



‘BIG RED ONE’ SOLDIER, FAMILY SAY GOODBYE TO FORT RILEY

GRIGSBY TAKES COMMAND OF AMERICA’S STORIED 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT RILEY, Kan. — His name is Paul Funk and he is a “Big Red One” Soldier. It’s a sentiment heard often at the 1st Infantry Division in the last two years — words that instilled pride in not only the Soldiers who echoed them, but also in community members who were reminded of their significance.

That phrase rang out across Fort Riley’s Cavalry Parade Field for the last time Aug. 6 as Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk II handed command of the division and post over to Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr.

“I am immensely proud to have commanded such a fine outfit and to have been part of such an outstanding community,” the outgoing general said, his voice shaking. “I will always be proud to say, ‘My name is Paul Funk and I am a Big Red One Soldier.’”

Lt. Gen. Sean B. McFarland, commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, praised Funk’s time as the division’s 76th commanding general.

“Under Paul’s leadership, the 1st Infantry Division has set the standard for III Corps in training, readiness and taking care of Soldiers and their families,” McFarland said.

In the last two years, the division’s focus was “living the BRO” — brave, responsible and on point, Funk said.

“By adhering to the Pillars of the Division — training, maintaining, morale, discipline and teamwork — our division has done some truly amazing things,” Funk said.

He went on to talk about the division’s accomplishments, including the headquarters’ recent nine-month deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Funk and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston led the division headquarters, which formed the core of Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command-Iraq, making it responsible for advising and assisting Iraq’s security forces and providing training to newly built Iraqi army units.

But amidst the numbers and facts, Funk kept going back to the people. “It’s not the days in life we remember,” he said, “rather the moments.”

“I remember the moment when I stepped off the plane in Baghdad,” Funk said, “with the

first units to return after U.S. forces left in 2011, realizing that while the place was familiar, everything had changed, but also knowing that I had the right team to get the mission done.”

He talked about a moment with UK Brigadier Felix Gedney, then a division deputy commander, as they pinned a Purple Heart on Nate Rimpf, who lost both legs in Afghanistan. The first lieutenant looked up at the two generals and said, “This will not define me.”

See **COMMAND**, page 3

Amanda Kim Stairrett | 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey Price, right, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. Band, salutes Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk II, outgoing commander of the “Big Red One,” as he; Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., left; and Lt. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, second from left, commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, inspect the troops during an Aug. 6 change of command ceremony at Fort Riley. During the ceremony, Funk relinquished command of the division to Grigsby.



Amanda Kim Stairrett | 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs
Maj. Gen. Paul F. Funk II congratulates Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. after speaking. Funk will go on to serve as the U.S. Army’s assistant deputy chief of staff for operations and plans in Washington D.C.



Amanda Kim Stairrett | 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs
Beth Funk, right, and Alexandra Grinston, second from right, react to a joke by Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk II, outgoing commander of the 1st Inf. Div., as he gives his remarks during the 1st Inf. Div.’s change of command ceremony Aug. 6 at Fort Riley. Sitting with Funk and Grinston, wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston, the division’s senior noncommissioned officer, are members of the Funk family.

The next USAG Resilience Day Off will be:

Sept

4

SAFETY HOLIDAY

As of Thursday, August 13

21

9

days have passed since the last vehicular fatality at Fort Riley, seventeen more and the post will celebrate with a safety holiday to take place at each unit’s discretion.

HIGHLIGHTS

INTERVENTION SKILLS TRAINING INSTRUCTOR HELPS OTHERS COPE WITH DEVASTATING LOSS. SEE PAGE 9

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

ARMY SOLDIER-ATHLETES EXCEL AS MEMBERS OF TEAM USA. SEE PAGE 13

Milley confirmed as Chief of Staff of the Army

By David Vergun
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON – The Senate confirmed Gen. Mark A. Milley, Aug. 5, to become the 39th chief of staff of the Army.

He will succeed Gen. Ray Odierno in a change of responsibility ceremony scheduled for Aug. 14 on Summerall Field, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia.

At his Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing, July 21, Milley told lawmakers, “Our fundamental task is to win, to win in the unforgiving crucible” of combat.

Milley is commander of U.S. Forces Command, headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Besides combat, there are many other tasks Army Soldiers do every day and do very well, he said. They provide humanitarian assistance, shape outcomes, build partner capacity and deter the nation’s adversaries.

“But our very reason for being, the very core of what it means to have an Army, it’s to win and to win decisively in ground combat against the enemies of our country so that



David Vergun | Army News Service

Gen. Mark A. Milley discusses his winning philosophy with ROTC and U.S. Military Academy cadets.

the American citizens can enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” he continued.

“I have huge confidence in our Army today,” he said, calling it “the most skilled and combat experienced Army in the nation’s history.”

Milley told some 300 ROTC and U.S. Military Academy Cadets at the George C. Marshall Award and Leadership Conference at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, March

31, that his childhood hero was Green Bay Packers’ winning football coach, Vince Lombardi.

When Lombardi was younger, he looked up to World War II heroes like Gen. George Patton and Gen. Douglas MacArthur and tried to pattern himself after them and their leadership techniques, Milley said.

The two points Lombardi took away from those heroes was, first, “you’re in it to win,

so winning matters and your team matters.” The second was, “We don’t break the rules,” Milley said.

Milley promised the lawmakers that if confirmed, he would work to keep the Army the best in the world and take on the “significant challenges” it faces “in manpower, readiness and modernization.”

The general also told the senators he’d ensure upholding Army values and ethics would continue to be a top priority.

During his visit with the cadets, he exhorted them: “Playing by the rules involves internalizing the warrior code of ethics. It is something you have to practice at 24 hours a day. Unethical actions not only can get you or your Soldiers killed, they can also hurt the Army.”

Milley told the senators he comes from a family who proudly served. His mother treated wounded service members in a military hospital near Seattle and his father served in the 4th Marine Division in the Central Pacific seeing combat in Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

Unfortunately, both of his parents passed away, but he said he still feels their presence.

He noted he’s lucky to have been married for the last 30

years to the “most dedicated and strongest woman in the world,” his wife Hollyanne. “She’s a constant source of inspiration and love.”

She represents all the Army spouses “for their resilience and sacrifice,” he continued, having raised their two children while he was away on seven deployments and thousands of days of training.

Milley’s operational deployments include Iraq, Afghanistan, Panama, Haiti and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Most of his 35-year career has been spent leading infantry and Special Forces Soldiers.

Finally, Milley thanked Odierno and his wife Linda for their “selfless service.” He added that the nation and the Army have been well served by them.

Also on Aug. 5, President Barack Obama nominated Patrick J. Murphy to be the next undersecretary of the Army, a post held by acting undersecretary Eric Fanning. The office was assumed by Fanning July 6 after Brad Carson became the acting undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

No date has been set for Murphy’s confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee

and the Senate is on recess until Sept. 7.

Murphy was the first Iraq War veteran elected to the U.S. Congress, according to an Aug. 5 White House press release. Murphy represented the 8th District of Pennsylvania in the House of Representatives from 2007 to 2011.

As a lawmaker, he served on the House Armed Services Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Appropriations Committee.

Murphy received his law degree in 1999 from Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pennsylvania’s King’s College in 1996.

While in college, he attended ROTC at nearby Scranton University and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve upon graduation. He went on active duty in 2000 as a staff judge advocate and then became a faculty member at West Point.

From 2003 to 2004, he was deployed to Iraq, where he earned a Bronze Star Medal with the 82nd Airborne Division.

TRAFFIC REPORT

ALL SCHOOL ZONES IN EFFECT

School zones will be in effect beginning August 3. This is a precautionary warning period prior to school starting August 17. Tickets will not be issued during this time. Be vigilant. Some school zones have lights and others have posted times.

ESTES ROAD

The opening of Estes Rd. west of Normandy Dr. continues to be on hold. The opening will occur once new signage is in place.

ROAD STRIPING UNDERWAY

Road striping and crosswalk painting has begun. The work will first involve all major thoroughfares on Fort Riley, then

move onto secondary roads. In addition, stripes on parking lots at post schools will also be painted. Motorists may be re-directed to the road shoulders, but no roads are expected to close. All are asked to exercise extreme caution while driving in these areas.

HAMPTON PLACE

A portion of Hampton Place, from Jackson Avenue north to Ashby Drive, will be closed to thru traffic through September. A pedestrian and bike detour is in place during this time. The closure is part of the demolition and construction project in the Warner Peterson Community. Access to Custer Hill Elementary School will be available from Ashby Avenue. For more information, contact Corvias Military Living at 785-717-2200.

ACP HOURS OF OPERATION

Access control point hours are:
Four Corners/Trooper/Ogden: Open 24/7
Henry: Open 24/7
12th Street: Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday; closed on Sunday and federal holidays.
Rifle Range: Close to all traffic.
Grant: Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays; closed Sundays and federal holidays.
Estes: Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday; closed on Sunday and federal holidays.

A fond farewell and a hearty welcome



Photo #1 - Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. speaks to the audience after assuming command of the 1st Inf. Div. during a change of command ceremony Aug. 6 at Custer Parade Field.

Photo #2 - Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk II speaks during the change of command ceremony shortly after he relinquished command of the 1st Inf. Div. to Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr.

Photo #3 - Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. gives the “Big Red One” colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley senior noncommissioned officer.

Photo #4 - Pfc. Xochilt Ramirez sings the national anthem during the change of command ceremony.

Photo #5 - Maj. Gen. Paul F. Funk II, center, applauds as formations of “Big Red One” troops pass by him and his wife, Beth, to his left, and to his right Lt. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, commander of III Corps and Fort Hood.



COMMAND Continued from page 1

And it didn't. Rimpf, now retired and a master's student at Duke University, pedaled a hand bike at the Army Ten-Miler two months after being injured. He ran it the next year.

"There are countless stories like Nate's," Funk said, "moments that inspire and show the true strength of our fighting men and women."

As one great commander left, McFarland said, "we open our arms to another."

