



THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



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FORT RILEY, KANSAS

K-State students get up-close look at Army life

Story and photo by Sgt. Michael C. Roach
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Students from Kansas State University's Quest Freshman Honorary organization got an up-close look at Army life when they toured part of Fort Riley as guests of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade March 10.

More than 30 students attended the tour with static displays of UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters. Students were guided by members of the 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, as they were allowed to climb onto the aircraft and ask questions of nearby crew members.

Quest was designed to develop freshman students into leaders by having seniors from the Blue Key Honor Society mentor them.

"It could pique an interest," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Wallace, a pilot with 3rd AHB, 1st Avn. Regt., 1st CAB, 1st Inf. Div., Wallace considered the tour a broadening experience for the students, which could help to show them more of what the Army does and is capable of.

Wallace, who accompanied the group for the entirety of their tour, also said the event was mutually beneficial for the Soldiers in his unit. Soldiers of about the same age were assigned to brief about the aircraft

See QUEST, page 6



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Wallace gives a Kansas State University student a tour of the cockpit of a UH-60 Black Hawk on Fort Riley, Kansas, March 10. Crews and pilots from 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, were on hand for the students to answer questions they might have about the aircraft.

A STAND-UP JOB



Spc. Daniel Czigler, right, deployed in support of Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve, assigned to 258th Engineer Utilities Detachment, drills into a stand-up desk while Spc. Adam Heath, carpentry and masonry specialist, 258th EUD, holds the desk in place in Baghdad, Iraq, March 6. Czigler is an interior electrician by trade but learned he would be doing a lot of wood work when he arrived.

Coalition engineer detachment builds a stronger alliance through construction

Story and photos by Spc. Derrick Tribbey
CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The North Carolina National Guard's 258th Engineer Utilities Detachment, Union III team, is a new unit on their first deployment.

Over the past few months, the team learned new capabilities and challenged themselves to be more creative as they supported operations and made Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve a better place to work.

The 258th's mission is to provide facilities and engineering support in the areas of carpentry, masonry, electrical, plumbing, road maintenance and repair in Iraq and Kuwait.

Staff Sgt. Mark Guffey, construction supervisor, 258th EUD, leads the team that includes two electricians, one plumber and two carpentry and masonry specialists.

As the only member of the team with multiple deployments, Guffey said deploying with a

"They gave me the opportunity to not only learn, but to take pride in what I am doing."

SPC. DANIEL CZIGLER

258TH ENGINEER UTILITIES DETACHMENT

smaller team is a big shift from his previous overseas assignments.

"It's a new Army concept," Guffey said. "We are deploying smaller, self-sustaining units with a variety of jobs."

In the past, the EUD had company-sized elements full of one particular job specialty. Prior to this deployment, all of the companies' Soldiers were split to place a variety of jobs into smaller teams.

Spc. Adam Heath, carpentry and masonry specialist, 258th EUD, was with the unit when they began the switch from an 11-person asphalt team to a utilities detachment within a year of their deployment. He said being part of the first unit like this to deploy together is humbling.

"Six months into getting set up, we got the

official notice that we were deploying," Heath said. "You got this ragtag group just thrown together, and we made it work."

Heath said the team's success serves as a good example for other units like his to emulate.

Guffey is on his fourth deployment and mentors the group of young Soldiers.

Many of the Soldiers had to learn and adapt quickly in their new environment and fill different roles. Spc. Daniel Czigler, 258th EUD, is an interior electrician by trade but learned he would be doing a lot of wood work when he arrived.

"The carpentry thing was something I had to pick up

See ENGINEERS, page 6

Healthcare specialists train alongside Korea partners

By Staff Sgt. Warren W. Wright Jr.
1ST ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP CASEY, South Korea — Healthcare specialists from the 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, came together with their South Korean army partners to prepare for participation in the Expert Field Medical Badge competition during a training event on Camp Casey, South Korea, March 9.

The training focused on EFMB combat testing lane one, which included weapons disassembly and assembly, low crawling and high crawling while under simulated weapons fire and assessing a casualty.

"We're testing them on their ability to complete all of the medical tasks" associated with the EFMB testing lane one, said Staff Sgt. Steven Dean Walker, a squad leader and training coordinator from the 101st BSB.

All medics from the battalion that are being sent to the EFMB competition in May are being sent through the testing lane.

Also present during the training were medical specialists from the South Korean army's 5th Infantry Division Medical Battalion.

"This is the first of three training events that we plan on conducting," said Capt. Christopher Rodriguez, the commander of Company C, 101st BSB. It's important to "understand their capabilities and what (the South Korean medical soldiers) do and bring to the fight so if we do have to fight together we know what our partners in the medical world do."

One of the unique aspects of the U.S. Army in South Korea is its partnership with its host nation. The U.S. Army regularly integrates South Korean soldiers into training to maintain a strong alliance between the two nations.

"They don't get a chance to do this type of training in the field," Rodriguez said. "Today is about us teaching them new skills and helping them work on their field craft."

See COMPETITION, page 8

'Fighting Eagles' recognized for life-saving efforts

By Robert Harrison
U.S. FORCES AFGHANISTAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — For rescuing wounded warriors in the midst of battle, Capt. Trevor P. Joseph, 1st Lt. Aaron P. Cruz, Sgt. Loran M. Lott and Spc. Samuel E. Perez were awarded The Air Medal with "V" Device for valor at a ceremony held on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, at the DUSTOFF hangar March 4.

"It is extremely humbling to be recognized like this," Joseph said. "There were three other MEDEVAC crews that were up there that I know would have done the same exact thing."

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Scott A. Howell, NATO Special Operations Component Command — Afghanistan commander, presented their awards. Former Afghanistan Minister of Defense, the Honorable Bismullah K. Muhammad, and Resolute Support Mission Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Christopher K. Haas arrived from Kabul to attend.

See HEROES, page 8



Capt. Trevor P. Joseph, 1st Lt. Aaron P. Cruz, Sgt. Loran M. Lott, and Spc. Samuel E. Perez, all from Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, were awarded The Air Medal with 'V' Device for their heroic actions as a helicopter medical evacuation crew during a Nov. 3, 2016 extraction of wounded U.S. and Afghanistan Soldiers pinned down by enemy fire in Kunduz Province.

BUCKETS AWAY



Eric J. Stites | COURTESY PHOTO

A Kansas Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter piloted and crewed by Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment out of Salina, Kansas, assisted with fire suppression March 6 through 9 in Reno County, Kansas. Fort Riley donated equipment like the bucket used to carry and drop water in an effort to suppress wildfires. One bucket holds 600 gallons of water.

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Master Sgt. Richard Maltby, Irwin Army Community Hospital, volunteered with the Fall Apple Day Festival 2016 set-up including cooking and cleaning up at the IACH booth.

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

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS, SEE PAGE 16.



Program exchange aims to better service members' lives

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

“This shouldn’t be a special event,” said Col. Bruce “Phil” Heseltine Jr., vice commander at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas, and a part of 22nd Air Refueling Wing. “We should be doing this more often.”

Heseltine toured facilities at Fort Riley alongside Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, March 10. This was the first time he visited Fort Riley.

Heseltine said he came to discuss other joint training and relations opportunities, as well as to discuss two separate programs, one from McConnell and one from Fort Riley, that each installations’ service members could benefit from.

“After we met the Governor’s Military Council, we talked about different types of partnerships and different opportunities, not only with each other, but also local communities — learning from each other, how we deal with local communities, and how we actually build camaraderie with them,” Lawrence said.

For Heseltine, he said he has an interest in learning more about the Soldier for Life – Transition Assistance Program at Fort Riley, while Lawrence said he was interested in the Home-Away-from-Home program, also called Adopt-an-Airman, at McConnell.

“We had two mutual ‘ah-ha’ moments,” Heseltine said. “In this

community, there was potentially the Home-Away-from-Home program that might be something for you all to consider. For us, it’s the Soldier for Life piece and how can I transition our Airmen through a program that is working very well here. We have limitations that McConnell will have to work through, but it isn’t for lack of interest or desire to do well for our transitioning Soldiers and Airmen.”

Staff in the SFL-TAP help Soldiers transitioning back into civilian life through training, hiring fairs, career skills instruction and more so they and their families can be successful in their next career, among a variety of other things, according to their website soldierforlife.army.mil.

The Adopt-an-Airman program originally started at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Heseltine said. For four years, the Airman there would be matched with a family in the local community to support them and help them build a relationship with the community they are in.

Heseltine said the program came to McConnell in January and they’ve seen success from it because it provides the Airmen a family in their area and, for some, the first family they have had. The program not only benefits the service members’ mental and emotional health and gets them involved in the community, but it also encourages service members to request to return

to that installation because they have a family there and increases retention rates by showing them how well they are taken care of in the military.

For Fort Riley Soldiers, the program would be named Adopt-A-Soldier and Lawrence said he will work with Usha Reddi, mayor of Manhattan, Kansas, and Phyllis Fitzgerald, mayor of Junction City, Kansas, to locate and assist in vetting families to be matched with Soldiers.

“There are a lot of opportunities for that program here,” Lawrence said. “With the mayors’ support, I think that would be an incredible program for ... retaining our Soldiers ... As we move forward with this program, I think it will help retention. I also think it will help the stresses our Soldiers go through during these times of high deployment and allow them a little normalcy in their life.”

Heseltine said SFL-TAP is something McConnell has long needed to ensure the Airmen there leave prepared, skilled and educated as they will continue to represent the military even after they are out.

“I think Soldier for Life, it starts the conversation of ‘okay, what else do we do in our services that are mirrors on the outside?’” he said. “We should be looking at everything that every Airmen or Soldier does in the service, find out what the civilian connection is and if you don’t step out immediately with

the tools to step right into that job, how can we facilitate you achieving those tools to get to where you want to go?”

During his visit, Heseltine toured the Unmanned Aerial Systems Hangar, Seitz Regional Training Campus and the SFL Career Skills Motor Pool where he observed Soldiers be trained to drive semi-trucks, among other things.

