



## THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



www.riley.army.mil

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

Vol. 8, No. 50



FORT RILEY, KANSAS



Jim Sharp, a former 1st Infantry Division Soldier, holds a sign bearing the name of one of the 101 Riley County men who lost his life during World War II during "Taps" at the end of the Pearl Harbor Day concert Dec. 7 at the Peace Memorial Auditorium in Manhattan, Kansas. The auditorium serves as a living memorial for those men.

## Pearl Harbor anniversary remembered at music concert

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

"Tora, Tora, Tora."

These three words were used by Japanese pilots to signify they had achieved 100 percent surprise on Dec. 7, 1941. The attack lasted about 110 minutes and 2,335 U.S. service members were lost.

This year, members of the Fort Riley community gathered at the Peace Memorial Auditorium Dec. 7 in Manhattan, Kansas, to remember the 101 Riley County men lost during World War II. A variety of musical groups including the 1st Infantry Division Band played for those in attendance.

"On a Sunday afternoon, we were sitting there listening to the radio when the announcement came across the radio that the Japanese were bombing Pearl Harbor. Those six words impacted my life to this very day."

JIM SHARP | WORLD WAR II VETERAN

"I was a junior in high school and I grew up on a farm down in White City," said Jim Sharp, a WWII veteran. "On a Sunday afternoon, we were sitting there listening to the radio when the announcement came across the radio that the Japanese were bombing Pearl Harbor. Those six words impacted my life to this very day."

He decided to join the military with his friends after hearing that news. Sharp served in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII. He said he was lucky to be alive when the war was over.

"I'm glad I went and I'm glad I fought for my country," he said.

For the concert, Sharp partnered with Laurie Davis, music director for the program, to invite more than 70 WWII veterans including Kansas Sen. Bob Dole. Dole was unable to attend, but Sharp read a letter Dole sent to the event organizers.

"Like every other American who lived through the historic events of Dec. 7, 1941, I will never forget where I was and how it affected my life and the life of our nation," the letter read.

See PEARL HARBOR, page 8

## TREES FOR TROOPS



Alexia Thurman watches as her brothers, Abrams Thurman and Noah Thurman help their father, Staff Sgt. Jesse Thurman of 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, carry the family Christmas tree at the annual Trees for Troops event at Outdoor Recreation Center at Fort Riley. There were 300 trees to distribute to active-duty Soldiers at the beginning of the Dec. 7 event.

## Hundreds of Christmas trees made available to local Soldiers, family members

Story and photos by Andy Massanet  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Fort Riley Soldiers and family members hauled trees away from the annual Trees for Troops event at Outdoor Recreation Dec. 7.

According to the Trees for Troops website, the program provides free, Christmas trees to military service members and their families.

Rob Myers, from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, who helped trim the trunks of the trees with a chainsaw, said this year a total of 300 trees were donated by a tree farm in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The trees were sought by those who arrived on the cold, snowy morning, including Celia Estrada, spouse of Spc. Bryan Estrada, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"He (Bryan) was deployed last year so we missed Christmas together," she said.

See TREES, page 8

"We love Christmas and the tree is an important part of that tradition."

CELIA ESTRADA  
SPOUSE OF SPC. BRYAN ESTRADA, 5TH SQUADRON,  
4TH CAVALRY REGIMENT, 2ND ARMORED BRIGADE  
COMBAT TEAM, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



Celia Estrada, spouse of Spc. Bryan Estrada, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, ties a Christmas tree to the roof of her car at the Trees for Troops event at Fort Riley Dec. 7. Trees for Troops had made about 300 trees available to Soldiers and their families on Dec. 7 through 9 at the Outdoor Recreation Center Building at Fort Riley.

## Fort Leonard Wood Soldiers train alongside Fort Riley unit

By Season Osterfeld  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Soldiers of the 595th Engineer Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, traveled to Fort Riley to train alongside Soldiers of the 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, from Nov. 28 to Dec. 9.

The 595th Co. Soldiers came to Fort Riley to complete combined arms training and platoon level certifications, which included mobility, counter mobility, reconnaissance and explosive hazards clearance, while being a part of an engineer battalion, Capt. Paul Kim, 595th Eng. Co., 5th Eng. Bn., said.

"It was really good integrating with the 82nd," he said. "They have a more current equipment set. It was definitely a learning experience ... good training that was planned and hosted by them. Really training with them and getting experience working together was really good."

Kim highlighted the training as important for his unit because they are typically attached to a brigade combat team and train with them, but have not done so in sometime. The training helped the Soldiers to experience what it is like to be attached to another unit before they travel to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

"We would normally be attached to a brigade combat team, so we're trying to reintegrate

See ENGINEERS, page 3

## American country music artist rocks out in Iraq

By Spc. Derrik Tribbey  
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — American country music artist Keith Anderson struck the right chords while playing for the service members deployed with Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command — Operation Inherent Resolve Dec. 8.

Armed Forces Entertainment hosted Anderson, a native of Oklahoma. He came to boost morale and thank the troops.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be here," Anderson said. "I always wanted to come over here and just say thanks."

During his visit, Anderson performed a live concert in front of more than 50 service members, shared a meal and took a tour of Union III.

Anderson said he felt honored for service members of all ranks to stop what they were doing to talk with him. He added he is inspired by the troops.

"Everyone is so appreciative," Anderson said. "They just want to see something from home."

See ARTIST, page 8

### FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**First Lt. Dana Sullivan, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, volunteered in the battalion steering committee meetings. She assisted in coordination and planning of the battalion Fall Apple Day booth in September. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call Becky Willis, Army Volunteer Corps program manager, at 785-239-4593.**

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



**USO FORT RILEY VOLUNTEERS HOST NO DOUGH DINNER WITH TOYS, SEE PAGE 9.**

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



**SOLDIERS OF THE 172ND HAZARD RESPONSE COMPANY FACE OFF AGAINST SOLDIERS FROM DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTALION IN FIRST BASKETBALL GAME OF SEASON, SEE PAGE 15.**



# Mountain lion sighting leads to Soldiers receiving more education

By Maria Childs  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

It appears a mountain lion has been caught lurking in the training area at Fort Riley. A photo was captured on a trail camera in Maneuver Area G Nov. 9 at Fort Riley portraying a large cat.

The hunter who owned the camera reported the sighting to the game warden immediately, and biologists joined the warden at the location of the trail camera. No further evidence was found that leads them to believe it was a mountain lion.

“There’s a chance the cat we caught on camera was the same as the one spotted in Paxico, Kansas, the night before Thanksgiving,” said Shawn Stratton, supervisory fish and wildlife biologist with the Environmental Division of the Directorate of Public Works. Stratton said mountain lions are territorial and the area they roam can be 300 square miles or greater.

The sighting has caused the staff of the environmental



COURTESY PHOTO

**A hunter’s trail camera revealed an animal that could be a mountain lion in Fort Riley Maneuver Area G Nov. 9. Biologists joined the game warden at the location of the trail camera, but no further evidence of a mountain lion was found.**

division to include mountain lions in their hazardous animal class given throughout the year.

Despite thousands of reported sightings of mountain lion, Kansas’ first documented mountain lion was shot by a landowner near Medicine Lodge in 2007. Fifteen have been documented since.

Stratton said he has spoken with biologists at areas such

as Fort Carson, Colorado, about their involvement with mountain lions, but unlike other areas, there have been no reports of a breeding pair of mountain lions in the state of Kansas.

“So far it’s been lone animals passing through the state,” he said.

For more information about hazardous animals at Fort Riley, call 785-239-8579.

# Fort Riley Tax Center set to open

By Maria Childs  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Fort Riley Tax Center opens in January to Soldiers, retirees and their eligible family members. The center will open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 19, 2017. The tax center is at building 7034 on the corner of Normandy and Bullard streets.

“The Fort Riley Tax Center operates to assist Soldiers and their eligible dependents in filing taxes,” said Elizabeth Thurston, chief of the tax center at Fort Riley.

Staff of the center will help Soldiers, retirees and their fam-

ily members prepare federal taxes from 2014, 2015 or 2016 for free. State tax returns are prepared as a courtesy when completing federal returns.

Earlier this year, staff prepared more than 7,000 federal tax returns and saved more than \$1.2 million in tax preparation fees.

“The Fort Riley Tax Center is important to the community because it can save Soldiers an average of \$300 when filing taxes,” Thurston said. “We stride in helping every eligible client and our goal is always to save them money and maximize their tax refund.”

To use the tax center, Soldiers, retirees and eligible family members must have their social security card or copies of the card for all dependents that will be included in the return. Thurston said numbers alone are not sufficient and will make clients ineligible for our services.

Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. by appointment and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. walk-ins only. Walk-ins are always welcome but appointments are encouraged.

For more information, call 785-239-1040.

# Fort Riley, K-State break down language barrier through partnership

Story and photo by Margaret Ziffer  
USAG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MANHATTAN, Kan. — “What exactly do you do at K-State?”

That’s a question Briana Nelson Goff, director at the Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families at Kansas State University, has become well acquainted with.

During the Manhattan Military Relations Council’s monthly luncheon at the Manhattan Country Club Dec. 8, she had an opportunity to shed some light on the subject.

Opened in 2009, the institute works through three channels — research, outreach and teaching — as staff and faculty of K-State strive toward the vision of being one of the nation’s most military-inclusive public universities by 2025, Goff said. “We work on developing programs to support service members and families in the region and nationally,” she said. “Part of the mission of being a land grant (university) is not just being an academic institution, but taking what we know, the knowledge that we generate, and connecting it out into the community.”

By working closely with not only Fort Riley, but also the Kansas National Guard and other service components, the institute bridges the gap between the academic and the military worlds.

“Academics and the military speak a completely different language,” Goff said. “They are very different systems, so helping to bridge those two systems and bring about opportunities is a lot of what we do at the institution.”

Although she is not a military veteran herself, Goff has been dedicated to military partnerships for many years. She was one of four Americans to receive the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal from the chief of staff of the U.S. Army Sept. 15 at the Pentagon for her work.

“For me, it’s always been a passion of mine,” she said. “I started working in this area 25 years ago, specifically on post-traumatic stress disorder. That was what really launched our starting to collaborate with Fort Riley, was some research we wanted to do at the beginning of the war to really look at how couples and families are impacted by the war.”

It’s been several years now since the military began really looking at the concept of resiliency and looking at how to make Soldiers more resilient, Goff said.

“Well, I think we realized we can’t make someone more resilient, but we can look at, are there things that may put them more at risk,” she said. “And so that’s some of the research that we are going to be starting is, ‘are there factors that may put Soldiers more at risk?’”

Although the concept of PTSD is not new the way it is being studied and understood has been changing over the years.

“It’s been around for a hundred years, but we didn’t have a name for it necessarily,” Goff said. “That’s a very tangible consequence of war, but a lot of other things are less tangible. So we can try to understand that more and figure out how to prevent it.”

As part of the institute’s work with PTSD, they offer retreats specifically designed

for veterans and a designated support person.

“There’s lots of retreats out there,” Goff said. “There are wounded warrior retreats, there’s retreats for spouses, there’s recreational retreats. There’s lots of those. This is different because it requires that a veteran with PTSD include their support person so that they don’t have to do this journey by themselves. That’s the key: they are both getting educated and trying to understand how they are impacted by PTSD.”

Since 2013, the institute has hosted 13 different retreats, and continue to get positive feedback.

“Not everyone is going to experience PTSD, but every Soldier who is deployed is impacted by that deployment,” Goff said. “Every family is impacted by that.”

Due to the growing popularity of the partnership — both on the part of the K-State and military communities — the institute began hiring on interns five years ago.

“I had a lot of students at K-State who were interested in working with the military so I started hiring interns each semester,” Goff said.

Kelley Paskow, with the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office at Fort Riley, is the liaison for the internship program on the military side.

“When I first came over to the garrison, Briana and I sat down and said ‘wow — there’s a lot of opportunities here. Let’s try to see if maybe we can slowly build it more and more,’” Paskow said.

Whereas Goff works with the deans on campus to gauge interest and help find students and faculty who are interested

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Photos by Chad L. Simon | 1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**ABOVE:** Capt. Thomas Morgan, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, stands in formation before releasing returning Soldiers to their waiting family and friends upon 1st CAB’s return from Afghanistan to Fort Riley Dec. 6. The return of approximately 150 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers allows U.S. forces in Afghanistan to maintain the 8,400 troop level established by the White House in July. The returning Soldiers will complete reintegration training before taking leave over the holidays.

**BELOW:** Sabrina Valenzuela and her husband, Staff Sgt. Oscar Valenzuela, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, share a kiss upon his return from Afghanistan to Fort Riley Dec. 6.



**Briana Nelson Goff, director of the Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families at Kansas State University, was the guest speaker at the Manhattan Military Relations Council’s monthly luncheon Dec. 8 at the Manhattan Country Club.**

in doing research or participating in an internship, Paskow works with the various offices on post to find “win-win” placement opportunities.

“A lot of times the guys in the engineering department might not realize the similarities between our Directorate of Public Works and themselves and that there are very similar areas where they might be able to help one another,” Paskow said. “We have to think outside the box.”

A key piece of Paskow’s responsibility is to determine how civilian and military skills might translate to each other by looking at what academic programs are available at K-State and what directorates, programs or units at Fort Riley have similar career fields.

“We’re always trying to grow,” Goff said. “We’ve had lots of discussions on trying to expand on

the internship program because we have lots of different areas at K-State that could assist Fort Riley. We’re working on expanding those opportunities.”

And that relationship has been expanding. Even though Fort Riley and K-State have been neighbors for more than 150 years, Goff said the relationship between the two institutions is always evolving. And over the past several years, that partnership has been growing stronger.

“Over the last 10 years there’s been such a dramatic change in the community embracing the military, and that includes K-State,” Goff said. “That’s really been a significant change.”

In addition to the research, retreats and internships, institute programs include National Guard training on family resilience, military family financial resiliency workshops, pre-de-

ployment and post-deployment financial knowledge workshops, 4-H Youth programs and outreach programs.

It is through these unique partnerships that the institute will continue supporting military service members and connecting what’s happening at K-State with the military community – locally, regionally and nationally, Goff said.

“We have Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division 10 miles from an academic institution,” Goff said. “So I think that makes it unique. That opportunity is there. It’s not unique because we are a land grant university, there’s a lot of other land grant universities. But we have a number of individuals that, because of that connection, because we have both been here 150 years, there’s been an awareness about the military.”





THE FIGHTING FIRST!

# James W. Pearson: A ‘Big Red One’ Soldier



By Phyllis Fitzgerald  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

James W. Pearson is from St. Joseph, Missouri, and he joined the Army in 1947. He went to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for basic training and Advanced Individual Training in infantry operations. Next, Pearson was off to Fort Benning, Georgia, for parachute and glider training. When he completed training, he was assigned to the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he tested new methods of airborne tactics.

In 1949, Pearson received his first opportunity to serve at Fort Riley when he was assigned to the 10th Infantry Division as a test monitor. In 1950, he went to Korea as a forward observer in the 1st Cavalry Division. Upon his return stateside, Pearson's duty was with Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco, California, where he worked in the Neuro Surgical Clinic and in 1953, he went to France for an assignment with the 28th General Hospital at Croix Chapeau.

This time, Pearson's return stateside brought him back to Fort Riley as a "Big Red One" Soldier. In 1956 he was assigned as the division assignment noncommissioned officer for 1st Administration Company, 1st Replacement Company, 1st Infantry Division.

"The 1st Division (was) being reorganized as a Pentomic Division — Battle Group Task forces that were adopted in response to the perceived threat posed by tactical nuclear weapons

"I spent 31 years in the Army; I was in the Korean War and the Vietnam War and in both wars I was wounded."

JAMES W. PEARSON

RETIRED "BIG RED ONE" VETERAN

on the battlefield in 1957," Pearson said.

From 1959 to 1964, he assigned to the 24th Infantry Division in Germany where he received training by the Special Forces and became the unit's long-range reconnaissance patrol and aggressor platoon sergeant; then a member of the personnel management inspection team and later the first sergeant of Headquarters Company.

In July 1964, Pearson returned to the "Big Red One" at Fort Riley for an assignment in personnel with Headquarters 701st Maintenance Battalion. He had a tour in Vietnam in 1965 as a door gunner on the Headquarters Helicopter. When Pearson returned he went to 5th Battalion, 32 Artillery, 1st Inf. Div., where his primary duty was to assure all personnel received their nuclear surety security clearance.

Pearson returned to Vietnam in September 1967 where he would do back-to-back tours with Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observation Group, 5th Special Forces as a team sergeant in the Nha Trang Mike Force.

In 1969, Pearson returned to Fort Riley for an assignment as sergeant

major of the Administration Section Correctional Training Facility. From July 1975, to August 1977, he was assigned to Headquarters United Nations Command, 8th Army as sergeant major of J3 Force Development in Korea. Pearson came back to Fort Riley April 1978 as the sergeant major of the brigade operations shop with 2nd Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., where he remained until retiring April 1, 1978.

