



THE FIGHTING FIRST!

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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◀◀ FORT RILEY, KANSAS ▶▶



A LIGHT FOR ALL TO SEE

A choir of children from Child, Youth and School Services sing holiday carols to the audience of the Holiday Tree-lighting Ceremony Dec. 1 at Ware Parade Field. For the third carol, the audience was encourage to sing along with the children in "Here Comes Santa Claus" to welcome the man in the red suit.

Tree lighting ceremony illuminates start of holiday season



Sandralis Santan, daughter of Staff Sgt. Francisco Santan, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, grins as she gets her photo taken with Santa Claus after the tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 1 in the garrison headquarters, building 500. Attendees of the Holiday Tree-lighting Ceremony enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies as they watched the tree light up and visited with Santa Claus.

Story and photos by Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The twinkle and shine of dozens of lights and glistening ornaments lit up Ware Parade Field Dec. 1 at the Holiday Tree-lighting Ceremony.

As the sun sets and night crept in, dozens of Soldiers, their families and guests to Fort Riley gathered on the parade field in front of the garrison headquarters, building 500, to celebrate the start of the holiday season.

"This ceremony has been going on for 33 years here for the holiday season at the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley," said Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander.

The tree lighting is just one of many traditions and a small representation of Soldiers and their actions during the holiday season, Frank said. Throughout history, U.S. Army Soldiers and other U.S. service members have gone above and beyond to see to it that they and those around them, at home or deployed, enjoy the holidays together.

"The history of the U.S. Army is filled with stories of Soldiers providing Christmas gifts, holiday meals or a visit from Santa to children," Frank said. "I can guarantee you it's going on in Afghanistan, Iraq and Korea with our Soldiers right now."

Frank and Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Stephens, 1st Inf. Div. acting command sergeant major, flipped the switch, activating the

lights on the tree with the assistance of two daughters of deployed Soldiers, Neveah Brown, daughter of Sgt. Morris Brown, Company A, 299th Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., and Estela Chavez, daughter of Staff Sgt. Israel Chavez, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div.

Just before inviting Chavez and Brown on stage alongside himself and Stephens, Frank reminded everyone in attendance of the hardships faced by deployed Soldiers and their families.

"We would ask that all of us here take the time to thank our families of deployed Soldiers," he said. "It is always difficult when a Soldier is deployed over the holidays as

See LIGHTING, page 10

'Big Red One' Medal of Honor recipient honored with McGinnis challenge

Story and photo by Spc. Derrick Tribbey
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Servicemembers of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command — Operation Inherent Resolve participated in the "McGinnis Challenge" Dec. 4, a physical readiness challenge commemorating the actions of Spc. Ross McGinnis, 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

McGinnis exemplified the Army's highest ideal of selfless service when, while deployed with the "Blue Spaders" in 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad, McGinnis saved the lives of four

Soldiers when he threw himself on a grenade that landed inside his vehicle. For his actions, he was posthumously awarded the nation's highest award for acts of valor, the Medal of Honor.

Eighteen four-man teams participated in the physical-readiness challenge designed to remember the fallen hero and build morale and strengthen coalition relationships among today's servicemembers.

Each participant wore body armor weighing approximately 30 pounds throughout the event. The challenge included a 1-mile run to represent the "Big Red One," to which the Blue Spaders were attached during McGinnis' time with the unit. Also, in representation of the 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt., the workout included 126 repetitions of four different

exercises. The challenge concluded with a one-mile, simulated-casualty carry.

Sgt. Maj. Matthew Bartel, the senior enlisted leader of 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt., said he heard several stories indicating McGinnis could have easily escaped the grenade blast, but he chose to save others.

"In our conference room we have all of the Army values," Bartel said. "And under selfless service we have the picture of Ross McGinnis."

First Sgt. Jonathan Price, the senior leader of Co. C, 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt., added that one of the Soldiers who survived the grenade blast said that if it was not for McGinnis, he would not have made it home to his wife and two children. Price then mentioned that he feels inspired by Ross'

actions and hoped his Soldiers share the same mentality.

"Challenge is in the infantry blood," Price said. "We always have to have challenges and I think that's what the Soldiers want and I think that's what the Soldiers need."

Staff Sgt. Brandon Carpenter, a shift leader, Sgt. Arlina Travieso, the communications team leader, Pfc. Colton McKone, an infantryman and Spc. Benjamin Ferland, a driver, all assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force, won the competition with a time of 34 minutes, 31 seconds.

"I feel like it was a team effort," Travieso said. "We went down and gave it our all."

All participants received a Ross A. McGinnis Memorial KIA bracelet at the end of the challenge.



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Bruck, the second platoon sergeant with Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, deadlifts 185 pounds during the Union III "McGinnis Challenge" Dec. 4 in Baghdad, Iraq. Each group had to complete 126 repetitions of each exercise as a team before moving to the next exercise.

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Tara Habhab, wife of Lt. Col. Travis Habhab, commander of 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, is a volunteer with the Combined Scholarship Fund. She assisted with the review and approval of bylaws, applications, changes to the structure of the program, judging process and award ceremony. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call Becky Willis, Army Volunteer Corps Program manager, at 785-239-4593.

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HISTORIC HOMES OPENED DURING 33RD ANNUAL EVENT, SEE PAGE 9.

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KANSAS STATE WILDCATS WOMEN'S TEAM FALLS SHORT TO OHIO STATE BUCKEYES IN WEEKEND VOLLEYBALL MATCH, SEE PAGE 13.



THE FIGHTING FIRST!

Delores Vollenweider: A 'Big Red One' Soldier



By Phyllis Fitzgerald
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Delores Vollenweider was a "Big Red One" Soldier.

A native of Oconto, Nebraska, Delores Vollenweider joined the Army in the delayed entry program in December 1974 and went on active duty in August 1975.

She received basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and then served in the Women's Army Corps for the first two years of her career. Vollenweider then received Advanced Individual Training at Aberdeen Proving Ground Maryland.

"My MOS (military occupational specialty) was 45K which is a tank turret repairman" she said. "This MOS was only in the second year of being open to women."

Vollenweider's first assignment after AIT took her to Schweinfurt, West Germany from March 1976 to March 1979, where she worked on M551 Sheridan Tanks.

From March 1979 to September 1981, Vollenweider served at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

"I was a sergeant by then and assigned to Bravo Company, 705th Maintenance, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division," she said. "I also worked on the Sheridan tank and the M60A1 Patton tank at this assignment."

In February 1981, Vollenweider went to Kitzingen, West Germany, where she worked as a tank turret repairman on M60A1 (Patton) tank and the M1A1 Abrams Tank.

"I departed this assignment in February of 1984 and went back to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland where I stayed for six and a half years," Vollenweider said. "I was also a Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle instructor for four and a half years and a drill sergeant for two years for the AIT Company at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center School. Vollenweider's next assignment took her to Nuremberg, Germany where she was assigned to 1st Armored Division.

"In November 1990, our unit went to Desert, Storm Vollenweider said. "While deployed we chased parts and there were a couple of times that I led convoys out and back."

After Desert Storm, Vollenweider was transferred to Karlsruhe, Germany, where she served from October 1991 to July 1993, with the 3rd Combat Equipment Company, 3rd Maintenance Battalion, U.S. Army Europe Augmentation Readiness Group.

When Vollenweider left Germany to return stateside her Big Red One story began.

"In September 1993 I arrived at Fort Riley, Kansas," she said. "I was assigned to Headquarters and Company, Division Support Command, 1st Infantry Division. I was the maintenance manager for tanks. This assignment would be my last in the active Army."

Vollenweider has a favorite memory from her time as a Big Red One Soldier.

"My favorite memory during my time in the 1st Inf. Div. is getting to go the National Training Facility when I was four months pregnant," she said. "I did not have to wear an equipment belt but I did have to wear a helmet. I also enjoyed bouncing across the NTC Desert in a Humvee (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle)."

Vollenweider retired in October 1995 as a Sergeant First Class. She stayed in the Junction City area because of the military and because her children were in school. Vollenweider secured a contractor job at building 8100, supply and maintenance, on Fort Riley and worked there until May 2015.

"I was three months short of 20 years at building 8100," she said. Today she is a Mary Kay consultant and she said she enjoys being retired and at home.

Editor's Note: To submit your Big Red One story, email fitzmiss@yahoo.com.

THEN & NOW



BEST PLACE TO LIVE BEST PLACE TO TRAIN BEST PLACE TO DEPLOY FROM BEST PLACE TO COME HOME TO

'Devil' Soldiers explore a new opportunity

Story and photo by Cpl. Dasol Choi
1ST ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP HOVEY, Republic of Korea — Soldiers from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, were eager to learn when senior enlisted leaders from the U.S. Army Armor School held an information session at the Hovey Multipurpose Complex, Camp Hovey, South Korea.

During the information session Nov. 29, two representatives from the school, located at the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, Georgia, gave a brief overview of the Armor branch as well as introduced the curriculums of the School.

"We have visited here to give an updated brief about the branch," said Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Hummel, senior enlisted leader to the Armor School, who once served in the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. "So, we can show the 'Devil' brigade what is going on at Fort Benning with some initiatives and directions that the Armor community is moving toward."

The representatives discussed several topics including training and qualification opportunities the school is soon to offer, how to prepare a future career in the Armor branch and how to apply for a program at the School.

"The future of the Armor branch is in a higher demand



Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Hummel, senior enlisted leader to the Armor School at the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, Georgia, introduces programs soon to be offered at the school to 'Devil' Soldiers during his visit Nov. 29 at the Hovey Multipurpose Complex, Camp Hovey, South Korea.

right now than it has been in 20 years," Hummel said. "Since the Cold War, the Armor branch is alive and well, and the demand signal for the armored brigade combat teams to deploy is really great for the branch."

During his speech, Hummel also brought up new changes that the branch is about to face.

"With vehicle modernization, professional military education and structural changes in the Armor branch, it's (an) exciting time to be in the Armor force," Hummel said.

Devil Soldiers asked several questions about the branch and the school.

"I learned about a future that sounded really interesting," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Fisher, a cavalry scout with 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. "I thought there were a lot of things I

could do and invest more time on, because I believe they are going to make our jobs better."

Not only did the briefing by the representatives from the school provide non-armor Soldiers with another opportunity to consider, it also challenged Soldiers currently in that branch to continue their careers.

"It pushes young enlisted Soldiers to challenge different schools and programs," said Spc. Luis Palos, a M1 Armor crewman from the 3rd Bn., 66th Armor Regt., 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. "If they want to start a school, they have options now and know how to do it."

Early 2017 tax filers may not receive refund until after Feb. 15 due to new law

By Bob Kramer
DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

FORT MEADE, Md. — Some taxpayers plan their holiday shopping and other purchases on the assumption they will get their tax refund from the Internal Revenue Service in January.

In 2017, that may no longer be the case.

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes, or PATH Act, signed into law December 2015, requires the IRS to hold tax refunds that include Earned Income Tax Credit and Additional Child Tax Credit until Feb. 15, 2017.

This law requires the IRS to hold refunds until mid-February in 2017 for people claiming the EITC or the ACTC. Also, new identity theft and refund fraud safeguards by both the IRS and

individual states may mean some tax returns and refunds face additional review.

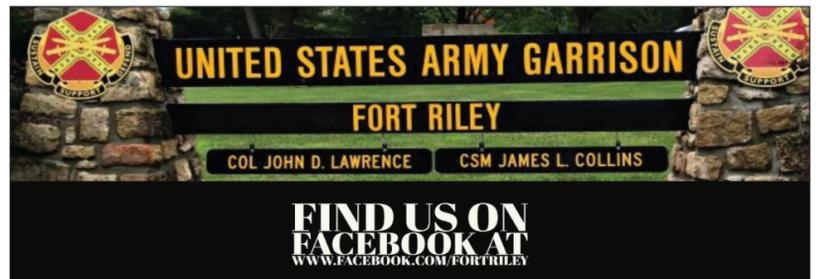
SOME REFUNDS DELAYED IN 2017

Beginning in 2017, the IRS must hold the entire refund — even the portion not associated with the earned income credit or additional child credit — until at least Feb. 15. The IRS says this change helps ensure taxpayers get the refund they are owed by giving the agency more time to help detect and prevent fraud.