Grigsby, a 30-year infantryman, served with the

division when it was based in Germany, first as commander of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, and later as the division's operations and plans officer.

"Like Paul Funk, he has commanded at every level – from platoon through brigade – and he's excelled at all the toughest and most critical positions that an Army officer can hold."

Funk said he was leaving the division in capable hands.

"Wayne, you have the world's finest Soldiers under

your command," he said. "They will take care of you like they have taken care of me."

Grigsby said he was honored to be part of the Big Red One and III Corps team.

He dedicated himself to leading in such a manner as to facilitate the continued training,

readiness and resilience of an exceptional organization in a time of strategic uncertainty.

"When our country calls – and it will call again – the noblest and, in my opinion, the best division in the United States Army will be prepared to move to the sound of the gun."

Grigsby began his time in command of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley by echoing his predecessor: "I am honored and humbled today to be a Big Red One Soldier," he said, "brave and responsible and on point for our nation."

Protect yourself from summer pests and the bites they produce

TRICARE

After a fun day at the pool or just being with friends, nothing can ruin the day like an annoying mosquito or tick bite. Your skin protection won't work as an insect repellent, so be sure to keep some on hand and treat bites quickly to avoid infection.

It may seem like a good idea, but avoid using combination sunscreen/bug spray. Sunscreen should be applied every few hours but insect repellent does not need to be reapplied.

There are many different kinds of insect repellent, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

recommends products that have at least one of the following active ingredients:

- DEET
- Picaridin
- IR 3535
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus

Both the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that you not use DEET on children younger than two months old, and use 10-30 percent DEET on older children. Ten percent DEET provides protection for about two hours and 30 percent protects for about five hours. Choose the lowest concentration that will provide the coverage you need.

Be sure you read the labels to find out how much product is in the repellent. The DEET alternative, Picaridin can be found in concentrations of five to ten percent.

If you are outside for a long period of time, in addition to avoiding mosquitoes, you should also remember to check for ticks. Most tick bites are harmless but be sure to remove ticks properly and wash the area, as well as your hands, after removal. Because some ticks carry diseases, it is best to note when you found the tick and monitor yourself or your child for illness. Tick bites are typically painless so

they may be attached several days before you notice them. Protect yourself and your loved ones from tick bites by wearing longer sleeves and tucking your pants into your socks in wooded areas.

Insect bites to an allergic child can cause severe symptoms requiring emergency treatment. If you have an emergency, be sure to go to an emergency room and not an urgent care clinic to ensure proper coverage. Urgent care coverage depends on your plan. You can also call the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-874-2273, option 1. By calling the Nurse Advice Line

you can talk to a registered nurse who can give you healthcare advice, help you find a doctor or schedule a next-day appointment at a military hospital or clinic. There are even pediatric nurses who can assist you and will call you back to check on your child.

There's still a lot of summer left to enjoy. Don't let summer bugs spoil your fun. For more information about bug safety and the proper removal of ticks, go to the web page From Insects or Animals on the AAP website. This site, as well as the CDC website, offers additional summer safety tips.

Home wanted

This pet's name is Coolio. He is in need of a patient and understanding pet owner extra fast. Coolio is not coping very well at the shelter and gets so worked up in his kennel he makes himself sick. He is living in the Fort Riley Stray facility office. Coolio loves to cuddle and to play and is very clean. He is not neutered yet, but does not spray. He has not been tested with other animals, but he will make the perfect cat for a family with children. His adoption fee is \$62, which includes



Microchip, Vaccines: Distemper and Rabies, Leukemia test and deworming.

If you're interested please call 785-239-6183. If no one answers then leave a message. You can also contact us via email at nicole.p.storm@us.army.mil

Other shelter animals can be seen on www.facebook.com/fortrileypets. All stray animals picked up by the Military Police on Fort Riley are brought to the Fort Riley Stray facility. The animals are held there for three business days to allow owners to claim their pets. After this time the animals may be adopted out or euthanized. Animals are usually only euthanized in the cases of severe aggression or life-threatening illness. Animals must be registered, microchipped and up to date on vaccines before released to owners. Fort Riley Stray Facility, Building 226 Custer Ave., Main Post, 10 am - noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday 785-239-6183 or 785-239-3886

IRWINFORMATION

Q: What is Durable Medical Equipment?

A: Durable Medical Equipment is any equipment for beneficiary use that helps them live a better quality of life. DME, covered by most health insurances, is also covered by TRICARE when ordered by a TRICARE-authorized provider.

To be considered DME, the equipment must be medically necessary and reusable. TRICARE covers the cost of medical supplies when related directly to a covered medical condition and when those supplies are obtained from a medical supply company, a pharmacy, or an authorized provider.

DME can be rented or purchased, but the regional contractor will determine which is most appropriate for the beneficiary's situation. The contractor will consider prescription, current medical condition and amount of time the DME is needed. TRICARE will pay for the replacement of a medically required

DME if your medical condition changes or equipment malfunctions because of reasonable wear and use. If accidentally damaged and the manufacturer's warranty has expired, TRICARE will also cover the cost of repairs or replacement.

Two popular examples of prescribed DME are walkers and continuous positive airway pressure machines. Recently, TRICARE added breast pumps and breast pump supplies to its DME list. No matter the type of breast pump, keep the cost in mind. The kind of breast pump chosen is important because the covered amount is a pre-negotiated rate between TRICARE and the DME provider. TRICARE will typically pay the lesser negotiated cost.

For more information, please visit the Durable Medical Equipment page on the TRICARE website.

If you have a question for IrwINformation, send it to IACHInformation@amedd.army.mil or call 785-239-8414.

HOUSE FILL AD

RILEY ROUNDTABLE

“August 15th is National Relaxation Day. What do you do to relax?”



“Go home to my wife. We go to Kansas City together sometimes.”

PFC. DAMION GUZMAN
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Company B, 701st Brigade Support Battalion,
4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team,
1st Infantry Division



“Relaxing with my fiancéé – we go out when she isn’t working.”

PFC. LORENZO BACA
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Company B, 701st Brigade Support Battalion,
4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team,
1st Infantry Division



“Lounge around – play pool and video games.”

SPC. CHRISTOPHER CHAPARRO
HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry
Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team,
1st Infantry Division



“I like social events – anywhere I can meet new people.”

SPC. LARRY ANUMODU
HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA

B2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade
Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



“I just like to go fishing.”

SPC. TEVIN TRICE
LA GRANDE, OREGON

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team,
1st Infantry Division

FROM DANGER 6

A note of introduction and thanks

Soldiers, Airmen, Civilians, family members and friends of Fort Riley and the Big Red One ... TEAMMATES, my name is Wayne Grigsby, the new Danger 6. I am honored to be, again, a Big Red One Soldier. Really, I have never stopped being a Big Red One Soldier. After serving with the 1st Infantry Division, the best infantry division in our Army, for over five years in Germany, the spirit and traditions of this exceptional unit are tattooed on my heart and in my spirit. It is an honor to once again serve under these colors.

I would like to personally thank all those who were able to come out and support the change of command ceremony Aug. 6. A special thanks is owed to Division Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston for maintaining such high standards of discipline in our troops. The ceremony was exceptional and clearly demonstrated the greatness of this storied division and this installation. I would also like to thank all those who have, and continue to support my transition, and the transition of my family. From meetings with our community partners, to briefings and tours from our Garrison directorates, and



Maj. Gen.
Wayne W. Grigsby Jr.

all those who have made Fort Riley feel like home, thank you for all you do every day.

The relationship Fort Riley shares with it surrounding communities and the State of Kansas is truly unique, and undoubtedly the strongest I have seen in 31 years in the Army. I was greatly encouraged by the attendance of Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer M.D., Representative and Mrs. Mike Pompeo, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, various Senate and Congressional staff members, our Civilian Assistants to the Secretary of the Army, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Montgomery, numerous local, regional, and state representatives and our friends and family from the Central Flint Hills at the change

of command. Their support gives me confidence that the relationship between Fort Riley, the State of Kansas and the surrounding communities is rock solid. Only by reinforcing this relationship can we maintain Fort Riley as the best installation in the Army and the best place to come home to.

On Aug. 6, we bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Paul Funk and his wife Beth. We all recognize their contributions to the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, and their tremendous effort in leading, training and building a great team. Paul's vision and passion are contagious, and his unwavering commitment to the Soldiers, Civilians and family members of Fort Riley and the surrounding communities is unmatched. Maj. Gen. Funk and Beth provided us with an incredible transition, and we all join in wishing them, and the entire Funk family Godspeed and good luck their new assignment in the Army G3/5/7 shop, and their continued journey in serving the greatest Army in the world, the U.S. Army.

To the Soldiers, civilians, and family members of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, I am humbled by the responsibility that has been placed upon me, and

inspired by your service and dedication to this profession and our nation. You are the blood and treasure of our country. You are the less-than-one percent of our country who are giving back. I am honored to become part of your team. Thank you for everything you do. Your hard work and dedication have made the division and this installation into what they are today, standard bearers for the Army, this community and this nation.

For my part, in this time of strategic uncertainty, I dedicate myself to leading in such a manner as to facilitate the continued training, readiness and resilience of this exceptional organization. When our country calls ... and it will call ... the oldest and in my opinion, the best Infantry Division in the US Army will be prepared to move to the sound of the guns.

I thank each one of you for what you do each day to keep our country safe and secure. I am truly honored to join the ranks of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley.

“Duty First”

Wayne W. Grigsby Jr.
Maj. Gen., USA
Commanding General

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Nuclear deal does not limit Defense Department

By Cheryl Pellerin
DOD NEWS
DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON – The U.S.-Iran nuclear agreement limits Iran's ability to produce a nuclear bomb but puts no limits on the Defense Department or the United States, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told a Senate panel Jul 29.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached in Vienna this month must receive congressional approval before it is implemented.

Carter and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on U.S. interests and the military balance in the Middle East.

