



# THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



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FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

Vol. 9, No. 16



FORT RILEY, KANSAS



Sgt. Takita Lawery | 19th PAD



Spec. Elizabeth Payne, 19th PAD

**LEFT:** Col. John M. Cyrulik and Command Sgt. Maj. Roque R. Quichocho, commander and senior noncommissioned officer of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, uncased the unit's colors during a redeployment ceremony on Marshall Army Airfield April 12. The "Demon" brigade returned from an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan and the uncasing of the colors signifies the completion of the unit's overseas mission and their return to garrison operations. **RIGHT:** Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steven D. Dickson II, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and son reunite after the CAB's deployment to Afghanistan. Dickson was part of the final main group of Soldiers who returned to Fort Riley in a 7:15 p.m. redeployment ceremony April 15 on Marshall Army Airfield.

## A Homecoming to Remember

### 'Demon' brigade Soldiers return to Fort Riley

By Sgt. Takita Lawery  
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

As children played and held up signs, waiting family members wiped tears away and the 1st Infantry Division Band played in the background, it was a day of celebration at Fort Riley as hundreds of Soldiers returned home.

After an eight-month deployment that took about 800 Soldiers with the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division to Afghanistan, members of the "Demon" brigade began redeploying back to Fort Riley in two ceremonies April 12. Two additional ceremonies on April 13 and 15 brought the remaining Soldiers home from the deployment.

"I'm exceptionally humbled to be part of this tremendous team. They have lived up to the storied legacy of being brave, responsible and on point for the nation."

COL. JOHN M. CYRULIK

COMMANDER OF THE 1ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

The Demon brigade deployed to Afghanistan in August 2016 as part of a regular rotation of forces in support of Operation Resolute Support and Operation Freedom's Sentinel to conduct full-spectrum aviation operations, promoting security and stability in the region.

"I'm exceptionally humbled to be a part of this tremendous team," said Col. John M. Cyrulik, commander of 1st CAB. "They have lived up to

the storied legacy of being brave, responsible and on point for the nation."

While deployed, the 1st CAB formed Task Force Victory, which made their presence known with 116 helicopters. Pilots, maintainers and staff consisting of more than 1,100 Reserve and Active-component troopers all contributed to more than 36,000 flight hours

See HOME, page 8



Sgt. Takita Lawery | 19th PAD

Capt. Jordan Dilena, an aviation officer assigned to 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, hugs his five-year-old son, James, following a redeployment ceremony on Marshall Army Airfield, April 12. Dilena was deployed to Afghanistan for eight months in support of Operation Resolute Support and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.



Airmen of the 34th Weapons Squadron from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, land a HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters to rescue survivors during their Terminal Area Employment phase training at Douthit Range Complex April 5. Two HH-60s went out together onto the range to eliminate threats. After threats have been removed, one crew rescues the survivors while the other helicopter circles the area acting as a guard until both are able to leave together.

### Airmen eliminate enemies, rescue 'Jack' at Fort Riley

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

Airmen of the 34th Weapons Squadron from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, conducted a two-week long training exercise at Douthit Gunnery Complex and Marshall Army Airfield at Fort Riley, as well as Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range in Salina, Kansas, April 2 through 14.

One hundred fifty Airmen, three HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and an HC-130J Combat King II fixed wing aircraft came to Fort Riley for their Terminal Area Employment phase of the Weap-

ons Instructor Course in the United States Air Force Weapons School. The students in the program, referred to as Weapons Officer undergraduates, consisted of four of them training with the HH-60s and four of them training on the C-130s. The doctorate-level program is designed to create future leaders within the Air Force who will act as liaisons and experts in joint Air Force integration with other branches of service, said Lt. Col. Evan Scaggs, 34th WPS.

The mission of the 34th WPS is combat search and rescue. Using the C-130s, HH-60s and Airmen referred to as

"Guardian Angels," they push their way into another country's airspace and occupy it for a time until they are able to rescue the survivor, nicknamed "Jack." The Guardian Angels act as the men on the ground who jump from the aircraft to collect the survivor, Evans said. They use whatever resources they have to complete their rescue operations.

"Our mission is combat search and rescue, CSAR," he said. "Inside the CSAR triad, you have three pieces. There's the HH-60 Pave Hawk, it's just like a Black Hawk, but we have refueling probes and we have some specialized gear we use to

find people. Then we have the HC-130J model and that's the newest aircraft in the Air Force arsenal. It has an awesome capability to locate people, to penetrate hostile areas, things like that ... Then the third leg is the Guardian Angel weapons system — they're the men in the loop. They're basically special forces type people."

While training at the US-AFWs, the Guardian Angel component is lacking, but that does not stop the HH-60 and C-130 training from continuing as it would in real world scenarios for the students.

See JACK, page 10

Month of the Military Child  
**APRIL**  
**PURPLE**

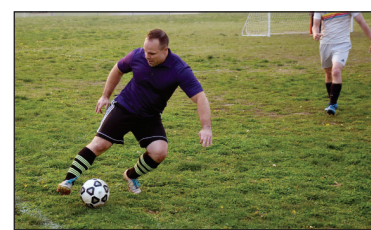
April is Month of the Military Child. Each year, a day is designated for "Purple Up!" in honor of our military kids. In celebration of this, the 1st Infantry Division Post has "Purpled Up!" Everyone at Fort Riley in civilian clothing is invited to wear something purple April 21 to show support, appreciation and admiration to military kids.

#### IN THIS ISSUE



FORT RILEY COMMUNITY CELEBRATES EASTER WITH SEVERAL EVENTS, SEE PAGE 11.

#### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



SOLDIERS FROM 977TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY DEFEAT 82ND ENGINEER BATTALION, SEE PAGE 15.



# Fort Riley firefighters provide mutual aid in Bluffs Apartments blaze

By Season Osterfeld  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

In the early morning hours of April 8, the Bluffs Apartments building B in Junction City, Kansas, caught fire. As the blaze started to take over the roof of the building, firefighters from Stations 3 and 5 at Fort Riley responded to a mutual aid request from the Junction City Fire Department.

At about 1:20 a.m., crews with Engine 5 and Ladder 1 responded to the request, said Lt. Cody Sims, Fort Riley Fire Department, who was a responder on duty at Station 3. The firefighters worked with other crews from the local area including Abilene, Geary County, Junction City and Manhattan to extinguish the fire.

“We arrived on scene at approximately 1:40 a.m. and we were released from the scene at approximately 6:45 a.m.,” Sims said. “I believe the fire was under control by approximately 4:30 a.m.”

Upon arrival, the Fort Riley crews assisted with protecting neighboring structures to prevent the fire from jumping to the buildings. Once the threat to neighboring structures was eliminated, the crews began supplying water to the Abilene Fire Department ladder truck. Additionally, the station 5 crew pushed into the interior to extinguish the fire. Shortly thereafter, the station 3 crew used the Ladder 1 to assist with advancing hose to the third floor and conducting overhaul and salvage operations on two apartments, Sims said.

“Fort Riley had many assignments while on scene,” said Capt. James Kennedy, Fort Riley Fire Department, who responded with Station 5. “The first assignment was exposure protection of the surrounding structures. Windy conditions and the high volume of fire exposures were a major concern. Other assignments were water supply to other apparatus on the fire scene. Engine 5 and Ladder 1 were connected to a

hydrant approximately a block away. Engine 5 crews then were called to help with some interior work once the roof had burnt off. Crews went to the 3rd floor and extinguished an apartment that couldn’t be extinguished through elevated master streams and ground monitors. Engine 5 personnel also assisted with extensive overhaul of the building until being released.”

While the mutual aid request was necessary because the JCFD was unable to tackle a fire as large and fast moving as the Bluffs Apartments fire, it is also important for community relationships and partnerships for fire departments to work together protecting the people they serve and live with, Kennedy said.

“Mutual aid is important to Fort Riley and the surrounding communities,” he said. “These partnerships build a regional bond between communities through the professionalism of the fire service. No one community can handle fires of

this caliber. Fire departments rely on these mutual aid agreements to assist the community. It is vital to the Soldiers and families on and off the installation to provide fire protection.”

Sims said the fire was also important for them to be a part of because of the Soldiers and their families who lived there.

“It is what we train for on a daily basis and also there were quite a few of the tenants at the fire building that were soldiers of Fort Riley and it is a great customer service that we provided them even when they’re off the installation,” he said.

Kennedy said he credited the professional demeanor and training of all firefighters involved for why the fire was successfully extinguished without injuries or damage to neighboring structures. He added this event can also be a teaching tool for future training.

“Training plays a key role in any event,” he said. “The crews on scene were very professional and calm dur-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Fort Riley firefighters respond to the Bluffs Apartments fire in Junction City, Kansas, April 8. At about 1:20 a.m., crews with Engine 5 and Ladder 1 responded to the request, said Lt. Cody Sims, Fort Riley Fire Department, a responder on duty at Station 3. The firefighters worked with other crews from the local area including Abilene, Geary County, Junction City and Manhattan to extinguish the fire.**

ing the event. This is what we train for, emergency situations are stressful and the FRFES (Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services) remained professional and tactful due to the knowhow and training.”

## Variable pricing, store brand coming to Fort Riley Commissary in May

By Season Osterfeld  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Patrons of the Fort Riley Commissary will notice two new labels appearing in stores soon — Freedom’s Choice and Home Base, the private label or store brand.

Freedom’s Choice, which includes food items, and Home Base, non-food items, are just two of the major changes that started at the Commissary March 1, said William Rosco, Commissary officer at Fort Riley. Other changes include variable pricing and changes in the assortment or products available there.

“As the grocery industry has become more competitive ... to survive we have had to become more competitive as well,” he said. “The first of March is when the Congress approved us to have what is known as variable pricing where we can adjust products the same as downtown to stay competitive.”

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress granted personnel at the Defense Commissary Agency the opportunity to make changes in their operations to increase patron savings and reduce operating costs while keeping the Commissary competitive with local markets, according to a statement at [www.commissaries.com/documents/contact\\_deca/faqs/transformation.cfm](http://www.commissaries.com/documents/contact_deca/faqs/transformation.cfm).

In its previous model, all items were sold at a cost set by the manufacturer with a 5 percent surcharge to cover facility and basic operating costs, according to information released by

DeCA. With variable pricing, products will be priced by several factors including customer preference, item cost and margin for profit, as well as competitive dynamics with stores in the communities surrounding the installation.

The variable price changing comes after evaluations found inconsistent savings across stores and a lack of ability to respond to market competition, customer preference and properly offsetting operating costs, the DeCA information stated.

Previously, DeCA personnel stated patrons would see a 30 percent savings by shopping at the Commissary, however, the evaluations determined this inaccurate, Rosco said. With the variable pricing method, Commissary savings are being broken down by region to include New England, which will see a 21.4 percent savings; Pacific will see a 20.9 percent savings; Overseas locations will see a 44.2 percent savings; Mountain will see a 17.6 percent savings and so forth by the new estimated calculations from DeCA. Overall, a global average of 23.7 percent savings is expected with variable pricing.

“Variable pricing is based off a region,” he said. “We’re in the North Central region so to speak and our overall savings is going to be like 18 percent, but you get out to California, for example, and you’re going to see a higher percent in savings ... It’s more going to be regionalized to the area that you’re talking about.”

The Commissary private label comes in response to patron request and as one more

step in making the stores more competitive with local markets, Rosco said. The first private label to appear at the Fort Riley Commissary is bottled water estimated to arrive in May.