"This is an important change, as some of these taxpayers are used to getting an early refund," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "We want people to be aware of the change for their planning purposes

during the holidays. We don't want anyone caught by surprise if they get their refund a few weeks later than in previous years."

As in past years, the IRS will begin accepting and processing tax returns once the filing season begins. All taxpayers should file as usual, and tax return preparers should submit returns as they normally do. Although the IRS cannot issue refunds for some early filers until at least Feb. 15, the IRS reminds taxpayers most refunds will be issued within the normal timeframe: less than 21 days, after being accepted for processing by the IRS. The Where's My Refund? tool on IRS.gov and the IRS2Go phone app remains the best way to get the status of a refund.



Are **YOU** and your **FAMILY** **READY** for an **EMERGENCY?**

'Vanguard' Soldiers invite veterans to tour area of operations, attend reunion ball

Story and photo by Sgt. Takita Lawery
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DETACHMENT

The 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, welcomed retired Col. Edwin W. Chamberlain III, retired Col. Mike McDermott, Richard Jacobs, Lawrence Van Kuran and Jim Sharp to Fort Riley to attend the "Vanguard" battalion reunion ball Dec. 1.

The five distinguished guests toured the battalion's area of operation, as well as shared stories of their experiences while serving in the battalion.

"I'm part of the living history of this unit," said Sharp, a World War II veteran of the battalion. "This unit has been protecting our nation for more than 100 years and

"I'm part of the living history of this unit. This unit has been protecting out nation for more than 100 years and it's the history that makes me proud of this unit."

JIM SHARP | WORLD WAR II VETERAN

it's the history that makes me proud of this unit."

Chamberlain, who was a former Vanguard commander and participated in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, said he tries to visit with the 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt., at least once a year, mainly around the holiday season because meeting with the Soldiers is everything to him.

"I had the opportunity to command the best battalion in the Army," Chamberlain said. "This rejuvenates me every time I get to meet with the Soldiers."

While there, Chamberlain, the honorary colonel of the

18th Inf. Regt., stressed the importance of Soldiers knowing the history of their unit and where it has been.

"It's important for the Soldiers to know and understand where their regiment has been," Chamberlain said. "I think this gives them an anchor. They can say 'I'm a part of something bigger than myself, bigger than all of us.'"

With the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack nearing, Sharp was on hand to discuss his memories of the war.

Sharp, who served in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII, spoke about two of his

memories about the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was a junior in high school when he heard about the bombing.

"I remember six words that changed my life from that point on: The Japanese are bombing Pearl Harbor," Sharp said.

He had decided to join the military with his friends after hearing that news. He also discussed how he was lucky to have made it out alive when the war was declared over.

"When I heard that the war was over, I felt very lucky to be alive so I counted my blessings ever since," the White City, Kansas, native said.

During the visit, a few of the distinguished guests were on hand to present awards and gifts, as well as promote Vanguard Soldiers to their next rank. The day culminated with the unit's reunion ball, where Chamberlain was the guest speaker.



Staff Sgt. Juan Cruz, a section sergeant assigned to Company B, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, speaks with retired Col. Edwin W. Chamberlain III and Jim Sharp about the M2 Bradley fighting vehicle Dec. 1 during a visit to the "Vanguard" battalion motor pool on Fort Riley. Chamberlain, who is the 18th Inf. Regt. honorary colonel, and Sharp were among the five veterans invited by the Vanguard battalion to tour the area of operations and attend the unit's reunion ball.

Army officials move to integrate electronic warfare, cyber

By Sean Kimmons
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Electronic warfare Soldiers will soon be working more closely with their cyber counterparts, as Army officials plan to move both specialties into the same career field and put new doctrine to the test.

Within two years, Army officials hope to have a cyber electromagnetic activities operational detachment ready to train for future warfare.

"We're going to look at an operational capability that we're going to deploy to a theater to practice what we preach," said Brig. Gen. Patricia Frost, director of cyber for the Army's G-3/5/7.

The electronic warfare 29-series career field will also fall under the cyber operations 17-series career field by October 2018, she said. Before that happens, new electronic warfare operators will begin training on a foundation that also includes cyber and signals intelligence.

"That is really critical when we look at what the foundation is needed to operate in this space," Frost said Dec. 1 during a panel discussion hosted by the Association of the Old Crows, an international organization specializing in electronic warfare and information operations.

The changes are in furtherance of her directorate's top priority of integrating cyber with electronic warfare and information operations in order to keep Soldiers at the cutting edge.

"We maneuver in the electromagnetic spectrum," Frost said. "Almost all joint warfighting functions require access if you're going to perform an electronic war at its max efficiency."

In multi-domain battle, access to those capabilities could also be spread much easier among the Army, its sister services and allies if they all share a holistic approach to defense.

"How we defend and share defense technologies is very important," she said. "You want every commander to be able to see every domain. We want them to be well informed going forward in combat operations."

But this may be complicated if the Army and its joint partners decide to use cyber and electronic warfare differently.

"At the end of the day, it's not an Army fight, it's a joint fight," the general said. "So we need to understand all the capabilities across the joint warfighting force that's operating in this space."

That's one of the reasons the focus now is on training up and forming the cyber force before rolling out equipment.

"I'm not concerned about the resourcing today," Frost said. "I'm more concerned about the reorganization and the training of the personnel."

"You can deliver a material solution and capability to a theater," she added, "but if you don't have the people who trained behind that, that material will just sit somewhere in a container."

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Irwin Army Community Hospital

Service to the Armed Forces leadership team visits Fort Riley to tour facilities

Story and photo by Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces Regional Leadership Team visited Fort Riley Nov. 29 and 30 to meet with Soldiers, volunteers and American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces staff members.

Jill Orton, chief executive officer, Kevin Zuroski, director, and Richard Dinsdale, communications director, toured the new Irwin Army Community Hospital and spoke with staff members and Soldiers at the facility. The leadership team also visited with Soldiers and staff at the Warrior Transition Battalion. At each location, they discussed medical needs and services they could help provide or improve upon through the American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces.

"As to better understand my entire region and particularly the line of service of our services to armed forces and our military families, I wanted firsthand knowledge and experience of being on the bases that we serve," Orton said.

Fort Riley is a part of the Kansas, Nebraska and

Southwest Iowa region for the American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces, which is the largest of the regions within its division. Of the three installations included in the region, Fort Riley is by far the largest and most active, Zuroski said.

"Our region has the largest SAF, Service to the Armed Forces, footprint," Orton said.

During their tour of IACH, the leadership team met with Col. John Melton, IACH commander, to discuss ways to further integrate and connect the Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces with the medical professionals at IACH. They also discussed future services and areas that needed work that the Red Cross personnel could or currently do provide.

"For me, being the regional director, it's important to understand what we can deliver and what our clients want and how can we meet those expectations," Zuroski said. "It's important to have that face-to-face communication to understand the relationship that we have with the military community."

Dinsdale and Zuroski both said they were impressed with

the technology and medical services available at IACH and through the teamwork of IACH and Red Cross staffs. They added the contrast between the historic buildings and modern facilities on Fort Riley were stunning and showed how historic and important the installation was.

"It's very interesting to see what the Red Cross is doing for service members," Dinsdale said. "We had a great tour this afternoon of the new hospital ... I love the contrast between the old ... with the brand new beautiful medical facility, it's amazing."

The Fort Riley community and the American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces team have a close relationship and several partnerships with other organizations at Fort Riley. Orton said she was surprised, but grateful to see how intertwined the American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces team and Fort Riley community have become.

"It's a joy to see what a strong foothold that the Red Cross has and how well respected we are and not just from a brand perspective, but everybody knows Becky

(LaPolice, Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces regional manager) and Leslie (Jones, regional program specialist) and the volunteers here," she said.

However, Orton's favorite thing about the visit was getting to see their volunteers, staff and meet with some representatives from the community partner organizations.

"To be able to see our workforce, both paid and volunteer, how we connect in the community with our community partners, so that we can be good community partners and build upon community resiliency," Orton said.

The leadership team's visit wasn't just about meeting community partners and talking with Soldiers, it was an opportunity for Dinsdale, Zuroski and Orton to learn where strengths and weaknesses lie. Dinsdale, who became the communications director three weeks ago, said the visit showed him areas where they could improve in building awareness of services.

For Orton, she said they will begin working toward connecting branches of the American Red



The Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces regional leadership team meets with Fort Riley Service to the Armed Forces staff, volunteers and representatives from partner organizations Nov. 29 at Grimes Hall. Jill Orton, chief executive officer, Kevin Zuroski, director, and Richard Dinsdale, communications director, toured Irwin Army Community Hospital and the Warrior Transition Battalion to better understand the medical capabilities and needs at Fort Riley.

Cross Service to the Armed Forces within their region to better support one another.

Zuroski agreed with Dinsdale and Orton's observations and added one of their key areas is making sure they are always prepared to meet the needs of the community.

"We have to be able to adjust to meet the needs of the

community and that's really where the volunteer comes in and helps make us flexible," he said.

For more information about the Fort Riley American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces, visit www.redcross.org/local/kansas or www.facebook.com/Fort-Riley-American-Red-Cross-115213635232800.

Good plan, right materials identified as essential to effective Military Health System

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

"Building requires a variety of skills and talents to ensure the building will withstand anything," said Dr. Karen Guice, principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, performing the duties of the assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. "Build carefully with clarity of purpose using the right materials but ready to meet necessary change of new requirements."

Guice led the Dec. 1 panel discussion at the Society of Federal Health Professionals 2016 meeting at National Harbor near Washington, D.C. Guice was joined on stage by Navy Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, director of the Defense Health Agency; Army Lt. Gen. Nadja West, Army surgeon general; Navy Vice Adm. Forrest Faison, Navy surgeon general; Air Force Lt. Gen. Mark Ediger, Air Force surgeon general; and Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Carvalho the Joint Staff surgeon.

Guice invoked the AMSUS meeting theme of "raising the bar" using the analogy of a reinforcement bar in construction to describe how the Military Health System is like a building with several rooms and floors. Each part is built for its own roles, such as the humanitarian room of MHS working to solve the Ebola crisis in West Africa in 2014, and the room with changes being made to better TRICARE, the health benefit for military members, retirees and their families. But there must be connectivity between the floors and hallways to bring together the



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Karen Guice, principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, performing the duties of the assistant secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, listens during a discussion at the AMSUS (the Society of Federal Health Professionals) 2016 meeting at National Harbor near Washington, D.C., Dec. 1. Guice led the panel and was joined by, from left to right, Army Lt. Gen. Nadja West, Army surgeon general; Air Force Lt. Gen. Mark Ediger, Air Force surgeon general; Navy Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, director, Defense Health Agency; Navy Vice Adm. Forrest Faison, Navy surgeon general, not pictured; and Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, Joint Staff surgeon, not pictured.

different rooms, and those construction bars must not become barriers

"We in the MHS have organizational silos, serving as our physical barriers to conversations, collaboration, cooperation and coordination," Guice said. "Commitment to performance goals and common purpose are more important to team success than team building. Real teams are the most successful spearhead of change at all levels."

Carvalho talked about the interservice and international flavor of military medicine, pointing out how it needs to be a flexible, globally integrated operation.

"We're going to have to be agile, innovative and think outside the box," Carvalho said, adding U.S. military forces must be ready to face the challenges of a battlefield

that exists on several levels, aka, multidomain.

Guice pointed out that in an operating room, the service affiliation and even the national origin of doctors and nurses makes no difference to those receiving care.

"Once you're in scrubs, cap and mask, we all look pretty much the same to the patient," she said.

Bono continued the theme, pointing out how raising the bar means being able to meet the changing needs of military members who have to go to the battlefield and those medical providers who must be ready to follow them there.