When implemented, Carter said, the agreement will effectively cut off Iran's pathways to fissile material for a nuclear bomb, but it places no limitations on the Defense Department.

“It places no limits on our forces, our partnerships and alliances, our intensive and ongoing security cooperation, or on our development and fielding of new military capabilities – capabilities we will continue to advance,” he told the panel.

The department will continue to maintain a strong military posture to deter aggression, bolster the security of Israel and other allies and friends in the region, ensure freedom of navigation in the Gulf, check Iran's malign influence, and degrade and ultimately defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Carter added.

“We're also continuing to advance our military capabilities that provide all options, as (President Barack Obama) has directed, should Iran walk away from its commitments under this deal,” he said.

Carter called the Iran agreement an important step that keeps Iran from getting a nuclear weapon in a comprehensive and verifiable way.

“Once implemented,” he added, the agreement “will ... remove a critical element of risk and uncertainty from the region.”

In his remarks, Dempsey said, if followed, the Iran deal “addresses one critical and the most dangerous point of friction with the Iranian regime. But ... there are at least five other malign activities which give



Glenn Fawcett | DOD photo

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter speaks to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during testimony on the recently brokered Iranian nuclear deal in Washington, D.C. Carter was joined by Secretary of State John Kerry, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

us and our regional partners concern.”

These, he said, include ballistic missile technology, weapons trafficking, the use of surrogates and proxies to naval mines and undersea activity, and malicious activity in cyberspace.

“The negotiating deal does not alleviate our concerns in those five areas,” he said, “(or) change the military options at our disposal. And in our efforts

of the men and women in uniform who are carrying out the Middle East strategy to let them know the department is continuing full speed ahead, standing with its friends, standing up to ISIL, and standing against Iran's malign activities.

“On ISIL ... we have the right strategy in place, built on nine synchronized

“If Iran were to commit aggression, our robust force posture ensures we can rapidly surge an overwhelming array of forces into the region,” the secretary added, “leveraging our most advanced capabilities, married with sophisticated munitions that put no target out of reach.”

Iran and its proxies still present security challenges, Carter said, noting Iran's support of Hezbollah and the Assad regime in Syria, its contribution to disorder in Yemen and its hostility and violence toward Israel.

The secretary said he made it clear last week in Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iraq the department will continue to meet its commitments to friends and allies in the region, especially Israel, and continue to build on and enhance such cooperation.

“I also made clear that we will continue to maintain our robust regional force posture ashore and afloat, which includes tens of thousands of American personnel and our most sophisticated ground, maritime, air and ballistic-missile defense assets,” he said.

“Our friends understand, despite our differences with some of them about the merits of this deal,” Carter added, “that we have an enduring commitment to deterrence and to regional security.”

“If Iran were to commit aggression, our robust force posture ensures we can rapidly surge an overwhelming array of forces into the region”

ASHTON CARTER | SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

to counter the Iranian regime's malign activities, we will continue to engage our partners in the region to reassure them and to address these areas.”

The agreement's successful negotiation is one part of the broader U.S. foreign and defense policy, Carter said, noting the Middle East remains important to U.S. national interests.

“As a result,” the secretary said, “the Department of Defense is committed to confronting the region's two principal security challenges: Iran and ISIL.”

Describing his recent trip to the Middle East, Carter said he spoke with some

lines of effort to achieve ISIL's lasting defeat. But we continue to strengthen execution,” Carter said.

In Iraq and elsewhere, the department is working with partners on the ground and in a global coalition to enable capable and motivated ground forces to win back Iraq's sovereignty and peace in its own territory, he added.

“I saw several parts of this effort last week and spoke with some of our partners on the ground. We're headed in the right direction in this counter-ISIL effort: we've made some progress but we need to make more,” he told the panel.

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



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Fifty years ago: Army executes rapid buildup in Vietnam

By David Vergun
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON – In early 1965, about 50,000 U.S. troops, mostly advisors, were in South Vietnam. By the end of 1966, that number had grown to 385,000 with the majority being Army and by that time, they were on the offensive, said Frank L. Jones.

Jones, a professor at the U.S. Army War College, authored a pamphlet, “Buying Time: 1965-1966,” just published by the Army’s Center of Military History.

The rapid buildup was not part of the original strategy, Jones said. The U.S. advisors, including some 1,200 Army Green Berets, were there to buy time to train up the South Vietnamese, who would then carry the fight to the enemy on their own initiative.

But things weren’t going well. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson’s administration and military leaders became aware that South Vietnam was on the verge of collapse, Jones said. Insurgents controlled about half of South Vietnam, along with about a third of the population.

Furthermore, South Vietnamese forces were not showing a willingness to fight and many were deserting. There were even concerns that Saigon could fall unless more U.S. troops were sent in to bolster the country. The role was beginning to change from advise and assist to offensive action.

Johnson, who was a senator during the Korean War, remembered how President Harry S. Truman was castigated by the Republicans for “losing” China. “That stayed in his memory,” Jones said. He didn’t want Saigon to fall on his watch.

Furthermore, the U.S. saw the world divided into communist and non-communist countries. There were concerns that if South Vietnam fell to the communist North, other countries in Southeast Asia would follow.

Back home, not a lot of attention was being paid to the rapid buildup of U.S. forces, sometimes called the “Americanization” of South Vietnam, Jones said. Johnson’s “Great Society” and civil rights legislation, as well as the space program were taking much of the spotlight.

As the buildup continued, U.S. forces were joined by those from Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. This was known as the “Many Flags” campaign.

Notably absent, Jones said, were NATO allies. They had concerns about the Soviets to their east and were apprehensive about the U.S. focus in Southeast Asia.

EARLY BATTLES

On Feb. 7, 1965, the Viet Cong attacked the U.S. base at Pleiku in the Central Highlands. This led to Johnson authorizing the use of strategic bombing of the North by the U.S. Air Force, an operation known as Rolling Thunder. A series of small ground battles ensued

throughout the countryside as well.

Also that year, the newly-formed 1st Cavalry Division Airmobile was deployed to South Vietnam. While the helicopter had seen use in the Korean War for medevac and small troop movement, the strategy of moving larger formations by air really got its start in 1965, Jones said.

The concept of air mobility, or massive movement by helicopter, came about following the Howze Board studies, chaired by Gen. Hamilton H. Howze and overseen by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara in 1962.

Besides airlifting Soldiers, the experiments carried out included using helicopter gunships and using heavier helicopters like the CH-47 to airlift artillery. The UH-1 Huey, a light helicopter, was relied upon to do much of the troop carrying and also serve as gunships. This was a major doctrinal change for the Army, Jones said.

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION DEPLOYS

Meanwhile, increased guerrilla insurgency in South Vietnam during the mid-1960s led to the deployment of the 1st Infantry Division to Southeast Asia.

The leading element, the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, left in July 1965, with division headquarters arriving in South Vietnam in September. During this same year, a provisional basic combat training brigade was organized at Fort Riley and in February 1966, the 9th Infantry Division was reactivated and followed the 1st Infantry Division into combat.

In November 1965, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, participated in the Ia Drang Valley Campaign, the most well-known battle at the time. The Soldiers were ferried into position using helicopters.

A reason there were fewer pitched battles than in previous wars was because the enemy, especially the insurgents, knew the terrain well and were elusive, Jones said. North Vietnamese Army troops would come in through Laos and Cambodia via the Ho Chi Minh Trail network and fan out below the jungle canopy, hiding weapons in caches. A lot of the work done by Soldiers at this time was locating and destroying these caches.



U.S. Army Photo

UH-1 aircraft of the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion carry wounded 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, Soldiers away during the fight for LZ X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam.

The Army never officially entered Laos and Cambodia during this period, Jones said. This was a time of limited or restrained warfare. The Johnson administration didn’t want to pull the Chinese and Soviets directly into the fighting and risk escalation into a larger conflict with the potential for nuclear weapons use.

By 1966, Johnson became concerned that counterinsurgency, called “pacification,” was getting short-shrift compared with applications of conventional force, Jones said. Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, or MACV, began to pay more attention to “pacification” efforts. MACV controlled U.S. ground forces in Vietnam.

Pacification or nation-building involved strengthening local government, rebuilding and goodwill efforts with the local populace so they’d support the efforts of South Vietnam. Today, as was the case then, these activities would be part of an interagency effort, Jones said.

One of the most underreported endeavors of 1965 to 1966 was the massive logistical effort by the U.S. Army, Jones said. Sustaining such a large force, thousands of miles from home, was a huge undertaking.

Further, a massive engineering effort was needed to build port facilities and climate-controlled structures at various bases, he said. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was a large part of that undertaking.

The Soldiers fighting and supporting the logistical effort were a mixture of enlistees and conscripts, Jones said.

Unlike the Korean War, the Army Reserve was not called up in 1965 and 1966. Johnson was concerned he’d lose backing for the war at home, as the military would seem to be losing control.

By 1965 and 1966, the protest movement had started, but it was still nowhere near in size to the protests that would erupt later in the war.

A number of company- and field-grade officers who served in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966 would later lead the Army in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Maj. H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr. was one such officer who served in Pleiku and other areas advising and assisting the South Vietnamese, earning two Silver Star Medals in the process.

In 1991, by then, a general, he led coalition forces in the Persian Gulf War. Schwarzkopf advocated defeating the enemy quickly and with overwhelming force, which his troops did, liberating Kuwait in a matter of days. It was unlike his experience in Vietnam, Jones said.

For a look at earlier involvement in Vietnam, see Richard Stewart’s pamphlet: “The Deepening Involvement: 1945-1965” on the CMH website. A future pamphlet on the later years of the Vietnam War is planned.

Editor’s note: A portion of this story was gathered from the 1st Infantry Division official history.

Fort Riley officers attend Army Strategic Broadening Seminar

By Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Seven Soldiers from the Big Red One attended the Army Strategic Broadening Seminar at the University of Louisville, Kentucky. The 29-day seminar ended Aug. 2.

