



THE FIGHTING FIRST!

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



www.riley.army.mil

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017

Vol. 9, No. 6



Fort Riley, Kansas

Joint team aids pilot, aircraft in distress

By Andy Massanet
1ST INF. DIV. POST

A small, private aircraft that malfunctioned and its pilot were assisted by a multi-agency effort including air traffic control specialists and range control staff from Fort Riley's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, as well as Kansas City Air Route Traffic Control Center and Clay Center Volunteer Fire Department.

The incident began around 8:30 a.m. Jan. 31, and ended 10 minutes later when the pilot set his Cessna Centurion down with the landing gear up at Clay Center Municipal Airport, said David Heisler, ATC specialist, DPTMS. The pilot, who was flying alone, was not hurt, Heisler added.

"I was notified by Kansas City Center that an aircraft was having power issues," Heisler said.

At the time, Heisler said, the aircraft was about 10 miles west of Clay Center.

"I asked the pilot if he was declaring an emergency," Heisler said. "And he said 'yes.'"

At that point, ATC specialists are required to assess the situation and ask the pilot questions including how many people are onboard, amount of fuel remaining and the pilot's intentions.

Initially the pilot wanted to land at Manhattan Regional Airport. But complicating a direct route to Manhattan was a live-fire exercise being executed at Fort Riley; an event that posed a risk to the pilot and the plane.

"We did ask him (the pilot) if he could make it around the south (edge) of the Fort Riley ranges," said Joseph Bennett, an ATC specialist with DPTMS. "But he said he needed to get the aircraft down now."

At that point Emmily Smith, another ATC specialist for DPTMS, coordinated notification of Range Control in order to deconflict the airspace and allow the plane to fly directly to Manhattan Regional Airport.

"The effort resulted in a cease-fire in less than a minute," Bennett said.

Ultimately, however, the pilot decided he needed to get his aircraft out of the air, Heisler said, and decided to set it down at the Clay Center airfield.

Air Traffic Controller Keith Land, who was also assisting with the incident, contacted the Clay Center Volunteer Fire Department. Firefighters were there to assist the pilot within six to seven minutes, Land said.

"I asked him to notify me when he set it down, since

See AIRCRAFT, page 12



COURTESY PHOTO

A team of Fort Riley air traffic control specialists helped a pilot flying a Cessna Centurion aircraft with engine problems land at Clay Center Jan. 31. The pilot was unhurt. From left to right, Joe Bennett, Emmily Smith, Keith Land, Jessica Dillon, David Heisler and Doug James.

Focusing on Victory



M1 Abrams tanks and an M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle maneuver during a combined-arms live-fire exercise Feb. 3 on Fort Riley. The CALFEX is one portion of Operation Danger Focus II, a training exercise preparing the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team for a training rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, later this year.

'Dagger' brigade Soldiers prepare for National Training Center during Danger Focus II

Story and photos by Chad L. Simon
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, is preparing for an upcoming rotation to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, by testing its mettle during Operation Danger Focus II from Jan. 24 through Feb. 16 at Fort Riley.

Danger Focus II is a month-long training exercise designed to build leaders in combat operations before 2nd ABCT departs to NTC. Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd ABCT, participated in a combined live-fire training exercise Feb. 3, which incorporated approximately 18 M1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles supported by a mortar team and a squad of combat engineers.

The engineers utilized Bangalore torpedoes to clear a simulated enemy minefield. The engineers then marked the cleared area for the advancing Soldiers to navigate with their tracked vehicles as they moved to their final objective.

"That is movement to contact," said Col. David W. Gardner, 2nd ABCT commander. "That is designed

See DANGER page 12



A breaching vehicle fires a Bangalore torpedo during a combined-arms live-fire exercise Feb. 3 on Fort Riley. The CALFEX is one portion of Operation Danger Focus II, a training exercise preparing Soldiers from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, for a training rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

Chief warrant officer finds success in Army life



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy McDonald, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, works out at the King Field House on Fort Riley Jan. 20 to sustain his physical fitness and set the example for his Soldiers. McDonald usually works out five to six days a week.

Story and photo by Chad L. Simon
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"This is a different kind of Army ... We are here for something new ... We are an army out to set other men free ... Here we judge you by what you do, not by who your father was. Here you can be something ... We're fighting for each other," said Col. Joshua Chamberlain, in a speech to the Union Army, during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Some question if Chamberlain actually made the statement, but one Soldier at Fort Riley epitomizes the quote. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy McDonald, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, is that Soldier.

The Collinsville, Mississippi, native is now a technical expert as a senior maintenance officer and is judged on his performance as a Soldier and the person he is and not anything else.

McDonald's original motivation to join the U.S. Army was to get an education by utilizing the Montgomery GI Bill to pay for college.

See WARRANT, page 12

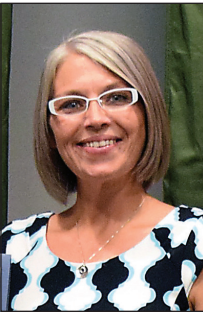
PREPARING TO JUMP



Season Osterfeld | POST

A C-130 Hercules flown by pilots of the 180th Airlift Squadron from St. Joseph, Missouri, lands Feb. 3 at Marshall Army Airfield. The Airmen came to pick up pallets of supplies, such as Meals Ready to Eat, ahead of a training exercise involving air drops that occurred Feb. 8 at Fort Riley.

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Sierra Herring, wife of Staff Sgt. William Herring, Rear Detachment, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, is always available to help the spouses of Fort Riley, whether it is to teach the Resilient Spouse Academy, Leadership classes with Army Family Team building or Master Resiliency Training.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call Becky Willis, Army Volunteer Corps Program manager, at 785-239-4593.

IN THIS ISSUE




FORT RILEY SOLDIERS WATCH SUPER BOWL AT WARRIOR ZONE, USO FORT RILEY, SEE PAGE 13.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT FORT RILEY AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, SEE PAGE 18.

Instructors give advice on financial success during Military Saves Week



ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE, 7264 NORMANDY DRIVE

Blended Retirement System
Monday, February 27th 9:30-11:00
Tuesday, February 28th 1:30-3:00
Thursday, March 2nd 9:30-11:00
Friday, March 3rd 1:30-3:00
Facilitators: Carol Buchli, Luis Catinchi, Scott Wadeson
On January 1st, 2018, the Armed Forces will move to the new Blended Retirement System. We will explain the new system, help you understand your eligibility and options, and provide resources to help you make important decisions.

Money Management 101
Wednesday, March 1st 9:00-11:30
Facilitator: James Wade
This basic money management course will teach you the fundamentals of banking and consumer affairs, budgeting, communication strategies, debt avoidance, saving and investing, and how to understand your financial personality.

Dumping Debt
Wednesday, March 1st 2:30-3:30
Facilitator: James Wade
Do you struggle every month to pay your bills and cover your debt payments? How much more money would you have every month if you were debt free? Most people can be debt free much sooner than they think.

Extreme Couponing
Wednesday, March 1st 1:30- 2:30
Friday, March 3rd 10:30-11:30
Facilitator: Mary McConnell
Couponing can drastically reduce your grocery bill. Join us to learn how you can have more money to save or spend on what you want by reducing your food cost.

Lunch and Learn Social Hour
Monday, February 27th – Friday, March 3rd 12:00-1:00
Facilitator: James Wade
Do you have financial questions but don't know who to ask? Join our team of financial experts to get the answers to your questions and enjoy a free slice of pizza when you do.

Credit Building and Repair
Thursday, March 2nd 1:30-3:00
Facilitators: William Brooks and Julie Murray
A comprehensive look at how to read and interpret a credit report, correct errors in your credit file, and gain a better understanding of how to improve your credit score.

Build a Better Budget
Friday, March 3rd 9:30-10:30
Facilitators: William Brooks and Julie Murray
A comprehensive look at budgeting—identify available income and financial resources, assess spending habits, and develop a plan to build wealth.

Creative Savings Strategies
Tuesday, February 28th 9:30-11:00
Facilitator: Clint Strutt
Many of us know we should save more, we just don't know how. This class helps you look at savings differently, and provides you with new strategies to accomplish your goals.

Tax Time Tips and Strategies
Monday, February 27th 1:30-3:00
Facilitator: Paul Depusoir
We will help you understand which tax credits, deductions and strategies are available to you this year, and set you on the path for the maximum possible refund next year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED. PLEASE CALL 239-9435, OR 239-5032 TO PRE-REGISTER

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A CLASS WE WILL HAPPILY SCHEDULE AN INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL COUNSELING SESSION TO DISCUSS YOUR SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Being financially prepared is something everyone can benefit from, according to Clint Strutt, Fort Riley Financial Readiness Program manager. Military Saves Week is Feb. 27 through March 3. During this time, Strutt and his team will offer classes to help Soldiers, their families and other members of the Fort Riley community become financially secure or improve their financial situation.

“Military Saves Week is a financial literacy campaign that is sponsored by the DOD (Department of Defense) and it is always the last week of February,” Strutt said. “It is designed to increase savings behavior amongst DOD Soldiers, personnel, families.” Several classes will focus on the new Blended Retirement System, Strutt said, to help Soldiers understand the system, eligibility and options within.

“We’re going to be looking at Blended Retirement System this year as kind of a big focus of our education push because that’s a new thing that’s going on, so we’re going to have ... four different sessions of that class,” he said. Other classes being held for the week include Extreme Couponing, Dumping Debt, Credit Building and Repair and several others. The Dumping Debt class teaches skills to make participants more efficient with finances and provide them with

saving strategies, Strutt said. Extreme Couponing shows participants how to reduce their grocery bill and Credit Building and Repair is designed to teach participants how to read their credit report, correct errors and gain a better understanding of how to improve their credit score. Taking regular courses in finances can help educate individuals to make smarter decisions with their money, leading to a better future, he said. “There’s been some different studies by FINRA, which is the Financial Regulatory Agency, like eight to 10 hours with financial education can really increase someone’s ability to save and someone’s ability to make smart financial decisions, so it’s one of those things that the more education you have,” Strutt said. “The better decisions you make and the decisions you make now about your finances will be hugely impactful down the road.” Regardless of previous finance classes and plans an individual may have made, finances are not a static matter as they change with new laws, modifications to regulations, changes in interest rates and more. Everyone is able to benefit and learn from the classes offered, he said. “It’s not just Soldiers, all of us ... we have some type of a financial issue, whether it is be good or bad, even if it is good, it could always have been better and that is what these classes are intended to do,” said James Wade, personal financial trainer. Strutt and Wade both stressed financial classes and meeting with a financial counselor are not only for those in poor financial situations. Regardless of one’s financial standing, everyone can learn something from the financial classes and gain something from meeting with a counselor, Wade said. Whether that is finding a way to invest their money, developing a saving plan, helping them get rid of debt and more, the financial

counselors and instructors have something for everyone. “When it comes to talking about money, people just don’t like talking about it,” Wade said “A lot of Soldiers are a little tentative on coming to us and talking with a financial counselor because in their eyes, that’s a bad thing. Well, that’s not necessarily true. It’s a very good possibility the Soldier might have quite a bit of money, they’re just not sure what to do with it, some smart ways of having that money make more money for them ... Just because you’re coming to see a financial counselor, doesn’t mean you’re in trouble financially.” In the event a Soldier or Soldiers are unable to attend the

classes offered during Military Saves Week, the financial counselors are able to bring the classes to them instead. “If you can’t get the Soldier to the class, let us know, we’ll be more than happy to take the class to the unit,” Strutt said. Pre-registration is required for the classes and class size is limited. To register for a class, call 785-239-9435 or 785-239-5032. Classes are free and open to anyone who is a part of the Fort Riley community, whether they are a Soldier, dependent, volunteer, contractor or Department of the Army civilian. All classes are held at Army Community Service, 7264 Normandy Drive.



Matt Ellington | POST
Col. John D. Lawrence, left, Fort Riley garrison commander, and Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, sign the proclamation for the start of Military Saves Week Feb. 7 at Riley's Conference Center. Military Saves Week is the week of Feb. 27 to March 3 where the Fort Riley community are encouraged attend a variety of free financial classes at Army Community Service.

Service members train on new Blended Retirement System

By Lisa Ferdinando
DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has launched mandatory training for eligible service members about their options under the Blended Retirement System nearly a year before that new system goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2018, Defense Department officials said. The new military retirement system is “one of the most significant changes to military pay and benefits that we’ve had over the past 70 years,” said Anthony Kurta, who is performing the duties of undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. It is important for eligible service members to know their options under the legacy and new systems and choose the retirement plan that works best for them and their families, Kurta told Pentagon reporters today. “We’ll now be able to offer up to 85 percent of our force a portable government retirement savings while still maintaining a traditional pension for those that serve at least 20 years,” he said.