"Our needs of readiness are evolving as we speak," Bono said. "Our ability (to be flexible) in a multidomain, multifunctional conflict depends on our ability to think things differently."

Ediger said the Air Force is redefining medical readiness to reflect a full spectrum of needs and abilities.

"So we're capable of doing the things we need to do in support of combat or disaster relief operations," he said.

Faison pointed out how the vast majority of military members are millennials, born after 1986. This is a group known as early adopters of technology to make their lives more convenient.

"They and their colleagues in that generation are fundamentally changing health care and health care delivery," Faison said. "And we must adapt to that or we will become irrelevant."

West reminded the providers at AMSUS they exist to serve those vital medical needs of those who wear the uniform. And there's really not much room for error when it comes that.

"If we don't get taking care of the service members right, it really does not matter what else we get right," West said. "That's why we exist."

Guice said all construction needs a good plan that is inclusive of the ideas of many people who feel they all have value and are working together as a team for a single purpose. She said DHA is far from a perfect organization when it comes to instituting everything needed for constructing the ideal environment of inclusion and cooperation.

"But isn't that part of raising the bar?" Guice asked those attending the session. "There's always more work to do, and higher levels of performance are always possible."

Webinar to discuss TRICARE, Affordable Care Act to take place

TRICARE

TRICARE and Military OneSource are co-hosting a webinar to educate TRICARE



beneficiaries about tax reporting and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The webinar will take place Dec. 12 from noon to 1 p.m. EST.

Go to attendee. gotowebinar.com/register/4003666362685116418 to sign up. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and is limited due to system capacity. For participants on networked computers, please join us at our Defense Collaboration Services link: <https://conference.apps.mil/webconf/TRICAREMEC>. Please avoid sharing personal health information when asking a question. For audio, call 1-866-724-3083, access code 1085851.

All Americans, unless exempted, must have minimum essential coverage. Basic health care coverage that meets the Affordable

Care Act requirement. If you don't have coverage, you may have to pay a fee for each month you aren't covered. (MEC) or pay a monthly "individual shared responsibility" tax penalty via federal tax returns. TRICARE fulfills the MEC requirements of the ACA under certain conditions.

The speaker for this event is Mark Ellis, a senior health program analyst with the TRICARE Health Plans Division of the Defense Health Agency. Mark manages the Continued Health Care Benefit and TRICARE Young Adult programs which offer premium based health care coverage to former service members and their family members when they are no longer eligible for TRICARE benefits. He has 35 years of Department of Defense health care experience.

TRAFFIC REPORT

ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS OF OPERATION

Motorists wanting access to Fort Riley on Saturday or Sunday should use Estes, Ogden, Henry or Trooper gates.

For more information about Fort Riley access procedures, visit www.riley.army.mil.

The access control point hours are now as follows:

Henry/Trooper/Ogden/Estes:

Open 24/7. Commercial traffic at Estes is required to have an access pass or badge prior to trying to access.

12th Street:

Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday;

This gate will have inbound commercial vehicle lanes only. Although personally owned vehicles will be allowed access, there will no longer be a designated POV lane. Outbound traffic at 12th Street Gate will not be authorized.

Grant:

Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

Four Corners:

Closed indefinitely to all vehicle traffic.

CONSTRUCTION AT ESTES GATE

There will be construction congestion at Estes Gate from Dec. 12 through 22 while repairs are taking place.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FORTRILEY

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RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What is at the top of your Christmas list this year?



"To see my grandparents."

KRISTAL BRYAN
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Bryan, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division



"My main thing is family time. I would rather have family together for a meal than receive a gift."

STAFF SGT. T.J. DEALDO
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Dental Activity



"A Roomba vacuum."

HEATHER MAY
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Wife of Sgt. Jacob May, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"An upright Shark vacuum."

AVA JELONEK
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Wife of Sgt. Will Jelonek, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"Snow on Christmas."

HEATHER STALLINGS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Wife of Master Sgt. Daniel Stallings, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 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 an e-mail usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil

COMMAND TEAM CORNER

Plan for winter weather to hit the area

Family and friends of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, as we get deeper into the winter season and closer to the holidays, we also draw closer to the seasonal dangers that accompany those holidays. The "Big Red One" family wants you and your families to stay safe during the holidays.

For those of you traveling, please ensure that you keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle including jumper cables, blankets, water, first-aid kit and flashlight. It is also important that you check the weather before you leave your house.

You should tell your first-line supervisor and family where you are going during your travels. As with any other time in the year, don't drink and drive and be responsible with your alcohol consumption.

Precautions should be made to save money on heating and to help keep your families safe. Ensure you insulate water lines that run along exterior walls. Make sure your heater is serviced and running properly.

If you are setting up a Christmas tree in your house,

ensure you keep it watered — dry trees are more likely to catch fire.

While you are outside, remember to also wear appropriate clothing and safety gear and take appropriate precautions when hanging holiday decorations or participating in outdoor winter activities. This should include keeping kitty litter or sand to sprinkle on ice that freezes over on sidewalks and walkways near your home to prevent falls.

Your pets' safety is also important. Your pets will need

more food during the winter months. Also, your pets should not be left outside or in your car for prolonged periods.

This is great time of year but be safe everyone is vital to the Big Red One family. I and all of the 1st Inf. Div. command team wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Duty First!

Jonathan D. Stephens
Command Sergeant Major,
USA

Rear Division Command Sergeant Major

November court martial, trial results released

OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

NOVEMBER RESULTS OF TRIAL, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

United States District Court at Fort Riley is part of the United States Federal Court system for the District of Kansas. The Court handles all traffic tickets issued to Soldiers and civilians that occur on Fort Riley and all criminal cases against civilians.

NOVEMBER 3

Miller-Cathey, Jasmine M., Fort Riley, pleaded guilty to criminal damage to property and interference with law enforcement. District Court sentence: one year supervised probation, \$10 and \$25 special assessment.

Keck, Jessica D., Fort Riley, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. District Court sentence: \$100 fine and \$5 special assessment.

Ross, Zachary A., Junction City, Kansas, pleaded guilty to transporting an open container. District Court sentence: \$200 fine and \$10 special assessment.

Jones, Demetrius B., Fort Riley, pleaded guilty to assault. District Court sentence: one year of supervised probation, first four months restricted to residence except when working and \$25 special assessment.

Georges, Kendra M., Fort Riley, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. District Court sentence: \$50 fine and \$5 special assessment.

NOVEMBER 17

Alesna, Eugene L., Manhattan, Kansas, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. District Court sentence: \$100 fine and \$5 special assessment.

Chevrefils, Branden P., Windsor, Colorado, pleaded guilty to theft of government property. District Court sentence: \$100 fine and \$25 special assessment.

Gordon, Antoninque M., Fort Riley, pleaded guilty to interference with law enforcement. District Court sentence: \$200 fine and \$25 special assessment.

Bagley, Devonte D., Manhattan, Kansas, probation terminated, revoked. District Court sentence: Imprisonment for 14 consecutive days.

Atkinson, Joshua D., Platte City, Missouri, Pleaded no contest to theft of government property. District Court sentence: \$200 fine and \$25 special assessment.

NOVEMBER COURTS-MARTIAL RESULTS

At a summary court-martial convened Nov. 16 at Fort Riley Pfc. Cassandra R. Hickey, Troop E, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, pleaded guilty to one specification of conspiracy to destroy private property valued over \$500 and one specification of attempting to destroy private property valued at more than \$500, in violation of Articles 81 and 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The summary court-martial officer sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E2, to be restricted for 45 days and to receive a written admonition.

At a summary court-martial convened Nov. 29 at Fort Riley Pfc. Eesah O. Hellalat, Company B, 601st Aviation Support Brigade, 1st CAB, 1st Inf. Div., pleaded guilty to one specification of absent without leave, four specifications of failing to report to his appointed place of duty, and two specifications of disobeying a noncommissioned officer, in violation of Articles 86 and 91 of the UCMJ. The summary court-martial officer sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E1, to forfeit \$1,044 pay and to be confined for 30 days.

At a general court-martial convened Nov. 14 at Fort Riley Spc. Stefan M. Hastings, Company E, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st CAB,

1st Inf. Div., was convicted by a military judge of one specification of sexual assault, in violation of Article 120, after June 28, 2012, of the UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 3 years and to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge.

At a general court-martial convened Nov. 30 at Fort Riley Pvt. Vincentmatthew B. Macario, Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., was convicted by a military judge of one specification of rape in violation of Article 120, after June 28, 2012, of the UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of private, E-1, to be confined for 66 months, and to be discharged from the service with a dishonorable discharge.

At a special court-martial convened Nov. 4 at Fort Riley Spc. David W. Rammel, 73rd Military Police Detachment, 97th Military Police Battalion, was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of assault consummated by a battery upon a child under 16 years in violation of Article 128 of the UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 90 days and to be reduced to the grade of E-3. A pretrial agreement had no effect on the sentence.

At a special court-martial convened Nov. 22 at Fort Riley Staff Sgt. Thomas K. Yim, 24th Composite Truck Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of insubordinate conduct towards a warrant officer, noncommissioned officer, or petty officer and nine specifications of failure to obey an order or regulation in violation of Articles 91 and 92 of the UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of Specialist, E-4 and to perform hard labor without confinement for three months. A pretrial agreement had no effect on the sentence.

SAFETY CORNER

Be prepared to stay safe, healthy during winter

By Dawn J. Douglas

GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Team Riley, as we approach the holidays and anticipate time with family and friends, we also want to make sure we that our holiday plans don't turn into holiday tragedies. The key to averting disasters during winter is preparation. We always hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be extremely hazardous. Planning ahead for the winter includes, preparing your home and car; preparing for power outages; and preparing for outdoor activities.

Many people choose to hibernate during the winter, only venturing outside when absolutely necessary. But doing so is no guarantee of safety. Your home has hidden dangers. Take these steps to keep your home safe and warm during winter months:

EQUIP IN ADVANCE FOR EMERGENCIES.

Be prepared for weather-related emergencies, including power outages.

- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers.
- Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged.

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME.

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

CHECK YOUR 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. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.

- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- Winter heat sources can lead to buildup of carbon monoxide inside. Prevent carbon monoxide emergencies.
- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
- Keep grills, camp stoves, and generators out of the house, basement and garage. Locate generators at least 20 feet from the house.
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.
- Leave your home immediately if the CO detector sounds, and call 911.

PREPARE YOUR CAR.

Get your car ready for cold weather use before winter arrives. Service the radiator and maintain the antifreeze level; check tire tread or, if necessary, 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 a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded. The kit should include:

- Cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries
- Blankets
- Food and water
- Booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter for traction
- compass and maps
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Plastic bags for sanitation

TIPS FOR TRAVEL.

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.
- Follow these safety rules if you become stranded in your car.
- 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.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS OUTDOORS

Many people spend time outdoors in the winter working, traveling, or enjoying winter sports. Outdoor activities can expose you to several safety hazards, but you can take these steps to prepare for them:

- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: wear a tightly woven, preferably wind-resistant coat or jacket; inner layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.
- Sprinkle cat litter or sand on icy patches.
- Learn safety precautions to follow when outdoors.
- Work slowly when doing outside chores.
- Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreation.
- Carry a cell phone.

Above all, be ready to check on family and neighbors who are especially at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults, and the chronically ill. If you have pets, bring them inside. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate, warm shelter and unfrozen water to drink.

For more tips on winter safety, contact the Fort Riley Garrison Safety Office, 785-240-0647.

The next USAG Resilience Day Off is

DEC.

23

SAFETY HOLIDAY



As of Wednesday, Dec. 7, 151 days have passed since the last vehicular fatality at Fort Riley. Seventy-one more and the post will celebrate with a safety holiday to take place at each unit's discretion.





Army graduates 13 women from Armor Basic Officer Leader Course

By C. Todd Lopez
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — At Fort Benning, Georgia, the Army for the first time Dec. 1 held a graduation for the Armor Basic Officer Leader Course that included female Soldiers among the graduates.

