

## Division staff commits to developing new leaders

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

Most would think leader development is only for junior Soldiers, and ends at the non-commissioned officer or captain ranks, but not in the 1st Infantry Division. With a high percentage of battalion commanders changing out over the next several months, the division's senior leadership has decided to implement a unique leader development training program focused on incoming battalion commanders.

"The 1st Infantry Division is a leadership factory, committed to developing leaders and future leaders — this is just one example of this commitment," said Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general.

This program is led by a senior mentor, Brig. Gen. John Kolasheski, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general for maneuver, and is specifically designed for future maneuver and fires battalion commanders.

"A senior mentor provides experience and insight that will help prepare battalion commanders, giving them the opportunity to 'shake off the dust' before they take command," Kolasheski said.

He said it also provides the senior mentor the opportunity to build a relationship with the future battalion commander and introduce them to the impressive array of training capabilities found on Fort Riley.

The program consists of five phases: a one-on-one academic and doctrine review, followed by an operation order issuance and then a terrain board rehearsal. The fourth phase is conducted in the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation at the Mission Training Complex, where the commander executes his plan in a virtual battle. The final phase is an After Action Review focused on lessons learned and developing a personal training plan to move forward.

Kolasheski said this program is important for a variety of reasons. Understanding a commander's role in planning, coordinating and executing tactical operations is crucial. This initiative gives an incoming commander confidence in his ability to lead their organization through the military decision-making process, fight their plan in simulation focused on integrating fires with maneuver and provides them a free repetition to solidify their own techniques.

See LEADER, page 7



Capt. Craig Zagorski, fire support officer for the Division Fires Cell, OPS Company, 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, speaks with Brig. Gen. John Kolasheski, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general of maneuver, during phase three of a leader development training program focused on incoming battalion commanders at the Fort Riley Mission Training Complex Jan. 14.

## NEW BOOTS ON THE BEAT



Soldiers from the 97th Military Police Battalion trained with members of the Fort Riley Police Department for a law enforcement academy Feb. 19. James Fitzhenry, training officer for Directorate of Emergency Services, said during the 2-week academy, Soldiers learn the use of radar, responding to a variety of calls and how to conduct traffic stops effectively.

## Military Police officers train before hitting the roads at Fort Riley

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

Smoke poured out of the windows and doorways of the school building as the Soldiers from the 97th Military Police Battalion broke down the door and made their way into the dark abyss. It was just one piece of the training Soldiers were completing for the law enforcement academy, where they had to respond to an active shooter scenario.

Members of the Directorate of Emergency Services teach the law enforcement academy to Soldiers who are new to Fort Riley. At military police school, Soldiers learn a mixture of combat and law enforcement tactics. This opportunity lets them build on their law enforcement knowledge before functioning as law enforcement officers.

James Fitzhenry, training officer for DES, said during the two-week academy, Soldiers learn the use of radar, responding to a

"The whole point of good training is to make it stressful because it's going to be extremely stressful when it happens."

JAMES FITZHENRY I  
TRAINING OFFICER FOR DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Pvt. Taylor Layton, 97th Military Police Company, 97th MP Battalion, practices room clearing during the law enforcement academy at Fort Riley Feb. 19.

variety of calls and how to conduct traffic stops effectively.

"The whole point to make it good training is to make it stressful because it's going to

be extremely stressful when it happens," Fitzhenry said. "We want to make it as stressful as we can."

See POLICE, page 6

## Soldiers host Infantryman Badge competition

By Sgt. Dana Moen and Staff Sgt. Tamika Dillard  
2ND ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Seventy-seven infantrymen received their Expert Infantryman Badge during a Feb. 6 ceremony.

The EIB competition, hosted by leaders in the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, tested more than 300 candidates from multiple units in the region Feb. 2 to 6 on their abilities to conduct infantry tasks. Though hosted by the "Dagger" brigade members, the event included Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division and 82nd Airborne Division.

"Earning an EIB shows a mastery of the fundamental skill set necessary to prevail in combat," said Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Higgins, noncommissioned officer in charge of the EIB range estimation station and platoon sergeant with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment. "(The EIB is) probably the badge that I'm most proud of — just because I put the most work into getting it."

See BADGE, page 7

## First, final mission for 'Lifeline' son, father

By Sgt. Jin Nakamura  
299TH BSB

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Service members and their loved ones know the sacrifice of being apart due to deployments. For two Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, their deployment exemplifies sacrifice — as both father and son are serving in the same battalion.

Pfc. Jason Harris Jr., a mechanic serving in Company B, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., knew the sacrifices deployments have on the family as his father Sgt. 1st Class Jason Harris Sr. deployed multiple times during his childhood.

"Growing up, I remember my father was deployed a lot," Harris Jr., a native of Tacoma, Washington, said. "He missed a lot of my baseball games and football games."

Following his father's footsteps because he wanted to defend his country, "like my father did," Harris Jr. enlisted in 2015. What he didn't know was his first duty assignment would take him to the same battalion as his father.

"I remember him as a Soldier — disciplined, dedicated and doing what he loved," Harris Jr. said. "I felt

See FAMILY, page 6

The next USAG  
Resilience Day Off is

MARCH

18

### SAFETY HOLIDAY

As of Wednesday, Feb. 24,



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

### HIGHLIGHTS



MOTIVATIONAL  
SPEAKER AND  
VIETNAM  
VETERAN  
DAVID ROEVER  
VISITED FORT  
RILEY FOR THE  
NATIONAL PRAYER  
LUNCHEON FEB.  
18, SEE PAGE 9.

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



FORT RILEY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
TEAMS TAKE  
ON EMPORIA  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL IN LAST  
GAME OF THE  
SEASON, SEE  
PAGE 13.



# Gray Eagle back in the sky after redeployment

Story and photo by Sgt. Jarrett E. Allen  
1ST CAB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aerial vehicle is back in the sky after Phoenix Soldiers from Company F, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, returned from a deployment last year.

Sgt. Blake L. Brummett, a production control noncommissioned officer in the company, said the first flight Feb. 11 at Marshall Army Airfield was a great feeling.

“We’ve once again established a foothold in a temporary spot and quickly remedied any situation that opposed us,” Brummett said. “Watching that bird pick up wind and retracting its gear was great, but honestly, watching it (lower) its gear and land felt even better.”

The Gray Eagle has proven to be a valuable asset based on the number of capabilities inherent within the platform.

Capt. Anthony N. Parsai, company commander, said the Gray Eagle is capable of performing reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting and acquisition missions, as well as delivering a Hellfire missile with a precision and lethality that is demonstrably superior to previous platforms.

“It is projected to carry any of the developing systems scheduled to utilize the Hellfire rail system,” he said. “It is an efficient platform capable of providing up to 18 hours of station time, dependent on transit time and payload options.”

Parsai said the company was the first conventional-forces unit to field the Gray Eagle, and once the initial-operational testing and evaluation was complete, the company deployed to Regional Command-East, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013 and 2014.

The unit was home for less than a year before deploying to Kuwait in 2015. While home, Phoenix Soldiers executed a rotation at the National Training Center and were the first Gray Eagle unit to fire a Hellfire missile at a range.

During the unit’s time in Kuwait, he said Phoenix Soldiers accumulated more than 8,000 hours of flight time, conducted more than 1,000 combat missions and more than 200 engagements.

Parsai said 15W is the military occupational specialty designator for their unmanned aircraft system operators and the initial training these Soldiers receive upon enlistment is eight months long. Since the training is so long, the unit only has enlisted Soldiers in the grades of E-2 through E-7. The majority of Soldiers who fly are in the rank of specialist.

“The professionalism of these young Soldiers is such that they are entrusted with \$12 million worth of equipment and Hellfire missiles to develop a combat situation and eliminate a threat,” he said.