At Seitz Regional Training Campus, Lawrence and Heseltine said they saw opportunities for new joint training operations between Soldiers and Airmen to build upon ones already occurring.

“We identified a few opportunities up there where we might be able to link into joint training between the Air Force and the Army even further than we are now,” Lawrence said. “We need to start getting these partnerships now not only for the senior leaders, but for the Soldiers because as we deploy, we deploy jointly and every deployment I have been on, I have had an Air Force element there.”

After his visit, Heseltine said there was more at Fort Riley he hoped to bring back to McConnell. He also said there were programs McConnell has that can benefit Fort Riley Soldiers.

He extended an invitation for Lawrence to have a similar tour at McConnell in the summer.



Col. Bruce “Phil” Heseltine Jr., vice commander at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas, and a part of 22nd Air Refueling Wing, talks with representatives from the Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program about the skills and capabilities service members gain from the program March 10 at the SFL Career Skills Motor Pool. Part of Heseltine’s visit included him learning more about the SLF-TAP so he could begin implementing it for service members at McConnell.

GROUNDWATER TESTING



Matt Ellington | POST
Pasquale Pozzolano, a contractor for the Environmental Protection Agency, collected water samples for testing from the permeable parking lot at Fort Riley’s Seitz Elementary School March 6. Basic safety tests are conducted on site and then samples are sent to a lab for additional testing for nitrate, metals, PH levels and oxygen absorption. The test determines if there are changes in water quality from permanent runoff testing sites at the permeable parking lot.

Suiting up for civilian success

Story and photo by Matt Ellington
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion engaged with civilian human resources directors and representatives from local businesses for a discussion about resumes and dressing for interviews March 3. “Dress for Success” is a part of Career Education Readiness to help Soldiers prepare for the Hiring Heroes Career Fair April 26.

Local business representatives stressed proper attire as a must to make a good impression during interviews. Everything from the accessories to color coordination with a shirt or blouse, impacts the image reflected.

“The resources it has provided for me is giving me the basic foundation of how to go dressed for an interview,” said Sgt. 1st Class Perry Cross, Warrior Transition Battalion. “Conservative is the best thing, also not to overdress — not to underdress.”

Soldiers were advised on matching how well to dress with the job being applied for. The local business representatives used a full suit not matching up with an entry level concrete job, unless applying for a management position as an example.

“What this does is it’s going to open up the doors,” said Jennifer Stearns, transition coordinator for the WTB. “They’re going from ‘this is how I act’ to the civilian sector, what they’re expecting, what I should look like and the cost of it, because cost is important. Then they’re able to take that and start planning out their events from the transition point.”



Charity Lopez, Melani designer specialist at Dillards, explains the key points of dressing for interviews to Soldiers from the Warrior Transition Battalion during the Dress for Success event at the Soldier Family Assistance Center March 3. The representatives provided guidance for interview dressing and resumes to Soldiers transitioning into civilian life.

“The CER is a program in the WTB that I run from WCT to prepare the Soldiers for transition,” Stearns said. “It’s taking the wounded, ill and injured and preparing them for the civilian sector, whatever their goals are. We try and tailor the program for them. We connect with internships, education pieces, job shadowing, entrepreneurship and individualize it for every Soldier.”

In the second half of the event, the human resources directors answered questions about interviewing. Some questions pertained to when it was appropriate to ask about salary or how soon to follow up. All of the directors agreed that demonstrating knowledge about the company is impressive and positive when interviewing.

Perry Cross, a Soldier retiring after 24 years of service, asked questions about references, social media and how businesses in the civilian sec-

tor consider both regarding transitioning military personnel.

Cross said his questions were about job references. He said his non-Army job references dated back more than 10 years. The advice he said was the most helpful was to use them as character references.

Cross compared Dress for Success with Soldier for Life’s larger events.

“I think all Soldiers who go through Soldier for Life want to ask questions in a smaller venue,” Cross said. “In a group of 50-70 people, I’m not going to ask the question. What we had the opportunity to do is talk and ask people from the industry in that smaller venue about how to dress, mixing and matching accessories, and so on. It gives you an opportunity to kind of see the full spectrum and get an outside opinion — from the outside world — about what right looks like.”



OPERATION: FRESH START

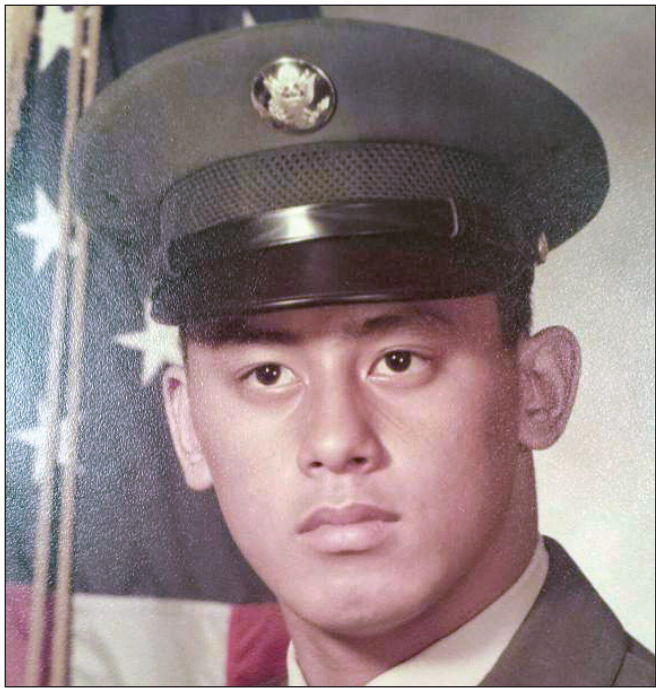
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THE FIGHTING FIRST!

Gregory Quidachay: A ‘Big Red One’ Soldier



By Phyllis Fitzgerald
SPECIAL TO THE POST

A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Gregory Quidachay joined the Army in 1975. He received basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he earned the military occupational specialty of 19E, M60 tank crewman, and 19K M1 tank crewman.

After completing training, Quidachay’s first assignment was to Fort Carson, Colorado, where he was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 4th Infantry Division as an M60 loader tasked with loading the main gun. He also served as a driver.

After the first six months at Fort Carson, Quidachay and the rest of the brigade rotated to Wiesbaden Air Base, West Germany, in support of the “Brigade 76” organizing effort in October 1976.

According to the Nov. 19, 1977 issue of Stars and Stripes newspaper, “Brigade 76 was originally deployed on a TDY basis,” Quidachay said. “The plan was for brigade units to rotate on a six-month basis with other like units in the States. After completion of the first six-month rotation, the brigade became a permanent change of station unit in November 1976. “My unit was the last Brigade 76 (six month) rotation.”

In October 1984, Quidachay departed Wiesbaden Air Base, West Germany. At the time of his reassignment, he was

a gunner on the M-60A3 tank and later a tank commander. Quidachay’s next assignment was to Fort Irwin, California, where he was a tank commander and platoon sergeant as part of the opposing force, or OPFOR, which is a training aid for the United States Army.

“I had 84 rotations into the dust bowl while being assigned to the OPFOR,” Quidachay said. “I was there for six years when I was selected by the Department of the Army to go to drill sergeant school or recruiting duty.

Quidachay was advised by his sergeant major that he should attend the Master Gunner Course instead, so he did.

After master gunner training Quidachay was assigned to Bad Kissingen, West Germany in October 1990. His unit was Troop G, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, for which he served as platoon sergeant and master gunner. The 11th ACR deployed to Desert Storm in June 1991 to relieve departing units.

Quidachay became a “Big Red One” Soldier when his last assignment in 1993 brought him to Fort Riley. He was assigned to Company A, 3rd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. He served as tank platoon sergeant, master gunner and the assistant operations noncommissioned officer in the battalion S-3 operations shop.

“My memory of the 1st Infantry Division overall is great,” Quidachay said. “For me, this was the biggest fort that I had been assigned to besides Fort Carson. The unit was different than most units I had been assigned to because they had just returned from Desert Storm and there was a sense of calm.”

In 1995, he retired as a sergeant first class after a 20-year career.

Quidachay and his spouse, who is a native of Butzbach, West Germany, made their home near Fort Riley “because we enjoyed the area,” he said.

“After retiring we had a son who was a 2016 Junction City High School graduate and a current student at Bethany College where he received a football scholarship for 4 years,” Quidachay said.

Since retirement, Quidachay attended Cloud County Community College where he completed 18 months of college. He also went to work for Grandview Plaza City maintenance.

Today, Quidachay is the assistant superintendent of maintenance and assistant fire chief for the volunteer fire department.

He is also a bowling coach for Saturday youth bowling and president of the Bowling Association that encompasses both Fort Riley and Junction City. He is also a member of the American Legion Post #45.

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

THEN & NOW



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 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays; Closed Sundays and federal holidays. 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. Badges and passes may be issued to commercial drivers prior to access at the Access Control Point.

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

Hours of the Visitor Control Center are as follows: 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.

TRAFFIC SIGN REPLACEMENT

Traffic signs are being replaced throughout main post. Use caution when driving through the area and be aware of workers.

New Beginnings for appraisal program

1ST INF. DIV. POST STAFF REPORT

New Beginnings, according to the Department of Defense Personnel Advisory Service, is designed to implement improvements to DOD Human Resource practices and policies, including implementation of a new Defense-wide Performance Management and Appraisal Program. New Beginnings encompasses reforms impacting Performance Management, Hiring Flexibilities, Training and Development and Workforce Incentives.

The new performance management and appraisal system will begin implementation at Fort Riley in April with those in GS-13 and above positions attending training before entering the new system June 1. The rollout will be in stages with the last segment of civilian employees entering the new system July 1, 2018.

The staff of the 1st Infantry Division Post will provide information as it rolls out and from the frequently asked questions addressed by the team at the DOD Civilian Personnel Advisory Service.

