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**Subject:** U.S. Army Community Listening Session (Fort Jackson)  
**Location:** Shandon Baptist Church, Sanctuary, 5250 Forest Drive, Columbia, S.C.  
**When:** 2/26/2015 3:30:00 PM - 4:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** ATT05475

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Advance: Todd Cook  
(803)608-6469

APPROVED BY: James handled the approval of this event.

EVENT: U.S. Army Community Listening Session (Fort Jackson)

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2015

TIME: 3:30 PM

LOCATION: Shandon Baptist Church, Sanctuary, 5250 Forest Drive, Columbia, S.C.

LOCATION SET-UP: The program will take place in the sanctuary. There will be a podium with microphone and a reserved seat for the Governor. The US ARMY reps will all be seated on the platform and guest speakers will be seated on the first row of the church. The Governor will be escorted down to the first row and will introduced, at which time she will walk to the center aisle microphone and address the US Army listening panel. Our local citizens will be behind her and she will be televised on the large screen on the stage. Once the program concludes, the dignitaries will be excused to the audience which will enable them to leave as their schedules dictate.

**ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:**

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**SCHEDULING CONTACT:**

Susan McPherson

Director of Public Policy & Military Affairs

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PRIMARY STAFF: Ashton Lee

ADVANCE STAFF: Zach Pippin

PURPOSE: Governor Haley will provide closing remarks at the U.S. Army Community Listening Session regarding Fort Jackson and the recent headcount reductions.

PRESS: Yes.

PUBLIC: Yes.

INVITED BY: Bill Bethea

INTRODUCED BY: Boyd Jones will MC the entire event. Boyd is the Chairman of the Board for the Columbia Chamber and is an EVP with NBSC Bank.

LENGTH OF SPEAKING: 8-10 mins max. The Governor's comments can be shorter if she would like. Other speakers are being given 3-5 mins.

SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:

3:00-3:02 PM Prayer Rev. Dick Lincoln, Shandon Baptist Pastor

AC Flora High School Color Guard Present Colors Received by MG Becker

3:02-3:05 PM National Anthem

3:05-3:07 PM Pledge of Allegiance Abe Turner

Color Guard Exits

3:07-3:11 PM Remarks Boyd Jones, MC

MG Becker officially opens the session and introduced the US ARMY panel and Fort Jackson Command Staff

3:11-3:14 PM Remarks Senate Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman

3:14-3:17 PM Remarks Speaker of the House Jay Lucas

3:17-3:20 PM Remarks Carl Blackstone

3:20-3:23 PM Remarks Mayor Benjamain

3:23-3:37 PM Video messages from Washington Congressional Delegation

4 videos/ 3mins each

Sen. Graham, Sen. Scott, Rep. Clyburn, and Rep. Wilson

3:37-3:40 PM Remarks Abraham Turner

3:40-3:43 PM Remarks AG Bob Livingston

3:43-3:45 PM Introduce Gov. Haley Boyd Jones, MC

3:45-3:55 PM Remarks Gov. Haley

3:55 PM Gov. Haley departs

4:00 PM Public Comment Session Begins

RICHLAND COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION:

Senate Delegation

John Courson

Darrell Jackson

Joel Lourie- confirmed

John Scott  
Thomas McElveen

House Delegation  
Jimmy Bales  
Nathan Ballentine  
Beth Bernstein  
MaryGail Douglas  
Kirkman Finlay  
Chris Hart  
Leon Howard  
Joe McEachern  
Mia McLeod  
Joe Neal  
Todd Rutherford  
James Smith

#### BACKGROUND STATISTICS:

- Military has an approximately \$20 billion impact on the state as a whole
- 8 military installations in the state encompass more than 74,000 (including active duty, reserve, and civilian contractors). Directly and indirectly, over 152,000 jobs are supported by the military statewide
- That generates approximately \$8.6 billion in personal income and about \$770 million annually in tax revenue (USC Study)
- SC is home to nearly 58,000 military retirees

#### SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

Fort Jackson

- South Carolina has a long and proud military tradition. We were just named the Most Patriotic State in the country! That isn't an accident.
- The state has taken extraordinary measures to take care of our service members and veterans in recent years.
- We've improved state property tax laws to ease the stresses of homeownership for veterans, and make sure they aren't penalized when they're relocated.
- We've expedited the professional licensing process for incoming soldiers and spouses so that state agencies are not keeping licensed professionals from finding jobs before they arrive
- And just yesterday, we celebrated the 1 year anniversary of Operation Palmetto Employment, which is an initiative that aims to make sure we're connecting our veterans to all of the job opportunities we see around the state.