"I spent 31 years in the Army; I was in the Korean War and the Vietnam War and in both wars I was wounded," he said. "My favorite Big Red One experience — my wife and I being the guests of honor in 2015 at the 3rd Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade Military Ball. Our great nephew Capt. Luke Bryan is a company commander in that unit. I was impressed with all the fine officers and men of that organization."

Pearson said he chose Junction City, Kansas, as home after retirement because they had been stationed here so many times, owned a home and had kids in Unified School District 475.

He is a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

*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

## COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



Photos by Season Osterfeld | POST

**ABOVE:** Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, left, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, introduced three Fort Riley Soldiers to six Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets during the cadets' commissioning ceremony as examples of the Soldiers these new second lieutenants will lead Dec. 9 at Kansas State University. Frank was the guest speaker for the commissioning ceremony, offering advice and praise for the new second lieutenants. He also reminded the new second lieutenants and the current cadets of the responsibilities they are taking on as officers and the importance of their roles in the U.S. Army.

**BELOW:** Six Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets take their oath to become 2nd Lieutenants during their commissioning ceremony Dec. 9 at Kansas State University.



## ENGINEERS Continued from page 1

ourselves into being attached to a brigade team," he said.

While most of the Soldiers in the 82nd Eng. Bn., 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., played an administrative or leadership role in the training and the 595th Eng. Co. Soldiers carried out and performed the missions, there were a few missions in which the Soldiers worked together to complete them.

"There's a couple training events where (we) did missions together," Kim said. "We were able to communicate together pretty well."

Staff Sgt. Devontia Williams, 595th Eng. Co., 5th Eng. Bn., led Soldiers through obstacle clearing in the training, specifically performing rock clearance to allow vehicles and Soldiers to move through areas otherwise blocked off. He said he and his Soldiers worked jointly with those in the 82nd Eng. Bn., 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., to complete their tasks and praised the practice opportunities they had for the combined skills, as well as the combined arms training in general.

Williams said this training allowed his Soldiers to develop a greater understanding of their individual roles and the roles of noncommissioned officers in a large scale operation or joint mission.

"The Soldiers actually got an opportunity to see a wider scale of their training, see the importance of their individual tasks and the NCOs in a collective task," he said.

While a majority of the training was the same as what they do at Fort Leonard Wood, Kim said the larger space and varied terrain at Fort Riley provided opportunities to use their vehicles and conduct more mounted training. For many of the specialists, privates and platoon leaders, the vehicle maneuvering training at Fort Riley was the first time they experienced such training.

"The tasks were the same, but the resources available, especially land, we're much better here," he said. "At Fort Leonard Wood, we're pretty limited to do things dismounted. There's not a lot of space."



COURTESY PHOTO

**Soldiers of the 595th Engineer Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, conduct mounted training at Fort Riley. The 595th Eng. Co. Soldiers trained with Soldiers of the 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Nov. 28 to Dec. 9.**

Williams said the opportunity to train directly alongside another engineering unit also allowed for additional training they cannot do at Fort Leonard Wood.

"On Fort Leonard Wood, we are the only active engineer unit there, so we don't have a rock clearance package there," he said. "We don't have the land that Fort Riley has. It was a very great training opportunity for us to do this here."

The larger, varied terrain at Fort Riley offered more than just extra space to work with, Staff Sgt. Anthony Weber, 595th Eng. Co., 5th Eng. Bn., said. Soldiers were also able to increase their knowledge and experience with navigating new and different terrain.

"They learned to think on micro-terrain and they're really learning to judge that," Weber said. "You can't just go hauling through the field, speeding through. That's definitely something they worked on."

Joint training is important for all units, but for the Soldiers of the 595th Eng. Co., 5th Eng. Bn., it was a good precursor for what was to come at NTC when they are attached to a brigade, Kim said.

Weber added joint training also prepares Soldiers for what to expect during deployment rotations.

"It builds cohesion between each other," he said. "It gives a better idea of how things operate in the theater."



# Changing military families requires more flexible support

By C. Todd Lopez  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning believes the Army needs to change how it provides family support programs and support to Soldiers.

Speaking at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C., Dec. 8 before representatives and members of the Blue Star Families, an organization founded in 2009 that performs one of the largest surveys of military families and helps to direct them to sources of support, Fanning said, “Army families are changing.”

“The Army needs to recognize that more military spouses are working now,” Fanning said. “We must adjust to a reality where it’s no longer expected that married Soldiers will have a stay-at-home spouse who take care of the family and homestead and does volunteer work on the side.”

“I think we need to invest more in paying for programs for family support, so we are not relying on the backs of those spouses that choose not to work, because that is a shrinking group,” he said.

With those adjustments, the Army recognized that a growing number of military spouses want to work. They often have their own careers they want to pursue separate from their serving partner. Additionally, in order to remain competitive, the

Army must adjust to make itself attractive to Soldiers who have career-oriented spouses.

“If successful career progression in the Army for a Soldier continues to necessitate that Soldiers have an infinitely flexible, stay-at-home-spouse,” Fanning said, “then fewer Americans will choose to join the Army.”

“We need to work on employment opportunities for spouses that aren’t in the military,” Fanning said. “And we need to do more to make career paths for dual-military families workable. All too often, it works for a little while, and then one of the two has to make a decision to get out to support the other one. We need to make daycare more available.”

Fanning suggested also that for Soldiers, it might be possible for the Army to extend the number of years it takes to chart a successful career.

“We need to think differently about career paths in the military,” he said. “We have these pole years, and you have to hit a year every single year. And in fact in many of the services to really excel you have to hit that year early. There is no reason we can’t, for example, stretch things out a little bit more, to give people more time to do other things for developmental opportunities, and to make decisions for their family, that doesn’t take them off the track to get them to general officer.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning delivers opening remarks to representatives and members of the Blue Star Families at Brookings in Washington, D.C., Dec. 8. The discussion was to mark the release of the 2016 Blue Star Families annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey, one of the most critical tools to understanding the issues facing service members, veterans, and military family members.

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARADIGM SHIFT

That stability in family life will go a long way to helping Soldiers be able to cope with deployments and the stress of being separated from family. As a result, the Army also needs to continue to advance its approach to behavioral health.

Currently behavioral health assistance must be initiated by Soldiers, and placing the burden on a Solider to proactively seek help after a deployment.

“I think we need to completely change the paradigm on behavior health,” Fanning said. “It’s not that we’re going to make it easier to access it

if you want it ... we’re asking you to do things over and over again that are against how your body is biologically wired from generations and generations of evolution. We should expect, you should expect, you’re going to need it. So you’re going to have to go through it when you come back.”

Special Operations Command has already made successful efforts to providing behavioral health services to all its Soldiers immediately upon returning from deployment.

Fanning said these efforts are worth replicating elsewhere. “We need to move it across the force as a whole,” he said.

## 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](http://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.

**PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OPENING SOON**

The pedestrian bridge will be open Dec. 16. Once the bridge is open, pedestrian crossing at ground level across 1st Division at Thomas Ave. will be discouraged.

According to the USD 475 schedule, there will be no elementary or middle school students Dec. 16. So the bridge will be ready when students return from winter break Jan. 3.

## COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN TEAM RECOGNIZED



Season Osterfeld | POST

Guests listen to members of the 1st Infantry Division band as they play holiday carols Dec. 9 during “A 1st Division World War I Christmas Reception” at the Fort Riley U.S. Cavalry Museum. Members of the Friends of the Fort Riley Museums hosted the free annual event for guests to tour the museum, enjoy light refreshments, listen to music and admire people dressed in era appropriate attire. The World War I theme stemmed from the number of World War I era displays available at the U.S. Cavalry Museum and the upcoming 100th anniversary, said Bob Smith, director of the Fort Riley Museum Division. “We thought this is the 100th anniversary coming up for the 1st division and World War I, the Center of Military History, who I work for, decided we should start commemorating the 100th anniversary, so we thought, we have World War I there, we have World War I here, let’s do A World War I Christmas,” he said.

## 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.

Winter weather  
can't keep you  
down if you  
are #ReadyArmy.  
Get tips at:  
[www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy](http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy)

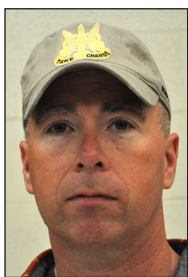
**HAVE A STORY IDEA?**

Send it to [usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil) or call 785-239-8854/8135.



RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What is the best Christmas present you have ever received?



"A care package from my daughter the last time I was in Afghanistan."