KEY STEP IN MODERNIZING
The new system, he said, is a key step in modernizing the military’s ability to recruit, retain and maintain the best talent for the future force, he said, noting the changes bring the military in line with similar private-sector retirement plans and provide more options for service members.

The changes to the military retirement system are authorized in the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, explained Andrew Corso, the assistant director of military compensation policy and project lead for the implementation of the new system. The new system blends features from the existing system, including a traditional defined-benefit annuity, with new benefits including automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions, as well as an incentive payment at the mid-career point, Corso said, in an interview with DOD News. The goal of the blended system, Corso said, is to provide benefits to a wider swath of members as compared to the current system. The mandatory opt-in training is available on the common-access-card-enabled Joint Knowledge Online website, and through Military OneSource, he explained. The training through Military OneSource does not require a CAC, so it is convenient for troops and their families to access, he pointed out.

RETIREMENT IS A ‘PERSONALIZED AND INDIVIDUAL DECISION’
All members now serving are grandfathered under their legacy retirement plans. Active component service members with fewer than 12 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017, and reservists in a pay status with fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, are covered under the existing system, but are eligible to opt into the Blended Retirement System if they choose.

Eligible service members have until the end of 2018 to make the switch. Service members who join the military on or after Jan. 1, 2018, will be automatically enrolled in the new system and will be required to take mandated training about the Blended Retirement System within their first year of service. Troops who do not meet the criteria to opt in will remain covered under the legacy system and will not have the option to switch. Service members are encouraged to go over their options carefully before making decisions on their retirement, said Kim Myers, an official with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Education and Training. Military personnel are encouraged to visit with a local personal financial counselor or personal financial manager at their installation or a financial counselor through Military OneSource, Myers said. “It’s a very personalized and individual decision,” she added.

BENEFITS FOR MAJORITY OF TROOPS
About 80 percent of service members leave the service before their 20-year mark, when they would be eligible for retirement benefits under the current system, Corso said. The Blended Retirement System allows members to earn government retirement benefits early in their career, he said, noting members can take those benefits with them even if they don’t end up retiring from the military.

“The goal of modernizing the retirement system was to go from a system that benefits about 20 percent of all service members to one that benefits about 85 percent of all service members,” he said. Under the Blended Retirement System, DOD will automatically contribute 1 percent of a service member’s basic pay to that individual’s TSP account after 60 days of service, with matching contributions up to 4 percent to begin at the start of three years through the completion of 26 years of service. For opt-in-eligible service members, both the automatic and matching contributions would start the first pay period following election into the BRS. Further, the blended system offers a cash payment to service members once they reach eight to 12 years of service and opt to stay in for a minimum of three more years. The third part of the Blended Retirement System is a defined benefit or a monthly annuity, similar to what service members get today. The new system, however, uses a 2 percent, rather than 2.5 percent multiplier in calculating military retired pay for the defined benefit. Army Community Service financial counselors will hold classes on the Blended Retirement System during Military Saves Week. For more information see the flyer above on this page. Class size is limited. To pre-register call 785-239-9435 or 785-239-5032. If you are unable to attend these classes, contact a financial counselor to schedule an individual session to discuss your specific circumstances.







The BFG
January 21 - 6:30pm



Finding Dory
February 25 - 6:30pm



Ice Age: Collision Course
March 25 - 6:30pm

Fort Riley Post Library | 5306 Hood Drive | (785) 239-5305

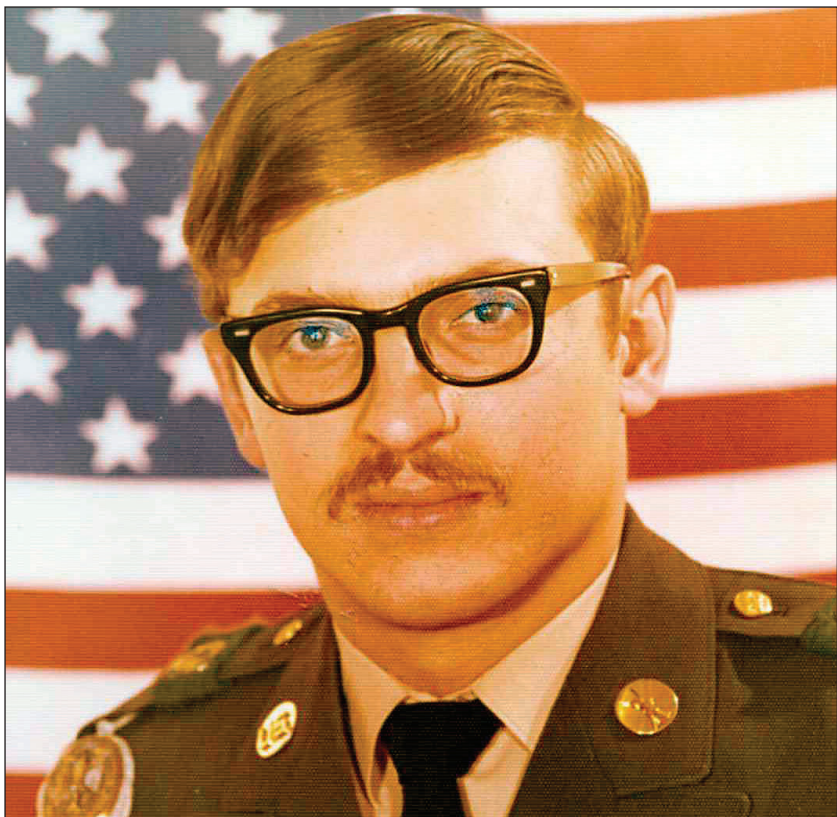
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THE FIGHTING FIRST!

Charles W. Williamson: A ‘Big Red One’ Soldier

THEN & NOW



By Phyllis Fitzgerald
SPECIAL TO THE POST

A native of Springfield, Missouri, Charles W. Williamson joined the Army as a 17 year-old in February 1969. He attended basic training at Fort Ord, California, then completed Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, acquiring his first military occupational specialty of 11E, armor crewman.

Williamson’s first assignment was to Vietnam, where he served as an armor crewman.

“We were located in Cu Chi and Tay Ninh, Vietnam,” he said. “I was there from July 1969 to July 1970.”

Williamson returned to the United States and was assigned to Fort Riley with the Combat Support Company, 4th Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

“I was in the scout platoon and I was there for almost four years, from July 1970 to February 1974,” he said.

While there Williamson was promoted to sergeant and then staff sergeant. His MOS changed as well to 11D, Cavalry Scout.

In February, Williamson went to Schwabach, West Germany, where he was a scout section leader, then to Fort Polk, Louisiana, where he served a scout platoon sergeant.

Williamson then trained to become a drill instructor and served in that capacity until his assignment to Gelnhausen, West Germany. There he served as a scout platoon sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armor Division.

“While there I attended the U.S. Army First Sergeant Course in Munich,” Williamson said. “I was there from 1981 to 1984. Shortly before departing I was promoted to master sergeant.”

In 1984, he was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, where he served with 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armor Division.

“I was the first sergeant for both Bravo and Headquarters Companies,” Williamson said. “I was there for four years when in 1988 I was selected to attend the Sergeant Major’s Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, Class 32.”

In January 1989, after completion of his studies at the academy, he was assigned back to Fort Riley, where he was selected by Lt. Col. Greg Fontenot to become battalion sergeant major for 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment 1st Bde, 1st Inf. Div.

“I served in the command sergeant major position for approximately six months before Command Sgt. Maj. Vernell McCombs arrived to fill that position,” Williamson said. “I then became the operations sergeant major for the 1st Brigade 1st Inf. Div.”



It was during his time with the 1st Bde. that he met and married his wife, the former Dana Roether. The ceremony took place a few months before the 1st Inf. Div. deployed for Operation Desert Shield which became Operation Desert Storm in January 1991.

After returning from Desert Storm, Williamson remained in the brigade operations position until December, 1991, when he was asked by the 1st Inf. Div. command sergeant major to be the garrison command sergeant major for Fort Riley.

“It was a position I proudly accepted and served until my retirement from the Army in December 1992,” he said. “I retired as a sergeant major after completing just under 24 years of service.”

The Williamsons stayed in Junction City, Kansas, where Dana served as a teacher in Unified School District 475, Geary County Schools, before eventually becoming assistant principal at Ware Elementary at Fort Riley.

After retirement Williamson attended Kansas State University and received a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, after which he became a teacher of fourth

and fifth-grade students at Jefferson and Grandview Plaza elementary schools of USD 475.

“I also taught sixth and eighth grade science at the Larry Dixon Center,” he said. “While teaching I also earned my master’s degree in Educational Leadership and during my last four years in the district I taught third grade at Ware Elementary on Fort Riley.”

Today Williamson is retired from teaching. He spends his time woodworking, and playing golf and cards with his father-in-law and friends at Rolling Meadows Golf Course.

He is also the Chairman of the Board of Geary County Rural Water District #1.

“My best memory from being in the 1st Inf. Div. is my time as the acting battalion sergeant major for 2nd Bn., 34th Armor Regt., 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div.” Williamson said. “I consider that position to be the highlight of my career ... I enjoyed taking care of Soldiers.”

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

Are YOU and your FAMILY READY for an EMERGENCY?



www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/

Army human resources leaders visit Iraq, talk promotions

Photo and story by Spc. Derrik Tribbey
CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Seamands, commander, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Wardell Jefferson, senior enlisted leader, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, spoke with Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve Soldiers about promotions and professional development Jan. 26 in the Union III Conference Center.

The HRC’s primary mission is to improve talent management of personnel across the Army.

In their efforts to optimize the total Army force, HRC will place 476,000 Soldiers in positions across the Army by year end as a result of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017.

“We will bring in about another 6,000 Soldiers, we are

going to ask another 9,000 noncommissioned officers to reenlist and we will bring in about another 1,000 officers,” Seamands said. “We will also turn the corner on promotion rates to bring that number up.”

These promotions will aid the Army in being better equipped to train new Soldiers, Jefferson said.

“The best opportunities to be promoted are now,” Jefferson said.

The Army will promote officers into command positions by taking into account their service backgrounds. For example, instead of an infantry officer taking command of an infantry unit, that Soldier could serve as a cyber commander.

“We want people from different commands to represent all of the different experiences,” Seamands said.

On the enlisted side, Jefferson said the Select, Train, Educate and Promote program



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Seamands, commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, takes a question from a Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve Soldier about evaluations Jan. 26 in the Union III Conference Center, Baghdad, Iraq. During the promotion process, evaluations help assess a Soldiers overall performance and readiness.

will require Soldiers to attend schools and training prior to being promoted.

In order to get a better understanding of the officer selection process, Seamands encouraged Soldiers to sit in on

promotion selection boards to see how the process of reviewing Soldier performance is done.

It provides promotion preparation with “mock boards” online at www.hrc.army.mil.

TRAFFIC REPORT

ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS

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.

VISITOR CONTROL CENTER HOURS CHANGE

As of Jan. 1, new hours took effect at the Visitor Control Center.

Hours of operation changed to 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and federal holidays.

For more information, visit www.riley.army.mil/ and click on the yellow "Accessing Fort Riley" tab on the right-hand side of the page.

Brigade legal services focuses on the Soldier, command team

By Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Editor's Note: This is part five of a seven-part series on the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Riley.

The 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade legal team consists of one brigade judge advocate, a trial counsel, a noncommissioned officer in charge and several paralegals. The team serves as legal advisors for the command team of the brigade.

Maj. Travis Sommer, brigade judge advocate, 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde., said the legal team is in an interesting situation because they have two commanders — Col. Allen Cassell at the brigade and Lt. Col. Joe Mackey at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

"It's kind of serving two masters," he said.

The brigade has two battalions and each one is authorized a paralegal. Paralegals drafts court actions including Article 15s and administrative separation.

"Typically, especially in a garrison environment, that paralegal is going to work in the brigade legal office," Sommer said.

While the paralegals work with the brigade's team, the trial counsel is located in the OSJA in the military justice division. The trial counsel is the prosecutor in a trial. Each member of the team shares the same mission — advising the commander.

"We are here primarily to advise the commander, provide whatever legal support the brigade needs," he said.

Unlike other offices in the OSJA, brigade legal teams deploy as their commander deploys. While they are in a deployed environment, they're job only changes slightly.

"Our job in garrison is very similar to what it's like when we deploy," Sommer said. "The sustainment brigade is going to pick up a lot of battalions when it deploys as opposed to a BCT (brigade combat team) which deploys with what it has in garrison. Legal operations are going to be pretty much the same."

Sommer said an armored brigade does more kinetic-type operations so they will run into more operational law issues whereas a sustainment brigade will be moving supplies and convoys and will run into more contract law issues.

"The legal issues are going to be tied to the type of work the unit is doing," he said.

The brigade's team sends Soldiers to legal assistance regularly because as part of the brigade team they represent the Army and its interests. If they are providing a Soldier with legal advice, it would be a conflict.