“It’s a great day,” said Maj. Gen. Eric J. Wesley, commanding general of the Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, during a press conference in advance of the graduation. “You’re going to see today 65 great armor lieutenants walk across the stage as graduates of the ABOLC.”

Of the 65 graduates, Wesley said, 13 are female officers. All had met the objective criteria that define the role of a combat leader, he said. The Army’s decision to open the course up to women, he believes, will have the overall effect of strengthening the Army through diversity.

“It’s broadened the pool from which we draw to promote to platoon leaders in the armor branch because we’ve extended the opportunity to be armor leaders to women in the Army,” he said. “So we have a much broader pool of talent, all normalized, based on the standards that we have emplaced on armor leaders.”

The ABOLC is attended by second lieutenants who are new to the Army. The 19-week, three-phase course

“It’s broadened the pool from which we draw to promote to platoon leaders in the armor branch because we’ve extended the opportunity to be armor leaders to women in the Army.”

MAJ. GEN. ERIC J. WESLEY

COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY MEANUEVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

provides commanders in the field with armor or cavalry platoon leaders trained in the fundamentals of tank and reconnaissance platoon weapon systems and capabilities, combined-arms maneuver and area security tactics.

Staff Sgt. George M. Baker, an ABOLC cadre member, said that initially there was skepticism among trainers about how the women would perform in the course. That skepticism, he said, soon vanished.

“As soon as they started performing to those same standards — because we didn’t change anything — and they performed to those same standards, they met and exceeded those standards,” Baker said. “It solidified that they have a place here.”

Fellow ABOLC instructor, Staff Sgt. William J. Hare, said that, after pushing through the latest iteration

of ABOLC, he wouldn’t have a problem serving as a Soldier under any the women he was charged with instructing.

“They have been astronomical,” Hare said. “They blew us away during our field training exercises. Their ability to plan and execute on the fly and execute that plan in a clear and concise manner and communicate plan changes on the go was amazing.”

STANDARDIZATION

A key to ensuring that only the best officers would make it into the armor branch, Wesley said, was the development of a set of standards that would apply equally to both men and women who go through the ABOLC.

The high physical demands of the course are gender-neutral and difficult, he said. They define what an

officer must be able to do physically to serve as an armor officer.

“The beauty of the high physical demands test is that it eliminates or removes the whole question of gender relevance,” Wesley said. “If you base your performance and the graduation on standards, that just falls away and disappears. And it becomes a merit-based effort.”

The course’s physical demands included dragging a 188-pound casualty over a 15-meter distance in 60 seconds; a 12-mile foot march with 68 pounds of gear and uniform lasting five hours; removing a 188-pound casualty with 19 pounds of uniform and equipment from a vehicle; and moving a dozen 55-pound, 155-millimeter multi-purpose anti-tank projectiles from an ammo point to a tank in five minutes.

Wesley said, in recent months, women Soldiers have also endured

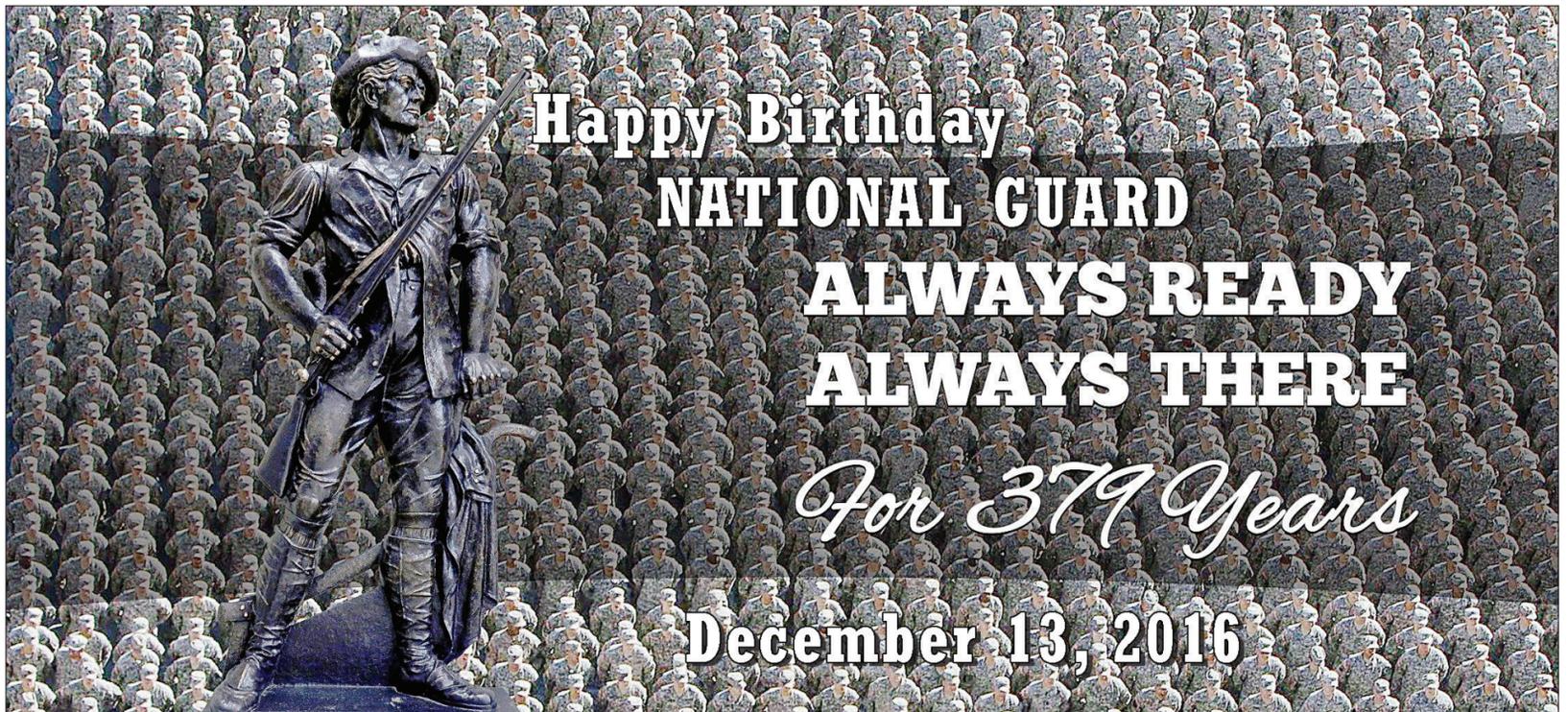
and graduated Ranger School and the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course. There, too, standards were applied equally both to men and women.

“We spend a lot of time measuring the metrics we use to assess the performance of leaders in training,” Wesley said. “And as we scrutinize those, we collectively come to agree on ... the important, critical tasks. Then we charge the lieutenants to perform in accordance of those tasks. And when they do, they become graduates of the institution, who are fully qualified in accordance with Army standards.”

Wesley hasn’t failed to notice the intense media interest that greeted the graduation of female Soldiers from Ranger School back in August 2015. In October, when 10 women graduated IBOLC, he noted that the media interest had dwindled.

There was even less interest in the ABOLC graduation, he said.

“It tells you that this is business as usual,” he said. “We train leaders at Fort Benning. We just got done with a session of triaging 65 brand new armor lieutenants, and they will walk across the stage today. What stays the same? At Fort Benning, we train combat leaders.”



Remembering the tragedy of Pearl Harbor, 75 years after the attack

By David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — In the decades that followed World War II, the attack on Pearl Harbor had faded somewhat in the American public's memory. The attacks of 9/11 changed all of that.

"All those bad memories surged forward again," said James C. McNaughton, who served as command historian for U.S. Army Pacific from 2001 to 2005. Today, he is the director of Histories Division at the Army Center of Military History.

Just weeks after the 9/11 attacks, McNaughton attended a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy. At the ceremony, he found himself among a large number of World War II veterans and Pearl Harbor survivors.

McNaughton attributes the fading memory of the events that transpired at Pearl Harbor 75 years ago, Dec. 7, 1941, in part, to World War II veterans' reticence to share their own wartime memories.

THREE MISSIONS

The story of the devastating Japanese air strike on U.S. naval forces that day has been well documented, McNaughton observed — less so the Army's role in the response.

At the time of the attack, 43,000 Soldiers were on active duty in Hawaii, where they were tasked with three primary missions, McNaughton said, the first of which was to protect the territory of Hawaii from an invasion. Hawaii did not become a state until 1959.

The second was to defend the fleet with coast artillery and anti-aircraft artillery. Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George C. Marshall Jr. had made it very clear to the highest-ranking Army officer, Lt. Gen. Walter Short, commander, U.S. Army Hawaiian Department, that his No. 1 mission was to protect the fleet, McNaughton said.

That second mission hadn't been a big issue until

1940, he said. Before then, the U.S. Pacific Fleet had been based in San Diego. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, for his own diplomatic reasons, had ordered the Navy to re-base itself at Pearl Harbor, according to McNaughton. The move added to the Army's defensive responsibilities.

The third mission was training, he said.

By 1940, World War II had already engulfed much of Europe and the Pacific, and Americans were beginning to realize their involvement might be inevitable. For the Army's part, they were organizing and training Soldiers.

Besides ground forces, the Army at that time also included the Army Air Corps. "They were trying to train flight crews and mechanics and use the limited aircraft they had on hand," McNaughton said. "This was a fairly green Army."

In 1940, fewer than 270,000 Soldiers were on active duty. That number would climb to about 7 million by 1943.

SETUP FOR FAILURE

By late 1941, the Army in Hawaii was trying to juggle all three missions. "In my judgment, they couldn't do all three," McNaughton said. "They spread themselves too thin. Ultimately they failed."

Coordination between the services was also poor, he said. The Army and Navy on Hawaii had separate chains of command, and they engaged in very little coordination, at least in practical terms.

Early Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor and his counterpart, Short, were preparing for their weekly golf game, McNaughton explained. Every Sunday morning, the two flag officers would play golf, enabling them to "check the box" for joint coordination.

"Well, you need more than that," McNaughton said. "And that's what they didn't do."

In 1946, according to the Army's official history, "Guarding the United States and Its Outposts," the

Congressional Pearl Harbor Joint Committee concluded:

"There was a complete failure in Hawaii of effective Army-Navy liaison during the critical period and no integration of Army and Navy facilities and efforts for defense. Neither of the responsible commanders really knew what the other was doing with respect to essential military activities."

EARLY WARNING SIGNS

Failure of the services to coordinate had real consequences on the morning of Dec. 7.

In the pre-dawn hours, a submarine periscope was spotted near Pearl Harbor, where there shouldn't have been any submarines. At 6:37 a.m., the destroyer USS Ward dropped depth charges, destroying the submarine. The incident was then reported to the Navy chain of command.

Meanwhile at the Opana Radar Site on the north shore of Oahu, radar operators Pvt. Joseph L. Lockard and Pvt. George Elliott detected an unusually large formation of aircraft approaching the island from the north at 7:02 a.m.

At the time, radar was experimental technology and was manned from 3 to 7 a.m., McNaughton said. Usually, the radar was shut off at 7 a.m. for the rest of the day. The radar was still on at 7:02 a.m. only because the truck that took Lockard and Elliott to breakfast was late.

The operators had never seen such a large number of blips before, according to McNaughton. They called 1st Lt. Kermit A. Tyler, an Air Corps pilot who was an observer that morning at Fort Shafter's Radar Information Center.

"Don't worry about it," Tyler told them. He had heard that a flight of B-17 bombers was en route from Hamilton Field, California, that morning.

ATTACK COMMENCES

The first of two waves of some 360 Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes

began the attack at 7:48 a.m., having launched from six aircraft carriers north of Oahu.

While many of the Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft attacked the fleet, other planes attacked all the airfields on the island, including Wheeler Field next to Schofield Barracks.

Among the 2,403 Americans killed, 2,008 were Sailors, 218 were Soldiers, 109 were Marines and 68 were civilians, according to a National World War II Museum Pearl Harbor fact sheet.

