



# FRG HAPPENINGS



STB, Third Army, ARCENT

1 December 2012

## Happy Birthday, Third Army!



Family members, Soldiers, DA civilians, and our community partners celebrated the Third Army's 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off & BBQ on November 7, 2012. The pavilion near Patton Hall filled with hungry visitors, chili connoisseurs, and the inviting smell of over a dozen pots of handcrafted chili. FRG Volunteers served samples of each chili to the adventurous judges, comprised of any and all attendees who wished to try each chili despite heat level. After all the votes were counted, Dianna Troyer, married to SPC David Troyer of G2, was selected as the winner with MAJ David Klahn of G37 and Tracey Levens of the G1 as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runners-up, respectively.

Along with the chili cook off, STB Soldiers prepared a plentiful BBQ spread with hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, and all the fixings. The long line of hungry Soldiers, Family Members, and civilians ate their fill and enjoyed a lunch paired with relaxing conversation: a rare treat in the middle of a busy Third Army work day!

After lunch was eaten and the chili cook off winners announced, Soldiers headed to the athletic fields to compete in several sporting events, proving the competitive spirit that has driven Third Army for 94 years: Stay Third, Always First! Here's to another 94 years!



### Inside this issue

STB & FRG Holiday Party!	2
FRG Member Spotlight	3
Happy Holidays: Religious & Cultural Celebrations	3
Social Groups: Find Your Niche	4
Volunteer & Member Notes	4
Around Town	5

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 (803) 895-7427

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pattonsownfrg](http://www.facebook.com/pattonsownfrg)

**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.

# Celebrate!

Consider this your personal invitation to our annual Third Army/USARCENT STB and FRG Holiday Party. It is our biggest event of the year, open to all Third Army/USARCENT Soldiers, Family Members and DA Civilians. Volunteers have been fundraising since September to ensure we kick off a successful event. It is because of their time and dedication we can offer an afternoon filled with festivities. Join us for a fun afternoon and show the volunteers you appreciate their efforts. The entire afternoon is free of charge; it even includes a catered lunch our volunteers didn't have to prepare. The party will start off with story time for the kids and then arts and crafts through the entire event. All of the arts and crafts were carefully chosen and prepared by our volunteers. Fun will be had by all the children making edible crafts, coloring and making projects. And of course, a holiday party wouldn't be complete without a surprise visit from Santa Clause. We will also have \$500 worth of opportunity prizes to give away to lucky winners in attendance. Don't miss out in one of our best events of the year. I plan to see you there!

*Submitted by Christiane Turlington, ARCENT HQ/STB FRG Leader*

## Third Army/USARCENT

## STB and FRG

## HOLIDAY PARTY

15 DEC, 2012  
 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
 Lucky Conference Room, Patton Hall  
 Enter through the main doors

Join us for a fun filled afternoon. Activities include a FREE catered lunch of heavy Hor D'oeuvres, Santa, arts and crafts for children, and door prizes



Contact [turlingtonc@hotmail.com](mailto:turlingtonc@hotmail.com) for more information



3<sup>rd</sup> Army Ornaments \$10  
 Shatterproof Ornament 3-1/4"



**Pre-paid t-shirts**

- Children's shirts = \$12
- Adult shirts = \$15
- 2x and 3x = \$20

Need a few more gifts? Look no further! Mark both friends and family off your shopping list with these great **Third Army Spirit items!** Spirit items will be available for purchase at the STB and FRG Holiday Party or directly from Christiane, [turlingtonc@hotmail.com](mailto:turlingtonc@hotmail.com).

**Order yours today!**



## FRG Member Spotlight: Nina Coulson

Nina is originally from Norman, OK, but presently resides in Sumter, SC. She is married to Todd Coulson, and together they have two young boys, Joshua, age 5, and Owen, age 3. Nina keeps very busy as a nurse in the Tuomey ER, an Army Reserves-ICU nurse, a Scentsy Consultant, and as a full time nurse practitioner student! She also enjoys running, triathlons, and CrossFit.

What is Nina's advice for thriving as a Military Spouse? "Get involved with work, school, church, volunteering, or hobbies and make plenty of friends outside the military group to help you get through the deployments. Staying busy helps time fly and keeps your mind busy."

Fun Fact about Nina: "I love to sign up for some type of race every month while my husband is deployed. Keeps me in shape and I have short term goals to look forward to. (During Todd's) Last deployment I did a marathon, 2 triathlons, a half ironman, a mud run, and a half marathon."

# Happy Holidays!

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

**The winter months are a time for celebration for many faith groups within our community and around the world. Some of the holy days observed include:**

**Eid'ul-Adha (Muslim):** November 6. This festival is celebrated in remembrance Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God.

**Hanukkah (Jewish):** Sundown on December 8, 2012 through December 16, 2012. The holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 BC.

**Kwanzaa (African American):** December 26 to January 1. Kwanzaa, first celebrated in the mid-1960s, is a weeklong celebration in the United States honoring the universal African-American heritage and culture.

**Diwali (Hindus):** Hindu's celebrate Diwali as the festival of lights, it occurs towards the end of the lunar cycle in October/November

**Bodhi Day (Buddhist)** honors the enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama -- the Buddha, on the eighth of December. The day is observed in many ways, including prayer, meditation and teachings.

**Christmas Day (Christian):** December 25 is observed with both religious and secular practices. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, whose teachings form the basis of their religion.

**Atheism** is not a religion so there is no organised holy day. A structured holy day would go against everything they stand for.

**A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO THIRD ARMY/USARCENT**



## Volunteer Notes

### Our Sincere Thanks...

To all who volunteered at and donated to our November fundraiser, the Breakfast Taco Sale, we would not be successful in our fundraising endeavors without our wonderful volunteers and contributors!