"We get everyone from the most junior private to the brigade commander with legal issues," Sommer said. "We're like a mini OSJA, but we don't have the manpower to do legal assistance ... If my client is the Army, it's hard for me to represent a Soldier."

Despite being located on Custer Hill, he said the team feels just as much a part of the OSJA as if they were in the same building.

"There's a lot of dialogue between the offices," he said.

Adopt a healthy lifestyle during Heart Health Month this February



By J.D. Levite
AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — With February being Heart Health Month, medical experts say there are plenty of things people can do to ensure a healthy heart, including quitting smoking and not drinking too much. Heart disease, heart attack and stroke are just some of the consequences of not taking care of your heart.

To take care of your heart, physical activity, smarter nutritional diet choices and mindfulness are three key actions everyone can take, according to Air Force Capt. Regan Stiegmann, a Preventive Medicine resident physician at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. She said individuals need to hone in on "more functional and more impactful" changes that lead to a healthier diet.

"It's the 'crawl before you walk' approach," Stiegmann said. "I'm not saying you should make extremely drastic changes like stop eating meat entirely or stop eating dairy period. The more successful approach I've found is one small change at a time. Whether that change has to do with food choices, physical activity, or stress management, you start seeing the changes in your patients, and they start seeing how much that change impacts them."

One small change people can make, Stiegmann said, is reducing the amount of processed foods and refined sugars they eat.

"Too much processed food and excess sugar leads to inflammation, which is the underpinning of most diseases including heart disease," Stiegmann said.

"I'm not saying you should make extremely drastic changes like stop eating meat entirely or stop eating dairy period. The more successful approach I've found is one change at a time."

AIR FORCE CAPT. REGAN STIEGMANN
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AT THE
UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

She said physical activity can address that state of inflammation, too.

"When you're physically active you're circulating more blood and oxygen to your muscles and encouraging new growth in your cells." She said it's not just about your cells but about the heart as well. "You're creating strength in your heart muscles and your physical muscles, which is creating lean mass and helping to contribute to a general state of healthier well-being overall."

Regular physical activity contributes not just to a healthier body weight but to healthier cholesterol levels, blood pressure, and a better sense of wellbeing in general.

Mindfulness, the third focus for good heart health, is all about how to manage stress in a smart way.

"Everybody has some element of stress in their life, and stress absolutely influences and impacts your body," Stiegmann said. "Mindfulness helps reframe the way you approach the stressors you encounter, which in turn helps to reduce the amount of impact that stress can cause to your cells. Many people don't know that stress can lead to states of inflammation."

Finding small ways to improve each of these lifestyle-specific elements is important because poor heart health has been linked to many other health issues, including high blood pressure, diabetes, and long-term heart disease.

"It's like a snowball effect when you start dealing with heart health because your heart is connected so intimately with everything else," Stiegmann said. "Your number one and number two go-to organs are your heart and your brain. They are in a symbiotic loop, and the rest of your body is tied to that. When your heart stops working as properly as it should that ties to every other organ system in your body."

Stiegmann said a doctor's visit can help people learn their risks for heart disease and how to stem those risks, particularly with changes in everyday activities. She also recommended lifestyle medicine providers who can help people address all the elements related to heart health: what you eat, physical activity, mental health, the importance of quality sleep, and how to maintain a good relationship with stress.

"Every one of those lifestyle elements you can work on, improve, and ultimately see changes in your own personal health," she said. "Each small improvement sets you up to succeed in avoiding long-term chronic disease."

Men and women tend to make different choices when it comes to heart health, but everyone can benefit from improved lifestyle choices.

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RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What was your favorite Super Bowl LI commercial?



"My favorite Super Bowl commercial was the Mr. Clean commercial! It cracked me up!"

KADENCE ORR
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Wife of Spc. Andrew Orr, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"The Mr. Clean commercial was the funniest one."

KIM CHENAULT
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Wife of Cpl. Matthew Chenaault, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"The Melissa McCarthy environmental warrior Kia commercial."

ALASKA ZIEGLER
BOWIE, MARYLAND

Daughter of Master Sgt. Bruce Ziegler, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division



"The Mr. Clean commercial. I about died laughing!"

JESSICA POLLO
CHAPMAN, KANSAS

Wife of Sgt. 1st Class Jason Pollo, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"The Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg commercial."

SPC. MATTHEW ASMUS
CLOVIS, CALIFORNIA

3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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Circulation 8,800 copies each week.

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

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FATALITY-FREE DAYS

214

As of Wednesday, Feb. 8, 214 days have passed since the last vehicular fatality at Fort Riley. Safe driving doesn't happen by accident. For more information about safety, call the Garrison Safety Office at 785-239-0514.

The next USAG Resilience Day Off is

FEB.

17

COMMAND TEAM CORNER

Division builds leaders with Danger Focus II

Service members, families and friends of the 1st Infantry Division,

Over this past week, many of you on Fort Riley and throughout the surrounding communities have heard the sounds of tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, engineers and artillery firing as the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team began Operation Danger Focus II. This massive exercise involves the participation of every unit at Fort Riley and our great Garrison partners. The noise you currently hear is from the combined-arms live-fire exercise that places each of the "Dagger" maneuver companies through a very complex live fire — replicating the battlefield against a near-peer threat. It is of utmost importance to us that our BRO Soldiers, families and surrounding communities understand the Fighting First's mission and training requirements — and most importantly, the significance to our nation.

Therefore, 1st Inf. Div. would like to take this opportunity to share with you



Brig. Gen.
Patrick D. Frank

what Operation Danger Focus II is all about. Danger Focus II is a 21-day exercise designed to build leaders and units that are prepared for combat operations — all of this within a fully enabled live, constructive and virtual environment. The exercise will better prepare Dagger brigade Soldiers for an upcoming rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California — which is as close as the Army can prepare a unit for combat.

This exercise is important because it allows our Soldiers to build readiness against near-peer threats. Americans expect

BRO Soldiers to protect our nation and its vital strategic interests at home and abroad. In order to accomplish this, we must conduct tough, realistic training in austere environments during the day and at night.

Our adversaries study how we conduct war in order to erode our advantages across all domains. Therefore, it is essential to continue to adapt and improve upon our training in order to keep our combat edge. As Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army, pointed out, we may not be able to predict with whom or where we fight next, but we can be prepared to present our enemies with multiple dilemmas. Remember, we train today to prepare for tomorrow's conflict.

Finally, there is no better place to train and build readiness than Fort Riley. Fort Riley's robust, useable maneuver area and varied terrain is ideal for training heavy and light units. Danger Focus II, combined with Fort Riley's training area, closely simulates the environment

and conditions 2nd ABCT will encounter at NTC. Gen. Robert Abrams, U.S. Army Forces Command commanding general, said the Army has developed a balanced training strategy with strong linkages among home stations and the combat training center at Fort Irwin. At our installations, we are investing in creating the most realistic and relevant training possible, allowing units to regain their operational expertise in combined arms maneuver, the most important tenet in our doctrine and the most complicated to master.

We appreciate our Soldiers, families and communities for all their support and sacrifices. It is because of them that the 1st Inf. Div. is able to conduct effective combined arms maneuver training in order to be ready to defeat enemy land forces that possess the means to challenge our Joint Force.

Duty First!
Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank
1st Infantry Division
and Fort Riley acting senior commander

FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFICE

The State of Kansas will conduct a special election April 11 for the 4th Congressional District to replace Mike Pompeo who resigned from the U.S. House of Representatives when he was confirmed and sworn in as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The district consists of all or part of Barber, Butler, Chautauqua, Comanche, Cowley, Edwards, Elk, Greenwood, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Kiowa, Pawnee, Pratt, Sedgwick, Stafford and Sumner Counties.

Kansas residents from the 4th Congressional District can register and request an absentee ballot today starting at FVAP.gov.

Service members, eligible family members and overseas citizens may use the Federal Post Card Application, the registration and ballot request form accepted by all States and territories. Complete, sign and send the FPCA to the appropriate election office.

Users can:

- Use the FPCA online assistant at fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots
- Complete the fillable PDF version at fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca2013.pdf
- Pick up a hardcopy version from a Voting Assistance Officer or nearest U.S. Embassy or Consular Office

Users should make sure contact information is accurate in case the election office needs to reach them.

Those not registered, must ensure their FPCA is received not later than March 21; for those who are registered, their FPCA ballot request must be received by April 11.

Detailed instructions and county contact information is available at fvap.gov/kansas.

For those who have not received their requested State ballot 30 days before the election, there's a backup ballot called the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot with an online assistant that provides you with the candidate list. It's available using the "Get My Ballot" link at fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots.

Users may also fill out the PDF fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fwab2013.pdf or pick up a hardcopy version from their Voting Assistance Officer or nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

If a voter receives a State ballot after submitting the FWAB, he or she should still complete and return it. Each state can only count one ballot per person.

In addition to the special election in Kansas, many states hold elections throughout the year. Check the information for your state and even if you are absent make sure you are represented by voting with absentee ballots.

For more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or for help with the absentee voting process go to FVAP.gov or call FVAP at 703-588-1584, toll free 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584, or email at vote@fvap.gov. The Fort Riley voter assistance office provides local information on voting registration. For more information, call 785-239-0610.



HAVE A STORY IDEA?
Send it to usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil or call 785-239-8854/8135.



Military police sharpen law enforcement skills during training exercise

By Maria Childs
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Soldiers from the 116th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion honed their law enforcement skills during a series of exercises Jan. 31 through Feb. 2 at Camp Funston. The exercises included scenarios of an active shooter, regular traffic stops and robberies. The battalion leadership is offering basic-level certification for the completion of this course.

Pfc. Chester Nelson, 116th MP Co., 97th MP Bn., was one

of the Soldiers who completed the training. “Today we’re training on suicides as well as active shooter, but this week we’ve also been doing traffic stops ... anything like that,” Nelson said Feb. 2. “Anything can happen, and as MPs we have to be prepared. These scenarios are built around what we’re generally going to run into in any environment as MPs.”

Pvt. Clayton Bergeron, 116th MP Co., 97th MP Bn., was playing the role of the active shooter during the exercise. He said exercises like this one help

prepare Soldiers to answer the call to defend our nation.

“The training is for deployment, but it’s really to give the hands-on experience for the new guys,” Bergeron said. “We have roughly 70 new privates who just joined. They just came fresh out of basic training and AIT, which doesn’t necessarily give you the skills and confidence you need as an MP.”

During the exercise, the Soldiers primary goal was to eliminate the target, in this case, it was Bergeron. Bergeron tried to draw the Soldiers in by sending a victim out of the building then retreating into the building. New people were in each group, so Bergeron didn’t always know what to expect from each group.

During one of the groups, the Soldiers came in the back door instead of the front door where Bergeron was trying to draw them in. This caught him off guard because it was the first time it happened during the training.

“All that was confidence in themselves,” he said. “It shocked me because I didn’t know who was coming.”

Bergeron said knowing how to respond to a variety of law enforcement calls is an important skill for these Soldiers because it keeps



Maria Childs | POST

A Soldier from 116th Military Police, 97th Military Police Battalion, handcuffs Pvt. Clayton Bergeron, 116th MP Co., 97th MP Bn., who was playing the role of the active shooter during a training exercise Feb. 2 at Camp Funston. “The training is for deployment, but it’s really to give the hands-on experience for the new guys,” Bergeron said. “We have roughly 70 new privates who just joined. They just came fresh out of basic training and AIT, which doesn’t necessarily give you the skills and confidence you need as an MP.”

them on their toes and gives them the confidence to do their job.

“It can save a lot of lives if you know what you’re doing,” he said.

First Lt. Zach Bregovi, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 97th MP Bn., gave feedback to

the Soldiers who participated in the training after each group finished. He said he saw gradual improvement in proficiency and confidence as the exercise went on.

“There’s a lot of new Soldiers who are going through these lanes and a lot of them have not worked the

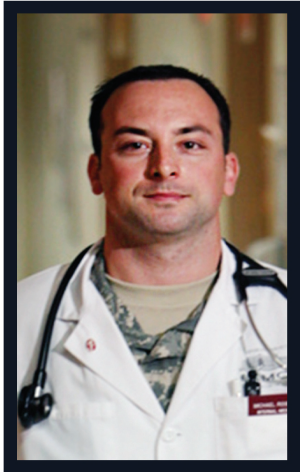
road before,” he said. “First and foremost is providing the most realistic training possible; creating a dynamic operating environment so they get exposed to several different things and the predictability isn’t there for them — you never know what is going to happen.”



Matt Ellington | POST

Pfc. Chester Nelson, 116th Military Police, 97th Military Police Battalion, points his gun at the target during an active-shooter training drill Feb. 2 at Camp Funston. The training is creates a dynamic environment where the Soldiers can learn how to react in a variety of scenarios.

Irwin Army Community Hospital



PROVIDER



NO-SHOW PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT



WOULD BE PATIENT

Missed appointments
are missed opportunities for others.