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. BILLY COUNTS II  
PAINTED ROCK, ALABAMA

97th Military Police Battalion



"Being able to go back home to Alaska to see my family for Christmas in 2005."

SGT. 1ST CLASS NATHANIEL YORK  
TOK, ALASKA

97th Military Police Battalion



"A PlayStation 3 when I was 12."

PFC. KAILON SOUTHALL  
FLINT, MICHIGAN

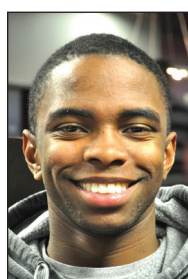
977th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion



"A blue and white remote control motorcycle."

PVT. ALEXUS SMITH  
SANDUSKY, OHIO

2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"My first car. It was also my birthday present because my birthday is on Christmas."

PVT. ALLAIJAH CHURCHWELL  
SANDUSKY, OHIO

24th Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The 1st Infantry Division Post are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley PA Officer and printed by Willgratten Publications, LLC, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government under exclusive written contract with Fort Riley.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army or Willgratten Publications, LLC. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher will refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

Circulation 8,800 copies each week.

A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City and Manhattan chambers of commerce.

COMMANDING GENERAL  
Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
Lt. Col. Kimeisha McCullum  
PUBLISHER  
Chris Walker  
FORT RILEY EDITORIAL STAFF  
EDITOR  
Patti Geistfeld  
ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Andy Massanet  
STAFF WRITERS  
Maria Childs, Season Osterfeld and Chris Cannon  
MEDIA SALES MANAGER  
Melissa Tyson  
MEDIA SALES REPRESENTATIVES  
Kim Maguire, Tammy Moritz and Shannon Fritz

CONTACT US  
For business or advertising matters, call The Daily Union in Junction City at 785-762-5000. For news offerings, call the Fort Riley Public Affairs Office at 785-239-8854 or DSN 856-8854, or email usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil

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.



As of Wednesday, Dec. 14, 158 days have passed since the last vehicular fatality at Fort Riley. Sixty-four more and the post will celebrate with a safety holiday to take place at each unit's discretion.

COMMAND TEAM CORNER

Celebrate the holiday season with family

On behalf of all Fort Riley leaders, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Cornelison and I would like to take a moment to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family for a joyous holiday season.

Thank you for your dedicated service and your great work.

"Big Red One" Soldiers are currently serving this great nation of ours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Korea, proving once again why America's 1st Infantry Division has been the "go to" fighting force for nearly 100 years. That is a legacy with which we can all be proud.



Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin

For those of us deployed, being away from family is not easy. But because of your continued support, all of

us rest easier knowing that our friends and family will be there for us in times of peace and in times of war. We are family. That is what the holidays are about — coming together to celebrate as a whole.

For those at home, now is the time to celebrate with family, friends and loved ones. We work hard throughout the year, and this holiday season is a time for relaxation, reflection and remembrance of our most cherished moments.

Celebrate responsibly and keep safety at the forefront of all your holiday activities.

Getting where you are going and returning safely are the best gifts you can give your loved one.

We are honored to serve with you and to witness the undeniable good each and every one of us delivers across the globe every day. Thank you for your service, and thank you for your support.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cornelison and I wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Duty First!  
Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin  
1st Infantry Division  
and Fort Riley commanding general

New individual taxpayer identification number law could impact refunds

MILITARY ONESOURCE

A new tax law could impact military members when they file their 2016 taxes using an individual taxpayer identification number, instead of a social security number. The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, or PATH Act, requires taxpayers to renew their identification number if the one they have is set to expire Dec. 31.

Failure to renew the individual taxpayer identification number prior to the expiration date could potentially cause a delay in processing tax returns. The delay could result in a reduced refund or additional penalties and interest for those individuals owing taxes.

If a spouse is not a U.S. citizen and you have filed a joint tax return in previous years, it is likely that the spouse has used an individual taxpayer identification number. Additionally, if a spouse has children from a previous marriage

and the children are not U.S. citizens and you have claimed the kids as dependents on taxes, then you may have used this number to identify them.

TAKE ACTION TO HELP YOU AVOID DELAYS

Here is a checklist to help determine whether the PATH Act applies:

- Do you use a number other than a Social Security number to identify a dependent when filing taxes? This is likely an individual taxpayer identification number, and if you have not used it on a tax return at least once in the last three tax years, the number will expire on Dec. 31.
- Are you claiming a foreign national or a non-resident alien on the return? If so, then you have an individual taxpayer identification number.
- Did you decide against using that number when filing taxes between 2013 and 2015? If the answer is

yes, then you need to renew the number.

- Does the identification number have the digits 78 or 79 in the middle of it? If so, then you must renew your number.

HOW TO RENEW AN INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

The federal government began accepting renewal requests in October. The request must be submitted between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, so you can file 2016 taxes next year. Failure to do so can result in delays in processing a return and expose you to penalties. Here are the things needed in order to update an expiring identification number:

- Fill out and submit to the Internal Revenue Service a W-7 application form for a new number.
- Look for Letter 5821 from the IRS notifying you about your soon-to-expire number. A copy of the let-

ter must be sent to the IRS along with the application.

WHERE TO FILE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

- You can mail documents to the address listed on the W-7 application form. The IRS will return those documents within 60 days.
- You can renew the number through an IRS authorized Certified Acceptance Agent in your state or at select Volunteer Income Tax Assistance locations.
- You can make an appointment to renew the number at a local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center.

Military OneSource can help with this tax law change. Contact a Military OneSource consultant at 1-800-342-9647 to discuss tax concerns or to seek free document translation services. You can also contact the Fort Riley legal assistance office at 785-239-3117.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN TEAM RECOGNIZED



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, as well as 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., left, who served as battalion leaders for the Combined Federal Campaign join Brig. Gen. Patrick D Frank, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, to be recognized for their efforts in raising funds for the CFC during the Family Readiness Group Round Up Dec. 6 at Riley's Conference Center. Soldiers in the 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., raised about \$13,000 for the campaign and 82nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., raised about \$23,000, Frank said. More than \$165,000 was raised at Fort Riley for the CFC. The CFC is a philanthropic campaign to support non-profit organizations across around the world that provide health and human service benefits. According to the website, the CFC is the world's largest annual workplace charity campaign with nearly 200 campaigns in the United States and overseas.

Season Osterfeld | POST

The next USAG Resilience Day Off is

DEC.  
23

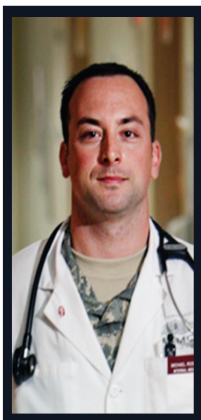
SAFETY HOLIDAY



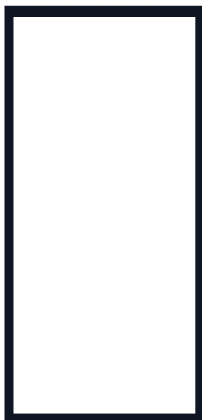
As of Wednesday, Dec. 14, 158 days have passed since the last vehicular fatality at Fort Riley. Sixty-four more and the post will celebrate with a safety holiday to take place at each unit's discretion.

Irwin Army Community Hospital

Missed appointments are missed opportunities for others.



PROVIDER



NO-SHOW PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT













TREES Continued from page 1

“We love Christmas and the tree is an important part of that tradition.”

Staff Sgt. Nik Sweger, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, echoes that sentiment. When asked what makes the tree so special and important, he simply said, “Tradition.”

Then he added, “My father was in the Army and even when we were in Hawaii we had a Christmas tree.”

This year differed in that the event was held at the Outdoor Recreation Building. In 2015 it was held at Riley’s Conference Center. But it still went well, Scott Scherberger, chief of Community Recreation, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation said.

“This was the first time we distributed them from Outdoor Recreation at its current location so we weren’t

too sure how the logistics would work with parking, the flow of customers through the lobby, and the traffic flow for the high number of people we were expecting to get,” Scherberger said. “Everything worked out exactly as we had planned so it turned out to be a real smooth event.”

The Trees for Troops effort has become an important part of the comprehensive mission of DFMWR.

“It’s really hard to put into words how important this event is to our community,” Scherberger said. “At today’s distribution I saw spouses who were there to pick up a tree, young kids in tow, and knowing that some of them would not be able to spend this Christmas with their loved ones was tough. It really drives home how important it is for us to give them our best service possible so their spouse can focus on the mission while

deployed and not worry about their loved ones back home.”

The Trees for Troops effort is nationwide and involves the hard work of many people and Scherberger tipped his cap to them.

