



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

Green technology is steadily becoming an integral part of society. For the Army, green technology may be a route away from foreign resource dependence. Renewable resources are becoming more efficient and Fort Riley's Irwin Army Community Hospital is an example of how those resources are incorporated.

Hospital construction concluded Oct. 12, 2016, replacing a legacy building with an improved version. Part of

the new construction of IACH included green technology materials, such as the glass curtain wall, designed for heat and light optimization. By positioning the entire building east-facing, sunlight is able to be used regardless of the season.

"One of the reasons they turned it an angle was so that in the winter, the sunlight comes in these windows ... all morning long," said Jon Cranmer, IACH facility manager. "That sunlight helps heat the building."

See HOSPITAL, page 8

Environmentally Healthy

Irwin Army Community Hospital built with green technology in mind

Heroes find hiring opportunities at Fort Riley career fair

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

Soldiers, retirees, family members and visitors from the surrounding communities met for the 10th annual Hiring Heroes Career Fair April 26 at Riley's Conference Center.

Staffs from the Department of Defense and Fort Riley organizations like Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program, Employment Readiness and the Soldier and Family Assistance Center hosted the event for hundreds of job seekers and 70 employers, said Tasha Jones, program manager for Employment Readiness.

"This is our 10th annual one and we have had a great turnout," she said.

"These prior service members bring loyalty, a sense of duty, respect, honor and one of the more important things I find — integrity. I'm amazed every day at what these Soldiers do in support of defense to our country and national security."

COL. JOHN D. LAWRENCE | FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

The Hiring Heroes Career Fair began in 2005 as a means to assist wounded Soldiers with finding careers after their time in the military and educate employers about hiring service members, Jones said. Due to their success, they expanded to be open to everyone, although they still contain components specially designed for wounded service members and their families.

"This is important because this is tailored specifically for our

wounded and our ill veterans," she said. "The Department of Defense has been doing this since 2005 and it was specifically for those Soldiers who came back from Afghanistan and Iraq who were injured, who were missing limbs possibly and not sure what they were going to do for the rest of their lives. This program is designed to show them there is life outside of the military. For some of them, the military was their first job so they've never interviewed,

they've never done a resume, so our job is to gather employers into one place that have positions. We want them to come with positions in hand. Last year we had over 100 Soldiers that were hired. We had interviews the day of ... Soldiers that were hired right on the spot. Positions were offered, they accepted and that's what this is about — to assist them with the networking and to see there are employers that are looking for

See HEROES, page 7



Soldiers, retirees and family members talk with employers during the Hiring Heroes Career Fair April 26 at Riley's Conference Center. Staff from the Department of Defense and Fort Riley organizations like Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program, Employment Readiness and the Soldier and Family Assistance Center hosted the event together for hundreds of job seekers and 70 employers, said Tasha Jones, program manager for Employment Readiness with Army Community Service.

Soldiers climb their way to new careers through course at Fort Riley



Staffs from Airstreams and Soldier For Life - Transition Assistance Program, along with the first eight students of the Airstreams program and the Fort Riley garrison command team cut the ribbon for the training towers May 1 at Fort Riley. Airstreams staff will train the transitioning Soldiers in upward of 10 certifications focused on areas such as cellular communication towers and wind turbines.

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

Transitioning Soldiers of Fort Riley have another option to help them find a career following military service after the ribbon cutting on the Airstreams tower May 1.

Eight Soldiers transitioning from the military back into the civilian sector started the first of many seven-week-long classes with Airstreams staff following the ribbon cutting. Airstreams staff will train the Soldiers in upward of 10 certifications focused on areas such as cellular

communication towers and wind turbines.

"We're a career skills program to help transitioning Soldiers as well as the civilian population," Sarah Beasley, Airstreams office manager, said. "What we do is offer a seven-week course where they can earn 10 certifications and most they'll focus on cell communication towers and wind turbines, so that's electrical work, cellular work, any sorts of upgrades or fixes that are needed."

The Soldier For Life - Transition Assistance Program at Fort Riley joined Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Fort Bliss, Texas,

and Fort Irwin, California, in being the fourth installation to have the Airstreams program. The first Airstreams program began at JBLM after staff like Matt Barnes, director of operations for Airstreams, wanted to find a way to reduce homelessness and joblessness numbers among veterans. Barnes said this topic was important to them because 65 to 68 percent of their staff were comprised of veterans.

"Airstreams stood up a program at Joint Base Lewis McCord," he said. "Joint Base

See AIRSTREAMS, page 8

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lind, electromagnetic spectrum manager, 1st Infantry Division, is a Child and Youth Services Sports & Fitness volunteer. He coached youth T-Ball and soccer to five and six year old youth. This allowed 30 kids to participate in youth sports. He teaches team sports, teamwork and sportsmanship. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call Becky Willis, Army Volunteer Corps Program manager, at 785-239-4593.

IN THIS ISSUE



BABIES AND PARENTS ARE TAKING OVER EYSTER POOL IN BUBBLE GUPPIES CLASS, SEE PAGE 13.

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YOU PICK FARMS ACROSS KANSAS ARE OPENING THEIR FIELDS TO VISITORS, SEE PAGE 18



THE FIGHTING FIRST!

Kayla Hagen: A ‘Big Red One’ Soldier



By Phyllis Fitzgerald
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Kayla Hagen from Emmetsburg, Iowa, joined the Army in January 2011. She went to basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Hagen’s military occupation specialty was 27D, paralegal specialist.

Hagen’s first and only assignment was to Fort Riley where she was assigned to Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, and further to the Office of the Judge Advocate General Office as a military justice paralegal.

“My duties consisted of doing the not so pleasant events such as: drafting Article 15’s, chapters, letters of reprimand and courts-martial documents,” said Hagen.

From March 2012 to March 2013, she was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“We were located at Bagram Airfield,” she said. “My job deployed was the same as if I were located at Fort Riley. There were still chapters and Article 15’s that had to be drafted.”

She was married to another Soldier, Kyle Hagen and they were deployed together.

“We both deployed to OEF with Kyle departing two weeks ahead of me,” she said. “We were allowed to live together in the married housing (known as) B-Hut. We were able to see each other while deployed.”

Even though Hagen spent just four years on active duty, she made lifelong friends.

“Fort Riley and the First Infantry Division were my only assignment,” Hagen said “I was able to make lifelong friends and have, since leaving the Army remained in close contact with my first NCO (noncommissioned officer), Staff Sgt. Elaine Quillen. While deployed, she had suggested that we train for a marathon, but since I was not a

long-distance runner I told her that I would be waiting at the finish line when she ran. That promise has since come true when she ran the Nashville marathon; I was waiting at the finish line when she crossed.”

After spending four years in the Army, Hagen departed as a sergeant in January 2015.

“My husband Kyle, who was also my high school sweetheart, and I stayed in Junction City because our small hometowns in Iowa did not have much in the way of jobs and we liked it here,” she said. “We were ready to start a family and wanted to settle down. We have two daughters, Ava, 3 years and Adalynn, 18 months. Kyle is a Junction City Police Officer.”

Hagen now works for the Judge Advocate General as a Department of the Army civilian in the claims department.

“I help Soldiers, veterans and a dependent in claims on things such as household goods and torts, i.e. a military vehicle hits a civilian vehicle on post.”