Kansas recreation professionals tour Fort Riley as part of conference

Story and photo by Patti Geistfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Kansas Recreation and Park Association professionals from the state of Kansas held their annual conference and trade show Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 in Manhattan, Kansas. The association is a non-profit organization representing the parks, recreation and leisure industry in Kansas.

As part of the conference, attendees had the opportunity to come to Fort Riley Feb. 2 and tour recreation facilities with a driving tour and stops at the Warrior Zone and Whitside Fitness Center. The group also saw how “Big Red One” Soldiers train with a hands-on demonstration at the Fort Riley Training Support Center.

At the TSC, the tour group received a welcome from

Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander. He explained how Fort Riley has resources and facilities just like the KRPA members have in their towns. He also talked about how Soldiers training at Fort Riley use a combination of live, virtual and constructive resources to provide the best training for wartime readiness.

The tour split into two groups and one group spent time in the engagement skills trainer while the other group received a briefing on equipment and training aids used to train Soldiers such as Wireless Integrated Training System or WITS, Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System or MILES and Homestation Instrumentation Training System or HITS.

“Many, if not all of the recreation professionals who

“This tour provided the opportunity to inform and build relationships with recreation professionals statewide.”
SCOTT SCHERBERGER
CHIEF OF COMMUNITY RECREATION DIVISION

attended the tour had no idea what MWR or life on an Army post looks like,” said Scott Scherberger, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, chief of community recreation division. “This was a chance for us to showcase what recreation opportunities exist for our community and understand its importance to supporting readiness. Additionally, with the stop at the TSC, it gave them a hands on experience to learn how our Soldiers train for deployment in a virtual environment which reduces costs. I believe it was a great learning opportunity.

In the engagement skills trainer there was an opportunity to use the weapons training platform. It is a simulation where bullets are not used. There are weapons, lasers and a scenario projected on a screen. The group was allowed to compete for best shooter. Whitney Gillman from Baldwin City Recreation Commission, sports coordinator took the title of top shooter.

When asked what her favorite part of the tour was, she said “Definitely the shooting. It was a lot of fun — especially being able to win it was really cool. I enjoyed it.”

Besides the fun Gillman had shooting, she said Baldwin City is hoping to get a community center built. What she saw on the tour provided information she can take back and consider incorporating into plans for their city’s facility.

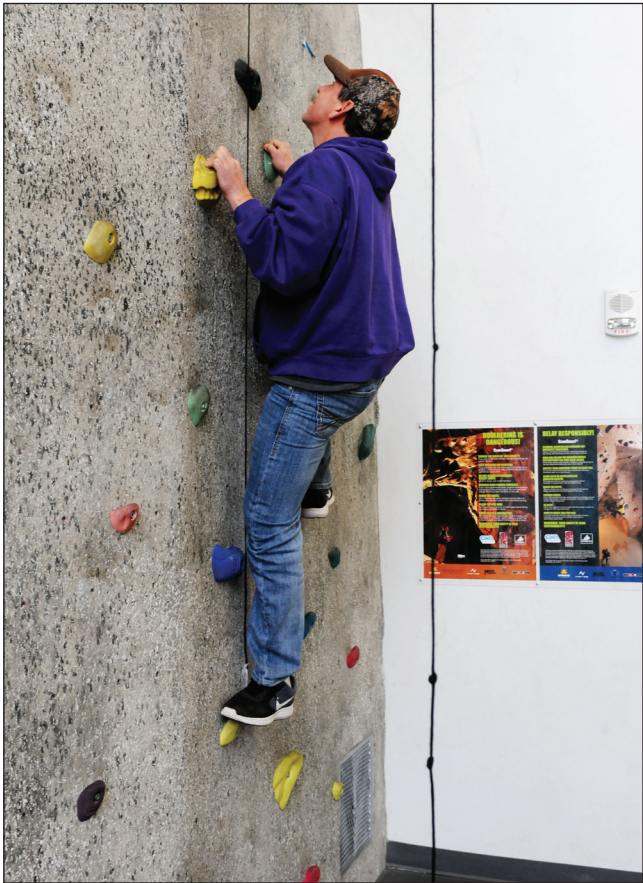
The final stop was Whitside Fitness Center. Scherberger presented information about the features and capabilities of the center. He said when Whitside opened, staff of DFMWR thought the amount of visits would remain the same, but attendance increased.

“We just thought that people would kind of spread out and use this facility,” Scherberger said. “That wasn’t the case. Participation actually increased.”

Kelby Helwig, senior park manager with Johnson County Park and Recreation district, said the conference had a record turnout this year and he is sure the tour of Fort Riley helped with that.

“They greeted us with open arms,” Helwig said. “It definitely showed us how they are using their dollars to have these types of facilities ... I am super impressed with this whole operation. It’s pretty amazing.”

He said parks and recreation are important to quality of life



Hondo Collins, Newton Park Department park superintendent, tries the rock-climbing wall at Whitside Fitness Center Feb. 2 as part of a tour with the Kansas Recreation and Park Association at Fort Riley. The staff of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted the tour.



Michael Middlebusher, park police sergeant for Johnson County Park and Recreation District, attempts to hit the target at the virtual shooting simulator Feb. 2 at Fort Riley. Kansas Park and Recreation Association members experienced the engagement skills trainer at the Training Support Center and toured the Warrior Zone and Whitside Fitness Center.

and that means different things to people.

“I would say most importantly quality of life is those intangible things mind, body and spirit,” Helwig said. “So when you are connected with the outdoors, fitness and learning how to be healthy you feel better. When kids are introduced to those activities, it socializes them and gets them ready for the real world. Much of that starts with recreation.”

“This tour provided the opportunity to inform and build relationships with recreation professionals statewide,” Scherberger said. “It was important for us to establish new relationships with fellow professionals in the field of recreation throughout the region and state to expand our network — I believe we were successful in doing that.

Museum staff recognize African-Americans' contribution to armed forces



Chenel Banks, a program analyst with Army Communications-Electronics Command, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, discusses her visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American Heritage and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Story and photo by David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — Chenel R. Banks’ timing was impeccable. In September, she flew from Afghanistan to the U.S. for rest and relaxation leave, just

in time to visit the grand opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American Heritage and Culture on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

A program analyst with Army Communications-Electronics Command, G-5, Banks has always been proud of her

African-American heritage, and so has her family. The museum, she said, stands as a powerful reminder of the many reasons for that pride.

Among the prominent African-American figures celebrated there are Civil-Rights leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, and sports luminaries like Muhammad Ali and Jackie Robinson. Displays showcase the musical instruments, attire and memorabilia of music legends Billie Holiday, Ray Charles, and many others.

But for Banks, the military portion of the museum is the most relevant. An entire section of the museum is devoted to the African-Americans who served in the armed forces in every campaign, from the Revolutionary War up to today. Uniforms, weapons and accouterments are on display, as well as letters and manuscripts.

A number of Banks’ family members have served, or are serving, in the military. Her grandfather served in the Army; her uncles served in the Marine Corps; her ex-husband is a retired Soldier; and her Soldier son, Duvowel Peaker Jr., serves as a 25Q multichannel transmission system operator/maintainer stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

After her leave, Banks returned to Bagram Air Base to finish her deployment. During her deployment, an attack Nov. 12, 2016 at the base by a suicide bomber killed four Americans and injured 17 others. The blast shook her living quarters, an intermodal container.

“It was very scary,” she remembered. “At the time, we didn’t know what was happening. We get incoming rockets all the time, right after the sirens sound. But this time, no sirens went off to warn us.”

Despite the danger of living and working in Afghanistan, Banks said, she was glad she went.

“It was the best experience in my life,” she said, “working close to the warfighter and experiencing what’s really happening in that deployed environment.”

Her deployment ended in December 2016. She has since returned to her hometown of Aberdeen, Maryland, where, when she was a high school student, she once ran track and was a cheerleader.

Today, she works as a portfolio manager for the MITRE Corp. She handles their information-technology contracts for all of the services.

In her free time, she is working on her genealogy, which she says is a complex pursuit. The lives of her African-American ancestors were not well documented, so she expects the project will remain a work in progress for some time.

Each year, she and others celebrate Black History Month by attending the Black History Month Concert, held on the installation. Banks said she looks forward to going again this year with her daughter, Pashayla Peaker, a student at nearby Harford Community College.

Service members in Iraq receive entertainment thanks to Army Officer



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Frazier | CJFLCC-OIR Public Affairs

Kellie Pickler, an American country music artist, performs for service members during a USO Christmas Eve show Dec. 24, 2016, in Baghdad, Iraq. Capt. Jessica Deason, a human resources plans and operations officer for Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve, brought Pickler and her husband, guitarist Kyle Jacobs, along with chef Robert Irvine, his wife, wrestler Gail Kim, and New York Friars Club Roastmaster General Jeff Ross to the base to perform for the holidays.

By Spc. Derrik Tribbey
CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — If you want to know who has the best job in Iraq, just ask Capt. Jessica Deason.

The human resources plans and operations officer for Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command – Operation Inherent Resolve spends most days juggling multiple tasks including reviewing award submissions and overseeing postal operations for a multinational coalition. But Deason said bringing entertainment to service members at Union III brings her the most enjoyment.

“I enjoy working to raise the quality of life for the service members,” Deason said.

Since the 1st Infantry Division assumed responsibility of CJFLCC in November 2016, Deason has worked to bring country music artist Keith Anderson to play for the troops during Thanksgiving followed by coordinating for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff’s annual Holiday Tour through Iraq.

The December show brought country music artist Kellie Pickler and her husband, guitarist Kyle Jacobs, along with chef Robert Irvine, his wife, wrestler Gail Kim, and New York Friars Club roastmaster general Jeff Ross.

After two successful events, Deason went three-for-three by coordinating for Disney to provide the premiere of “Rogue One,” the latest installment of the “Star Wars” series, to troops on the same weekend it debuted in the states.

“It is especially humbling when we get to bring entertainment to locations that are more austere and have limited access to comforts of home,” Deason said.

Deason, a Belton, Texas native, said working to bring VIPs into theater is extremely rewarding, but the process involves a lot of flexibility as she works through a series of closely coordinated, time-sensitive requirements.

“Entertainment tours require a lot of work,” Deason said. “We have to get visas for each of the entertainers, advertise and coordinate flights and lodging. There’s also scheduling and reserving performance locations and building a detailed-yet-flexible timeline.”

Deason said she works with a tremendous team who helps her execute in many ways; however, as a fourth-generation Soldier, it’s her opportunity to continue her family’s tradition of service that empowers her to maximize the impact she provides to service members.

“My great grandfather, grandfather and father all served more than 20 years each,” Deason said. “They have been my greatest role models.”

Deason said her upbringing and close ties to her family keep her grounded as she continues their legacy of service.

Maj. Lawrence Torres, deputy operations officer, CJFLCC-OIR, works with Deason and said she plays a huge role, not only for Union III, but also for all service members in Iraq.

“Ninety percent of what (our office is able to) do is because of her work ethic, and her work is very important regarding overall impact on the forces,” Torres said. “She makes sure we have the best shows.”

With still more than half of the planned deployment left, Deason said she’s on the lookout for the next opportunity to bring another show to Iraq so she can help her teammates have a touch of home.

“I get to see the smiles and sheer gratitude on everyone’s faces,” Deason said. “I have the best job in Iraq.”

Soldiers beware of ‘sextortion’ scams

U.S. ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

QUANTICO, Va. — The Army Criminal Investigation Command is cautioning Soldiers to beware of a form of cyber extortion in which criminals engage in online sexual activities with a victim and then demand money or favors in exchange for not publicizing potentially embarrassing information.

In these “sextortion” scams, the extortionist will convince a Soldier to send a compromising photo or engage in a sexually explicit video chat, then threaten to send the compromising images to the Soldier’s command, family and friends unless “hush money” is paid, according to CID’s Computer Crime Investigative Unit.

CID officials say Soldiers who are caught in the scam may reluctantly give in to the extortionist’s financial demands or blackmail in hopes of protecting their careers or avoiding embarrassment.

“Be cautious of your online communications and do not share intimate, personal information with strangers or people you have never met in person,” advised Special Agent Daniel Andrews, director of CCIU.

According to Andrews, victims who give in to the extortionist’s demands will be at risk of further exploitation. He encourages victims to seek the assistance of law enforcement.

“(Further exploitation) can include demands for additional payments, more sexual images, sensitive military information, or access to Army systems and facilities,” Andrews said. “So early notification to law enforcement is important.”