“Water will be the first thing that shows up,” he said. “We are already in the process. We are already into the transition of these things. It’s going to be by category.”

However, to reduce costs, make space for the new private label goods and enable variable pricing to function properly, inventory of the Commissary will change. Slow moving and redundant products are being eliminated from shelves and renegotiation of costs and products purchased from suppliers will result in certain items from product lines or brands no longer being sold at the Commissary, Rosco said.

“Lots of the slow-moving items will be eliminated to make space for the more profitable or the faster movers,” he said. “...They (DeCA) have a team, a transformation team, that has reached out to the industry to gain their support in obtaining the best price possible for the customer and the ones that are not coming to the table with those offers are losing out.”

The changes to Commissary products and prices is designed to offer service members, retirees and their families the best savings possible, Rosco said. He added he also expects to see the private labels grow and expand with stores as patrons request and purchase them more and more.

“It’s the wave of the future for us to stay in business,” he said.

## Mosquito season coming soon

Story and photos by Suet Lee-Growney  
1ST. INF. DIV. POST

The wet spell at the end of March and current warmer temperatures mean this is the best time of the year to start practicing preventative measures against mosquitoes, according to Jerold Spohn, agronomist and installation pest management coordinator at Environmental Division of Directorate of Public Works.

“Walk around your residence, your place of work, finding where that standing water is and getting it to drain,” Spohn said.

Mosquitoes breed in standing water and lay their eggs on the edges or just by the water line. The mosquito life cycle from egg to adulthood is 14 days.

“Main Post tends to have a few more mosquitoes because of its location in regards to the Kansas River,” Spohn said.

Mosquitoes typically do not breed in flowing water, but there are several small pools of water DPW have access to that could be potential breeding sites.

“Most of the mosquitoes like to travel and come up to (Main Post) where they’re sensing there is food,” Spohn said. “In other words, they’re looking for a blood meal off of a human or another animal.”

In follow up with last year’s Zika Virus outbreak, Spohn does not anticipate any of the mosquitos within Kansas to be carrying the disease at this time.

“We will see more travel-related cases in the state,” Spohn said. “Specifically Fort Riley, I think those will come in from travel.”

But Zika isn’t the only illness mosquitoes carry.



**Birdbaths in the garden can be maintained to prevent mosquitos from breeding by scrubbing the edges with a toothbrush. Alternatively, the water can be drained every week to disrupt the mosquito life cycle from progressing. The mosquito life cycle is 10 to 14 days.**

Ronald Gerace, environmental health specialist for the Department of Public Health at Irwin Army Community Hospital, said the first case of West Nile virus was reported in Kansas in 2003. Since then, the Kansas population has been at risk for locally acquiring this disease from mosquitoes.

“Mosquitoes are most active in the summer months, June to August, and peak West Nile virus activity coincides with these months July through September,” Gerace said.

Gerace said the best way for individuals to protect against bites is to think about the 4 D’s: Dusk to dawn, dress, DEET and drain water.

Dusk to dawn is when the mosquito population is the highest. Therefore taking protective measures is especially important. Dress to cover exposed skin with clothing that has been pretreated with insect repellents, such as permethrin.

One should apply DEET to exposed skin not covered by clothing.

Drain water sources around the perimeter of buildings to reduce breeding sites and infestation.

There are two separate mosquito abatement programs in Fort Riley. Residential Community Initiative takes care of the housing areas. The rest of Fort Riley is a joint effort of Public Health, DPW Municipal Services Branch and DPW Environmental Division.

“Corvias has been really good about maintaining their lawns,” Spohn said. “As long as they continue to do that, we’re not going to see many breeding sites.”

Spohn said there are a few unavoidable places in Fort Riley that will hold stagnant water, particularly the McCormick Park vicinity.

In those instances, DPW will either fog at night, or treat the water with larvicide, such as Altocid XR and B.T.I. Briquets, to disrupt the life cycle of the mosquito.



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THE FIGHTING FIRST!

# George Heard: A ‘Big Red One’ Soldier



By Phyllis Fitzgerald  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, George Heard joined the Army in September 1961. He took his basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he earned the military occupational specialty of Armor Crewman. Throughout his career, Heard worked on the M-48, M-60 and Sheridan Tanks. His first assignment after training took him to Munich, Germany.

“We traveled to Europe by boat and after about one week we docked at Bremerhaven and were in-processed before traveling to Munich,” Heard said.

There, he was assigned to a medium tank battalion for the 24th Infantry Division as an armor crewman on the M-48. He was a loader and a driver.

“I re-enlisted while in Munich,” Heard said. “In 1965 I was assigned to Fort Ord, California. I was only there for one year and I was assigned to the Combat Development Experiment

tation Command where we test fired different weapons.”

Heard’s next assignment was to Korea where he was assigned to Camp Howze as a tank commander and a platoon sergeant. While there, he was promoted to sergeant first class. From there he went to Bad Hersfeld, Germany.

“I departed Germany in April 1968 and went to Vietnam for the next two years,” Heard said. “There, I supported reconnaissance in support of the infantry, convoy escort and artillery raids.”

Upon returning from Vietnam, Heard was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division. He served as a tank commander and platoon sergeant.

After five years at Fort Riley, he was assigned to the 3rd Armor Division in Friedberg, Germany where he was a platoon sergeant. From there he returned to Fort Riley in 1977 for a second tour. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 1st Inf. Div., as a platoon sergeant and tank commander.

In 1980, he was re-assigned to a unit of the 8th Infantry Division in Baumholder, Germany. After two years, he returned to Fort Riley and served with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., as a platoon sergeant, acting first sergeant and noncommissioned officer in charge of the S-2 intelligence shop.

“My favorite memory revolves around the 5 REFORGERS (Return of Forces to Germany exercises) that I was a part of with the 1st Infantry Division,” Heard said. “They were fun and exciting and just great to work together with each other. I enjoyed lots of beer and ate lots of schnitzel. I was also a member of the 4th Army Pistol Team while at Fort Riley, and we won.”

Heard retired from the Army as a sergeant first class in September 1983, after a 22-year career. Three days after retiring from the Army, he went to work for the Junction City Fire Department where he retired in 2003, with 20 years of service. He also worked at Walmart for a total of nine years, four years as security at the Farm Bureau in Manhattan and one year with Waters True Value Hardware.

“Today I am retired and enjoy bowling, golfing, fishing and taking road trips with my wife,” Heard said. “For the last six years I have been meeting up with Army buddies that I had when I was stationed in Germany. We meet at different places and enjoy old times.”

Heard is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8733 and the American Legion Post 45. He is also a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

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

THEN  
&  
NOW



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

## Maintainers keep Gray Eagles in sky for Coalition members to see

Story and photo by Spc. Derrik Tribbey  
CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AL ASAD, Iraq — The Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command – Operation Inherent Resolve conducts aerial assault missions daily in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve.

In order to maintain a high tactical advantage, the maintainers with Company D, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, service MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft systems constantly and consistently.

“We keep these birds in the fight,” said Spc. Tyler Lewis, a UAS maintainer with 10th Avn. Regt., 10th Mtn. Div. “We make sure we are doing things by the book and are following the steps.”

The maintainers work 12-hour shifts to check and recheck the UASs on a constant 24-hour cycle, said Pfc. Joseph Thury, another UAS maintainer with 10th Avn. Regt., 10th Mtn. Div.

“In a moment’s notice, we have to be ready to work and get them ready to fly,” Lewis said.

Prior to each flight, the crew systematically goes through multiple checks to ensure each Gray Eagle is ready to fly.

“It’s more in-depth than just servicing a car because it’s an aircraft,” said Pfc. Jashua Sisombath, another maintainer. “Instead of just closing up the hood we have to check and make sure there isn’t anything that could prevent the aircraft from completing its mission.”

Sisombath added they must be ready for anything, from something small such as servicing a tire to more in-depth maintenance like swapping an engine.

Lewis said he likes the challenge of working on new systems, and the services to the unmanned systems are similar to manned vehicles.

“There are a lot more electronics, but it flies like any other plane,” Lewis said. “The most challenging part is the unmanned part of it. There’s no one in the cockpit telling you what is wrong.”

The maintainers said they receive diagnostic updates from a message control panel they monitor which allows them to record

changes and, if needed, troubleshoot any problems from the ground.

Sisombath said most people are in shock by the UAS’s size.

“When someone says UAS they think about the small quadcopters,” Sisombath said. “These have a 50-footwing span and are 15-feet tall.”

Lewis added that there are many misconceptions about UASs. For example, some people refer to them as drones.

“Most people don’t know that these are by definition not drones; drones are preprogrammed with a set location,” Lewis said. “Unmanned vehicles are commanded from the ground.”

When the UASs take off and land, Thury said he knows that a lot of hard work went into getting the systems to launch and return safely.

“I get a sense of pride knowing I helped on each mission,” Thury said.

The unit is deployed to provide dedicated and consistent support to the Coalition to help the Government of Iraq defeat ISIS. CJTF-OIR is the global Coalition to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria.



**Pfc. Jashua Sisombath, an unmanned aerial systems maintainer with Company D, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, deployed to Al Asad, Iraq, in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve, conducts checks of the MQ-1C Gray Eagles April 1. The maintainers work throughout the day to ensure the Gray Eagles are properly fueled, mission ready and flight capable. The Coalition is enabling partnered forces to defeat ISIS by providing air support on the battlefield. CJTF-OIR is the global Coalition to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria.**



TRAFFIC REPORT

ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS

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

For more information about Fort Riley access procedures, visit [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil).

The access control point hours are now as follows:

Henry/Trooper/Ogden/Estes:

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

12th Street:

Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday 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 will not be authorized. Badges and passes may be issued to commercial drivers prior to access at the gate.

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.

ELLIS HEIGHTS HOUSING ENTRY POINT CLOSURE

The Washington Street entry from 1st Division Road into the Ellis Heights Housing area is closed. Residents and commuters should find alternative entry points into the neighborhood.

TRAFFIC SIGN REPLACEMENT

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

GRANT GATE LANE CLOSURE

The right lane of the bridge leading into Grant Gate will be closed for six weeks. The lane reopens for access after the bridge ends.

1ST DIVISION ROAD CONSTRUCTION

A repaving project began April 17 on 1st Division Road between Normandy Drive and the traffic circle on Trooper Drive. The work will last about two months. Drivers should expect delays.

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.

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

Question and answer for this week:

**Q:** What documentation is needed when an organization is integrated with another organization during the rating cycle?

**A:** If reorganization occurs during the rating cycle, it is important to review the reporting structure for changes in the rating official and employee relationships. Also, a review of duties may be necessary to determine if changes to the Performance Plan need to be made. Remember, if changes to the performance elements and standards are made, employee input is highly encouraged and all changes must be communicated to the employee. When both the supervisor and the duties are different and the employee has performed their elements and standards for a minimum of 90 days, a rating of record may need to be established for the outgoing performance plan and a new performance plan established.

To find out more about the new system, visit [www.cpms.osd.mil/Subpage/NewBeginnings/NBHome](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/Subpage/NewBeginnings/NBHome).

Civilian retirement: Thrift Savings Plan is key component

By Andy Massanet  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

*Editor's note: The following story focuses on civilian employees in the Federal Employees Retirement System, or FERS, because the vast majority of the total work force is in that system. Those who are part of the Civil Service Retirement System, or CSRS, and have questions about contributing to their own Thrift Savings Plan, should contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian.*

For Department of the Army civilian employees covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System, which represents most DA civilians, the Thrift Savings Plan is not just one part of a three-part retirement package; it's the most important part.