To find out more about the new system, visit www.cpms.osd.mil/Subpage/NewBeginnings/NBHome.

QUESTION AND ANSWER FOR THIS WEEK:

Q: Why did the DOD decide to implement a three-level appraisal program versus some other system?

A: A three-level appraisal program was selected to implement across the Defense Department because it:

Is consistent with the legislative requirement of the NDAA 2010, to provide “(a) fair, credible and transparent system for linking employee bonuses and other performance-based actions to performance appraisals of employees;

Promotes a high-performing culture by making meaningful distinctions in performance that will be acknowledged formally in the rating process and will be used to inform other personnel-based decisions, including not only awards and recognition, but also promotions, training and developmental opportunities; and

Provides the ability to retain high-performing employees to meet the department’s mission by granting greater service credit for top performers during reductions-in-force.

March marks National Brain Injury Awareness Month

By: Yan Kennon
NAVAL HOSPITAL JACKSONVILLE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month, a time to recognize the more than five million Americans living with disabilities related to traumatic brain injuries. TBI is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head or by a penetrating head injury that disrupts the brain’s normal function, though not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, TBI contributes to about 30 percent of all U.S. injury deaths each year.

Dr. Kirsten Pollick, Naval Hospital Jacksonville’s neuropsychologist, TBI program director and mental health department head, said people should know the signs of TBI and seek proper care.

“The severity of a TBI can range from mild, with a brief change in mental status or consciousness; to severe, with an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia,” Pollick said.

At least 2.5 million children and adults suffer traumatic brain injuries each year. Of those, about 2.2 million are treated in emergency departments, and about 280,000 are hospitalized.

TBI SYMPTOMS

Physical signs and symptoms of TBI include loss



Tech. Sgt. Brian Kimball | DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

Hana Rice, a guide with U.S. Military Outdoor Recreation, secures a climbing rope after repelling from an approximate 35-foot rock face within the National Network of Footpaths in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg on March 20, 2016. Members of the climbing party were required to wear the appropriate climbing helmet and safety harness in order to prevent possible injuries such as traumatic brain injury. TBI awareness is observed throughout the month of March in hopes of spreading awareness of the trauma and potentially preventing future cases.

of consciousness, a state of being dazed, headache, fuzzy or blurry vision, nausea or vomiting, dizziness, sensitivity to light, balance problems or feeling tired or having no energy.

Some symptoms appear right away, while others might not be noticed for days or months after injury. Children with a brain injury can have the same symptoms as adults, but it’s often harder for them to let others know how they feel.

Leading causes of TBI include falls, being hit by an object and motor vehicle crashes. Though service members are at an increased risk for TBI while deployed to areas with increased risk of blast exposures, about 80 percent of new TBI cases among military personnel occur in nondeployed settings, such as motor vehicle crashes, falls, sports and recreation activities and assaults.

Iraqi security forces build bridge

Story and photo by Sgt. Anna Pongo
CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Water in the 5-foot-deep, man-made basin splashes as the bridge bay slides from the back of the bridge transporter truck. Iraqi Security Force soldiers, waiting on boats in the water, work together to push the bays together to be used as a raft.

This exercise, which took place March 6 at Camp Taji, Iraq, was the culminating training mission for 25 members of the ISF who’ve spent three weeks training with Coalition Soldiers on standard ribbon bridges.

The training was taught by the 310th Engineer Company, an U.S. Army Reserve unit from Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. They are working with the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command – Operation Inherent Resolve to advise, assist and enable the ISF liberate Mosul from ISIS.

This is the second time the 310th has deployed to Iraq. They previously served from 2010 to 2011 at Camp Taji, training the ISF on the same equipment as they used this time.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael McConaughy, operations training sergeant with the 310th, was one of the Soldiers who deployed with the unit to train the last group of ISF on ribbon bridge building.

“These are my guys, as far as I’m concerned,” McConaughy, a State College, Pennsylvania,



Members of the Iraqi Security Forces work together to disconnect two bridge bays as they complete the culminating exercise after three weeks of training on ribbon bridges March 6 at Camp Taji, Iraq. This training is critical in the fight against ISIS and is part of the overall Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command – Operation Inherent Resolve building partner capacity mission by training and improving the capability of partnered forces.

native, said. “I stayed in contact with the guys I trained last time up until now, and it’s amazing seeing what they’ve accomplished. It’s probably the greatest thing I’ll ever do while I’m in the Army.”

The last training cycle was eight months long. This was im-

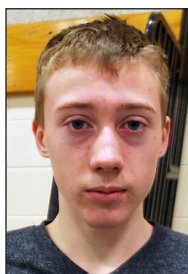
portant because the trainers were starting with the very basics helping soldiers, all of who had no previous experience.

“Last time they didn’t have any experience,” McConaughy said. “This time they have

See BRIDGE, page 7

RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What is your dream job?



"Blacksmith."

DALTON MATLOCK

Visitor from Junction City, Kansas



"Army Soldier."

**ANDREW LOMAS
MILITARY CHILD**

Son of Sgt. 1st Class Aromino Dossantos,
1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry
Division



"Don't have one. Just (something in)
automotive technology."

**GARRET GIBSON
MILITARY CHILD**

Son of retired Sgt. 1st Class Scott Gibson



"My dream job is either go into law
enforcement or be a private music
teacher."

CASIDI METIVIER

Visitor from Junction City, Kansas



"My dream job would be to be a
software engineer at Google."

**MICAH WIGGINS
MILITARY CHILD**

Son of Maj. Thomas Wiggins, a 1st Infantry
Division Soldier

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and phone number. Letters may be edited for space, but never for content. Send an e-mail usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil

FATALITY-FREE DAYS

250

As of Wednesday, March 16, 250 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.

COMMAND TEAM CORNER

Soldiers helping Soldiers: Army Emergency Relief

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

The "Big Red One" celebrates a century of service to the nation this year, but we aren't the only ones honoring a significant milestone. This year marks the 75th anniversary of Army Emergency Relief, and our goal at Fort Riley is to generate \$75,000 for AER before the campaign ends May 15.

AER began in 1942 as a private, nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. Its purpose was straightforward — collecting and holding funds to relieve distress of members of the Army and their families. The group got off to a good start a year later with the

release of "This Is the Army," a film produced to boost morale during World War II. In truth, the musical did more than just raise morale — producers donated all proceeds from the film — \$12 million — to AER.

But we can't count on Hollywood to keep the fund alive. Today, the AER relies on donations from individual Soldiers like you and me. It's our way of directly helping those Soldiers we serve side-by-side with every day.

AER provides financial assistance in the form of scholarships, grants and loans to Soldiers and their immediate family members within the Army structure by commanders and



Brig. Gen.
Patrick D. Frank

through AER sections on installations around the world. Loans from AER are interest free and without fees, further easing the Soldier's financial burden.

Additionally, AER is extremely discrete and, unless required by law, will not disclose the personal information of those who donate and those who benefit from the program.

The Fort Riley community has always been highly supportive of AER, and I expect this year to be no different. Last year alone, Fort Riley AER provided more than \$1 million in assistance, most notably in the areas of vehicles and housing. Loans from AER are repaid, but it still takes the Army community pitching in to make the campaign a success.

The Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div. are professional, highly trained and dedicated. We count on each and every Big Red One Soldier to perform their assigned duties, but emergencies and situations outside of their control can jeopardize their focus. That's why the division

is glad AER is available to help with things like emergency travel, home repairs, funeral expenses and vehicle repairs. Knowing the AER is there for them keeps Soldiers on point as they continue to answer the nation's call.

This year's campaign began this month and continues through May 15, but don't wait until the last minute to donate. Helping the AER helps the "Fighting First," and I can't think of a better cause than that in our 100th anniversary year!

Duty First!

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank
1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander

SAFETY CORNER

Preventing drunk driving: Don't become a statistic

GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Each year, about 42,000 people die in motor vehicle crashes and more than 16,000 of these fatalities are alcohol or drug-related. Behind these statistics are real people with real stories. They're not numbers, but human beings with families and friends.

Chances are, you, a friend or a family member has been involved in an alcohol-related motor vehicle crash resulting in personal injury or property damage. In fact, recent studies have shown that three in 10 people will become involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lifetimes. Last year alone, 15,935 traffic fatalities were attributed to impaired driving. These are too many lives to be lost each year to a tragedy that can be avoided. Through this article, the staff members of the Fort Riley Garrison Safety Office hope to educate people on the installation and in the surrounding communities about the dangers associated with impaired driving, creating not only a change in attitude, but a change in behavior.

WHAT CONSTITUTES IMPAIRMENT?

Impairment begins with one alcoholic drink — whether it is "hard" liquor, wine or beer. Once alcohol is consumed, it is absorbed by an individual's blood system and is measured as Blood Alcohol Concentration. Studies show

even one drink decreases the ability to react quickly, a factor that can prove fatal when an impaired individual gets behind the wheel of an automobile.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN I'M PAST MY LIMIT?

While accepted BAC levels vary from state to state, the rate of absorption in one's body varies according to an individual's height, weight, experience with alcohol and food consumed prior to alcohol consumption. So it is a good idea to assign a designated driver or plan alternate modes of transportation when even a minimal amount of alcohol is consumed. While individuals rarely possess the tools to determine their own BAC, law enforcement officials do and will not hesitate to use them if they believe a driver to be impaired.

AT WHAT BAC LEVEL DOES IMPAIRMENT BEGIN?

Studies show impairment begins at any BAC level over .00 and can affect an individual's judgment and ability to react, factors that are critical to safe driving. To ensure the well-being of everyone on the road, the only safer driving is sober one.

Real change will not take place until the public recognizes driving under the influence, at any BAC level, endangers the life of the driver, passengers and all those traveling on the road.

The physical, emotional and economic burdens impaired drivers inflict upon the community annually are unparalleled. No matter how you look at it, you drink and drive. You lose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I GET CAUGHT?

