



Sgt. Takita Lawery | 1ST INF. DIV.

Spc. Jimmy Newsome, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear noncommissioned officer with the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, embraces his wife, Karolyn, and his son during the redeployment ceremony for the battalion at Fort Riley's Camp Funston Dec. 17. The "Pacesetters" returned from a nine-month deployment to Camp Beuhring, Kuwait.

Home for Christmas

'Pacesetters' return to Fort Riley in time for the holidays

By Sgt. Takita Lawery
1ST INF. DIV. SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 65 Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, returned to Fort Riley Dec. 17 after a nine-month deployment to Kuwait.

The "Pacesetters" battalion deployed in March 2015, where unit Soldiers supported missions in Iraq and throughout the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea on Army watercraft. They supported Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Freedom Sentinel, Operation Enduring Freedom and other theater missions.

"The Soldiers of (Headquarters and Headquarters Company), 541st CSSB, were the consummate professionals that provided models for all subordinate units to emulate," said Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Tricker, the senior

noncommissioned officer of 541st CSSB. "They exercised the disciplined initiative required to make the complex operational environment a complete success."

The Soldiers of the Pacesetters also provided direct support to logistics capabilities for all operations in the Central Command area of responsibility, including ground and sea transportation, maintenance, fuel distribution, water purification and ammunition. The battalion's Soldiers also supported the Iraq Train and Equipment Fund support operations, which enabled the Soldiers in advise-and-assist units and coalition partners who train Iraqi forces.

"The Soldiers and leaders know and understand the fight, anticipate it, adapt to it and anticipate how we can best support the units to our left, right and up in order to make the whole team successful," said Lt. Col. Ronnie Anderson Jr., 541st CSSB commander.

See HOME, page 7



Sgt. Takita Lawery | 1ST INF. DIV.

Lt. Col. Ronnie D. Anderson Jr., commander of the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Tricker, the battalion's senior noncommissioned officer, unfurl battalion colors during a redeployment ceremony Dec. 17.

Garrison team hosts holiday events

Garrison potluck, awards ceremony brings holiday cheer

By Hannah Kleopfer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Rotisserie chicken, deviled eggs and cheesecake lured Fort Riley garrison employees to the basement of building 407 for the annual holiday potluck, hosted by the Garrison team members.

"It was a pleasure and blessing to be a part of the annual Garrison Christmas Potluck," said Col. Andrew Cole Jr., Fort Riley garrison commander.

Cole went on to say the potluck was an opportunity for fellowship, for employees to share company and keep in mind that garrison staff members comprise a great workforce.

"Some of us will enter this holiday season without someone close who has passed on this year. Coming together allowed us to bring them close, comfort them and focus on the goodness around us as we move into the New Year. I am thankful for the teamwork expressed by all in 2015 and look forward to working together in 2016."

After employees enjoyed a large meal, everyone adjourned upstairs for the combined October and November Garrison Awards Ceremony. During the ceremony, the employee of each month was handed a certificate and a \$500 check.

The October employee of the month was Diana McGee, who was recognized for her outstanding work and leadership with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. In a moment of surprise, tears welled up in her eyes as she walked up to receive her award and check.

"I wasn't expecting it at all because I'm a manager," McGee said. "I just felt honored because the person who put it in for me was Caité Kendrick. She's someone who makes people want to be her. I want to inspire other people to believe in MWR and what it stands for. I believe in something that is greater than me, and I want to employ that into other employees. I also want to thank Rich Wilson. He's always

See HOLIDAY, page 7



Col. Timothy Hayden, commander of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, salutes Maj. David Lombardo, the executive officer 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., during the Triangular Design Ceremony on Dec. 16 at Fort Riley.

Ceremony marks realignment of forces

By Spc. Derrik Tribbey
1ST ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division held a Triangular Design Ceremony to mark a realignment of forces Dec. 16 at Fort Riley. With this move, many Soldiers will start new careers in different battalions.

The ceremony recognized the deactivation of Companies B from 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, and 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, and

"The ceremony was fantastic. The new generation is doing fine, very well educated, has a lot of purpose and a lot of vision. This ceremony means a lot to me. It gives me the vitamin, the stimulus and the stamina that I need."

RETIRED SPC. 2ND CLASS JORGE ESQUILLIN | CEREMONY SPECIAL GUEST

the transfer of Company D from 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, to 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment.

The 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., redesignated Co. D

as Troop D and will bring tank capabilities with them. Lt. Col. Donald B. Laauwe assumed command of the squadron in a separate ceremony following the Triangular Design Ceremony.

"It's something new," said Spc. Brian Bowen, an M1A1 Abrams armor crewman gunner with Troop D, 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav.

See CEREMONY, page 8

The next USAG Resilience Day Off will be:

DEC.

31

SAFETY HOLIDAY

As of Thursday, Dec. 17,

007

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

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

TOP 10 NEWS STORIES, PAGE 9

TOP 5 COMMUNITY STORIES, PAGE 13

TOP 5 SPORTS STORIES, PAGE 15





PROJECT NORTH POLE



Maria Childs | POST
Easton Lipsey, 3, son of Staff Sgt. Jake Lipsey, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, visit Santa Claus Dec. 19 at Project North Pole. Lipsey was one of more than 500 children at the event.

Warrior Transition Battalion Soldiers, families celebrate holiday

By Hannah Kleopfer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Christmas carols rang out across the Clamshell as Warrior Transition Battalion Soldiers and their family members came together for a night of Christmas celebration Dec. 18. The annual two-day event, Project North Pole, featured a holiday party for the WTB families one evening and for other families the following night.

“There’s nothing better than to see the Soldiers and their families all together,” said Sally Sowell, Soldier and Family Assistance Center director. “We very seldom get to see that. To be able to come together for an event like this is just wonderful.”

The biggest hit for the kids was getting to see Santa Claus. The line to see him on the stage was always long even though staff kept the line continually moving as children took turns to sit on his lap and tell him their Christmas wishes. Each child received a new present from Santa and his elves. The gifts were donated by the Kansas American Legion Riders chapter.

“We get to expose them to the American Legion and that we’re a family ... and we’re

taking care of the family and that’s what we do,” said Don Behrens, American Legion Riders chairman. “And the kids need their Christmas. We’ve got brand new toys for 1,500 kids.”

Many Soldiers and their families took the opportunity to stop and eat dinner and snacks between seeing Santa, playing games and face painting. Children left with holly and other Christmas themed paintings on their cheeks.

“It’s a really great opportunity, especially for the kids who don’t have much,” said Kimberly Purkeypyle, a medical support assistant at Irwin Army Community Hospital. “It’s a great way to get the community together.”

In addition to everything staff offered, children under 12 also received a bear from Build-a-Bear.

As Sowell found, they had so much at their event for the WTB Soldiers and their families and that other programs needed help getting a Christmas party going, they offered to open up the event again the next day for families who participate in the programs that fell under the Army Community Services.



Hannah Kleopfer | POST
Owen Hull, son of Melissa Hull, Soldier Family Assistance Center education counselor at Fort Riley, tells Santa Claus what is on his Christmas list this year at Project North Pole Dec. 18. This event was for children of the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Riley.

Families of deployed, fallen and Medical Evaluation Board Soldiers see Santa



Maria Childs | POST
Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for support, visited Project North Pole Dec. 19. The event was held for children of deployed Soldiers, Gold Star families and Soldiers who are going to the Medical Evaluation Board.

By Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Easton Lipsey, 3, son of Staff Sgt. Jake Lipsey, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, stood in line with his stuffed bear and waited for his chance to share his Christmas list with Santa Claus. Mrs. Claus handed him a candy cane moments before his turn. He took his candy cane and walked to the man with the white beard.

Lipsey was one of more than 350 children who attended Project North Pole at the Warrior Transition Battalion clamshell, building 675, Dec. 19. The event was for families of deployed Soldiers, Gold Star families and Medical Evaluation Board Soldiers.

Sally Sowell, director of the Soldier Family Assistance Center at Fort Riley, said the purpose of this event is to bring the holiday spirit to families who need their Christmas brightened.

“These are special groups of children that we feel are deserving of one day of something special,” Sowell said. “Hopefully, this day they can stay away from whatever issue they may have. This day hopefully lets them forget about that.”

Each child who attended received a Build-A-Bear when they walked in the door. There were games, cookies to decorate and pictures with Santa Claus. The Kansas American Legion volunteered their time as well as enough toys for each child to receive a gift from Santa Claus.

Calleya Hartung, 9, daughter of Capt. Allan Hartung of Fort Riley, who is deployed to Korea with the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, received a glitter lamp from Santa. She said she was more than likely going to use the lamp as a nightlight in her room, and seeing Santa was one of the highlights of the event.

“That was awesome,” Calleya said. “I gave him a big, warm hug. Santa is very nice.”

Her mom, Amy Hartung, said it is heartwarming to have an event that brings the holiday spirit to kids with deployed parents. Amy brought her four children to the event.

“It’s hard for kids whose parents can’t be here for Christmas,” Amy said. “It gives them something to look forward to. It’s something that is just theirs.”

She said having families around who understand what her family is going through is comforting during the Christmas season. She said it is emotional, but it’s nice that her family is able to celebrate with an event like this.

“It recognizes that daddy is gone,” Amy said. “These are families who get it ... It’s nice to see a recognition for kids who sometimes aren’t recognized at Christmas because their parents are gone.”



Hannah Kleopfer | POST
Caitlyn Specnecr, daughter of Craig and Tam Spencer, pharmacist for Warrior Transition Battalion, plays with the toy she got from Santa at Project North Pole Dec. 18.



Soldiers can begin mixing camo patterns for cold-weather gear

By C. Todd Lopez
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON — As winter weather approaches and temperatures drop, Soldiers turn to their cold-weather gear to keep warm outdoors while conducting training or operations.

Many Soldiers now wear their Army Combat Uniform in the new Operational Camouflage Pattern. But their organizational clothing and individual equipment such as their wet-weather gear and their Extended Cold Weather Clothing System sport the Universal Camouflage Pattern.

Soldiers don't need to freeze to avoid a uniform faux pas. The Army wants Soldiers to know that it's okay to wear the foliage green fleece cold-weather jacket and other UCP cold-weather gear on top of their new OCP uniform. "Soldiers should continue to use the equipment they have been provided to remain safe and warm in environments that call for it," said Sgt. Maj. Eva M. Commons, uniform policy sergeant major, Army G-1. "This is why the Army gives you this gear to wear."

Cold-weather gear is not part of the clothing issued to Soldiers during basic training. Instead, Soldiers get items like the fleece cold-weather jacket, the wind cold-weather jacket, the soft shell cold-weather jacket and trousers, or the extreme cold/wet-weather jacket and trousers from the clothing issue facility at their installation.

Commons said that no matter what ACU Soldiers are wearing — the one in UCP pattern or the one in Operational Camouflage Pattern — they are allowed to wear the winter-weather gear that is issued.

"Any item issued from CIF is permitted for wear," she said. "There is no restriction based on camo pattern or color."

The Army also has two different colored T-shirts available for wear under their ACU. There is the sand-colored T-shirt and the Tan 499 T-shirt. Belts are also available in both of those colors. Boots are available in sand or coyote colors, as well.

The rule here, Commons said, is that when a Soldier is wearing the UCP ACU, he or she must wear the undershirt, belt and boots designed for wear with the UCP ACU. However, when Soldiers wear the Operational Camouflage Pattern ACU, they can wear any combination of boots, belt and T-shirt, in any of the available colors; the boots, belt, and t-shirt do not have to match each other.

Commons caveated that, however, by saying "both your left and right boot must be the same color."

The Army, Commons said, has an inventory of items including belts, boots, T-shirts, uniforms and cold- and wet-weather gear. Each of those items has a certain wear life on them. Items such as cold-weather jackets last a very, very long time, she said. Other items, such as T-shirts, can be worn for less than a year before they ought to be replaced.