An employee's TSP joins with the FERS basic annuity and Social Security to form the entire retirement package for many workers, said Kristine Tiroch, a Branch Chief for the Army Benefits Center-Civilian, with as much as 75 percent of that total comprised of TSP contributions.

However, Tiroch said, most employees are not maximizing this benefit.

"Of the more than 300,000 Army serviced employees supported by the Army Benefits Center-Civilian, 31 percent of FERS employees are contributing less than 5 percent of their salary to the Thrift Savings Plan," she said.

Since the government matches employee TSP contributions up to five percent of one's salary, people who are contributing anything less than five percent are walking away from valuable matching funds.

Yet many employees, whether in civil service or in the private sector, often opt to short-change their retirement fund to have extra disposable income in their pockets. That may make sense in the short term, but for a retirement strategy doing so is not advised.

"What that (underfunding the TSP) means is that people are missing out on free money, and you don't want to walk away from that," Tiroch said.

Teresa Weishaar, a Human Resources specialist for ABC-C agrees.

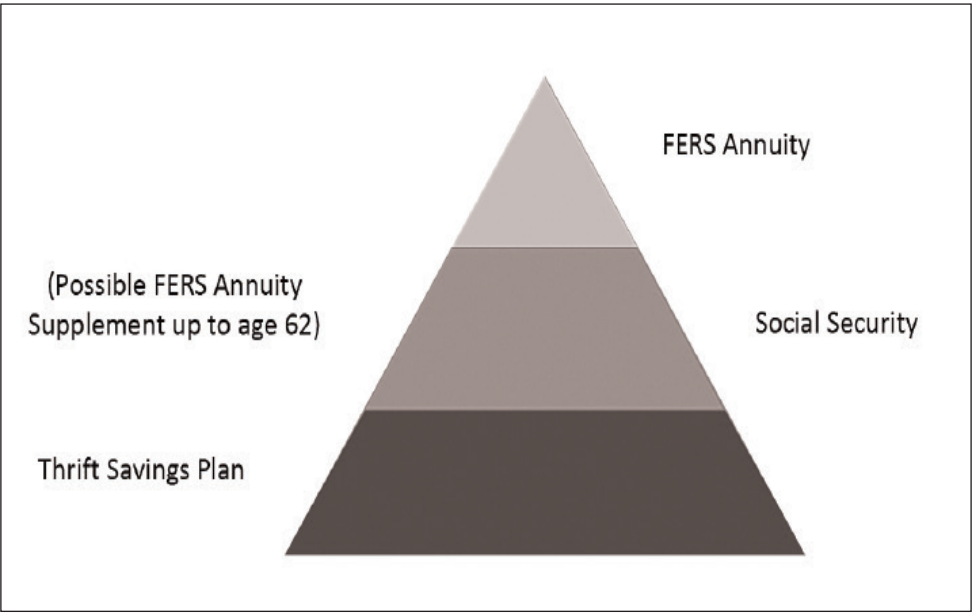
"All financial advisers, all the experts you hear on the radio and television, will tell you if your agency is matching it

(employee contributions to retirement) you need to max that out," Weishaar said. She also adds that, because of matching funds, an employee's contribution of five percent of his or her salary every pay period actually represents a total of 10 percent of the salary toward retirement.

"So if you are making \$2,000 every pay period, that's \$200 going into your TSP account," Weishaar said.

Also, Tiroch and Weishaar said, the earlier in a career a worker maximizes his or her contributions to their TSP account, the more comfortable their retirement is liable to be.

But employees who are beginning their TSP contribution plan late in their careers can still realize the benefits of this plan. According to the [www.abc.army.mil](http://www.abc.army.mil) website, through the TSP Catch-Up plan, tax-deferred contributions to TSP accounts contributions in addition to the regular contributions, can increase retirement funds and help overcome past years of underfunded retirement accounts. The limit at this time for the TSP Catch-Up plan is \$6,000 for 2017.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Federal Employees Retirement System is a three-tiered system in which the FERS annuity is the smallest component. An employee's Thrift Savings Plan will make up the largest portion of the total retirement package.

To be eligible to make Catch-Up contributions civilians must meet the requirements:

- You must be currently employed and in a pay status
- You must turn age 50 or older in the calendar year during which catch-up contribution deductions begin

Contributing the maximum allowed to your regular TSP account or an amount that will cause you to reach the Internal Revenue Service annual maximum by the end of the calendar year. For more information on the Thrift Savings Plan

contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian at Fort Riley, 785-240- ABCC (2222), or call 1-877-276-9287.

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Soldier goes from farm work to flying in the sky

Story and photo by Spc. Derrik Tribbey  
CJFLCC-OIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AL ASAD, Iraq — Pfc. Michael Sellers graduated high school May 23, 2015, and saw two choices — join the military and pursue his passion for aviation or become a farmer.

Within 20 days of his graduation, Sellers enlisted in the Army as an unmanned aerial systems operator.

As a UAS operator, Sellers pilots the MQ-1C Gray Eagle, one of the largest military unmanned aircrafts.

Sellers initially considered becoming an Air Force pilot.

"I wanted to have a cool job and fly something one day," Sellers said.

Unfortunately, he was brought back down to Earth. The Air Force said his eyesight did not meet the standard to become a pilot.

"I wanted to fly," Sellers said. "But at that point I was ready to give up and ready to go back to the farm."

Sellers grew up moving all around Georgia with his mother, and every summer he farmed with his father at Flat Top Mountain, Tennessee.

Since the age of 12, Sellers said he was working with his father 50 to 60 hours a week.

"I didn't mind the long hours because I enjoyed it," Sellers said. "It teaches you how to be independent at a young age and how to take care of yourself. Splitting trees and logging in the summertime was the toughest."

Sellers said his parents always taught him, "If you



Pfc. Michael Sellers, an unmanned aerial systems operator with Company D, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, deployed in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve, sits in the ground control station for the MQ-1C Gray Eagle in Al Asad, Iraq. Sellers pilots the Gray Eagle, one of the largest military unmanned aircrafts, from the ground. CJTF-OIR is the global Coalition to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

work hard now you won't have to work hard later."

The principles his parents instilled in him helped him stay grounded on the farm and in school.

One day, a recruiter came to his school and spoke with him about joining the Army.

"I like excitement and the adrenaline rush," Sellers said. "I thought the military was honorable and I wanted to be a part of that. I wanted to be an Airborne Ranger but I had a talk with my mom and she reminded me that I like to fly."

Sellers told the recruiter about his passion for aviation and the recruiter talked to

him about flying as a UAS operator in the Army.

"The job was the closest to aviation," Sellers said. "I saw on the news about UASs and their capabilities. I thought 'That looks interesting... that is something I want to do.'"

Now, at 19 years old, Sellers is trusted to protect people's lives and operate multi-million dollar equipment, all while only being with the Army for a short amount of time and with his unit, Company D, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, for an even shorter amount of time.

Sgt. Ashley Jones, a fellow UAS operator with Co. D, 10th Avn. Regt., 10th Mount. Div.,

is currently serving with Sellers, supporting the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve.

She described Sellers as being a great Soldier to work with.

"He is always willing to do whatever it takes to get the mission accomplished," Jones said.

This is Sellers' first deployment and it has been a humbling experience for him, Jones said.

"I honestly never thought I would be doing what I am doing now," Sellers said. "It's satisfying knowing I'm helping the Iraqis in their fight to annihilate ISIS and take back their homeland."

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RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What would you be famous for and why?



"An inventor. I'd like to invent maybe a cure for cancer; maybe a program that will change the environment."

WILLIAM TOWNSEND

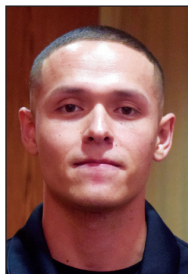
Director of Religious Education for Fort Riley



"For finding another planet that we can live on. Because I'd always be remembered for it."

SPC. CHRISTOPHER YELTON

116th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion



"Solving world hunger because some people are unfortunate."

SPC. CRISTIAN GOMEZ

Company G, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"To be a photojournalist in conflict zones, like Iraq or Afghanistan. Because my background is political science and I really like photography."

JANE BROOKSHIRE

Army Family Team Building, Army Family Action Plan and Resilient Spouse Academy program manager at Army Community Service



"I want to be president to make the world a better place."

SGT. DAVID WINSLOW

1st Infantry Division Band

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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Circulation 8,800 copies each week.

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

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FATALITY-FREE DAYS



As of Wednesday, April 19, 285 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

Sexual assault, harassment – not in our Army

Soldiers, families and friends of the 1st Infantry Division,

There is absolutely no place for sexual assault, sexual harassment or retaliation in the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley.

That's a message I want you to carry with you each and every day, but it's especially relevant as the Army and the 1st Infantry Division celebrate Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Each April, military and civilian communities alike observe SAAPM, raising awareness of efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault and to support survivors. Sexual assault causes victims both physical and emotional harm, and the long-term effects remain with a survivor well after the assault is over. But unlike wounds received in battle, sexual assault and harassment can be further complicated by a fear of stigma or retaliation for reporting the assault.

In addition to the terrible cost this has to the individual,



Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank

these problems directly impact mission readiness by putting unit cohesion, trust and discipline in jeopardy.

This month is an opportunity for leaders throughout the Army and here at Fort Riley to demonstrate — without any uncertainty — that preventing sexual assault and harassment is a top priority for the division and the Army. These incidents should be reported without any fear of retaliation whatsoever.

The responsibility to prevent sexual assault and harass-

ment falls to every one of us — every Soldier, leader and civilian in the Big Red One family. And it's one that I know you all take seriously.

In the last seven years, progress in this endeavor has been made.

That progress was in part driven by the SHARP Academy at nearby Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, which has graduated more than 900 Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, Victim Advocates and Trainers since its inception. This full-time schoolhouse is the first of its kind in the Department of Defense.

But the work isn't over yet. As we continue to fight back against sexual assault and harassment, it's important to note that such attacks can happen to all Soldiers, female or male. In 2014, one percent of victims who reported unwanted sexual contact were men.

The Army knows that retaliation associated with reporting sexual assault and harassment is a significant

concern. As such, we are committed to eliminating retaliatory behavior. The Army provides tools for commanders, supervisors and peers to prevent retaliation, but it's up to all of us to use those tools to their fullest.

It also falls to each of us to have the courage and confidence to assist a fellow Soldier in need. Don't be a bystander — help those you see facing sexual assault or harassment.

Let your teammates know that kind of behavior is not tolerated in your unit. The Not in my Squad initiative continues to charge junior leaders with taking ownership of situations and solutions in their units.

I encourage us all to pledge to make this year's SAAPM theme a reality — Sexual Assault. Sexual Harassment. Not in Our Army.

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

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month—April 2017

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). The Army's theme is "Sexual Assault... Sexual Harassment... Not in Our Army." This theme reflects our steadfast commitment to the prevention of sexually offensive behavior, from the grassroots to the enterprise levels of our Army.

To create an environment in which sexual assault and sexual harassment are prevented from occurring, we must focus on and reinforce our fidelity to the Army Values. Living the values of respect, loyalty, and honor every day and in everything we do is vital to maintaining fit and ready units.