If found to be impaired while driving, drivers will experience criminal repercussions. These can include fines, the loss of driving privileges, incarceration, higher insurance rates and a criminal record. Law enforcement officers are cracking down on impaired drivers, stepping up policing activities and implementing a network of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

The question of being caught; however, is a major factor in the impaired driving problem. Ask instead, "what will happen if I don't get caught?" This answer is more frightening and carries with it much more dire consequences than fines, prosecution or the loss of one's license. The destruction impaired drivers inflict upon their communities is immeasurable. Everyone is affected by the impaired driver's irresponsible and malicious behavior, whether it is from higher taxes or the emotional destruction a family experiences after losing a loved one. Because no matter how you look at it, when you drink and drive, you lose.

There are many ways we, as a united community, can help prevent intoxicated

people from driving. One well-known campaign, "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk," includes some techniques on how you can take the car keys away from a drunk driver:

If it is a close friend, try and use a soft, calm approach at first. Suggest to them they've had too much to drink and it would be better if someone else drove or if they took a cab.

Be calm. Joke about it. Make light of it. Try to make it sound like you are doing them a favor.

If it is somebody you don't know well, speak to their friends and have them make an attempt to persuade them to hand over the keys. Usually they will listen.

If it's a good friend, spouse or significant other, tell them if they insist on driving, you are not going with them. Offer to will call someone else for a ride, take a cab or walk.

Locate their keys while they are preoccupied and take them away. Most likely, they will think they've lost them and will be forced to find another mode of transportation.

If possible, avoid embarrassing the person or being confrontational.

Remember, the life you save may be your own. With the summer months and many sunny days, activities increase as well as alcohol consumption. Driving impaired or under the influence could result in a dark cloud in the horizon. Safety never sleeps.

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Fort Riley staff, partners train to react, respond, recover from natural disaster

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

It's 3:30 a.m. March 9 and representatives at the National Weather Service have issued a tornado watch labeled as a "particularly dangerous situation for severe, supercell thunderstorms and the potential for long-lived, strong and violent tornadoes in east-central Kansas, southeast Nebraska and north-central Oklahoma."

The watch was later upgraded.

By the afternoon, 2nd Weather Detachment Airmen spotted a tornado on the radar 5 miles east of Enterprise, Kansas, moving toward Junction City, Kansas, and Fort Riley. Spotters for the NWS confirm the tornado, estimating it to be three-fourths of a mile wide and moving at 40 mph. Sirens began to wail across Fort Riley, while popups on computers, emails and phones from the AtHOC system come rushing in and Mass Warning and Notification systems are activated. People scurry to shelters, preparing for what's to come.

At 2:25 p.m., the tornado is sighted in Junction City traveling north-northeast toward Fort Riley at 45 mph. Ten minutes later, it crosses the Republican River and continues toward Custer Hill housing areas.

By 3 p.m., it was over. The weather warnings were lifted and rescue and assessment of damages began. At Fort Riley, 20 percent of Colyer Manor was directly impacted by the tornado. The McClellan Place and Warner Peterson neighborhoods sustained major damages with numerous homes destroyed and power lines and other debris are blocking roadways across the area. Reports of damages and injuries are coming out of Ware Elementary School and the smell of natural gas is being reported throughout the impact housing areas.

This was the training scenario at the Spring and Summer Severe Weather Operations Tabletop Exercise at Riley's Conference Center, March 9. Representatives from more than 45 organizations on post, partner organizations on-post and off-post and the 1st Infantry Division met to prepare for the coming severe weather season.

"The training focused on reviewing actions of the 1st Infantry Division, United States Army Garrison Fort Riley, tenants and on- and off-post partners would take if a tornado impacted Fort Riley or our neighboring communities," said Clay Nauman, plans and operations chief, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. "The modules were broken down into four phases — incident, response, short term and long term recovery.

Conversations centered on response and short term recovery."

For the past 15 years, staff of DPTMS have hosted the



Participants listen and discuss options for how to respond to and recover from a tornado damaging Fort Riley, as well as surrounding communities, in a training scenario March 9 during the Spring and Summer Severe Weather Operations Tabletop Exercise at Riley's Conference Center. Representatives from more than 45 organizations on post, partner organizations on post and off post and the 1st Infantry Division met to prepare for the coming severe weather season, which runs from April to September.

TTX at Fort Riley, inviting more and more organizations both on and off post to prepare for the possibility of a severe weather event, Nauman said. By bringing together personnel Fort Riley organizations and partners from the surrounding communities, they can share assets, information and assist one another in their times of need.

"Tornadic events generally affect a large area," he said. "Many communities lack the assets to respond to a large scale tornado and must come together to support each other through a series of Memorandums of Agreement. Relationships to effectively utilize these MOA must be in place before a tornado strikes to be effective."

Randi Hamden, operations chief, DPTMS, said it was in the best interests of the Fort Riley and surrounding communities to work together as a team to aid one another.

"We may need their help, they may need our help," she said. "That's the big thing, you've got to work as a team."

Prior to the scenario, the roles of personnel from every organization represented were explained, putting emphasis on those of Fort Riley staff for emergencies at the installation. The capabilities and assets on post were also discussed, including shelter locations, the 19 tornado siren locations, the 49 giant voice towers and more. To view shelter locations at Fort Riley, go to www.riley.army.mil/Community/Ready-Army

and click on the shelter locations map on the right-hand side of the page.

Once the scenario was laid out, the representatives analyzed the situation and discussed how to proceed. Their main focus was determining immediate response actions and short-term solutions, Nauman said.

"The training was to exercise the Fort Riley Emergency Response in order to improve our ability to respond and recover from potential severe spring and summer weather storm," he said.

This TTX also served as a rehearsal for the Full Scale Exercise May 17 and 18 where participants will act out a response to a severe weather incident at Fort Riley, Hamden said.

"The Tabletop Exercise served as a rehearsal in preparation for our upcoming Full Scale Exercise," Nauman said. "The FSE will replicate the actions the crisis action team will go through after a tornado impacts Fort Riley focused on recovery operations."

In the end, Nauman said the TTX went well and he was pleased with the successful response by the representatives.

"It was a great event that led to many conversations and lessons learned for all involved," he said.

To learn more about being prepared for a severe weather incident or other emergency, visit the Fort Riley Army website or www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy.

ENGINEERS Continued from page 1

on the lines," Czigler said. "Being able to pick up tasks in the military is a necessity. You need to be able to adapt. I think this deployment has really helped me with that. Not only am I with a leader that will put me in the right position, but he also is trying to mold me into that right Soldier."

Czigler said Guffey and the team took time to train and mentor him in his new role and he took to it like a duck to water.

"They gave me a great opportunity to not only learn, but to take pride in what I am doing," Czigler said.

Heath said they carry over that pride into their daily projects. The team has built a number of pieces for the Coalition including cabinets, cellphone holders and their "number-one seller," stand-up desks.

"Every stand-up desk is completely different," Guffey said. "I build them per the customer to their specifications and how they want it. There are 30 to 40 different stand-up desks. It's currently our number-one item because when someone sees someone with one they instantly want one too."

The complexity of the order goes into the amount of preparation they take to build a new item, Guffey said.

"If it is something simple I can just hand it over to my guys," Guffey said. "Sometimes I draw a 3-D model with every single dimension on it so they know what it means."

One of their special projects was for the Staff Judge Advocate office in Baghdad. Maj. Nathaniel Babb, staff judge advocate executive officer, CJFLCC-OIR, turned in

a simple drawing of a design to replace two older bookcases.

After the EUD team received the drawing, they measured the workspace and created a bookshelf and cabinet system within 10 days.

Babb said the cabinet system serves multiple purposes. It holds their law library and features a lockable cabinet to store documents and weapons.

"They built it exactly how we wanted it," Babb said. "They stained it for us. We get compliments on it all the time. Good work by the engineers."

Czigler said he looks forward to seeing people's faces when they see the final product.

"Some people love what we do and ask us for more just for the simple fact that we produce good quality things," Czigler said. "We actually have fun with what we do."

ADDRESSING AN AUDIENCE



Staff Sgt. Jerry Griffis | 19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT
Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, addresses an audience while Soldiers from 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., listen via teleconference from Camp Hovey, South Korea, during an enlisted manning conference March 7 at 1st Inf. Div. headquarters. Frank discussed the importance of building readiness within the division and the significant drop in non-deployable Soldiers across the division. The conference allowed senior human resources professionals to address issues such as leadership development and gaining a better understanding of human resources issues.

QUEST Continued from page 1

to the students. Once briefed, the students climbed on, giving the Soldiers an opportunity to highlight their area of expertise.

Following the helicopter displays, the group got to view the MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft system. They were given a tour of the hangar before going out to the flight line and viewing the control station before watching one of the aircraft take off.

"This is probably one of the most exciting experiences that we'll get to go on in Quest," said Luke Curran, a freshman

at K-State majoring in computer science who has considered joining the Army. "This is by far the most exciting thing. It has expanded my expectations, that's for sure."

The group then proceeded to the Demon Diner dining facility for lunch before receiving a guided tour of Victory Park at 1st Infantry Division Headquarters. The students were then led into the building where Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander, sat down with the group and discussed the regional

partnership that 1st Inf. Div. has with K-State.

After laying out the unit's ongoing activities and deployment schedule to give the students an idea of what the division's workload looks like, Frank encouraged the group to feel welcome on the installation and answered questions.

To complete their visit, the Quest group was given the chance to train on the installation's flight simulators, a portion of the tour which is typically considered a highlight in the Quest group, according to Curran.



Deployed service members create morale-building breaks from work

Story and photo by Sgt. Anna Pongo
CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Soldiers deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, get creative as they come together to create morale-building breaks from work.

After the long days or nights of work, service members need a few hours to relax and destress. For Staff Sgt. Anna Knopes, operational contract support integration cell noncommissioned officer in charge, Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve, and some of her friends, this is accomplished with a crackling fire and some melted marshmallows.