Parsai said the reason it is so exciting to see is because in manned aviation, the missions

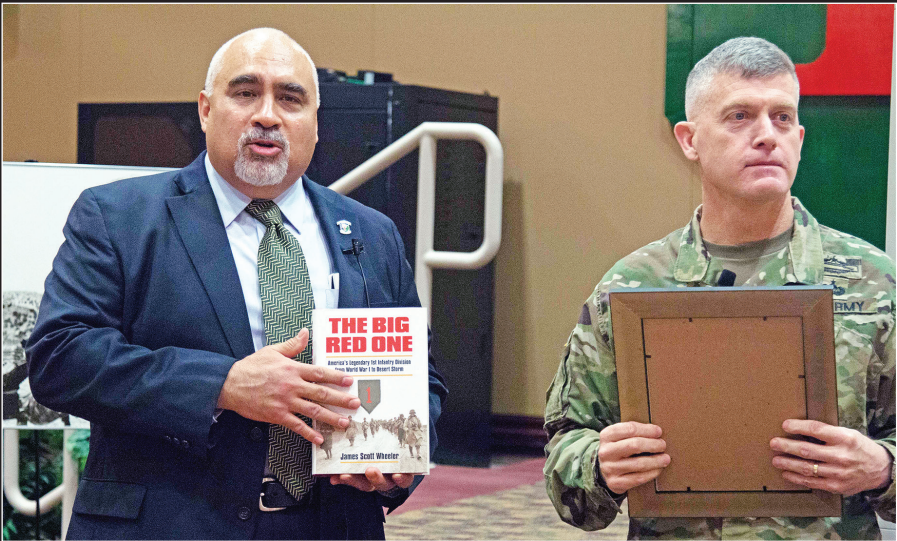


Sgt. Blake L. Brummett, production control noncommissioned officer, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, prepares a MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft system Feb. 11 for its first flight since the unit returned from a deployment to Kuwait in late 2015. During the deployment, the unit accumulated more than 8,000 hours of flight time, more than 1,000 combat missions and approximately 200 engagements.

are planned by the officers, non-commissioned officers and warrant officers, but executed by the officers and warrant officers. In UAS operations, the planning and mission analysis is done by officers and noncommissioned officers, but the warfighting is done by the enlisted Soldier, similar to other career fields in the Army.

“It’s exciting because it is returning the warfighting function back to the enlisted Soldiers,” Parsai said.

## AMBASSADOR VISITS FORT RILEY



Amanda Kim Stairrett | 1ST INF. DIV.

Gonzalo R. Gallegos, deputy assistant secretary for public diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, thanks Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, for a book about the “Big Red One” Feb. 19 at Fort Riley. Gallegos spoke to 1st Inf. Div. leaders about his experiences with and perspectives on the global security environment. The goal was to give U.S. Army leaders an ambassador’s perspective on how they could be effective interagency partners with organizations like the State Department. During the visit, Gallegos was named an honorary lifetime member of the Big Red One.

# ‘Guardians’ renew partnership with Junction City High School

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

Boots hit the hardwood floor at the Junction City High School gym as leadership of 97th Military Police Battalion at Fort Riley re-established their partnership with Junction City High School staff and students Feb. 9 during halftime of the varsity boys’ basketball game.

Lt. Col. Alexander Murray, commander of the 97th MP Bn., along with Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Counts II and command teams from all of the companies within the battalion, was joined by Unified School District 475 superintendent Corbin Witt and principal Melissa Sharp in the signing of the official partnership charter.

“The charter re-signing renews our friendship and partnership with the students, administrators, parents, family and friends of Junction City High School,” Murray said. “This re-signing further strengthens and reaffirms our partnership we have maintained over the past six years.”

In the past, Soldiers of the battalion have volunteered for dances, graduation and summer workouts with student athletes under the direction of the coaching staff. Sharp said the high school is more than 60 percent military children, so when students interact with Soldiers from the battalion they grow a sense of community.

“I am a true believer that it takes a community to raise



Lt. Col. Alexander Murray, commander of the 97th Military Police Battalion., along with Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Counts II were joined by Unified School District 475 superintendent Corbin Witt and Junction City High School Principal Melissa Sharp in the signing of the official partnership charter during halftime of the varsity boys’ basketball game Feb. 9.

a child,” Sharp said. “When our students see and interact with the battalion, they grow a sense of community; a sense of belonging.”

Sharp said she thinks the partnership is beneficial for the Soldiers because they are impacting a school and a student. As a school official, she said the partnership enhances the educational environment.

“Many schools welcome volunteers and the service they can provide to the educational experience,” Sharp said.

She said for the first time since the partnership was signed she met a member of the battalion who is a graduate of JCHS.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my conversations with this

graduate as he has gained adult perspective since he was in this high school,” Sharp said. “It is this perspective that all of the 97th can teach our young adults. If we are to prepare students for the global world and enhance their career readiness skills, the best resource we can provide is these authentic learning interactions with adults.”

Murray said he looks forward to furthering the battalion’s partnership with the school.

“The 97th MP Bn., has enjoyed supporting the Blue Jays over the past six years and we will continue to foster our relationship and strong bond in the future,” Murray said.

# Culinary Soldiers prepare for annual all-military competition

Story and photo by J. Parker Roberts  
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 1st Infantry Division’s Culinary Arts Team prepared a three-course meal Feb. 4 at Fort Riley’s Food Service Lab. The event helped the team prepare for the mobile kitchen trailer portion of the 41st Annual Military Culinary Arts Competitive Training Event, which the “Big Red One” team will participate in March 5 to 10 at Fort Lee, Virginia.

Using only equipment and ingredients that could be used in the field, the nine-member team produced a carefully crafted menu designed to highlight their culinary skills. For the first course, the Soldiers prepared a seared scallop with warm legume salad, pickled beets and shallots. This was followed by the main dish of Rock Cornish game hen with herb stuffing, fresh-made beef kielbasa sausage, barley pilaf, vegetable sauté and a demi-glace. For dessert, they served a chocolate mousse with raspberry coulis, orange sorbet, fruit salad and a beignet filled with orange pekoe tea ganache.

“The meal that you had today, we had four hours to prepare it and approximately an hour to serve it,” said Warrant Officer 1 Edmund Perez, 1st

Inf. Div. Culinary Arts Team manager. “Usually at a restaurant, you would take a couple days to prepare each item, make sure it’s exactly perfect, but they want to put that pressure on you to see how you perform.”

This will be Perez’s first time at the Military Culinary Arts Competitive Training Event with the Big Red One.

“It’s rigorous training,” Perez said. “It’s our Ranger training. That’s how I explain it to the command teams. Everyone knows the intensity of Ranger training and what they need to do to prepare for Ranger school. This is our Ranger training to prepare for the culinary competition.”

The team manager said the team has recently been focusing on the quality of their creations; something that he says has caused the members’ personal pride is through the roof.

“I want to be able to serve culinary art, gourmet-style food at the dining facility, and I don’t see why we can’t do that,” Perez said.

The annual training event pits culinary teams from across the armed forces against one another in events such as the Armed Forces Chef and Student Chef of the Year competitions, the Nutrition Hot Food Challenge and the Cold Food Display.

“It’s something new, and it’s big,” said Pfc. Margarita Hernandez, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., about being on the Culinary Arts Team. “It’s nerve-racking, but it’s exciting at the same time.”

Hernandez, who has been with the Army for a year and at Fort Riley for seven months, will be the team captain of the Student Skills Team at the competitive training event. The team has been practicing together since December in preparation for the weeklong competition.

“The MKT is what we use out in the field,” she said. “It limits the space and the timeline, because everything is so compact.”

To overcome the limitations of the field kitchen, the team uses “mise en place,” a French term meaning organizing and arranging equipment and ingredients needed in advance.

“You prepare all of your utensils and ingredients,” Hernandez said. “It helps out a lot.”

The Student Skills Team captain said the other four student members of the team are doing well in their training as the competition approaches.

“They’re really, really good,” she said. “They pick up the pace really fast and they get everything.”



Pfc. Margarita Hernandez, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, coats beignets with butter while Spc. Gerald Geffrard, center, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st CAB, and Pvt. Lomandy Matug, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st CAB, make other meal preparations Feb. 4 at Fort Riley’s Food Service Lab.





# Shad Lewis: a ‘Big Red One’ Soldier



THEN  
& NOW



By Phyllis Fitzgerald  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Shad Lewis is a retired “Big Red One” Soldier. Lewis’ first time at Fort Riley, Kansas, began in October of 1995. He arrived from an assignment in Korea. Lewis’ military occupational specialty was a 19D scout and he was assigned to Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, 16th infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division which was reflagged in 1996 as Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, which had a unit at Fort Riley. During this time, the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters was moved to Wuerzburg, Germany. At the casing ceremony of the 1st Inf. Div. colors Lewis was the division color bearer holding the colors as they were cased. They were uncased when the unit arrived in Germany. Lewis departed Fort Riley in 1998 to serve with the 1st Inf. Div. in Germany. He returned to Fort Riley in 2008 and was assigned to a Military Instruction Transition Team for training as a MITT Instructor. After certification, he deployed with a 1st Inf. Div. MITT to Iraq for a year. While in Iraq, Lewis was an operations advisor for the unit’s Iraqi military counterparts. He returned to Fort Riley again in 2009 and was assigned as the platoon sergeant for the Scout Platoon Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st. Inf. Div. Lewis remained in this unit until January of 2013 when he retired after 22 years of active-duty service. During Lewis’ 22 years, he deployed five times, four of those were with the Big Red One and once with the 1st Armored Division. His first deployment was to Camp Dobol, Bosnia, in 1997 while assigned to the 1st brigade, 41st Infantry Battalion, which was part of the 1st Armored Division. His second was to Macedonia in 1999 while assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Inf. Div. in Schweinfurt, Germany. Lewis’ third deployment was to Operation Enduring Freedom II from 2004 to 2005 while still assigned as a platoon sergeant with the same unit and his fourth deployment was with