As we have recently seen, inappropriate communications via social media and other electronic means can have devastating effects. Sexually offensive behavior in any form, whether occurring down range, at work, or on private electronic devices, has the potential to undermine unit readiness and individual resiliency. Leaders must continue to strengthen our Service culture by ensuring Army organizations at every level maintain climates of dignity and respect at all times.

We urge commanders, Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and Family members to embrace the SAAPM observance as an opportunity to contemplate and reinforce their dedication to ending sexual assault and sexual harassment in our ranks.

Army Strong!

Daniel A. Dailey  
Sergeant Major of the Army

Mark A. Milley  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Robert M. Speer  
Acting Secretary of the Army

Taking care of military's youngest patients is priority

By Dr. Terry Adirim  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH SERVICES POLICY AND OVERSIGHT



Dr. Terry Adirim

The Military Health System is dedicated to making sure we provide good care to our service members, retirees, and families. As a pediatric emergency physician for more than 20 years, I have witnessed heartbreaking scenes of children brought in for treatment after some terrible accident or illness, so I know firsthand how important it is to do our best for our most vulnerable. During April's focus on Military Children's Health, I'd like to spend a few minutes drawing attention to our youngest beneficiaries.

Parents go off to war leaving their children behind. We know that if a child of a deployed service member experiences health care issues, that service member thousands of miles away also has trouble. Our duty in the Military Health System is to provide peace of mind by guaranteeing health care for children.

One of the advantages we have in the MHS is a patient-

centered medical home model, which came from the pediatrics field. These models include physicians, nurses, medics, medical technicians, social workers and case managers, just to name a few. Providers and patients are able to take a more proactive approach to health care and focus on prevention. Having a single "home" as the center for primary care gives us a template for better coordination.

Despite the challenge of frequent moves for families, the military offers several avenues to ensure no one falls through the

cracks. One such path is the Exceptional Family Member Program, which helps families gain assignments where appropriate care is available and navigate the medical and educational systems to try to match the needs of the military and its family members. TRICARE's Extended Care Health Option provides supplemental services to active duty family members with unique needs to ensure an integrated set of services and supplies, such as special education, assistive technology devices and home health care. In recent years enhancements expanded or added new benefits based on feedback from families. The Department of Defense Office of Military Family Readiness provides resources through Military OneSource, a one-stop shop for answers to military life questions, including parenting tips and children's health. All of these programs recognize that children's health is more than making sure a case of the sniffles is cared for; it goes into the social realm of children's well-being.

We don't rest on our laurels and work in a vacuum when it comes to military children's health. We continuously review our policies to see what changes are needed so children receive evidence-based services. The MHS leadership is committed to the health of all family members.

According to Military OneSource, about 40 percent of service members have children, so it's important to pay attention to this large segment of our beneficiary population. Surveys indicate that many children of service members follow their parents into the military. Taking care of them today is an investment in the future.

The bottom line: Good health for military children supports the readiness of our warfighters and makes it easier to accept those family members if they decide to volunteer to be part of our great military. But the simplest and most important point is one on which we can all agree: It's the right thing to do.

The next USAG Resilience Day Off is

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# ‘Durable’ Soldier spreads laughter in everyday life wherever he goes

By Staff Sgt. Aaron P. Duncan  
1ST INF. DIV. SUST. BDE.

Spc. Stone Huntley, a unit supply specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, will soon be reenlisting in the Army. This may be a usual occurrence in the military, but Huntley is anything but usual.

“Before joining the Army I was a sign spinner at a fireworks shop,” Huntley said. “They had a big stage and I just spent hours dancing on it. I also was a scary clown for a haunted maze. I really like role-playing, so when I was working at the maze I wanted to make a character out of it so I created Pepper, a psychotic cannibal clown. I wanted to mix comedy and fear. They are polar opposites but work great together.”

After joining the Army in 2014 on his 18th birthday, Huntley was stationed at Camp Casey in South Korea prior to coming to Fort Riley and becoming a “Big Red One” and “Durable” Soldier. As a supply specialist, he has worked in supply rooms at the company level and currently works in the brigade logistics office as a supply clerk. In addition to his normal duties, he also serves as an alternate unit armorer for HHC.

While his time being a Durable Soldier has helped him improve his technical and tactical skills, the Army experience he most credits to shaping him as a Soldier and having the greatest impact on his life is his time in basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. A trial by fire for many Soldiers, basic training not only provides Soldiers with the

“His sense of humor is infectious. Even if he does not like what he is doing, he cracks a pun and it becomes fun and everyone around him becomes a little more motivated.”

SPC. JORGE TAPIA

SUPPLY CLERK IN THE HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, SPECIAL TROOPS  
BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

basic Soldier skills needed for the Army, but also is a stressful and emotional time for the future Soldiers that pass through its doors every year.

“Before I went off for basic someone told me that basic training is the best thing you will ever do that you will never want to do again,” Huntley said. “I could not agree with any statement more than that one.”

His true story, however, rests not in common experiences that many Soldiers go through, but in his eccentricities. Up until recently, it was not unusual to see him riding his unicycle to work. While he no longer uses it as his primary means of transport, now preferring his scooter, he has also been known to make the occasional balloon animal for his fellow Soldiers.

“His sense of humor is infectious,” said Spc. Jorge Tapia, a supply clerk who worked with him in the HHC supply room originally from Brooklyn, New York. “Even if he does not like what he is doing, he cracks a pun and it becomes fun and everyone around him becomes a little more motivated.”

That is not to say he has not faced challenges in his own life. When those challenges arise, however, his support comes from his deeply connected family life. Raised in Lacey, Washington,

the central anchor of his life has always been and continues to be his family. Whether it was when he was really into the cult television show “Doctor Who” and his father not only regularly made him fezzes, and on at least one occasion his entire family so they could sport the headgear together, or when because of his love for Rubik’s Cube his father made a 4-foot-tall tall one for his high school graduation party.

“At my graduation party everyone made giant games,” Huntley said. “I was really into Rubik’s Cube, and still am, so my dad made a giant Rubik’s Cube. You could open it up and crawl into it. My family made other giant games as well like Chinese checkers, Connect Four and Jenga. It meant a lot to me.”

They were not only there for the good times but also for the difficult moments he faced in life like when he started to find purpose in his life after struggling through school. His aunt Jenny was there to not only live with for his senior year but to provide the structure and push he needed to make up lost time. His family always came together to support him.

“I did not know what I wanted to do with my future or what I wanted to do with my life,” Huntley said. “I ended up moving in with my aunt and uncle in Vancouver, Washington, just to get

a fresh start with a new school. I kind of flipped my life around at that point. I went to getting C’s at best to getting A’s and B’s in most of my classes. I took extra classes like summer school and online classes. My aunt was the type of person to be very involved and make sure I stayed on track.”

Even when faced with the difficult decision to acknowledge his sexuality and date another man, his family was quick to voice their support and reassure him that regardless who he chooses to love they would be by his side.

“It has been a very good experience to know my family is there to help me with whatever I may be going through,” Huntley said. “I actually met someone in the military, that was a guy, and we had a relationship for a few months. The support I got from my family was overwhelming. For example, my uncle Buck is a very masculine type of guy. I remember him calling me and telling me that ‘hey, I just want to support you, you are family and I don’t care, you do you.’ I could not ask for anything more.”

When he was in basic and going through the sometimes emotionally and physically exhausting ordeal, his aunt went as far as writing him regularly as another Jenny, a character from one of his favorite television shows “The League.” In addition to develop-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Spc. Stone Huntley and his dad, Aaron, take a picture on top of a giant Rubik’s Cube at his high school graduation in 2014 in his hometown of Vancouver, Washington. His father built the giant Rubik cube because of Huntley’s love of the device.**

ing a love for drawing, the letters were one of the things that made the difficult days easier.

“As you go through basic you have a lot of conflicting emotions, they are breaking down your mentality from your civilian life,” Huntley said. “There is a show called ‘The League’ and on the show there is a character named Jenny. A new season came on while I was in basic and instead of writing me and saying the characters did this, my aunt wrote me in

character describing what was going on in the show.”

With the support of his family at his side he plans to make a career in service to the nation as a Soldier and is currently trying to embrace his artistic side and reclassify as a public affairs broadcast specialist as part of his reenlistment. He is certain to face challenges as he continues to get older but they will be there standing by should he need a helping hand or word of encouragement.



# Paladin platoons certify to ‘fight tonight’

Story and photo by Capt. Jonathan Camire  
1ST ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

YEONCHEON-GUN, South Korea — Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, conducted gunnery qualification training throughout multiple locations in Yeoncheon-gun, South Korea, March 24 through 31.

The training allowed the battalion’s leadership the opportunity to evaluate and certify each platoon.

“This is where we bring the pieces together of what we have done in Korea,” said Maj. Jerod Parker, the battalion’s operations officer. “The platoons have done extremely well. By executing the lanes, we are not only forcing them to move and conduct fire missions, but we have an (opposition force) element that is there to replicate the real threat.”

According to Parker, the training event was part of the unit’s Korea training plan and ensured the unit’s continued readiness by bringing together elements of the other field artillery gunnery tables and the security concerns associated with the Korean theater.

“The battalion’s staff conducted a thorough analysis of the commander’s intent and training objectives, as well as the options and resources available for field artillery battalions on the peninsula,” he said.

Parker went on to say the result of the staff’s diligence was a well-planned, resourced and executed event called Operation Louisiana.



An M109A6 Paladin artillery system from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, participates in a gunnery qualification training event in Yeoncheon-gun, South Korea, March 28. The training event gave battalion leadership the opportunity to evaluate and certify Paladin platoons.

All six firing platoons conducted a 36-hour certification and external evaluation that included multiple scenarios. Those scenarios featured civilians on the battlefield, opposition force situations, casualty evacuation, ammunition and sustainment operations, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear situations. Over the course of the week, the battalion fired more than 600 live artillery rounds.

According to 1st Lt. Cody Dobiyanski, a platoon leader in Battery D, the event gave leaders a top down picture of where Paladin crews stand within the platoon, ensuring the teams meet the requirements asked of them.

The training “allows us the mobility to move in a small team and be able to act like ourselves, learn off one another and interact from team to team in order to ensure mission success,” Dobiyanski said.

“Though an evaluation of the platoon, the battalion’s (observer-controller-trainers) took every opportunity to coach the platoon’s leadership throughout each exercise,” said Capt. Jesse Arbogast, the commander of Battery D. “The platoon is truly learning and instantly instituting those lessons learned.”

The training even caught the eye of some of the unit’s South Korean counterparts.

“I have not seen a U.S. field artillery battalion train to this level of intensity in my seven years in this position,” said Yo Chan Yun, the Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex South Korean army coordinator, who is responsible for coordinating training with the unit’s South Korean Army counterparts.

The battalion is currently on a nine-month rotation to South Korea and is currently attached to the 210th Field Artillery Brigade as part of the peninsula’s counter-fire task force.



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## HOME Continued from page 1

in combat. They advised the NATO mission on air threats and provided security for distinguished visitors and members of Congress.

“The Soldiers should be very proud of what they accomplished over the last eight months,” Cyrulik said.

The Demon brigade conducted more than 700 operations during its deployment, reducing indirect fire and improvised explosive devices at six Coalition bases. Soldiers of the brigade flew nearly 200 medical evacuation missions,

saving the lives of U.S., Coalition and Afghan forces.