- We're becoming the most military-friendly state in the country. But we're facing unprecedented challenges at the federal level.
- We all know that the federal government spends too much money. We've got too much debt and our deficit is too high.
- But there's a right way and a wrong way to cut spending.
- And cutting the military – a core function of government – at a time of rising chaos in the world is the wrong way to cut spending.
- Not only will irresponsible budgeting practices at the federal level hamper U.S. leadership abroad, but it will make us weaker at home.
- For over 97 years, Fort Jackson has faithfully served this nation well – holding the responsibility for more Basic Combat Training soldiers than all other Army installations combined. Currently over 45,000 new soldiers go through Basic Training at Ft. Jackson every year.
- Fort Jackson's training expertise extends to a Drill Sergeant school responsible for "training the trainers", many enlisted and officer occupation-specific schools, as well as played a significant role in professionalizing the United States Armed Forces. Over 25,000 soldiers go through this type of advanced training.
- Instead of leveraging this expertise that has been developed and honed at Ft. Jackson, current proposals would gut this asset and severely undermine the capabilities of an installation that serves as a cornerstone of Army training and readiness.
- Fort Jackson is also a huge asset to the Midlands' economy, and the state's as a whole.
- Each year, Ft. Jackson directly and indirectly employs over 17,000 people in the Midlands, contributes over \$2.2 billion to the local economy, and attracts over 250,000 out-of-state visitors, who stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and visit our landmarks.
- Unless Congress acts to lift or recalibrates the sequester, Ft. Jackson and the Columbia area could be devastated.
- A recent study completed by the University of South Carolina's Business School estimates that the effect of a possible personnel reduction of about 3,000 would generate a substantial loss to South Carolina, including a loss of \$952 million in annual economic output, which would translate into job losses totaling around 8,000 and a loss of \$421 million in labor income (the vast majority of which would occur in the Columbia/Midlands area).
- Simply put, the world is too dangerous to drastically reduce the military, and South Carolina's economy would be weakened by such irresponsible practices.
- That's why it's our responsibility to do what we as South Carolinians do best – get loud, raise our voices, and tell Congress and the President to lift the defense portions of the sequester.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

Richland County

Announced Investment: \$294 million; announced Jobs: 1,624

Announced Date Company Name Objective Product or Service Announced Investment Announced Jobs

2014-11-21 IBM Corporation New Customer Delivery Center 100

2014-09-17 The Ritedose Corporation (TRC) Expansion Blow Fill Seal (pharmaceutical)  
\$110,000,000 65

2014-06-18 Rhythmink International LLC Expansion Medical Device Packaging \$1,400,000 50

2013-09-26 Dayton-Rogers Manufacturing, Co. New Stamping and Fabrication \$11,000,000 134

2013-09-03 2AM Group, LLC - Blythewood New Assembly Operation \$500,000 100

2013-03-28 Constantia Hueck Foils, LLC Expansion Films for Food and Pharmaceutical Products  
\$12,000,000 15

2012-11-20 JTEKT Automotive South Carolina Expansion Automotive Steering Systems  
\$130,000,000 175

2012-09-25 McEntire Produce, Inc. Expansion Fresh Fruits and Vegetables \$5,000,000 85

2012-05-22 WNS North America Inc. New Customer care center \$4,250,000 750

2011-10-31 Sensor Electronic Technology, Inc. Expansion LED Lights \$20,000,000 150

Between January 2011 and December 2014, the unemployment rate in Richland County has decreased by 2.6 percentage points from 8.8 percent to 6.2 percent. There are now 6,256 more people employed in the county and 4,659 fewer people unemployed.