If you have been the victim of a sextortion scam, please adhere to the following:

- Do not send money. CID has received reports of instances where scammers threatened to release videos unless a second or even third payment is made.
- Do not continue to correspond with an extortionist.
- Do preserve whatever information you have collected from the extortionist, such as the extortionist’s social networking profile, email accounts, and where the extortionist directed you to send the money.
- Do notify CCIU at usarmy.cciuintel@mail.mil or 571-305-4478 to report being a victim if you are a service member or an Army civilian employee. If you are not associated with the military, report the crime to your local police department, Department of Homeland Security Investigations at Assistance.Victim@ice.dhs.gov, or the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

For more information about computer security, other computer-related scams and to review previous cyber-crime alert notices and cyber-crime prevention flyers, visit the Army CID CCIU website at www.cid.army.mil/cciu-advisories.html.

For more information on CID, to report a felony-level crime or provide information concerning a crime, contact the Fort Riley CID Office at 785-239-2681, or the Fort Riley Military Police at 785-239-6767.



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1-888-3737-888

ag.ks.gov

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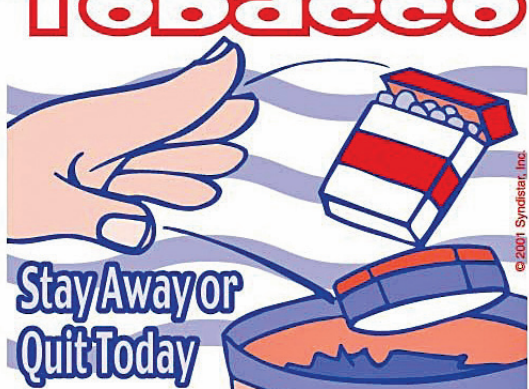
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New concept calls for semi-independent units, leaders in emerging battlefields



Spc. Fred Brown | ARMY
Capts. Michael Kiser, left, Christopher Vanderburg and Fred Martin, all with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, establish communications with the platoon headquarters during the exercise Ironhorse Mungadai, April 9, 2013, at Fort Hood, Texas. A new movement and maneuver functional concept looks to have a larger emphasis on semi-independent units and leaders fighting in future multi-domain environments

By Sean Kimmons
WWW.ARMY.MIL

TWICKENHAM, England — In future warfare, Army planners say subordinate units could be forced to fight alone if and when they get isolated from the theater’s top brass. When this happens, unit leaders would have to make the crucial decisions — using a mix of capabilities — that may go against their original orders to defeat an evolving enemy.

To prepare for this, a change in the culture of Army institutions needs to occur in the coming years to update tactics, according to Maj. Gen. Eric Wesley, commander of the Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, tasked with crafting the future requirements of maneuver forces.

“You have to create training environments where a captain, for example, has to choose to do something that he was told not to do, but is consistent with the intent of the expectation of his higher command,” Wesley said.

Speaking at the International Armored Vehicles conference Jan. 26, Wesley described this as realizing mission command, which gives more trust to leaders in the field to deal with or use multi-domain capabilities.

“When we say mission command, I think in many ways it has become a buzzword that we truly don’t understand or we don’t employ,” he

said. “Our armies, and in particularly ours, are drunk on information and dependent on permission.”

Wesley outlined other challenges to the center’s new movement and maneuver functional concept, a list of ideas on how to deal with a future operating environment, which is slated to be reviewed by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley in mid-February.

Under this concept, being developed simultaneously with the Army Training and Doctrine Command’s overall multi-domain operating concept, units would likely encounter an emphasis on cross-domain maneuver.

“This is formation indiscriminate. It’s an idea on how brigades fight,” Wesley said of the concept. “You won’t have multi-domain brigades; you’ll have brigades that will have to fight in a multi-domain environment.”

At some point, unit commanders may have to juggle capabilities coming from the land, air, maritime, cyber and space domains in order to maneuver troops in a contested environment.

“What we’re struggling with at Fort Benning (in Georgia) is what tools can I give captains and majors to leverage that kind of synchronization?” Wesley asked.

These questions are not borne only by the U.S. Army, he told audience members at the conference, in which military members and in-

dustrial partners from around the world attended.

“As a military profession, it will be indispensable that we understand collectively where we’re going,” he said.

The general called the concept an azimuth that provides a direction where the U.S. Army and its allies need to go. More collaboration, he said, will help shape doctrine and allow the defense industry to customize technology to it.

“This is by no means (set) in stone,” he said. “With our coalition partners and allies we need to refine what we have here.”

When developing ideas and technology, Maj. Gen. Robert White, commander of the 1st Armored Division, said the human capacity of troops should be in the forefront of discussions.

“No matter what we do and what we make or the concepts that we have, at the end of the day, it’s the Soldier that pulls the trigger, that steers the vehicle, and that engages in battle with the enemy,” he said Jan. 24 during his speech at the conference.

Capabilities, he suggested, should be tailored to the Soldiers who will use them, not the other way around.

“It’s really about building lethality around the Soldier, not building the lethality and serving the Soldier inside of it,” White said. “Those solutions that we come up with, in the end, fall

on the shoulders of a 19-year-old man or woman ... and we’re going to enable them to win.”

For example, he said there’s room for improvement in communications systems that have become overcomplicated, affecting how the U.S. Army works with its sister services and other nations.

“If we’re going to fight together in the future as we are today, we’ve got to be able to talk,” White said.

These systems could be even more urgent in a multi-domain environment, where planners say there could be episodic disruption with communications along with more forces dispersed around it.

Empowering the decision-making of young leaders who may someday fight in multiple domains is important to handle these issues, according to Wesley.

“Because you (will) have a very fast and hyperactive battlefield, we must unleash the power of subordinate formations in order to operate,” he said.

This would require a significant level of confidence in young leaders not typically seen in today’s Army, Wesley said.

“You can’t truly trust someone unless you are willing to take a risk,” he said. “If you’re not willing to take risks as a senior commander, you do not trust. And the only way to get to trust is to employ some risk.”

Caring for pets during deployments

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Between training, packing, potentially uprooting the family and more, deployments can be a stressful time for service members. Adding a pet into the mix can create even more concerns as service members attempt to figure out what to do with their animal companion while they’re away.

“They (service members) have so much going on already and then to add a pet into all those plans and preparation (makes the deployment more difficult),” said Staff Sgt. Carissa Burns, Veterinary Treatment Facility noncommissioned officer in charge.

For married service members, it is ideal the pet stay with their spouse, however, that is not always possible. In those instances or when they are a single with a pet, many service members turn to other family members, friends or neighbors to care for their pet while they are away.

“A lot of people rely on friends and family that are willing to watch their pets,” Burns said. “It’s somebody they know and somebody they probably trust.”

When leaving the pet with the caretaker, service members should provide the vet’s information and all current medical records like vaccination records, to the caretaker, Burns said. Additionally, all rabies and license tags should be included and the pet should be microchipped. The service member can update the pet’s microchip to include the caretaker as an alternate point of contact should the pet get loose.

“Most microchip companies require an alternate point of contact,” Burns said. “They could talk to the microchip company and make sure that person is their alternate.”

When asking a friend, family member or neighbor to care for a pet while the service member is deployed, it’s important to first consider if the person is even able to care for the pet, according to personnel at Pets for Patriots in an article on their Wet Nose Blog.

Questions the service member should ask about the potential care take include:

- Is this person physically able to care for my pet?
- Does this person know my pet? Do they like them?
- Is this person able to maintain my pet’s daily routines?

- Can I or this person provide all the essentials and resources my pet needs while I am deployed?

Once a caretaker is decided upon, a written agreement between the service member and caretaker should be formed and agreed upon by both parties, according to personnel at American Humane in an article on their website. The agreement should include matters such as an alternate caretaker in the event the primary caretaker is no longer able to care for the pet, who is responsible for damages or medical bills, what to do in the event the pet passes and what to do with the pet if the service member is unable to reclaim them, among other matters.

In some instances, a friend or family member is either the wrong choice or unavailable to care for the pet. In these situations, several non-profit organizations exist to foster service member’s pets during their deployments, Burns said. Three of these organizations include Dogs on Deployment, Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pets and the Military Foster Program from PACT for Animals.

Through these programs, the service member and their pet are matched with a volunteer foster who will care for their pet in their home during their duration of the deployment. The volunteer receives no financial compensation for caring for the pet other than the funds required to pay for the pet’s daily needs and veterinary care.

Personnel at Pets for Patriots recommend service members apply for a foster for their pet 30 to 45 days before their deployment to allow adequate time for them to be matched and all arrangements handled.

Dogs on Deployment was founded by a dual-military couple after they encountered trouble finding someone to care for their dog. The organization is a network database where service members can search for and locate volunteers to foster and care for their pets. To learn more about Dogs on Deployment, visit www.dogsondeployment.org.

Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pets was founded by two supporters of the military community who wanted to help service members stay united with their pets and

reduce the number of animals surrendered to shelters. Volunteers are able to care for pets anywhere between two months to a year. The organization also has a foster care program for honorably discharged veterans who are facing an unforeseen circumstance, such as homelessness or long term medical treatment, and need someone to care for their pet. To learn more about Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pets, visit guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org.

The Military Foster Program from PACT for Animals was created by volunteers and personnel of the organization to show their support for the military community. A PACT representative works directly with the service member to match them with the right volunteer for their pet. Volunteers at PACT aim to provide homes or foster care for all pets so no animal is ever unwillingly surrendered to a shelter. To learn more about the Military Foster Program from PACT for Animals, visit pactforanimals.org/pacts-work/military-foster-program.

As a last resort, service members may surrender their pet to a local shelter so they may be adopted out to a new family, according to staff of the Fort Riley shelter. At Fort Riley, there is an animal shelter service members can contact at 785-239-6183 or go to www.facebook.com/FortRileyPets. Some shelters charge a surrender fee to help with expenses associated with taking in a new animal.

“If they can’t find somewhere, then find a shelter that can adopt them out to somebody else,” Burns said. “We’ve had people that surrendered pets because they were deploying to the shelter (at Fort Riley).”

Personnel at Pets for Patriots, the American Humane and PACT for Animals advise against listing an animal for adoption on websites like Craigslist.com due to the chance the animals may be abused or killed. All groups agreed pets should be brought to a local shelter if no caretaker can be found.

However, under no circumstance is it ever acceptable to abandon or release a pet, Burns said.

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Female enlistee among first to report for infantry training

By David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — When Takiyah Carroll told friends and family she was joining the Army, everyone congratulated her.

When she added “going infantry,” their reaction was very different, she said. Until this year, joining an infantry, field artillery or special operations unit wasn’t even possible for female enlistees, so people aren’t quite used to this yet.

When people hear the word “Army” paired with the word “infantry,” they automatically think of combat, she said.

While combat is always a distinct possibility, for her, joining the Army and going into the combat arms branch “is about honor, courage, self-improvement and learning to be more disciplined,” she said.

“Friends told me that I’m crazy,” said the Baltimore native, “and my mom was kind of tense about it” because of the potential for combat.

But over time, she said that her mother, Terry Shaw, got used to the fact that her 19-year-old daughter was going to do it and she even said “I’m happy you’re going. That will be a good experience for you.”

Carroll, who shipped out Jan. 31 for training at Fort Benning, Georgia, is among the first group of at least 145 females going into the infantry military occupational specialty between now and the end of September.

If she successfully makes it through the arduous training, she said she’ll graduate May 19. But Carroll hopes to stay a few months longer at Fort Benning, as she hopes to qualify for follow-on airborne or air assault training.

Initially, Carroll tried to join the Army National Guard like several of her cousins, but she said she was rejected due to amblyopia, more commonly referred to as “lazy eye.”

Later, the Army determined that her amblyopia — which isn’t readily apparent to an observer — was mild and would not be an

impediment to duty in the Army, she said. But by then, she had her sights set on going active Army infantry.

WHY INFANTRY?

Carroll said a factor in her decision to go infantry is that she’s always loved a challenge and besides that, she described herself as a “tomboy and a daredevil.”

But it takes a lot of physical stamina to make it through infantry training and just being a daredevil doesn’t mean she’ll be able to do it. So Carroll said that over the last year, she’s been into some serious physical training.

While she has always been in good shape, participating in high school track and field and field hockey, she said she’s added a variety of weight training and aerobic workouts to help her prepare.

She doesn’t train alone, however, she said she works out with her battle buddies in the Future Soldier Program, which is the name the Army uses for the Delayed Entry Program, or DEP.

Carroll has already cleared her first hurdle to becoming an infantryman. She attained the highest level of the newly-implemented Occupational Physical Assessment Test, or OPAT, which all recruits now take to assess their fitness for MOSs before going to basic training.

Infantry and some other MOSs require the most demanding physical fitness. For example, Future Soldiers — the name the Army gives to people in the DEP — who want to be infantrymen, are required to achieve a minimum of 5 feet, 3 inches in the standing long jump; 14 feet, 9 inches for the seated power throw; 160 pounds for the strength deadlift; and a 10:14 minute mile over the course of 43 shuttle runs.

RECRUITER COMMENTS

She exceeded those requirements, said Sgt. 1st Class Lee M. Meadowcroft, her recruiter from Baltimore Recruiting Company who administered the test. In fact, she lifted 225 pounds in the deadlift, he said.