The liberal policy for how uniform items can be mixed with the OCP ACU allows Soldiers more flexibility in the wear of their uniform, and additionally allows more time for the Army to get OCIE in the new Operational Camouflage Pattern.

"With all these different uniforms, we have to give the widest range of allowance to Soldiers to properly wear, and not have that come out of pocket," she said. "It also allows the Army to make sure they have proper stock in issuing facilities to support demand."

Commons said Soldiers can continue to wear the UCP ACU until Sept. 30, 2019. After that, they must wear the OCP ACU.

Soldiers who are deploying or have an operational need are provided with OCIE items in the Operational Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern, also known as OEF-CP.

The Army has been issuing the pattern to those deploying for some years and will continue to do so until the transition to Operational Camouflage Pattern.

It will be some years before UCP OCIE is exhausted and is replaced with OCP OCIE because the items are quite durable, Commons said.

Commons also said some Soldiers had expressed confusion about what camouflage pattern the name and service tapes should be in on their UCP-colored fleece jacket. She said the name and service tape pattern should match the color of the fleece jacket, not the pattern of the ACU the Soldier is wearing underneath.



COURTESY PHOTO

An Intelligence and Sustainment Company team races through the snow transporting a simulated casualty to a landing zone during the Gauntlet Challenge at Fort Drum, New York.

BLUE, WHITE AND READ THE REGULATIONS

Commons said that for some time, the OEF-CP was worn only in Afghanistan. And while deployed to Afghanistan, the rule was to wear the tactical subdued American flag patch on the right sleeve.

"Soldiers had only seen the subdued patch on that uniform, so they assumed that is the only patch allowed with that uniform," Commons said.

But that is not the case. According to AR 670-1, paragraph 21-18, "All Soldiers will wear the

full-color U.S. flag embroidered insignia on utility and organizational uniforms, unless deployed or in a field environment."

Commons said that the OEF-CP ACU, and the OCP ACU can, and should be, worn with the full-color American flag while in garrison. Soldiers should wear the subdued flag patch on those uniforms while deployed, or in a field environment.

First sergeants, she said, will let Soldiers know when they are going to be in a field environment, and what the uniform requirements will be.

First woman commandant of cadets named at West Point

ARNEWS

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Brig. Gen. Diana Holland was named the first female commandant of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Holland is serving as the deputy commanding general, support, 10th Mountain Division, Light on Fort Drum, New York. She will replace Maj. Gen. John C. Thomson III, who relinquished command of the Corps of Cadets during a ceremony at West Point Dec. 14. He has been named commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division on Fort Hood, Texas.

Acting Army Secretary Eric Fanning praised the selection of Holland. "Diana's operational and command experiences will bring a new and diverse perspective to West Point's leadership team," Fanning said. "She is absolutely the right person for this critical position."

Holland will assume command as the 76th commandant of cadets during a ceremony scheduled at West Point, Jan. 5.

"I am very honored to be named the next commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets," Holland said. "It's a privilege to be part of the team that trains and develops leaders of character for our Army. I look forward to continuing the legacy set by Maj. Gen. Thomson and all previous commandants."

Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen, superintendent at West Point, said Holland will be a valuable addition to the team.

"Diana Holland is a superb leader who has a phenomenal reputation throughout the Army," Caslen said. "She is immensely qualified for the

job and we look forward to her joining the West Point team as commandant."

Holland graduated from West Point and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1990.

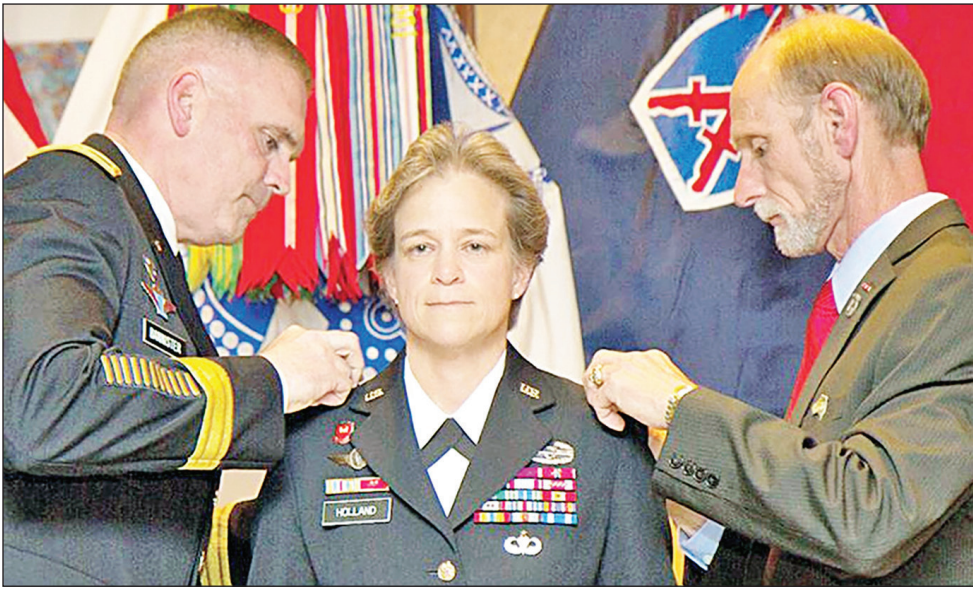
Her military service began in Germany, where she served as a vertical construction platoon leader in the 79th Engineer Combat Battalion, Heavy, and as a company executive officer and battalion assistant operations officer in the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion, Heavy.

Following company command with the 30th Engineer Battalion, Topographic on Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Holland earned a Master of Arts degree at Duke University en route to a teaching assignment at West Point. She then attended the Army Command and General Staff College and the School of Advanced Military Studies where she earned a Master of Military Arts and Sciences degree.

She was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division in July 2004, and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as a division plans officer and then as the operations officer in the 92nd Engineer Combat Battalion, Heavy.

Upon return from Iraq, she served as a plans officer in the Operations Directorate, U.S. Central Command on MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Holland commanded the 92nd Engineer Battalion, Black Diamonds from July 2008 to June 2011. She deployed with Task Force Diamond to eastern Afghanistan from May 2010 to April 2011. After relinquishing command, she was a U.S. Army War College Fellow at Georgetown University.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brig. Gen. Diana Holland becomes the first woman to hold the title of deputy commanding general for support in a light infantry division during her promotion ceremony to brigadier general on Fort Drum, New York, July 29. Her husband, James Holland Jr., right, and Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Bannister, 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum commander, pin on her stars.

In 2012, Holland assumed command of the 130th Engineer Brigade at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The following year, she deployed with the brigade headquarters to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, where the unit served as the theater engineer brigade, Joint Task Force Sapper. The brigade redeployed to Schofield Barracks in June 2014 and Holland relinquished command in July.

During the first half of this year, Holland served as executive officer to the director of the Army staff at the Pentagon. In July, she was appointed as the deputy commanding general for support, 10th Mountain Division, Light on Fort Drum. She was the first female deputy commanding general of a light infantry division.

GARRISON BOWLING DAYS

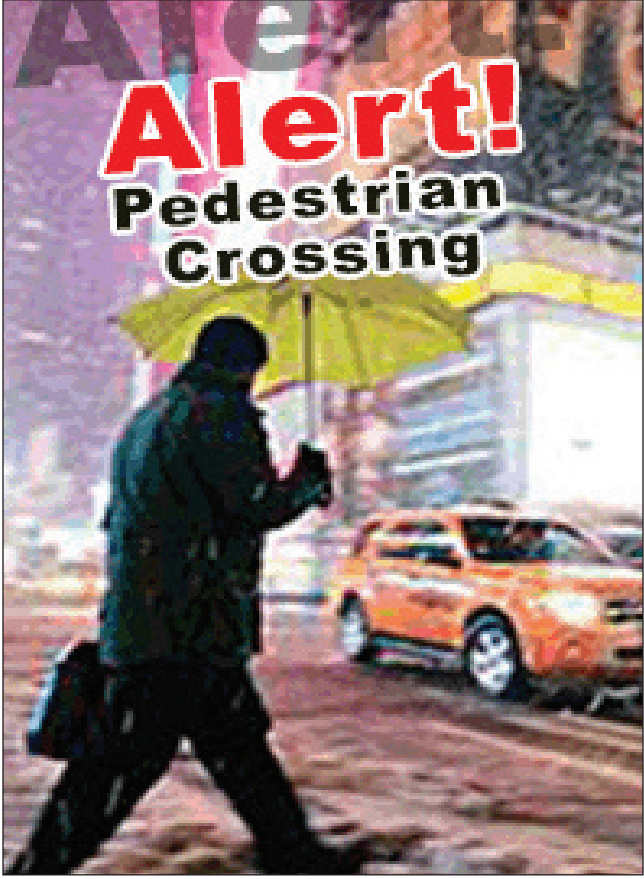
December 10 - January 14 - February 11 • 4-7pm
Custer Hill Bowling Center

A great way to enjoy a fun activity with your coworkers!
Get to know your fellow Garrison employees!

Open to all bowlers, but geared toward Garrison employees

\$8 covers 2 games and shoes
Plus, great food specials!

Info: 785.239.4366

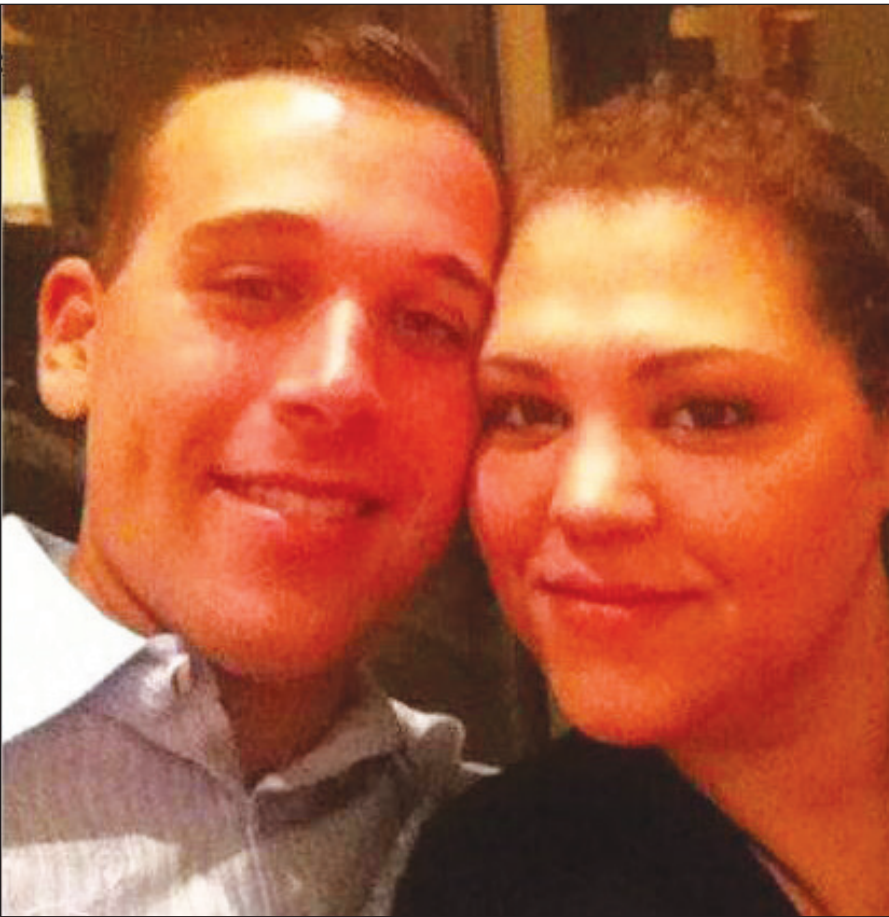


NEIGHBORHOOD CAROLING



Hannah Kleopfer | POST
First graders of Ware Elementary carol in the McClellan neighborhood around the school with their music teacher Drew Horton Dec. 16. Students participate in caroling during the hour they would normally be in P.E. and music. Other elementary schools such as Seitz also went through neighborhoods caroling in holiday spirit.