As an initiative from the Army Chief of Staff implemented in 2012, the seminars prepare Soldiers for future Army leadership roles. Soldiers who attended had to first receive a recommendation by both their unit and division leaders. Once recommended, they were selected by a board at the national level.

“It was truly a broadening experience,” said Capt. Josh Herzog, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Each day attendees would receive a reading assignment

including a variety of topics such as philosophy and history. They would meet and discuss assigned reading and talk about what it meant to them in their life. Toward the end of the seminar, they were split into groups to solve realistic Army problems.

Capt. Rob McAllister, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. read Marcus Aurelius every morning. He now maintains doing so and reflects on how he is going to face the day as a leader at Fort Riley. He said this was what he took from the seminar.

“It is absolutely part of my daily routine,” McAllister said.

McAllister also carries the coin he received at the seminar.

“To me, that’s the standard of what I want to see in my

“It wasn’t a course about the Army, it was a course about life,” said Herzog. “It was to help everyone be a better person, be a better statesmen, be a better American, be a better leader, be a better husband, whatever it may be.”

CAPT. JOSH HERZOG | 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

leaders – wisdom, courage, temperance,” McAllister said as he held the coin.

“It wasn’t a course about the Army, it was a course about life,” said Herzog. “It was to help everyone be a better person, be a better statesmen, be a better American, be a better leader, be a better husband, whatever it may be. You can take

something away from that course to make you better at anything you are going to do. It was all-encompassing.”

Doug Sharp, HHC, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. said it was interesting to solve problems with other Soldiers away from a military setting.

“The Army has a list of strategic problems they are

trying to solve,” Sharp said. “As a group, we think about the strategic problem, how you would solve it, what would your recommendations be and then you would present your recommendations to a general.”

The Soldiers walked away with more than just knowledge, they walked away with connections to university professors and professionals who taught them to think more deeply and be better leaders.

“Basically they use the newly educated power of the group to try to solve Army problems,” Sharp said. “That was also one way they could show the Army the benefit of this – people are now in a place where they can solve the problem or at least recommend good solutions,”

The Soldiers agreed some of the knowledge they gained

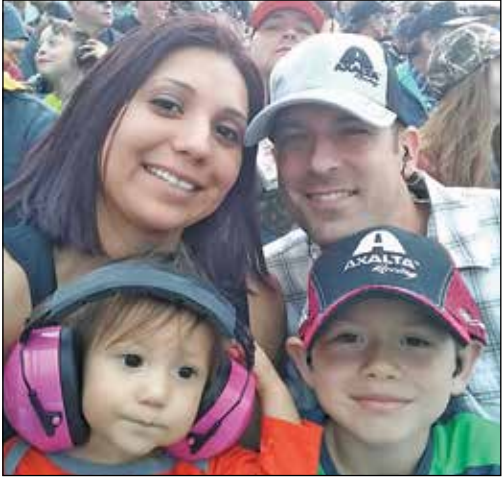
during this seminar will be more useful at a later date.

“Everything relates to now – it’s just waiting for the time to implement it,” Herzog said. “I think there’s always going to be a point in time when something comes up and you’re like ‘oh, I know that’ or ‘that’s happened before’ and go back and reflect on it.”

Herzog said he was able to implement some things immediately, but someday he will look back and remember what he was taught and find another way to implement it into his life.

“I think just seeing how leaders in history have the same type of thoughts we have now,” Herzog said. “Sharing little bits of information with my formation every day, I make them more aware of history and life.”

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER



The August 11 question was: “Where do I find the photo and bio of Maj Gen Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., new 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general?”

Answer:
<http://www.riley.army.mil/AboutUs/Leaders/Display/tabid/97/Article/612472/major-general-wayne-w-grigsby-jr.aspx>

The winner is: Vera Jenne LaClair. She is the spouse of Staff Sgt. Ryan LaClair, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. In this photo: Vera, husband Ryan, son Ryan, and daughter Sarah

Every Tuesday, check out Fort Riley’s Facebook page for the Fort Riley Tuesday Trivia question at www.facebook.com/FortRiley.

Every answer will be available somewhere on the official Fort Riley website at www.riley.army.mil.

CONGRATULATIONS, VERA JENNE LACLAIR!



Glenn Fawcett | DOD

Master Sgt. Christopher Williams of the South Carolina National Guard speaks to the media at Naval Base Ventura County and Sea Range, Point Mugu, Calif., July 31. Williams was taking part in Black Dart 2015, a DOD-sponsored counter-UAS demonstration, July 26 to Aug. 7. He was explaining the system seen behind him, the Avenger Air Defense System.

Army participates in Black Dart 2015, counter-drone demonstration

Story and photo by
Lisa Ferdinando
ARNEWS

POINT MUGU, Calif. – Small, unmanned aircraft systems, or UAS, are easy to obtain and launch and they’re hard to detect on radar, making them of particular concern to the Department of Defense, according to officials at the Black Dart 2015 counter-UAS demonstration.

Black Dart 2015, which began July 26 and runs to Aug. 7, is DOD’s largest live-fly, live-fire joint counter-UAS technology demonstration.

The demonstration is bringing together about 1,000 people, including industry personnel, observers from allied nations and participants from four military services.

Army Master Sgt. Christopher Williams of the South Carolina National Guard took part in a public demonstration July 31 and explained capabilities of the Avenger Air Defense System, a lightweight, highly mobile, short-range, surface-to-air missile and gun weapon system mounted on an M1097A1 High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle. He discussed the Avenger’s capability to target drones.

Small drones can be launched from virtually anywhere and fly a significant radius, said Navy Cmdr. David Zook, chief of the Capabilities Assessment Division with

the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization, or JIAMDO. Zook also briefed reporters at Naval Base Ventura County and Sea Range July 31.

“Small manned and unmanned aircraft have always been hard to find,” he said. “It’s hard to tell the difference in the radar cross section from that and other small airborne vehicles or even birds.”

Black Dart 2015 provides “a unique and very valuable window for us to come together for two weeks here and practice in a littoral environment, a land-based environment and a deep-sea environment in many different scenarios,” Zook said.

Zook said the demonstration features cooperation and interoperability among military services in air and missile defense, while also assessing the anti-UAS capabilities of DOD, its agency partners and industry.

Previous Black Dart demonstrations resulted in new systems or improvements in technology, tactics, and procedures that help the warfighter, he said.

One only needs to look at recent news reports to see incidents involving members of the public using drones, including a quadcopter that landed at the White House, said Air Force Maj. Scott Gregg, Black Dart’s project officer.

Drones can easily be purchased over the Internet or at a hobby shop, Gregg said.

Defense officials are focused on staying ahead of the threat, he said.

“If there is anything that the terrorists have shown, it’s that they’ll be innovative and use anything that they can at their disposal to do what they’re trying to do,” Gregg said.

“What we’re trying to do at Black Dart is make sure that we are staying ahead of the game and that we have a good understanding of their capabilities before those capabilities outpace ours,” he added.

The smaller class of drones is an “emphasis item” this year at Black Dart, in response to concerns from combatant commanders and interagency partners, including law enforcement agencies, Gregg said.

“It’s a problem for everyone,” he said.

More than 70 countries are using UASs, either in government or military application, Gregg said.

Gregg points out that radio-controlled model aircraft have similar performance and capabilities to some of the UAS that are considered to be threats.

“It’s a burgeoning market. The threat is expanding rapidly, proliferation is expanding rapidly and it’s not just a military threat,” he said. “Our allies are using them, our coalition partners are using them but our adversaries are using them too.”

TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

PREPARING FOR A TORNADO

- Develop a plan of action.
- Pick a tornado safe room in your home.
- Have frequent drills.
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone.
- Listen to radio and television for information.
- Sign up for Fort Riley AtHOCtext messaging alerts.
- If planning a trip outdoors, listen to forecasts.

SURVIVING A TORNADO

- Always remember “DUCK.”
 - DOWN TO THE LOWEST LEVEL
 - UNDER SOMETHING STURDY
 - COVER YOUR HEAD
 - KEEP IN THE SHELTER UNTIL THE STORM HAS PASSED
- Go to lowest level of the building, stay away from windows.
- If caught outdoors, seek shelter immediately.
- Get out of automobile and get into a sturdy structure or ditch.
Or, buckle your seat belt and get below window level of your vehicle.

DEFINING A TORNADO

Tornadoes can occur at any time of day or night and at any time of year. A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. Tornadoes are capable of completely destroying well-made structures, uprooting trees and hurling objects through the air like deadly missiles.



IN BRIEF

TRAFFIC UPDATES

For traffic updates, see the Traffic Report on page 2 or visit www.riley.army.mil and click on "Advisories."

GENERAL INFORMATION

For general information about events and services at Fort Riley, visit www.facebook.com/FortRiley or follow @FortRiley on Twitter.

POST-WIDE YARD SALE SET FOR SEPT. 19

The ever-popular Fort Riley Post-Wide Yard Sale is set for Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon.

It's important to note that non ID-cardholders must get a visitor's pass before the event.

Those who wait until the day of the yard sale can expect long delays at the Visitor Control Center. Up to 2,000 people expected to come to Fort Riley.

Those planning a visit are encouraged to get their passes in advance.

Also, only post residents can sell items. Those coming onto the post are not allowed to bring items on post to sell.

FORT RILEY SPOUSE CHOIR

The Fort Riley Spouse choir is accepting new members. If you love to sing and want to spend time with other Army spouses, then this group is definitely for you. Practices are at the band rehearsal hall at 8630 Sustainment Drive at 6:30 p.m. Thursday nights.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Visitors to Fort Riley are reminded that a temporary Fort Riley Access Badge or Pass is required for anyone without a Department of Defense ID card. If you know the exact date of your visit, it is highly recommended to get a temporary badge or pass early by stopping by the Visitor Control Center, calling 785-239-2982 or emailing usarmy.riley.imcom-central.mbx.des-vcc@mail.mil

Please note there are longer wait times for passes during periods of higher traffic-especially weekday mornings and weekday afternoons-when Soldiers and civilian employees are traveling to work and physical fitness activities.