Carroll said a lot of her motivation to train and succeed came from her mentor, Staff Sgt. Sierra Booker of the Army National Guard recruiting center.

“She was a good inspiration. She kept pushing me. She believed in me. She helped me through a lot. She taught me to be more resilient,” Carroll said.

Despite gaining confidence and strength, Carroll admitted she’s nervous about making it through training, particularly since she said she’s trying to be a good role model for other women and doesn’t want to fail at doing that.

One thing that’s helped her confidence, she said, is faith in God. Two days before shipping out to Fort Benning, she said she got baptized, and was really elated by the experience.

Carroll wears a small metal cross attached to a dog tag chain around her neck, given to her by her father Defonza Carroll. She said he wore it during his time in the Marine Corps and said she feels his presence when she wears it, which she said she’ll keep wearing forever.

In high school, Carroll said she was in an Army JROTC unit and wore her uniform every Friday. That made her dad so proud, she said. “He’d always tell me I should wear it every day.”

When her dad found out she was planning to join the Army, he was especially proud, she said.

But her dad, the gung-ho leatherneck, never learned about her plan to join the infantry, because he died last year, she said.

Had he known, he would have been doubly proud, she added.

As for future plans, Carroll said she plans to stay in the Army at least 20 years and after a tour in the infantry, she plans to go to college and become an Army officer.

Meadowcroft, who has been a Soldier since 1996, said over the years he’s met many female Soldiers, his wife included, who could have qualified for and successfully trained in any of the combat arms branches, had they not been closed to women.

Regarding all MOSs now open to women, Meadowcroft commented: “it’s about time.” He

noted that relevant physical standards for each MOS are now the same for both genders, and that’s a good thing.

LEADERSHIP COMMENTS

Brig. Gen. Donna W. Martin, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, said she wishes Carroll well in training and hopes that others are inspired to serve like her in any MOS.

Traditionally, one of the factors in deciding to join the Army was having a family member who served and who was willing to share his or her experiences like Carroll’s father did. Unfortunately, there are fewer veterans today than in recent memory, she said.

That makes it all the more important for former Soldiers and veterans of all of the services to go into the schools and community and emphasize the many rewards of serving, Martin said.

The Army is also sending female recruitment teams to speak with students and high school faculty at major events like science fairs and auto races. The female recruiters speak about the opportunities the Army offers like education, job skills and leadership training. Martin said besides traditional recruiter training, the members of these teams also receive public affairs training.

There are several dozen of these special recruiters spread out across the U.S., particularly in places that lack a nearby Army installation.

Regarding female integration into the combat arms branches, Martin said it is going very smoothly for several reasons, among them being a changing culture in the Army’s acceptance of women in previously closed MOSs, fair and rigorous standards for both males and females, and introducing officers into these units first.

Having officers in combat arms branches really boosts the morale and confidence of female enlistees who check in, Martin said, adding “They say to themselves, ‘if she can do it, so can I.’”

A DAY OF RESILIENCY



COURTESY PHOTOS

ABOVE AND BELOW: Soldiers of the 97th Military Police Battalion participated in four resiliency stations Feb. 3 at Whitside Fitness Center. Three of the stations were focused on Master Resiliency Training and the fourth was about Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention. The MRT consisted of an Energy Management station, Active Constructive Responding and Effective Praise and Detect Icebergs. “These three skills were directed by IID to be trained, one skill a month, however 97th MP BN uses one entire day to knock out all three MGT skills at once using maximum participation as a battalion,” said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Yentsch, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 97th MP Bn. The SHARP Station consisted of two sexual harassment vignettes with four role players, one was two males talking about their sexual exploits when a female Soldier intervenes using the direct approach and the other was two females hitting on a new male Soldier while in the S-1 in processing station. “This station was to inform Soldiers on the impact of SH [sexual harassment] within our ranks and why it is everyone’s obligation to intervene and maybe one day, achieve cultural change,” Yentsch said.





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WARRANT

Continued from page 1

After joining as a light-wheeled diesel mechanic, McDonald found that he enjoyed the military environment and quickly excelled in his field.

“I enjoyed meeting new people,” McDonald said. “At first it was the mechanic part. I enjoyed getting up in the morning and doing P.T. As I got (the rank of sergeant), I started to work with Soldiers and training Soldiers. It became fun. After that, I just continued to do it.”

After McDonald was promoted to sergeant first class, he set a new goal to become a warrant officer. During his last phone conversation with his father before he passed away in late 2001, McDonald and his father talked about him becoming a warrant officer in the Army.

McDonald decided then that he wanted to depart the enlisted ranks, but he felt he had a lot to learn about his job field before taking the step of becoming a warrant officer and subject matter expert in his field.

“There is a lot of stuff you need to know before transitioning,” McDonald said. “Before I transitioned over I wanted to make sure I knew it. I got put into a platoon sergeants job and I ran a motor pool. I got that experience that I needed.”

McDonald also had another motivation to jump from the enlisted to officer ranks. That motivation came in form of his father-in-law who was a chief warrant officer 3 at the time.

“He always told me that I had to be able to take care of his daughter and my family,” McDonald said. “He said to do that I had to become a warrant officer. He just wanted me to follow him as he provided for his family. He encouraged me and drove me.”

With family encouragement and McDonald feeling professional prepared, he became a warrant officer in July 2005. Just like his time on the enlisted side, McDonald continues to make rank and has many reasons for his successful career.

“I just enjoy doing what I do,” he said. “My father taught me to work hard. If there is something out there that you want, then to work for it. That is my drive and motivation. I have had great mentors. I had Chief (Warrant Officer 5 Joseph) Bolte. He is a great mentor. If I have any questions or need anything, he is always there to guide me. I lean on him for guidance.”

McDonald continues to serve in the Army because of the good he feels he can contribute to the country and Army.

“I just want to do my best for this country,” McDonald said. “It goes beyond myself. I want to be part of something that is bigger than myself. I want to give back to the community and people. What good would I be if I just wanted to take care of myself and not help others?”

As a technical expert in his field, McDonald feels it is his responsibility to

help all Soldiers no matter their rank or time in the Army. “I enjoy taking care of Soldiers whether it’s a private or a colonel,” McDonald said. “If I can help someone to be successful then I am willing to do it. I am willing to do whatever it takes to make that happen.”

McDonald’s knowledge and leadership is not lost on his noncommissioned officers or officers.

“He can communicate to any audience,” said Master Sgt. Jeffery Merten, 101st BSB, rear detachment support operations noncommissioned officer in charge. “His charisma allows him to get them to understand his intent and get the results that are required.”

Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander, promoted McDonald to his current rank on Dec. 29, 2016.

“When I asked him about doing the promotion, I think he was more excited about it than I was,” McDonald said. “That meant a lot to me and my family. My family is still talking about him and the speech he gave.”

Though McDonald’s career has spanned many more years than he originally expected, he did achieve is original goal of getting a college degree. He has a Bachelor of Arts in business administration and is close to receiving a Bachelor of Science in religion from Liberty University.



COURTESY PHOTO
Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, speaks during a promotion ceremony for Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy McDonald, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., Dec. 29 at the division's headquarters on Fort Riley.

DANGER

Continued from page 1



Chad L. Simon | 1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, speaks with Rebecca Robinson, director of economic development for Kansas State University's Institute for Commercialization, during a combined-arms live fire exercise Feb. 3 at Fort Riley. Robinson and other community leaders were invited to Fort Riley to observe the training session and to see how 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers train.

to train companies how to gain and maintain contact with an enemy, fix them and destroy them.”

Danger Focus II enables individual companies to come together and train together in a brigade combat team environment.

“One purpose is to get companies out here for the first time as an organization of 100 to 130 Soldiers of varying specialties and get them together at that level,” Gardner said. “At the same time, it is designed to train the entire brigade combat team to exercise all of its capabilities.”

The training gained during the days and nights on the ranges at Fort Riley is critically important for the seven battalions that will comprise the “Dagger” brigade when it goes to NTC later this year, Gardner said. The exercise

enables the battalions to work in unison as a combat team.

“I think it is critically important because this is really the first time they get to see how the entire brigade combat team fits together and how things are done,” Gardner said. “This is where they get to see the whole enterprise of the brigade combat team.”

Danger Focus II trains the Soldiers not only for NTC, but also for a different enemy than 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers have fought against in Afghanistan and Iraq for the past 15 years.

“Danger Focus II allows our Soldiers to build readiness against near-peer threats like Russia and North Korea,” said Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander. “It allows us to train against an enemy with an actual uniform formation.”

The size and terrain makeup of the Flint Hills and Fort Riley provides Soldiers with vast and unique training opportunities unmatched by most any other installation in the U.S. Army, the acting senior commander said.

“There is no better place than Fort Riley to build readiness,” Frank said. “Fort Riley is probably the closest of any installations in the U.S. to NTC.”

Gardner echoed similar thoughts of Fort Riley.

“The rolling terrain and the ability for earth and the ground to recoup itself allows you to maneuver entire formations unlike many places,” Gardner said. “The space is there for you to maneuver.”

Danger Focus II will end Feb. 16 with a brigade field training exercise pitting a brigade against a battalion in a force-on-force exercise.

AIRCRAFT

Continued from page 1

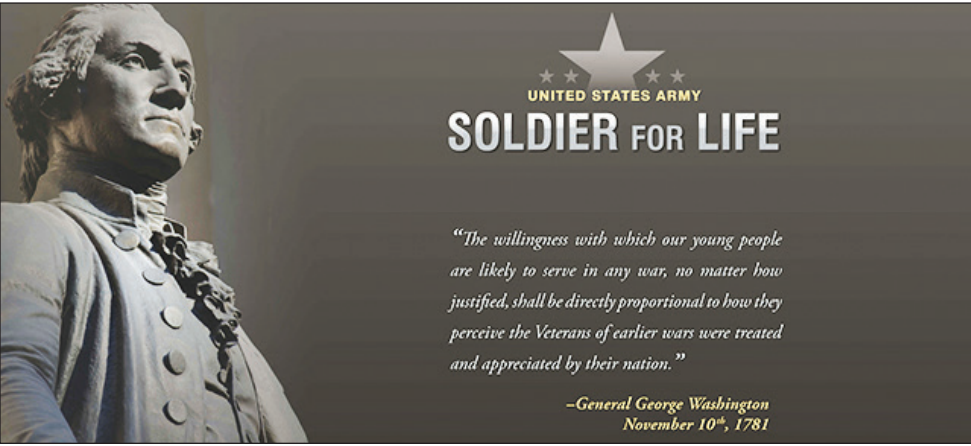
that was an uncontrolled airfield,” Heisler said, meaning that the airport does not have an operational air traffic control tower.

Routine training and experience on the part of all air traffic controllers with the Fort Riley Approach Control Services team made this type of assistance seem routine. And they are always in contact with, not only Marshall Army Airfield, but also emergency agencies and airfields at Clay Center, Manhattan and Junction City.

“They handled it just the way they should have,” said Doug James, the controller-in-

charge on duty during the emergency. “They made it easy for me.”

According to tower chief George Mummert, the team involved “represented a blend of controllers from those senior to Marshall Army Airfield to new controllers, still in training. Their quick thinking and immediate action are a testament to the professionalism they have as individuals, as well as the high standards which our ATC Chief, Ralph Millard, holds us to, and instills in our work force every day.”



TWISTS AND TURNS AT EYSTER POOL

Matt Ellington | POST
Eyster Pool closed Jan. 31 through Feb. 3 to allow for the installation of a double flume slide. The pool reopened Feb. 6, but the slide is still being worked on. The slide will be available for use at private parties after Feb. 16 and during the Feb. 25 Family Fun Swim for the public.



Spc. Derrik Tribbey | CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Cpl. Jeremy Mireles, left, Sgt. Anthony Tripoli, center, and Staff Sgt. Josiah Noble, infantrymen with 1st Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in support of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve, celebrate the New England Patriots overtime victory over the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI Feb. 6, in Baghdad. The time zone difference did not deter service members from watching the game, as the American Forces Network aired the game live at 2:30 a.m.

MUST-SEE OT

Super Bowl LI keeps fans on edge of seat in Iraq, at Fort Riley



Spc. Derrik Tribbey | CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

First Lt. Marcus Sutter, intelligence officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, celebrates the New England Patriots overtime victory over the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI Feb. 6. Sutter, a Virginia Beach, Virginia, native, is deployed with Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve to Baghdad.



Spc. Derrik Tribbey | CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve service members celebrate the New England Patriots overtime victory over the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI Feb. 6 in Baghdad.



Chris Cannon | POST

“What was that?” the crowd shouts at the television as the Atlanta Falcons dominate the New England Patriots during the first half of Super Bowl LI Feb. 5 during the Big Game Party hosted by the Warrior Zone staff. New England made a 25-point comeback in the second half and went on to tie the game in the fourth quarter before becoming Super Bowl LI Champions.