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

Fort Riley community learns resilience from holocaust survivors



Col. John Cyrulik, commanding officer of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, presents a token of appreciation to Evy Tilzer following her talk at this year’s “Days of Remembrance” observance at Riley’s Conference Center April 24. Tilzer’s parents survived the Holocaust. They married and settled in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1945 following the war.

By Spc. Elizabeth Payne
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DETACHMENT

In honor of the 2017 Days of Remembrance, Soldiers and civilians attended a speech April 24 at Riley’s Conference Center and listened to the story of Evy Tilzer’s parents, who survived the Holocaust.

“April 23 to 29 commemorates the victims of the Holocaust by remembering their stories as we help shape policies that ensure our community members are treated with dignity and respect,” according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website.

Tilzer, a speaker for the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, shared the story

“If my parents could get through what they suffered then, then it is possible now for Soldiers to get through hard times.”

EVY TIZLER | DAUGHTER OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

of her parents meeting while in the Tomaszów camp of Poland in 1943. They spent years apart and eventually reunited and married during the Holocaust, then moved to Kansas City, Missouri, after World War II ended in 1945.

“On May 8, 1945, units of The 1st Infantry Division liberated Zwodau and Falkenau an der Eger, both subcamps of the Flossenburg concentration camp,” according to James Scott Wheeler, author of “The Big Red One.”

Tilzer says she enjoys speaking to Soldiers and said her mother, June Feinsilver, used to come with her to the speeches to answer questions from the audience. Tilzer said her mother enjoyed meeting people and was humbled by people’s reaction to her story. Her mother would say, “What did I do? I just survived.”

Upon conclusion of the speech, when asked of her reaction to Tilzer’s story, Sgt. 1st Class Teresa A. Figueroa, a division equal opportunity advisor,

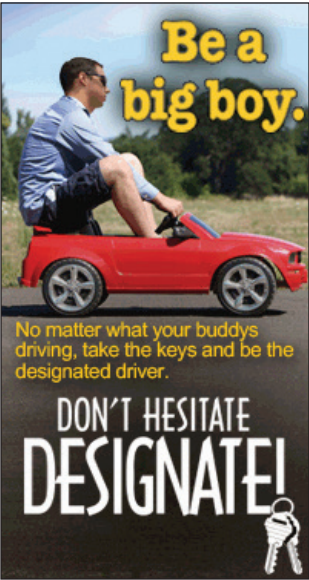
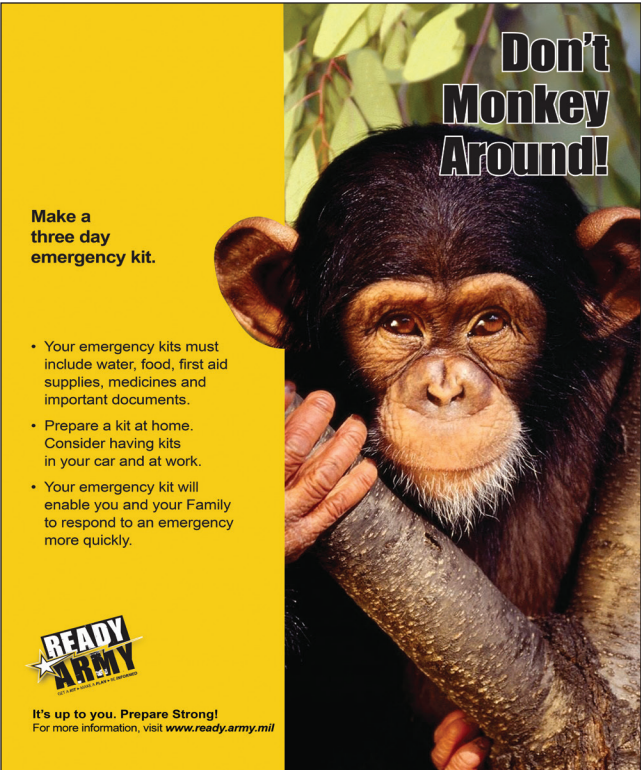
Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div., noted the connection to her experience with the cases seen by the equal opportunity office.

“You often have two people who have went through the same thing, yet each were affected differently,” Figueroa said.

Tilzer said her father kept his camp serial number tattooed on his arm, as it was a reminder of the hard time that he endured and survived, while Tilzer’s mother had the tattoo removed because it was too painful a memory to recall.

“If my parents could get through what they suffered then, then it is possible now, for Soldiers to get through hard times,” Tilzer said.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FORTRILEY





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.

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.

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.

The intersection of 1st Division Road and Normandy/Williston Point Road will be closed from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 29. The contractor will apply asphalt through the intersection at that time, depending on weather. Access to the housing areas and fire department will be maintained throughout. Flag men and traffic control devices will re-route traffic away from and around this intersection. Drivers are asked to use alternate routes if possible.

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 is MyJournal and how does it work?

A: MyJournal is a feature within MyPerformance for employee use only. Employees can add notes and comments regarding their performance and accomplishments toward meeting their performance elements and standards in MyJournal. All information in MyJournal is viewable only by the employee. Using MyJournal throughout the year makes providing employee input at the Final Performance Appraisal Discussion easy by allowing employees to copy from MyJournal and paste content into the employee input field for submission to their rating official. To find out more about the new system, visit www.cpmc.osd.mil/Subpage/NewBeginnings/NBHome.

Building 210, Custer Avenue is scheduled for extensive renovations. Effective June 1, all occupants will be relocated to Buildings 208, 215 and 217. The move will be in progress between May 15 and May 30. Customers should expect delays and intermittent service during the move. All offices are expected to be back to full operation by June 1.

Directorate of Human Resources (DHR)		Transportation New Location	
Director, Human Resources	BLDG 217, Rm 113 1st Floor	Chief, Transportation Office	BLDG 215, Rm 133 1st Floor
Chief, Military Personnel Division	BLDG 217, Rm 113A 1st Floor	Personnel Property Shipping Office	BLDG 215, Rm 130 1st Floor
Voting Assistance Officer	BLDG 217, Rm 113C 1st Floor	Passenger Svcs/Portcall	BLDG 215, Rm 128 (Enter through 130)
Workforce Development Program Mgr	BLDG 217, Rm 113B 1st Floor	Passport Office	BLDG 215, Rm 131 (Enter through 130)
Chief, Personnel Processing Center	BLDG 217, Rm 107 1st Floor	Carlson Wagonlit/SATO	BLDG 215, Rm 141 1st Floor
In/Out Processing	BLDG 217, Rm 104 1st Floor (Rear Entrance)	Housing New Location	
Customer Service	BLDG 217, Rm 104 1st Floor (Rear Entrance)	Off Post Housing	BLDG 215, Rm 137 1st Floor (Rear Entrance)
Retirement Services	BLDG 217, Rm 106 1st Floor	Permissive TDY Check-in	BLDG 215, Rm 137 1st Floor (Rear Entrance)
Reassignments/Levy	BLDG 217, Rm B4, Basement	Finance New Location	
Personnel Automation Section (eMilpo)	BLDG 217, Rm B6, Basement	Finance In/Out Processing	BLDG 217, Rm 209 2d Floor
Transition Point (ETS, Chapters, MEB)	BLDG 217, Rm 202, Second Floor	Separations	BLDG 217, Rm 210 2d Floor
ASD New Location		1st Replacement Company	
Chief, Administrative Services Division	BLDG 217, Rm B10 Basement	New Arrival Reporting	BLDG 208, Rm B01 Basement
FOIA/Forms/Publications	BLDG 217, Rm B10 Basement		
ARIMS/Records Holding	BLDG 217, Rm B10 Basement		

RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What is your favorite thing about teaching?