Of the aircraft destroyed, 92 were Navy and 77 were Army Air Corps. Two battleships were destroyed and six were damaged; three cruisers were damaged; one auxiliary vessel was destroyed and three damaged; and three destroyers were damaged, according to the fact sheet.

The carriers USS Enterprise, USS Saratoga and USS Lexington were out on maneuvers and were not spotted by the Japanese.

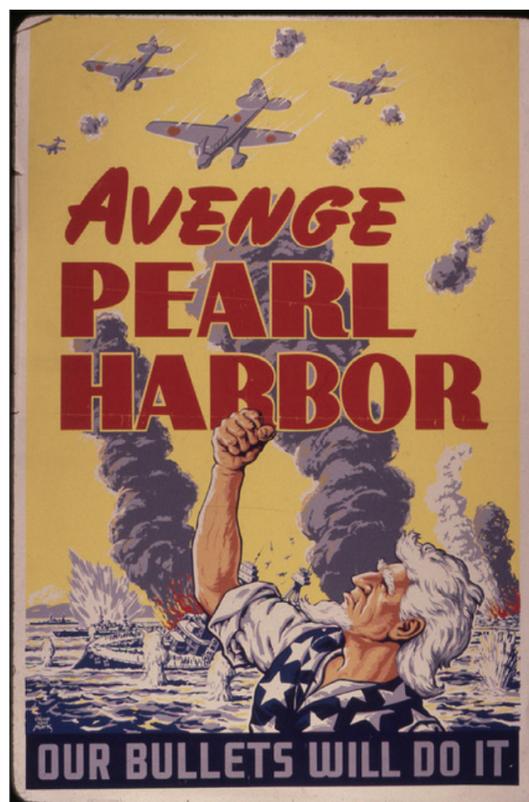
Within minutes of the attack, Navy anti-aircraft guns opened up. The guns were firing at planes in all directions. A number of stray Navy anti-aircraft gun rounds fell in populated areas of Honolulu, killing more than a dozen civilians.

However, the Army's anti-aircraft gunners at first struggled to engage the enemy because their guns were not in firing positions and the ammunition was in a separate location, where it was under lock and key.

"You can imagine them looking for the ammunition sergeant who had the keys at 8 a.m. Sunday," McNaughton said. "It took them a while, but some guns did eventually get into action."

Why weren't the Army guns in position?

Short complained afterward that he had received ambiguous guidance from Washington. He was instructed to be prepared to defend against an attack but not to alarm the civilian population, which setting



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

One of many posters produced by the War Department during World War II, designed to get the public behind the war effort.

the anti-aircraft guns in position might have done, McNaughton said.

Even so, the Army, with four regiments of anti-aircraft artillery in Oahu, had rehearsed defense against air raids. "They knew it was a possibility," McNaughton said. "But certainly they were caught by surprise."

Nevertheless, Soldiers found some means to counter-attack. At Army installations, Army men fired back with machine guns and lesser weapons at attacking enemy dive-bombers and fighters, according to "Guarding the United States and Its Outposts."

As for the Army Air Corps, they eventually got 12 aircraft in the air and shot down a few Japanese planes, but the Army Air Corps was ultimately overwhelmed. The vast majority of Soldiers killed in action that day

were in the Army Air Corps, McNaughton noted.

The Army Air Corps flight of 12 B-17 Fortress Bombers — the aircraft that Tyler thought the radar operators had seen — arrived in the middle of the attack. They were unarmed and almost out of fuel.

The aircraft landed at various airfields, and one landed on a golf course. One of the aircraft was destroyed by the Japanese, and three were badly damaged, according to "Guarding the United States and Its Outposts."

"Just imagine, it's supposed to be a routine peacetime flight and you show up in the middle of the biggest air battle the U.S. had ever seen," McNaughton said. "Not a good situation."

Editor's Note: The story was shortened for publication. To read the complete story, visit www.army.millarticle/178807

LIGHTING Continued from page 1

Army families celebrate their family traditions here in the United States. These families know the sacrifices that their Soldiers make to accomplish the mission; that doesn't make their absence any easier, but our families actually live the 1 ID motto, 'Duty First.'

After the tree was illuminated, children from Child, Youth and School Services sang carols to the audience and called the audience to sing along with them for "Here Comes Santa Claus."

As everyone sang, the firefighters of the Fort Riley Fire Department arrived with Santa in tow on their engine. Santa greeted the audience and

did a brief interview on stage where he spoke about how good the deployed Soldiers have been before making his way inside.

"It was amazing," said Spc. Heaven Johnson, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div. "The kids singing, the instruments playing (in) the background and, of course, Santa."

Johnson attended the ceremony with her daughter and the daughter of a friend who recently arrived from Jamaica. She said she had been taking the girls around to a number of Holiday Tree-lighting ceremonies so her friend's daughter could experience the dif-

ferent holiday celebrations for the first time.

Following the ceremony, children and adults alike could go meet and have their picture taken with Santa Claus in the foyer of the garrison headquarters while they sipped hot chocolate.

Dominga Santan, wife of Staff Sgt. Francisco Santan, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., brought her 3-year-old daughter, Sandralis, to see Santa Claus and enjoy the lighting ceremony.

"She loves it," she said. "She calls him Father Christmas, so she doesn't call him Santa ... It's been great, beautiful, especially for the kids."



Season Osterfeld | POST

Children grin and pose for a picture with Santa Claus Dec. 1 in garrison headquarters, building 500, after the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at Ware Parade Field. Kids and adults alike lined up to have their photo taken with Santa and tell him what they wanted most for the holidays.

WWW.TWITTER.COM/FORTRILEY

FORT RILEY

GUIDE AND DIRECTORY

All online content is approved by the Fort Riley Public Affairs Officer.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR TAX REFUND

- 1 If you file your tax return early and claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit, a new law requires the IRS to hold refunds until mid-February in 2017.
- 2 The law requires the IRS to hold the entire refund - even the portion not associated with the EITC and ACTC - until at least February 15, 2017.
- 3 New identity theft and refund fraud safeguards by the IRS may mean some tax returns and refunds face additional review.



Capt. Elaine Kirish, Medical Activity, purchases the last loaf of banana bread from a vendor at the Christkindl Market Dec. 3 at Riley's Conference Center.

MORE INFORMATION

• Fort Riley Army Community Service has financial counselors available to assist Soldiers and families with credit issues or personal finances. You can contact them by calling 785-239-9435.

Consumer advocate gives free advice

Official urges troops, families to protect their finances

By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Amber R. Kelly-Herard
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON — Holly Petraeus from the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau discussed how service members and their families could help protect their finances.

Petraeus briefed senior-level noncommissioned officers attending an annual conference Dec. 2 at the Pentagon.

"Protecting your finances and the finances of your troops is important," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell, the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and host of the conference. "Having financial problems isn't just bad; it could lead to suicidal thoughts or cause a problem with security clearances."

As the CFPB's chief of the Office of Service Member Affairs, Petraeus has three main goals: to provide financial education for military families; monitor complaints made by military families to the CFPB; and work with federal and state agencies to improve consumer protection for military families.

Petraeus advises service members to check their credit report annually and ensure it's accurate.

"If it's wrong, fix it. And if the (credit reporting bureaus) don't, file a complaint with us," she said.

The CFPB can also protect military members from predatory online universities, Petraeus said.

"One of the biggest consumer purchases for people is what they pay for college," she said. "Do your homework, and be careful about schools that try to put you into private loans."

Petraeus also explained the value of having good credit.

See FINANCES, page 12

Something for everyone

Christkindl Market offers wide variety of vendors in time for holiday shopping

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

There was something for everyone at the Christkindl market Dec. 3 at Riley's Conference Center including more than 70 vendors, a hot chocolate bar, wagon rides by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, cookie decorating, homemade crafts as well as photos with Santa.

Staff of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted the eighth annual event to offer a variety of unique holiday presents for the Fort Riley community.

Kim Wargo, special events coordinator for DFMWR, said this event used to be a German-themed craft market, but has since shifted into a simpler craft market with the goal of stirring up business for vendors.

"It is a family-friendly event to help get people excited about the holidays," she said. "We have



Eli Policastro, left, and Karlie Policastro, right, children of Capt. J.P. Policastro, from the office of the Staff Judge Advocate, tell Santa what they want for Christmas at the Christkindl Market Dec. 3 at Riley's Conference Center.



Members of the Fort Riley community participate in wagon rides from Soldiers of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard at the Christkindl Market Dec. 3 at Riley's Conference Center.

Santa, face painting and sugar cookie decorating, the arts and crafts center is making ornaments this year and we also have a hot cocoa bar."

Wargo said this is unique to Fort Riley because it is the only craft market on post during the holiday season.

"It's an event where you can create memories with your family," she said.

Capt. Elaine Kirish, Medical Activity, came to the craft market after attending one year ago. She said there was a lot of good merchandise so she ventured out in hopes of finding more good deals and saving on shipping prices from commercial vendors like Scentsy.

"There are lots of good gift ideas," she said. On top of commercial vendors, she also visited tables of homemade goods and even purchased the final banana bread off one table.

"I think everyone looks forward to having something to do when it gets cold, and having all of this in one place is a great way to do that," she said.

While some of the vendors were from surrounding communities, others call Fort Riley home.

See MARKET, page 14

“It’s an event where you can create memories with your family.”
KIM WARGO | DIRECTORATE OF FAMILY AND MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION

Eight residences headline Tour of Homes

33rd annual event allows community to share post's history

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

Volunteers from the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley hosted the 33rd Annual Historic Tour of Homes Dec. 3. There were eight homes on the tour as well as the Custer House, Saint Mary's Chapel and Main Post Chapel.

Kari Post, wife of Lt. Col. Michael Post, commander for 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Priscilla Thurman, wife of Staff Sgt. Shawn Thurman, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat

"Everyone has a unique twist on how they decorate their home, from the scented candles to the pine tree smell."

CSM LISA HANEY
299TH BRIGADE SUPPORT
BATTALION, 2ND ARMORED
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM,
1ST INF. DIV.

Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., served as the event co-chairs.

Post said the event is one of many that HASFR volunteers host throughout the year as they preserve the historical value of Fort Riley. The event was open to the public.

"I feel it is important to the Fort Riley community so that other people get the

opportunity to see these homes and it helps encourage the outside community to come to Fort Riley and share and experience some of the history we have here," she said.

Leann Martin, wife of Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin, 1st Inf Div and Fort Riley commanding general, lives in a home built in 1887. Martin opened the main level of her home during the tour. She began decorating before Thanksgiving.

"Normally I don't start until after Thanksgiving, but this was different," she said.

This is not the first time Martin has participated in an event like this. While stationed at Fort Leavenworth, she

participated in a spring tour of her home. She said this was different because she didn't have to be the one showing her home. Volunteers from HASFR served as tour guides within each home on the tour.

"It's a big house," she said. "I can't imagine doing more than one floor."

Command Sgt. Maj. Lisa Haney, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., was one of the many visitors who toured the homes. She said the tour gave her many ideas for decorating her own home.

See HOMES, page 14

Christmas decorations sit in the home of Col. Thomas Bolen, 1st Infantry Division Artillery commander, on Historic Main Post Dec. 3 during the Historic Tour of Homes hosted by volunteers of the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley.



FORT RILEY POST-ITS



1ST INFANTRY DIVISION 100TH ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY CONCERT

The 1st Infantry Division Band and Junction City Community Band will perform the annual holiday concert Dec. 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the C.L. Hoover Opera House Junction City, Kansas.

There are no tickets for these concerts, general admission seating is on a first-come basis. The opera house will open at 6:30 p.m. and the theater at 7 p.m. If you have special needs, call 785-238-3906 to arrange to be seated early.

FORT RILEY EXCHANGE HOLIDAY INFORMATION

All Exchange facilities will close one hour early on Dec. 10 except the 24 hour Express Riley Big Red One for the employee holiday celebration.

There will be a Christmas Carol Karaoke night and ugly sweater contest at the main exchange on Dec. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m.