“They were motivated and very professional,” Cyrulik said. “They were well trained and exceptionally well led by the battalion task force commanders.”

Family members, friends and fellow Soldiers were present to welcome the returning Soldiers.

“It’s been a long eight months,” said Katie Dilena, wife of Capt. Jordan Dilena, an aviation officer assigned to 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation

Regiment, 1st CAB, 1st Inf. Div. “With two kids, James, five, and Madison, three, to take care of, it’s been a real challenge, so I’m extremely excited and anxious at the same time to see my husband.”

Cyrulik and Command Sgt. Maj. Roque R. Quichocho, 1st CAB senior enlisted advisor, uncased the brigade colors during the welcome home ceremony April 12. The uncasing signifies the completion of the unit’s overseas mission and their return to garrison operations.

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# With no budget, all Army training comes to ‘screeching halt’ by July

By C. Todd Lopez  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — In the absence of a fiscal year 2017 budget, the Army, like the rest of the U.S. military, is still operating under a continuing resolution. It’s a situation that Army officials are warning Congress is unsustainable.

“Funding under a continuing resolution for a year will result in a dramatic decrease in training, starting next month, in May,” said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley. “By July 15, all Army training will cease, except those units deploying to Afghanistan or Iraq.”

With the exception of those units who are scheduled to go into combat operations, Milley told lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee April 5, combat training center rotations would stop if the Army doesn’t get a budget.

What will also stop, he said, is basic combat training — the training that turns young civilian Americans into Soldiers.

Milley pointed to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, as an example. That location is one of four where the Army conducts BCT for new Soldiers. Other locations include Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Benning, Georgia.

“At Fort Jackson alone, on an annual basis, we train — we recruit and bring into basic combat training — the equivalent of the British Army, every year,” Milley said.

If the Army and the rest of the services don’t get a budget, by July the Army will have to stop teaching young Americans how to be Soldiers.

“That basic training will stop in July,” Milley said. “We will run out of money next month. And then over the following 60 days, we’re going to

not have the gasoline, the fuel, the ammunition, etc. And basic training will stop.”

Those basic trainees won’t be able to move forward to their next operational unit.

“We’ll have to keep them right there at the fort,” Milley said. “They won’t be doing anything, they won’t be training, they won’t be doing anything of substantive value. And then we won’t be able to recruit and bring in more trainees.”

With no budget, Milley told legislators, and without the supplemental budget as well, Fort Jackson and other locations “for all intents and purposes, will be coming to a screeching halt for all of the activities and training that goes on.”

Milley also said it won’t just be junior enlisted Soldiers who would be unable to enter the Army. Junior officers as well would lose an opportunity to serve.

This summer, he said, required camps for ROTC cadets, for instance, will need to be cancelled if a budget isn’t passed. Milley said that “74 percent of second lieutenants in the U.S. Army won’t get commissioned in fiscal year 2018, because they won’t be qualified, because their summer camp will be missed.”

Training for Soldiers at the combat training centers such as Fort Irwin, California; Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Hohenfels, Germany, will also have to be cancelled, except for units deploying, Milley said.

“If it’s a year-long continuing resolution, we’ll end up having to cancel the National Training Center rotations out in California, and we’ll end up cancelling Joint Readiness Training Center rotations. And we’ll also end up canceling significant collective training for home-station training for all of the active units.”

Units that are preparing to go into combat operations typically will go first to the Army’s combat training centers. In such locations, large-scale exercises can be held that test the ability of brigade-sized units to conduct combat operations. The CTCs provide room and resources that aren’t available to those units at home.

“Training across the board, beginning shortly after we run out of money in May, looking at June or July, training will be reduced to individual squad training,” Milley said.

Soldiers, he said, need to be trained at the squad level, which is one of the smallest units within an infantry brigade combat team. But squad-level training is not enough. For the brigade to be fully trained and ready, training must be done at company, battalion, brigade and higher levels, he said. Training for those larger units can often not be done at home, and must be done at a CTC.

Not every unit that trains at a CTC is scheduled to deploy for combat. But sending units to the CTCs ensures that those units are combat-ready if called upon for a mission that is unexpected. Failing to provide those units with that training puts risk into the force — risk that Soldiers could be forced to deploy without being adequately prepared.

“What ends up happening is, if called upon — this is for the bench now — if called upon for some unknown contingency, that nobody can predict right this moment, but if it happens, people are going to be going out the door with equipment that is less than optimally maintained, units that are not properly trained, and we are going to be putting young men and women into harm’s way that are not ready for that level of combat,”



Sgt. Dana Moen | 19th PAD

The absence of stable, long-term funding for all Army units like the 1st Infantry Division could result in the cessation of training, according to Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley. “Funding under a continuing resolution for a year will result in a dramatic decrease in training, starting next month, in May,” Milley said. “By July 15, all Army training will cease, except those units deploying to Afghanistan or Iraq.”

Milley said. “That’s what’s going happen with a lack of training.”

## NO BUDGET MEANS UNDER-FILLED UNITS

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Army to reverse its downward trend on end strength. In the NDAA, the Army was authorized to bring the regular Army up to 476,000 Soldiers, the Army National Guard up to 343,000 Soldiers, and the Army Reserve up to 197,000 Soldiers, all by Oct. 1, 2017.

Milley said that plus-up of Soldiers isn’t going to make the Army bigger, at least not in terms of force structure. With that increase in Soldiers, there won’t be more brigades, battalions, or companies in the Army.

Instead, he said, those new Soldiers the Army is authorized to bring onboard — if training and recruiting doesn’t halt as a result of not having a budget — will be used to fill gaps in existing units, which are currently undermanned.

“It’s to make the units that do exist, whole, and to make them capable of doing adequate levels of training,” Milley said. “Training a unit at 65 or 70 percent strength is inadequate. If you take 10 percent casualties in combat, maybe 15 percent, you’re going to be a combat-ineffective unit.”

He said the Army is now training some units that are manned between 65 to 75 percent strength at CTCs.

“This increased end strength, I want to be careful it’s not mischaracterized as an increase in the Army. It’s not.

It’s a filling of the holes in the existing force structure,” Milley said.

The Army and the rest of the U.S. military has operated under continuing resolutions for eight years now. Offered the opportunity to consider not having a budget to be a “new normal,” Milley said he didn’t think that was an acceptable option.

“Candidly, failure to pass a budget, in my view, as both an American citizen and the chief of staff of the United States Army, constitutes professional malpractice,” Milley said. “I don’t think we should accept it as the ‘new normal.’ I think we should pass it, and pass the supplemental with it. And get on with it. The world is a dangerous place, and it is becoming more dangerous by the day. Pass the budget.”

# Prescription take back day scheduled

By Maria Childs  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Staff of the Irwin Army Community Hospital is hosting a Drug Take Back Day April 27 and 28 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Main Post Exchange.

Jennifer Bellisario, assistant chief of pharmacy services, said this coincides with the National Drug Take Back Day, which is recognized April 29.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration website, the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse and medications.

“The idea is to get unwanted, unused and expired medications out of the patient’s home and give them a proper and easy way to dispose of the medication,” Bellisario said.

She said there are many ways residents improperly dispose of their unwanted medicine including flushing it into the water supply.

## Drug Take Back

Safely dispose of your unused or expired prescription medications



April 27th & 28th  
2 - 6 p.m.  
Main Post Exchange Foyer  
2210 Trooper Dr., Fort Riley

“They probably just hold on to their medicine and don’t know what to do with them,” she said. “You should put your medicine in a used product such as used coffee grounds, a used diaper or kitty litter to make it less desirable.”

The event is being done in partnership with the Army Substance Abuse Program and Directorate of Emergency Services.

For more information about the event, call 785-240-7979.


## A DISCUSSION AMONG MANY



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Col. Ann Meredith, commander of the 97th Military Police Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Leasor, command sergeant major of the 97th MP Bn., were guest speakers for a class taught by Albert Hamscher, professor of history at Kansas State University, April 12 in Manhattan, Kansas. The class was called “The Study of Death and Dying” and the discussion was a comparison of 19th century practices of how humans deal with the process of death and how we currently “soften the blow” of loss of life, particularly during times of war.


# Have the Courage to Help a Buddy




## One Suicide is one too many.

For assistance:

- Talk to your Battle Buddy and chain of command
- Call the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press “1” for Military Crisis Line



785-240-7979



US Army Public Health Command  
phc.amedd.army.mil

7A-067-0012



JACK Continued from page 1

The Terminal Area Employment phase training the students underwent refers to the time just prior to rescuing the survivor when the Airmen are assessing the situation on the status and location of the survivor, of any potential threats, eliminating threats if needed and locating safe collection or landing points, among other activities.

“Terminal Employment — we usually fly really long distances to get where we’re going and we get fed information about the guy we’re going to recover and generally, right before, we’ll get a 15 line (a document) and that is all the information on this guy or gal,” Scaggs said.

While training at Fort Riley, the students received multiple scenarios that ramped up in complexity for them to assess, plan and execute in order to safely survive and rescue “Jack.” In their scenarios, they have already survived the fight and made their way to the terminal area, they need to determine what other threats, if any, still exist and how to get “Jack.”

“This is probably the most challenging phase of training to this point the HH-60 students will go through in this syllabus and what we are challenging is the student’s decision making process in the terminal employment,” said Maj. Brough McDonald, 34th WPS.

To create more complexity in their scenarios, new factors were added including

a reduction to complete lack of instructor assistance, team variables, additional survivors in different areas they needed to rescue and varying threats from enemy forces.

“We want to see how they look at the battle space, figure out what needs to die first and then watch how they use their formation to attack it,” McDonald said. “We want to see how efficient their attacks are.”

The students are also denied any other assets, they only have themselves and their team with the HH-60. McDonald said the instructors are observing the students to see how to integrate tactics they’ve learned and lead their teams in the mission.

Two HH-60s went out together onto the range to eliminate threats. After threats have been removed, one crew rescues the survivor while the other helicopter circles the area acting as a guard until both are able to leave together.

Following the completion of the scenarios, the students presented their operation to the instructors and peers. The students also discuss what they believe ground forces were thinking and how the Airmen affected them, what was to their benefit and more. The instructors and students then discuss and analyze the mission to determine strengths, weaknesses, right or wrong moves, proper language used and so forth, McDonald said.

There are also recordings from inside the cockpit,

heads up display and of the GPS of the helicopter or aircraft during the training the Airmen review after in the classroom.

“We can look at it with a very critical eye,” he said. “We expect the students to critique things from correct and incorrect terms ... We’re looking for our students to call that out ... We want them to identify and effectively teach in the debrief. They will have what we call learning points, which is a quick on the spot correction, or they will data gather.”

Like the HH-60 students, the C-130 students conducted training through multiple scenarios. For them, they provided supply drops to survivors, air support and simulated personnel drops. Following their training, they conducted debriefs where they analyzed and assessed the mission, what did and didn’t work and more, Scaggs said.

The training was predominately for the students going through the US-AFWS, but it also provided training opportunities for the enlisted Airmen who assisted with flying and operating the weapons. Additionally, three enlisted Airmen were going through a seven-week-long Advanced Tactics Course.

This was the first time the 34th WPS conducted training at Fort Riley, he said. Normally they would travel to Boise, Idaho, however, with the new C-130J, they were looking for an area that

would allow them to train with the aircraft and helicopters when they heard about the facilities at Fort Riley.