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of Dec. 25 was
“What are the four lines of operation as described in the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Campaign Plan, CAMPLAN 2020, with version 3 Dec. 11?”

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/Portals/0/Docs/Units/1ID/CAMPLAN_2020.pdf

This week’s winner is Amber Javaine. Her husband is Spc. Mark Javaine with the 1st Support Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade.

CONGRATULATIONS AMBER!

TRAFFIC REPORT

CONSTRUCTION ON RIFLE RANGE ROAD CONTINUES

Construction on Rifle Range Road will affect traffic flow. The work started in September and has been contracted for 374 days. As a result, the work will affect travel to the schools in the area. School officials have been briefed and can offer guidance. There are detour and guidance signs posted, including detour routes along tank trail purple and through the Forsyth Housing area. Motorists are asked to exercise patience and follow all guidance posted on signs.

ALL SCHOOL ZONES IN EFFECT

School zones are in effect. Tickets will be issued. Be vigilant. Some school zones have lights and others have posted times.

ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS OF OPERATION

Until further notice, the Estes Access Control Point is closed permanently every Saturday and Sunday, but will remain open Monday through Friday to all traffic including commercial vehicles. Also until further notice,

12th street ACP is closed to privately owned vehicles on Saturdays. The commercial side remains open Saturdays. 12th St. ACP is closed to all traffic Sundays. 12th street ACP is open to all traffic Monday through Friday. Effective Dec. 12, Grant Street ACP closes permanently every Saturday and Sunday but remains open Monday through Friday to all privately owned vehicle traffic. Motorists wanting access to Fort Riley on Saturday or Sunday should use Ogden, Henry or Trooper gates.

The access control point hours are now as follows:

Four Corners/Trooper/Ogden: Open 24/7

Henry: Open 24/7

12th Street: Effective Dec. 5, open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed to non-commercial traffic Saturdays; closed Sundays and federal holidays.

Rifle Range: Closed to all traffic.

Grant: Until further notice, open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

Estes: Until further notice, open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

Home wanted

Mick is a 2-year old, energetic, active Labsky, Labrador-Husky-Mix, that was surrendered because his family is moving. He grew up with another dog and children. He also does well with cats. Mick still needs some leash training but he knows common commands such as sit, lay down and shake paws. He requires a 6-ft fence or supervision while in the yard. He would make a wonderful running and hiking partner and appreciates daily walks and dog park visits. Mick’s Adoption Fee is \$142, which includes neuter, microchip, vaccines such as distemper and rabies, heartworm test and deworming.

If interested, call 785-239-6183. If no one answers 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 on Fort Riley are picked up by the Military Police and brought to the Fort Riley Stray facility. The animals are held 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 being released to owners.

Fort Riley Stray Facility
Building 226 Custer Ave., Main Post
10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through Friday
785-239-6183 or 785-239-3886

Treat every weapon as if it is loaded.
Handle every weapon with care.
Identify the target before you fire.
Never point the muzzle at anything you don’t intend to shoot.
Keept he weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

WEAPONS SAFETY!

Fort Riley weekend and Holiday Dining Facility Schedule

Two of Fort Riley’s three dining facilities will run on a holiday schedule through December. Take note of updated hours.
Dec. 24-27: Devil’s Den, open 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.
Irwin Army Community Hospital’s DFAC will be open regular hours through the holidays.

RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What is your favorite Christmas movie?



"I like Santa Claus. It's about how Santa became Santa and gave toys to everyone."

BRANNON SUTOR

Daughter of Chaplain (Capt.) Shane Sutor
Warrior Transition Battalion



"I'd say 'Elf'. Because (of) Will Ferrell."

PVT. JESSICA NOE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

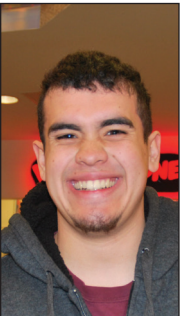
97th Military Police Battalion



"'It's a Wonderful Life'. It emphasizes the value of an individual life."

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) MIKE McDONALD
MONTROSE, CALIFORNIA

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' because the message is that it's not always about getting, but about giving and family."

RYAN McDONALD
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Son of Chaplain (Maj.) Mike McDonald, 1st Armored
Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"'It's a Wonderful Life' because it speaks to improving your life and what Christmas is really about, and about how you should live for others."

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) SHANE SUTOR
TENNESEE

Warrior Transition Battalion

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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K-state researchers study obesity, other diseases

K-STATE NEWS AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES

MANHATTAN — A Kansas State University research team has created a cell line that can be used in studies aimed at understanding obesity and other disease in humans, a discovery that has caught the attention of a Canadian company that markets innovative work in the life sciences.

Stephen Chapes, professor of biology at Kansas State University, said the researchers studied a protein that regulates body weight, called the leptin receptor, and its impact on large white blood cells called macrophages.

"Macrophages are located throughout your body, protecting you from infection," Chapes said. "Macrophages are important in obesity because if you become obese, your immune function is disrupted."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that more than one-third of adult Americans, or 78.6 million people, are obese. Obesity is associated with an increased incidence of stroke, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some types of cancer.

In a healthy organism, the leptin hormone works to regulate hunger and energy use, thus serving as an ally against obesity. Chapes and colleagues in Kansas State University's human nutrition department studied lab mice that lacked the leptin receptor.

"They are always hungry," Chapes said of the leptin receptor-deficient lab mice. "They cannot reach a point where they are satisfied, so they eat and eat and get fat. When that happens, it changes the macrophages that are in the adipose tissue — or body fat."

He said scientists have many questions about how this new population — called inflammatory macrophages — affects obesity as well as immune responses to other diseases.

Normally, macrophages in the body — whether in tissues, blood, organs or elsewhere — serve as a patrol against disease.

"If something bad comes in, they can take care of it," Chapes said. "We were interested in whether the lack of this receptor also affects the ability of these cells to function."

The cell line developed at Kansas State University, called DB-1, was derived from

bone marrow cells taken from the leptin receptor-deficient mice. The line provides an in vitro tool for scientists to further investigate the link between leptin and innate — or nonspecific — immunity in humans and other organisms.

A Canadian company, Applied Biological Materials Inc., signed a licensing agreement with Kansas State University to provide the cell line to scientists worldwide, according to Angela Trinh, who works in the company's technology transfer office.

The Kansas State University Research Foundation and the university's Institute for Commercialization worked to form the licensing agreement.

The research study, "Establishment and characterization of DB-1: a leptin receptor-deficient murine macrophage cell line," was published in the online journal Cytotechnology. The article is co-authored by Kansas State University's Lea Dib, a 2011 doctoral graduate in human nutrition, and Tonatiuh Melgarejo, associate professor of human nutrition.

The project was funded by the American Heart Association, National Institutes of Health and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Children graduate from Drug Abuse Resistance Education

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

Students, parents and teachers gathered in the gymnasium of Ware Elementary Dec. 16 to celebrate the pledge of a lifetime 5th grade students made to themselves and everyone. They pledged to stay drug free.

Fifth grade students of Ware take a 10-week course during their first semester through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education. Sgt. Brian Blessing, 73rd Military Police Detachment, 97th Military Battalion, is the D.A.R.E. officer who teaches the course. He said they discusses the effects of drugs, alcohol and other abusive substances and that lessons also include discussions on peer pressure, bullying and anger.

Erica Flenoury is the family support coordinator of Ware and helps run the D.A.R.E. curriculum with Blessing. This year she had a daughter who went through the program.

"I think it's important as a parent because I already talk to my kids about many of the things they discuss in D.A.R.E., so it's a good reinforcement," Flenoury said. "To have another adult that they respect tell them 'Hey tobacco is bad, don't get involved with drugs' is good for them."



Crystal Adams, daughter of Seana Benvenuti and Sgt. Steven Berg, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, reads her essay she wrote her final DARE project during the graduation ceremony at Ware Elementary. Adams won the overall essay contest with her essay about her ability to overcome bullying in her life.

The final portion of the curriculum is for the students to write an essay about what they learned. Blessing chose the top four essays and those students read what they wrote to the audience that afternoon.

Two of the winners wrote about what they learned about the penalties of doing drugs and what they can do when confronted with them. Overall winner Crystal Adams and winner Luis Delgado wrote their essays about how the course helped them deal with their own issues. Delgado wrote about how D.A.R.E. helped him overcome his anger and Adams wrote about how she

learned to deal with bullying which had impacted her since kindergarten.

For essay winner Madeline Gee and her mother Evelyn Gee, family of Chaplain (Maj.) Shawn Gee, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, going through the D.A.R.E. program gave them something to share.

"I went through D.A.R.E. as a kid, actually, when I think it first kind of started," Evelyn said. "It's a great opportunity for kids to learn about how to make good decisions in the face of adversity in an early time in their life. The earlier they learn it, I think the better it sticks with them."

SANTA AT THE LIBRARY



Maria Childs | POST

Santa Claus arrived at the Post Library in a firetruck Dec. 19 while kids stood outside waiting for him. He greeted the children as he walked inside and then handed out treat bags to each child as they sat on his lap and told him what they wanted for Christmas.

Irwin Army Community Hospital

Missed appointments are missed opportunities for others.



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Innovative agencies partner to counter drone threat

By Gary Sheftick
ARNEWS

FORT MEADE, Md. — Staff at two Army organizations have been teaming up to provide warfighters with innovations downrange and are now looking to prevent a threat from the proliferation of small unmanned aerial systems.

Staff at the Rapid Equipping Force on Fort Belvoir, Virginia, has been partnering for a while with staff at the Asymmetric Warfare Group on Fort Meade, Maryland, to help units fill capability gaps in Afghanistan, South Korea and elsewhere.

They came up with the man-portable line charge to help Soldiers clear fields of improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan. Together they studied caves like the tunnels of North Korea and Gaza to come up with tactics and techniques for subterranean operations.

Now, they're looking at threats from above.

Thousands of small, low-tech drones are being launched worldwide by a growing number of nations and non-state actors who could challenge U.S. interests, said Col. Steven Sliwa, director of the REF.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT THREAT

"The enemy is using these small systems," said Lt. Col. Stephen Lee, AWG Concepts Integration Squadron commander.

In Ukraine, Russian separatists are using quad copters and other small UAS primarily for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, Lee said.

He worries, that in the future, these small unmanned aircraft could be armed and used for more than just reconnaissance. So AWG and REF staff teamed up to study the threat.

"We don't want the United States Army ever to be caught by surprise again like we were with the IED," Lee said last month at a Warriors Corner presentation during the Association of the United States Army's annual meeting and exposition.

He explained how they first replicated the threat at AWG's \$90-million training and solution-development facility on Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. The 300-acre facility has its own mosque, soccer stadium and subway station.

Multiple UAS types were launched at the facility to disrupt friendly operations.

"Pretty much, if you could imagine what you could do with it as a bad guy — we did that," Lee said. It gave them a good idea of UAS capabilities.

Then AWG and REF staff went to work to figure out how the threat could be stopped.

The partnership works this way: while REF staff focuses on new technology and material solutions, AWG staff looks at non-material solutions like tactics, techniques and procedures.

Lee said he believes old-fashioned training needs to be part of the solution.

"Really going back to pre-9/11 training," he said, "air guards, graphical training aids, camouflage tents ..." He said Soldiers need training to instill awareness of the aerial threat.