On Dec. 24 the Exchange will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Christmas day all facilities will be closed except the 24 hour Express Riley Big Red One.



FORT RILEY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM STAFF PRESENTS FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The movie "Trolls" will be shown Dec. 16 at Barlow Theater starting at 7 p.m.

Admission is free. The maximum capacity is 450.

For more information contact Chris Bowman at 785-240-6267

BLUE STAR BENEFITS PROGRAM CARD

Blue Star Cards are issued to spouses of Soldiers who have fallen or are deployed, on a temporary changes of station, unaccompanied permanent change of station, 90 to 179 day temporary duty or are Army Wounded Warriors in Transition assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit.

The card provides following benefits:

- Receive discounts at select MWR facilities
- Connect with other spouses by joining our exclusive trips, concerts, events and other opportunities. Some of these will offer free childcare.

To receive a card, bring a copy of your spouse's orders to Leisure Travel Services, 6918 Trooper Drive next to the Fort Riley USO. A card will be issued on the spot. For more information call 785-239-5641.

The card is valid for 30 days prior to and 90 days after the effective dates of spouse's orders.

Upcoming Blue Star Event:

Melissa Etheridge Concert. The staff with Blue Star Card program and K-State Office of Military Affairs is offering discounted tickets for the concert at the K-State McCain Auditorium Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Spouses may receive free transportation, and premium seating.



FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 9

Almost Christmas (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10

Doctor Strange (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11

Trolls (PG) 5 p.m.

Theater opens 30 minutes before first showing

Regular Showing: \$6

3D Showing: \$8

First Run: \$8.25

3D First Run: \$10.25

For more information call 785-239-9574.

CUSTER HILL BOWLING CENTER NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE PARTY

Ring in the New Year at the masquerade bowling event Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The cost is \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door. Admission includes unlimited bowling with shoes, appetizers, hot cocoa bar and a goodie bag. Children under 4 are free with paid adult.

For more information call 785-239-4366.



BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS X-GAMES TRIP

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is sponsoring a trip to Snowmass Village Aspen, Colorado, Jan. 26 to 29.

The cost is \$395 for base cost that includes lodging for four days and three nights, transportation and two-day lift tickets. The price of \$460 includes base cost items plus rental gear including skis or boards and boots.

Rooms will be four people per room with full beds. Limited two people rooms are available for an additional \$120 per person. Payment plans are available. For more information call 785-239-2677.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE - ARMY FAMILY TEAM BUILDING

Army Community Service Staff will host an interactive workshop about personal growth and leadership Jan. 24 to 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ACS building, 7264 Normandy Drive.

Topics will include communications, acknowledging change, personal time management, stress management, enhancing personal relationships, team dynamics, creative problem solving and customs and protocol.

Limited free childcare is available. Reservations for childcare must be made by calling 785-239-9974 or 785-239-9435 no later than Jan. 10.



MWR UGLY SWEATER FAMILY BINGO

Staff will host a special Christmas edition of family bingo Dec. 11 at Riley's Conference Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ugly sweaters are encouraged, the uglier, the better. Adults can win cash and children win prizes. Cost is children \$7 and adults \$12.

For more information call 785-784-1000.

FORT RILEY EDUCATION SERVICES TESTING OFFICE TESTING

Staff will be offering an ACT administration on Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Regular monthly administration of the ACT will be the third Tuesday of each month. SATs are administered on the first Tuesday of each month.

Appointments are required for testing, to schedule call 785-239-6481 of visit building 211, Room 100.

There will be no testing from Dec. 27 to 29. Regular testing will resume Jan. 3.

SANTA VISITS THE LIBRARY

Join Santa Dec. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. as he makes his journey to the Fort Riley Library. Bring your camera to take advantage of photo opportunities with Santa and he will give the kids a free gift.

For more information call 785-239-5305.



HOLIDAY MAIL INFORMATION

The holidays are approaching! To ensure timely delivery of holiday mail and packages by Dec. 25, the Postal Service recommends that cards and packages be sent to military APO/FPO/DPO addresses overseas according to the chart located at about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2016/pr16_080.htm.

CUSTER HILL BOWLING WITH SANTA

Bowling with Santa will be held at the Custer Hill Bowling Center Dec. 18 from noon to 6 p.m.

Admission is \$35 per lane for up to six people.

The cost includes two hours of unlimited bowling with shoes, one large pizza, one pitcher of soft drink, photos with Santa from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information call 785-239-4366.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Fort Riley community needs to focus on winter preparedness

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

We've had a small taste of winter lately, but there is likely to be

more severe weather coming our way over the next few months. Being located in the middle of the country means we're affected by cold air coming down from Canada and across the Rockies, which also mixes with moisture coming up from the Gulf. This crossroad makes the weather unpredictable, and forecasting changes in conditions is difficult.

That's why preparing for bad weather — cold air, ice storms, freezing rain, snow, wind or combinations of these — is so important here in Kansas. One common problem faced during Kansas winter storms is driving conditions. Whenever possible, stay off roads until they are cleared and safe to travel. Even if you

are from an area where roads are cleared quickly and drivers are knowledgeable of driving in these conditions, we have people from many different climate areas here and they may not have this experience.

Cold temperatures are more than uncomfortable they can be dangerous. Kansas winds contribute to wind chill conditions where the temperature feels lower than the actual thermometer reading. Be cautious when exercising or working outside during wind chill conditions. The National Weather Service has a chart available to show the difference between air temperature and perceived temperature and the amount of time until frostbite occurs. Check it out at www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/windchill.shtml.

Freezing rain is precipitation that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines. Sleet is rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery. With

Kansas wind conditions, a blizzard is possible. If there is a considerable amount of snow falling and winds are strong, it can result in reduced visibility and hazardous conditions.

Another problem that can occur is power outages, particularly during ice storms. Depending on the severity of the storm, it may take power crews some time to get trees cleared or lines replaced. Be ready to keep warm with extra blankets and clothing. Avoid putting gas-operated generators, grills, propane or charcoal-burning devices inside to keep warm; carbon monoxide can build up from these items due to improper ventilation.

Preparation helps keep everyone safe during winter. Ready Army is the way to go — "be informed, make a plan, build a kit and get involved." Visit www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/Winter_Storm_Fact_Sheet.pdf for a fact sheet about winter preparedness — and get your emergency supply kits ready now.

— To comment on this article or to suggest a topic for Community Corner visit my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fortrileygc.



Colonel Lawrence

LEADING THE WAY



Photos by Sgt. Michael C. Roach | 19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

LEFT: The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard marched in the Mayor's Spirit of the Holidays Lighted Christmas Parade in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 2. The CGMCG brought with them a lighted wagon, driven here by Trooper Forrest Krenke, left, and Trooper Joseph Bethel, multiple horses and mules to support the event. RIGHT: Trooper Blake Guthrie carries the Kansas state flag.

FINANCES Continued from page 11

"Many millennials are conservative when it comes to money, having grown up in the financial crisis," she said. "This is good, but thin credit is almost the same as having bad credit."

Her advice is to "do a little something that is reported, but not something crazy."

"The Consumer Finance Protection Bureau opened its doors in July 2011," Petraeus said. "So far, \$12 billion have been returned to 27 million Americans."

Petraeus explained that recent charges brought against Wells Fargo Bank and Navy Federal Credit Union that made headlines were carried out by the CFPB.

Another recent accomplishment was a new provision added to the Military Lending Act that went into effect Oct. 3, she said.

"The provision protects service members and dependents against high-cost credit, and caps the annual percentage rate at 36 percent," Petraeus said.

In the five years the CFPB has been in existence, more than one million complaints have been made, to include 70,000 from military members, she said.

"We've really moved the needle on customer service, because our complaint log is kept public and nobody wants to be on the top of that list," Petraeus said.

Fort Riley Army Community Service has financial counselors available to assist Soldiers and families with credit issues or personal finances. You can contact them by calling 785-239-9435. Money Management 101 classes are held each Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Money Smart Hour is held Wednesdays from 1 to 2 p.m. and covers a different topic each week.

The information on these classes is available at www.riley.army.mil/Services/Family-Services/Army-Community-Service/. For more information about the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau or to submit a complaint, visit www.consumerfinance.gov/.



Soldiers of the 97th Military Police Battalion gathered to run in support of Operation Santa Claus Dec. 2 as they collected toys for Soldiers and families who are in need for the holiday season.

'Guardians' run for a holiday cause

On behalf of Operation Santa Claus, fun run provides toys for kids

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

Soldiers of the 97th Military Police Battalion ran in support of Operation Santa Claus Dec. 2 as they collected toys for Soldiers and families who are in need for the holiday season.

Lt. Col. Ann Meredith, battalion commander of the 97th MP Bn., addressed the Soldiers after the run. She said it is important to support an organization like Operation Santa Claus during this holiday season.

"I want everyone to have the holiday season they deserve," she said.

For 32 years, Operation Santa Claus has provided military children from birth to 18 with presents to open on Christmas morning. The program is open to all active-duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers of the state in Kansas.

Master Sgt. Michael Ewing, head elf at Operation



Sgt. John Goldthrite, 73rd Military Police Detachment, 97th MP Battalion, unloads toys collected at the battalion's fun run Dec. 2 in support of Operation Santa Claus at Fort Riley.

"The boost of morale this event gives our unit is awesome; it is definitely a refreshing experience."

SGT. JOHN GOLDTHRITE
73RD MILITARY POLICE DETACHMENT,
97TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

Santa Claus, said more than 200 Soldiers and their families have been assisted through this program.

Meredith and Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Counts II,

97th MP Bn., along with other Soldiers in the battalion dropped off the toys about an hour after the run.

"The 97th MP Bn. Holiday Fun Run is an

MORE INFORMATION

• For more information about volunteering opportunities or **Operation Santa Claus**, call 785-239-6944 or 785-239-2771.

excellent opportunity for our Soldiers to assist families who may be experiencing financial difficulties this holiday season by donating toys to Operation Santa Claus," Meredith said. "Our Soldiers look forward to this event every year, and we plan to continue participating for years to come."

Sgt. John Goldthrite, 73rd MP Detachment, 97th MP Bn., was one of the Soldiers who participated in the fun run.

"I can say it was very impressive the amount of coordination and effort put into the toy drive (Operation Santa Claus)," he said. "The boost of morale this event give our unit is awesome; it was definitely a refreshing experience."

For more information about volunteering opportunities or Operation Santa Claus, call 785-239-6944 or 785-239-2771.

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of Dec. 6 was: Which Fort Riley service published a Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Public Service Announcement, reminding everyone to celebrate responsibly?

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/Services/Soldier-Services/Army-Substance-Abuse-Program/

This week's winner is George Freshman. George retired from the military in 1991 at Fort Riley. He served from 1971 to 1991, including one tour in Vietnam. He retired from Company F, 1st Aviation, Fort Riley, and he currently lives in Holton.

George Freshman is pictured with his late wife, Elizabeth, on the day of his retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE!

WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL

Corvias staff hosting 'Tis the Season annual event

Corvias staff will be featuring ice skating rink for first time

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

From parking lot to ice skating rink, the staff of

Corvias Military Living are transforming the parking lot of the Colyer Forsyth Community Center into the rink from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 19.

'Tis the Season is an annual event held by the staff at Corvias.

This year is the first year they will feature an ice skating rink for the event.

For the last eight years, the Fort Riley Corvias staff have featured a different theme and activity for their 'Tis the Season event, said Tanya Moore, resident relations manager for Corvias Military Living.

The free day of ice skating is open to on post residents and includes skates, hot cocoa, a visit from Santa Claus and

much more. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

"It will be nice, different — something wackier than what they've (Fort Riley residents) seen on base before," she said.

For more information, call 785-717-2258 or visit www.facebook.com/CorviasMilitaryLivingRiley.



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ENTR 301

STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

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- ◆ Visit Education Services Building 211 Rm 100. A counselor will assist with enrollment, TA, VA GoArmyEd, and complete KU application. **No fee, SAT or ACT required.**
- ◆ University of Kansas (KU) will complete enrollment process virtually and issue student ID.