“The gun range out here at Douthit is digital — it’s the state of the art gun range that you could shoot at,” Scaggs said. “My guys were blown away.”

However, because of the location difference for Nellis Air Force Base and Fort Riley, the 34th WPS Airmen needed to find a way to transport all of their aircraft and personnel, he said. They reached out to the 57th Weapons Squadron from McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, to transport them with a C-17 Globemaster III, which they agreed to.

“This is the first time we have ever organically

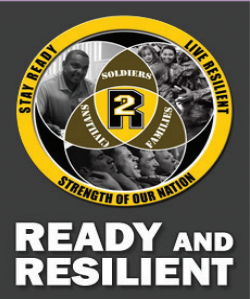
deployed from the weapons school using two C-17s carrying three HH-60s, 150 personnel and then the HC-130 organically deploying from Nellis as well,” he said.

The Airmen also faced additional challenges when they arrived at Fort Riley, but Scaggs said Soldiers and civilian personnel went above and beyond to see all their needs were met. This included transport ammunition for the aircraft to Douthit Gunnery Complex and having Fort Riley Soldiers establish a Forward Arming and Refueling Point so the helicopters could refuel or resupply on ammunition and continue training without interruption.

“That entire FARP is operational because the Army and the support units said ‘yeah, we’ll take the time and support you for two weeks,’” McDonald said. “My intent is that we forge a relationship with Fort Riley and the tenant units to make this a regular thing every six months.”

McDonald said the range targets responded faster to being hit, the area they had to train in was larger and being able to have access to the tower personnel during their debriefings improved their analysis.

“Coming out to this range, it’s larger, it’s more responsive,” he said. “I’m very pleased with the utilization of this. Everything about it is impressive.”





## FORT RILEY COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE EASTER WEEKEND



Jack Johnson, 5, son of 1st Lt. Josh Johnson from 774th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, waits by the starting line of the annual Fort Riley Easter egg hunt. Jack and his younger brother Flynn (not pictured), 3, stood with their father in between the 2 to 3 years old and 4 to 5 years old egg hunt sections, so they could hunt for eggs together.



Merziaha Woods, from left, and her sister Meela Woods, daughters of Sgt. Montanize Woods, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Camille Wilson, daughter of Staff Sgt. Jamil Wilson, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., pose with the Easter Bunny during the Easter Party April 15 at the Fort Riley Post Library.

## Easter Egg Scramble

Thousands of hidden eggs keep community spirits high during Exchange's Easter Extravaganza

Story and photos by Suet Lee-Growney  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Despite the thunderstorm two hours earlier, chatter and excitement of children and their families' filled the air outside the Fort Riley Main Post Exchange April 15.

Staff of the Exchange organized the Easter Extravaganza. Among the activities available for families who attended were the annual Easter egg hunt, face painting, a coloring table, several other games, such as a hula-hoop competition, and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Maria Isabel Berrios Borges, Exchange main store manager, said about 1,000 children participated in the egg hunt.

The event was a collaboration of Exchange partners. There were 11,000 eggs hidden at the hunt.

"I think the event went better than I expected," Borges said. "I didn't see any kids crying because (he or she) didn't get eggs."

Jenny Wilkerson, wife of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Zachary Wilkerson, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, said she thought the event this year went a lot smoother than last year.

See SCRAMBLE, page 14



Leia Martinez, 3, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Ivan Martinez, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division; fills her basket with eggs at the Fort Riley's annual Easter Egg hunt with the help of her father. As soon as the father-daughter duo reached the finish line, they circled back to the starting line to see if there were any Easter eggs left behind by other children.

## Library conducts party for Easter

Participants treated to bunnies, eggs and treats galore

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

Families took a break from reality and stepped into a world of imagination and fun during the Easter Party April 15 at the Fort Riley Post Library.

More than 250 patrons came through the free two-hour long party within the first

30 minutes of it starting to make Easter wreaths, decorate bunny ears, compete in an Easter egg race and enjoy some sweet treats.

"We are trying to get the kids to come into the library and find that we are having a good time," said Terri Seaman, contract manager for the Fort Riley Post Library. "It's a fun atmosphere in here. It's not just about studying and school. You can come in and have fun."

With a little help from staff at Corvias Military Living, the Easter Bunny attended the party to hand out goody bags and pose for photos with children and parents alike.

"It's very cute," said Alejandra Flores, wife of Spc. Jorge Flores, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, who attended with her 5-year-old

See LIBRARY, page 14

## EARLY TO RISE

Diners select and create their meal during the annual Easter Brunch April 16 at Riley's Conference Center. Soldiers, retirees, their families and members of the Fort Riley and surrounding communities enjoyed an Easter meal hosted by staff of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation during a day of celebration with colorful eggs and treats.

Season Osterfeld | POST



## Sunrise service celebrates Easter, new beginnings

By Maria Childs  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The sun peeked through the clouds on the brisk Easter morning April 16 as Chaplain (Col.) Timothy Walls, Fort Riley garrison chaplain, led the Easter sunrise service in the parking lot at Victory Chapel.

Walls' sermon focused on how Christians should know what they are looking for so they don't become blind to what they are looking for and miss it. He shared the Bible story about His followers showing up at the tomb of Jesus the morning of Easter, but they did not recognize him.

"They didn't recognize Jesus because they weren't looking for

it," he said. "How often has this happened to you and me? You overlook something that was right in front of your eyes, but because you really weren't looking for it in the way you were hoping to see it you didn't even see it there."

Lt. Col. John Gourley, Irwin Army Community Hospital, and his wife, Ava, attended the service. They usually attend the

Main Post Chapel, but John said he thought the sunrise service was the perfect way to celebrate the holiday.

"The best time to celebrate the risen Christ is at sunrise," he said. "It's a new day, the rising of the sun and a new life of spring and a new life through Christ."

See SERVICE, page 14

"The best time to celebrate the risen Christ is at sunrise. It's a new day ..."

LT. COL. JOHN GOURLEY  
IRWIN ARMY COMMUNITY  
HOSPITAL



# FORT RILEY POST-ITS

### FAMILY BINGO

In honor of Month of the Military Child, there will be a Family Bingo April 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Riley's Conference Center.

Doors open at 1 p.m. Kids receive prizes and adults will get cash if they win.

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children. For more information, call 785-239-1000.

### ADULT CANVAS PAINTING

Staff of the Arts & Crafts Center, 6918 Trooper Drive, will host a canvas painting class for adults April 23 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Classes include the materials and step-by-step instruction. The painting is titled Spring Flowers. Cost is \$20 per person.

Future classes are May 28 and June 25.

For more information, call 785-239-9205.

### SPRING FLING SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

A double elimination softball tournament will be held May 20 at Sacco Softball Complex starting at 8 a.m.

Registration is required by May 18 at Whitside Fitness Center. Registration is \$150 per team.

The tournament is open to all Department of Defense ID holders 18 and older. Teams may have a maximum of 14 people. Registration is first come, first serve with a maximum of 16 teams in the tournament.

For more information, call 785-239-2813.

### REAL ESTATE WORKSHOP

Staff of the Fort Riley Housing Services Office are hosting a Real Estate Workshop June 1 at Riley's Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Learn about topics such as Financial Planning; Mortgage Information/VA Loans; Buying and Selling Properties; Income Producing Properties; Manage your property after PCS; Home Inspections and more.

Staff hope to teach attendees how to create and maintain wealth with their home.

The workshop is free and lunch is included.

Space is limited and registration is required at [fortrileyhso.eventsmart.com](http://fortrileyhso.eventsmart.com)

For more information, call 785-239-3525.

### KID'S FISHING DAY

Staff of Outdoor Recreation, the Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group, Directorate of Public Works - Environmental, Directorate of Emergency Services and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism are hosting the Fort Riley Kids' Fishing day April 22 from noon to 4 p.m. at Moon Lake.

The event is free to ages 15 and under. Anyone 16 and older must have a Kansas Fishing License. On-site registration begins at 11:30 a.m.

Loaner rods and reels are available for those who don't have their own. Fishing bait, tackle and snacks are all provided.

For more information, visit [riley.armymwr.com](http://riley.armymwr.com).

### 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.

### KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Staff at Fort Riley Elementary will host a Kindergarten Roundup April 27 at 5 p.m.

To enroll for Kindergarten online go to [www.USD475.org](http://www.USD475.org). For more information, call 785-717-4450

### BURGER KING ON CUSTER HILL TEMPORARY REDUCED HOURS

Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Dining room closes at 8:30

Drive-Thru remains open until 9 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dining room closes at 7:30

Drive-Thru remains open until 8 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dining room closes at 7:30

Drive-Thru remains open until 8 p.m.

This adjustment in hours is due to staff shortages as a result of the hiring freeze.

### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance will be held at Riley Conference Center April 24 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The guest speaker is Evy Tilzer, the daughter of two holocaust survivors.

### FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER MOVIE SCHEDULE

**Friday, April 21**  
Power Rangers (PG-13) 7 p.m.

**Saturday, April 22**  
Beauty And The Beast (PG) 2:30 p.m.  
Chips (R) 1900 7 p.m.

**Sunday, April 23**  
Power Rangers (PG-13) 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.

**Salina - Rolling Hills Zoo and Museum:** adults \$10, children \$5 and seniors \$9.

**Kansas City Sprint Center:** WWE Raw - April 24 at 6 p.m. Red Section seats #35 and Yellow Section seats \$50. All ages require a ticket

**McCain Auditorium:** Stomp - Rhythm - April 27 at 7:30 p.m. Adults \$55 and youth under 18 \$30.

### OPEN REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP FOR K-12 AT PARENT CENTRAL STARTED

Custer Hill School Age Center and Custer Hill Youth Center will host 11 summer camp sessions that start on May 30 and run through Aug. 11. Sessions run week to week, allowing parents to sign up for only the weeks when child care is needed. Part-day specialty summer camps may be available through Forsyth East School Age Center. Operation dependent on number enrolled.

### LIBRARY MOVIE NIGHT

Staff at the Fort Riley Library, 5306 Hood Drive, will host a movie night April 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event is free and snacks are provided.

For more information, call 785-239-5305.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

# Earth Day time to stress renewal

By Col. John D. Lawrence  
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

Tomorrow is Earth Day, a perfect time to renew our year-round commitment to environmental stewardship here at Fort Riley. Each year we get better at preventing pollution and conserving, protecting and restoring natural and cultural resources of our woodlands, prairies, fish and wildlife.



Colonel Lawrence

For example, Fort Riley volunteered to participate in the Army's Net Zero water conservation program. This initiative strives to have a water consumption rate that's lower than what can be recycled or replaced at one location. The Directorate of Public Works staff continuously strives to find ways to provide best practices for managing water,

energy and waste to reach the "net zero" state for consumption of resources here.

Additionally, Seitz Elementary School has an award-winning permeable parking lot. This project captures about 440,000 gallons of storm water annually that would otherwise be lost as runoff. The water is used as a resource in the school to flush toilets and various other water-related tasks. Scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency collect data about the rainwater and the data is then used as part of the school's curriculum.

New construction on the installation is built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, standards. This provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable design, construction and operation of buildings.

Our Recycling Center processes material for the post, as well as nearby counties, resulting in less waste reaching local landfills. Material is sorted and then sold to contracted buyers to be made into new products. The

money raised returns to Soldiers and their families through the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Finally, Fort Riley was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, as a 2016 Tree City USA. This program has been recognized in cities across America since 1976 to encourage communities to manage and expand their tree populations.