"My favorite thing about teaching here is our kids have great back stories – they've been everywhere, they've lived all over the world and they have really interesting personal histories."

JEAN GOSS
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

6th Grade World History Teacher at Fort Riley Middle School



"Getting to see the moment when kids actually get it and when you know learning has taken place. The next best thing is that every day is a new adventure."

MINDY PAGE-MEEKS
CHARLESTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

6th Grade English Teacher at Fort Riley Middle School



"The kids are just fun – it's a fun profession."

HELEN PUGH
ENTERPRISE, KANSAS

6th Grade Social Studies Teacher at Fort Riley Middle School



"The moment you see in a student's eyes that they totally get the concept for that day."

ROLINDA SMITH
ALTA VISTA, KANSAS

Exceptional Student Services and Foundational English Language Arts Teacher at Fort Riley Middle School



"Getting to work with the kids and their energy."

PETER VOTH
NEWTON, KANSAS

6th Grade math teacher at Fort Riley Middle School

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

FATALITY-FREE DAYS



As of Wednesday, May 3, 299 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

Fort Riley, 1st Infantry Division a volunteering community

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

We, the "Big Red One," are an all-volunteer force. It is no surprise that as I meet Soldiers, spouses and their children, I see and hear about them volunteering throughout our community.

As the Army and 1st Infantry Division celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Week at the end of April, I want to take this time to express my thoughts on volunteering. Volunteers build readiness in our communities by being the force behind the formation. We know this at Fort Riley.

Like the Soldiers that wear the Big Red One patch on their shoulders, volunteers are dedicated individuals who value serving others. Volunteers lift spirits and



Brig. Gen.
Patrick D. Frank

touch the lives of everyone across not only Fort Riley, but also the Flint Hills region.

Family members have many opportunities to volunteer and they do it well. Our Soldiers volunteer as well. For many, just putting the uniform on isn't enough — our community needs more Soldier volunteers.

As 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers, we are leaders. Set the example and volunteer to be your child's coach. Become a leader in the scouting organizations. There are many ways to help our community.

The military regards volunteerism in such high regard, it now awards active duty and reserve Soldiers with the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. The medal recognizes outstanding community support over time, not just one event.

I had the honor and privilege of attending our Fort Riley Volunteer of the Year award dinner in April. It was great to see so many past and present Big Red One Soldiers being awarded for all their selfless service and commitment to our community.

During 2016 the Fort Riley community volunteered nearly 220,000 hours for a savings of \$5,335,429. Fort Riley compares very favorably to the U.S. Army in these terms. In 2015 the Army volunteer hours were totaled at value of more than \$53,000,000.

The awardees are the standard bearers of volunteer service, just like the 1st Inf. Div. was the standard bearer for how all divisions would be formed by Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing in 1917. I encourage you to be the standard bearer in your community, your household, your office and your command — become a Big Red One volunteer.

Duty First!

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

SAFETY CORNER

As motorcycle season gears up, stay alert, beware

By Rodrigo Cruz
GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Motorcycle season is finally here. With the warmer weather and spring and summer days approaching, it's the perfect time to hit the open roads. However, if you've had your bike in storage for most of the year, you will want to make sure that your bike is in ready to ride condition.

According to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, there were 33 motorcycle accident fatalities in fiscal year 2016. With it being early in fiscal year 2017, there have already been eight fatalities from speeding, inexperienced riders, failure to wear proper protective equipment and lack of control of the motorcycle. So before hitting the road, listed below are a few things that you as a rider need to check.

Before you ride, check, check and triple check

- Check your owner's manual. It will give you helpful specifics in understanding and maintaining your bike. Always have your owner's manual with the bike. It can tell you what to do in emergency situations.
- Check the tires. The tires are the most important parts of your bike. Check the surface for cuts, foreign objects, and tire pressure with a good gauge.
- Check the controls. Cables are strong and rarely break, but check for kinks or stiffness.

- Check your instruments. Check your lights, turn signals, horn and mirrors.
- Check your fluids. Check the oil, fuel and, if your bike is liquid cooled, the coolant levels.
- Check your chains. If your motorcycle has a chain-drive to the rear wheel, make sure that the chain is properly tensioned and in good shape.
- Check your stand. Make sure that the side stand and center stand fold up and stay up.
- Check your brakes. As you roll off, make sure they work properly and provide good stopping distance.

While on the road, see and be seen

- See hazards. Scan around you for potential hazards and evaluate them. Look for things such as railroad tracks, turning cars, etc.
- See others seeing you. Make sure you can see others and they can see you, as much as possible.
- See traffic. Intersections are particularly dangerous. Always check for traffic coming from the side and from behind. Make sure no one is about to run up your tailpipe.

Carrying a passenger on your motorcycle makes you responsible for their safety

- Review the motorcycle owner's manual for tips on preparing for riding with a passenger.
- Make sure the motorcycle

is designed to carry a passenger.

- If you decide to carry a child, make sure the child is mature enough to handle the responsibilities, can reach the footrests, wears a helmet and other protective gear, and holds onto you or the passenger hand holds.
- Instruct your passenger to keep his or her legs away from all moving parts and especially from the muffler to avoid burns. Instruct your passenger to limit movement and talking.
- Remember that the extra weight from carrying a passenger can affect braking procedures, starting from a stop, and riding through a corner.
- Do not exceed the weight limitations specified in the manual.

Proper protective equipment is your first line of defense against severe injury

- Helmet: for personnel riding motorcycles and ATVs at Fort Riley, their helmets shall be certified to meet DOT Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218. All helmets shall be properly fastened under the chin.
- Eye protection: designed to meet or exceed ANSI Z87.1, reference (z) for impact and shatter resistance includes goggles, wraparound glasses, or a full-face shield — properly attached to a

helmet. Amber or clear lens are encouraged for night riding.

- Foot protection: includes sturdy, over-the-ankle footwear that affords protection for the feet and ankles — durable leather or ballistic-type cloth athletic shoes that cover the ankles may be worn.
- Protective clothing: includes long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers, and full-fingered gloves or mittens made from leather or other abrasion-resistant material. For full details on PPE, refer to the policy letter.

When in doubt, refer to the information in the Army Regulation 385-10, chapter 11 which can be found at armypubs.army.mil/. This chapter has all the applicable information concerning Motorcycle, Moped, Motor Scooter, All-Terrain Vehicle and Specialty Vehicles Safety Program.

In addition, the Fort Riley Garrison Safety Office provides free motorcycle training which includes the Basic Rider Course, Basic Rider Course 2 or Experienced Rider Course and Military Sport Bike Rider Course. This training is available to all active-duty reservists, National Guardsmen and Department of Defense civilians who operate Government-owned motorcycles. For more information about enrollment, please contact the Fort Riley Garrison Safety Office at 785-239-3391 or 785-240-0647.



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DAIM-ZA

FEB 28 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR Residents Living in Residential Communities Initiative Privatized Housing

SUBJECT: Headquarters, Department of the Army Residential Communities Initiative Resident Survey

1. Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) continues to be an outstanding quality of life program supporting Soldiers and Families. In order to ensure the continued success of the program in meeting your expectations and needs, I invite you to complete the Headquarters, Department of the Army RCI Resident Survey. The Army is surveying over 80,000 residents living in RCI accompanied and unaccompanied housing. The information residents provide annually continues to help guide the Army and our Private RCI Partners in the development of future improvements to our privatized housing facilities and services.