the MITT out of Fort Riley, Kansas, to Iraq. Lewis’ fifth and final deployment was to Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012. “We decided to stay in the area after some compromising with each other,” Lewis said about the negotiations with his wife on where they would settle after Army life. “Initially, I wanted to return back to North Dakota, but my wife was not moving to a colder climate to freeze. She wanted to move to Florida instead and be warmer, but I did not want to move there. Collectively, we decided to stay in the Junction City, Fort Riley area because we liked the small town atmosphere, the people are friendly and there are a lot of things for the family to be involved in.” “Some of my best memories revolve around gunnery,” Lewis said. “While stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany, with the Big Red One, I liked going to Grafenwoehr and firing and qualifying with the Bradleys.” Lewis had one training event that still stands clear in his memory. “On one of the trips to the Grafenwoehr, I was the troop master gunner and on this particular trip there were 14 crews firing and qualifying,” Lewis said. “Out of the 14 crews, 13 crews shot distinguished and one crew shot superior. We were recognized as the highest qualifying troop in USAEUR (U.S. Army Europe). Maybe even more impressive at the time, was that my best friend snored so loud that none of us got any sleep — a memory that still sticks today.” Lewis took that skill and turned it into his second career of service — that of a Department of the Army civilian employee. “Today I am a computer based trainer at the Mission Training Complex on Fort Riley,” Lewis said. “I train Soldiers every day on different computer applications that are essential in their jobs.” When he’s away from the MTC, Lewis has a few other things he likes to do. “I enjoy spending time with my son and his Cub Scout activities,” Lewis said. “I also enjoy hunting and fishing as much as my wife allows.” *Editor’s Note: To submit your “Big Red One” story, email fitzmiss@yahoo.com*

## Retired command sergeant major mentors Soldiers during gunnery

By Spc. Derrik Tribbey  
1ST ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Thunderous booms sounded across Fort Riley and beyond Jan. 24 to 31. At the range, the “Black Knights” of 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, were training. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. George DeSario, the director of the Office of the Chief of Armor, came to visit the winter gunnery training exercise Jan. 26 to pass along knowledge and promote esprit de corps to a new generation of Soldiers. “It was an honor to meet DeSario,” said 1st Lt. Timothy Cody, the executive officer of Company A, 3rd Bn., 66th Armor Regt., 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “When you’re a newly established unit, sometimes it is difficult to connect with your unit’s heritage as easily as in more established units. Having the opportunity to discuss our gunnery mission and challenges that we’d faced brought new appreciation for our battalion’s history as command sergeant major explained what gunnery used to look like when he was in the battalion.” The Black Knights activated at Fort Riley on Sept. 29, 2014. DeSario said he visited to understand the impact training had on young armored Soldiers. He was the senior noncommissioned officer of 3rd Bn., 66th Armor Regt., 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., from 1999 to 2001. He is now an honorary command sergeant major of the Black Knights.

“It is very important to pass on knowledge and skills and understanding the importance of field craft and field training in support of a larger training event,” DeSario said. He emphasized the importance of rehearsals, saying they are key to a successful training exercise. He said Soldiers and leaders must be able to communicate the positives and the negatives to make future trainings better as well. He also felt Soldiers must learn to see the larger picture and was grateful for the chance to mentor Soldiers once again. “When a Soldier’s command sergeant major visits troopers in the field it’s a great thing, especially the likes of Command Sgt. Maj. DeSario,” said Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Lewis, senior noncommissioned officer of 3rd Platoon, Company B, 3rd Bn., 66th Armor Regt., 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “He has done and will continue to do many great things for the armor community and for him to visit where the rubber meets the road shows his genuine concern for the Soldiers and the shape of the Armor Corps.” DeSario’s interaction with the Soldiers brought pride to the Black Knights that day, Cody said. “He is a man who thinks before he speaks,” Cody said of DeSario. “His confidence and his knowledge were apparent. He definitely cared about our organization and its Soldiers.” The visit boosted Soldiers’ morale, Lewis said. DeSario interacted with the Soldiers, discussing every level of professional development, previous experience and the future of the armor corps.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Retired Command Sgt. Maj. George DeSario, the director of the Office of the Chief of Armor, gives advice to Sgt. 1st Class Avery Cunningham, senior enlisted leader of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, during winter gunnery Jan. 26 at Fort Riley. DeSario is an honorary command sergeant major of the “Black Knights.”

SUICIDE  
PREVENTION

THE POWER OF 1





ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE



COURTESY PHOTOS

**ABOVE:** More than 20 Battle of the Bulge veterans met the morning of Feb. 13 at the American Legion in Manhattan, Kansas to recount the World War II battle, which ended in January 1945. Veterans and community members participated in panel discussions and shared their personal stories of the battle. Bob Smith, Fort Riley museum curator, moderated one of the panel discussions at the event. He was also asked to bring the Nuremburg door artifact from the Fort Riley museum to be on display. “It really is an incredible experience,” Smith said. “These guys are a lot of fun. They are starting to open up about their service and war.”

**BELOW:** Jim Sharp and Paul Scheld, both Battle of the Bulge veterans, have a conversation following the 71st annual anniversary meeting Feb. 13 at the American Legion in Manhattan, Kansas to recount the World War II battle. Veterans and community members participated in panel discussions and shared their personal stories of the battle.



Fort Riley safety manager receives IMCOM individual award for efforts

By Maria Childs  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Safety is the name of the game for Rick Hearron — the Fort Riley installation safety manager. And he doesn’t take it lightly.

Hearron was selected for the 2016 Installation Management Command Army Individual Award of Excellence in January. He has been at Fort Riley for about 20 years and he said his team has made a number of achievements while he has been the safety manager.

“We’ve had a reoccurring reduction of civilian injuries and accidents over the past several years,” Hearron said. “That’s one thing that has stuck in my mind. We are also one of the few safety offices that have 100 percent of our employees certified level one in safety and level one in explosive safety.”

This certification was complete before the required date given by the Department of Defense. Hearron said the safety office also has several best practices including offering courses to directorate safety officers within each directorate at Fort Riley.

“We’re the only installation that does that,” Hearron said.

Tim Livsey, deputy garrison commander, said Fort Riley operates a very safe installation, and Hearron can be thanked for that.

“Rick Hearron is a classic example of a guy who has spirited a program that has set a standard for all the IMCOM installations across the entire Army,” Livsey said. “By creating a safe environment, it gives confidence to the workforce. Not only has Rick done that, but six of our directorates have won awards for directorate-level safety.”

Livsey said Hearron has allowed his safety directors to get more involved on a supervisory level within the workforce creating the “safety-conscious culture.”

After being selected by IMCOM, Hearron will now compete at the Army level. The Army level award winner will be announced around April.

“It’s quite an honor,” Hearron said. “It’s a great honor that I was selected by IMCOM to compete at the Army level. It’s a great honor from both levels. I learned a long time ago you have to surround yourself with good people who can’t help but be successful. It’s a team effort, and not just the safety team — it’s the directorates and the command’s focus on safety.”

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST

The question for the week of Feb. 26 was “Where do I find times during which scheduled training could yield significant noise from tank, artillery, and mortar certification fire, and explosions due to demolition training?”

Answer: [www.riley.army.afpims.mil/AboutUs/NoiseandTraining-Advisories.aspx](http://www.riley.army.afpims.mil/AboutUs/NoiseandTraining-Advisories.aspx)



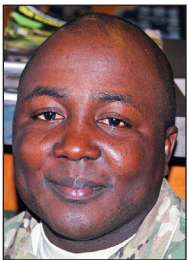
This week’s winner is Tiffany Helmuth. Her spouse is Staff Sgt. Dwight Helmuth, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

CONGRATULATIONS TIFFANY!



# RILEY ROUNDTABLE

## Feb. 29 is Leap Day. What are you doing with your extra day?



“School – it’s all about school right now.”

**SPC. THOMAS KAMBA | KEBBI, NIGERIA**

541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,  
1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade



“Go to school and do my homework.”

**SPC. STEFAN WAYOU | IVORY COAST, WEST AFRICA**

541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,  
1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade



“Work.”

**SPC. CARLO GUERRERO | SYRACUSE, NEW YORK**

1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Com-  
bat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division



“I’ll go out with a friend.”

**PVT. SOL SIM | CAMERON, NORTH CAROLINA**

1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st  
Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry  
Division



“I’ll be working on settling back in from deployment.”

**SPC. EVAN FILIPOVIC | NAPLES, FLORIDA**

Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade  
Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division

### THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and phone number. Letters may be edited for space, but never for content. Send a fax 785-239-2592 or e-mail [usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil)

# HOOAH



**send your vote home**

**Be Army strong on election day.**

Go to [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) to learn more about absentee voting and request your ballot, or contact your Voting Assistance Officer for more information.