If you're unable to get a pass early, make sure to allow extra time the day of your visit to get through processing at the Visitor Control Center.

Please visit our website at <http://www.riley.army.mil/Units/GarrisonCommand/EmergencyServices/AccessInformation>

SPOUSES' SIP AND CHAT

Spouses of active duty service members are welcome to join USO Fort Riley for coffee, snacks, friends and fellowship from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the third Wednesday each month. USO Fort Riley is located at 6918 Trooper Drive. For more information, call 785-240-5326.

RILEY RIDE

Heading to Aggieville for drinks? Get home to Fort Riley safely with Riley Ride. The transportation service is open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders and runs Friday and Saturday evenings. For more information, call 785-239-5614.

ALCOHOL SALE POLICY

All Army and Air Force Exchange Service locations at Fort Riley are no longer selling alcohol from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily.

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE

In emergency utility service situations like power outages, contact the Fort Riley Public Works Service Desk at 785-239-0900 to report the problem. You also may call your neighborhood office, and the staff will report the outage for you. For your neighborhood office phone number, visit <http://riley.corviasmilitaryliving.com/>, click on "Residents" and "About Our Neighborhoods."

For tips on how to prepare and cope with a power outage, visit www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/Power_Outage_Fact_Sheet.pdf.



Veterans of Foreign Wars recognized Army medics at 116th convention

Group presents annual Armed Forces Award to all combat medics

By Lora Strum
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON — In front of nearly 10,000 veterans from World War II through Afghanistan attending the 2015 Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention in Pittsburgh, July 18-22, the VFW honored all Army combat medics with one of its most prestigious annual awards.

The Army medics received the 2015 VFW Armed Forces Award for valor in battle and extraordinary commitment to national security.

Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Ecker of the Army Medical Command, or MEDCOM, accepted the award on behalf of all combat medics.

"Guys like me and those who are going to do this after me have truly stood on your broad shoulders to maintain the same high standards to continue this art," Ecker said of the commitment Army medics have given since the Revolutionary War. "Our infantry and all combat Soldiers can

move out confidently on their mission because, yes, they do know that 'doc' will be there as needed."

Personnel from MEDCOM focus on saving lives on the battlefield. With constantly improving technology and training, medics in Afghanistan have been saving lives that might have been lost in previous wars, officials said.

"Army medics make hope a reality, a reality that is as real as life. And life is a great course of action in combat," Ecker said.

See MEDICS, page 12

"Army medics make hope a reality, a reality that is as real as life. And life is a great course



of action in combat."

COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
GERALD ECKER MEDCOM

MORE INFORMATION

• For more information about Seitz Elementary School, visit www.usd475.org/school/sz/SitePages/Home.aspx or call 785-717-6500.

• For more information about Geary County Schools USD 475, visit www.usd475.org or call 785-717-4000.

Elementary school hires assistant principal

Fourth-grade teacher at Seitz moves into administrative position

USD 475 COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

JUNCTION CITY, Kansas — USD 475 announced the hiring of Jayci Hamm as Assistant Principal at Seitz Elementary School. Jayci replaces Kenneth Upham who takes over as head principal at Morris Hill Elementary School.

Jayci received her Bachelor of Science in education elementary area of concentration:

math and science certification: middle school and coaching at Kansas State University in 2009. In 2014, she received a Master of Science in educational leadership, also from Kansas State University.

Jayci has experience in the military as a health care specialist at Fort Benning, Georgia. She began her USD 475 teaching career at Lincoln Elementary teaching second grade, and for the past three years she has been a fourth-grade teacher at Seitz Elementary.

Jayci was also a member of the district steering committee, fourth grade chair of the curriculum task force, member of the Seitz leadership team, and chair of the professional development and student celebration committees.

"Jayci has a true understanding of the culture at Seitz and she is a true humanitarian," said Principal Jodi Testa. "We are excited that she will be a part of the leadership team at Seitz."

Jayci said she is excited to support military children and families as assistant principal. She believes in the vision of Seitz Elementary and looks forward to continue to grow alongside staff and students.



Jayci Hamm



Following her 21st birthday in 2003, Sierra Herring, an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training instructor for the Fort Riley Suicide Prevention Program, became a Gold Star Wife and a single mother.



Sierra Herring, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training instructor for the Fort Riley Suicide Prevention Program, shares her story and works to educate others in coping with devastating loss.

Moving forward

Teaching suicide prevention is how Gold Star wife gives back to community that means so much

Story and photo by Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Sierra Herring was at her mother's house near Fort Scott, Kansas, when her Family Readiness Group leader was on the way. They were close friends, which led Herring to never suspect what was going to happen next.

Her scream still haunts the FRG leader. It was an unforgettable reaction to a tragic event.

"I was very naïve to the thought that anything bad could happen," Herring said. "Joe and I had talked a lot before he left about 'what happens if I don't come home.' I always said, 'Oh you're going to come home, we're going to have a happy life and live a long life together.'"

Two weeks after Herring's son, Micah, was born, her husband, Joe, deployed to

"I have seen the great parts of the Army, and I've seen what war can do, but I never feel like I can give enough back. For me, it's a treat to be able to do something to give back to the community and to give back to this lifestyle."

SIERRA HERRING
GOLD STAR WIFE

See FORWARD, page 12

School spirit on display at Cosmic Bingo Night



From left, military spouses Britney Bowen, Ericka Lewis and Angela Segura all came decked out in back-to-school gear to the Cosmic Bingo School Spirit Night Aug. 8 at Rally Point.

Story and photo by Hannah Kleopfer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Cosmic Bingo School Spirit Night brought in a small but enthusiastic crowd. The event was held Saturday, Aug. 8 at Rally Point, and started at 7 p.m. with doors opened at 6 p.m. The tickets were \$15, which included a bingo package and "swag". There were cash prizes, drink specials, Minute to Win It games and costumes were encouraged. The event was open to all DOD ID cardholders and guests 16 years old and older.

The best part about events such as themed Bingo Nights is the fun traditions it makes for members

of the Fort Riley community members.

"We come to every themed bingo night together," said Britney Bowen, spouse of Sgt. Stephen Bowen, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Bowen along with friends Ericka Lewis, spouse of Sgt. Daniel Lewis, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and Angela Segura, spouse of Sgt. David Segura, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, all came decked out in back to school gear including backpacks, glasses and suspenders.

Employees of Rally Point also enjoy the bingo nights. Cashier Hayleigh Washington was excited to talk about the different types of bingos and events that go on at Rally Point.

"Monster Bingo is our biggest event and the prizes are also way bigger than a regular bingo night," said Washington. "It would be great for new families here to find out more about us because we do hold more events than just bingo that are great for families."

Events at Rally Point include painting classes such as Cocktails & Canvas and Mommy and Me Masterpiece.

Future taking flight today

By Megan Saunders
K-State News and
Communication Services

For years, it’s worked the same way. A crop consultant stands in front of a 250-acre wheat field, knowing he has 10,000 more acres to scout. He walks the recommended pattern, looking for signs of pest damage and potential yield losses. Often, the consultant makes an assessment based on a limited vantage point and moves on to the next field, especially when time is limited.

Researchers at Kansas State University are hoping to give producers and consultants access to the bigger picture by using unmanned aerial systems, or UAS. Brian McCornack, associate professor of entomology, is exploring UAS as an efficient method to detect pest insects and diseases — including invasive species — in food crops such as wheat before outbreaks occur.

McCornack is the U.S. principal investigator on the three-year \$1.7 million project “Optimizing Surveillance Protocols Using Unmanned Aerial Systems.” The project also involves Kansas State University Salina and the Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, a consortium of Australia and New Zealand’s leading governmental research institutions and entities.

“Australia and the U.S. share similar agricultural systems and concerns,” McCornack said. “Unmanned aerial systems hold a lot of promise because they’re relatively inexpensive and you can cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time. Instead of only seeing a section of the field, we can take the UAS, fly over the field and quickly assess the crop for areas of interest.”

Initially, the project will target the Russian wheat aphid and wheat stripe rust,



K-State News and Communication Services

The research team from Kansas State University is collaborating with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, K-State Research and Extension and many Australian partners.

“Unmanned aerial systems hold a lot of promise because they’re relatively inexpensive and you can cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time. Instead of only seeing a section of the field, we can take the UAS, fly over the field and quickly assess the crop for areas of interest.”

BRIAN MCCORNACK | KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

also referred to as “yellow rust.” Researchers are working with landowners and the Federal Aviation Administration for approval to begin conducting approved UAS flights in wheat fields around Kansas in spring 2015.

“We’ll first look at different cameras and sensors to find those that will detect our target species,” McCornack said. “Once existing sensors have been identified, we’ll fly them over production fields that landowners have given us permission to scout.”

Researchers will use UAS to repeatedly monitor wheat fields during the growing season in coordination with landowners and crop consultants. Aerial images cap-

tured by UAS will be compared and used to identify field sections that have abnormalities, possibly caused by insects or diseases.

“Currently, early detection requires a great amount of luck and sweat,” said McCornack. “A farmer or scout has to make an educated guess regarding where to check for infested plants. It works, but if a producer has several thousand acres to manage, it’s not very efficient. With the help of remote sensing, you can scan a wide area in a short amount of time. It’s not a guarantee, but it can help us understand how to quickly manage existing pests or even spot new ones.”

MORE INFORMATION

• “Optimizing Surveillance Protocols Using Unmanned Aerial Systems” is a three-year, \$1.7 million project involving researchers at Kansas State University, Kansas State University Salina and the Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, a consortium of Australia and New Zealand’s leading governmental research institutions and entities.

In addition to testing for accuracy, researchers will study how to refine the aerial images captured by the UAS to provide landowners with the most useful data. This could include comparing images taken at varying heights, camera resolutions or optimal flight speeds.

“Most of the technology we’re using is commercially available,” said McCornack. “We’re still not going to be able to tell you with 100 percent certainty that this species is in the field, but our hope is to improve first rates and increase sampling efficiency using current technologies.”