2. Within the next two weeks, you will receive an email with the survey link. This survey is being administered through a third party, CEL & Associates, Inc. The survey results are confidential, so please express your true opinions and thoughts.

3. Please take a moment now to add ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com to your allowed senders in any anti-spam software filtering your email. An email is sent to only one member of each household. If no member of your household has received the email three days after survey launch, please contact your property management office.

4. Your feedback about your experiences while residing in a privatized housing community is critical to shaping the future housing and services provided to the Army. The survey results will guide the decisions we make today and will impact generations of Soldiers and Families. Thank you in advance for your participation in our Army survey.

GWEN BINGHAM
Lieutenant General, GS
Assistant Chief of Staff
for Installation Management

The next USAG Resilience Day Off is

MAY
12

Airmen conduct annual Cerebus Strike operation at Fort Riley

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Air Force units from across the United States trained at Marshall Army Air Field and Savage Air Strip at the Douthit Gunnery Complex April 17 to 28.

The two-week long operation named Cerebus Strike is an annual training event for the Air Force 621st Contingency Response Wing from McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, to rehearse rapid deployments and set up of forward deployed airfields for other branches of service within 48 hours of notification, said Capt. Matthew Zahler, air mobility liaison officer to 1st Infantry Division.

Airmen from other Contingency Response Teams and Contingency Response Squadrons based out of Peoria, Illinois, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Travis Air Force Base, California, also participated in the training.

“This is what they’re going to do down range,” he said. “This is their chance to practicing and to get their guys qualified.”

Training for Cerebus Strike was carried out day and night with C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules pilots and crews practice combat landings and low flybys. Ground teams, such as the 321st CRS from McGuire Air Force Base trained on downloading and uploading cargo, vehicles and personnel during night operations using night vision goggles.

“What we did here was we gave the other aircrews landing on dirt strips (and) giving them night ops (capabilities),” said Master Sgt. Jason Hoffman, 321st CRS. “We were driving everything on NVGs — the night vision goggles. We were downloading cargo, uploading cargo, vehicle pallets and even a couple (of) personnel. We’re just showcasing what we can do on a bigger scale.”

On April 17, Airmen from the 621st CRW conducted the first level-III emergency deployment readiness exercise with 1st Infantry Division Artillery Soldiers at Savage. An EDRE trains and prepares service members to rapidly load up equipment and personnel for an emergency deployment.

“One ID is taking advantage of this great training opportunity,” said Steve Crusinberry, director, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. “We’ve been able to do emergency deployment readiness exercises. The DIVARTY actually loaded a radar system with vehicles into the back of a C-17 that was landed at our dirt strip, which was very meaningful not only for the Air Force because they get to practice their load master skills, but for the unit as well. Division Artillery was out there loading up that sentinel radar, they got to practice not only loading onto a C-17 aircraft, but also their tie down procedures, which was just invaluable for the Soldiers.”

In previous years, Cerebus Strike was conducted in Colorado and Wyoming using the dirt landing strips and airfields available there. However, those dirt landing strips were unable to accommodate C-17s, so Airmen were unable to train with those aircraft and could only train with C-130s. The training was moved to Fort Riley for the first time in September 2016 as Savage is able to handle C-17s and C-130s, Zahler said.

Hoffman said Savage and Marshall Army Airfield were excellent training locations for him and his 20-man crew and the Soldiers and staff at Fort Riley were always willing to support and assist them in anyway. He added while training at Fort Riley did allow them to incorporate C-17s onto the dirt landing strips, Savage was limited in space, so they could not work with more than one aircraft at a time. Meanwhile, Marshall Army Airfield enabled



Staff Sgt. Jerry Griffis | 19th PAD

Soldiers from 1st Infantry Division Artillery load a radar system and vehicle onto a C-130 Hercules at Savage Air Strip at Douthit Gunnery Complex April 17. This was the first level-III emergency deployment readiness exercise with 1st Infantry Division Artillery Soldiers at Savage. An EDRE trains and prepares service members to rapidly load up equipment and personnel for an emergency deployment.

them to train on multiple aircraft, but it is unable to support C-17s.

“The one limitation we had here (Savage) is it was one dirt strip and no parking, so if we were at Marshall, we would have more airplanes and it would be more robust than what we did here,” he said.

Hoffman also said he hopes to return to Fort Riley for future training and work with more Fort Riley Soldiers throughout the two weeks they would be here.

By having the Airmen train at Fort Riley and with active duty, reserve and National Guard Soldiers, the service members are increasing their own readiness and supporting national security, Crusinberry said.

“By bringing the Air Force here, integrating them in with the 1st Infantry Division, as well as our total Army partners in the (National) Guard and reserve, that does nothing but build, not only Army readiness, it also builds joint readiness,” he said.

School district saves \$1 million through energy conservation

Staff Report
GEARY COUNTY SCHOOLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 475

JUNCTION CITY, Kan. — Faculty and staff at Geary County Schools Unified School District 475 have chalked up \$1 million worth of financial good behavior. Their energy-efficient practices have saved the district money and those good habits are earning the organization national recognition.

Geary County Schools USD 475 has achieved \$1,070,078 in cost savings in 24 months since forming a strategic alliance with Cenergistic, a national energy conservation company, which presented its Energy Excellence Award during the Board of Education Celebrations meeting April 17. This meeting was held at the Junction City Middle School auditorium.

“Reaching this savings mark is a significant milestone,” said William S. Spears, chairman and founder of Cenergistic. “Geary County Schools USD 475 has achieved success by consistently implementing the organizational behavior-based approach to energy conservation and maintaining productive efforts at all levels of the organization. The superintendent and board, along with other administration, faculty and staff members are to be commended for clearly fulfilling their commitment to being good stewards of the taxpayers’ money and the environment.”

Speaker at Military Affairs Counsel breakfast focuses on ‘Big Red One’ birthday celebration

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

Plans are in the works to finalize the entertainment acts for the upcoming Victory Fest, a celebration within the annual Victory Week, which commemorates the birthday of the 1st Infantry Division.

Victory Fest was the subject at the Military Affairs Council breakfast April 27 at the Geary County Convention Center in Junction City, Kansas, as David Roudybush, director of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, shared information with the community.

“This is not a normal Army event,” he said. “We’re doing an all-day festival. We wanted to really make this super powered ... we’re going all in.”

Roudybush said there will be entertainment provided by both national and local bands as well as stand-up comedy, carnival games and a car and bike show. The event will also feature food trucks, vendors and static displays of military vehicles.

“The first part of the day will be family oriented,” he said. “We’ll have a car show to start out ... at the same time, we’re going to have some local bands playing. We’ll also have some carnival games and several different types of activities.”

Although no national entertainers have been finalized, negotiations are in the works for Lit, a popular band from the 1990s, the Charlie Daniels Band, The All-American Rejects and the Eli Young Band.

“We have the final confirmation from them, we just have to do some contracting,” he said.