As an "outdoor paradise," Fort Riley is home to many wildlife species in creeks, streams, forests and grasslands. Let's use Earth Day as a reminder to help each other preserve and improve our Fort Riley ecosystem for future generations.

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

GOAL: \$75,000\*

1

\$42,658.58 as of April 18

2017 ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

(12-week campaign from March 1, 2017 - May 15, 2017)

Soldiers Helping Soldiers

In 2015, AER worldwide provided \$62.3 million in zero-interest loans, grants and scholarships to 42,743 Soldiers and family members, retirees, widows and orphans. During that same time period, Fort Riley provided more than \$1.125 million in assistance and processed nearly 1,000 separate cases.

Barlow Theater

28 April 2017

Open to All

First Come,

First Served

Free of Charge

Family Movie Night

Disney BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

No ticket needed

7:00 PM

Doors open at 6:00PM

450 seats available

Free of Charge

## WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL

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](mailto: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](mailto:fortrileycwoc@gmail.com) or Facebook "Fort Riley CWOC"

\*\*Check for schedule over Training Holiday weekends\*\*

12 | APRIL 21, 2017

HOME OF THE BIG RED ONE





Military children and staff of Child and Youth Services marched down Godfrey Avenue April 14 as part of the Month of the Military Child parade. Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, and Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, joined in the celebration.

# Parade celebrates military children

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

Military children were eager to join Month of the Military Child parade as they practiced their cheers and chants at Artillery Parade Field April 14.

Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division Band, the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, the MOMC mascot Riley Bears and the Fort Riley Fire Department passed the children, whose excitement continued to build as the groups went by. The children then followed and parade began.

Michelle Durgin, Child and Youth Services coordinator, helped ensure safety of the children and adults walking in the streets of Historic Main Post.

"Making sure everyone is safe but having a good time is really important," she said.

A group of people from CYS coordinate all the MOMC events including the parade. For this event, staff had to coordinate buses from the school district to drop off and pick up the children as well as plan with the CGMCG and 1st Inf. Div. Band about placement.

"We all work together to do it because we have people coming in from six different centers," Durgin said.



Military children from Child and Youth Services give Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley acting senior commander, a high-five following the Month of the Military Child parade April 14.

Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, and Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander, walked with the children. Lawrence

said military children should be celebrated because they endure hardships and go through the same challenges their parents face including frequent moves and separation due to deployment.

"Making sure everyone is safe but having a good time is really important."

MICHELLE DURGIN  
CHILD AND YOUTH  
SERVICES COORDINATOR

"It was incredibly enjoyable," Lawrence said. "I enjoy visiting with the children and talking with them as it is always an interesting conversation. Additionally, it was exhilarating being around that much energy and it touched my heart when they all came together at the end to sing the Army song. Many of these children will be the future of the Army and we must do our part to recognize them every chance we have."

Durgin said it is important to remember the sacrifices of military children during the month of April.

"The month was designed to honor the contributions and sacrifices of military children," Durgin said. "All the kids in our program ... they go to bed at night or they wake up in the morning and there is always a chance mom or dad is not coming home. It makes them more adaptable and flexible and strong because it's a challenge they have to work through every day."

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

# Getting to bottom of Easter egg tradition

By Chaplain (Col.) Timothy Walls  
FORT RILEY GARRISON CHAPLAIN

Have you ever wondered how the Easter egg is related to the Easter Story and why we give Easter eggs to one another at Easter?

In many cultures throughout the ages, the egg has been used as a symbol of renewal and new life and a normal part of the spring ritual for many religions.



Chaplain  
Walls

In Judaism, a hard-boiled egg was part of the Seder that Jewish families celebrated during Passover. Christianity adopted this symbol early on as a way to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus. The empty shell became a symbol of the empty tomb.

This tradition is especially significant for the Eastern Orthodox Christian faiths such as the Russian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Churches. During the period of Lent, which is the 40-day fasting period preceding Easter where people of some faiths fast from foods, like meat and dairy products, as a way of repentance and sacrifice, symbolizing the 40 days of fasting by Jesus in

the desert before He started His earthly ministry.

In many of the Eastern Orthodox regions, Christians fasted from eggs and others foods that were part of the normal diet. As a symbol of the end of the Lenten fast, and celebration of the resurrection of the Lord, colored eggs were given to one another. Red colored eggs were originally given because of the symbolism associated with Christ's blood being shed on the cross. Eventually some areas in Eastern Europe began to use eggs painted with beautiful designs and elaborate colors.

The tradition of giving colorful Easter eggs since then has grown to such elaborateness

as the Fabergé Easter eggs encrusted with jewels and precious metal that were given by the Tsars of Russia during the nineteenth century. Examples of these beautiful Easter Eggs are available to the tourist visiting Russia today.

The tradition of giving Easter eggs spread from eastern Europe to the west and beyond. Unfortunately, the reason for giving Easter eggs has been lost in much of the tradition today, being overshadowed by the commercialism of the Easter Bunny.

So on Easter the colorful eggs were a reminder of a significant part of the resurrection celebration.

## TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of April 18 was: April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month #SAAPM. Where on Fort Riley's website will I find the page detailing the SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) program?

Answer: [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Soldier-Services/Sexual-Harassment-Assault-Response-and-Prevention/](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Soldier-Services/Sexual-Harassment-Assault-Response-and-Prevention/)

This week's winner is Andrea Murray, spouse of Spc. Christopher Murray, 97th Military Police Battalion.

Pictured above are Andrea, her husband, Christopher, and their son, Jason.

CONGRATULATIONS ANDREA!

Everything you need to know about Fort Riley and the surrounding area is at your fingertips!

Whether you are on your computer, tablet or phone, get info in seconds at:  
[www.mybaseguide.com/army/23/fort\\_riley](http://www.mybaseguide.com/army/23/fort_riley)

Find out more about Fort Riley, even while on the go!  
Scan the QR code to download the app.

The MyBaseGuide mobile app is available on Android, iOS and Windows devices.

◆ APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH ◆

You!

Responsibility starts with

Alcohol abuse is preventable. It is imperative for Soldiers and families to strengthen their resolve against this problem and to be vigilant for any and all early warning signs of someone falling under its grip. Follow these guidelines:

- AWARENESS — Increase knowledge of the impact to Soldier performance
- DETERRENCE — Encourage good decision making
- EDUCATION — Increase understanding of effects and how to initiate peer-to-peer discussion
- PREVENTION — Implement measures to establish and maintain the environment for positive behaviors
- ASSISTANCE — Provide support to those who self-identify
- REHABILITATION — Administer treatment and care

SUPPORT

Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) visit online: [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Soldier-Services/Army-Substance-Abuse-Program/](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Soldier-Services/Army-Substance-Abuse-Program/)





Maria Childs | POST  
**Chaplain [Col.] Timothy Walls, Fort Riley garrison chaplain, speaks during the Easter sunrise service April 16 in the parking lot at Victory Chapel.**

SERVICE Continued from page 11

John said he learned from the sermon that Christians need to examine themselves if they are looking for Christ.

“Often we don’t see what we’re looking for when we are looking for Christ and he’s usually right there,” he said.

During Walls’ sermon, he explained that the disciples had watched Jesus die on the cross three days before, therefore, did not expect to see him alive.

“The disciples were not expecting to see Jesus, they had witnessed the crucifixion, they had seen his hands and feet nailed to the cross, they witnessed the Roman Soldier pierce his side with a spear and they had seen him die,” Walls said. “As far as they were concerned, Jesus was dead and gone — they had no expectation of seeing him again.”

Ava said she thought the sunrise service was wonderful. She said she wants to

apply the sermon to her everyday life and show compassion to those in need.

“I took away that I need to be more aware of those in need because I do see people in need especially when they are your friends and neighbors then you’re willing to help but someone you don’t know at all and you hear they need something, we need to know that when you’re helping them you are doing what Christ wants you to do,” she said.

LIBRARY Continued from page 11

daughter. “There’s a lot fun activities for the kids to have fun. The Easter Bunny is very sweet.”

Seaman said the entire library staff was present for the party because of how many attended and they were overwhelmed with excitement to see so many there.

“It has been more than we expected,” she said. “We were expecting maybe 100, 150 ... We are really excited about the turn out.”

As children created masterpieces and enjoyed snacks outside, others participated in the race and played tag in the grass.

Flores, who has attended library parties before, said she loves them because they bring people together.

“I think it’s good,” she said. “It brings the community together.”

While library parties and other events are always free and have strong turnouts, Seaman said she believes the incredible attendance of the Easter Party was due to good weather and patrons seeing the library as a fun, positive environment to visit.

Season Osterfeld | POST

**Children create and decorate Easter wreaths and paper bunny ears during the Easter Party April 15 at the Fort Riley Post Library. “We are trying to get the kids to come into the library and find that we are having a good time,” said Terri Seaman, contract manager for the Fort Riley Post Library. “It’s a fun atmosphere in here. It’s not just about studying and school. You can come in and have fun.”**

“I think that people are finally getting to where they’re seeing the library is something fun to do,” she said. “We’re always doing something for the kids ... It’s kind of a niche that we fill at the library for the younger kids.”

Seaman added she hopes future parties and events, as well as everyday will continue

to be busy and filled with patrons.

“We’re always excited when we have a turnout like this,” she said. “It’s fun for us. It’s fun for the kids. It’s fun the families and it’s free for the families, so they’re getting to get something that’s fun for them, fun for the kids, they’re getting a snack, they’re getting a craft.”

SCRAMBLE Continued from page 11

“All that matters is my kids having fun, and they did,” Wilkerson said. She said her youngest child, Liam, 4, had the most fun. “He found the golden egg!”

Wilkerson and her eldest daughter, Chloe, 11, appreciated the additional games after the egg hunt.

“Some people might not be so good at grabbing eggs, and getting the golden ones,” Chloe said.

She won an Easter egg basket with candy and toys.

Angela Howard, wife of retired Sgt. 1st Class Warner Howard, was one of the attendees. She was there with her children and grandchildren.

“I remember going to these when my kids were little; they’re all in their twenties now,” Howard said. “We went to egg events with

them, when we were in Germany ... Now my kids are bringing their kids.”

Howard said her favorite part of the day was seeing their family tradition come full circle.

“It’s like a military heritage,” she said. “We’re a military family; we still work for the military. And now our kids are participating in things that we participated in with them when they were little.”



Suet Lee-Growney | POST  
**Leia Martinez, 3, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Ivan Martinez, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, gets her bunny whiskers on at the face painting station after the Easter egg hunt April 15.**

CHILD’S PLAY



Photos by Suet Lee-Growney | POST  
**Sgt. Lee Abbott, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, gives his 2-year-old son, Tatum, a lift in making a dunk shot at the Eyster Pool April 15 during the Month of the Military Child Pool Party. The pool party was organized by the staff of Child and Youth Services and was open to families and friends of registered families of CVS.**



**LEFT:** Nikki Garnett, wife of Staff Sgt. Michael Garnett from Company D, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division; plays with her son Jacob, 3, during the Month of the Military Child Pool Party at Eyster Pool April 15. **RIGHT:** Jackson Griffus, 7 months old, son of Staff Sgt. Ryan Griffus from 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, floats on the surface at the Eyster Pool with some help from his mother, Jessica Drees. The Family Pool Party was organized by staff of Child and Youth Services in conjunction with Month of the Military Child.

THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE A SAFE HOME



Suet Lee-Growney | POST  
**Rebecca Miller, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Jodie Miller from 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, introduces her daughter, Skye, 3, to Oz characters April 15. The characters were at the Fort Riley Commissary to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event was organized by staffs of the Oz Museum in Wamego, Kansas, and Army Community Service Fort Riley.**

— APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT & PREVENTION MONTH —

**“PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE ...”**  
*(Each of us has a role in ensuring the men and women around us can live and work free from the threat of sexual assault.)*

- Each Service member — regardless of rank — must know, understand and adhere to service values and standards of behavior in order to eliminate sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior;
- Addressing sexual harassment in a unit is an important step to preventing sexual assaults, since many victims of sexual harassment, especially men, later experience a sexual assault;
- Understanding how to recognize opportunities for intervention is vital to stopping unsafe behavior, to include any form of retaliation.

**“... PROTECTS OUR MISSION.”**  
*(In addition to the devastating impact on an individual, a sexual assault can severely impact a unit’s readiness to perform its mission.)*

- We must encourage positive behaviors by recognizing acts that contribute to a supportive command climate;
- We can protect our mission by ensuring everyone within the Army is committed to advancing an environment where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, hazing, bullying and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned or ignored.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE  
Fort Riley 24 / 7 hotline : 785.307.9338 | SHARP representative: 785.239.2277 / 785.239.3379 | DoD Safe Hotline / website : 1.877.995.5247 / safehelpline.org



## Settled in a Shootout



Pfc. Erickson Eugene, right, 977th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, battles a Soldier from the 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, for possession of the ball during an April 11 soccer game at Long Fitness Center. The final score of the game was 1-1 and a shootout settled the tie. Members of the 977th MP Co. team were named victors after scoring the most points in a shootout following the game.

## Intramural soccer league kicks off with a tie at Fort Riley



Sgt. Michael Statos, 977th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, saves the ball from going out of bounds during an April 11 soccer game at Long Fitness Center.

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

After weeks of flooded fields, the soccer league at Fort Riley officially began. Soldiers of the 977th Military Police Company and the 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion played on the second night of games April 11 at Long Fitness Center. The final score of the game was 1-1 and a shootout settled the tie.

Members of the 977th MP Co. team were named victors after scoring the most points in a shootout following the game.

Sgt. Evral Graham, team captain of the 977th MP Co., said he enjoys playing soccer because it's a team sport and it is challenging, both physically and mentally.

"Soccer is a sport where every player has an impact on the game," he said. "The constant running back and forth can and will challenge the

most fit players. Soccer is also a sport that requires everyone to think on their feet, with or without the ball. The teamwork, in conjunction with the physical and mental challenges, makes soccer the most fun and enjoyable sport for me."

As the team captain, Graham recalled the game and said he thinks the team has a lot of strong qualities.

"The most noticeable is the team effort and individual skills of each player," he said. "We are great communicators and every player understands their role on the field. Every player on the team always plays with a tremendous amount of passion. They are willing to give it 100 percent all the time."

While these may be essential qualities on the field, improvement is always the goal, especially for members on Graham's team.

"We can improve on securing the lead once we have it," he said. "We

can also improve on running back to defend our goal. I think that we got caught off guard with counter attacks and we need to resolve that for the next match."

The team is one of five in the league. Renee Satterlee, intramural sports coordinator, said the league is open to all Soldiers at the company level and offers a great opportunity for Soldiers to build camaraderie.

Graham said good morale is a key ingredient for any unit to remain successful in their daily operations.

"Teamwork and high morale is essential, and intramural soccer strengthens those," he said. "It is good for Soldiers to rest their minds of everyday work and have fun playing soccer with other Soldiers from the unit who share the same passion. Playing in the intramurals not only fosters unit cohesion but it also highlights the wealth of talent within the unit."

## SOLDIERS TURN TEAL FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH



**LEFT AND RIGHT:** Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, commemorated Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month with the 'Dagger Dye Hard 5K Run' April 10 on Custer Hill, Fort Riley. "We chose the color run to promote something fun," said Ashley Tokoi, victim advocate for 2nd ABCT. "It's a team-building exercise for camaraderie. Basically, the people who you're running beside are your battle buddies, you know they've always got your back." Teal is the official color of SAAPM. Stations supported by battalion Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program teams lined the run route and were responsible for throwing the colored chalks onto the runners. The event concluded with remarks by Col. David W. Gardner, 2nd ABCT commander, who, along with his battalion command teams, then signed a proclamation in support of the Army's program to prevent sexual harassment and assault within the ranks.

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





BOWLING THROUGH EASTER



Suet Lee-Growney | POST

**ABOVE:** Chief Warrant Officer 2 Isaac Montague from Company B, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, helps his 6-year-old son, Levi, bowl with a ramp at Custer Hill Bowling Center at Fort Riley. The Easter Bowling event was organized by staff of Fort Riley Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Custer Hill Bowling Center. Apart from the lane special, there was an egg hunt for all bowlers and an opportunity to take photos with the Easter Bunny. **BELOW:** Sgt. 1st Class Jodi Brucki, from Company E, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, aids his daughter Jordann, 5, in achieving as many strikes as she possibly can during the Easter Bowling event at Custer Hill Bowling Center April 15. The two celebrated each successful round with plenty of high fives and hugs. April is the Month of the Military Child. The \$35 lane special that weekend brought many families together and all the lanes at the bowling center were filled.



SUICIDE  
PREVENTION

THE POWER OF 1

Military community gets guidance  
on supplements from campaign



By Robert Goetz  
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Dietary supplements can play an important role in helping military members, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and their family members achieve physical fitness and optimum health.

However, some of these over-the-counter products provide no benefits or, even worse, prove to be detrimental to a person's health, according to Joint Base San Antonio health promotions professionals.

Operation Supplement Safety, a DOD initiative through the Human Performance Resource Center, offers guidance by educating the military community and DOD civilians about the potential benefits and dangers of using supplements.

"The ultimate goal of the campaign is just for the safety of the military family, making sure they understand what a supplement is, how to read the ingredients and whether the supplement is safe to take," said Claudia Holtz, 559th Aerospace-Medicine Squadron, Health Promotions Program manager at JBASA-Lackland.

The OPSS campaign uses a variety of avenues to reach the broadest audience, from public service announcements, posters and videos to information sheets, social media and suggested activities for installations.

The website [www.opss.org](http://www.opss.org) offers a wealth of information about supplements, including links to topics such as fitness and performance, weight loss and dietary supplement ingredients.

The website also provides alerts and announcements about supplements and lists of high-risk supplements and dietary supplement ingredients prohibited by the DOD. Holtz addressed some of the risks of taking supplements.

"Some supplements can interact in an unsafe way with other products people are taking, whether they're prescribed medications or other supplements," she said. "Supplement use may result in organ dysfunction or make a person's health issues worse."

For military members and civilians, some supplements may be detrimental to their careers if they result in positive blood or urine tests, Holtz said.

"It's important that their physician or primary care manager knows what supplements they are taking," she said. "They can also go to the OPSS website for information."

Supplement use may also affect people financially if they are paying for a product that is providing no benefits, Holtz said.

Aracelis Gonzalez-Anderson, 359th Medical Group Health Promotions Program coordinator at JBASA-Randolph, said consumers should be careful even if a product they are considering for use is not on the OPSS list of high-risk supplements or does not contain ingredients prohibited by the DOD.

"It doesn't mean it is safe to be consumed," she said. "See your provider to make sure you are making an informed decision about the dietary supplement. Your life and career may depend on it."

People should be especially aware of any supplements that contain dimethylamylamine, also known as DMAA, Gonzalez-Anderson said.

"Any dietary supplements that contain DMAA are illegal," she said.

Ingestion of DMAA, which is often proclaimed as a natural stimulant, can elevate blood pressure and lead to cardiovascular problems ranging from shortness of breath and tightening in the chest to heart attack, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

There is not a black-and-white answer to which supplements are beneficial if taken in the proper doses, Gonzalez-Anderson said.

"Supplements can be beneficial for some, while not for others," she said. "If at all possible, it is better to consume the food to help with your goals."

Holtz also advised making the right dietary choices.

"People can get the nutrients they need just by eating right," she said.

It is also important to note dietary supplements, unlike prescription medications, are not subject to testing by the FDA.

"The FDA will review a dietary supplement only after receiving reports about harm caused by the supplement," Gonzalez-Anderson said. "It is the responsibility of the dietary manufacturer to put out a safe product. There are some supplements that can contain ingredients not listed on the supplement facts panel to include some that are potentially dangerous."

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
FORTRILEY









**ABOVE:** Botanica, The Wichita Gardens in Wichita, Kansas, has more than 64,000 tulips in bloom throughout the gardens located there. Starting April 21, staff will also have tulips for purchase. **BELOW:** Parks and districts throughout Topeka transform into fields of blooming rainbows as the tulips open up their petals. From Gage Park to Lake Shawnee and on to downtown, Topeka is filled with tulips and other spring time flowers.



## Tulip Gardens

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

Spring brings warmer weather, rain and blooming flowers. Tulips are taking over gardens and flower beds across the nation in a variety of colors and petal styles. In several cities in Kansas, viewing the tulips offers a day of leisure, picnics and celebration for people of all ages.

Thirty miles from Fort Riley is Wamego where residents are celebrating their 30th Annual Tulip Festival April 22 and 23 at the Wamego City Park. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the April 22 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the April 23, residents and visitors can enjoy over 150 vendors, games, activities, food and more while viewing the thousands of tulips originally from Holland. Some of the activities at the free festival include a petting zoo, rock climbing wall, face painting and more.

For more information about the Wamego 30th Annual Tulip Festival, visit [visitwamego.com/events/30th-annual-tulip-festival](http://visitwamego.com/events/30th-annual-tulip-festival).

Parks and districts throughout Topeka transform into fields of blooming rainbows as the tulips open up their petals. At Gage Park, the largest park in Topeka, thousands of tulips

take over flower beds and fill spaces around the water features. Also in Gage Park are the Renisch Rose Gardens, so visitors can stop to smell the roses while enjoying the tulips beside them.

Inside Lake Shawnee is the Ted Ensley Botanica Gardens with more than 50,000 tulips and daffodils in bloom.

Old Prairie Town remains in its original, historical state with gardens and beds of tulips for visitors to view.

For those looking to shop and take in the flowers, downtown Topeka has hundreds of tulips and other flowers in various pocket parks throughout the districts.

For more information about tulips in Topeka, visit [www.visittopeka.com/groups/group-itineraries/tulip-time](http://www.visittopeka.com/groups/group-itineraries/tulip-time).

Botanica, The Wichita Gardens in Wichita has more than 64,000 tulips in bloom throughout the gardens located there. Starting April 21, staff will also have tulips for purchase. Admission is \$5 for children ages 3 to 12, \$7 for adults 13 to 61 and \$6 for military with valid identification or adults 62 and older. Botanica is open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To learn more about Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, visit [botanica.org](http://botanica.org).



Wamego, Kansas, is 30 miles from Fort Riley and has thousands of tulips throughout the park and around town. Visitors can stroll down through the shops on Lincoln Avenue and admire tulips in planters.



In Wamego, Kansas, residents are celebrating their 30th Annual Tulip Festival April 22 and 23 at the Wamego City Park. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the April 22 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the April 23. The celebration is open to the public and features games, shopping, food and more.