COMMUNITY CORNER

August is antiterrorism awareness month; chance to stay vigilant

By Col. Andrew Cole
GARRISON COMMANDER

Terrorists don’t discriminate on who they attack. They often strike people and places they believe to be an easy target. Measures are in effect on post to minimize the possibility of an attack, but we need everyone

to keep watch for anything unusual. Security is an important priority for everyone. Recognizing and reporting suspicious activity using iWATCH is a key theme at Fort Riley.

The FBI made 48 arrests in 2015 related to terrorism and that is more than all the related arrests in 2013 and 2014 combined. The use of social media and the internet contributed to more young people gaining information and being attracted to extremist beliefs. Since 2010 more than 60 cases of terrorism involved U.S. citizens.

If you know someone who is advocating violence and support for international terrorist organizations, providing financial support to a terrorist organization, connections with a known terrorist organization and expressed hatred and intolerance of American society, culture, government or principles of the U.S. Constitution, this could be an indicator of radicalization.

Terrorist attacks can be prevented through awareness of the indicators associated with



Colonel Cole

TO HELP

• The iWatch program allows anyone to report suspicious activities or behaviors via phone, email or in person. To report a suspicious behavior or activity: Call the Fort Riley Police at 785-239-6303 or send emails to usarmy.riley.imcomcentral.list.iwatch

terrorist activity combined with quick reporting. You should always be aware and alert to any out of the ordinary people or activities around your home or work. Don’t discount your thinking by saying, “it is probably nothing.” Report it and let the professionals determine if it is anything of concern.

Take the opportunity during the month of August to review security awareness with your family members. Make sure everyone knows what and how to report anything suspicious. Be prepared and be quick to report. Remember, if it doesn’t feel right or look right it probably is not right.

The iWatch program allows anyone to report suspicious activities or behaviors via phone, email or in person. To report a suspicious behavior or activity: Call the Fort Riley Police at 785-239-6303 or send emails to usarmy.riley.imcomcentral.list.iwatch

— To comment on this article or to suggest a topic for Community Corner, email usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil or visit my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fortrileycg.



SOUPED-UP PICKUP EARNs THREE TROPHIES AT EXHIBITION



The Car and Audio Exhibition was held Sunday afternoon Aug 9 at the Warrior Zone and Staff Sgt. Omar Murillo, F Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment “First Lightning,” 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, won big. His pickup took home three awards: Best in Show, Best Rims and Lowest riding car.

Andy Massanet | POST



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NOW SHOWING

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14
• Minions (PG-13) 7 P.M.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
• Minions (PG-13) 2 P.M.
• Ted 2 (R) 7 P.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
• The Gallows (PG-13) 5 P.M.

For movie titles
and showtimes, call

785-239-9574

MEDICS

Continued from page 9

In attendance at this year’s convention was President Barack Obama, who spoke about healthcare, the performance of the Veterans Administration, civilian and military relations, and American foreign policy and leadership abroad.

“Our nation endures because citizens like you put on the uniform and serve to keep us free,” the president said, praising the dedication and service of American veterans. “We endure because

“Our nation endures because citizens like you put on the uniform and serve to keep us free. We endure because the freedoms and values you protected are now defended by a new generation.”

BARACK OBAMA | U.S. PRESIDENT

the freedoms and values you protected are now defended by a new generation.”

The VFW’s annual convention includes the opportunity for veterans from

all four military branches to interact and network, as well as to attend workshops focused on estate and financial planning, healthcare, leadership and personal development. Memorial services are also held each day in remembrance of fallen comrades.

Celebrating its 116th year, and the return of its annual convention to Pittsburgh, where the organization first convened to discuss veterans’ rights, the VFW has more than a million members.



Courtesy Photo | ARMY MEDICS

Command Sgt Maj. Gerald Ecker accepts the 2015 VFW Armed Forces Award on behalf of all Army medics; at the 116th VFW National Convention.

FORWARD

Continued from page 9

Iraq. Ten weeks later, on November 20, 2003, Joe was killed in action.

Herring then became a Gold Star Wife and single mother after her 21st birthday.

But life didn’t stop.

Twelve years later, she displays her Gold Star pendant on a lanyard, which holds her nametag as an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training instructor for the Fort Riley Suicide Prevention Program, and shares her story as a way to educate others.

“The yellow ribbon is just a normal ribbon and the black one is for the people who have passed away, and that’s my gold star pendant because of Joe,” Herring said, as she pointed to the pendant in the center of the awareness ribbon.

As the family of a fallen Soldier, Herring and Micah participate in many events sponsored by the Survivor Outreach Services at Fort Riley including luncheons and memorials. Herring teaches the suicide prevention part of Resiliency Spouse Training at Army Community Service. Here she interacts with active-duty Soldiers and military spouses on a regular basis.

“I have seen the great parts of the Army, and I’ve seen what war can do, but I never feel like I can give enough back,” Herring said. “For me, it’s a treat to be able to do something to give back to the community and to give back to this lifestyle.”

MORE ONLINE

• **Gold Star Wives of America:** www.goldstarwives.org/

Herring said one of the main points of discussion during her classes is that the same event affects two people in different ways.

“I had never thought about suicide and it was never an option,” Herring said. “We do know somebody who was in the same scenario and handled it completely different because she needed the extra mental support.”

In many ways, Joe’s spirit still lives. Herring said while Joe’s death was a difficult turning point in her life, now she has to answer questions about him during her everyday life.

“A lot of the time we think about instant impact, but we don’t think about long-term,” Herring said. “When Joe was killed, our son was 13 weeks old. As hard as it seems then, it’s a lot harder 12 years later.”

Herring said she feels like the community was a huge reason her scenario was different.

“I feel like the community has always been a support for us,” Herring said. “The reason I love to volunteer is so that way I can give back to the community that has given so much to us because it really is a bigger picture than you and me.”

She said with each class she teaches, she meets new people and learns something new. And

she tries to enrich her students’ lives as much as they enrich hers.

“I’m just one person, but if I could be the voice of everybody who can’t stand up for themselves – I am happy to do that because sometimes you just need someone in your corner to fight for you,” Herring said.

But it doesn’t stop there. Life for Herring changed significantly, but she didn’t stop going.

“We need to remember that even when tragic events happen that our life cannot stop,” Herring said. “The best lesson I ever learned that I try to impose on people is that something tragic can happen and you can learn to grow from it or you can choose to let it kill you.”

And that’s the lesson she is teaching now. Life can’t stop in the midst of tragedy. She is teaching it to her four children, her students and the community. Through her ASIST training, Herring is giving her students resources to help others understand the same message.

“It is a terrible, horrible experience to be a single mom with a newborn baby and burying your husband but I can tell you, life didn’t stop,” Herring said. “I have become a better person and have grown and have more understanding because of the experiences I have gone through. When I come in here and teach I can go ‘I know today is a bad day and it feels like the end of the world, but I can promise you tomorrow will be better.’”

Stay Cool

Prevention is the first line of defense against summer heat

- Pay attention to weather reports and adjust daily routines accordingly.
- Schedule physically strenuous activities for cooler times.
- Allow several days to adjust to hot environments.
- Dress in light, loose, cotton clothing. Wide-brimmed hats help keep you cool as well.
- When working outside, take periodic breaks in a cool area.
- Drink plenty of noncarbonated fluids before, during and after physical activities. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which are diuretics – substances that increase water loss via the urine.
- If you are taking medication, ask your doctor about its side effects.
- Keep cool with fans, air conditioning and cool baths or showers.
- Get plenty of sleep and eat light, nutritious and non-fatty meals.
- Never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle. Did you know that even with the windows cracked, the interior temperature can rise almost 20 degrees within the first 10 minutes?
- Rest in shaded areas often and don't forget your sunscreen.

For more safety information, visit the USAG Safety Office at www.riley.army.mil/Units/GarrisonCommand/Safety.aspx



Sports & Recreation

★ AUGUST 14, 2015

HOME OF THE BIG RED ONE

PAGE 13

IN BRIEF

BOWLING SPECIALS

Monday to Friday: From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., pizza and salad buffet, \$6.99

Monday to Friday afternoon specials: From 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., \$2 games and \$2 shoes.

Wednesday to Friday: From 1 to 6 p.m., \$2.50 games and \$2 shoes.

Saturdays: From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., \$2.50 games and \$2 shoes.

Sundays: From noon to 6 p.m., family fun, \$35 per lane, which includes two hours of bowling, one large two-topping pizza, two pitchers of soda and shoes for up to six people.

Wednesday – Dollar Night: From 6 to 9 p.m., \$1 games and \$1 shoes.

Thursday – Quarter Mania: From 6 to 9 p.m., \$5 cover, which includes shoes and 50¢ games.

Friday – Red Pin: From 6 to 9 p.m., \$10 for 3 games with shoes and prizes

Extreme: From 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$9, which includes shoes and up to three hours of bowling. Cost is \$7 for children.

Saturday – Extreme: From 6 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$9, which includes shoes and up to three hours of bowling.

4TH AND GOAL

The Warrior Zone staff is celebrating its 4-year anniversary with a party full of indoor and outdoor events August 23 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. There will be pool, poker and gaming tournaments as well as basketball and football tournaments.

For more information, call 785-240-6618.

SPEEDOS AND FIDOS

Bring your dog and enjoy a nice swim with your pooch! Come to Custer Hill Swimming Pool from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. September 13.

This event is open to all DOD ID cardholders and is free. The only requirement is current proof of vaccination for pets to participate.

For more information, call 785-239-4854.

YOUTH SPORTS OFFICIALS

Child, Youth and School Services is looking for officials for youth outdoor and indoor soccer, flag football, basketball, baseball and softball.

Volunteer and paid positions are available. Training provided and experience is not necessary. A background check is required.

For more information, call CYSS Sports at 785-239-9223 or 785-240-5207.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE VETERANS?

Team Red, White and Blue is a national veterans outreach organization enriches lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity. For more information, visit www.teamrwb.org.