Advance ticket prices start at \$35 per person with discounts for more than 25 attendees. Ages 5 through 12 are \$10 with the purchase of an adult ticket. Ages 4 and under are free. Platinum tickets are available for \$100 per ticket for \$350 per 4-pack of tickets and include reserved, covered seats, reserved parking, two meal tickets, four beverage tickets and a chance for meet-and-greet with the artists.

Schedule and ticket information will be released at riley.armymwr.com.



David Roudybush, director of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, speaks at the Military Affairs Council breakfast April 27 in Junction City, Kansas.

HEROES

Continued from page 1

someone with their background, the structure that they bring the commitment.”

For the Soldiers who are a part of the Warrior Transition Battalion, month long resume and interview workshops were provided to them by SFAC staff to help them prepare.

Spouses of WTB Soldiers also received an informational luncheon with staffs from the DOD, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Appropriated Fund and Non-Appropriated funds to assist them in resume building, navigating the federal job system and finding out what options are available to them April 25 at the SFAC.

This session, exclusively for the military spouses, provides an environment where spouses can learn about career opportunities, special hiring authorities for military spouses and how the Department of Defense jobs are filled, as well as how to access and maneuver the usajobs website to apply for positions,” said LTanya Pugh, information referral and follow-up coordinator, SFAC. “It is held the day prior to the career fair because the DOD staff is here and with the information, spouses can attend the career fair with the Soldier, talk to prospective employers, get a better understanding of what is required, and if prepared, submit an application or resume, get an interview, and possibly be selected to employment.”

Among the 70 employers present were 11 federal agencies and 20 other federal service organizations, such as the United States Post Office, police forces, firefighter forces, forestry services and more.

“We try to bring everyone into one location and we try to get a mix,” Jones said.

Sgt. 1st Class Sang Son, 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, attended the fair ahead of his retirement in July after 20 years of service. He said he was hoping to find an employer and job opportunity prior to his retirement,

“Get my foot through the door at least, so right now I am trying to find a local company (because) I’m trying to stay local,” Son said.

He said as he was navigating the fair, he received a variety of information from employers and found many of them were willing to train him on the job if needed.

“It (the career fair) definitely benefits every Soldier who is transitioning,” Son said. “It’s easier to talk to an actual person about what they do than going online for hours searching. If you want to ask them a question, it’s hard to get a response back.”

Over the last nine years, an average of 491 job seekers have attended the career fair with an average of 158 finding employment through it, said Fort Riley Garrison Commander Col. John D. Lawrence.

Prior to opening, Lawrence spoke to the employers to tell them about the strengths service members bring to the work force.

“Our Soldiers, in general, bring a lot to the job market,” he said. “They have strong qualities like drive, determination, a can-do spirit and they live their lives through a solid foundation of core values of excellence. These prior service employees bring loyalty, a sense of duty, respect, honor and one of the more important things I find — integrity. I’m amazed every day at what these Soldiers do in support of defense of our country and national security.”

Banding eagles requires careful approach

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

As Ben Postlethwait climbed up the Cottonwood tree, his eyes were set on the nest sitting at the top of the tree. As a volunteer climber for the adventure, he kept his end goal in mind – climbing into the nest and lowering the eaglet to be banded.

“It’s really cool to think the first thing other than their parents or a dead fish that those things see is me,” Postlethwait said. “It’s my job to make that first experience as pleasant as possible.”

Since 2004, bald eagles at Fort Riley have been receiving their purple band indicating they were hatched in Kansas. The eagles were removed from the endangered species list in 2007, but biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have continued to partner with Mike Houck, threatened and endangered species biologist with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, for the banding of the eagles when they are younger than eight weeks.

There were two nests at Fort Riley Postlethwait visited with the biologists this year.

Houck first noticed incubation begin in early February. The nest is located just off Highway 77 near Madison Creek. He said he always takes note of when he observes incubation and then about 35 days later, he

starts looking for a change in behavior.

“Once it gets close to that 35 days, I try to monitor them closer,” he said. “You can usually recognize a change in behavior whether they’re up and looking down at something or they are actually feeding.”

The second nest is where Soldiers train, Training Area 54, which poses different threats to the species.

Houck said this is the main reason biologists from the Environmental Division keep track of where eagles make their nests on the installation. Military training can cause a disturbance in the eagle’s behavioral patterns.

“There are disturbance restrictions out there for certain activities,” Houck said. “The interesting part of that is a lot of that disturbance is kind of a gray area. Those eagles are used to tanks firing and artillery so the disturbance for them is minimal compared to if we were disturbing a nest off the installation. Our wildlife is used to noise.”

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website, the Bald and Golden Eagle Act was enacted in 1940. It prohibits anyone without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior from taking bald eagles including their parts, eggs and nest. This includes disturbing the eagle to the degree that it can cause



Pat Silovsky from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, measures the beak of a 5-week-old eaglet April 27 at a Fort Riley nest. Since 2004, bald eagles at Fort Riley have been receiving their purple band indicating they were hatched in Kansas.

injury, nest abandonment or a decrease in productivity.

Postlethwait only visits Fort Riley once a year and it is to visit the new babies.

“This is my fourth year climbing trees, but I’ve been climbing mountains and rocks for like 15 years,” he said. “Trees are easier because there is more hand holds, but the rock is more reliable in the sense that a tree, you can be on a branch and it can break off. Usually with rock there is a way to tell if it’s strong or not.”

He said the first thing he does once he reaches the nest is try to adjust the young eagle to his presence.

“I talk really easy to them and try not to do anything really quick,” Postlethwait

said. “When I get up there I give them time to acclimate to me before I make a big move. On this particular nest, when I got to the top I stood there for a long time and I had to make a jump to a branch to pull into the nest and I knew that would freak out the eagle.”

This year, Postlethwait was able to retrieve one eaglet out of the Madison Creek nest, but was unable to climb into the second nest where there were two more. The location of the nest on the branch was above his head and he was unable to remove the eagles safely for banding.

“They’re laughing at me,” he joked as he reached the ground after climbing the second tree.

AIRSTREAMS

Continued from page 1

Lewis McCord was the place where all career skills programs started, so Airstreams was one of 15 programs. We looked here at Fort Riley and we talked to the garrison leadership. We understand the population that’s getting out, the population density and we thought we’d come here at Fort Riley and take a look at making a difference with Soldiers who are transitioning in their lives, so we came in, spoke with leadership and we got approval to come here to Fort Riley.”

The Soldiers will receive training in a classroom setting, as well as on the 26-foot training towers to prepare them for their final climb up a 300-foot water tower toward the end of the program. The training towers assist in building up their confidence, as well as preparing them in proper safety procedures within the field, Beasley said.

“This tower is a replica of what has already been built at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, only on a taller scale, so because we didn’t have the restriction of having an overhead cover, we were able to go 13 feet on the platform and still have the tower 26 feet,” Barnes said.

To maintain their accreditation, Airstreams staff must have at least a 70 percent placement of service members who complete their program. However, Barnes said they see an average of 84 to 91 percent of their students finding careers after the program. Airstreams staff also assist them in finding jobs wherever they would like to relocate, if they are interested in moving.

With the addition of the Airstreams program, Mitchell Foley, transition services specialist, SFL-TAP, said they are training about 30 Soldiers

transitioning out of the service a month in new career skills.

“For the Soldier For Life, it’s going to be giving us expanded programs to give them more opportunities for employment,” he said. “The one current program we have is six weeks and we’re running about 10 Soldiers through it each time.”