To all who donated to and packed care packages for our soldiers down range, your generosity will surely brighten the day of a Soldier! 21 packages were sent down range! Great job!



### 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 [amandabrown81097@yahoo.com](mailto:amandabrown81097@yahoo.com)

## Congratulations!

To **Raphael Camejo**, on his graduation from the Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia and selection to be one of Sumter's Finest, we are so proud of you!

To **Sean and Met Lonnecker**, on the arrival of their new baby girl Alivia Paelynn Lonnecker born on November 1, 2012, we are so happy for you!

Do you have reason to celebrate? 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. Joining a social group is as easy as shooting the POC an email requesting more information or to be added to the evite list!

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

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

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.

**Don't be shy! Join a group today!**

# Around Town

## Shaw AFB

[www.20thfss.com](http://www.20thfss.com) for more upcoming events!

**Karaoke at the Club**, Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., Carolina Skies Club

**Deployed/Remote Family Dinner**, Dec 10, 6 p.m., at the Carolina Skies Club, FREE to all Spouses and families of those deployed, on remote, or who have recently returned. Register at <http://shawchapel.org/dfdregistration/> so organizers will know how much food is needed. All door prize winners are picked from this Registration list!

**Breakfast with Santa**, Dec 1-2

Family fun weekend at Wateree Recreation Area! \$15 per child includes breakfast, visit with Santa at 9 a.m., holiday craft project at 1 p.m., and a holiday movie favorite 8 p.m.  
877-928-8373 or [wateree@20thfss.com](mailto:wateree@20thfss.com) for reservations

**Blackout New Year's Eve Party** at Carolina Skies Club!  
4 rooms of live entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast, balloon drop and breakfast after midnight. All-Black dress code is required. 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.  
\$40 in advance or \$50 at the door. 803-666-3651

**Gingerbread House Competition**, Dec 6, Shaw Community Center. Gingerbread houses must be dropped off at the Community Center Dec. 5 for viewing. Judging is Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m. Gingerbread House must not exceed 24"x30" and must be completely edible.

803-667-3300

## Sumter

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

**Sumter Poinsettia Festival**, Dec 1-14, throughout Sumter  
Features a variety of entertainment including ballet, choral concerts, plays, craft expo, classic movies, and much more. Go to [www.sumtersc.gov](http://www.sumtersc.gov) for a complete brochure of festival entertainment.

**Fantasy of Lights**, Begins Dec 1, 6 p.m., Swan Lake  
The world famous 150 acre Swan Lake-Iris Gardens will illuminate with more than a million lights and 150 lighted figures!

**Old-Fashioned Christmas**, Dec 13. Celebrate Christmas on Main Street with festive food and drinks, live entertainment and more as the city travels back to old Sumterville with this costume-themed event. FREE. (803) 436-2640 for more information.

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

**Kershaw County Christmas Parade**, Dec 8, 10 a.m. – Noon  
Features horses, fire trucks, floats, beauty queens, classic cars, dancing, music, Santa, and much more. Enter to win a fully decorated Christmas tree! Historic Camden.

**Camden Community Concert Band's Holiday Concert**  
Dec 9, 3 p.m. at the Camden High School Performing Arts Center  
Enjoy the sounds of the season!

## Ft. Jackson

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

**ScreamFree Parenting Seminar**, Dec 6, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Solomon Center; Equips Soldiers, Families, and civilians with different techniques used in dealing with stresses of deployment, single parenting, and other challenges in the military. Register at 803-751-6325 or [Annette.t.mcleod.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Annette.t.mcleod.civ@mail.mil)

**Jingle Bell Jog & Reindeer Games**, Dec 1, 8:30 a.m.-Noon  
Ft. Jackson Youth Center. Fight the Holiday Heft with a 4-mile circuit with turnaround points. Families are encouraged to participate with strollers if the little jinglers are too small to walk/run. Join us after the race for breakfast and some special guests from the North Pole, reindeer games, and activities. Registration required. 751-4865/4824.

**Sportsmen's Appreciation Luncheon**, Alpine Lodge, Dec 15, 12:00 p.m.-until. Free to registered Fort Jackson hunters and fishermen! Registration by Dec.13, 751-3484. Covered Dish requested, Outdoor Rec will provide the meat. Enjoy a great meal and share this year's "fish" stories!

**You Made the Grade!** Students in grades 1-12 who maintain a "B" average are eligible to receive Exchange offers for every qualifying report card they earn. To receive the AAFES "You Made the Grade" booklet, students simply present a valid military ID card and proof of an overall "B" or better average at the Customer Service Counter. Students may receive one coupon package for every qualifying report card received.

## Columbia

[www.columbiacvb.com](http://www.columbiacvb.com) for more events!

**23rd Festival of Trees**, Nov. 15-17, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Features decorated trees, wreaths and other holiday items that are up for bid during a weekend-long silent auction.

**Riverbanks Zoo & Gardens' 25th Lights Before Christmas Experience**, Nov 17 – Dec 30, 6-9 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.  
[www.riverbanks.org/events/lights-before-christmas.shtml](http://www.riverbanks.org/events/lights-before-christmas.shtml) for more information.

**The Nutcracker Ballet** presented by Carolina Ballet, Township Auditorium, Nov 21- Nov. 25. Go to [http://thetownship.org/events.cfm?event\\_id=189](http://thetownship.org/events.cfm?event_id=189) for more information.

**USC Concert Choir's Christmas Concert**  
Free! Go to <http://www.music.sc.edu/events.html> for more information.

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