### SAFETY CORNER

## Daylight saving time on its way in March

By Dawn Douglas  
GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Benjamin Franklin may have joked about “seizing the daylight,” but daylight saving time has influenced American culture since the Standard Time Act of March 19, 1918. Although it began as a wartime effort to conserve energy, throughout the years and its many iterations, it has settled into an efficient way to maximize the hours of daylight.

An easy way to remember daylight saving time is “fall back, spring forward.” daylight saving time begins on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November. We “spring forward” on March 13 and set the clocks ahead one hour. However, a simple clock adjustment will not prepare our internal body clock for the change, so make sure you get plenty of rest before the time change.

Daylight saving time is a good time to move “forward” on those last minute projects not completed before the cold weather set in. Of course, you can’t do all these things in an hour, but you can definitely get a couple of them done and rest a little easier knowing that your house is ready for the warmer months ahead.

- **Change batteries:** Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detector, electronic thermostat and flash lights.

- **Update your first aid kit:** Many medical items expire or dry out, make sure everything is fresh and handy in case of an emergency.
- **Inventory your emergency kit for your home and car:** Make sure you have an adequate supply for emergencies.
- **Prepare for Spring Cleaning:** March 20 is the official start of spring. Start spring-cleaning by purchasing material to store winter clothes, load up on cleaning supplies, air out your home. Don’t forget to replace vacuum cleaner filters.
- **Check your allergy medication:** Pollen allergy, commonly called hay fever, is one of the most common chronic diseases in the United States and it is especially acute during the spring months.
- **Check car seats:** Check your child’s car seat to make sure it fits and is installed properly. Contact the garrison safety office for assistance with installation and maintenance. Five certified car seat technicians are available. They also have a grant from the state of Kansas to provide families in need with a one-to-one swap for a brand new car seat.
- **Check tire pressure and treads:** Incorrect tire pressure can wear tires unevenly and reduce their effectiveness while a worn tread can lead to less traction and even a dangerous blow out. If you reduced your tire pressure in the winter, it’s time to air up for the spring.

- **Check your hoses and belts:** Winter’s cold, harsh weather wears on your car’s hoses and belts. Look for cracking and leaking. Catching problems now can mean the difference between a swift, inexpensive repair and breaking down the road.
  - **Check windshield wipers:** Windshield wipers should be changed twice a year. If they’re leaving streaks, it’s time for a change.
  - **Back up your data and update your computer virus scanner:** It’s a good time to make sure you’ve got a back up of all your important data and do a little computer maintenance as well.
  - **Examine power strips and clean behind desks:** Most home offices have electronic equipment and computers. Moreover, there may be multiple things plugged into one outlet with a power strip. First, vacuum any dust or debris such as old paper, receipts, pens, pencils, etc. that have fallen. Then check your power strip. Is it properly rated? Still working as it should? How old is it? It just takes a tiny spark behind a desk to start a fire, so be cautious and play it safe.
- Don’t forget to set your clock ahead one hour before you go to bed. The time change doesn’t officially happen until 2 a.m. while most people are asleep. It is inconvenient the next morning to find out you are operating on the wrong time.

## Fort Riley agency brings human resource jobs to the Flint Hills of Kansas

By Margaret Ziffer  
FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Civilian Human Resources Agency Southwest Region, headquartered at Fort Riley, Kansas, has received appropriation for additional positions. CHRA Southwest, along with the other seven Army regions worldwide, provides civilian human resources services to the Department of Defense.

The new positions, which CHRA hopes to have mostly filled by the end of April, have been designated to provide civilian human resources products.

Carol Burton, CHRA Southwest Region director, said the new positions vary from technical work to transactional work, and clerical positions. Some job openings have been filled through internal personnel; however, a significant number of positions (approximately 40) are being recruited from the general public, specifically entry level positions.

“There are a variety of different positions. Some require a high school

graduation or general experience, some of them require previous work in the field,” Burton said. “The vast majority of the ones that we are recruiting for right now require a bachelor’s degree or some type of related experience.”

The new CHRA job vacancies will be posted on [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). Job seekers should visit this site on a regular basis for updated postings.

“We do have some attrition, so we are almost always recruiting for some types of vacancies. I encourage people to look all throughout the year — we have people that get promoted and go to other parts of our campus, so that leaves a vacancy behind. In the human resources world, there is always some turnover and there will always be vacancies,” said Jackie Frederick, CHRA Southwest deputy director.

Burton and Frederick encourage civilians, Army dependents, veterans and all job seekers from the area to take advantage of this opportunity to work for CHRA.

“Neither Jackie nor I are from this area, but we love it. It’s home for us. Not only do we like what we do, but we like the sense of community and that we are able to provide some employment opportunities for the folks who live and work here, and for the (Army) family members,” Burton said. “This is a great place to live and work and we are really fortunate that we have a great applicant pool, too.”

The CHRA Southwest footprint here at Fort Riley includes one of two Civilian Personnel Records Centers, and the only existing Army Benefits Center — Civilian, which has a worldwide mission to process retirement and benefits-related documents for all Army Civilian employees. Additionally, 18 Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers at other installations fall under the Southwest Region.

For more information about CHRA or available vacancies, contact the Fort Riley CPAC job information number at 785-239-6004.

## Fort Riley to receive Yamaha award March 4

By Steve Elstrom  
FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

For the second time in two years, Fort Riley will be the only military installation in Kansas to receive an all-terrain vehicle trail grant from Yamaha. The Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative GRANT (Guaranteeing Responsible Access to our Nation’s Trails) will provide \$10,400 for trail construction and signage at both entry gates of the Fort Riley ATV course. The GRANT was awarded in September 2015 as part of Yamaha’s Outdoor Access Initiative

promoting safe, responsible and open, sustainable riding areas.

To acknowledge the award of the grant and mark the beginning of trail construction, an award acceptance ceremony is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Mar. 4 at Ware Parade Field, Huebner Road. Members of the Fort Riley community are invited to attend.

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, deputy commanding general for support, and Col. Andrew Cole Jr., Fort Riley garrison commander, will join representatives of the Garrison Safety Office and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare

and Recreation to accept the grant award and thank representatives of the Yamaha Motor Corporation.

“This GRANT is a great addition to the 2014 grant and will complete a second phase of improvements to the Fort Riley ATV (and) Dirt Bike Area,” said Dawn Douglas, Fort Riley Safety Office. “The riding area allows Fort Riley Soldiers, civilian employees, and family members to safely build resilience.”

For more information about use of the Fort Riley ATV and dirt bike area, visit [fortriley.isportsman.net/Off-roading-atv-dirt-bike-area.aspx](http://fortriley.isportsman.net/Off-roading-atv-dirt-bike-area.aspx)

### TRAFFIC REPORT

#### HENRY DRIVE-RAY ROAD ROUNDABOUT CONSTRUCTION TO SLOW TRAFFIC

Traffic changes will be in effect until approximately May 15, vehicles will be required to slow to 20-miles per hour on both Ray Road and Henry Drive to accommodate the continuing work.

#### ESTES ACCESS CONTROL POINT CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES BEGINNING MARCH 7.

Use of the Estes Access Control Point by commercial vehicles will be prohibited starting March 7. The closure is due to an upgrade project and will be in effect until the project is complete, a period of time that could be several months. During this time all commercial vehicles will need to enter the installation through 12th Street during duty hours and through Henry during non-duty hours.

#### 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 follow all guidance posted on signs.

#### CONSTRUCTION ON CAMERON ROAD WALL

Work will be done on Cameron Road Wall starting

approximately Feb. 25. The buildings and parking area that will be affected are 210, 211, 212 and 213. Personnel will need to make arrangements to park away from the wall.

#### ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS OF OPERATION

Until further notice, the Estes Access Control Point is closed every Saturday and Sunday, but will remain open Monday through Friday for privately owned vehicles only.

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:  
**Henry /Four Corners/Trooper/Ogden:** Open 24/7  
**12th Street:** 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.



POLICE

Continued from page 1

Sgt. William Westmyer, 97th MP Bn., said it is important the training is realistic because their jobs are not to be taken lightly. He’s no stranger to law enforcement training, but he hasn’t worked as an MP at Fort Riley before. He said it’s better to learn how you react to scenarios in training, than be thrown into them and not know how to react.

“I enjoyed it because I know that this prepares me for real life,” Westmyer said. “In real life, it will never be like training, but it prepares you for it.”

Lt. Patrick Felice, police officer for Fort Riley Police Department, said the scenarios they use in training are loosely based off case studies they receive including major shootings.

“This is an advanced foundation,” Felice said. “We try to incorporate some stuff that has already happened and try to keep it as realistic as possible.”