“I would like to thank the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, FedEx, and the many tree farmers, donors and sponsors that support the Trees for Troops campaign,” Scherberger said. “This year alone more than 18,000 Christmas trees will be donated to service members and their families (nationwide), and that couldn’t be done without the support and generosity of those individuals. In addition, the staff at Outdoor Recreation does a tremendous job in coordinating the logistics of delivery with the Christmas Spirit Foundation to distribute to our Soldiers and families to enjoy during the holiday season.”

ARTIST Continued from page 1

Sgt. Holly Styskal, an operational contracting support leader, read about the concert in the weekly finance office newsletter and took a front row seat at the concert.

“I was in awe to see that Keith Anderson, who I grew up listening to, was coming overseas to perform for the Soldiers,” Styskal said.

Styskal, who deployed with the Nebraska National Guard in support of the 1st Infantry Division, added that having Anderson perform brought a new level of excitement to her deployment.

“Events like this in Iraq are not only a great source of morale, but a breath of fresh air,” Styskal said, “to know there are still people in this world like Keith Anderson who will put themselves in harm’s way to make us feel alive or like I am back home going out with my friends enjoying my favorite music.”



Spc. Anna Pongo | 1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
**Armed Forces Entertainment-hosted American country music artist Keith Anderson signs an autograph for Spc. Nicholas Ball, a healthcare specialist with the 1st Infantry Division, Dec. 8 in Baghdad, Iraq. Division leadership is in command of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command – Operation Inherent Resolve. Anderson performed live for more than 50 service members and signed autographs.**

PEARL HARBOR Continued from page 1

“This attack brought us into World War II and that war ended with the United States taking its place as the leader of the free world ... If you ask veterans about heroism, they will tell you the real heroes never return. It is so important that Americans do not ever forget this day.”

Sharp wore his combat infantry patch on his lapel the 101 men who the auditorium was built to remember.

Spc. Lawrence Evans, senior producer for the 1st Infantry Division Band, attended the concert. He said they used this venue to prepare for their annual holiday concert Dec. 16 and 17 at the C.L. Hoover Opera House in Junction City, Kansas.

“We love playing in this facility because of the history and how much it shows Fort Riley and the 1st Inf. Div. is supported in the community,” he said.

Evans said the band is present at many events that commemorate anniversaries.

“Anytime we get to do those events it’s especially special because it is something that connects the military and civilians,” he said.



Maria Childs | POST  
**Spc. Lawrence Evans, senior producer for the 1st Infantry Division Band, sings “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas” at the Pearl Harbor Day concert Dec. 7 at the Peace Memorial Auditorium in Manhattan, Kansas.**



Maria Childs | POST  
**Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division Band perform at the Pearl Harbor Day concert Dec. 7 at the Peace Memorial Auditorium in Manhattan, Kansas. “We love playing in this facility because of the history and how much it shows Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division is supported in the community,” said Spc. Lawrence Evans, senior producer for the band. “We love playing here.”**



“Not everyone can make it to the USO center when we do our holiday kind of thing on Christmas day, so we thought we would bring it to them.”

CRYSTAL TINKEY | PROGRAMS MANAGER, USO FORT RILEY



Children choose a toy from the gift table Dec. 9 during the No Dough Dinner hosted by staff and volunteers of USO Fort Riley at the Culinary Arts Labs. Children 13 and younger received a ticket to pick out a present with their dinner in honor of the holiday season.

## Holiday treats

### Volunteers bring dinner, toys, music to families at No Dough Dinner event on Fort Riley

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

More than 135 people were treated to music and toys at the USO Fort Riley No Dough Dinner Dec. 9 at the Culinary Arts Lab at Fort Riley.

Staff and volunteers of the USO Fort Riley host a free dinner each month for Soldiers and their families with the help of donations from community partners. This month's No Dough Dinner featured holiday gifts for children up to age 13 as part of an early celebration for the holidays.

“Every child that comes in up to the age of 12 or 13 gets a ticket when they come through the dinner line the first time and they can come to the gift table and pick out a gift,” said Crystal Tinkey, programs manager at USO Fort Riley. “Not everyone can make it to the USO center when we do our holiday kind of thing on Christmas day, so we thought we would bring it to them.”

Tinkey said she thought this was the largest No Dough Dinner they had hosted and was grateful to the 1st Infantry Division Culinary Arts Team for allowing them to host the event inside their facility, providing them with enough space for everyone in attendance.

As attendees munched on their sloppy joes and chips, the



Members of the bell choir at the First Lutheran Church in Manhattan, Kansas, perform carols Dec. 9 during the No Dough Dinner hosted by staff and volunteers of USO Fort Riley at the Culinary Arts Labs.



Hand Bell Choir from First Lutheran Church in Manhattan, Kansas, performed carols, filling the building with music.

Jodi Porter, wife of Sgt. Ryan Porter, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div., brought her three children to the dinner as a family event and said they were happily surprised by the gifts and music.

“My husband's deployed so it's a family event that gets us out and doing something,” she

said. “It was amazing. I didn't know and they didn't know they were getting gifts, so they were very excited.”

The No Dough Dinner was funded by Steve and Debbie Saroff, who also served dinner alongside their friends Kirk and Theresa Waldhauer. The Saroffs and Waldhauers also volunteered at a previous No Dough Dinner and said they plan to do it again at future ones because they love being able to give back to service members and their families.

“We thought that was such a good idea and a nice way to give back,” Debbie said. “We're all friends and we just thought it would be a nice idea and it feels good.”



Members of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers participate in a gingerbread house-building contest Dec. 10 at the Warrior Zone.

## Single Soldiers build sweet house

### Warrior Zone plays host to gingerbread house building contest

Story and photo by Chris Cannon  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Single Soldiers were able to experience the joy of being a kid again during the gingerbread house building contest at the Warrior Zone poker tables on the afternoon of Dec. 10. Contestants had the option of entering the contest as a team or individually. Of the eight houses built, three were team builds and five were individual entries.

“We organized the event so that single Soldiers who live in the barracks were able to enjoy the Christmas season,” said Sgt. Cheyenne Hayes, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president.

The BOSS staff coordinates activities such as the contest on Dec. 10 as a way of encouraging single Soldiers to be a part of the local community both on and off Fort Riley. One of those activities is

#### FIRST-PLACE WINNER

• The first-place winner of the Dec. 10 gingerbread house building contest was **Pfc. Brandon Furr**, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

taking part in building homes with Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity help to build homes for those who cannot afford to buy one.

The first-prize winner of the Dec. 10 contest was Pfc. Brandon Furr, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. He received \$100 in gift cards from BOSS for his design which featured the 1st Inf. Div. shield on one side of the house roof. First Sgt. Jonathan Casillas, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division

See **HOUSE**, page 10

## Santa pays visit during breakfast

### 97th Military Police Battalion shares meal with Mr. Claus

By Chris Cannon  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The morning of Dec. 10 was a cold one when Santa stopped by to visit the Soldiers and families of the 97th Military Police Battalion during their second annual breakfast with Santa Claus and Christmas party. As Santa entered the room, he stopped to greet each one of the 28 children eagerly waiting for him as they ate a breakfast of fruit, doughnuts and hugs. For each child, there was a stocking full of candy and a picture as a reminder of his visit.



The party was hosted by Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Counts, senior noncommissioned officer of the 97th MP Bn. and his wife, Birget. Children decorated paper plate wreaths, cardboard Christmas trees and brown paper gingerbread men with gold pipe cleaners, yarn, aluminum foil and felt pom-poms after breakfast with a hug.

Surrounded by carols sung by Frank Sinatra, Burl Ives, Bing Crosby and many others, more than 40 Soldiers and spouses were able to enjoy a good conversation, a warm breakfast and relaxation at the festively decorated tables.

Many of the Soldiers who attended the event helped with the crafts as they smiled and

See **SANTA**, page 12

## Spouses create community via networking event

### Program's main focus to make spouses feel supported

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

Forty-five military spouses and representatives from different organizations at Fort Riley and across the Flint Hills region met Dec. 8 for a Military Spouse Networking event hosted by staff of the USO Fort Riley at Riley's Conference Center.

The spouses' networking program is a pilot program that began this year, said Em-

“... the primary focus of the spouse networking event is about connecting spouses with resources, people and organizations in their community.”

CRYSTAL BRYANT-KEARNS | RP/6 PROGRAM MANAGER

ily Lappat, programs manager at USO World Headquarters. For 2016, there were 10 events held, including the Fort Riley event, which was the last for the year.

