris Bailes at [boy3\\_girls1@yahoo.com](mailto:boy3_girls1@yahoo.com) for details.

### Third Army Spanish Speaking Spouses Group

Contact Marcela Johnson at (803) 512-0288 or [scottnmars@yahoo.com](mailto:scottnmars@yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining. Esposas de soldados del 3rd Army Hispanas, les gustaria conocer a otras esposas militares Hispanas? Si les gustaria formar parte de un grupo de esposas militares de habla Hispana, porfavor de contactar a Marcela Johnson. Email: [scottnmars@yahoo.com](mailto:scottnmars@yahoo.com) o al telefono (803) 512-0288.

# Highlights From Your 'Hood!

## Shaw AFB

[www.20thfss.com](http://www.20thfss.com)

### Ongoing events:

Football Frenzy, Sundays, Carolina Skies Club  
Karaoke at the Club, Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., Carolina Skies Club

### Sesame Street Live!

Nov 1 & 2, two shows each day  
Free! Call 895-3382 for more information

Give Parents a Break & Kids Night Out  
Nov 2, 6:30 p.m. at the Shaw CDC & Youth Center  
Signups required. Call 895-2252 for details.

Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament  
Nov 17 at Carolina Lakes Golf Course  
Call 895-1399 for details

### "Who Killed Santa?"

Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre  
Dec 7-9 at Wateree Recreation Area  
Reservation deadline is Nov 26!  
Call (877) 928-8373 for reservations.

## Sumter

[www.sumtersc.gov](http://www.sumtersc.gov)

Sumter's House of Classic Movies: *My Fair Lady*  
Nov 9, 7-9 p.m. at the Sumter Opera House  
\$2.50/ticket benefits the Sumter County Library's children's programs

Sumter County Veteran's Day Ceremony  
Sunday, Nov 11 at the Sumter County Courthouse

Sumter Little Theatre Cabaret Night  
Nov 9-10, 8 p.m. at the Sumter Cultural Arts Center  
\$15 donation. Complimentary beer, wine, soft drinks, and light hor d'oeuvres

## Camden [www.cityofcamden.org](http://www.cityofcamden.org)

2nd Annual Chili Cook Off, Nov. 3, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.  
at the Town Green Camden, \$10/adult, \$5/child  
Kids costume contest, food, & live music!

Revolutionary War Field Days, \$8 Adult/daily  
Military, Senior, Child, & Family discounts available.  
[www.historic-camden.net](http://www.historic-camden.net) for more information

## Ft. Jackson

[www.fortjacksonmwr.com](http://www.fortjacksonmwr.com)

### Ongoing Events:

New Parent Training: Baby Basics, Call (803) 751-6328 for registration  
Magruder's Club & Pub Happy Hour, Monday-Friday, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

### EFMP Bowling Outing

Nov 15, 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Century Bowling Center. Must be enrolled in EFMP. Call 751-5256 for reservation

### Foreign Born Spouse and Hearts Apart Thanksgiving Dinner (potluck)

Nov 18, 6-8 p.m. at the Ft. Jackson Family Readiness Center, Building 3499 Daniel St. All Spouses and Families who are living separately from their Soldiers due to deployment or on an unaccompanied tour are invited. Must RSVP NLT 8 Nov, 751-1124 or email [miranda.broadus@us.army.mil](mailto:miranda.broadus@us.army.mil)

### Christmas Tree Lighting

Nov 28, 5-6 p.m.  
Fort Jackson Post Headquarters

## Columbia

[www.columbiacvb.com](http://www.columbiacvb.com)

### Ongoing Event:

Family Fun Day at the Columbia Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday's monthly, Free event!

### Columbia 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Blues Festival

Nov 3, Noon-10 p.m. at Martin Luther King Park  
Free & Family Friendly! Bring blanket or folding chairs.

### City of Columbia Veteran's Day Parade

Nov 12, 11 a.m.- Noon in Downtown Columbia  
Recommended early arrival for parking and viewing.

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Vista Lights

Nov 15, 5-10 p.m. in the Vista  
Free Admission! Family friendly street party.

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Jodie Smith.*