* Enrollees are allowed to bring a spouse or family member to attend this class without additional expense. This is to encourage course enrollees to team up increasing the likelihood of success when starting a business.

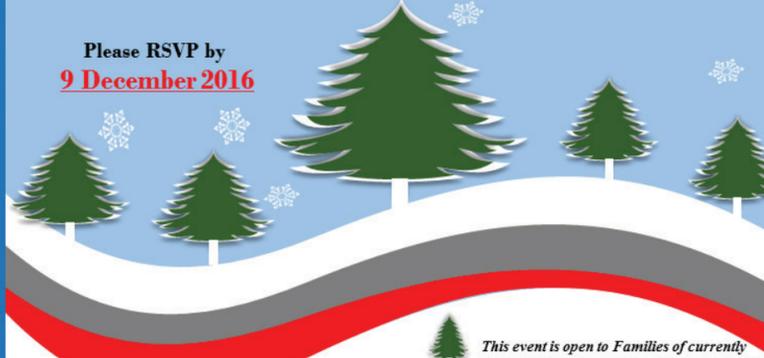
Annual Project North Pole Holiday Party

17 December 2016
10:00am ~ 2:00pm
"Clamshell"
Bldg 675 Warrior Road

- ◆ Deployed Families and families participating in EFMP, NPSP/FAP ACS, 239-9435
- ◆ MEB Families SFAC, 239-8430
- ◆ SOS Families SOS, 239-5979

- ◆ Refreshments
- ◆ Fun activities for the children
- ◆ Photos w/ Santa (bring your camera!)
- ◆ Gift from Santa for each child
- ◆ Door Prizes for Parents

Please RSVP by **9 December 2016**








This event is open to Families of currently deployed Soldiers and Families participating in the Exceptional Family Member, New Parent Support, Family Advocacy and Survivor Outreach Services and SFAC/MEB programs.

ARMY TEN-MILER HARDWARE



Chad L. Simon | 1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, center, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, stands with members of the 1st Infantry Division Running Team in front of the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters building Dec. 2 on Fort Riley. Members of the Active Duty Mixed running squad placed second in their event at the 32nd annual Army Ten-Miler competition Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C.

American Red Cross to hold blood drives

Fort Riley's two-day quarterly drive event set for Dec. 13 to 14

By Sgt. Michael C. Roach
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Fort Riley's quarterly blood drive, a two-day event sponsored by Fort Riley American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces, is scheduled to begin Dec. 13 at the post's in-processing center, 210 Custer Ave. and continue Dec. 14 at the 1st Infantry Division's headquarters from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

"We are in an urgent need of blood right now," said Leslie Jones, Fort Riley American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces regional program specialist. Donations tend to decline during the summer and holiday months, Jones said, a problem which was exacerbated this year by Hurricane Matthew, which disrupted more than 250 planned blood drives across a large part of the country.

The Fort Riley American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces conducts blood drives every 52 days, or once a quarter, Jones said. While O negative blood is always welcome, as it is a universal blood type, the organization is looking for participation from every type of donor.

New technology allows donors to see how their contribution affects those in the region. "We always take care of our own first," Jones said. "We do

"We always take care of our own first. We do as much as we can to have the blood stay in the area."

LESLIE JONES
FORT RILEY AMERICAN RED CROSS

as much as we can to have the blood stay in the area."

While donations do not stay local to Fort Riley, they are earmarked for the region, including Kansas and surrounding states.

"One really cool thing that Red Cross does now is that once you donate blood and register and everything and have your account, you actually get emails when your blood is used," Jones said. "I donated my blood last time and they used my blood in Oklahoma, they gave me a location and where they actually used it. It's a cool thing that we have to give our donors some more validation."

The blood drive is open to Soldiers, families, civilians and the community. Walk-ins are welcome at both locations. Those looking to expedite the process can go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment for their donation and verify that they are eligible to donate blood. Additionally, signing up for the Rapid Pass enables prospective donors to fill out the medical questionnaire on the day of their donation.

HOMES Continued from page 11

"Everyone has a unique twist on how they decorate their home, from the scented candles to the pine tree smell," she said. "The hostesses are gracious and informative ... It puts you in a Christmas spirit walking through these homes."

Haney said the historic homes are part of the beauty of Fort Riley.

"For the outside community to see the uniqueness of the historic homes, I think it is special because it is history," she said. "The house I live in was built in 1944. It's amazing they can keep that house preserved."

Lauren Bolen, wife of Col. Thomas Bolen, 1st Infantry Division Artillery commander, decorated her home with many personal touches including gingerbread houses made by her three children.

"It was really fun," she said about decorating her home. "It was a little stressful but only because I am normally a very confident decorator.



LEFT: Volunteers of the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley hosted the 33rd Annual Historic Tour of Homes on Historic Main Post Dec. 3. RIGHT: A Christmas tree sits in the home of Col. Thomas Bolen, 1st Infantry Division Artillery commander, on Historic Main Post Dec. 3 during the Historic Tour of Homes hosted by volunteers of the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley.

I love to share what we have collected over the years with everybody, but I wanted to make it extra special because people were buying a ticket and coming through."

For Bolen, Christmas decorating began the day after Halloween and continued until the day before the Tour of Homes. Being able to live in a historic home and



Photos by Maria Childs | POST

participate in this event was very exciting for Bolen.

"I feel like we get to be part of the Army history," she said. "It's just a privilege to get to participate in that."

MARKET Continued from page 11

Anna Robinson, wife of 1st Sgt. Kenneth Robinson, 111th Engineer Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., said this market reminded her of the German markets when they lived there. She would visit

them frequently for holiday shopping. This year, she had a booth selling her homemade products.

"My hobby has always been knitting," she said. "I'm from Norway so I try to show off Scandinavian designs and since we are in the military, patriotic

designs ... This is the first time I am trying this. I'm excited because I've always wanted to do it."

She said they have been stationed at Fort Riley for a couple of years now and she remembers attending the event about two years ago and

thinking she could sell items she knits.

"It's good for those who have their own business, those who do arts and crafts and local crafters," Robinson said. "It brings people from off-post to us. It's a time of year where people are shopping for Christmas."

WINTER SAFETY

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

- Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks
- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean 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
- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries regularly
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headaches, nausea and disorientation
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your home

WINTERIZE YOUR CAR

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level
- Check tire tread or, if necessary, 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 a winter emergency kit to keep in your car

WINTER TRAVEL TIPS

- 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 in car, 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 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

WINTER KIT FOR HOME OR CAR

- Include food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers
- Have a fully charged cellphone
- Keep battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio and lamps
- Store extra batteries
- Keep a first-aid kit and extra medicine
- Have baby items on hand
- Include cat litter or sand for icy walkways

For more information, contact the Garrison Safety Office at 785.240.0647. To learn about safety across the installation, visit www.riley.army.mil/Units/GarrisonCommand/Safety/

THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION BAND presents

The 1st Infantry Division 100th Anniversary

HOLIDAY REVUE!

100 YEARS NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT
NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT 1917-2017

16 & 17 DECEMBER @ 7:30PM
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Sports & Recreation

JUST THE BEGINNING



An Army player outmaneuvers Navy during an Army-Navy game at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., Dec. 5. The Army team won against the Navy team 5-3.

Hockey victory prelude to Army-Navy football game

Story and photo by David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A combined Army/Air Force hockey team, coached by Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, trounced a team of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard players at the Verizon Center in Washington D.C. Dec. 5.

The game lasted almost to midnight, as it followed a Washington Capitals 3-2 victory over the Buffalo Sabres that went into overtime.

After the game, Milley introduced several of the players to the media and

asked each to tell something about themselves.

Under Secretary of the Army Patrick J. Murphy, who was one of the players, said the Army win resulted from great leadership and teamwork. He added the game was “a great way to start beat Navy week,” referring to the Army-Navy football game that will be played Saturday in Baltimore.

Milley singled out Army goaltender Air Force Capt. Lindsey Colburn for several incredible saves, naming her the most valuable player and awarding her his own personal Army puck. He reminded reporters the Air Force used

to be part of the Army and he added jokingly “we’re thinking about taking it back again.”

Asked by the chief to tell a little about herself, Colburn said she’s 32 and from Norfolk, New Hampshire. She has been in the Air Force six years and is stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington D.C.

The chief called out retired Sgt. 1st Class Joe Bowser, 56, who played on a prosthetic leg. Milley noted that he lost it to an improvised explosive device in Balad, Iraq, in 2004. He’s “an American hero,” the chief added.

Bowser said doctors asked him to make the call to remove the leg or live in pain with a mangled one. He said he chose to amputate it so he could keep playing hockey. Bowser said he made the U.S. amputee team in 2007, which won the silver medal.

The chief introduced Pvt. Corbin Bourque, member of The Old Guard’s Honor Guard Company.

“We are the presidential escort platoon, so wherever the president goes, we go,” he said in reply to the chief asking what he did.

Bourque added “it was an honor to get chosen to play out here tonight.

Everything felt good and it was nice to get a couple of goals in there. It was awesome. I had a great time.”

Lt. Gen. James McConville, the Army G-1, said at age 59, “I’m the oldest guy on the ice.”

He said the Army-Navy hockey game was exciting and a lot of fun and that he hoped it was a precursor to victory on the gridiron Saturday. “Winning matters, and we’re going to win.”

Col. Doug Stitt, McConville’s executive officer, said sports like hockey build teamwork and camaraderie and “sews the seeds for future victory.”

K-State Wildcats’ comeback bid falls short against Buckeyes

K-STATE SPORTS

MANHATTAN, Kan. —The Kansas State Wildcats volleyball team climbed out of an 0-2 hole to force a decisive fifth set against the Ohio State University Buckeyes in the second round of the NCAA Tournament Dec. 3, but the Buckeyes escaped with a best of five-set win, 25-20, 25-22, 22-25, 23-25, 17-15, in front of 2,645 fans at Bramlage Coliseum.

K-State, 21-10 overall, fought off two match points by Ohio State 22-12 overall, in the final set of a defensive battle to tie the score at 15 before OSU scored the final two points of the match. K-State ends its season with its third consecutive NCAA appearance and first tournament win since 2011. Ohio State moves on to the Sweet 16 of the postseason tournament.

“It hurts because it is good” said head coach Suzie Fritz after the match. “It’s hard to explain. It hurts when it is over because it is really, really good. This team and these seniors,

in particular, brought so much to us — to me, personally, to my life — and they have enriched us in so many ways. They are extraordinary, and it is hard to know that we will not get to see them every day, maybe more important than anything.

“I thought that we did not play as well as we would have liked to have played, especially early,” Fritz said. “After the break, we talked about just trying to empty the tank, let’s empty the tank coming out for set three, and we did that. I think we came back in three, four, five and gave it everything we had.”

After dropping the opening two sets, the Wildcats stormed back in the third and fourth sets behind a season-high 17.5 team blocks. Junior Bryna Vogel posted a career-best 11 blocks, eight of which came in the third and fourth sets. Vogel finished one dig shy of her first career triple-double as the right-side hitter tallied a team-best 12 kills.

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Scott D. Weaver | K-STATE ATHLETICS

K-State’s Bryna Vogel, left, and Katie Reiningger celebrate a point against Ohio State during the NCAA Women’s Volleyball Championship Second Round at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan, Kansas Dec. 3.

‘LIFELINE’ PLAYERS FINISH WITH PERFECT SEASON



COURTESY PHOTO

Soldiers of the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, team pose for their championship picture Nov. 22 after taking first place for the intramural flag football season hosted by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. The “Lifeline” players finished the season with a 13-0 record.

K-State to Play Texas A&M in AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl

K-STATE SPORTS

MANHATTAN, Kan.— Riding a 5-1 record over the final half of the 2016 season, including three straight wins to secure its fifth eight-win season since 2011, K-State Nation is heading to Houston for the first time since 2006 as Kansas State Athletics Director John Currie announced Dec. 4 that the Wildcats have accepted an invitation to play in the 2016 AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl Dec. 28.