“We decided to launch this program because there was a kind of disconnect between the USO and the military spouse community, so we thought that by launching this pro-

gram, it would bring the USO and military spouse together,” Lappat said.

During the event, Lappat and other USO representatives took time to discuss USO programs, such as Rallypoint 6, Hiring our Heroes, Transition 360 Alliance and more. Each of these programs focuses on preparing those in attendance for getting a job by assisting

them with resume building, mock interviews and more. However, the primary focus of the spouse networking event is about connecting spouses with resources, people and organizations in their community, said Crystal Bryant-Kearns, RP/6 program manager.

“This spouse networking program is specifically so spouses feel supported,” Bryant-Kearns said. “(So) they know about the resources in their community, they know how they can benefit them, learning how they can benefit them and, ultimately, if it does not benefit them, being able to share it with someone in their Family Readiness Group or their network.”

The event begins with attendees introducing themselves, whether they were a spouse or represented an organization. Through these introductions, attendees learned what skills, resources or interests are offered.

Following the introductions is the discussion on USO programs and a lesson on how to create an “elevator pitch,” that is, a way to introduce yourself and your skills in a very short period of time.

Once everyone has completed their elevator pitch, the speed networking session begins. Spouses rotate from one seat to the next every four

See **SPOUSES**, page 12



Military spouses and representatives of different organizations on post and in the surrounding Flint Hills region participate in a speed networking session Dec. 8 during a Military Spouse Networking event hosted by USO staff at Riley's Conference Center.



# FORT RILEY POST-ITS

## FORT RILEY EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICE SAT AND ACT TESTING

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 or visit building 211, Room 100.

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

## 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.

## NEWDAY USA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship fund is available from NewDay USA for candidates wanting to attend military schools. Priority will be to middle and high school students, with college students considered on a case-by-case basis. Up to \$20,000 tuition assistance per student is available. Information and applications are available at [www.farragut.org/admissions/financial-aid/newday-usa-foundation-scholarship/](http://www.farragut.org/admissions/financial-aid/newday-usa-foundation-scholarship/).

## 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.



## DOUGH FOR JOES

Staff of the Irwin Army Community Hospital and 1st Infantry Division leaders encourage Soldiers and family members to fill out the Joint Outpatient Experience Survey should they receive one in the mail following a visit to the hospital. JOES allow patients to have their concerns addressed and can earn the hospital up to \$1,000 to be invested in future healthcare programs.

The JOES program is administered by a third party for the Office of the Surgeon General. Patients are randomly selected within 48 hours after their clinic visit. Patients can complete the questionnaire with the enclosed survey, online or by telephone.

## STAY IN SHAPE DURING THE HOLIDAYS WITH CLASSES AT WHITSIDE FITNESS CENTER

A variety of group classes and instructional programs are available at Whitside Fitness Center to help you stay in shape during the holidays. Classes available include body pump, cycling, yoga, STRONG by Zumba, WERQ, kettlebell and morning spin. Classes and schedules are subject to change — for the latest information visit [riley.armymwr.com/us/riley/programs/group-fitness-and-personal-trainers](http://riley.armymwr.com/us/riley/programs/group-fitness-and-personal-trainers) or call 785-239-2583.



## HOLIDAY STRESS SURVIVAL

Military OneSource has several articles, webinars and podcasts with tips on de-stressing and focusing on enjoying the holiday season with friends and family.

To view the information go to [www.militaryonesource.mil/](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/) and search for holiday stress relief.

## ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Staff with Army Family Team Building will hold a class Dec. 19 to 21 at ACS from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for leadership development. The class will focus on leadership styles, effective communication, coaching, mentoring and more.

For more information contact ACS at 785-239-1883.



## 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.



## FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER MOVIE SCHEDULE

**Friday, Dec. 16**  
Theater is closed

**Saturday, Dec. 17**  
Almost Christmas (PG-13) 2 p.m.  
Arrival (PG-13) 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 18**  
Loving (PG-13) 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.



## FORT RILEY VETERINARY SERVICES ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CHANGE IN HOURS

Fort Riley Veterinary Services will close Friday Dec. 16 at noon. The facility will be open next week regular hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Veterinary Services is at 226 Custer Ave. For more information call 785-239-3886.

## 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.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

# Staying mentally fit over holidays important for Soldiers, families

By Col. John D. Lawrence  
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

Many of us are concerned with staying physically fit during the holidays with all the tempting food choices available, but staying mentally fit is also important. The holidays can be challenging for anyone as we're prone to connect it with traditions, memories and emotions — some of those may evoke feelings of happiness or sadness. If you're not able to be near loved ones and family during this time, it can be hard.

Our daily life stays just as busy and the holidays add a layer of activities and responsibilities — both real and imagined — that take up time, money and emotional energy. Although most of us look forward to the season, we may long for another time,

such as a leisure day at the pool in June.

Each of us paints our own picture of the ideal holiday. Try to manage expectations by creating new traditions, getting together with extended family or trying something new. If you can't be with family, connect with local friends. It won't replace the traditions you grew up with, but you might discover new ones and broaden your experiences of the holidays.

If you and your family cannot be together this holiday due to location or deployment, make it a priority to use the electronics we have available to reach across the miles and connect with loved ones whenever possible.

Financial stress can make you wish you could skip the whole thing no matter what your income level, but stick to your budget. Overspending also carries over and affects us into the next year.

Look for opportunities to volunteer. Being in a festive atmosphere with other people doing good work can

lift your mood and lead to new friendships.

Reach out to local resources if you need help to get through the season. Most of us at some time during our life have difficulty coping with situations — there is no shame in seeking assistance. Your Army family is there to help: Army Community Service, Manhattan Veteran Center and chaplains are local resources you can contact for assistance. If you're looking for self-help, Military OneSource has information and suggestions on many topics to help Soldiers, families, civilians and veterans. Visit [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil) to learn more.

The bottom line is to recognize the challenges this time of year and to do your best to make it a joyful, happy season for you and those around you.

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



Colonel Lawrence

## HOUSE Continued from page 9

sion Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., placed second with his intricately designed home. Casillas' entry featured a gingerbread yard with icing walkway, a garage with a gum drop car, and house with icing shingles. The third runner up was Spc. Justin Frost, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., with his design of gum drop shingles, candied Christmas wreath and icing smiley face. The prizes for second and third place were BOSS t-shirts and hats.

Among the houses that were entered but didn't win, was a house done by Pvt. Patrick Gardner and Pvt. Anthony Ficara, both of the 287th MP Co, 97th MP Bn. Their entry, a tribute to their unit, featured clean icing lines and a candy 2-8-7 embedded in



Chris Cannon | POST  
**This house, built by Pfc. Brandon Furr, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, won first place in the BOSS Gingerbread House-building contest at the Warrior Zone the afternoon of Dec. 10.**

the icing on the roof. Other entries included a house party done by Pfc. Keiah Barrilla,

3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., and a gingerbread house with icing fish-scale shingles done by Pvt. Alexis Smith, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and Pvt. Allaijah Churchwell.

The next BOSS event will be a trip to Snow Creek in Kansas City, Missouri on Jan. 14, where Soldiers will have the opportunity to snow board or ski. This trip precedes a trip to Colorado for the X Games from Jan. 26 to Jan. 29. For more information, visit the BOSS office at the Warrior Zone or call 785-239-2677. If Soldiers wish to sign up for the trip to Colorado, they can do so at Leisure Travel, 785-239-5614 or 4415.

## TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST

The question for the week of Dec. 13 was: There's a chance of snow in the forecast for this weekend. Where on [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) can I find the Detachment 2, 3rd Weather Squadron page?

Answer: [www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/Weather/](http://www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/Weather/)

This week's winner is Alba Colon, spouse of Specialist William Scott, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

**CONGRATULATIONS ALBA!**



## Rosie is looking for a 'forever' home

Rosie has loads of personality. She is a clown with an opinion and she loves to tell you about it, but she also likes to cuddle. She is easy going, gets along well with other animals and will make a great addition to your family.

She is spayed and up-to-date with shots.  
P.S. Rosie has an obsession with vanilla pound cake and will do anything to get it.

Rosie's adoption fee is \$142, which includes: spay, microchip, vaccines for distemper and rabies, leukemia test and deworming.

If interested, call 785-239-6183. If no one answers leave a message. You can also contact us via email at [nicole.p.storm@us.army.mil](mailto:nicole.p.storm@us.army.mil).

Other shelter animals can be seen on [www.facebook.com/fortrileypets](http://www.facebook.com/fortrileypets). All stray animals on Fort Riley are picked up by the Military Police and brought to the Fort Riley Stray facility. The animals are held for three business days to allow owners to claim their pets. After this time, the animals may be adopted out or euthanized.