"We've had air dominance so long, Soldiers believe if it's flying, it's ours," Lee said. That may not be the case in the future with UAS proliferation.

MATERIAL SOLUTIONS

With thousands of small unmanned aircraft hovering about, technological solutions were also looked at to identify the UAS and potentially stop them.

The REF staff looked at nine potential technologies to counter the UAS threat. A live-fire exercise was conducted at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, Sept. 8 to 25, to test the technologies.

"We took a lot of these off-the-shelf hobby-shop, low-slow types of devices (and) went against an adversary," Sliwa said. AWG staff operated as the red team.

Other agencies were invited to participate in the Yuma exercise, and some of them demonstrated their technologies, Sliwa said.

"Not all of them worked great, but all of them learned from that," he said.

"We're still waiting for final results, but we think that we have found some things that under certain circumstances may be able to work."

The REF staff will look at the most promising technologies and platforms for further assessment, he said, and then equip solutions to the deployed force.

Commanders in the field are concerned about the UAS threat, he said. They could see it coming and so could other federal agencies. Earlier this year, a small drone evaded radars and came down on the White House South Lawn, causing consternation for the Secret Service.

"Even before the one landed on the White House lawn, AWG and REF were already collaborating on this threat," Sliwa said.

The REF staff collaborated with AWG staff more this year than before, and both are now under the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

TRAINING PARTNERS

The REF was officially transferred to TRADOC as of Oct. 1. and AWG moved in 2013.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Asymmetric Warfare Group trains on the Man Portable Line Charge, a Rapid Equipping Force solution for clearing lanes through Improvised Explosive Device fields in Afghanistan.

Before that, both agencies reported directly to the Army's G-3/5/7 staff.

When REF went under the operational control of TRADOC, a few positions — acquisition officers and a program manager — were transferred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. Those positions were then placed in Program Executive Officer Soldier, on Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The PEO-Soldier at about the same time became the milestone decision authority for REF," Sliwa said. "Now we have acquisition corps officers and a PM who work for the PEO, but focus on the REF mission within our headquarters, but have a line of authority that can be traced all the way up" to Assistant Secretary of the Army Heidi Shyu.

It's helped us out tremendously."

Sliwa said Shyu has been briefed several times on REF projects. All REF projects are also shared with other TRADOC centers of excellence.

OTHER PARTNERS

Before this year, the REF's milestone decision authority was the Research, Development and Engineering Command headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

"We decided to take a very conscious path of partnering with all of the Army labs to get to some of our unique solutions with expeditionary labs that are forward downrange," he said.

This arrangement brought engineers and scientists closer to the battlefield warfighters, he explained.

This summer, REF staff began operating a lab in Kuwait and partnering with the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency staff to provide training aids forward to help U.S. Soldiers train Iraqis who are battling "Islamic State" insurgents.

"We've been doing a lot of fabricating forward also for organizations that still have an off-the-FOB (forward operating base) mission," in Afghanistan and elsewhere, he said, "ensuring that their MRAPs (mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles) can have the proper mounts for different types of non-lethal aids or devices that are going to facilitate their recovery."

The REF staff is all about inserting solutions forward to help warfighters any way it can, Sliwa said, and more collaboration usually results in better solutions.

READY AND RESILIENT

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HOLIDAY

Continued from page 1

believed in me even when I was a little bit afraid of him.”

Deborah Wilkerson of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security was named the November employee of the month for developing an appraisal process that enabled supervisors to include all supporting documents into a packet submission. The improvement decreased the man hours needed to process appraisals by about 50 percent.

Both awardees become candidates for the Garrison Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2015.

After awarding the employees of the month, they recognized Charles Jackson of DFMWR with the Garrison Safety Award for his proactive management of the safety program. His efforts resulted in the assistance center recording zero deficiencies from fiscal years 2008 to 2015 during standard

Army safety and occupational health inspections. He also assisted in keeping the Soldier and Family Assistance Center going 2,213 days without any class A to E accidents.

Team awards were also given out to members of the Garrison Organization Day team and the Fall Apple Day festival team for their work planning these events for the garrison and the community.

During the awards ceremony they inducted a distinguished member of the Garrison, Brad Carlton, who started working for the Garrison in the 1980s, He was recognized for outstanding contributions to the United States Army Garrison, Fort Riley, Kansas.

“I started ... thinking about all the people I had worked for,” Carlton said. “I am a legacy of what they gave me over the years.”



Photos by Hannah Kleopfer | POST

ABOVE: Deborah Wilkerson of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security was named the November employee of the month for developing an appraisal process that enabled supervisors to include all supporting documents into a packet submission. **BELOW:** Diana McGee was named the October Employee of the Month for her outstanding work and leadership with the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.



HOME

Continued from page 1

When Capt. Cleotilde Mazzoco-Gonzales, HHC company commander, was asked to highlight a Soldier whose performance was outstanding throughout the deployment, she boasted about Spc. Melvin Mejias, a signal support systems specialist.

Mazzoco-Gonzales described Mejias as a stand-out Soldier who did an outstanding job as a communications expert, ensuring Soldiers from the Pacesetters units could communicate across the region. He moved to Iraq to establish, improve and maintain the ability to communicate with all units vertically and laterally.

“It was a big challenge to be away from loved ones and having multiple limitations and restrictions that we did not have back in the states,” Mejias said. “I witnessed a variety of behaviors that motivated me to extend a helping hand, lend an ear and share my time for others in need.”

Mazzoco-Gonzales said another highlight was seeing the successes of the Iraqi soldiers taking ground to reclaim their hometowns. She said with the assistance and support from United States and coalition forces, the Iraqis trained hard on the new



Sgt. Takita Lawery | 1ST INF. DIV.

Staff Sgt. Luis Cruz, mortuary affairs noncommissioned officer, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, holds his daughter, Natalia, for the first time during the redeployment ceremony at Camp Funston Dec. 17. The “Pacesetters” returned from a nine-month deployment at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait.

equipment and their excitement turned to confidence, which bolstered their fighting spirits.

“Their dedication and invigorated commitment to duty and the

organization was insurmountable,” Tricker said. “I am deeply humbled and profoundly honored to have completed this complex mission with such agile, creative thinkers and adaptive warriors.”



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Amanda Kim Stairrett | 1st Inf. Div.

A standing-room-only crowd was inside the Geary County Convention Center at Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, additional community supporters were outside for a live broadcast of the U.S. Army Community Listening Session in Junction City, Kansas. Between 1,750 and 1,800 attendees filled the ballrooms of the convention center hearing testimony from area officials and adding their voices in the “public comment” portion of the session. An estimated 4,200 citizens attended the event in person and via live broadcasts.

2015 THE YEAR THAT WAS ... A SEASON OF CHANGE, A SEASON OF SERVICE

Amid a year of challenges, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley stood ready to meet the nation's needs while remaining the best place to live, train, deploy from and come home to.

SUMMARIES COMPILED BY STAFF FROM OF 1ST INF. DIV. POST

It was a year of change. Yet through it all, the 1st Infantry Division, the nation's first division, remained steadfast. Fort Riley and the Flint Hills Region remained what it always has been: the best place to train, to live, to deploy from and come home to.

There were changes of command, unit realignments and deactivations. There were challenges. Leaner budgets demanded the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley be more efficient and provide America with a more cost-friendly defense. The Soldier and Department of the Army civilians did their part. And when the nation's Army leaders wanted to hear about the value of the division and the post to the region, our neighbors turned out by the thousands.

Yet the demand for the Big Red One's organizational and military acumen continued. In 2014, the 1st Infantry Division's headquarters was sent to Southwest Asia. In July of 2015, it returned after establishing the core of the Combined Joint Land Component Command-Iraq, which was responsible for advising and assisting Iraq's security forces and providing training to new Iraqi army units as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Units from the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade also deployed to Afghanistan. They returned in October, 2015, after supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Then there was the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, which arrived at Camp Buehring, Kuwait on Sept. 13. The "Dagger" brigade's Soldiers' mission

includes working with their Kuwaiti partners over a nine-month deployment to increase partner capability while fostering close professional and personal relationships between the U.S. and Kuwait.

At home, the 1st Infantry Division welcomed a new commanding general, new command Sgt. Maj., honored its past and embraced its future.

It was a year of change and of challenge. Yet the 1st Infantry Division remained faithful to its motto: "No Mission Too Difficult, No Sacrifice Too Great – Duty First!"

The Following stories are the top 10 from 2015.

1. 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTALION RETURNS FROM SOUTHWEST ASIA.

The 1st Inf. Div. DHHB, led by Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk II and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston, the 1st Inf. Div. commanding general and senior noncommissioned officer, returned after building the foundation of the Combined Joint Land Component Command-Iraq. Over the nine-month deployment, the unit was responsible for advising and assisting Iraq's security forces and providing training to new Iraqi army units as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

At the casing ceremony Oct. 8, 2014, Funk said, "I wouldn't have thought they would pick anybody else. This is the nation's first division. ... We are, in fact, ready. We've been ready. We trained to do



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

Capt. Matthew Cline, DHHB, 1st Inf. Div., steps off the Air Force C-17 Globemaster that carried him and a handful of other “Big Red One” Soldiers back to the United States from Iraq June 29 at Manhattan Regional Airport in Manhattan, Kansas. The headquarters formed the core of the Combined Joint Land Component Command-Iraq, which was responsible for the advising and assisting Iraq's security forces and providing training to new Iraqi army units as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. Although no stranger to Iraq, this was the “Big Red One's” first deployment in an advise-assist capacity. The Big Red One handed over command of Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command-Iraq to the 82nd Airborne Division on June 28 in Baghdad, Iraq.

this. This is what we get paid to do, and we're good at it.”

2. MAJ. GEN. WAYNE W. GRIGSBY JR. TAKES COMMAND OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION.

About a month after Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk II returned to Fort Riley, he handed the reins to America's storied 1st Infantry Division 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 at the Change of Command ceremony Aug. 6. “I will always be proud to say, ‘My name is Paul Funk and I am a Big Red One Soldier.’”

See TOP 10, page 10

TOP 10 NEWS STORIES FROM 2015

1. 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion returns home returning from Southwest Asia.
2. Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. takes command of the 1st Infantry Division.
3. Division Command Sgt. Maj. Grinston departs; Cornelison becomes senior noncommissioned officer
4. Thousands rally in support of Fort Riley at listening session..
5. Division Artillery returns to the Big Red One.
6. Soldiers of Company F, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, return Oct. 28 from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.
7. Vietnam Veterans receive official 'Welcome Home' from 1st Infantry Division.
8. 1st Infantry Division Victory Week.
9. Fort Riley dining facilities, 1st Infantry Division and garrison senior leaders, host Thanksgiving meals for Troops.
10. United Service Organizations brings country music star Kellie Pickler to Fort Riley.

INSIDE: TOP COMMUNITY AND SPORTS STORIES FROM '15



– FALL APPLE DAY, PAGE 13



– FORT RILEY DAY AT K-STATE, PAGE 16

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

20

YEAR IN REVIEW



In Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Soldiers from 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation co-sponsored a Martin Luther King Jr. day observance Jan. 19. More than 300 Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and civilians participated.



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, marched in formation, at the welcome-home ceremony Feb. 2. The event marked their return from a nine-month deployment to Djibouti in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



March 4, Soldiers of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, relinquished their duties after a successful nine-month deployment to Southwest Asia. They handed responsibilities to the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colorado. The ceremony was held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Two "Big Red One" heroes who fought on the beaches of Normandy, France, more than 70 years ago passed away in early 2015. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. William F. Ryan (left) passed away Feb. 23 in Melbourne, Florida, at the age of 90. Retired Master Sgt. Homer P. Farley passed away March 1 in Newberg, Oregon, at the age of 93.



Amanda Kim Stairrett | 1ST INF. DIV.
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.