Chris Cannon | POST

Parents and children play air hockey together during the coin toss officiated by former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, at USO Fort Riley during the party hosted by center staff and volunteers Feb. 5.

“If we can increase the awareness, then we can increase the support we have, which means we can grow the programs we have for our service members.”

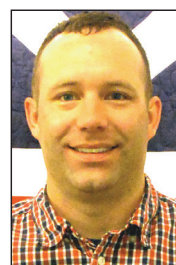
SCOTT PAYNE
DIRECTOR, USO FORT RILEY

New USO Fort Riley director has vision

Retired major hopes to bring growth to agency's programs

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

“The USO, to me, is an organization that strongly believes in its mission to make sure the service members and their families stay connected to their home and country and, to me, they really close the gap in that emotional and communication connection,” said retired Army Maj. Scott Payne, the new USO Fort Riley director.



Scott Payne

Payne, a native of Topeka, Kansas, officially became the new director in January and has been taking the time to become acquainted with the staff, volunteers and Fort Riley community since then.

While Payne had not previously volunteered with or worked for the USO, he has been a beneficiary of the programs and centers available through the USO from staff, volunteers, donors and sponsors when he was in the military. He said his experiences as a service member using facilities and programs helped contribute to his decision to join the organization after medically retiring after 14 years in the Army.

“When you're deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, the centers that are located there, really, they're a place you can go and it's almost like walking into a different area,” he said. “It provides that sigh of relief and feels like home. It's a place you can go relax and it's a stress reliever.”

The relationship between the staff and volunteers at USO Fort Riley and the Fort Riley community has been one of the most impressive things he has encountered, Payne said, since coming aboard. He added he was surprised by how well staff and volunteers at USO Fort Riley work with personnel of other organizations on post,

See USO, page 15



Season Osterfeld | POST
Maddison, a Kansas City Chiefs cheerleader, learns to pilot a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in an aviation simulator Feb. 3 at Marshall Army Airfield.

Sport celebrities pay visit to Fort Riley community

'Super Saturday' event puts special guests in touch with community

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Former National Football League players, Kansas City Chiefs cheerleaders and coaches from the Kansas State University football team toured facilities and met with Soldiers Feb. 3 and 4 at Fort Riley.

The guests came to Fort Riley as part of an annual event

“You take for granted the technology and the training and all the things that go into protecting this country and I just appreciate these guys so much.”

ANDRE COLEMAN | ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACH, K-STATE UNIVERSITY AND FORMER NFL PLAYER

held by staff of Mymildeals.com called “Super Saturday.” Players from the NFL and other guests come together with the military community and the surrounding civilian communities to celebrate football and honor service

members at various installations, said Christopher Dorm, vice president of marketing for Mymildeals.com.

“It's an annual event that we do called ‘Super Saturday,’” Dorm said. “We utilize it as

a way to bring the military community and the civilian community off post together to celebrate our love of football. Every year, we get some NFL players and some special guests who come into the military community for Super Bowl weekend. They come in, they tour the base, we get them to interact with Soldiers and stuff and then we throw a big event together and we make it open to the public, do a special salute to all of the military community and the players come out, we have a lot of activities that we do.”

To begin their tour, players and guests visited the Demon Dining Facility where they had lunch and talked with Soldiers.

“I'm showing my support,” said Jimmy Wilkerson, ambassador for Mymildeals.com and player for the Chiefs from 2003 to 2007, Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2008 to 2009 and New Orleans Saints in 2010. “I love being around the military. I've had a few of my family members who were in the armed forces. My younger brother has gone over to Afghanistan a few

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FORT RILEY POST-ITS

THREAT AWARENESS AND REPORTING PROGRAM TRAINING

Threat Awareness and Reporting Program training is scheduled for 10 a.m. Feb. 23. The training will be held at Fort Riley Barlow Theater.

EYSTER POOL BUBBLE GUPPIES


Eyster Pool staff will hold classes for children ages 6 months to 5 years of age and their parents. The classes are \$5 per family, per session. It will include 20 minutes of water safety and skills training by a certified water safety instructor and 40 minutes of water play. Parents must accompany children in the water.

The classes will be held Feb. 11, 25 and March 18, 25. The schedule is subject to change.

No registration is required. For details call 785-239-4854 or go to riley.armymwr.com.

LIBRARY VALENTINES PARTY

Families are invited to a free Valentine party at the Fort Riley Post Library, 5306 Hood Drive Feb. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. Decorate a Valentine's Day card and cookie. Additional crafts and snacks are available while supply lasts. For more information call 785-239-5305.

 **VALENTINE MESSAGES FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS**

There will be a Valentine photo booth at the Fort Riley Main Exchange streaming on Facebook live. Groups, families or individuals are invited to send messages to the troops.

Messages for Soldiers deployed to Korea will be held Feb. 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

For those deployed to the Middle East, the event is Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

FORT RILEY BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE

The Army and the country celebrates Black History Month in February.

In honor of Black History Month an observance will be Feb. 15 at Riley's Conference Center from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

KANSAS STATE COLLEGIATE RODEO MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

Free tickets are available for the finals of the K-State Rodeo Feb. 19 Weber Arena on the north end of K-State's main campus from 1 to 3 p.m. More than 20 rodeo teams will compete.

Tickets are available at Leisure Travel Services. For more information call 785-239-5614. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FORT RILEY MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING COMMAND TRAINING

The staff at MICC will be hosting quarterly customer training in March.

March 6 classes are targeted toward supervisors of Operational Contract Support Integration Cells, personnel involved in acquisition planning, commander's and supervisors of Government Purchase Card programs and supervisors

March 7 classes are Independent Government Cost Estimate and Market Research training intended for all personnel involved in development of contract requirements.

March 8 classes are intended for all personnel seeking knowledge on development of performance based acquisitions and contract surveillance.

The goal is for Fort Riley organizations and 1st Infantry Division to use the MICC as a force enabler, providing responsible contracting solutions and oversight.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION AT FORT RILEY TAX CENTER

The Fort Riley Tax Center is open to prepare federal and state taxes for Soldiers, military retirees and eligible family members. The center is located in building 7034 and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointments are available and encouraged throughout the week, but walk-ins are accepted. The center is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays for walk-ins only. Call 785-239-1040 for more information.

FORT RILEY OUTDOORSMEN GROUP YOUTH TURKEY HUNT

Members of The Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group known as FROG will host the annual youth mentorship spring turkey hunt April 1 and 2 at Fort Riley.

Experienced turkey hunters from the group will guide the youth, who must be 9 to 15 years of age, disabled, first time hunters, or whose sponsors are deployed. The age requirement may be waived based on experience. Youth must have a Kansas turkey permit for Unit 3, and are encouraged to bring their own shotgun and shells. A limited number of shotguns, shells, and hunter orange will be available for those who have none. No hunting experience is needed.

Guides will mentor youth by teaching safety and ethics and will assist in cleaning the turkey at the end of the hunt. Guides will arrange for transportation to and from hunting areas. The hunt is designed to give youth hunters an opportunity to hunt turkeys and gain valuable experience at a time when only youth are authorized to hunt. There will be an orientation for youth March 31 to learn about hunting turkeys, what to bring and wear, firing a shotgun, and roosting turkeys. The hunt will be April 1 and 2. The deadline for registration is March 24. For more information, or to sign up, please email the FROG at fortrileyoutdoorsmengroup@yahoo.com.

FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 10
Sing (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11
A Monster Calls (PG-13) 2 p.m.
Fist Fight (R) 6 p.m. Tickets available at both local Exchange Food Courts. Seating open to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to show time. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 12
Assassin's Creed (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Sleepless (R) 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.

FORT RILEY LEISURE TRAVEL

Discount tickets are available for events in the surrounding area as well as major theme park destinations.

Upcoming events with discount tickets include:

Salina Bicentennial Center: Toughest Monster Trucks Feb. 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Great Wolf Lodge - Kansas City Hotel: Blackout dates apply. Waterpark tickets included for all guests.

B&B Junction City Gem Theater
\$30 value gift card for \$25. Good onsite only - not valid online.

Kansas City Sprint Center
Professional Bull Riding Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. Price \$27 to \$100 depending on seat selections. Children over age 2 require a ticket.

Arenacross Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. Price \$20 to \$25 depending on seat selected. Children over age 2 require a ticket.

FAMILY NIGHT AT VICTORY CHAPEL

Staff and volunteers host family night at Victory Chapel each Wednesday night. A light supper is served from 6 to 7 p.m. and classes are from 7 to 8 p.m. A variety of classes are available.

Classes are for family night change occasionally, for a list of these classes as well as other chapel information available at the chapel visit the website www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort-Riley-Services/Chaplain/

USO INFORMATION

The February No Dough Dinner is 5 p.m. Feb. 27 at the USO.

Spouse's Sip N' Chat is each Saturday at 9 a.m.

The USO will close at 3 p.m. each Friday including training holidays.



COMMUNITY CORNER

February month of the heart — on emotional and physical levels

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

Valentine's Day, the holiday when our thoughts turn to the love we have for a spouse or partner, is right around the corner. People tend to celebrate the day with romantic cards, dinners, getaways, flowers, chocolates or jewelry to express love for that "special someone."

If you're struggling with ideas this year, check out the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation website riley.armymwr.com/us/riley for ideas such as wine pairing and painting or Valentine's bowling. You can also check out the travel section of the paper this week for suggestions for couples, families and singles to celebrate locally.

Whether you make plans to formally celebrate or not, it's still a good time to make sure your loved ones know they're appreciated. Military families face unique challenges and we can get caught up in the cycle of deployments and demands of the job. This year, take some time to reflect on the importance your loved ones play in your life, family, career, and your success; but don't just use the occasion of Valentine's Day to let them know how much they mean to you — let them know every day.

But the "romantic heart" isn't the only one that needs attention — February is also



Colonel Lawrence

American Heart Month, a time to focus on the "actual heart." President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed the first American Heart Month in February 1964. Since then, research and public awareness have helped decrease incidences of death due to heart disease; but it continues to be a leading cause of death in America.

Research has discovered that individuals can live longer, better lives by refraining from tobacco use, maintaining optimal blood pressure, maintaining a healthy weight, eating a healthy diet and exercising regularly. We encourage these behaviors for all of our Soldiers, family members and civilian employees.

No matter your age, you can impact your health by starting to follow a healthy lifestyle. If you need assistance understanding how to get on the path to a healthy routine, remember the staff at the Army Wellness Center can help tailor a plan and provide coaching to help you achieve your goals. They provide assessment and guidance on diet, sleep habits, exercise programs, smoking cessation and more, and best of all the services are free.

The Army Wellness Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located at 7285 Normandy Drive. For more information, visit iach.amedd.army.mil/sections/clinics/AWCMain.asp or call 785-239-9355. Use this Valentine's Day to focus on your romantic health and your physical health and then enjoy the benefits throughout the year.


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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2017

“SUCCESS ALWAYS LEAVES FOOTPRINTS.”

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



Mary McLeod Bethune

Linda Brown

Ruby Bridges

Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper

Booker T. Washington

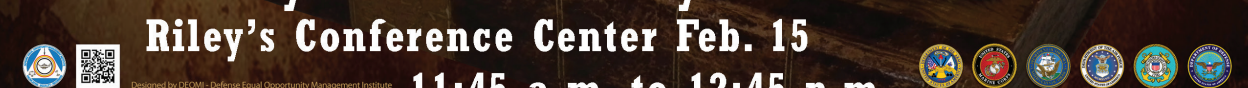
Little Rock Nine

James Meredith

Fort Riley Black History Month Observance

Riley's Conference Center Feb. 15

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



Cervical cancer: What women need to know

Pap smears, pelvic exams things women should regularly do

By Capt. Dorma Sanders
HEALTH.MIL

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — Regular Pap smear exams have become a lifesaving intervention for some women. The routine practice of Pap smears has reduced cervical cancer from the number one killer of women in the first half of the 20th century to a mild, treatable condition, which rarely progresses.

A Pap smear exam determines if there are any changes in the cells of your cervix. The Pap smear can tell if you have an infection, abnormal, unhealthy cervical cells, or cervical cancer. It can detect the earliest signs of cervical cancer. The chance of curing cervical cancer is very high, when caught early. Regular Pap smears have led to a major decline in the number of cervical cancer cases and deaths.

All women should have a Pap smear, along with



David Gillespie | U.S. Army
Army Capt. Ebony Todd, legal advisor at Fort Campbell, discusses her pregnancy with Army Capt. (Dr.) David Tillman, Blanchfield Army Community Hospital OB-GYN provider.

pelvic exams, as part of their routine health care starting at age 21. Each woman has her own risks and her health care provider should oversee her screening plan. Generally, between 21 and 65 years old, a woman should get a Pap smear every three years if the results are normal. This increased interval of screening acknowledges the role of HPV vaccination in decreasing the most common cause of cervical cancer, HPV.