Keeping it as realistic as possible includes changing buildings so Soldiers don’t become familiar with the task. He said the civilian law enforcement works with staff at the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security to customize the training needs.

“We’ve had some scenarios we have put together with the help of Charlie (Meyer, range liaison officer),” Felice said. “We all work together and try to come up with something really cool.”

Meyer said there are no limits to what he can create for the Soldiers in simulation. He is constantly looking for furniture to make it realistic and making targets for the training.

“You have to make the training realistic for them or else it’s boring,” Meyer said. “You have to make it as realistic as you can.”



Maria Childs | POST

Pfc. Jordan Newman, 287th Military Police Company, 97th MP Battalion, takes direction from Staff Sgt. Eric Fitzsimmons, 73rd MP Company, during the law enforcement academy at Fort Riley Feb. 19. At military police school, Soldiers learn a mixture of combat and law enforcement tactics. This opportunity lets them build upon their law enforcement knowledge before working the roads.

FAMILY

Continued from page 1

like I needed to honor that. Now that I’m deployed with my father, I see him every day. I have that feeling of being safe and knowing what to expect.”

With the example set, the younger Harris knew that following his father’s footsteps was the path he needed to take.

“It was the first major decision he made,” Harris Sr., an operations noncommissioned officer, said. “He didn’t come to me for permission, just told me that he was enlisting and did it. For me, it’s like he’s been in the Army for 20 years with me. He’s grown up watching me through my career. He knows what right looks like, and he took his first step, so I’m proud of him.”

While the younger Harris is at the beginning of his career, Harris Sr. is coming to the end of his.

“I retire in 2017, having served over 20 years, so between the field training, duty days and deployments, I missed half of his childhood. (Including a) ton of birthdays, holidays and Christmases,” Harris Sr. said. “I missed his high school days too.”

As Harris Sr. reflected on the family time missed from



Sgt. Jin Nakamura | 299th BSB

Sgt. 1st. Class Jason Harris Sr., left, promotes his son, Pfc. Jason Harris Jr., by pinning the new rank on his patrol cap during a ceremony Jan. 23 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Both father and son are deployed to Kuwait with the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

his service in the Army, he also cherished the unique situation in which he and his son found themselves in Kuwait.

“Being there for him on his first deployment, watching him grow as a Soldier and a man is priceless,” Harris Sr. said. “I can be his ears and give him guidance from my experience. Serving in the military is kind of our family tradition now. I hope this continues.”

That family tradition is something the younger Harris has immense pride in as he continues his family’s history of service.

“I’m continuing the tradition of the Harris family,” Harris Jr. said. “Not only my father and I serve, but also my uncle and my grandfathers served as well. It makes me feel proud to be the next to continue the family tradition.”

Irwin Army Community Hospital



PROVIDER



NO-SHOW PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT

Missed appointments are missed opportunities for others.



## LEADERContinued from page 1

Lt. Col. Matthew Garner, incoming 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., battalion commander, conducted phase three, the terrain board rehearsal, Jan. 14 at the Mission Training Complex. A large map of the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, was laid out on the floor with writing and blocks representing military vehicles, the enemy and friendly forces.

Garner, along with about 10 acting staff and company commander role players, walked through a rehearsal of a battalion-level attack similar to how it would be carried out if a unit visited one of our Army’s training centers.

“We send our teams to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California,” Kolasheski said. “This rehearsal gives the commander the opportunity to think through an NTC fight so when his actual unit goes there, he (the battalion commander) has already considered different ways to execute some of his possible assigned missions.”

The group conducted phase four, the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation, at the Mission Training Complex Feb. 4.

Garner said this program is an example of how a senior leader’s mentorship of incoming battalion commanders enhances the tactical proficiency of the 1st Inf. Div. The combined arms rehearsal provided him with the opportunity to confirm he could read and understand a higher headquarters Operation Order, conduct his own Military Decision Making Process, brief a battalion size OPORD to subordinate commanders that was doctrinally sound and most importantly, understood by the commanders, rehearse the operation and then execute it in simulation.

“The rehearsal allowed the unit to synchronize and integrate combat multipliers into the maneuver plan,” Garner said. “The combined arms rehearsal afforded me the opportunity to see where I had not synchronized my plan with certain combat enablers. After the completion of the CAR, we went and updated the OPORD to reflect the changes necessary to synchronize the fight with the appropriate combat enablers. I spent the last three years serving at the strategic level in our Army; this is a great program that affords me the opportunity to get a few repetitions at the tactical level prior to assuming command.”

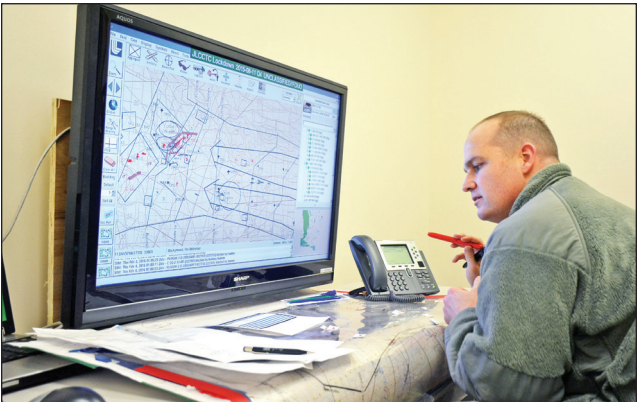
Kolasheski said it is ideal that an incoming commander would complete this program about 30 days prior to taking command. This way the information is fresh, and he can use what he learned in the rehearsals and simulation and apply it to his own unit as they plan and execute home station leader and collective training here at Fort Riley.

But the incoming battalion commander is not the only one who benefits from this program.

“There’s some complementary effects from this process,” Kolasheski said. “We have a bunch of division staff officers, some of which will be future company commanders. It gives them the opportunity to replicate being on a battalion staff and being a company commander.”

The next phase of the program is to fight the enemy in simulation. This is the capstone to each phase the group has been working on in the last month.

“It’s all part of the leader development and certification process at the 1st Infantry Division,” Kolasheski said. “This



Maria Childs | POST

**Lt. Col. Matthew Garner, incoming battalion commander for 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducts phase four of the leader development training program focused on incoming battalion commanders at the Mission Training Complex Feb. 4. Phase four was a Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation, where the commander executes his plan in a virtual battle.**

particular program’s focus is training battalion level commanders in decisive action.”

Training and Leader Development truly are one word in the First infantry Division Kolasheski said.

## BADGEContinued from page 1

Testing for EIB consists of the Army Physical Fitness Test, day and night land navigation, 30 individual weapons skill tests, medical and patrol skills testing and a 12 mile foot march with a three-hour time limit, which culminated with one final event called Objective Bull.

“A new tasking was added this year called “Objective Bull,” Higgins said. “The event is meant to pay homage to Tech. Sgt. Walter Bull, who received the first EIB on March 29, 1944.”

Objective Bull was a combat-casualty scenario where candidates were evaluated on their ability to properly assess, treat and transport a simulated battlefield casualty in less than 20 minutes.

The testing started with 343 infantryman, and by the end of the APFT, land navigation and testing, that number was reduced to 81 candidates. By the end of the 12-mile road march, there were only 77 left.

“This award did not start yesterday,” Col. Miles Brown, commander of 2nd ABCT said during the badging ceremony. “The EIB dates back to 1944 and it reflects the commitment of the Soldier’s Creed: ‘I am an expert and I am a professional. I stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.’”

The badge symbolizes exactly what these standards embody, Brown said.

“The rifle at the ready with the hammer drawn represents the infantryman who stands always ready to defeat the enemy,” Brown said. “Our Army stands at the ready.”

For some, the testing was their second or third attempt

toward earning the prestigious badge. For one Soldier, the first try was all it took.

“I knew the training was going to be very long and tedious,” said Pvt. Anden Schmitt, an infantryman and command team driver for 2nd ABCT. “I utilized what I recently learned in basic training and AIT (advanced individual training) along with taking as much advice from the cadre as possible.”

When asked about his technique to earn the EIB, Schmitt said he focused on each event individually.

“I took it one task at a time,” Schmitt said. “I wanted to do everything right the first time. I didn’t think about what was next, just what was currently in front of me.”

The young infantryman said the 12-mile road march was his most challenging event.

“When it came down to the last few miles, I tried to keep my mind clear,” Schmitt said. “Ultimately, staying focused and having my noncommissioned officer, Cpl. Bret Robinson, by my side motivating me the whole way — helped me keep my mind off the pain.”

Brown had a message for awardees.

“Today, you all have proven yourselves and your strength,” he said. “Now you have the responsibility that comes with ... wearing the badge Use the knowledge to better those around you.”

Schmitt was proud of his achievement, but wasn’t about to rest.