Animals are usually only euthanized in the cases of severe aggression or life-threatening illness. Animals must be registered, microchipped and up to date on vaccines before being released to owners.

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





CHILI STAMPEDE



Collen McGee | POST

Roy Hahn, head of housekeeping at the Fort Riley IHG Candlewood Suites was the winner of the employee chili competition held during the weekly newcomer's reception Dec. 7. Fort Riley Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins presented Hahn with the holiday light necklace and the right to brag about beating five of his coworkers with the highest popular vote for his semi-secret chili recipe. The part of the secret he did share was, "it's the bacon." Though not every Wednesday boasts a chili competition, at each weekly social, newcomers to Fort Riley will find representatives from several installation agencies. During the social Soldiers and family members can ask questions about everything from religious services to childcare availability. There are representatives from Army Community Service and often a military family life counselor attends to greet family members and help them through the settling in process. For more information about the weekly newcomer social contact Mr. Brian Bartlett, the Relocation Readiness program manager at 785-239-5739

Chili contest leads to money talk

97th Military Police Battalion talks food, finances over lunch

Story and photo by Chris Cannon  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The scent of chili filled the 97th Military Police Battalion spaces during the lunch hour on Dec. 9. More than 125 Soldiers of the 97th MP battalion gathered in the battalion's conference room for a financial discussion with Scott Wadeson, personal financial counselor, Army Community Service.

Fifteen different crockpots of chili entries, from white to venison, and from meatless to vegetable, lined the wall of the conference room in the 97th MP Bn. spaces. Judging the contest was Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Counts, senior non-commissioned officer for the 97th MP Bn. and Maj. Lee Monzon, executive officer for the 97th MP Bn. Prizes for the contest included a \$50 HyVee gift card, a gift certificate from Godfrey's for one free hour of time at the shooting range, as well as hats and t-shirts. The winners of the contest were Capt. Steven Belcher, who took first place with a venison chili, Sgt. 1st Class Lamar Gilbert came in second, and in third place was 1st Lt. Brett Payne.

The chili contest was followed by a message from the family counselors from ACS and a trivia contest with Wadeson about Soldiers' fiscal knowledge. Trivia questions ranged from knowledge about exemp-



Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Counts, senior noncommissioned officer for the 97th Military Police Battalion, announces the chili cook-off winners during the Chili Feed and Financial Counseling session the afternoon of Dec. 9. The battalion paired up with Scott Wadeson, Personal Financial Counselor, Army Community Service to educate Soldiers about how to understand their Leave and Earnings Statements and retirement investment options for the future.

tions on leave and earnings statements to which category of the Thrift Savings Plan Soldiers can invest in with the least amount of risk. This is the first time the battalion has paired up with Wadeson to keep Soldiers engaged and informed about their finances.

"The holidays are a time where Soldiers get into financial problems," Counts said. "We want to do our best to minimize the financial stresses before they become too big for the Soldier to handle."

Wadeson, who retired from the Army in 2013, said he makes it a point to cover information about retirement, taxes, financial awareness, and asset protection during his presentations because it is important to

make sure that Soldiers begin to plan early. This is due in part to the new system of retirement for Soldiers starting in 2018. According to Wadeson, retirement pay for soldiers who complete 20 years of service will only receive 40 percent of their base pay upon retirement from the service. This is meant to encourage retirees to utilize their Thrift Savings Plan earnings as an annuity that is blended with the retirement pay.

To help Soldiers with managing their finances, Wadeson sits down with them on an individual basis to build a budget or find options for the Soldiers to save money and cut costs. Sometimes, he suggests, the answer is not to cut costs, but make more money for certain situations. In

order to determine just where the Soldier is fiscally, Wadeson also acknowledges the mental and emotional state of the Soldier and the family. If a Soldier is in a divorce scenario, he assesses the percentages of family, financial, and legal impacts on the psychological ability to manage money.

Pvt. Dashaunte Pointer-Rivera, 116th MP Co., took Wadeson's presentation to heart.

"I didn't know that 54 percent of the United States population had less than \$25,000 in savings," he said. "My dad set the bar high when he retired, because he had saved enough during his 37 years in the Armed Forces to purchase a home and some property with his 401K and TSP"





Families of Fort Riley's Victory Chapel can drop off non-perishable foods to donate to the Flint Hills Breadbasket as a part of the youth group's holiday food drive. The total donation size as of Dec. 12 was 361 pounds of food.

## Fort Riley youth help feed hungry

Story and photo  
by Chris Cannon  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Club Beyond, a faith-based youth organization from the Fort Riley chapels, donated more than 361 pounds of food to The Flint Hills Breadbasket after a two-week food drive at Victory chapel at Fort Riley.

The group began collecting donations on Nov. 27, and culminated the drive the afternoon of Dec. 11. The food collection is just one of many community service

projects the group contributes to on and off Fort Riley. Recently, the group contributed more than 577 care packages to “Operation: Christmas Child,” a charity drive sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse; which is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization that, according to its website mission statement provides spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world.

“The Flint Hills Breadbasket serves anyone who is hungry and they help individuals get in touch with community

resources to get the assistance they need,” John Malmquist, community director, Club Beyond, said.

For Malmquist, it is important for him to help the Fort Riley youth contribute to the local community by giving their time as volunteers and by making a meaningful impact. The Flint Hills Breadbasket, a Manhattan charity, is located at 905 Yuma Street, in Manhattan, Kansas. The Breadbasket served more than 23,000 meals to individuals in 2015 with more than 700,000 pounds of food donations.

## SPOUSES

Continued from page 9

minutes. During those four minutes, they have two minutes to discuss themselves with an organization representative and the representative has two minutes to discuss their organization and themselves.

By the end of the process, each person should have met with forty-four different people, Bryant-Kearns said.

“They’re going to make 44 new connections and that’s exciting,” she said.

Kathleen Benson, wife of 1st Lt. Watson Benson of the 97th Military Police Battalion, said she attended the event in the hopes of meeting new people and making new friends who are outside her usual comfort zone or social circle. She added the networking event has been both fun and educational for her.

“I’ve had a blast,” Benson said. “The speed networking has been my favorite part. I’ve met more than two handfuls of people and took away a ton of information to increase my net-

**DID YOU KNOW?**

• For 2017, there will be 30 Military Spouse Networking events held with two being at Fort Riley.

work ... I have new ideas and new ways that I can continue networking ... and also just continue the relationships with the people I have already met.”

Like Benson, Eunice Min, wife of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Byung Min, senior pastor of Main Post Chapel, attended to meet new people, but she was also seeking the right volunteer opportunity for her. She said her daughter was in college now, so she had free time she wanted to fill.

“I think I have a good chance to meet new people and get new information,” Min said. “This was a good chance for me to come here and meet volunteer representatives ... It’s

the one place where I heard a lot of good information (at once).”

Min said she found the right organization for her after the speed networking session and plans to begin volunteering with the American Red Cross.

For 2017, there will be 30 Military Spouse Networking events held with two being at Fort Riley, Lappat said. About 10 of the installations participating next year will be new to the program as well.

Even when a networking event or other programs are not occurring, Bryant -Kearns said the USO volunteers and staff are always ready to help and support everyone.

“The USO is always here, no matter what you need,” Bryant-Kearns said. “Whether you’re active duty, whether you’re transitioning, we are global ... We just want everyone to know the USO is here and we support everyone.”

## SANTA

Continued from page 9

laughed while watching Santa visit with the kids..

“I had a good time today,” said Spc. Heath Herman Luong, 300th MP Company, 97th MP Bn., as he helped one of the children wrap green yarn around a cardboard Christmas tree.

“This was a good time to get the families and the kids out to meet each other,” said Counts. “It builds trust between the families and communities, and it is a good way to invest back into the families who support their Soldiers when they are separated by the mission... You have to give Soldiers and families something to be proud of,” he said.

The Christmas party was an investment into the battalion. According to Counts, each member of the battalion



Chris Cannon | POST

Santa greets the newest addition to the 97th Military Police Battalion family during the battalion's second annual Breakfast with Santa Claus the morning of Dec. 10 in the battalion conference room.

contributed to making the party possible with Christmas decorations from their own

personal collections or by purchasing items then donating it to the battalion's collection.

WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL







KNIGHTS

Continued from page 13



Sgt. Jose A. Torres Jr. | ARMY

Cadets from the U.S. Military Academy cheer during the opening ceremonies of the Army vs. Navy game held at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore Dec. 10.

the 82nd patch, while their helmets were emblazoned with symbols of individual units in the division, along with a lattice design similar to the netting covering of the helmets worn by the paratroopers during the war.