The game, which dates back to 2006 when K-State played in the inaugural bowl matchup, pits the Big 12 Conference and the Southeastern Conference and will be played at NRG Stadium at 8 p.m. central time, with a nationwide television audience watching on ESPN. The Wildcats’ opponent from the SEC will be Texas A&M.

“I am very proud of our team and coaches for another terrific season and earning our seventh-straight bowl invitation,” Currie said. “With season ticket holders from 44 different states and a national fan base that features more than 250,000 friends and alumni across the country, including more

than 3,000 in the Houston area, we are excited to showcase our football program and Kansas State University in the AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl against an SEC opponent. I know our fans are excited to again showcase their unprecedented support, which includes 33-straight sellouts at Bill Snyder Family Stadium, in one of America’s largest cities while our football student-athletes, coaches and staff are provided a first-class experience.”

The Wildcats (8-4) will be playing in their 20th bowl game in school history and 18th under Bill Snyder as the Cats are 7-10 all-time in bowls under the hall of fame head coach. Following 11 straight bowls from 1993-2003 under Snyder, the Cats have now gone bowling in each of the last seven seasons and will be making the program’s second appearance in the Texas Bowl.

“Congratulations to Coach Snyder, his staff and our student-athletes for being selected to the AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl,” said President Richard Myers. “We are very excited to be headed to Texas and representing

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K-State runs over Texas Christian University in Big 12 Finale

K-STATE SPORTS

FORT WORTH, Tex. — For the first time since 2012, the Kansas State University Wildcats were powered by two 100-yard rushers as they handled the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs for a 30-6 victory before 42,746 fans at Amon G. Carter Stadium Dec. 3.

The win gave K-State eight regular-season wins prior to a bowl game for the fourth time in the last six seasons, while the Wildcats finished in fourth place in the Big 12 Conference with a 6-3 mark.

This marks the fourth time in the last six years that K-State has finished with six conference wins and the 12th time it has happened under head coach Bill Snyder.

K-State, 8-4 overall and 6-3 in the Big 12, held a small advantage at the half, 10-6, behind 192 rushing yards and a 32-yard rushing touchdown from quarterback Jesse Ertz. TCU was held to just 158 yards of total offense and two field goals before the break.

The Wildcats' defense clamped down after intermission, surrendering only 122 yards in the second half while also forcing five three-and-out possessions from the Horned Frogs. Meanwhile, Ertz and sophomore wide receiver Byron Pringle connected for K-State's longest offensive play this season, an 83-yard touchdown score. Behind Ertz's career rushing performance, the Wildcats ran away with the game, adding 144 rushing yards in the second half to finish with 336 for the game.

Ertz, a junior, and the Big 12's leading rusher amongst quarterbacks, finished with a career-high 170 rushing yards and one touchdown on 19 carries in his 12th start of the season. It was Ertz's third 100-yard rushing performance of the season and the fifth most rushing yards by a quarterback in school history.

Out of the backfield, Ertz was joined as a 100-yard rusher by running back Justin Silmon. Filling in for Alex Barnes, Silmon rushed for 133 yards and two touchdowns on 22 carries Saturday, a new career-high in rushing yards and

touchdowns for the sophomore. Sophomore Winston Dimel and senior Charles Jones added 16 and 15 yards, respectively, as K-State rushed for more than 200 yards for the sixth straight game.

With so much success on the ground, K-State relied much less on its passing attack. Only two receivers brought down passes, with Pringle reeling in six for 126 yards and one touchdown — the 83-yarder. With the 100-yard performances from Ertz and Silmon combined with a 126-yard output on the receiving end by Pringle, it marked the first time since the 2003 season opener against California that the Wildcats had two 100-yard rushers and a 100-yard receiver.

Freshman Isaiah Harris was on the receiving end of three passes for 33 yards, both career-highs.

The Wildcats finished the day with 495 yards of total offense, including 336 on the ground, surpassing the 300-yard rushing mark for the fourth time this season. K-State's season total swelled to 2,795 yards, moving to fourth place in school history for the most rushing yards in a single season.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Big 12's top defense held the nation's 18th ranked offense to just 280 total yards. K-State shut out TCU in the second half and became the first team to hold the Horned Frogs without a single touchdown score in a game since 2006.

Junior linebacker Elijah Lee and sophomore cornerback D.J. Reed led the charge for K-State's defensive players with eight tackles each. Junior defensive lineman Will Geary came up with seven stops, including three-and-one-half tackles for loss. Five other Wildcats tallied five tackles on the day, including junior linebacker Trent Tanking, who came up with K-State's only takeaway and his first career interception on the game's final play.

Redshirt freshman defensive end Reggie Walker finished with four tackles and two sacks, a career-best for him, while senior defensive end Jordan Willis also registered one sack, giving him 11.5 total sacks in 2016, tying him with Ryan Mueller, Ian Campbell and Nyle Wiren for K-State's single-season sack record.

VOLLEYBALL Continued from page 15

“We dialed a little bit. We got different matchups,” said Fritz of her team's adjustments. “That was probably the biggest thing that we did. Dialed, meaning we started in a different rotation so we had different people in front so serve-pass matchups were a little different and pass-block matchups were a little bit different. And, we got a little better look.”

K-State fell into an early hole as the Buckeyes scored 10 of the match's first 12 points and led by as many as 10 midway through the set. The Wildcats manufactured some momentum behind five team blocks, and rattled off six straight points to cut their deficit to just four before OSU closed out the set. K-State committed as many attacking errors (9) as it had kills for a .000 efficiency. Wildcats middle blocker Katie Reiningger collected three of her 10 blocks in the set.

The second set played out much like the first, with Ohio State jumping out to a quick 6-3 lead and maintaining its cushion throughout the set. K-State threatened

again near the end of the set as it fought off four set points before OSU closed out the game, 25-22. K-State's defense showed up in a key third-set win. The Wildcats stayed alive in the match with a 25-22 third-set win, closed out with four consecutive stuff blocks — three of which Vogel had a hand in. K-State was able to start the set strong, opening up an 11-5 lead before the Buckeyes rebounded to take a 14-13 lead following a 6-1 spurt. Out of a timeout, the Wildcats closed the set on a 10-4 run, including the last four points.

The fourth set saw 13 tie scores and nine lead changes. K-State scored seven of eight during a stretch to capture a 14-9 edge before the Buckeyes responded and took a 22-21 lead. Back-to-back blocks by Reiningger and Vogel aided the Wildcats to a 25-23 fourth-set win.

Both sides finished under a .200 hitting percentage while Ohio State posted 73 kills compared to K-State's 53. OSU out-dug K-State, 81-55, and handed out 71 assists to the Wildcats' 49.

Outside hitters Brooke Sassin and Kylee Zumach each recorded 11 kills. Sassin added 10 digs for her 25th career double-double.

Senior setter Katie Brand picked up her team-leading 17th double-double of the season as she dished out 43 assists and picked up 15 digs.

“That was a team that I have not felt like I have been a part of before — a team that has matured,” said Reiningger. “The senior class has matured so much on the court.

“The fans were amazing,” Reiningger added. “They were a big part of the turnaround for us. Like what Suzie [Fritz] said, we emptied the tank and went for it. It was the best game I think I could have ended on.”

“It has not always been easy, but I have loved every moment of it,” said senior Kersten Kober. “These people, my teammates, the community, everyone on the staff, they mean the world to me and I could not have asked for a better college experience, at all.”

FOOTBALL Continued from page 15

the Big 12 Conference. This provides a fitting end to a successful season, and we look forward to our fans continuing a great K-State tradition by turning Houston purple.”

K-State heads into bowl season after winning five of its last six games, including the final three. In addition to a Big 12-leading 29 selections to the Academic All-Big 12 team and the No. 1 football Academic Progress Rate in the Big 12, excitement in Wildcat football was also evidenced by six sellout crowds at Bill Snyder Family Stadium this season, which ran K-State's consecutive sellout streak to 33 games.

“We are proud of the young men in our program for the way they improved throughout the season and very pleased to represent Kansas State University and the Big 12 Conference in the AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl,” said head coach Bill Snyder. “The Texas Bowl is a first-class bowl organization with a rich history, and we appreciate the entire bowl staff for their efforts and support of our program.

“We have a wonderful fan base, and so many people that save up their nickels and dimes throughout the course of the year, and the only vacation they take is the one after our (regular) season is over. They love to attend bowls and it's why we have such great attendance year in and year out at bowl games. They are fully invested in our program and this means a great deal to them.”



Travel & Fun in Kansas

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HOME OF THE BIG RED ONE

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Christmas Tree Farms



Rows of evergreen trees grow in lines waiting to be selected and cut to adorn a home for the holiday season at Rocking M Farm in Junction City, Kansas. The staff at Rocking M Farm offer pre-cut trees or visitors can select a tree from the fields.

Story and photos by Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Nobel fir, Balsam, Scotch pine and more — Christmas tree farms are filled with trees waiting to be decorated and fill a home with the scent of pine. Neighboring Fort Riley are a number of Christmas tree farms, from pre-cut to cut your own and trees ranging in sizes from table top to towering giant.

Britt's Garden Acres in Manhattan, Kansas, has pre-cut trees and handmade wreaths. Trees available at Britt's include Nordman fir, Balsam fir, Scotch pine, Noble fir and Fraser fir. Tree pricing starts at \$33. Staff at Britt's will trim and net the trees and delivery is also available within Manhattan for \$10.

Handmade wreaths come in 14-inch and 20-inch diameters. Other décor, stands and more are also available for purchase.

Britt's Garden Acres is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. For more information about Britt's Garden Acres, call 785-539-1901, go online to www.brittsfarm.com or visit them at 1000 S. Scenic Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

The Rocking M Farm in Junction City, Kansas, carries Austrian, Fraser and Scotch pine trees pre-cut and ready for purchase. They also have wreaths and decorations for sale. Tree trimming and netting is available. While browsing the trees, enjoy free hot cider and visit the farm animals. If a pre-cut tree isn't the one, staff can also assist visitors with cutting the right tree fresh from their fields.

Rocking M Farm is open Monday through Friday 5:30 to 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 7



Staffs at Lee's Christmas Trees in Junction City, Kansas, and Bel Tree Farm in Salina, Kansas, let customers choose and cut their own tree right there at the farm. Visitors may explore the rows of trees at the Rocking M Farm and if they find one they like, staff will assist them in cutting it.

p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. For more information, call 785-238-2298, visit them online at www.therockingfarm.com or head over in person to 10402 Junction Road, Junction City, Kansas.

For those who enjoy the feeling of cutting down their own tree to bring home, Lee's Christmas Trees in Junction City and Bel Tree Farm in Salina, Kansas, have plenty waiting to be chosen.

Wander through rows upon rows of trees until the perfect one appears at Lee's Christmas Trees. Staff at Lee's Christmas Trees have saws available for use, but offer no pre-cut trees. Employees are also on hand to help with cutting and loading of trees. Trees grown there include Austrian pine, Scotch pine and white pine.

Visitors are welcome to come cut their trees from 9 a.m. to dusk every day. For more information, call 785-238-7288 or visit them at 1025 Glessner Lane, Junction City, Kansas.

Pick a tree then gather garland and a wreath at Bel Tree Farm. Bel Tree Farm staff provide tools to cut a tree and will net and help load a tree into a vehicle. While searching for the right tree, enjoy popcorn and apple cider and on weekends enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides. Trees available at Bel Tree farm include Scotch pine and Austrian pine.

Bel Tree Farm is open Monday through Friday 3 to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5:30 p.m. For more information about Bel Tree Farm, call 785-452-9922 or visit them at 401 South Holmes Road, Salina, Kansas.



Britt's Garden Acres in Manhattan, Kansas, and the Rocking M Farm in Junction City, Kansas, both offer pre-cut trees ready to be taken home and decorated in ornaments. Visitors can also purchase handmade wreaths and other decorations.