“It’s nice to break up the week and something to look forward to,” Knopes said. “And s’mores are good for everyone’s health,” she added jokingly.

Knopes and a friend discovered a fire pit by the USO not long after beginning their nine-month deployment to Iraq. After the first week enjoying the bonfire, it was a unanimous decision that they needed to add s’mores to the evening, Knopes said.

“I asked my aunt to send me some s’more-making supplies, and she sent enough to last us for months,” Knopes said. “Then we decided to make it a weekly thing.”

Knopes, along with many of the service members at Union III, works between 12 and 15 hours a day. With those hours, she’s discovered it’s nice to have something to look forward to on Thursday evenings.

“It’s probably hands down the most exciting day of the week,”



Soldiers deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, get creative as they come together for an evening bonfire and some s’mores to create a morale-building, fun weekly event March 9. The bonfire event is one of the ways service members have created to have some fun after long working hours on their deployment with CJFLCC.

Knopes said. “We count down the days ‘till Thursday.”

The bonfire started with a couple friends from the Main Command Post — Operational Detachment, an Army National Guard unit out of Nebraska attached to the 1st Infantry Division. As word of the s’mores got out it quickly grew to include members of other units and Coalition partners.

“It reminds me of being home sitting around a camp fire and having fun with my family,” said Staff Sgt. Aaron Kaufman, Embassy Air liaison officer, CJFLCC-OIR. “It feels like I am able to get away and it is something to look forward to in a place where the daily life is very repetitive.”

This dynamic group revealed something that Knopes hadn’t re-

alized, she said. Their Coalition friends didn’t know what s’mores were.

“Turns out that s’mores are American, and I had no idea,” Knopes said. “So here I was offering a s’more to some Italian Coalition forces, and they had no idea what it was and I was blown away!”

The Thursday evening event is important for more than just those with a sweet tooth, said Staff Sgt. Michael Iverson, J32 Army movement request cell noncommissioned officer in charge, CJFLCC.

“In my opinion, relaxing here in a combat zone is important for us mentally and physically,” Iverson said. “I think that for us to decompress after a day of pressure and fast-paced work environments is important to stay alert and to stay healthy.”

BRIDGE Continued from page 4

experienced soldiers who can fill in the gaps.”

Iraqi 1st Sgt. Haider Grave, now the bridge commander for his regiment, was one of the soldiers who attended the training the last time the 310th deployed. Grave was wounded in action on the front lines in Mosul, but as a result got the opportunity to return to Camp Taji and help his friends with the training.

“It’s very important to get trained right now because of the situation and the war,” Grave said. “We are the only regiment for bridges in this whole country. And we don’t have enough Soldiers so we got new people to help train their brothers.”

The bridges are designed to be put together quickly and under fire. For the exercise the ISF linked two improvised ribbon bridge bays and transported their entire team across a man-made lake.

“Without these bridges, they’re not going to get across the Tigris in Mosul,” said U.S. Army Sgt. William Munroe, training squad leader, 310th Eng. Co. “So training up a new generation of engineers that can work with the ones we trained five years who are currently up in Mosul is very critical for them so they can continue making their country free.”

The alternating week-on, week-off training took soldiers who had not even driven trucks before and gave them the tools they needed to be proficient in their ribbon bridge building mission, Munroe said.

“That was their introduction to bridging, which was kind of awesome,”



Sgt. Anna Pongo | CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers of the 310th Engineer Company, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, work with members of the Iraqi Security Forces as they complete the culminating exercise after three weeks of training on ribbon bridges March 6 at Camp Taji, Iraq. This training is critical in the fight against ISIS and is part of the overall Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve building partner capacity mission by training and improving the capability of partnered forces.

McConaughey said. “They went from no capability whatsoever to actually running the operation.”

During the first week the Soldiers were trained on truck driving. Many came to the training with no mechanical or hydraulics experience.

“It was basically a whole week of moving the pieces a few feet this way and then back again,” Munroe said.

The second week was focused on boat training and moving the bays in the water and back out again.

The third week combined the training from the previous two weeks — constructing and bridge steering.

“They knew all the little pieces, they just needed to put them all together,” Munroe said.

“To go on a deployment and work with the host nation, train them on the skills that I’ve done for eight years, and to see the results, it’s great,” Munroe said. “This is everything I could have asked for in a deployment.”

Once they graduate, these ISF soldiers will be going in to combat, Munroe said.

“By the Coalition’s help, with this training, we will help these guys to move north and help their brothers,” Grave said.

COMPETITION Continued from page 1

The purpose of the training is to prepare the Soldiers for the rigors of the EFMB competition. The EFMB competition will push medics to their limits, both physically and mentally.

“It was harder than it looks and it is definitely more than I expected,” said Spc. Javier Conizo, a healthcare specialist with the 101st BSB. “It was really fun though. It’s really good training and I got a lot out of it.”

For healthcare specialists in the Army, the EFMB represents

a culmination of hard work and expertise in their field.

“It’s a point of pride for medics in the Army to wear the badge,” Walker said. “It’s such a difficult feat to earn your badge and its indicative of how much a medic can adjust to a scenario, pay attention to critical details and complete a task.”

The EFMB is a U.S. Army special skills badge that is awarded to Soldiers who successfully complete a set of qualification tests including both written and performance portions.



Capt. Jonathan Camire | 1ST CAB
Spc. Leslie Azis, a healthcare specialist with the 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, gives medical care to a simulated casualty while South Korean army soldiers observe during an Expert Field Medical Badge training event on Camp Casey, South Korea, March 9. The Soldiers are preparing to compete in the EFMB competition in May in an effort to earn the EFMB badge.



HEROES Continued from page 1

“It is a great honor to be recognized for this,” Cruz said. “There were a lot of sacrifices that were made that night. I would just like to honor those that sacrificed everything that night.”

The DUSTOFF 62 crew are members of Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, based at Fort Riley, Kansas. Company C is also known as “Boomer DUSTOFF,” a name that traces its lineage back to the 57th Medical Detachment, Helicopter Ambulance, and Army Maj. Charles L. Kelly, who lost his life in Vietnam in 1964 trying to evacuate a wounded U.S. advisor and several wounded Vietnam army soldiers. Kelly is considered by many to be a founding father of modern helicopter medical evacuation, or MEDEVAC.

“This is a significant event; the award itself is significant,” said Lt. Col. Jake Dlugosz, commander of 2nd GSAB, 1st Avn. Regt. “To be recognized for valor, for heroic action. It’s an award that doesn’t happen often.”

“These guys were in the right place at the right time to save lives ... and they did,” Dlugosz said.

Just after midnight Nov. 3 the helicopter medical evacuation crews at Camp Pamir were notified of an impending point-of-injury mission to rescue several U.S. and Afghan casualties wounded during a fire fight in Kunduz, Afghanistan. Two crews, identified by their call signs DUSTOFF 62 and DUSTOFF 66, stood ready to launch.

“It’s a really proud day for the ‘Fighting Eagles’ and for Boomer Dustoff, a company

with a history that goes back to Vietnam,” Dlugosz said. “I am very proud of this team and very proud of this organization.”

The intensity of the ongoing battle prevented ground forces from sending critical information about the medical conditions of the wounded, a process called a nine-line MEDEVAC request. Launching the right crews, with the right equipment, to a secure place to land the helicopter and the right medical supplies are important to ensure the greatest possibility of saving lives of the wounded.

“I’m honored and humbled to be part of such an amazing organization that has amazing Soldiers like this,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Dwight Evans, 2nd GSAB, 1st Avn. Regt., command sergeant major. “Soldiers that can go out there each and every day and the in the face of adversity can just continue to do their mission with no regard for their own safety or their own life.”

The crews of DUSTOFF 62 and DUSTOFF 66 maintained a ready posture with engines running to launch at a second’s notice. Air mission commander of DUSTOFF 62, Capt. Trevor Joseph, said he began to think of fuel. He knew the aircraft need enough fuel to get to the battlefield, enough to orbit long enough to allow the helicopter landing zone to be secured for the medical evacuation, but not too much that the aircraft could not transport every wounded Soldier who needed to fly.

“Being a flight medic here at Bagram and being able to go and get to those people who need us is very rewarding,” Lott said. “The most rewarding thing I’ve ever done in my life to be honest with you.”



Bob Harrison | U.S. FORCES AFGHANISTAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS
The Air Medals with ‘V’ Device staged for presentation to four Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment aircrew members for their heroic actions during a Nov. 3, 2016, helicopter medical evacuation of wounded U.S. and Afghanistan Soldiers pinned down by enemy fire in Kunduz Province. The award recipients were U.S. Army Capt. Trevor P. Joseph, 1st Lt. Aaron P. Cruz, Sgt. Loran M. Lott and Spc. Samuel E. Perez.

Within 30 seconds after landing, DUSTOFF 62 and its crew came under direct enemy fire from a building and a nearby tree line. The Joint Tactical Air Controller attempted to contact DUSTOFF 62 several times to advise them to depart the landing zone due to the amount of enemy fire coming from multiple locations across the battle space.

Finally, the men of DUSTOFF 62 delivered the injured back to Camp Pamir. Upon landing, Lott accompanied the patient transfer and assisted the surgical team until the patients were ready

for transfer to larger medical aircraft en route to full-scale medical facilities.

During this battle, two U.S. Soldiers and dozens of Afghan Soldiers lost their lives.

“It’s a tremendous honor, but it’s far from the greatest honor we could get,” Perez said. “The greatest honor is to be called a hero like the Soldiers that lost their lives. They are the ones that gave their all, literally mind, body, and soul. They are the heroes that night, we try to prevent them from giving that all.”

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FORTRILEY

“I just wanted to inspire kids there into exploring musical opportunities that they might not have been aware of (like) joining the band and seeing what arts can do for them and their community. I got an email from the principal this morning that said lots of kids are asking to join band now.”

