



Title: Centennial celebrations
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Centennial celebrations

To celebrate the milestone, the Army and community are planning a yearlong series of events and commemorations, both on post and off, ranging from a Lexington County Blowfish game to the nationally televised Sept. 3 Bojangles Southern 500 NASCAR race in Darlington, to Columbia's restaurant week in January.

"You only turn 100 once," Fort Jackson spokesman Chris Fletcher said during a media tour of the fort to kick off the events. "We wanted to show the support the Midlands has for Fort Jackson and the support Fort Jackson gives to the community."

In addition to events outside the gates, the fort will have a series of events during its birthday week June 2, 2017, to June 10, 2017, to mark the occasion. A golf tournament, post run, fireworks and other events are planned. The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is to perform, and Gov. Nikki Haley and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley have been invited to speak.

Included in the celebration will be the dedication ceremony for the first phase of Centennial Park, being built on the site of the old Post Headquarters, which was recently razed. The park is adjacent to the Basic Combat Training Museum, and is planned as a focal point for soldiers' families to gather on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the fort's graduation ceremonies.

The approximately \$1 million budget for the park is being raised privately in the community by a foundation called Gateway to the Army.

The fort also plans a 100th anniversary book on the general history of Fort Jackson, and a second book on the social history of the fort. Also, the fort is working with The State newspaper on a 100-year anniversary book.

The Basic Combat Training Museum will open a world World War I trench display to commemorate Camp Jackson, as it was called during World War I, and merchandise featuring the centennial logo will be available. Billboards and signs will be displayed on post and through the city and Midlands acknowledging the celebration.

— JEFF WILKINSON

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A woman records video at the annual Torchlight Tattoo and Fireworks display, Fort Jackson's July Fourth celebration.