For Team RWB local chapter events, see "Team RWB Fort Riley" on Facebook.

SKREET AND TRAP

An introductory clinic is offered by appointment covering basics of sport of shooting. Gun rental, ammo and protective equipment are provided.

Cost is \$11.25 per round and \$6.25 for ammunition. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 785-239-2363.

ISPORTSMAN SYSTEM

Fort Riley has an automated check-in-out system, iSportsman. Individuals can register at the Fort Riley iSportsman webpage at www.fortriley.isportsman.net.

Everyone recreating in a Fort Riley training area must use the iSportsman website. Check-in and Check-out may be done with any personal device with Internet access or visit the iSportsman Kiosk at 1st Division and Vinton School roads or the Environmental Division Office, Building 407, during normal business hours.

For more information, contact the Environmental Division at 785-239-6211.

Post dove hunt scheduled for September

By Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

When Ollie Hunter first arrived at Fort Riley, he sought after an outdoorsman group where he could meet other hunters and fishermen to continue his recreational activities. Then a post dove hunt was only a dream.

However, members of the Fort Riley Outdoorsman Group are sponsoring its 6th annual Fort Riley Dove Hunt. It is scheduled for September 4, about 72 hours after the opening day for the hunting season.

"It's a real tradition being out there the opening day for dove," Hunter said.

The dove hunt begins at 4 p.m. at the Trap and Skeet Range on Vinton

School Road. Before the hunt, pay-as-you-go practice shooting is available beginning at 10 a.m.

Hunter said the mission of the hunt is to get the community involved and introduce them to the hunting regulations on post. The requirements for this hunt are different from others for that reason.

Hunters need a Kansas State Hunting License, a Habitat Improvement Program Permit and gun registration at the Visitor Control Center. Those coming from off-post will also need to obtain a visitor badge or pass to participate. The special Fort Riley Hunting Access Permit is not required for the hunt on this day; however, it is required for every other recreational hunt on post. Children 16 and

WHAT TO BRING:

It is expected to be warm with lots of bugs in the sunflower fields where the dove hunt will take place. Here are a few suggested items to bring if you plan to participate:

- Sunglasses/eye protection
- Sun lotion

- Dark or camo clothes
- Dark or camo hat
- Orange cap for movement
- Cooler with cool drinks
- Food and snacks
- Hearing protection
- Something to sit on
- Tick and bug repellent

under do not need any of the mentioned permits.

"For a good number of the folks ... this is their first hunt on Fort Riley," Hunter said. "So it's an orientation to the regulations and what's available on Fort Riley."

Hunter said it is common for people to need help learning the ropes of recreation on the

installation. Hunting and fishing regulations are different in every state.

"Many people who just PCSed here and hunt, have no idea what to do," Hunter said. "They meet other hunters and get invites to go hunting and fishing. It's a melting pot of

See DOVE HUNT, page 14

GOING FOR GOLD



Courtesy Photo | ARNEWS

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program wrestler Sgt. Whitney Conder wins the gold medal in the women's freestyle 53-kilogram division of the 2015 Pan American Games with a 3-2 victory over Alma Valencia of Mexico at the Hershey Centre in Toronto July 26.

Army athletes, coaches bolster Team USA performance at Pan Am Games

By Tim Hippias
ARNEWS

TORONTO – Soldier-athletes from the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, or WCAP, won two gold, one silver and five bronze medals as members of Team USA at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto.

The games ended Sunday, July 26 after 17 days of competition between nearly 7,000 athletes representing all 41 nations of the Pan American Sports Organization, which includes the Caribbean, Latin America, North America and South America. The games featured 39 sports, including all 28 sports on the Olympic program. Team USA topped the medal chart in every category, leading all nations with

265 medals, including 103 gold, 81 silver and 81 bronze medals.

The Army also sent two coaches to the games. Boxing coach Staff Sgt. Joseph Guzman helped lead Team USA boxers to five medals in the ring, and WCAP wrestling coach Shon Lewis, a retired staff sergeant and former All-Army and WCAP wrestler, helped lead Team USA to its best Greco-Roman performance at the Pan American Games in 30 years.

On the wrestling mat, three Soldiers led by Lewis won medals. Capt. Jon Anderson struck gold and two-time Olympian Sgt. Spenser Mango secured bronze to help Team USA win the Greco-Roman team title for the first time since 1985. Sgt. Whitney Conder won another gold medal in women's freestyle wrestling. Sgt.

Caylor Williams did not receive a medal but gained invaluable experience for the upcoming world championships.

Anderson and Conder each took a victory lap around the mat clutching a U.S. flag after their wins.

"That was cool," Anderson said. "Ever since I was a little kid starting to wrestle, I saw videos and pictures of guys doing that. I waited for my day and today was the first."

"We came here to win medals and we were able to do that, so I'm just excited for the entire team," Lewis said. "As we head to Las Vegas for the World Championships, this is an upbeat. We still have a lot of work to do, but I'm encouraged with how we performed."

See TEAM USA, page 14

Hobby bolsters paratrooper's infantryman skills

By Staff Sgt. Mary Katzenberger
ARNEWS

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Many paratroopers pursue hobbies that enrich their life when off duty. For some, it may be as simple as dropping a fishing line in the water and waiting for a bite; for others, its working with wood or spending quality family time at home.

In Spc. Zachary P. Stafford's case, a hobby he pursued since he was 5- or 6-years old not only enriches his life, it sustains and bolsters the skills he's required to perform in the Army.

Stafford, an airborne infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, is a competitive marksman.

The native of Fort Worth, Texas, participates in matches monthly throughout the Southeastern region of the country. Most recently, he beat out more than 50 competitors in a match in Bunnlevel, North Carolina, which required him to engage threat targets using correct tactics, techniques and procedures using three types of weapons: A rifle, pistol and shotgun.

The paratrooper hit targets in a shoot house, was tested on his ability to fire accurately from behind various types of cover as well as to shoot while on the move, and had to flawlessly execute the critical skills a shooter must master in order to take home the win.

Stafford said he uses the same skills during competitions he calls on when



Courtesy Photo | ARNEWS

Spc. Zachary P. Stafford, a paratrooper assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, fires a pistol during a competitive shooting match in Bunnlevel, N.C., Aug. 1, 2015.

training in his profession. The fundamentals that set the stage for winning matches – steady position, aiming, breath control and

trigger squeeze – are the same ones used at a military range or in combat.

See SKILLS, page 14

West Point football campaign underway

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
SPORTS INFORMATION

WEST POINT, N.Y. – The 2015 Army West Point football season is officially underway.

While the players gathered in early August for meetings and briefings, the team took the field for the first time Aug. 3.

Freshmen players completed an accelerated Cadet Basic Training Aug. 1 and arrived at the football facilities later that day.

The veteran team members reported Aug 2 before the team gathered for compliance, sports medicine, equipment and strength training briefings.

Strength and conditioning coaches also led the team through a workout before team meetings and walkthroughs.

The team is hard at work. There are early practices for the offense, defense and special teams to refine their skills. There are plenty of challenges and plenty of opportunities. The coaches are anxious to watch them develop and compete.

With 77 freshmen in camp, second-year head coach Jeff Monken took a different approach to the start of camp. The freshmen will begin practice first, then join the veterans for special teams work. The veterans will then practice, ensuring everyone gets enough repetitions. The early newcomers practices are expected to last the first four days.

There are a lot of freshman who need time to learn. The practices are split between veterans and freshmen and the coaches are teaching the first few practices. In the past, the whole team worked out together and the veterans took most of the snaps because they know what to do. The freshmen didn't get a lot of participation. With the new divided practice, the freshmen can get practice, watch the veterans practice, ask questions and learn about the tempo of practice.

Army will kick-off the 2015 season Friday, Sept. 4 against Fordham at Michie Stadium. Following the Fordham contest, Army West Point will play at Connecticut before returning home for its first home Saturday contest of the year as the Black Knights welcome Wake Forest on Sept. 19.

Army West Point goes back on the road for two games before returning on Oct. 10 against Duke and the next week opposite Bucknell in the celebration of 125 years of Army football on Oct. 17.

The final two home games are in November with Tulane coming to West Point on Nov. 14 and Rutgers closing out the home season on Nov. 21. The traditional Army-Navy game will be Dec 12 at Philadelphia.

WEST POINT FOOTBALL NOTES

The familiar cadence and strong voice of Caron leading both groups through team warm up – unbridled enthusiasm from players and staff on the first day – the team wore helmets only for Monday's workout – Monken said the goal during the first week was to get as many repetitions as possible for the freshmen and newcomers.

SKILLS

Continued from page 13

“On the marksmanship side of the house, everything I do – from dry fire practice, reloads and running and reloading with my rifle, pistol and shotgun, to putting myself under stress – transfers over to being an infantryman,” the paratrooper said. “I have no one shooting at me during competitions, but still, being able to fire without thinking is what I need to be able to do.”

As is the case for many seasoned gunslingers, Stafford’s love of sending lead down range began when he was a young boy.

The paratrooper said his father and grandfather first taught him how to safely handle and fire a .22-caliber rifle on some land in the middle of nowhere in Texas. His father later gave him the rifle, he used to protect himself and the horses under his care while working on the family ranch.

Stafford said his passion for firearms transitioned into a hobby during high school, where he began to compete. Later, while attending college and serving in the Texas National Guard he continued participating in and winning matches.

Two years after he enlisted for active duty service in 2010, Stafford had to apply his marksmanship skills during a real-world mission; the paratrooper deployed to Afghanistan with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the tour, he used his marksmanship skills to not only protect his teammates but the Special Forces Soldiers his unit augmented.

Between his personal and professional marksmanship training, Stafford said he felt his five-man team was ready for combat.

“We were very prepared, I had no doubt about anything with the guys that I was with,” the paratrooper said.