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, said the Airstreams program is just one more step toward seeing service members succeed after leaving the service.

“They (Airstreams) are truly dedicated to supporting our Soldiers,” he said. “This is another example of how Fort Riley and our partners are dedicated to serving Soldiers and their family members as they transition from the military into the civilian sector.”



Season Osterfeld | POST

A crew from Airstreams assembles the training tower before the first class of transitioning Soldiers goes through the program to learn new skills prior to entering the civilian workforce April 11 at Fort Riley. The Soldiers will receive training in a classroom setting, as well as on the 26-foot training towers to prepare them for their final climb up a 300-foot water tower toward the end of the program.

HOSPITAL

Continued from page 1

In contrast, the sun comes up more to the north during summer and the wall in front of the glass curtain keeps the sun hidden.

“Now you’re not heating the building, you’re avoiding that heat cost,” Cranmer said. “You still have the light coming in the (glass curtain) wall because you want that warm, inviting atmosphere.”

Patient rooms are also designed to handle light and heat with alternative green technology. Antimicrobial window shades provide infection control and augment sunlight. The antimicrobial agents incorporated into the fibers of the shades kill or inhibit the growth of microorganisms like bacteria. Including these shades helps keep patient rooms as sterile as possible for patient recovery.

“The first shade comes down and blocks the glare, but still lets a lot of the light in,” Cranmer said. “If you want the room darker and you don’t want more light in there’s another shade ... both of those shades are made out of an antimicrobial fabric so that we don’t have infection control issues with them.”

Sterile environments in IACH are further supported by copper-infused stainless steel. Copper’s innate ability to destroy bacteria makes it perfect for water lines as well. Cranmer said copper-infused stainless steel tables, handrails and doorknobs were incorporated throughout IACH for this purpose.

Keeping IACH clean and sterile begins at every entryway. In contrast to copper, cost-effective walk-off mats are placed in every entrance.

There are three mats visitors walk over before entering the hospital. The first two mats are made of coarse material, which remove as much dirt as possible. All hospitals include walk-off mats, but it’s especially important for IACH due to the amount of Soldier traffic. Soldiers coming from training at the impact area can have dirt buildup on their boots. The third and final walk-off mat absorbs water and the last of the dirt.

“It helps absorb the water that’s on your shoes as well, so that when you get into the rest of the building you’re not tracking lots of dirt and water in,” Cranmer said. “It also helps when we have to put down ice melt, it keeps as much of that outside as possible.”

Walk-off mats preserve the quality of floors and help keep the hospital clean. This is especially important for Terrazzo floors because sand, ice melt and similar materials wear down the integrity.

Terrazzo is a harder surface compared to standard materials used in floors. It’s time

consuming and expensive to install. However, the longevity and low-maintenance qualities offset installation cost, making it ideal for IACH and other buildings on post.

“Patton Hall was built in the ‘30s and the Terrazzo has been there since then,” Cranmer said. “Because it’s low maintenance, you’re not spending lots of effort on polishing, buffing, waxing, stripping or anything like that ... So you pay for it up front and then it pays for itself over the long haul.”

Terrazzo isn’t designed to be used everywhere in the hospital. Instead, lower-traffic areas use recyclable carpet and rubber tiles.

Throughout the hospital the designers tried to use recycled materials that don’t have volatile organic compounds, which are oil-based products, Cranmer said.

“In a building like the hospital, you want to keep as much VOC out as possible because sick people can be more sensitive to the those types of things,” Cranmer said. “We’re reducing the possibility that you would ever end up with a sick building syndrome.”

Harsh smells from oil-based products come from VOCs. Using recycled carpet and rubber tiles avoided VOCs and potential sick building syndrome. Both materials are replaceable and non-porous, contributing another antimicrobial surface.

Rubber tiles are comfort to walk on, aiding hospital staff working long hours. They require no harsh cleaners, which makes maintaining them environmentally friendly, Cranmer said.

The efficiencies are not limited to surfaces and sunlight. The major cost of environmental control in a building is the way it is heated and cooled using water, he said.

Water is more efficient than air for distributing heating and air conditioning, Cranmer said. The hospital has large air handlers, but heating and cooling is sent to them via water.

“They put efficient heating and cooling systems in the building,” Cranmer said. “One of the things that they’ve done is they have heat recirculation. We use water to distribute the heat as opposed to your home, which uses air. The water does a better job of carrying and dispersing heat than air does.”

For the Army, green technology is the route away from foreign resource dependence. A self-sufficient Army is stronger than one reliant on foreign resources like oil. Incorporating green materials and energy efficiency in future buildings will assist the Army and Fort Riley community in becoming strong and environmentally sound, Cranmer said.

HOAH



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Be Army strong on election day.

Go to FVAP.gov to learn more about absentee voting and request your ballot, or contact your Voting Assistance Officer for more information.

Garrison employees recognized for their outstanding work

By Suet Lee-Growney
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley awards ceremony was held April 28 to recognize the top garrison employees and garrison employee of the quarter.

Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins were present to recognize the individuals receiving awards.

“Once again, it’s a great day because we get to acknowledge the hard work of our employees,” Lawrence said. “I am very privileged to be here; I am very privileged to be a commander of Fort Riley garrison and work with and every one of you.”

The winner of employee of the month of March and the quarter was Elijah Jackson, water treatment plant operator at Directorate of Public Works.

In February, Jackson discovered a vital piece of equipment at the water treatment plant had failed. Between waiting for the replacement material to arrive, Jackson devised an unconventional plan to begin softening the water to avoid discoloration and avoid impending damage to heating equipment due to the unsoftened water.

His initiative and ingenuity relieved the anxiety of Soldiers and their families from drinking discolored water while avoiding exorbitant repair expenses from heating and cooling equipment, which would have been damaged by the hardened water.

“What (Jackson) did was great,” said Jeff Williamson, director of DPW. “He solved the problem, took care of our Soldiers and their families, and I appreciate him.”

Lawrence said Jackson’s work exemplifies what the garrison is all about.

“Nobody knows what you all do every day — until something goes wrong,” he said. “Recognizing (Jackson) in this manner just shows you how important you are and what you do every day.”

Jackson was surprised when he found out he had been nominated.

“It was a complete shock because I didn’t know anything about it until a couple of weeks ago,” Jackson said.

Although Jackson led the team in resolving the water discoloration issue at Fort Riley, he said he could not take full credit for all the work.

“There were a lot of people (who) helped out, even from different departments,” he said. “It was a lot of work.”

Jackson will now be in the running for garrison employee of the year.

Carol Fittro, from Plans, Analysis and Integration Office was presented completed all certifications to be awarded the U.S. Army certification Lean Six Sigma Black belt. The Lean Six Sigma Program attacks inefficiencies and is a technique for Army managers to find, fix and finalize efficiencies to save time and money and improve processes.

Fittro’s project was on military in-processing reports and the amount of time to



Patti Geistfeld | FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fort Riley Garrison Commander Col. John Lawrence and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins presents Elijah Jackson, center, with the Garrison Employee of the Quarter award April 28. Jackson was recognized for his outstanding work in resolving issues at the water treatment plant at Fort Riley and his second employee of the quarter award.

complete the required reports. The changes to the in-processing reports resulted in a yearly cost avoidance of \$185,000 dollars.