SGT. JAROD WILLARD | TROMBONIST, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION BAND AND KANSAS NATIVE



The “Big Red One” Brass Band plays for a gymnasium full of students from USD 346 at Jayhawk Elementary School, Mound City, Kansas, March 7. The band played as part of the Music In Our Schools celebration held during the month of March.

Music to their ears

‘Big Red One’ brass ensemble puts personal note on its performance for Music In Our Schools Month

Story and photos by
Sgt. Michael C. Roach
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

March is Music In Our Schools Month, an annual celebration created by the National Association for Music Education. But for one “Big Red One” Soldier, it is also an opportunity to bring his passion back home.

Sgt. Jarod Willard, a trombone player with the 1st Infantry Division Band and a Kansas native, used this month as a chance to give back to the community that helped give him his start in music. Originally from Mound City, Kansas, Willard coordinated with the local Jayhawk Elementary School to set up a concert for the students of Unified School District 346 March 7.

“It was really cool,” Willard said. “I got to go back home and show everybody that music is important and it can take you places in life — places you never thought you would have gone before.”

Willard began coordinating with Mark Proffitt, the



Members of the “Big Red One” Brass Band exchange high fives with students following a concert at Jayhawk Elementary School, Mound City, Kansas, March 7.

NOTABLE OCCASION

- March is Music In Our Schools Month, an annual celebration created by the National Association for Music Education.

principal of Jayhawk Elementary School, about two months prior to the event.

“We try to bring a little bit of everything,” Proffitt said. “Anytime we can get visitors to come and perform regard-

less of what it is — anything with the arts — we love to have visitors.”

Being a member of the 1st Inf. Div. Band’s brass ensemble, Willard was able to deliver a portfolio of music ranging

from classic artists like James Brown to contemporary hits by Adele while still being able to reach back to the roots of brass band music.

“Brass band is totally my favorite kind of ensemble to play in because you can do anything you want with a brass band, you can play any style of music,” Willard said. “We’re with a group of people in the brass band that, musically, want to be happy and excited so it’s a lot of fun”

Students from nearby Jayhawk Linn Junior-Senior High were bussed to Jayhawk Elementary, giving the band a crowd of all ages. The musicians shed their Army Combat Uniform blouses for the concert, highlighting their black T-shirts that read “BRO Brass” as they tore through their catalogue of songs for 45 minutes to the enthusiasm of the students in attendance. Cheers and applause began when one Soldier donned roller skates and began break dancing for the crowd.

See MUSIC, page 12



Bijou Bachelor, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Pat Bachelor, 41st Engineer Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, assists her daughter Laney, 4, in decorating her Cat in the Hat paper hat March 11 during the Dr. Seuss Party at the Fort Riley Post Library.

Day of fun for young at party

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

A day of wonder and play wasn’t far away at the Fort Riley Post Library March 11 during the Dr. Seuss Party.

Despite cold, snowy weather, it was warm and packed inside the library as parents and children busied themselves with games, activities and reading while snacking on sweets.

“Everybody loves Dr. Seuss and we were looking for something fun, bright and entertaining in the doldrums of March,” said Terri Seaman, contract manager for the Fort Riley Post Library. “(It) kind of brings out spring.”

Kids received paper hats modeled after the main character from the book, “The Cat in the Hat” to decorate in gems and stickers and color to their heart’s content.

A fishing game featuring characters from the Dr. Seuss book “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish” kept children occupied as they tried to catch the fish that would win a treat from the prize bin.

“The Dr. Seuss Party is in celebration of Dr. Seuss’ birthday,” Seaman said of the party. “We are doing ‘Cat in the Hat’ hats, kids get to decorate their own. We’re fishing for ‘One Fish, Two Fish.’ We have Swedish fish, Goldfish crackers and brightly decorated cookies.”

Esther Cerda, wife of Sgt. Juan Cerda, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division,

See PARTY, page 11

Summer job search for teens made easier through career fair

Free hiring, education event draws people from Flint Hills Region

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

As snow fell through the morning to afternoon, teens and young adults ages 14 to 21 made their way to the Teen Center at 5800 Thomas Ave., for the Youth Hiring and Education Fair March 11 hosted by staff of Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program and Education Services.

Some came with parents or a friend, while many arrived alone prepared to search for a

summer job or a way to work on education goals. In some cases, attendees tucked themselves beside the bleachers out of sight of potential employers to put on ties and button down shirts before venturing onto the fair floor.

The free annual fair was open to the public and brought teens from all over the Flint Hills Region to meet representatives from 14 employers and 15 educational institutions. Some of the employers included the Marines, National Guard, Fort Riley Pools, JC Penney and Domino’s Pizza.

“One of our goals is to connect some of the vendors and educational opportunities with the area youth,” said Tasha Jones, acting Employment Readiness Program manager.

“And it’s just really good for them to get out there, get the experience of interacting with employers, being interviewed, filling out applications and also seeing what their school options are.”

Fifteen-year-old Misty Warren, a visitor from Junction City, Kansas, said she appreciated the different opportunities available as she searched for summer work.

“I like the idea (of a Youth Hiring Fair) because that gives people who don’t know what to do, how to go about getting a job, (it) gives them the opportunity to get a job,” she said.

Tables were set up in the back for attendees to fill out applications and for employers to conduct interviews on the spot.

While some employers required applicants to be 16 or 18 years of age or older, the representative was willing to answer questions from everyone who visited their booth, regardless of age.

For teens too young to be employed, volunteer opportunities were also available through ACS, the Red Cross and Child, Youth and School Services sports programs, Jones said.

Although the Youth Hiring and Education Fair is only one day a year, dependents of service members can receive assistance in their employment and education goals all year long through ACS, Jones said.

“Army Community Service is here every day of the year to help with employment,” she said.



Teens pick up information and talk with a representative from Child, Youth and School Services about volunteer and employment opportunities March 11 during the Youth Hiring and Education Fair at the Teen Center at 5800 Thomas Ave. Teens and young adults ages 14 to 21 met with representatives from 14 employers and 15 educational institutions.

FORT RILEY POST-ITS

KING FIELD HOUSE ROOF REPAIRS

Work on the roof of field house started Feb. 15. The functional fitness area will be closed for approximately 8 to 10 weeks. Most of the features normally located in this area will be relocated to other parts of the fitness center.

USO INFORMATION

Spouse's Sip N' Chat Wednesdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and Saturdays at a new time 11 a.m. to noon
Family game night March 17 and April 21 starting at 5:30 until 7:30 p.m.
Yoga class each Saturday 10:40 to 11:40 a.m.

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 March 18 and 25 at 9 a.m. The schedule is subject to change.
No registration is required. For details call, 785-239-4854 or go to riley.armymwr.com.



GET LUCKY FUN RUN

Staff of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation are hosting a fun run in celebration of St. Patrick's Day March 25 at Moon Lake.

The family fun run will have a costume contest and prizes.
Same day registration starts at 8 a.m.
Registration is \$7 per person the day of the race or \$5 per person in advance. For more information, call 785-239-4480 or visit riley.armymwr.com/us/riley

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.



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM AND NEW PARENT SUPPORT SPRING FLING

Staff with the Exceptional Family Member Program and New Parent Support will hold the Spring Fling April 8 at the Army Community Service, Bldg 7264 from 10 a.m. to noon.
Reservations should be made by March 31 via email to Erika.m.harrington2.ctr@mail.mil or laura.j.mccauley2.civ@mail.mil or by calling 785-239-9435.
Provide your name, phone number, how many plan to attend (children and adults), and what program, EFMP or NPSP.

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 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. A limited number of shotguns, shells, and bright orange will be available for those who have none but youth are encouraged to bring their own. No hunting experience is needed.
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.

FAMILY ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Personnel at Army Community Service are holding classes to help couples and parents have a stronger relationship, better communication and child safety knowledge.
ScreamFree Marriage
March 26 to 29, 10 a.m. to noon.
Become aware of your needs and wants and how to communicate those with your partner.
Co-Parenting & Divorce
March 15, 10 a.m. to noon
Parents who are no longer a couple and have a child, this workshop is for you!
Happiest Baby on the Block & Newborn Safety
March 29, 9 a.m. to noon
This class will cover basic newborn care and safety.

FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 17
The Lego Batman Movie (PG) 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 18
Rings (PG-13) 2 p.m.
Fist Fight (R) 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 19
The Lego Batman Movie (PG) 5 p.m.
Theater opens 30 minutes before first showing
For more information call 785-239-9574.
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:
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 for movie tickets and concessions.
McCain Auditorium: Shaolin Warriors Martial Arts 7:30 p.m. March 14 - prices may vary.
Salina - Rolling Hills Zoo and Museum: adults \$10, children \$5 and seniors \$9.
Kansas City Sprint Center: Disney on Ice - Follow Your Heart March 30 at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; April 1 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; April 2 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Topeka Expocenter: Sesame Street Live - Elmo Makes Music 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. April 5. Price \$17 to \$55 depending on seat selection. Deadline to order is April 1.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT AT THE POST LIBRARY

Staff at the post library will show the movie "Ice Age: Collision Course" March 25 at 6:30 p.m. The movie is free and popcorn is included.



FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

A flag football tournament will be held April 29 at Long Fitness Center. There is a maximum of ten teams with 14 players per team and is open to all Department of Defense identification card holders 18 years and older.
The cost is \$50 per team and registration must be completed by April 26. For more information call 785-239-2813.

COMMUNITY CORNER

‘Reveille and Retreat’ revealed

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

Rules, traditions and rituals are deep-rooted foundations of Army life. Some of them stem from laws and others have a historical legacy that continues today. It is an honor for Soldiers, family members and civilian employees to participate in these traditions. Among these are reveille and retreat, which are still observed today at posts around the world, including Fort Riley.