“I am completely ecstatic with accomplishing what I have just done,” Schmitt said. “But I still have a lot more to learn about my field craft.”



Sgt. Dana Moen | 2ND ABCT

**Capt. Patrick Copeland, center, assistant brigade plans officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, prepares to apply a tourniquet to a simulated casualty as graders observe during Expert Infantryman Badge testing Feb. 6 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Copeland went on to earn his EIB.**

IMCOM VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

JOB POSTED EVERY TUESDAY ON ARMY KNOWLEDGE ONLINE (AKO)









## IN BRIEF

### TRAFFIC UPDATES

For traffic updates, see the Traffic Report on page 4 or visit [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) and click on "Advisories."

### SPRING BREAK SPECIAL AT CUSTER HILL GOLF COURSE

Tune up your golf game March 11-20 at the Custer Hill Golf Course during the Spring Break Special.

Youth ages 18 and under can golf, college students and active duty Military E-4 and below can each golf for \$10. All others can play for \$15.

The rates include greens fees and cart rental.

For more information, call the Custer Hill Golf Course, 785-784-6000.

### EASTER EGG HUNT AT FORT RILEY POST LIBRARY

Youngsters 1-11 years of age are invited to follow the Easter Bunny to the Fort Riley Post Library for the annual Easter Egg Hunt 1-3 p.m. March 19.

For more information call, 785-239-5305.

### SOLDIER FOR LIFE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EVENTS

March 1 from 9 a.m. to noon, Youth Hiring and Education Fair, 5800 Thomas Drive, Fort Riley.

March 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Soldier For Life Transition Forum, 1st Infantry Division headquarters, building 580, room 110, 1st Division Road, Fort Riley. Military and spouses invited.

March 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Youth Hiring and Education Fair, 1st Infantry Division headquarters, building 580, room 110, 1st Division Road, Fort Riley. Military and spouses invited.

March 7 from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Employer Showcase, Transition Center, building 212, room 201, Fort Riley.

March 24 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Salina Police Employer Day, Testing and Interviews, building 210, room 118D, Fort Riley. Information session to follow 1-4 p.m.

March 29 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Annual KC Industry Day sponsored by Society for American Military Engineers, University of Missouri at Kansas City Student Union, Kansas City. Transportation and lunch provided. Interested persons should RSVP by March 18th to [hans.j.Lokodi.mil@mail.mil](mailto:hans.j.Lokodi.mil@mail.mil).

March 31 from 10 a.m. to noon, Industry Workshop Trade and Vocational with Westar Energy personnel, at Education Center in building 217, room 202, Fort Riley.

### THREAT AWARENESS AND REPORTING PROGRAM TRAINING

At Barlow Theater, March 2, April 13, May 11, June 1, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., training will be offered for Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and contractors.

For information or to schedule training, contact 785-240-3097.

### SLINGIN' INK TATTOO COMPETITION

Celebrate tattoos as an art form and an expression of individuality during the Warrior Zone's annual tattoo and art competition: It's time for Slingin' Ink. Slingin' Ink is set for 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29 at the Warrior Zone. There will be six tattoo competition categories; entry cost \$5 per tattoo, per category and is open to all contestants ages 18 and older. Entry is free for spectators. The Warrior Zone is open to guests 18 and older and is located at 7867 Normandy Drive.

For more information, visit [riley.armymwr.com](http://riley.armymwr.com) or call 785-240-6618.

### RALLY POINT BINGO

Bingo at Rally Point has changed – and you're going to love it. We now offer up to \$15,000 in payouts three nights per week — Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each session will feature 10 regular games that pay out at least \$150 each, plus five specials and a 50/50 fundraiser. The big prize? A \$7,500 progressive overall that starts at 48 numbers, with a \$200 consolation. We'll end the night with a big game, too: a coverall that pays out \$1,199 ... every night. Buy-ins start at just \$12, not including specials. Rally Point is located at 2600 Trooper Drive.

For more information, call 785-375-3260 or visit [riley.armymwr.com](http://riley.armymwr.com).

## 'Diehard' families get closer look at Soldier life



**Staff Sgt. Richard Jones, a power generation equipment repairer with the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, coaches Pfc. Vanessa Ruiz, a motor transport operator with 1st Eng. Bn., on proper shooting techniques during a family readiness group event Feb. 10 at the Engagement Skills Trainer on Fort Riley.**

### Family readiness group uses Engagement Skills Trainer to build interest

Story and photo by Spc. Derrik Tribbey  
1ST ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The "Diehard" family readiness group leaders of 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, invited family members and single Soldiers to the Engagement Skills Trainer Feb. 10 at Fort Riley.

Group leaders used the trainer to give family members a glimpse into the lives of their Soldiers.

The EST is a virtual simulator and helps Soldiers learn numerous tenets of firearms training including calibrating weapons, weapons qualification and engagement scenarios in various environments.

"We are trying to build an interest and trying to do activities so spouses or family members can come out and see what their husbands or family members do."

**CAPT. ERICA MIKELSON**  
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

"We are trying to get creative with FRG events," said Capt. Erica Mikelson, commander of Company E and FRG leader with 1st Eng. Bn. "We are trying to build an interest and trying to do activities so spouses or family members can come out and see what their husbands, wives or family members do."

Mikelson said this was the first event of its type for the FRG.

"But we try to do something fun and of interest and I think it brings families together," she added. "(Kids) can say, 'OK this is what my dad or my mom does sometimes for their job,' and the same thing for the spouses. They can experience what it feels like to be out on the range."

Louise Martinez, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Martinez, a platoon sergeant with 1st Eng. Bn., said she waited more than a year to be able to fire an M4 simulator at the EST and this opportunity gave her a sense of belonging.

"The FRG gives us a sense of family away from home," Martinez said. "It is camaraderie between everyone."

Martinez is from Virginia and met her husband while he was stationed at Fort Lee. Martinez said she was welcomed with open arms when moving to Fort Riley three years ago.

### MORE ONLINE

• For more information about the scholarships, visit [www.combinedscholarshipfund.org](http://www.combinedscholarshipfund.org).

## Scholarships available to Fort Riley families

Combined Scholarship Fund merit-based, for undergraduate studies only

By Maria Childs  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Combined Scholarship Fund of the Greater Fort Riley Community board members award scholarships to "Big Red One" and Fort Riley families each year.

This year the deadline for the application is March 21.

"We have an opportunity for them to get additional scholarship funds," said Jamie Roper, chair of the organization. "Our scholarships are available to military-affiliated high school seniors, current college students and military spouses."

The Combined Scholarship Fund is a board comprised of volunteers from the local Fort Riley community. Applicants must be a family member of an active duty, retired or deceased military member of the Fort Riley community. Qualified family members may also apply if the military sponsor has been re-assigned to another geographic location such as Korea and the remainder of the family stayed in the Fort Riley area.

Roper said the scholarship is for undergraduate studies only, and is merit-based. Each applicant can apply for only one scholarship category each year.

Last year, USAA awarded an endowment on behalf of Maj. Gen. Josue Robles Jr., former commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley. Roper said the endowment funds most of the awards, but generous

See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 10

"Once you've entered into war and once you've been part of it, then it becomes part of you for the rest of your life."

DAVE ROEVER | VIETNAM VETERAN



Dave Roever speaks to attendees at the National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 18 at Riley's Conference Center.

## 'Proud of my scars'

Vietnam veteran shares story at National Prayer Luncheon

Story and photo by Kelli Reese | 1ST INF. DIV. POST

Fort Riley hosted Vietnam Veteran and motivational speaker David Roever at the National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 18. The luncheon served as acknowledgement for a day of prayer for the nation, its government and leaders.

Roever served in the Navy as a brown water black beret Sailor, earning numerous awards, including the Purple Heart. As Roever told his story of sacrifice and loss, the audience at Riley's Conference Center listened intently through laughter and tears.

On July 26, 1969, Roever kissed his young wife goodbye before leaving for Vietnam. He didn't know that day would change everything. He spoke on war and the scars it leaves behind.

"Once you've entered into war and once you've been a part of it, then it becomes a part of you for the rest of your life," he said.

Roever's life plans were changed in one second. He wasn't aware that he was caught in enemy crosshairs. He pulled the pin of the phosphorus grenade in his hand, leaned back ready to release when a sniper shot him. The grenade blew up in his hand causing third

See PRAYER, page 10

### 'OPERATION WARRIOR RECONnect'

• The Roever Foundation's program, "Operation Warrior RECONnect" is designed to help young men and women reconnect with their family, faith and friends.

### MORE ONLINE

• Find out more about the operation by going to [www.roeverfoundation.org](http://www.roeverfoundation.org).