“Carol Fittro is a model of persistence pays off,” said Benjamin Van Becelaere, Plans, Analysis, and Integration supervisory strategic planning specialist and Fittro’s supervisor. “I mean we know today we don’t

have much time to do Lean Six projects and nobody told Carol you’ve got four to six weeks to do nothing but this and everything else goes on the back burner. She fit this in as she had time and doing extra hours. She did a great job ... It’s a valued credential because people understand what it takes to get that credential and what skill set that person has.”

Patrons make their voices heard through Interactive Customer Evaluation system

By William Bradner
IMCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Interactive Customer Evaluation system is a web-based tool that allows users to recognize great service, point out a concern, or make a recommendation about Department of Defense organizations.

Installation Management Command customers make up more than 55 percent of the entire DOD ICE mission, with a total of nearly 4.2 million comments overall.

“It’s not surprising when you consider IMCOM manages more than 70 installations worldwide, and is the proponent for all Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs throughout the Army,” said IMCOM Commander Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl.

“It puts a burden on our service provider managers, but it’s well worth the effort because of the information it provides us as decision makers,” Dahl said.

ICE is IMCOM’s primary means of receiving feedback directly from its customers. ICE empowers customers to make a difference in how IMCOM delivers products and services, by offering recommendations and bringing up issues. Customer comments are a critical component in helping the command prioritize and refocus installation services and support to meet changing requirements.

“All IMCOM service provider managers are required to review and follow-up on every comment regardless of whether the customer asks for a response or not,” said Russell Matthias, ICE Program Administrator for IMCOM.

In the last year, IMCOM responded to over 409,000 customer comments in ICE. Over 362,000 of those customers responded that they were satisfied with their product or service, which is a 93% overall customer satisfaction rate. Of those that had a complaint and provided contact information, IMCOM responded to 81% in three days or less.

Though it’s not required, Matthias encourages customers provide their contact information when submitting a comment card through ICE, so program managers can provide immediate feedback.

“We want to hear it, good or bad,” Matthias said. “It’s the only way we get better at what we do. And if the customer provides contact information, we can respond directly to them with an answer, to either make it right, or even have a discussion about ways to improve.”

In many cases, an ICE comment begins an on-going interaction that lasts until the problem is resolved. One ICE customer wrote to the command after receiving assistance through the program to send appreciation for how the complaint was handled.

“[ICE] made sure I got to the correct people to assist me in my situation,” the customer wrote. “They did research, and spoke to leadership to help me. I wish I knew about this office sooner.”

Matthias said the majority of ICE customers leave anonymous comments, which is still helpful, but frustrating to the service or program managers at the installation level.

“They can make it right for the next person ... but I think most managers would prefer to be able to let the customer know their voice made a difference,” Matthias said.

ACCESSING ICE

Visit <http://ice.disa.mil/> and let your voice be heard.

ICE is easy to download on your smart device from any web browser for immediate feedback. Use ICE's homepage (<https://ice.disa.mil>) or navigate to the ICE website (base/installation) that you would like to add to your device's home screen. Then:

For Android devices:

Click on the 3 vertical dots (the menu fly out) on the right side of the URL box above

Click “Add to home screen”

For Apple devices:

Click on the “Share” icon at the bottom of the screen (box with an arrow pointed up)

Click “Add to home screen”

Additionally, many of our service provider areas have quick response (QR) codes on posters/business cards for scanning by a smart device which takes you the customer directly to that service provider comment card.

If you have any IMCOM ICE related questions, comments, or concerns, please contact your local garrison ICE program manager, or contact the IMCOM Headquarters ICE Administrator at 210-466-0106.

It also limits how ICE can help. Contact information maximizes the opportunity to assist the customer, which often turns a negative experience into a positive interaction.

“Not only did she assist me over the phone, but she took the time to follow-up,” one customer said. “She went above and beyond and provided me with a direct line for assistance. A million thank-you’s from the bottom of my heart.”

Managers appreciate the opportunity to make things right, Matthias said.

The ICE system is available to every IMCOM customer using IMCOM services - Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen (Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve), their families, as well as veterans, retirees and civilian employees.

As our resources are stretched thin by budget and manpower constraints, it’s important we focus our energies on providing the best possible customer service,” Dahl said. “ICE helps us do that, by letting us know what we’re doing well, and what needs improvement.”

Dahl encourages every IMCOM customer to make use of the program.

“By sharing your honest feedback, together we can work to improve service delivery and achieve IMCOM’s goal of providing world class customer service,” he said.

“Just as importantly, ICE is a good indication of what programs mean the most to the customers,” Dahl said, “which is important data in an operating environment with limited resources.”

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- **Practice your evacuation and recovery plans.** Map out home escape routes and make a plan for Family members to reunite. Designate an out-of-state relative or Family friend as a contact person and make sure all Family members know how to reach the person.

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More than 190 Cavalrymen earn their ‘silver spurs’ at Fort Riley

Story and photo by Chad L. Simon
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 230 Soldiers from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, stepped off from the Cavalry Parade Field on Fort Riley April 7 as they attempted to earn their coveted “silver spurs” during a three-day “spur ride.”

The spur ride started on the Cavalry Parade Field with a gear inspection and test, followed by a visit to the Cavalry Museum where Soldiers learned about their history. The Soldiers then covered anywhere from 22-31 miles as they marched with packs weighing about 60 pounds to different sites on post that tested their scout skills.

A total of 196 new cavalrymen returned to the same parade field April 9 and received their spurs during a ceremony hosted by 5th Squadron, 4th Calvary Regiment, 2nd ABCT. The crowning moment may have been when the shiny, silver spurs were placed on the heels of the new cavalrymen, but the hard work took place well before the ceremony.

Organized into troops of 25 to 30 members each, the Soldiers had to successfully complete eight of 11 event stations during the 31-hour spur ride. With no sleep during the ride, the Soldiers of Troop D were feeling the effects of the event as they marched up Campbell Hill Road to their final station, land navigation.

Following their last station, Troop D marched in a staggered column the last few miles to the finish line and enjoyed a barbecue that awaited all finishers.

“It is tough,” said Staff Sgt. James Hutcheson, 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., Bradley Fighting Vehicle system maintainer, who completed the ride. “It is one of the most physically challenging events during my Army career. There were times that I wanted to quit, but I am glad I didn’t. I recommend anybody to go out and do it.”

The ride was open to all Soldiers within the “Dagger” brigade, not just cavalry-specific job fields.

“As a logistics officer, my job is to support the cavalry unit, and the best way for me to do that

is to understand what they do,” said spur earner Capt. Mike Bender, 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. “Competing in this event, I get to learn a lot about their operation and prove myself. I also get that sense of belonging in the organization.”

While the spur ride is not a formally recognized event or certificate by the U.S. Army, it is a time-honored tradition. The spur is a symbol of the cavalryman from the earliest times of the U.S. Calvary. Though the horse is no longer used in the cavalry, the spur is a symbol of that tradition.

“Within cavalry organizations, spurs are not looked upon as unofficial awards,” said Lt. Col. Dave Maxwell, 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., commander. “They are looked at as awards and something that you earn.

“If a trooper is a spur holder, it’s looked at as a sign of a professional cavalryman. When you compound that with the history and lineage of earning your spurs, I think it is important. You have to have a sense of where you came from to understand what you are doing today.”

As the commander of the squadron that hosted the event, Maxwell expressed to the spur ride organizing committee that the event would be a professional training event to make Soldiers better, and not a hazing ritual or rite of passage.