Colonel Lawrence

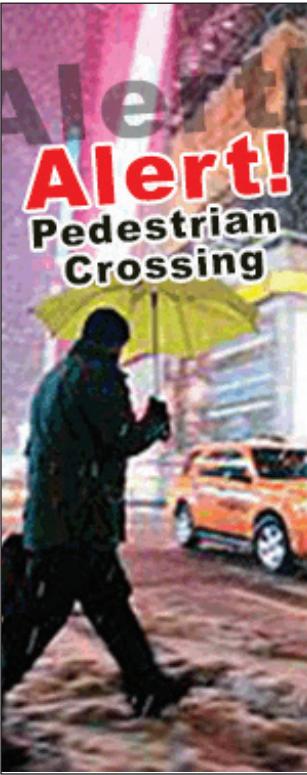
evening. Reveille signaled that it was time to start the day by feeding the horses, having breakfast and beginning the work of the day. A typical day then consisted of training in soldiering skills in the morning, and the afternoon was for maintenance of buildings, chopping wood and taking care of horses. At the end of the day, "recall" was sounded to give Soldiers time to prepare for the evening parade and retreat. Most frontier outposts ended the day with a parade of the entire command around the central field. It was a way to inspect the discipline and equipment of the unit, but it was also a community social event attended by nearly all family members.

The Army has changed much since those frontier days, but the pride and sense of community associated with bugle calls remains. Today, reveille signals Soldiers to "stand-to" for morning roll call and accompanies the raising of the American flag; retreat signals the end of the official duty day. At Fort Riley, reveille is sounded Monday through Thursday at 6:30 a.m. and retreat and "To the Colors" at 5 p.m. On Fridays, reveille is still at 6:30 a.m., but retreat is sounded at 3 p.m.

As noted on page 18 of the BRO Standards, if you

are outside, in uniform, not in formation during reveille or retreat, you should face the flag, if visible, or face the direction of the music if the flag is not visible, and assume the position of attention. Soldiers should render a hand salute when the first note of the music is played. If you are in civilian attire and hear reveille or retreat, you should remove your hat and place your right hand over your heart. If driving on the installation during reveille or retreat, pull your vehicle safely to a complete stop, as if an emergency vehicle were approaching. Place the vehicle in park and turn down your music.
Reveille and retreat are part of our history and tradition that allow us to see a clear bond to our past. Everyone at Fort Riley should stop what they're doing at these important times of the day to pay respect to the men and women who've served before us and show honor to our flag. It's a great way to show we are one.

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



WORSHIP

Protestant Services

Victory Chapel	239-0834
Contemporary Protestant Service	
Sunday Worship.....	1100
Children's Church.....	1115-1215
Morris Hill Chapel	239-2799
Gospel Protestant Service	
Sunday School.....	0900
Sunday Worship.....	1100
Main Post Chapel	239-0834
Traditional Protestant Service	
Sunday Worship.....	1030

Catholic Services

Victory Chapel	239-0834
Sunday Mass.....	0845
Sunday Catechism.....	1000
Saint Mary's Chapel	239-0834
Saturday's Vigil Mass.....	1630
Sunday Mass.....	1200
Mid-day Mass— Mon., Wed., & Fri.....	1200
Tuesday & Thursday Mass.....	1800
IACH Chapel	239-7872
Mid-day Mass— Tue. & Thur.	1200

Buddhist Service

Normandy Chapel	239-2665
Sunday	1430
Meditation Practice— Mon.- Fri.....	1230

Open Circle Service

Kapaun Chapel	239-4818
Fort Riley Open Circle— SWC	
1st & 3rd Friday monthly.....	1800

Wednesday Night Family Night

Weekly light dinner and fellowship at 1800, followed by 1845 classes at Victory Chapel 785-239-3359

Club Beyond - Faith Based Youth Program

Grades 6th - 12th, Meets Sundays
MS Youth-1530-1700 at Morris Hill Chapel
HS Youth-1830-2000 at Morris Hill Chapel 785-370-5542

Club Beyond is a Non-Federal Entity and is not part of the DoD or any of it's components and it has no government status.



AWANA

Meets Sundays, 1500-1700 Victory Chapel 785-239-0875



Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)

Weekly Tuesday Meeting 0900-1130 & Evenings at 1830-2000 at Victory Chapel
Childcare Provided.

For more information email rileypwoc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley PWOC"



Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)

Weekly Wednesday Meeting at St. Mary's Chapel 0900-1130
Childcare provided.

For more information email fortrileycwoc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley CWOC"

Check for schedule over Training Holiday weekends

WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL

PARTY

Continued from page 9

came to the party with her two children. She said they frequent the library weekly and she loved the event to keep her kids busy.

“We usually come to reading time,” she said. “I have a play group and we come every Wednesday for story time at 1:30 p.m. We always try to come to their events and the kids love it.”

Seaman said the library staff and volunteers try to rotate the themes of their parties every few years so as many people as possible can experience each one.

“We try to rotate out of themes so we’re not doing the same thing,” she said. “We try to rotate our themes about every four years ... that way we’ve got fresh faces each time.”



Season Osterfeld | POST

Children decorate and color paper hats made to match the Cat in the Hat March 11 during the Dr. Seuss Party at the Fort Riley Post Library. Parents and children alike busied themselves with games, activities and reading while snacking on sweets at the party.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Lent time to take spiritual, moral stock

Editor's Note: *This is the first article for the Chaplain's Corner. These articles will occasionally appear in the Community section. Chaplains of different faiths at Fort Riley will take turns providing spiritual information.*

By Chaplain (Maj.) Anthony Kazarnowicz
RELIGIOUS SUPPORT-CATHOLIC - FORT RILEY, KANSAS

The 40 days of Lent correspond to Jesus' 40 days of fasting and praying in the desert. They are an annual invitation to Christians to re-evaluate their relationship with God, not only in preparation for celebrating Christ's resurrection, but also in preparation for eternal life. Why is this especially important today?

According to a 2016 "Nielsen Company

Audience Report," adults in the United States devote about eleven hours each day watching TV, movies, the Internet, playing video games, using tablets, smart phones, multimedia devices, radios, DVDs and DVRs.

According to a 2016 "Common Sense Media" survey, teenagers from 13 to 18 use media an average of nine hours a day. And children from eight to 12 use media an average of six hours per day.

The consequences may be devastating. Hollywood knows that sex and violence attract audiences. From hours of viewing secular media every day, we may learn that it is OK to use other persons as objects for sexual pleasure, while rejecting committed family life and responsibility for children. We may learn to use violence to get whatever

we want, to disrespect lawful authority, to use power for evil and to equate happiness with acquiring abundant worldly possessions.

We may make ourselves — not God — the final arbiters of what is good and evil. Our consciences may become dull or dead. They may no longer be on guard against temptation and sin in our own lives or over the lives of those we love. We may even lose a sense of what sin is. When it comes to making decisions, feelings, opinion polls and political correctness may replace obedience to divinely revealed truths. We may come to believe that might makes right, that what is legal is moral and that nothing we do is wrong — so long as nobody gets hurt. "Anything goes" may become our morality. "Not guilty" may become our mantra. Sooner or later, like the Roman Governor Pontius

CHAPEL SERVICES ON POST

- A listing of chapel service times can be found on opposite page, **PAGE 10.**

Pilate, we may ask, "What is truth?"

Lent is a time for us to take a spiritual and moral inventory — to see if we have been faithful to Christ's teachings and example; and if not, to return to him. It is a time to spend fewer hours watching secular media and more time praying, doing spiritual reading, fasting — temporarily abstaining from food, making extra sacrifices, giving to the poor, and, where we have sinned, to admit our sins and ask God's forgiveness. Our efforts will not only benefit ourselves and our families, but also the military, our country and our communities of worship.

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of March 14 was: Eyster Pool closed Jan. 31 through Feb. 3 to allow for the installation of what water feature?

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/News/Photos/igphoto/2001702199/

This week's winner is Brittani Clinard Ladd. Brittani's spouse is Sgt. Jonathan Ladd, with Alpha Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion.

Pictured above are Brittani, Jonathan and their children Maddison, Allison, Christopher and Levi.

CONGRATULATIONS BRITTANI!

Invitees mark Gold Star wife’s recent path

Meeting with Afghan ambassador surprise addition to D.C. trip

By Chad L. Simon
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Melissa Jarboe, widow of Sgt. Jamie Jarboe, 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, attended President Donald J. Trump’s inaugural parade Jan. 20 in Washington as an invited guest of Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran and Rep. Lynn Jenkins.

While Jarboe visited the nation’s capital, she also received an unexpected invitation from the Afghanistan ambassador and his wife to meet the 1st Inf. Div. widow whose husband was shot by a sniper while serving in Afghanistan in 2011. Jamie eventually succumbed to his wounds and passed away in March 2012 after returning to the U.S., and spending the last few months of his life with his wife by his side.

Jarboe said she appreciated being at the event.

“I felt proud — it is a great moment in history,” Jarboe said. “No matter who is elected, they have my dedication and devotion because I love my country. To me, it meant a lot.”

Jarboe said she also appreciated being invited by Hamdullah Mohib and his wife, Lael, to a luncheon at The Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington, D.C., but said she was hesitant to accept the invitation.

Her hesitancy wasn’t from her husband having been wounded by an Afghan sniper. She was hesitant to accept the invitation because she was afraid of potential political issues that may come from a Gold Star Wife visiting with foreign dignitaries.

“I wanted to make sure that if I put myself in that position that it wasn’t a political move on my part,” Jarboe said. “I was able to reach out to a few of my mentors and unanimously everybody said ‘Yes. It honors Jamie and the work you do across the nation.’”

Jarboe feels her late husband would have wanted her to attend the meeting.

“When you have a loved one who is either wounded or you lose on foreign soil, there is a sense of curiosity,” she said. “You want to understand it better. You want to know that it wasn’t for nothing.”



COURTESY PHOTO
Gold Star wife Melissa Jarboe, left, stands with Afghan Ambassador Hamdullah Mohib at The Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington Jan. 19. Jarboe's late husband, Sgt. Jamie Jarboe, 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, died in March 2012 after being shot while serving in Afghanistan the previous year.