Staff Sgt. Jerry Griffis
1st Inf. Div.
Brig. Gen. Roger Cloutier Jr., Army director of Force Management, speaks to Kansans Feb. 9 during the U.S. Army Community Listening Session in Junction City. "We came to understand and to hear your voice," Cloutier said. He ended the session saying "Fort Riley and the surrounding communities are a well-oiled machine."



TOP 10

Continued from page 9

Funk went on to serve as the U.S. Army's assistant deputy chief of staff for operations and plans in Washington, D.C.

Grigsby came to the division after commanding the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, the singular enduring U.S. military presence.

"When our country calls – and it will call again," Grigsby said, "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."

3. DIVISION COMMAND SGT. MAJ. GRINSTON DEPARTS; CORNELISON BECOMES SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston wrapped up his second

assignment with the 1st Infantry Division with a Sept. 25 Victory with Honors ceremony at Fort Riley. Grinston relinquished responsibility as the Big Red One's top enlisted Soldier to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph C. Cornelison.

During his farewell remarks, Grinston talked about deploying to Iraq 10 years ago as the senior noncommissioned officer for Battery C, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment. Several of Grinston's Soldiers died next to him in a firefight then.

Grinston later parted ways with the division, which was based in Germany then. When coming back in 2013 to the Big Red One, which returned to Fort Riley in 2006, Grinston was pleased to see the names of his fallen Soldiers etched into stones in Fort Riley's Victory Park. His office window looked out over the park and those stones.

"So when I say I am a Big Red One Soldier and I will always be a Big Red One Soldier, it's going to be because of those Soldiers that have gone before us and those Soldiers that are no longer with us," he said of veterans and the fallen. "And for

those of you that have led Soldiers in combat, you know what I mean."

Cornelison became the 1st Inf. Div.'s 24th senior noncommissioned officer. The 25-year infantry Soldier is from Tunnel Hill, Georgia, and previously served as the top enlisted Soldier of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas.

As Cornelison assumed responsibility of the division he said, "It is an awesome privilege that I do not take for granted and a responsibility that I do not take lightly."

4. THOUSANDS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF FORT RILEY AT LISTENING SESSION

Gathering to the rally cry of "We are one," a crowd of more than 4,200 supporters from across the region assembled Feb. 9 at the Geary County Convention Center, Junction City, Kansas, for a U.S. Army Community Listening Session. The crowd was there to in support Fort Riley, the home of the 1st Infantry Division.

It was an opportunity for Army

officials from Washington, D.C. to gather input from community members on sequestration, a budgetary cut that could, if put into effect, cost a loss of installations like Fort Riley up to 16,000 Soldiers, civilian jobs and place hardship in the regional business community.

A federal congressional delegation also attended consisting of Senators Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran, Tim Huelskamp, Lynn Jenkins and Mike Pompeo. Each gave enthusiastic support for Fort Riley.

As the convention center reached maximum capacity, hundreds never made it inside; instead, some stood outside to listen to the live broadcast. The event was broadcast on two local radio stations, Kansas State University Channel 8, RileyTV, and the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System.

"This fight is personal to me," Roberts said.

5. DIVISION ARTILLERY RETURNS TO THE BIG RED ONE

The 1st Infantry Division Artillery was reactivated at Fort

Riley Oct. 16, and was welcomed back with the boom of big guns from Fort Riley's training range.


DIVARTY Soldiers, leaders and family members were greeted with a traditional ceremony — complete with a ceremonial cannon salute battery, "Big Red One" band and the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard — while one of the division's field artillery battalions conducted gunnery in a training area far from the parade field.

The Big Red One's DIVARTY was inactivated 10 years ago in Germany and the Oct. 16 activation signified the Army's effort to bring brigade headquarters-sized units back to its 10 divisions. DIVARTY synchronizes joint fires across the division and standardizes artillery training. The process began Army-wide more than a year ago and the 1st Inf. Div.'s and the 10th Mountain Division's were the final two to activate.


Many of the unit's younger Soldiers and officers never served in an Army with division artilleries,

See TOP 10, page 11


YEAR IN REVIEW




Col. Matthew Lewis congratulates Chief Warrant Officer 4 Osbourne Ferguson after the two completed their final flight as Army aviators June 25 at Fort Riley. Lewis handed command of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade to Col. John M. Cyrulik July 8 while Ferguson retired.



Brig. Gen. John S. Kolasheski, the 1st Infantry Division's deputy commanding general for maneuver, speaks during a Victory with Honors ceremony welcoming him July 30 at Victory Park. The Big Red One said farewell to Brig. Gen. Eric J. Wesley, Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Graves, UK Brigadier Christopher Ghika and Brig. Gen. Kenneth L. Kamper.



Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, delivers keynote remarks at the commemoration ceremony of the 14-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001.



Representatives from the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade and Manhattan High School solidified their partnership during an Adopt-A-School charter signing Sept. 11 at Low Lane Field.

15

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

YEAR IN REVIEW

Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, cased its colors for the last time April 2. The brigade's inactivation took place in June.

The 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, cased its colors April 9. The lineage of the "Black Lions" dates back to 1901.

The 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, cased its colors May 1 during an inactivation ceremony on Cavalry Parade Field at Fort Riley. The lineage of the unit dated back to 1861.

The 16th Infantry Regiment Association dedicated the 16th Infantry Vietnam Monument at Fort Riley's Cavalry Museum grounds May 1.

Brig. Gen. Eric Wesley, left, acting senior mission commander, 1st Infantry Division, pins the Legion of Merit medal on Col. John Reynolds III, outgoing commander of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., June 26 at Fort Riley. Col. Timothy Hayden, assumed command.

“(Our Vietnam Veterans) are shining examples of the ‘BRO’ charge. Clearly they were brave and responsible for the lives of their fellow Soldiers. They were on point, understanding that their actions mattered — that they were a part of something bigger than themselves.”

MAJ. GEN. WAYNE W. GRIGSBY JR.
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY
COMMANDING GENERAL

7

Amanda Kim Stairrett | 1ST INF. DIV.

Crowd members hold signs in support of Vietnam veterans Nov. 6 during the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony at Fort Riley's Marshall Army Airfield. Soldiers, veterans' family members and members of the Flint Hills community filled a hangar as the Vietnam veterans were welcomed home in a long overdue celebration.



Soldiers from Company F, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, stand in formation prior to being released to see their families at a redeployment ceremony Oct. 28 at Camp Funston. The Soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan for nine months in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. During the deployment, Phoenix Soldiers conducted more than 1,000 combat missions resulting in more than 8,000 flight hours.

Amanda Kim Stairrett
1ST INF. DIV.

Lt. Col Trent Upton, second from left, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Jones, third from left, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, command team, accept the Victory Cup trophy from Brig. Gen. Eric J. Wesley, 1st Inf. Div. acting senior mission commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Maurice Jackson, the division's acting senior noncommissioned officer, during the Victory Week awards ceremony June 12 at Fort Riley's Custer Hill Parade Field.

TOP 10

Continued from page 10

Col. Tom Bolen, DIVARTY commander said.

“To them, it may seem like Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster,” he joked. “They’ve seen some grainy photos and perhaps heard the elders talk in low voices about mysterious happenings in the old days. But while the Big Red One DIVARTY is legendary, it is by no means fictitious.

“We will maintain capabilities to fight along the entire spectrum of military operations, from fighting terrorists to fighting nation states, and our fires capabilities are crucial for that,” Grigsby added.

6. SOLDIERS OF COMPANY F, 1ST ATTACK RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, 1ST AVIATION REGIMENT, 1ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, RETURN HOME OCT. 28 FROM A NINE-MONTH DEPLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN.

The Soldiers served in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. The unit included 117 Soldiers and 27 civilian contractors in support of missions

throughout the theater of operations.

While deployed, the Soldiers of Phoenix company operated the Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft system providing reconnaissance, surveillance and air power to support the ground forces of the United States and its allies.

Capt. Nick Parsai, “Phoenix” company commander, said there is no other place like the unmanned aircraft system community where Soldiers can get the concept of professionalism for themselves.

“It’s also the only place that they are in control of an aviation asset (and) able to send Hellfires downrange to engage targets,” Parsai said. “It’s because of their maturity, their competence and their knowledge of the system that allows them to do that.”

During the deployment, Phoenix Soldiers conducted more than 1,000 combat missions resulting in more than 8,000 flight hours.

Parsai said there was an unofficial motto for the company partly due to the nature of their name: “Fox first: We are going to do it first.”

Phoenix was the first Gray Eagle company to conduct split-based

operations, first to conduct support operations and training in several partner countries, first to fully deploy and redeploy from Kuwait and first to conduct Gray Eagle-to-Gray Eagle remote engagements.

“Because we have enlisted operators,” Parsai said. “It’s the only place you will see enlisted Soldiers that are completely in control of an aviation asset.”

The Gray Eagle is a medium-altitude, long-endurance system designed to perform better at higher altitudes, see better and listen better than its predecessors, according to information from the Army. New targeting systems and a new engine also allow the aircraft to fly longer, higher and carry more weight than many of the Army’s previous unmanned systems.

7. VIETNAM VETERANS RECEIVE OFFICIAL ‘WELCOME HOME’ FROM 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION.

The reception in 2015 for the region’s Vietnam Veterans was a much different than it was more than four decades ago when troops returned after serving in one of

the nation’s most complicated and controversial wars.

At the 1st Infantry Division Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony Nov. 6 at Marshall Army Airfield, hundreds of loved ones and members of the community leapt to their feet, applauding and cheering as the men and women who fought in Vietnam entered the room. The guests expressed the gratitude and honor many didn’t receive while on active duty. More than 150 veterans from every branch of service attended the ceremony from as far away as Michigan, New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming and Indiana.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War.

“I am humbled and proud to be able to preside over this ceremony, which is far different than what our brave Vietnam veterans came home to some 50 years ago,” said Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general. “I am happy to say ‘welcome home and job well done’ to our returning service members.”

8. 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION VICTORY WEEK: LEADERS, GUESTS REMEMBER FALLEN AT VICTORY PARK IN 2015

Victory Week, in June 2015, was a celebration of Army discipline, toughness and esprit d’corps as hundreds of Soldiers vied for recognition in athletic competitions ranging from archery and arm wrestling to water polo and weightlifting.

Ultimately, it was the “Iron Rangers” — the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division — who took the Victory Cup during the Victory Week awards ceremony June 12 at Fort Riley’s Custer Hill Parade Field for accumulating the most points from sporting events.

Victory Week was noteworthy for the most important reason of all. For more than 10 years, the bell in Fort Riley’s Victory Park rang for each man and woman who didn’t come home the previous year. These were Soldiers who died in combat while serving with or attached to the 1st

See TOP 10, page 12

15

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

YEAR IN REVIEW

Col. Patrick D. Frank, was welcomed back during a Victory with Honors ceremony Oct. 30. Frank previously served at Fort Riley as the 1st Infantry Division's operations officer and commanded the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Frank attained the rank of Brig. Gen. effective Dec. 4.

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade marched Nov. 11 in the Veterans Day Parade and Salute in Eskridge, Kansas. Multiple units from the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley joined with neighbors to observe Veterans Day, 2015.

Soldiers from the 97th Military Police Battalion remembered their fallen comrades during a ceremony Nov. 20. The event recognized 841 MPs who have lost their lives in conflicts since the inception of the Military Police Corps on Sept. 26, 1941. The event also began what will be a year-long observance of the 75th anniversary of the Military Police Corps.

Fort Riley Garrison Commander Col. Andrew Cole Jr. renders a salute after placing a wreath honoring those who have served in the United States Army during the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony Dec. 12 at the Fort Riley Post Cemetery. Wreaths were laid for each branch of the military and prisoners of war and missing in action.