When to stop having Pap smears is a topic to discuss with your health care provider. Women, who never have had a positive Pap smear, are older than 65, have had a hysterectomy with cervical removal for non-cancer related reasons, are at lower risk to develop cervical cancer. Even when Pap smears are not done, pelvic exams should be performed to screen for ovarian and other pelvic or vaginal cancer.

The virus is a major cause of cervical cancer and one of the most common sexually transmitted infections. Approximately 40 types of HPV are spread during sex. Approximately 75 percent of sexually active people will get HPV sometime in their life. A few types can cause cervical cancer if not treated, but most women with untreated HPV will not get cervical cancer. Genital warts are caused by HPV, however, these types rarely cause cervical cancer. Most people with HPV don't have symptoms and will not know they are infected.

Actions that reduce HPV exposure and decrease the risk of developing cervical cancer include:

- Refrain from sexual activity before age 18
- Limit the number of sexual partners
- Get vaccinated against HPV if you are between the ages of nine to 26. The HPV vaccine, Gardasil, is a two or three dose series vaccine protecting against the most common cancer causing HPV strains.

USO Continued from page 13

like the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

“(I like) the interaction with the military and the support that we have,” he said. “We have several events that we conduct on a monthly basis that generate discussion with the spouses with Spouses Sip ‘n Chat or the No Dough Dinners at the end of the month for families. I just noticed there’s a lot of connection between the USO and its service members that I really wasn’t aware of until I became director and then we have a lot of close partnerships with garrison entities and organizations, like

MWR ... Learning about the relationships here on post and in the local community was surprising, but it’s great and to continue to build on those, it’s a great opportunity.”

Continuing that relationship with the Fort Riley community and personnel of other organizations on post is important to Payne and one of the major things he is worked toward now, he said. Recently, he met with Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, to discuss Lawrence’s wants and ideas for Fort Riley. Payne added he has also been working with David Roudybush, director of DFMWR, to discuss creating

large, annual events in conjunction with one another.

“Ultimately, what we want to do is synchronizing,” Payne said. “We want to maximize the activities available here at Fort Riley and to the surrounding community.”

Payne said he also hopes to increase awareness about the USO throughout the region, from Topeka to Hays, Kansas, because the staff at USO Fort Riley extend their services to Airmen, National Guardsmen, Army Reservists and more in the area. By increasing awareness, they will be able to recruit more volunteers, donors and sponsors to increase the programs available at all

locations in the region and potentially add additional ones.

“If we can increase the awareness, then we can increase the support we have which means we can grow the programs we have for our service members,” Payne said.

Payne said he plans to bring new growth to USO Fort Riley and to himself by being the director. His military background also provides him a different perspective than other staff there, but they all share the same goal.

“I think, at the end of the day ... the direction and the passion and the ideas are generated in the same form,” he said.

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of Feb. 7 was:
Where was the Feb. 8 and 9 American Red Cross blood drive on Fort Riley held?

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/Calendar/ModuleID/634/ItemID/409/mct/EventDetails/ or
www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/Calendar/ModuleID/634/ItemID/410/mct/EventDetails/

This week's winner is Cayla Jolly, wife of Spc. Brandon Jolly, assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion.

Pictured above are Cayla and Brandon Jolly.

CONGRATULATIONS CAYLA!

FIRST HOSPITAL WEDDING

COURTESY PHOTO
The Irwin Army Community Hospital chapel hosted the first wedding since the grand opening of the facility. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Bellisario, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division; and Jennifer Lieberman, Pharmacy Services deputy chief, married Jan. 29. Hospital Chaplain [Capt.] Joseph Wingo officiated the ceremony.

Cellphone use while driving is prohibited on post. Phone calls may be made only with a hands-free device. Texting is included in the ban. Failure to adhere to policy will result in a \$75 fine.

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In order to prepare for the Job Fair, the Junction City and Manhattan Workforce Centers will conduct the following workshops:
Federal Resume Workshop • Thursday, February 16th • 2:00-4:30 pm
Job Fair Prep • Friday, February 17th • 10:00-11:30 am
Federal Resume Workshop • Thursday, March 2nd • 2:00-4:30 pm
To reserve a seat call: Junction City 785-762-8870 / Manhattan 785-539-5691

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Participants with disabilities: If you are in need of special accommodation, submit your request at least five business days in advance of the event. Please allow 10 days for a sign language interpreter. Ph. (785) 762-8870 Fax (785) 762-3078 TTY: 711



Maria Childs | POST
Thomas Twitty, 7, son of Staff Sgt. Braccus Twitty, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., and his sister, Elaina, visit with former National Football League players during a meet-and-greet event Feb. 4 at the Post Exchange.

SUPER Continued from page 13

times and I'm a big history buff, so to learn, to be here in person, to learn more about the armed forces and to meet the guys who are actually going out there and fighting for our freedom, there's no better way than to come here in person and shake their hands and say 'we really appreciate what you've done and you have our support 100 percent.'

Following their visit at the DFAC, they travelled to the aviation simulators at Marshall Army Airfield to learn about and try the technology Soldiers use to train and prepare for deployments. The players and guests were able to tryout three of the simulators, including the UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinook and the AH-64 Apache.

"As a fan of the military, this is pretty cool, pretty awesome to get to learn, to know the people, know the equipment, the helicopters and things that they use to support themselves and fight for a cause bigger than themselves," Wilkerson said.

Wilkerson said he was amazed by the technology the Soldiers use to train and how quickly they must grasp it to prepare for combat situations. He added he was impressed by the different climates, terrains and other features available on the simulators to maximize the training.

Andre Coleman, coach for K-State football and former player for the San Diego

Chargers from 1994 to 1996, Seattle Seahawks in 1997 and Pittsburgh Steelers from 1997 to 1998, said he was also surprised and humbled by the technology Soldiers use.

"You take for granted the technology and the training and all the things that go into protecting this country and I just appreciate these guys so much," Coleman said. "I am thankful for them even inviting me. It's a privilege to see some of these things up close."

After experiencing the aviation simulators, the group visited the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System hangar and the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, hangar to learn about the capabilities of the drones, as well as the maintenance procedures, history and abilities of some of the helicopters at Fort Riley. During their tour of the hangars, they were able to talk with Soldiers about their jobs and football, many of them laughing and bantering about their favorite teams. Several of the players gathered in front of the drones to take photos and tease each other about purchasing one of their own.

"To actually see the drones up close — they're much bigger than what I anticipated and to actually see how they're operated," Coleman said. "It's pretty incredible."

For Tyree Washington, husband of Pfc. Monica Washington, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st CAB, 1st Inf. Div., and Olympian sprinter, eight-time world record holder and former San Diego Chargers player, this tour was a unique introduction to his new life as a military spouse at Fort Riley and understanding his wife's new career.

"It's like being the new kid in class, trying to fit in, trying to find the right people to hang around with and just all the rules and regulations," Washington said about being a new military spouse. "As a civilian, you don't really deal with most of that. I mean, it's an adventure and I'm really enjoying it and I think being able to have a wife in the Army and being able to support her and give back to our country is great."

Washington said he was in awe of the amount of information and technology Soldiers must learn and use to complete their missions and found himself overwhelmed by what he saw.

"The amount of knowledge pilots have to have to fly the Blackhawks, just the drones, I mean, it's unbelievable to me," he said. "My appreciation for what they do, it's a thousand times greater because it's tough."

Washington and Wilkerson joined Tony Adams, player for the Chiefs from 1975 to

1978 and the Vikings in 1987, and Anthony Davis, former San Francisco 49ers offensive lineman, at the Post Exchange Feb. 4 for a meet-and-greet event.

Thomas Twitty, 7, son of Staff Sgt. Braccus Twitty, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., and his sister, Elaina, were among the visitors who waited in line to get signatures and talk to the players. Thomas spent his time showing the players his arm muscles, flexing as he talked to them about wrestling.

"I really liked that I got to meet football players," he said. "I talked to them about wrestling."

Maria Berrios Borges, Fort Riley PX manager, said the players initially asked if they could come meet and greet Soldiers and families of Fort Riley. She said it was neat they wanted to interact with the Soldiers and their families.

"I think it was something they (the players) wanted to do and they enjoyed it," she said.

First Lt. Trevor Lane, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., came to the PX to show off his San Diego Chargers pride. He said he talked to the players about the Chargers and recent changes to the team.

"I think it's nice they take time out of their day to come here," Lane said. "It creates more excitement."

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MWR CAPRA



Travel & Fun in Kansas



Photo by Season Osterfeld | POST
Along the Linear Trail in Manhattan sits an old bridge that crosses over Wildcat Creek. Recently, couples have begun leaving locks on the grates in the railing of the bridge to “lock in” their love, propose marriage and more.

Valentine's Day



COURTESY PHOTO
The bobcats at Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, Kansas, love to show affection to and play with one another. For more information, call 785-587-2737 or visit www.sunsetzoo.com.

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Every year, Valentine's Day brings sugary treats, glittered hearts, romance, new beginnings and adventure to all ages. At Fort Riley and in the surrounding communities, people gather to host events celebrating history, love, breakups, science and more in honor of the day.

At Fort Riley, love is a game with Valentine's Day Bowling at Custer Hill Bowling Center. From noon to 6 p.m. Feb. 12, guests can enjoy two hours of unlimited bowling for up to six people, one large one-topping pizza, one appetizer and two pitchers of soft drinks for \$40. Shoes are included. For more information, call 785-239-4366.

Staff of the Fort Riley Post Library will host their annual Valentine's Day Party Feb. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. The event is free and will include snacks, drinks and crafts. For more information, call 785-239-5305.

Love turns to hardship as three sisters must face the consequences of their actions in the play “Crimes of the Heart” performed by actors of the Junction City Little Theater in Junction City. The play begins at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10 and 11 and 2 p.m. Feb. 12 at the C.L. Hoover Opera House, 135 W. 7th Street, Junction City. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for military and \$11 for students. For more information, call 785-238-3906 or visit www.jcoperahouse.org.

Friendships and romance can get wild at the Sunset Zoo in Manhattan with the Bring a Date to the Zoo Month event. Through Feb. 28, purchase one adult admission and receive a second free. Admission is \$5 per adult, \$3 for children ages 3 to 12 and free for 2 and under. The zoo is open noon to 5 p.m. and is located 2333 Oak St. For more information, call 785-587-2737 or visit www.sunsetzoo.com.

Along the Linear Trail in Manhattan sits an old

bridge that crosses over Wildcat Creek. Recently, couples have begun leaving locks on the grates in the railing of the bridge to “lock in” their love, propose marriage and more. To reach the bridge, use the entrance to Linear Trail off of Poliska Lane, near where it meets Justin Road. After entering the trail, walk straight and the bridge is a few yards ahead.

Love may not be science, but sugar certainly is at Adventure Camp: Sugar Science Feb. 13 at the Flint Hills Discovery Center, 315 S. 3rd St. in Manhattan. Children ages 3 to 6 can learn about the science behind sugar, create sugar rainbows, test the glucose in foods and more in half day or day-long camp. Half day sessions run 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and cost \$13 for members or \$15 for nonmembers. The full-day session runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is \$22 for members or \$25 for nonmembers. To learn more, call 785-587-2726 or visit

www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/calendar.aspx.

A love of history can be shared between couples with the Cowtown Lecture Series: Valentine's Day Feb. 12 from 2 to 3 p.m. in Old Cowtown Museum, 1865 W. Museum Blvd., Wichita, Kansas. The speaker will discuss romance, affections and expressions in the Victorian Era during the lecture. Admission is \$3 per person. For more information call 316-219-1871 or visit www.360wichita.com/event/cowtown-lecture-series-valentines-day/129756.

Couples can lock their love for an eternity at the Old Red Bridge adjacent to the new bridge on Red Bridge Road between Holmes and Blue River Road in Minor Park, located in south Kansas City, Missouri. Visiting the bridge is free, but guests will need to bring their own lock. For more information, visit kcparks.org/attraction/old-red-bridge-love-locks/.



COURTESY PHOTO
Locks adorn the Old Red Bridge at Minor Park in south Kansas City, Missouri. The locks were placed by couples to symbolize the bond between them and help their relationship last forever.



COURTESY PHOTO
Swift foxes at Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, Kansas, rest against one another after a busy day. For the month of February, buy one adult admission to the zoo and get a second person free.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Asian otters at Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, Kansas, snuggle up to one another and cuddle close together when they sleep. Staff at Sunset Zoo are offering a Bring a Date to the Zoo month long event for February.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Old Red Bridge at Minor Park in south Kansas City, Missouri is a popular place to secure a lock and “lock in” a couple's love. The bridge can be found adjacent to the new bridge located on Red Bridge Road between Holmes and Blue River Road.