His confidence in his team’s ability came from Stafford taking a personal interest in ensuring each member of his team was well-trained. The paratrooper said he was regularly called upon to pass his skills on to those having difficulty mastering the trade. He has carried the same desire to train fellow paratroopers with him into his current unit.

“Spc. Stafford’s shooting ability means that he is exceptionally well-suited to engaging the enemy and assisting his teammates in doing the same,” said Sgt. Peter Korch, Stafford’s team leader of nine months. “He works very hard at whatever he puts his mind to.

“Just to give you an example in a military-related context, we were out on a qualification range the other day, so he showed up, grabbed someone else’s rifle and shot 39 out of 40 without zeroing or warming up,” Korch continued. “That man knows how to shoot.”

DOVE HUNT

Continued from page 13

experienced folks and people who just arrived.”

For the second year, Fort Riley is requiring anyone to wear an orange hat for visibility while moving on recreational areas of Fort Riley. Hunter said although the birds see in color, hunters should not worry about the color preventing them from getting a bird because they are allowed to wear a camo hat when they are stationary.

Hunter said approximately 60 people show up for the dove hunt each year, but this year he expects there might be more. He said they can accommodate any number of people at the hunt with multiple sunflower fields so everyone is spread out.

Sign up for the dove hunt is on the event date at the trap and skeet range clubhouse.

For more information about this hunt or the FROG, call 785-239-6211 or 913-775-2760.



File Photo | POST

David McNeal, FROG, sits in wait looking for dove with his German wirehaired pointer, Mattie, during the FROG Dove Hunt Sept. 6, 2014 at Fort Riley. McNeal served as a guide for one of four groups which headed out to the ranges for a late afternoon hunt. The 2014 event attracted 35 hunters, who harvested a total of 52 doves.

TEAM USA

Continued from page 13

In men’s Modern Pentathlon – a sport that includes fencing, swimming, equestrian show jumping, cross-country running and laser pistol shooting all in one day – Spc. Nathan Schrimsher earned a berth in the 2016 Olympic Games with a bronze-medal performance.

“The whole goal today was for one of us to get an Olympic quota spot, so mission accomplished,” said Sgt. Dennis Bowsher, who finished 10th in the event.

“Next is for either myself or WCAP Spc. Logan Storie to get another spot off world-ranking points over the next year,” Bowsher said. “All three of us definitely are going to push each other, that way we can get one more, along with Schrimsher, on the U.S. Olympic team.”

1st Lt. William Holder and 1st Lt. Uiki Leatigaga helped Team USA secure the bronze medal in men’s sevens rugby, and

on the track, Spc. Aron Rono won a silver medal and Spc. Shadrack Kipchirchir finished fourth in the men’s 10,000-meter run.

“I exceeded my expectations here today,” Rono said. “I thought I was going to be in the mix, but I kind of surprised myself, given that I trained through it. I didn’t really taper that much. Army strong – just keep pushing.”

Kipchirchir, 26, a native of Kenya, who attended Oklahoma State University, vowed to bring home more medals for the Army in the future.

“I love being able to represent the Army and the USA, and this is just the beginning,” he said.

In shooting, Spc. Bryant Wallizer won a bronze medal in the 10-meter air rifle event. Sgt. Nickolaus Mowrer finished fifth in 50-meter free pistol and ninth in 10-meter air pistol.

Lt. Gen. Daniel Mitchell, of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, headquarters over the World Class Athlete Program, was impressed by the caliber of the Soldier-athletes.

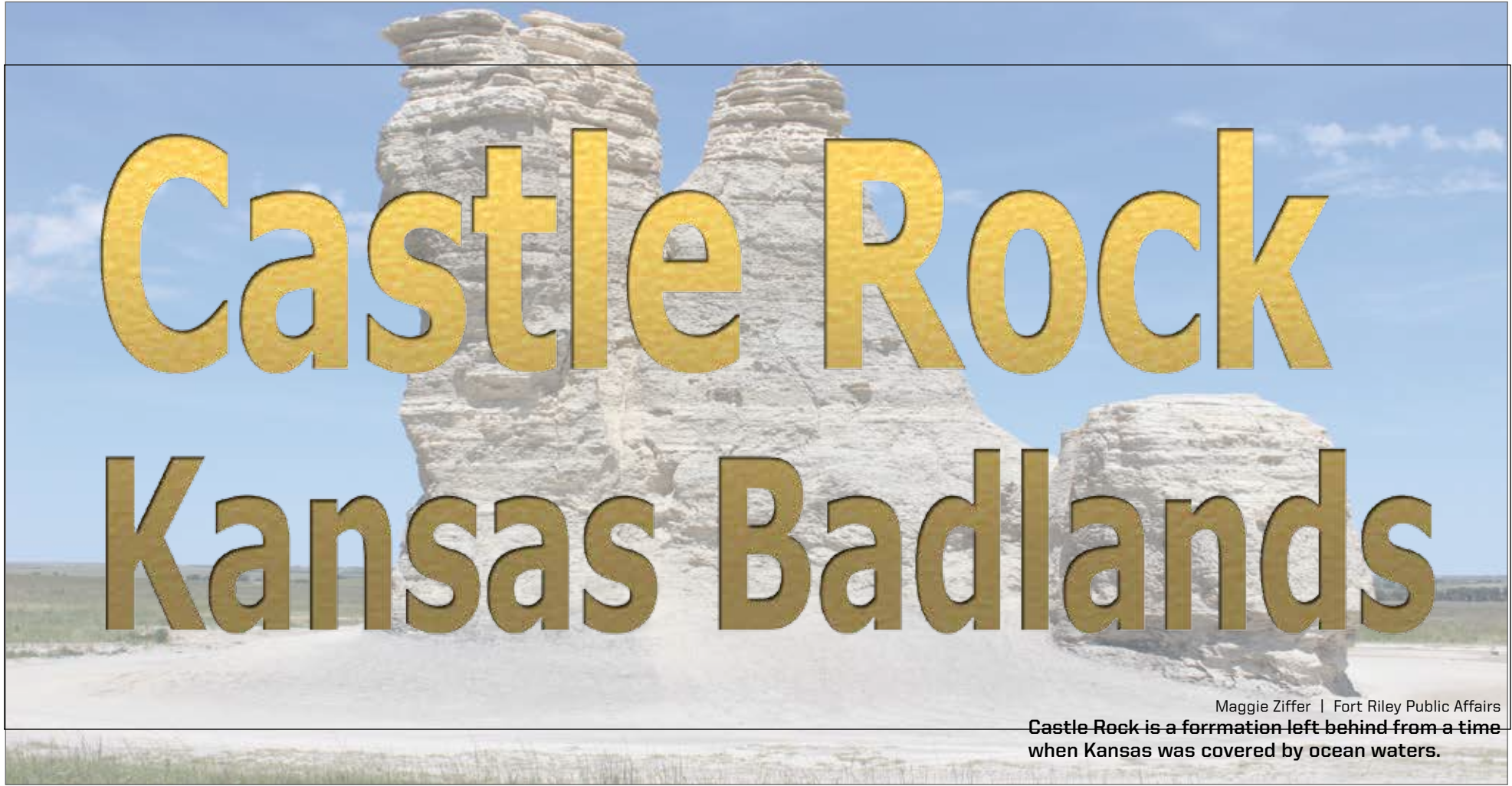
“When you look at them, they look like normal Soldiers, normal people,” Mitchell said. “But then when you start talking to them ... it’s just hard to believe how elite they are.

“I’m thinking of how hard it was even in high school when you think you’re a pretty good athlete, just to make all-conference, let alone all-state or all-American,” Mitchell said. “And these guys are all that way – they’re so dominant in their sports and such great athletes.

“They’re important ambassadors for the Army and the nation,” Mitchell said. “We’re really proud of them.”



Travel & Fun in Kansas



Patti Geistfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Located about two hours west of Hays, Kansas, the countryside gets wilder south of Interstate Highway 70 between Quinter and Collyer. For a little off-roading experience travel the 40-mile Castle Rock scenic drive. The dirt roads are rough and when it rains they become muddy and rough. Portions of the track have ruts that are 18 inches deep. It requires careful driving. It can do it in a car, but an SUV or light truck would work better.

This route passes desolate chalk canyons, fields, pastures and stream channels. Wildlife is in abundance in this area and includes pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black-tailed jackrabbits, prairie dog towns,

many bird species and other animals. There are also Shark’s teeth and other fossils among the chalk rocks and gravel. Do not remove any teeth, fossils or rocks as this is private land.

Hackberry Creek Valley has a bluff ruggedly carved into formations called hoodoos. Great Horned Owls nest in these areas. Most of the rocks in the area consist of Niobrara chalk. Castle Rock was named because it looked like a Castle rising above the prairie. The area was once the bottom of a large ocean. It was deposited during the Cretaceous Period of geologic history, about 80 million years ago.

The Castle Rock’s limestone, chalk and shale formation is fragile and may not last many more years. Erosion is an ongoing process and the rock formations at Castle Rock grow ever smaller. The tallest spire fell in a thunderstorm in 2001. There is still a lot to see including

ruts left by Butterfield stagecoaches that passed north of Castle Rock in 1865. The stage drivers used Castle Rock as a landmark for their Overland Trail route.

It is a remote area with few visitors. The landowners are amenable to visitors and no special permission is required, but there are no facilities and camping is not allowed.

Directions: From I-70 take the Quinter Exit, number 107, south on Castle Rock Road for about 15 miles. Turn east and go four miles to the Castle Rock outcrop turnoff. Drive one mile north to the cattle grate. Follow the road to the right and circle into Hackberry Creek valley and back to the grate – a little over two miles. Return south 1 mile to the road. Travel east about three miles to Banner Road. Take Banner Road about 13 miles north to I-70 at Collyer.



Maggie Ziffer | Fort Riley Public Affairs

Castle Rock viewed from a distant hill. It is a limestone, chalk and shale formation that is fragile and my not last for many more years.



Maggie Ziffer | Fort Riley Public Affairs

Rock formation showing varying layers of sediment deposit and depicting the “Badlands” scenic view.