## Fort Riley Middle School holds Open House event

Event showcases student progress, allows parents to interact with each other

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

Students of Fort Riley Middle School were able to show off what they have been working on so far this year to their parents and friends at an Open House event Feb. 17. The school's choir, orchestra and band performed and students set up science fair projects in the gym for parents to see.

In the auditorium the choir started the event directed by vocal teacher Leah Hecker.

"I'm very, very, very proud of them for all of their hard work," Hecker said. "We got three songs together



The sixth-grade orchestra performs for parents, teachers and classmates during the four-song performance at the Fort Riley Middle School Open House Feb. 17.

for you today and one of them is in Spanish."

After the choir, the sixth-grade orchestra performed a few pieces

they had been working on. Staff Sgt. Travis Thompson, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry

"I think this is an awesome idea because this way we get to meet the teachers and actually see what our kids are doing."

**STAFF SGT. TRAVIS THOMPSON**  
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PARENT

Division, sat in the audience watching his daughter Mya play the cello.

"I think this is an awesome idea because this way we get to meet the teachers and actually see what our kids are doing," Thompson said. "My daughter was really excited to get me to come here to show me her science

See OPEN HOUSE, page 10



COMMUNITY CORNER

# Use this year’s rare extra day to leap into action for self-improvement

By Col. Andrew Cole Jr.  
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

Because the Earth takes 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds to complete its trip around the sun, we get an extra day every four years. That includes this year, when Feb. 29 comes around. Rarely do we get more time. You can't earn more of it, you can't save it up — it simply passes. With this extra day to remind you, ask yourself: what are you going to stop wishing about and start doing? Maybe you plan to improve fitness,

learn a new language, take a class, learn to train hamsters — whatever it is — why have you waited all those days and hours to begin? Don't let another 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds pass without actively working toward your goals. The amount of time we have available is finite and you can choose what you do with it.



Colonel Cole

Highly successful people don't have any more time than the rest of us, it is what they do with it that makes a difference. You can make excuses or you can explore ways to pursue self-improvement. So make a plan and get started. One area that has a long-lasting benefit in life is education or training. Whether you are a Soldier who plans to make the Army a career or you intend to move onto another profession, a Department of the Army civilian or a family member, choose to take advantage of opportunities

for education and training. Even if you don't know what you might be interested eventually pursuing, getting started with a few classes can help you define, and refine your interests. Yes, it requires a sacrifice of time, but what are you doing with that time now? If you are watching it go by empty, you are cheating yourself. That sacrifice could be an investment and later it can add to your quality of life by making you more qualified for your dream job or the next promotion. Maybe you just want to take classes in things that improve

your time away from the job. Do it. Learn a new hobby, take up art. Whatever you do, make sure that the time you have is full and enriching to you and your family. The staff of the Education Services Division, Directorate of Human Resources can help with counseling, classes, testing services, a tutor center, on post academic programs as well as assistance with financial aid and scholarships. To get started visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/fortrileyeducationservices](http://www.facebook.com/fortrileyeducationservices), the website at [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Education-and-Training.aspx](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Education-and-Training.aspx), email them at [usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.education-service@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.education-service@mail.mil) or call them at 785-239-6481.

You can do it. Get up and get started. Don't lose the time you have in life because you never get it back. Fill it up and make it count. — To comment on this article or to suggest a topic for Community Corner, email [usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil) or visit my Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/fortrileycg](http://www.facebook.com/fortrileycg).

# Riley Rascal’s Resale Market draws crowd

By Hannah Kleopfer  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

A long line of Fort Riley community members stood out the door of Rally Point Feb. 20. They were preparing to find children's toys and clothes at great prices during the Riley Rascal's Resale Market. Inside Rally Point, country music played as people shopped. The vendors were also community members selling their old children's clothes, toys and other supplies that they had no use for anymore.

"I had a lot of stuff in storage that was just sitting there," said Lindsay Hapney, wife of 1st Sgt. Glenn Hapney, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. "I would rather get them out of the way since I didn't need it." Hapney was about to do a little shopping herself after the rush of people had come and gone. "It's been packed since nine," Hapney said. "This has been great. There's tons of people coming through and getting stuff."

Many of the vendors took the break to look around at other booths and to see what they had sold so far. The event is similar to resale markets in the surrounding communities. Having, one on post was a collaborative idea from employees of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "We did more research and we decided to try it to see how well it turned out," said Diana McGee, manager of Rally Point. "I believed in the event and in the last week we pushed people

to come see us. For our first one, we had a good turnout. I was amazed in the beginning when we opened the doors and we had that long line turn out. People were grabbing and looking and I saw how pleased people were." McGee said she hopes to team with the spring Post-Wide Yard Sale May 14 and allow vendors to park their cars in the Rally Point parking lot to sell items. More events happening at Rally Point including bingo and Cocktails and Canvas can be found at [rileymwr.com](http://rileymwr.com).

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from page 9

support from the Fort Riley Spouses Club and other community donations are key to their success. "He wants to continue to support Big Red One families," Roper said. "It's the idea of Big Red One Soldiers helping Big Red One families." Roper said this year the organization and its board will award three \$2,000 scholarships as well as several other scholarships in various amounts. Each applicant must fill out an application, write an essay and provide

official documentation before the deadline. Lisa Cyrulik, co-chair of the organization, said they would like the applicant pool to become larger, so they are awarding the scholarships to the best people possible. "This is where the Army and the Army volunteers and the community partners of Fort Riley can take care of Army families," Cyrulik said. "We're volunteers — we give our time to give opportunities to Soldiers, families and children. It's not cheap to go to school and every little bit counts."

# Operation Santa Claus gets financial boost

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

Regional manager Janelle Kacsht and branch manager Sarah Leis of Navy Federal Credit Union presented a \$1,000 check to volunteers of Operation Santa Claus Fort Riley during the grand opening of Navy Federal Feb. 19 in Junction City, Kansas. "It's our honor and our privilege to be able to donate this," Kacsht said. Receiving the donation were Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins, Garrison senior noncommissioned



Regional manager Janelle Kacsht and branch manager Sarah Leis of Navy Federal Credit Union present a \$1,000 check to volunteers of Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus.

officer, Master Sgt. Kevin Boldin program coordinator of Operation Santa Claus, Christine Benne, Fort Riley Central Kansas Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, and Operation Santa Claus volunteers.

Benne said it was a great opportunity that they were able to be there to accept the donation. "Our 32nd year is coming up in October and during the summer we'll be working on getting more toys," Benne said. The donation to Operation Santa Claus will facilitate purchases of gifts for families in need during the 2016 holiday season. Operation Santa Claus is in partnership between Fort Riley and AUSA to assist families who may be facing financial difficulties during the holiday season by providing toys or gift cards for children birth to age 18.

# PRAYER

Continued from page 9

and second-degree burns to his face and body. Roever shares his message of hope with thousands of people around the world. "God has been good to me all my life; out of tragedy, he has brought triumph," he said. "I'm glad I didn't get what I deserved. I'm glad God blessed me in spite of who I am." As Roever retold the story of the day he left for Vietnam, he recounts the question his wife asked — was he was coming back. "If I think about it and talk about it, I can still taste the salt

of her tears that I kissed off her lips that day," he said. Although he came back home to open arms of a loving wife, he didn't come back the same person. "My scars are nothing to be ashamed of; my scars are probably the best things that ever happened to me," Roever said. "It gave me rapport with our troops all over the world and they look at me and understand that I know how they feel. I want the world to know that I am proud of my scars. I am proud I served my country and I am proud to be a Vietnam Veteran. I am

proud of the service God let me do for my nation." Chaplain (Col.) Keith Croom said the luncheon was a way in which the Lord is honored. It also helps others build relationships and move forward. Croom urged Soldiers to consider two things in Roever's message. "First," he said, "is (Roever's) example of resiliency, and second, the example of someone that has overcome much and can still love God." Roever spent time thanking the Soldiers at the luncheon, "Thank God almighty that

there are people like you in uniform who are standing for people like me who can't be in uniform again. For my family, my children and my grandkids, I'm here today to say thank you for standing up for freedom and for doing what you do." At the conclusion of the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, announced that he was making Roever an honorary member of the 1st Infantry Division and presented him with a coin.

# OPEN HOUSE


Continued from page 9

project and get to perform for us." According to Shannon Mott, Instruction Coach for Unified School District 475, the students were able to participate in the Seventh annual Science Fair at no cost thanks to things like the Achieve Grant, FRMS school clubs and Geary County Schools.

More than half of the 130 students will be going on to the science fair regional competition in Wamego March 4. Seventh-grade student Haven Habhab, daughter of Tara Habhab and Lt. Col. Travis Habhab, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Avia-

tion Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., was happy to show off her project. It focused on which sodas do the most to stain teeth and her project is going on to regionals. "It's fun," Habhab said. "I've seen a lot of people do stuff about soda and all this stuff and how it's unhealthy because of the sugar in it, but I realized

since like a lot of soda can ruin your teeth. Not just by cavities, but by dyes and stuff." She was also awarded the team champion for her project. Between checking out projects and performances, parents were able to walk through the school and meet their child's teachers.