Three days after the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks, which catapulted the nation into the war, Milley said, it was an appropriate time to honor the 82nd, the Army's only paratrooper division.

"We wanted to single out the 82nd as a tribute to Soldiers from World War II who formed the greatest generation," Milley said, adding that each and every Army division is special.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth "Rock" Merritt, who jumped into enemy territory with the 82nd during the D-Day invasion, represented the division at the game.

Walking around gloveless in temperatures in the mid-30s, he shrugged when he was given a pair of gloves to wear.

"This weather is not near as cold as it was in the Battle of the Bulge. I almost froze to death," he later said, referring to the major World War II battle fought during the winter of 1944-45 in Belgium. "Today's weather is nothing compared to that."

While attending his first Army-Navy game, the hardy 93-year-old sergeant major wasn't shy about his love for the 82nd, but he also commended today's military.

"For 70-something odd years I've known the 82nd Airborne Division. I think it's the

best division in the world," Merritt said. "Of course in all of our armed forces today, we have the best trained and educated officers and noncommissioned officers that our (military) has ever produced."

Minutes before the game, the next generation of Army officers marched onto the field in company formations as loud cheers from Army fans roared throughout M&T Bank Stadium, which is home to the Baltimore Ravens.

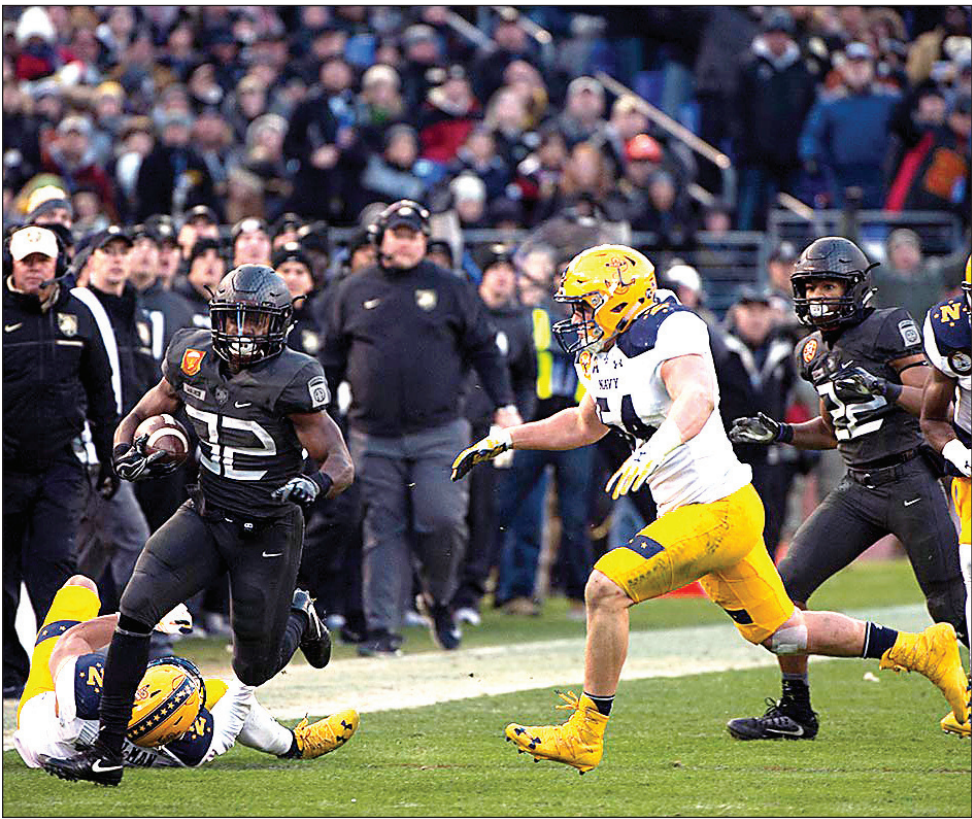
Seven cadets then marched out to the center of the field to meet seven midshipmen for a "prisoner exchange," a tradition in which members of both academies who have studied in a semester-long exchange program are returned to their brethren.

When dismissed, the seven cadets ran off the field and jumped into the stands, eliciting thunderous applause from their fellow cadets.

"It's a great feeling to be back home with my school," said Cadet Jadalaine Ferrer, one of the exchange students. "All semester we've been talking about how it's nice to take break. But toward the end, all seven of us were really excited to be back."

Even if the game's winning score was what the cadets ultimately wanted, Ferrer and others agreed that the spirit of the yearly matchup is a worthy experience in itself.

"Regardless of the outcome, we're one team in the end," Ferrer said before the game. "As soon as this game is over we go right back to being brother and sister."



John Pellino | ARMY

An Army West Point player presses through the U.S. Naval Academy team's defense Dec. 10 in the 117th Army Navy Game presented by USAA at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore. The "Black Knights" took the lead early in the game, helping to secure their victory.







# Travel & Fun in Kansas

## The Little Apple: Manhattan, Kansas

Story and photos by Chris Cannon  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

It is often easy to overlook the pleasures of home. Manhattan, Kansas, a town known more for being home to the Kansas State Wildcats, is a place where locals and visitors can gather to take in the natural beauty of the prairie, enjoy a cup of coffee and watch the local soccer team or the county rodeo.

Manhattan is 10 miles north of I-70 via K-177, or K-18.

Visitors traveling to Manhattan can tour the Flint Hills Discovery Center. The center works with the Konza Prairie Biological Station and the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve to teach visitors about the area with displays that include a history of the Flint Hills and the ranching community paired with plant science.

In addition to the partnership with the Konza and Tallgrass Prairies, Manhattan is home to the Riley County Fairgrounds. Every July, local farms, ranches, and members of the surrounding 4-H clubs bring in livestock, food, arts and crafts to show in competitions. The county rodeo and carnival are in full swing during the fair, with an array of foods available from fried breads to snowcones.

Kansas State offers numerous events for visitors during its annual McCain series. Many of these events are theatre productions such as “Mama Mia!,” “Hello Dolly,” “The Sound of Music” as well as off-Broadway productions

that are touring the country. Other events include music tours, such as Melissa Etheridge and Air Supply; and comedy acts by comedians such as Brian Regan. Tickets for the McCain series can be found at [k-state.edu/mccain](http://k-state.edu/mccain) or by calling the McCain Auditorium Box Office at 785-532-6428.

In addition to the performances at McCain Auditorium, the Manhattan Arts Center houses a variety of events from art classes to theatre productions. Visitors can contact the box office at 785-537-4420 or visit [manhattanarts.org](http://manhattanarts.org). Besides theatrical performances, visitors can check out the Streker-Nelson Art Gallery at 407 Poyntz. The gallery spans two floors, and showcases art from local and national artists across all media from canvas to ceramics. For more information, visitors can contact the gallery at 785-537-2099 or visit the website at [strecker-nelsongallery.com](http://strecker-nelsongallery.com).

After visitors take in the Streker-Nelson Gallery, they can stroll down Poyntz and visit the many shops and restaurants. At the end of Poyntz is the Manhattan Town Center Mall, which has a new IMAX theater. Inside, visitors can buy homemade cinnamon rolls, hot pretzels, shoes, Kansas memorabilia or hand-embroidered tea towels. In the courtyard on the west side of the mall, there are statues made by local artists surrounded by seasonal flowers.

For more information about what Manhattan offers, visit [manhattancvb.org](http://manhattancvb.org).



**ABOVE:** Frank Anneberg Park, 3801 Anderson Avenue, is a sports and recreation complex. Included in the park amenities are the Wildcat Creek Fitness Center, softball and soccer fields, a lake that is open for fishing, an entrance to the Linear Trail, batting cages and jungle gyms. **BELOW LEFT:** The World War II Memorial is a recently dedicated commemoration of the Kansas State University veterans who served during World War II. The brick veranda is situated in front of McCain Auditorium on Vattier Street on the Kansas State University campus. **BELOW RIGHT:** The written and oral histories of Kansas are preserved through the Riley County Historical Society and in the Wolf House Stagecoach Station.



Warner Park, at the north end of Warner Park Road on the southwest side of Manhattan by K-18, is the remainder of a land grant given to the town by the Warner family in 1957. The park is a part of a prairie conservation project, and an effort to preserve local endangered species.



On either side of the valley, drivers can see the Manhattan and KS hill signs when they pass Bluemont Hill and travel to and from town. Volunteers give the Manhattan and KS hill signs a fresh coat of paint each year.