ABOVE: First Sgt. Terrina Anderson and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey Price, 1st Infantry Division Band command team, help serve desserts Nov. 25 at Demon Diner dining facility at Fort Riley. As is tradition in units across the Army, senior leaders dress in their finest to serve meals to junior Soldiers and their families. **RIGHT:** One of Fort Riley's two main dining facilities helped Soldiers and families celebrate Thanksgiving Nov. 25 with traditional meals and edible displays. This cake, honoring Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipients was on display at Demon's Diner.



Kellie Pickler greets Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. commanding general of 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, toward the end of her performance Aug. 18 at Hanger 833 at Marshall Army Airfield. Pickler invited Big Red One Soldiers on stage to sing the Big Red One song.



Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, speaks to members of the greater Flint Hills community during the CAMPLAN 2020 rollout in the division's Joint Operations Center. As 2015 wound down, the Soldiers and senior leadership of the 1st Infantry Division looked ahead. Leaders of the 1st Infantry Division presented their vision and roadmap to the future of the "Big Red One" and Fort Riley to members of the greater Flint Hills community Dec. 11. The 2020 plan is the fifth campaign plan division drafted. Past campaign plans have facilitated the creation of \$1.8 billion in facilities and infrastructure, created relationships with three regional airports in Manhattan, Salina and Topeka, launched the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program and led to the ability for Fort Riley to annually train 22,000 reserve partners and federal, state and local agency personnel.

TOP 10

Continued from page 11

Infantry Division. Friends, families and fellow service members gathered every year to honor their sacrifices in poignant ceremonies during Victory Week. Stones lining the walkway in the memorial park were unveiled at these events bearing the names of those most recently fallen.

The Victory Week 2015 ceremony was different.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Brig. Gen. Eric J. Wesley, 1st Infantry Division's then-senior mission commander and deputy commander for support, said June 9, "this year, there are no stones to be laid. I am certain that all of you know – and I am certain Maj. Gen. Funk would affirm this – that the knowledge of this unburdens, in part, the heart of any commander."

9. FORT RILEY DINING FACILITIES, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND GARRISON SENIOR LEADERS, HOST THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR TROOPS.

As Soldiers entered Fort Riley dining facilities Nov. 25 and 26 they found all the traditional fare for the Thanksgiving holiday. The 1st Infantry Division joined with friends and family at the Demon Diner and the Devil's Den dining facilities.

In keeping with the Army tradition, officers and senior noncommissioned officers — including Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph C. Cornelison, 1st Inf. Div. command team — served Thanksgiving meals to their Soldiers.

In addition to serving a first-class meal, personnel at the Demon Diner and the Devil's Den facilities competed to win the Senior Commander's Best Culinary Dining Facility award. The competition was stiff. The Demon Diner took home the trophy.

The decoration theme for each dining facility honored the 50th anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War.

"The 1st Inf. Div. was the first to fight in Vietnam, with over five years of service," Grigsby said. "Thanksgiving is about being thankful, so we are very thankful for our Vietnam vets and what they did for us. (They) set the stage for us to do what we have to do today."

10. COUNTRY MUSIC STAR KELLIE PICKLER PERFORMS AT FORT RILEY.

During her 9th United Service Organizations tour, Kellie Pickler made her first appearance at Fort Riley. She got a tour of Fort Riley followed by a concert inside Hangar 833 at Marshall Army Airfield.

"It's been life-changing," Pickler said about her USO tours.

During her visit to Fort Riley, Pickler was presented a horse jump by commanding general Maj. Gen. Wayne Grigsby Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston. Included in her visit was a trip to the Warrior Skills Trainer at the Seitz Regional Training Campus. She was fitted for body armor so she could understand the challenges Soldiers face while trying to

maneuver and operate under the weight of full battle rattle.

While visiting, Pickler had a film crew with her. The crew was shooting video for her upcoming reality TV show set to premiere this fall on Country Music Television. Pickler's visit to Fort Riley will be the focus of one episode during the season.

Pickler said Soldiers hold a special place in her heart and the USO tours amplified that.

"I think there are so many things we take for granted, and it's easy to do," Pickler said. "Meeting Soldiers, hearing their stories — who they are and why they joined, just really getting a firsthand experience of what it is they do — a front row seat, I guess you could say, of what they do — it's life-changing."

Community Life

IN BRIEF

TRAFFIC UPDATES

For traffic updates, see the Traffic Report on page 4 or visit www.riley.army.mil and click on “Advisories.”

SOLDIER FOR LIFE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EVENTS

Jan. 4: 1 to 2:30 p.m., Employer Workshop, Fort Riley Transition Center, building 212, room 201, Fort Riley.

Jan. 21: 10 a.m. to noon, Law Enforcement Industry Workshop, Texas Department of Public Safety, Wichita, Salina, Emporia Police Departments, Education Center, Custer Avenue building 217, room 202, Fort Riley.

Feb. 1: 1-2:30 p.m. Employer Workshop, Fort Riley Transition Center, building 212, room 201, Fort Riley.

Feb. 15 to 19: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Project Management Professional Transition Boot Camp. Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Manhattan, Kansas, Register at www.vets2pm.com.

Feb. 18: 10 a.m. to noon, Industry Workshop, Trade and Vocational, Education Center, Custer Avenue building 217, room 202, Fort Riley.

NEW YEAR AT THE LIBRARY

Join the Fort Riley Post Library 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 2 and start the new year with a new library account.

Bring a friend to sign up with you and you are both registered for a special prize drawing

For more information call 785-239-5305.

BOWL FOR FREE DAY

The Custer Hill Bowling Center will feature a Bowl For Free Day 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 6.

There is a maximum of two free games per customer. Additional games can be purchased for \$2. Shoes can be rented for \$2.50 per person.

For more information call 785-239-4366.

DESIGNER BINGO

Rally Point is the locale for a Designer Bingo event Jan. 16.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Play bingo and vie for prizes that include, handbags, wallets, jewelry, perfume and more.

Admission is \$15.

For more information call 785-375-3260.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Visitors 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 recommended to get a temporary badge or pass early at the Visitor Control Center by calling 785-239-2982 or email usarmy.riley.imcom-central.mbx.des-vcc@mail.mil.

There are longer wait times for passes during periods of higher traffic, especially weekday mornings and weekday afternoons.

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 [www.riley.army.mil/Units/GarrisonCommand/Emergency Services/AccessInformation.aspx](http://www.riley.army.mil/Units/GarrisonCommand/EmergencyServices/AccessInformation.aspx) for details.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING AVAILABLE

The Fort Riley Emergency Management Office is teaming up with Barton County Community College to host Community Emergency Response Team Training.

When: 5:30-9 p.m., every Tuesday night starting Jan. 26 to March 22.

Where: Fort Riley Fire Department Headquarters, 1020 Huebner Road, Fort Riley.

Contact the Fort Riley Emergency Management Office to sign up for the course.

Last Day to Sign Up: Jan. 8.

Participants must attend all sessions of the training to receive a completion certificate and become CERT qualified. They also must be at least 18 years old to attend.

For more information call 785-240-0400 or 1993.

– TOP FIVE COMMUNITY STORIES FROM 2015 –



Thousands of friends and neighbors of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley gathered for the 2015 Fall Apple Day Festival Sept. 26. Highlights included the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard demonstrations, helicopter and tank displays, military working dog demonstrations, petting zoo, all-terrain vehicle rodeo, historical re-enactors, antique military vehicles, rope- and candle-making demonstrations and apple pie sales. Also in attendance was the Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders squad. Meanwhile, members of the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley sold Libbie Custer's Apple Pie. The pie queens – Danielle Alch and Alison Kohtz – and their volunteers made about 1,500 pies this year and they sold out before the end of the day.

It's all about family

Whether with military families or the Central Flint Hills Region, the 'Big Red One' and the community bonded in 2015 like never before

STAFF REPORT

Fort Riley is the best place to train, live, deploy from and come home to in the United States Army, and the Community Life pages of the 1st Infantry Division Post reflected that fact on a frequent basis.

The following are the five top Community Life stories in 2015.

1. FALL APPLE DAY FESTIVAL

More than 10,000 friends and neighbors of Fort Riley gathered for the 2015 Fall Apple Day Festival Sept. 26.

Attractions at this year's festival included Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard

See COMMUNITY TOP FIVE, page 14

TOP FIVE COMMUNITY STORIES FROM 2015

1. Fall Apple Day Festival draws more than 10,000.
2. 1st Infantry Division strengthens ties with Kansas State University; establishes ties with University of Kansas.
3. 1st Infantry Division, the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade and the Fort Riley Garrison host gold star families.
4. Fort Riley Elementary School begins new era.
5. Fort Riley Soldier rocks out at Soldier show on stage, and off.



Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, and Kirk Schulz, K-State president, sign a joint resolution between their organizations Sept. 17 on campus in Manhattan, Kansas. Leaders from each organization gathered at K-State's Alumni Center to reaffirm the unique partnership forged by the "Big Red One," Fort Riley and Big 12 school – a partnership that serves as models for other such institutions across the country.

WWW.TWITTER.COM/
FORTILEY

COMMUNITY CORNER

Happy holidays and thanks for all you do

By Col. Andrew Cole
GARRISON COMMANDER

Another year is drawing to a close and I want to take this time to let everyone know what an honor it is to serve as the Garrison Commander with such a dedicated group of Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians here at Fort Riley. It was a busy year and everyone had a key role to play in ensuring that a post of this size runs smooth each day. Thank you for the service and sacrifice over the past year.

Because of you, we remain the best place live. Our partnerships with surrounding communities are built person-to-person and create enduring relationships for Fort Riley. You do that. Because of you, our people are able to take advantage of the fruit of those partnerships through continuing education. We have excellent colleges in the surrounding community and some of the finest elementary schools in the state of Kansas here on post. We were fortunate enough to cut the ribbon on the new Fort Riley Elementary school this year to provide our children with another quality learning facility located close to where they live.

Fort Riley’s professionals from the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation provide a robust schedule of recreation and support activities for Army families and single Soldiers. In addition, there are many interesting activities available

in the surrounding Flint Hills region. If you are interested in sports, fishing, hunting or hobbies, it is likely available in this area. You achieved many milestones and the year in review in this edition of the paper showcases some of the more significant ones. There were many more than the featured top ten. We don’t know what challenges the next year will bring, but I know you will rise to meet them. It’s what you do. Take a moment to thank your families. Their support sustains and enables us to meet and exceed in each task we face. Enjoy a little time with your family over the holiday season.

As a leader, I am committed to the care and well-being of my Soldiers, families and civilians who make up this Fort Riley family. It takes teamwork to achieve success. Each of you is an essential part of the team. As a team and a family, we need to watch out for each other. Know you can reach out to your teammates when you need to and be watching and ready to reach out or respond when you see a coworker struggling. Go ahead and bask a bit on our successes. Then, look ahead to the possibilities the next year presents. We don’t know what threats may face our national security or what fiscal challenges and deadlines we may face. But I know I have the best kind of people, doing their best each day and we will meet the mission of taking care of our Soldiers, families, retirees and Army civilians so that they can do what this country needs them to. I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.



Col. Cole



Andy Massanet | 1st Inf. Div. Post

Lt. Col. Michael Longacre provides Gold Star Family member Anita Griggs information prior to the VIP aerial tour, as Chie Warrant Officer 2 Kreig Jean looks on. Gold Star Family members came to Fort Riley Sept. 26 as special guests of the 1st Infantry Division, the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade and the garrison for an aerial tour of the region and a meet-and-greet and catered lunch with Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Cornelison and Col. Andrew Cole Jr., Fort Riley garrison commander.