COMBINED SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
OF GREATER FORT RILEY

**The 2016 Scholarship Application is now available!**  
Scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year are available to all military high school students, college students and spouses in the greater Fort Riley area who are pursuing undergraduate/vocational education. *See listed requirements on the application.*

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**Postmark deadline is 21 MARCH 2016**  
For questions, contact the CSF Co-Chairs, Jamie Roper or Lisa Cyrulik at [scholarship@combinedscholarshipfund.org](mailto:scholarship@combinedscholarshipfund.org)

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# If you can dodge a ball ...



**ABOVE:** Players get ready to begin a game during the dodgeball tournament Feb. 20 at King Field House. **BELOW:** Spc. Chris Watkins, right, 526th Quarter Master Composite Supply Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, tries to avoid being hit as the only player left from his team.



## ...You can play dodgeball with the 'Big Red One'

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

“Not today,” shouted a player running across the gym of King Field House as a ball came flying toward him. He demonstrated the competitive quality of play as members of the Fort Riley community took part in the annual dodgeball tournament Feb. 20. The event was held by employees of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“We’ve been hosting the dodgeball tournament for over 15 years,” said Renee Satterlee, intramural sports coordinator. “I was very happy with the turnout being that units are deployed and missions are going on.”

Teams and their supporters filled the King Field House gym as they awaited their turn to play. Each match was best out of three, with each game lasting three minutes. The tournament was open to all DOD cardholders 18-years-old and up.

The team 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, took the championship.

“We take part in every sporting event for the Commander Cup points,” said



Players of the team “In the Dodge House” try to find a target during the dodgeball tournament Feb. 20 at King Field House.

Staff Sgt. Wayne McTeer, 299th BSB, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “Even though my unit is deployed right now, I still try to do the event with the people I have here and try to win the Cup for the third year in a row.”

McTeer said he enjoys being able to take part in events like dodgeball with a tournament that can be done in one day.

“It’s something that you can get out do all the time,” McTeer said. “I wish Renee would have more. It’s a good way to get people together.”

# Bataan Memorial March 2016: Who will you march for?

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. — The 27th annual Bataan Memorial Death March is gearing up to step into another record-breaking year March 20 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The event is an active history lesson and a true test of endurance.

Considered one of the hardest marathon-length routes in the U.S., participants come from all over the world to honor the Bataan fallen and World War II survivors.

“They stand as a living testament to the memory of Bataan,” said WSMR Commander Brig. Gen. Timothy Coffin during the 2015 opening ceremony. “They faced physical and spiritual hardships that for many were too great to bear. The legacy of the march, which has brought us here today, keeps its history alive and ensures the sacrifices made and lessons learned are not forgotten.”

The story of the Bataan Death March began April 9, 1942, when around 75,000 Filipino and U.S. Soldiers were surrendered to the Japanese forces. The Americans were Army, Army Air Corp, Navy and Marines. Among those seized were members of the 200th Coast Artillery, New Mexico National Guard. The prisoners were forced to march

approximately 100 kilometers north to Nueva Ecija to Camp O’Donnell, a prison camp, in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles.

One of those brave men who survived the march is retired Col. Ben Skardon, a 97 year-old Bataan survivor who has marched 8.5 miles for the last eight years during the Bataan Memorial Death March.

“Coming to WSMR is now my pilgrimage,” Skardon said. “I’m privileged to be able to make my eighth trip to White Sands. I learned how easy it is to die when you lose the will to live,” he said.

Skardon was 24 years old and weighed 90 pounds at the time of rescue. He attributes his survival to two fellow Soldiers and Clemson graduates, Henry Leitner and Otis Morgan, who cared for him when he fell ill during the march. Before they were forced to march, Skardon said he hid away a can of condensed milk and his Clemson ring in a piece of cloth. He would take sips of the condensed milk during the march and traded his ring for a chicken and a can of ham.

In his honor, every year some of the participants carry cans of condensed milk signed by Skardon.

The prisoners of war were randomly beaten and denied food and water for days. Thousands died and those who fell behind were executed. Those

who survived the march faced hardships of prisoner of war camps. The march became known as the Bataan Death March.

“They disrupted the enemy’s timetable,” said Margaret Garcia, daughter of deceased Bataan Memorial Death March survivor Evans Garcia. “They crippled the Japanese War efforts. They kept the faith. They held on, dug deep, and found a reservation of strength and courage. If dad was here today he’d say... ‘Well, it wasn’t all bad. Let me tell you the pros,” she said.

During the 2015 memorial march, ten Bataan survivors shook every participants’ hand at the start and finish line. Seven Bataan survivors plan to attend the 2016 Bataan Memorial Death March.

One of the participants in 2015 was Cadet Sgt. Juan Carlos Estremadoyro-Fort, an 18-year-old cadet sergeant from the New Mexico Military Institute, who shook hands with Bataan survivors after he finished his first marathon-length run in a little over three hours.

Thirsty, hungry and with a slight cramp in his right leg he walked straight to the Bataan survivors to say thank you.

“For me it’s a reminder of those a long time ago who sacrificed so much for their country and today for those still serving all over the world,” Estremadoyro-Fort said.



LUCIANO VERA | WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**The 27th annual Bataan Memorial Death March is set to take place March 20 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.**

Since its inception in 1989, the Bataan Memorial Death March has grown from about 100 to over 12,000 marchers, spectators and volunteers from around the world. The march is a military event, but many civilians and athletes come to WSMR to take the challenge or volunteer.

Lisa Frankson, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation

Bataan March director, said that without the battalion of over 1,200 volunteers the annual Bataan Memorial Death March would not exist.

“We don’t have enough staff to support this size event,” she said. “It is critical that we have volunteers. It wouldn’t happen without them. The amount of support and hours they give can’t be measured.”

Frankson also said the volunteer-age groups vary but every year more and more younger volunteers can be seen all over the Bataan route.

“It’s very unique for the younger generation to volunteer for something like this,” she said. “The fact that they are here in mass is wonderful and inspiring. They get it and it gives you hope.”







# Travel & Fun in Kansas



***A world of natural beauty ...  
and the access is free***



Konza Prairie Trails can be reached on Konza Prairie Lane just off McDowell Creek Road outside of Manhattan. **TOP:** Signs show the way for visitors. **ABOVE:** Hikers of the Konza Prairie cross the final bridge to end their hike. All trails begin and end in the same spot. **FAR RIGHT:** The second bridge hikers cross before the hike up the Flint Hills on the Konza Prairie.

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

The Konza Prairie, located on Konza Prairie Lane just off McDowell Creek Road outside of Manhattan, has three hiking trails for visitors based on time and ability. The shortest of the trails, the Nature Trail, is two and a half miles and takes around two hours to walk. Kings Creek Loop is just under 4.5 miles and should take around 3.5 hours to finish. The longest trail is the Godwin Hill Loop taking around 4.5 hours to complete the 6-mile hike.

Many locals and college students took to the trails during the 70-degree weather last week to get in some exercise and enjoy the natural beauty of Kansas. There is something different to see during every season and the blue sky helps accentuate the color of the grass, flowers and native trees along the trails.

"When I told people in Michigan I was moving to Kansas they were quick to make fun of me for moving to such a 'flat and boring' state," said Kylie Fairman, a senior at Kansas State University. "While I knew this to be wrong, I had no idea how much I'd fall in love with the rolling hill lands and the Kansas skies. The Konza is such a great escape from day-to-day life."

While hiking the trails in free, a \$2 donation is appreciated and is used toward upkeep and research. Donations can be placed in a box at the main entrance next to the parking lot.

The Konza Prairie has a no-animal policy to safeguard native animals, and visitors.

Pets are welcome at Manhattan's Linear Trail, which wraps around different parts of the city for hikers and bikers with a distance of 9 miles. Along this trail, people get to see the local sites such as Manhattan Hill,



Kansas Hill and the Blue River off of Highway 24, where people can also take kayaks and canoes.

Visiting Linear Trail is free.

In Junction City there are multiple trails for hikers and cyclists. A park close to the city is Helland Park, which was created after land was donated to the city by the Helland family. Longtime residents Elmer and Annetta Helland had always welcomed community members and youth to use the property for outdoor activities such as sledding on the property.

Seitz Elementary principal Jodi Testa and her husband Randy Testa, who reside in Junction City, were asked to help create the vision for it. When starting the project in 2012, they decided they wanted to keep the legacy in honor of the Hellands by keeping the park family oriented.

The park, located at 8th Street and Rucker Road, features 5 miles of natural trails for walking, hiking and biking.