“When you have a loved one who is either wounded or you lose on foreign soil, there is a sense of curiosity. You want to understand it better. You want to know that it wasn’t for nothing.”

MELISSA JARBOE | GOLD STAR WIFE

Jarboe served as a scout with the “Pale Riders” during their 2011 deployment to the Zhara District near Kandahar, Afghanistan. He served two tours in Iraq prior to his deployment to Afghanistan.

“When the staffer reached out to me and asked if I would like to come and meet the ambassador of Afghanistan, at first I was hesitant, but then I knew that’s what I would want my husband to do if I had passed away,” Jarboe said. “I decided to move forward with it. I am very thankful that I did because it was very informative, and a lot of great opportunities came about because of it.”

Mohib and his wife thanked Jarboe for the sacrifices her late husband and the thousands of

U.S. Soldiers that have served in Afghanistan since late 2001. Afghanistan now has more than 6 million children in school with nearly 40 percent of those students being girls, she said. Mohib also told Jarboe his country has removed legal barriers that allowed discrimination in the past, and Afghanistan now has new protections in place to ensure their rights and safety are maintained.

“The ambassador and his wife conveyed that the time Jamie spent in Afghanistan was so instrumental in the country coming out of darkness and into the light,” Jarboe said. “He also said that because of the sacrifices you and your husband have made, you have helped our people to see a better future for

themselves and their families. A future where thriving industry provides jobs. Where streets and sidewalks are safe to travel, and where daily life is made up of ordinary pleasures we were not able to enjoy before. We will always be deeply grateful to you and will honor the memory of your loved one.”

The words made a heavy impact on Jarboe.

“Hearing the heartfelt words from the Afghanistan ambassador brought me to tears,” Jarboe said. “It also gave me a sense of pride knowing that my husband was instrumental in affecting change and creating change for people who never had it. He (Jamie) did that together with his Fort Riley family.”

Following Jamie’s death, Melissa became very active in consoling other grieving families and assisting them through the grieving process. She also helped them navigate their lives following a loved one’s death.

Christina Gary, Survivor Outreach Services coordinator for Fort Riley, has worked with Jarboe for several years to assist grieving families.

“She took that one bad thing and turned it into something that has helped thousands of people,” Gary said. “She didn’t let her pain prevent her from helping others.”

Gary credits Jarboe with being influential as families struggling with life after having lost a spouse.

“I can tell people to use SOS all day long, but Melissa understands what widows are going through and gives families great comfort,” Gary said.

Jarboe also started the Military Veteran Project to conduct medical research on traumatic brain injuries to help reduce the veteran suicide rate in the U.S. MVP has grown to more than 600,000 supporters, according to Jarboe, but she has taken a lesser role to raise her two children as she also adopts two more children.

“I had to make a choice between the Military Veteran Project and being the mother to four children,” Jarboe said. “That was a decision I made and the board of directors followed up on it.”

As Afghanistan continues to progress, Jarboe says she hopes to one day visit the country her husband and thousands of other 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers helped bring out of the dark.

Custer Hill Aquatic staff preps for season

By Judy Gardner
FORT RILEY AQUATICS

The new Custer Hill Aquatic Facility is projected to open Memorial Day weekend, and the Fort Riley aquatics team is in the process of hiring seasonal lifeguards, cashiers and lead lifeguards.

“This project broke ground last August and has been nonstop since,” said Hedy Noveroske, aquatic program manager, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. “We ended the 2016 season early so that the contractors could get a jump start and hit the target date of turning the facility over to us in time for Memorial Day weekend. As of the last coordination meeting that target date is still a go.”

In Noveroske’s 25 years working at the pools on Fort Riley, the redesign of Custer Hill Pool is the biggest event she has seen and something she is looking forward to, she said.

“This season will be 18 years for me as the aquatic program manager and over 25 years since I was a lifeguard at main post pool,” Noveroske said. “This is the biggest event to date since I have been here and to see it finally happen, let’s just say excitement is an understatement. I am thrilled that we are going to have this brand new multifunctional facility that will entertain everyone from our toddlers in the new baby pool,



Matt Ellington | POST
Lifeguard Alyse Maender, daughter of Lt. Col. Ryan Maender, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, rescues fellow Lifeguard Ryan Canzano, son of retired Sgt. 1st Class Richard Canzano, during rescue training March 8 at Eyster Pool.

our teens in the water channel (lazy river), parents relaxing in the zero depth entry, to our single Soldiers on the new one and three meter high dives.”

Just as excited as Noveroske is her staff.

“The aquatic staff is so excited to get out of the old and in with the new,” she said. “To stand and look at a rectangular pool all day

every day is very monotonous. Now they will have so many features and additional attractions like the rock climbing wall to not just entertain patrons but to enrich their surveillance.”

Several American Red Cross lifeguard certification classes are being offered at Eyster Pool during the spring season with the first class from March 22 to 24 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost of the two-year certification course is \$200.

Those who are interested in becoming an American Red Cross certified lifeguard should contact aquatic staff at 785-239-4854 or stop by Eyster Pool to schedule a prerequisite skills assessment prior to enrollment.

Pretest consists of:

- Continuous 300-yard swim demonstrating breath control while swimming 100 meter front crawl, 100M breaststroke and final 100 meter either front crawl or breaststroke or combination of both
- Tread water for two minutes using only the legs
- Swim 20 yards, surface dive down 8 feet of water, retrieve a 10 pound brick, surface, return back to starting point with both hands on brick exit the water without a ladder within a 1:40 seconds

To apply for one of the seasonal summer hire positions at the new aquatic facility, go to www.usajobs.gov.

MUSIC Continued from page 9

“I just wanted to inspire kids there into exploring musical opportunities that they might not have been aware of, (like) joining the band and seeing what arts can do for them and their community,” Willard said. “I got an email from the principal this morning that said lots of kids are asking to join band now.”

This month’s observance began as a single statewide advocacy day and celebration in

New York in 1973 before culminating into a month-long celebration of school music by 1985, according to nafme.org, the National Association for Music Education’s official site. The purpose of the program is to promote the benefits of high quality music education programs in schools.

“We’re trying to get out into the communities that don’t so much have big-city arts, so we want to get out

in the rural areas where they don’t get stuff like this as often,” Willard said.

BRO Brass, as well as other ensembles from the 1st Inf. Div. Band, have already done shows and worked with schools in Wichita and Topeka. While he is happy with the level of community involvement that they have accomplished this year, Willard also sees opportunities to expand on the program

and extend it beyond a single month.

“Next March I will try and do even more schools than we did this year,” Willard said. “I want to go back and visit my school more than just in March. (I want to) take the band down there and work with them and just provide resources all across the state of Kansas, work with kids and show them that music is awesome.”





Spc. Shell wants you to check out next week's Travel & Fun in Kansas – Lindsborg, Kansas

COUNCIL GROVE

By Collen McGee
FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The historic Santa Fe Trail, connecting Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, began serving as the major thoroughfare for interstate travel and commerce in the early 1820s. It ran down the center of what later became Council Grove, Kansas', main street and served the westward movement of goods and people until the late part of the century.

Visitors to the town will see commemorative signs and historical markers that relay the importance of the trail and the early history of Council Grove. Additionally, there are buildings standing that trail drovers would have seen. For example, the Terwilliger home, built between 1860 and 1861 was the last house, and to some the last sight of civilization freighters of the time would have seen until they arrived in Santa Fe. Today, the home is open to the public and serves as a café and museum. A local historical preservation group helps maintain the authenticity of the building.

Also along the trail, was the Last Chance Store where travelers could stock up on

supplies one last time before entering the wilderness and the Hays House, which was built by the town's founder as a trading post. The Hays House at one point was a main gathering spot and served as a tavern, the district court, the mailstop and local theater. It continues serving local residents and travelers as a restaurant.

These historical sites are interlaced with museums and the original site of the Kaw Mission, which was home and school to about 30 boys from the Kaw Nation from 1851 to 1854. Within and surrounding Council Grove are about 25 historic sites to explore.

In the vicinity are several outdoor destinations too. Fishermen, campers and boating enthusiasts might enjoy Council Grove Federal Reservoir and Council Grove City Lake. Others may welcome a hike along the Flint Hills Nature Trail. Within the city, Custer Elm Park and the Neosho Riverwalk are more manicured areas for a stroll or a picnic.

For more information about Council Grove attractions and events, visit www.councilgrove.com.



COURTESY PHOTOS

ABOVE: Seth M. Hays was the first settler in Council Grove, Kansas, in 1847. In 1857, he opened the Hays House Tavern and Restaurant. Today, Hays House is the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi River. **BELOW:** The Neosho Riverwalk is a paved, scenic walking and bicycle trail along both sides of the river surrounding the most documented river crossing on the Santa Fe Trail.



COURTESY PHOTOS

ABOVE: The Terwilliger home, built between 1860 and 1861, was the last house, and to some the last sight of civilization freighters of the time would have seen until they arrived in Santa Fe. Today the home is open to the public and serves as a café and museum. A local historical preservation group helps maintain the authenticity of the building. **BELOW:** Council Grove City Lake Park is the smaller of Council Grove's twin lakes and is located 3.5 miles northwest of Council Grove, Kansas. This 434 acre multi-use lake is surrounded by 348 waterfront cabins and homes.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Col. George Custer, who was stationed at Fort Riley in 1866, bargained with the local natives for 160 acres surrounding the Custer Elm tree in Council Grove. Custer camped with his men under this elm shortly before his tragic massacre by Sitting Bull.



COURTESY PHOTO

In 1851, the Methodist Episcopal Church South built the Kaw Mission in the Council Grove, Kansas, area to educate local natives children from the Kaw Nation, who had just been moved to a smaller local reservation. Today, the Kansas State Historical Society operates the Kaw Mission State Historic Site as a museum.