COMMUNITY TOP FIVE

Continued from page 13

demonstrations, helicopter and tank displays, military working dog demonstrations, petting zoo, all-terrain vehicle rodeo, historical re-enactors, antique military vehicles, rope- and candle-making demonstrations and apple pie sales.

Also in attendance was the Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders squad.

The weather cooperated to provide a clear, sunny day for visitors to enjoy the festivities.

Several booths were sponsored by on-post organizations including Garrison Safety Office, Directorate of Human Resources, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, as well as demonstrations from different units including aircraft and vehicle displays and the Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard and various groups performing on the stage.

Members of the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley sold Libbie Custer’s Apple Pie. The pie queens — Danielle Alch and Alison Kohtz — and their volunteers made about 1,500 pies this year and they sold out before the end of the day.

2. 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION STRENGTHENS TIES WITH KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY; ESTABLISH TIES WITH UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Leaders of the 1st Infantry Division strengthened ties with the two major institutions of higher learning, Kansas State University and the University of Kansas.

The partnership between the 1st Inf. Div., Fort Riley and Kansas State University was renewed at a formal ceremony Sept. 17. Then, on Nov. 23, leaders of the 1st Inf.

Div. visited the University of Kansas Nov. 23 to formalize a partnership resolution between the “Big Red One” and Jayhawks.

According to K-State President Kirk Schulz, the relationship gets stronger, more in depth every year and is just one of the things that shows the resilience of the program.

Leaders from the division and the university gathered at K-State’s alumni center to reaffirm the one-of-a-kind partnership forged by the “Big Red One,” the post and the Big 12 school — a partnership that serves as models for other such institutions across the country, said Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general.

Grigsby told the audience he was a Wildcat, and praised the teamwork between the division, post and university.

“This partnership is another important reason that Fort Riley is the best place to train, best place to deploy from, the best place to live and the best place to come home to,” he said. “I look forward to many years of continuing partnership and deepening our bonds, and continued collaboration of ways to benefit our Soldiers and our students.”

Later in the year, Grigsby and University of Kansas chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little signed a resolution which outlined ways the organizations could aid each other in their missions. This included creating a campus community aware of the military and the role it plays in

American society; expanding access of Fort Riley to university leaders, innovators and scholars; provide subject-matter expertise to Fort Riley leaders and assist the University of Kansas in its mission of education and research; create opportunities for the KU community to connect with, learn from and experience America’s Army; and collaborate with KU on mutually beneficial research initiatives.

“Today, we deepen those ties and build upon that partnership that already exists between us and the Big Red One,” Gray-Little said.

3. 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, THE 1ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE AND THE FORT RILEY GARRISON HOST GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Gold Star Family members came to Fort Riley Sept. 26 as special guests of the 1st Infantry Division, the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade and the Garrison for an aerial tour of the region and a meet-and-greet and catered lunch with Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Cornelison and Col. Andrew Cole Jr., Fort Riley garrison commander.

The bittersweet event was one of camaraderie and family, and of remembrance of the fallen. It was also celebration of those bonds and of gratitude for the supreme sacrifice Gold Star Families members have made.

The 1st CAB provided three UH-60L Blackhawk helicopters, and their pilots and crews and Gold Star Family members were given a brief aerial tour, then went to Grimes Hall for lunch where photographs of their fallen loved ones marking their place at each table.

It was a brief event, taking place in the morning and lunch hour as Fall Apple Day festivities gathered steam at Artillery Parade Field.

“I think it a great way to remember our son’s sacrifice,” said Karen Funcheon, a Gold Star Family member who lost her son, Sgt. Alex Funcheon, in April 2009 in Iraq. “Since they are not here, we are here to represent them. I went to college at K-State so I’m real familiar with Fort Riley and it’s a great place, and SOS is a great organization just to keep us in the loop and remember us.”

As a personal message to the Gold Star Family members everywhere, Grigsby said, “I’m so sorry for your loss. Sometimes you struggle with what you want to say, so I just speak from my heart: I’m so sorry for your loss. I can’t imagine the grief that you have. But just know that myself personally, Wayne Grigsby, and my family and the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley family, we will always be here for you, to assist you in any way that we can. We are always thinking of you and praying for you and thanking you for your sacrifice to our country.”

See COMMUNITY TOP 5, page 15

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Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their "readiness" for what lies ahead—the known as well as the unknown.

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So are YOU ready ... or not?

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Oklahoma students, faculty give to deployed Soldiers

By Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Students and faculty at Pioneer Technology Center in Ponca City, Oklahoma collected boxes of goods for deployed Soldiers of 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division deployed to Kuwait. The collection began the second week of November and ended the second week of December.

Jennifer Eatmon, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Charles Eatmon, Fort Riley Dental Activity, is one of the many students at Pioneer Technology Center who recently led the effort to send the care package overseas for the holiday season.

“We wanted to do our part in trying to help them,” Jennifer said. “Just donate a couple of items to make their life a little bit easier, maybe some things from home would help make their day brighter.”

The project was part of a student organization group called Health Occupation Students of America. The students in the organization participate in fundraisers frequently. This time the fundraiser was for the military.

“We chose to do a donation for our military instead of trying to raise money for our HOSA needs,” Jennifer said.

Renae Orr, medical assisting teacher at Pioneer Technology Center, said this project is important for the students at the school because the medical field is about recognizing the needs of others and finding a way to meet them.

“It’s important that when you see a need that you meet that,” Orr said. “We believe in enhancing lives and securing futures. It’s a holistic way of teaching students to not only look after their own needs, but also others.”

Jennifer recalled growing up in a military family. She said it is especially difficult for the families during the holiday season, so she thought this was a good way to show appreciation for the Soldiers while also letting families at Fort Riley know others care about them too.

“Growing up, my dad has been deployed twice,” Jennifer said. “I know families go through a lot of sacrifices when their deployed loved ones aren’t there especially during the holiday season.”

Sgt. 1st Class Eatmon picked up the package Dec. 11 at the school in Ponca City. He is coordinating getting the packages sent on to the deployed troops.

Sgt. 1st Class Eatmon said this event was about awareness of Soldiers who are fighting for our country and bringing the community together to show support.

“Events like this help the awareness by bringing the community together with a common goal for a cause,” Sgt. 1st Class Eatmon said. “The awareness comes from them saying ‘Fort Riley is just north of here and they have deployed Soldiers who are still doing missions around the world.’”

“The students tend to learn more about the military,” he added. “That’s another way it brings awareness.”

Jennifer said now is the time for people in the community to step up and show their support for the military because they are fighting for everyone.

“They don’t get enough recognition for what they are doing,” Jennifer said. “They are really, truly heroes and people don’t realize that.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Eatmon, Fort Riley Dental Activity, discusses career opportunities in the Army with students at Pioneer Technology Center in Ponca City, Oklahoma. While there, Eatmon picked up boxes of goods for the Soldiers of 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, deployed to Kuwait. Eatmon's daughter Jennifer is one of the students who recently led the effort to send the care package overseas for the holiday season. Eatmon is coordinating getting the packages to the deployed troops.

COMMUNITY TOP FIVE Continued from page 14



Hannah Kleopfer | POST

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, and Division Command Sergeant Major Joesph Cornelison join a host of other Fort Riley leaders and school children at the Fort Riley Elementary School's official ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 9.

4. FORT RILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BEGINS NEW ERA

Fort Riley Elementary School became the third new school in as many years to open on post, when it opened with a ribbon-cutting Oct. 9.

The ceremony included honored guests Sen. Tom Hawk, Sen. Jeff Longbine, David Jones Office of Economic Adjustment, Fort Riley Command and Gov. Sam Brownback.

The construction of Fort Riley Elementary School was accomplished with funding from the Department of Defense, Geary County Unified School District 475 and other state funding.

“Today is a celebration,” said Corbin Witt, superintendent of USD 475 at the ceremony. “It’s a celebration of what can happen when federal, state and local entities work together for a common goal. It’s a celebration of the partnership we share between Fort Riley and USD 475.”

The ceremony marked a pinnacle in support between the Army, local and state agencies

that dedicated more than \$375 million. For the six installation schools, USD 475 invested more than \$88 million. These investments renovated one school and built three others. Fort Riley Elementary was the third of those projects.

5. FORT RILEY SOLDIER ROCKS OUT AT SOLDIER SHOW ON STAGE, AND OFF

Spc. Austin West went from stage technician to performer then dazzled audiences with his electric guitar at the Soldier Show Aug. 11 at McCain Auditorium in Manhattan, Kansas.

West, a Soldier from 172nd Chemical Company, 84th Explosive Ordinance Disposal, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, auditioned with Army Entertainment in San Antonio, Texas in February. He didn’t find out he would be on the show until March.

At first West wanted to play guitar. “The recruiter told me we didn’t have a position for a guitar player in the show,” West said, “but offered for me to be a tech.”

He was selected at this show to perform the opening act with his electric guitar and he was a familiar face to the crowd as the only Fort Riley Soldier participating in the show. West was told about an hour before the show he would open for his ‘hometown’ crowd.

“I wanted to do something with music and I thought this was a great opportunity to do a little bit of my fun side as well as my Army side,” West said. “I’ve been all over the east coast and I’m only 21.”

West said being a technician for the Army Entertainment has opened doors for him he never thought he would see.

“In the beginning, when you think about the process they don’t tell you ‘hey you’re going to make it’ they say things like ‘good luck,’ ‘we might see you,’” he said. “You’re thinking ‘well I don’t know if I’m going to make it,’ and when they tell you it’s a relief because you think ‘wow, I did this.’”

West has been offered another three years of being connected with the Soldier Show.

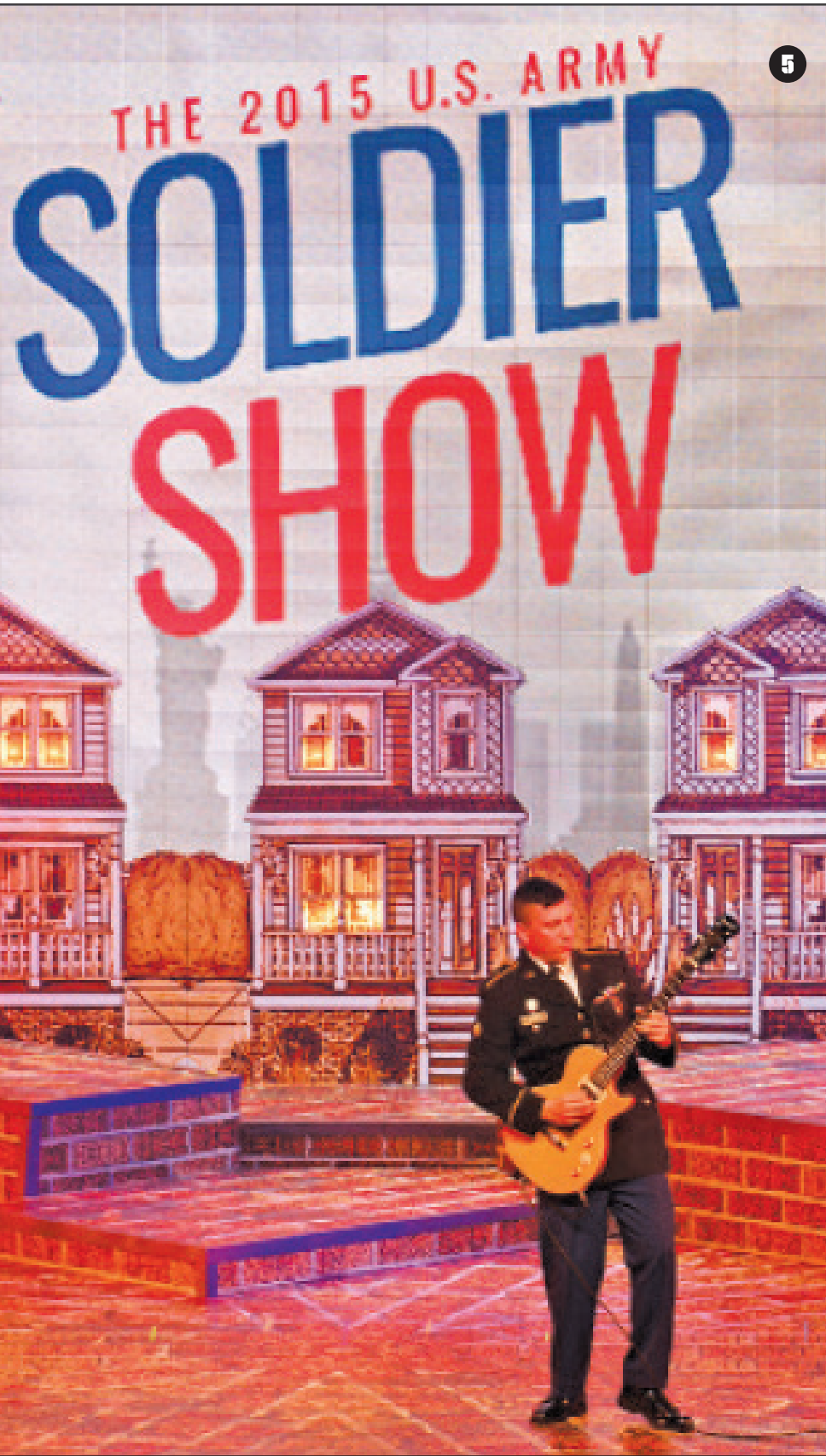


Photo by Maria Childs | POST

Spc. Austin West, 172nd Chemical Company, 84th Explosive Ordinance Disposal, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, opens up the Soldier Show Aug. 11 at McCain Auditorium in Manhattan, Kansas. West was a technician on the tour, but was asked to open for his ‘hometown’ audience of Fort Riley.

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A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL . . .



Sgt. 1st Class Rob Frazier
1st Inf. Div.

TOP: Fort Riley family members gather to watch and listen as the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, 1st Infantry Division Band and members of the 1st Inf. Div. command team ride through the streets of Historic Main Post Dec. 16. The late evening ride provided an opportunity for leadership and their families to spread holiday cheer by singing holiday songs on Fort Riley. **BOTTOM:** Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, leads Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph C. Cornelison, the division's senior noncommissioned officer, and Maj. Stacy Moore, the commanding general's executive officer, on a ride through the streets of Fort Riley's Historic Main Post neighborhood.



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SPORTS TOP 5

Continued from page 16

4. **THE ROYAL TREATMENT: 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION SOLDIERS VISIT KANSAS CITY ROYALS**

On Sept. 7, it was the Royals' turn to play host to the 1st Infantry Division, and that they did.

On their way to an eventual World Series championship, the Kansas City Royals and their faithful fans welcomed Soldiers to Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri. And while their cheers were typically reserved for their team, these on this day were also for the Army green, as well as for Marines, Airmen, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen from Kansas and Missouri who were recognized on the field during pre-game ceremonies.

Spc. Debra Milutin, a medical lab technologist at Irwin Army Community Hospital, was one

of 12 Soldiers who reenlisted in a ceremony before the game.

"Out on the field was quite an experience," Milutin said. "It was something that I've never experienced before. Standing at attention, we didn't really get to look around very much; however, we could hear the crowd cheering for us and walking off the field, I could specifically remember a couple who stood up and clapped."

That experience gave Milutin a lot of pride and made her feel good, she said.

5. **NASCAR HONORS SOLDIERS AT KANSAS SPEEDWAY**

In the month of May, NASCAR representatives honored the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard,

Soldiers of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and D-Day veteran, retired 1st Sgt. Joseph Crandall, during the Troops to the Track event May 9 at the Kansas Speedway.

The NASCAR Troops to the Track initiative was a partnership between Bank of America, NASCAR and the Armed Forces Foundation.

Daniel Klenetsky, manager of public and government affairs for NASCAR, said the program spans the entire racing season and honors services members from all five branches of the armed forces and is a way for NASCAR drivers, racing teams and fans to pay respect to those dedicated men and women serving the nation.

Klenetsky said the program runs at 25 race tracks across the

United States and provides free tickets to more than 300 active-duty troops, wounded warriors, veterans and military family members.

"This has become a signature initiative to recognize the dedication and efforts of our service members," Klenetsky said. "We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the sacrifices of the brave men and women."

Soldiers were given access to walk around the pit road, tour racing team garages, meet with drivers and visit a NASCAR suite to view the race and be recognized by drivers during the crew chief meeting.

"I wasn't expecting anything like this," said Spc. Benjamin Bowman, an infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. "To have all the people clapping and thanking me for serving while walking down the red carpet for the drivers meet-and-greet was overwhelming."

Bowman, a native of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, said this was one of the best experiences of his life and he could not express how happy he was to be chosen to attend the event.

Soldiers also spoke with several drivers during the pit road visit.



Amanda Kim Stairrett | 1ST INF. DIV.

Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, pins a Joint Service Commendation Medal on Spc. Bobby Hawkins, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div., Sept. 7 during pre-game ceremonies as part of Armed Forces Night, hosted by the Kansas City Royals in Kansas City, Missouri.



Staff Sgt. Bernhard Lashleyleidner | 1st ABCT

Carl Edwards, driver with Joe Gibbs Racing Team, meets with 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers, during NASCAR's sixth annual Troops to the Track event May 9 at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas. Troops to the Track is an event that honors service members from all five branches of the armed forces and is a way for NASCAR, drivers, racing teams and fans to pay their respect to those serving the nation.



Long Journey Ahead?

Head-on collisions are more likely on two-lane roads.

Stay Vigilant!

Ensure your safety and the safety of others while driving on a long distance trip.



BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS



FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER

INSPIRE INTERPRET EXPLORE PRESERVE



Travel & Fun in Kansas

Arts, history in Salina

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

Exit off I-70 and travel a few miles down Ninth Street and onto Iron Avenue to reach downtown Salina, Kansas. There are a variety of entertainment activities available for people of all ages.

At the Smoky Hill Museum, no visit is the same, but admission is always free. Thousands of artifacts are stored there, but they can only put a selection of them on display. Every month, the curators and director rotate what is on display and include an interactive activity at each spot throughout. Everything in the museum is about the region's history, so they include state as well as local information. In their temporary display room, they have "The 1960s Part I: Political Power." The display

features the history of politics and war in the 1960s and has an interactive voting booth next to a taping of the original presidential debate between Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy. The Smithsonian and the John F. Kennedy Library loaned some of the visual interactive parts to the museum. The next display, "The 1960s Part II: Pop Culture," will be up in February. The director and curator of the museum work to put in two temporary displays per year. Previous displays included themes such as "The Paranormal."

Only a block away from the museum is the Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts. The theater books a variety of traveling plays, musicians and musicals. Although some are more adult-centered such as "Rockin the Fe" which includes the bands Paramount, Rockgarden and Bootleg Mercy, they also have children's theater

with upcoming shows "Goodnight Moon" and "Peppa Pig's Big Splash." Country artist Aaron Lewis will also be performing in February. Events for the theater change frequently. For more information, visit the website at stiefeltheatre.org.

Another good spot for plays and musicals is a few more blocks away at the Community Theatre. The theater typically does around 15 productions a year, and all actors, dancers and musicians are from Salina and the surrounding communities. The theater is showing "Meet Me in St. Louis," based off of the movie which featured Judy Garland in 1945. The next production in January will be Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor." To purchase tickets or find out about other events happening at the Salina Community Theatre, go to salinatheatre.com.



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ABOVE: Inside the Smoky Hill Museum, guests are given a red, white and blue welcome.

LEFT: Another good spot for plays and musicals is a few more blocks away at the Community Theatre. The theater typically does around 15 productions a year, and all actors, dancers and musicians are from Salina and the surrounding communities.



At the Smoky Hill Museum, no visit is the same, but admission is always free. Thousands of artifacts are stored, but they can only put a selection of them on display at any given time. Every month the curators and director rotate what is on display and include an interactive activity at each spot throughout.

Holiday Hours

POST EXCHANGE

Dec. 24 and 31 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25 — Closed
Dec. 26 — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Jan. 1 — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

COMMISSARY

Dec. 24 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 26 and 31 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 26 and Jan. 1 — Closed

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE, 7264 NORMANDY DRIVE

Dec. 24 and 31 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

SOLDIER AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER

Dec. 24 and 31 — 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 — Closed

AUTO SKILLS

Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed
Dec. 31 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LEISURE TRAVEL

Dec. 31 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

LIBRARY

Dec. 24 and 31 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

MARINA

Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 — Closed

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Dec. 31 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

SKREET AND TRAP

Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 — Closed

CRAIG GYM

Dec. 24 and 31 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

LEONARD GYM

Dec. 24, 31, and Jan. 1 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 25 — Closed

LONG GYM

Dec. 24 and 31 — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

KING FIELDHOUSE

Dec. 24 and 31 — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

ROBINSON GYM

Dec. 24 and 31 — 12 to 7 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

WHITSIDE GYM

Dec. 24, 31 and Jan. 1 — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25 — Closed

LONG POOL

The only pool in operation during the holidays is Long Pool
Dec. 31 — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

BINGO

Dec. 24 and 31 — Closed
Dec. 31 — 8 p.m. to Jan. 1 — 1 a.m.

BOWLING CENTER

Dec. 24 and 25 — Closed
Dec. 31 — 8 p.m. to Jan. 1 — 1 a.m.

BOWLING LOUNGE

Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 — Closed

CUSTER HILL GOLF

Dec. 24 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dec. 31 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

CUSTER HILL GOLF SNACK BAR

Dec. 31 — 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

RILEY'S CONFERENCE CENTER

Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 — Closed

WARRIOR ZONE

Dec. 24 and 25 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

ALL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Dec. 24 and 31 — 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

CHILD, YOUTH AND SCHOOL SERVICES, BUILDING 6620

Dec. 24 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 31 — 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan 1 — Closed

SCHOOL AGE SERVICES

Dec. 24 and 31 — 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

YOUTH CENTER

Dec. 24 and 31 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 — Closed

WINTER SAFETY TIPS



TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

WINTERIZE HOME

- Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks

CHECK HEATING SYSTEMS

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys
- Install a smoke detector and test batteries monthly
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available
- Prevent carbon monoxide emergencies

INSTALL CO DETECTOR

- Check batteries regularly
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headaches, nausea and disorientation

PREPARE EMERGENCY KIT

- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers
- Fully charged cellphone
- Battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio and lamps
- Extra batteries
- First-aid kit and extra medicine
- Baby items



TIPS FOR OUTDOORS

KNOW WEATHER OUTSIDE

- Be aware of the wind chill factor
- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing, mittens, hats, scarves and waterproof boots
- Work slowly when doing outside chores
- Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreation
- Carry a cellphone
- Sprinkle cat litter or sand on icy patches



TIPS FOR YOUR CAR

WINTERIZE VEHICLE

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level
- Check tire tread or replace tires with all-weather or snow tires
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer

PREPARE EMERGENCY KIT

- Blankets; food and water
- Booster cables, flares, tire pump and bag of sand or cat litter
- Compass and maps
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Plastic bags



TIPS FOR TRAVEL

ON THE ROAD

- When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions
- Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories
- If you must travel, inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival

IF STRANDED

- Stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away, but continue to move arms and legs
- Stay visible by putting bright cloth on the antenna, turning on the inside overhead light (when engine is running) and raising the hood when snow stops falling
- Run the engine and heater only 10 minutes every hour
- Keep a downwind window open
- Make sure the tailpipe is not blocked

For more information, you may contact the Garrison Safety Office at 785-240-0647.