“Hazing is pointless,” Maxwell said. “My charge to the spur committee was that we weren’t going to do anything that is pointless. Every station used training and evaluation outlines for the individual and squad-level tasks. Our evaluation at each station wasn’t arbitrary. It was by the publication standards for whatever the event. It was done by the book.”

The spur ride was designed to put the Soldiers under stress and then have the Soldiers perform as a team to accomplish the mission.

“You’re always most proud of events that are challenging,” said Maj. Adam Pooley, 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., operations officer and past spur recipient who coordinated this ride. “Us making sure it wasn’t a hazing event has nothing to do with it not being challenging. Thirty one hours, covering 22 to 30



A Soldier from 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, adjusts his newly award silver spurs April 7 on the Cavalry Parade Field at Fort Riley. A total of 196 Soldiers from 2nd ABCT completed the event to earn their silver spurs.

some miles, the guys were tested and pushed to their limits physically. They were sleep deprived. They didn’t get any sleep as they navigated through the night. Stress was induced because of the difficulty of the task, not because people were just screaming in their faces and making them do tons of pushups.”

Maxwell also wanted the ride to be an event that would make cavalry Soldiers do what they signed up for when they enlisted in the Army. The ride did just that, as one Soldier decided to re-enlist after earning his spurs.


“I was talking to the commander of 2-70th (2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment), (Lt. Col.) Eric Melloh, and he said he had a scout come back from the spur ride and signed his reenlistment,” Maxwell said. “Not only did he re-enlist, he re-enlisted for current duty station. He chose to stay here at Fort Riley. It makes me feel great. The Army is keeping

a scout which means that scout is going to get promoted. He is going to become a sergeant. He is going to train four more scouts in the next two years. It makes me feel like I am doing my job to the brigade commander and the Army.”

Due to a medical emergency, Maxwell was not present during the spur ride, but he said his absence was a good training opportunity for the Soldiers.

“As the senior spur holder, it was very hard for me not to be there,” Maxwell said. “It was so rewarding to get pictures, phone calls and text messages. It captured the essence of how a cavalry organization is run because we are dispersed over such a wide area. You lose contact with your commanders. To me, that was one of the most rewarding parts. For it to go off the way it did was a testament to all the junior officers and noncommissioned officers that signed up for it.”

SPEEDY EXTRACTION




COURTESY PHOTO


Lieutenant Ryan Pflaster, left, and Firefighter Eric Boyd, both of Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services, conduct rescue training using extraction tools April 26 at Camp Funston. For three days, firefighters from each station at Fort Riley participated in the training. The training entailed user extraction times, stabilizing and de-energizing the vehicle, gaining access to the patient and beginning patient care. “This class was a basic hands-on environment for people to utilize vehicles and work their tool skills,” said Capt. Ryan Trudo, Fort Riley Fire Department. “Quicker extrication times lead to quicker transport times, which gets the patient to the hospital sooner and that’s our job. Using the correct tool in the correct situation allows us to work efficiently and safely and that’s crucial to our success.”

SUICIDE PREVENTION

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- Evaluate stored water and refresh regularly.

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Chap. [Maj.] Anthony Kazarnowicz, one of two ordained Catholic priests at Fort Riley, speaks before a group of his fellow chaplains during a special unit ministry team training event that took the chaplains to Pilsen, Kansas, April 20.

Fort Riley chaplains delve into Kapaun's life

Late medal-of-honor recipient's story subject of team training event

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

PILSEN, Kan. — For one day, Chap. (Capt.) Emil Kapaun came alive.

A special unit ministry team training event took chaplains and religious affairs specialists from Fort Riley to Pilsen, Kansas, April 20, to learn more about the life and death of Medal of Honor recipient Kapaun, for whom Fort Riley's Kapaun Chapel is named.

Featured guests of the event were Ray and David Kapaun, nephews of Kapaun, and John

HEROIC EFFORTS

• According to his Medal of Honor citation, Chap. (Capt.) Emil Kapaun used the cover of nighttime darkness to forage for food, care for the sick and encourage his fellow Soldiers "to sustain their faith and their humanity."

Hotze of the Wichita Diocese and the Episcopal delegate of the Cause for Canonization of Kapaun.

Between Ray and Hotze, chaplains and assistants learned more about the Army chaplain who could be named a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

From his recollections in speaking with family members, "he (Emil Kapaun) was just like everyone else," Ray

said. "He never set himself apart as being special and he never let circumstances define who he was."

Ray also mentioned his uncle's natural optimism, something that was inherited in spite of the modest means with which the Kapaun family lived in Pilsen.

"They would have been considered poor," Ray said. "They didn't have a lot."

That optimism would be

tested when Kapaun, already a veteran of the Burma campaign during World War II, joined the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in the Korean War. Soldiers of that battalion were captured Nov. 2, 1950, by North Korean and Red Chinese forces after the Battle of Unsan.

In spite of cruel winter temperatures, malnutrition and mistreatment, Kapaun ministered to his men, regardless of their religious background. According to his Medal of Honor citation, he used the cover of nighttime darkness to forage for food, care for the sick and encourage his fellow Soldiers "to sustain their faith and their

humanity."

Kapaun died alone May 23, 1951.

"I was very enriched, encouraged and emboldened in my ministry by learning more of Chap. Kapaun's ministry," said Chap. (Capt.) Christopher Campbell, battalion chaplain of the 97th Military Police Battalion at Fort Riley. "I found it fascinating and encouraging that he was bold enough to approach an enemy Soldier and push him aside to save the life of one of his own, almost in such a way that communicated his sincere faith that God would protect him as he protected his Soldier."

See CHAPLAINS, page 16



Photos by Maria Childs | POST

Soldiers, spouses and children participate in the Bubble Guppies program at Eyster Pool April 29. The class consists of 20 minutes of instructional exercises led by a certified water safety instructor along with 40 minutes of free social time in the pool. The class is open to children ages 6 months to 5 years and costs \$5 per family. For a schedule of classes, visit riley.armymwr.com.



LEFT: Katie Hiemer, wife of Staff Sgt. Timothy Hiemer, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and her daughter, Brynn, participate in Bubble Guppies at Eyster Pool April 29. **RIGHT:** Hannah Pecha, daughter of Capt. Jamie Pecha, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, and Capt. Robert Pecha, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., goes on a treasure hunt with her grandfather, Greg Clark, father of Jamie Pecha, during the April 29 Bubble Guppies session.



"They (students) have the summer on the brain, so we are trying to give them some activities they can be involved in in the immediate area."

JOAN HAYDEN | PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER, FORT RILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wellness Fair touts healthy lifestyles

Fort Riley Middle School students see useful activities outside school

By Suet Lee-Growney
1ST INF. DIV. POST

In the Fort Riley Middle School gymnasium, students gathered around various booths. There were teens on the floor playing with robots, sitting on chairs with their mouths agape as they tested out virtual reality headsets in the center of the basketball court and doing jumping jacks in unison at another corner. Students participated in the FRMS Wellness Fair April 28.

Joan Hayden, physical education teacher at FRMS, said the purpose of the fair is to expose students to a variety of activities they can learn about from people outside the classroom.

See FAIR, page 16

Ware Elementary puts on sweet production of 'Willy Wonka'

Choir, academic groups prep 12 weeks for end-of-year show

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

Chocolate, candies, squirrels and Oompa-Loompas took over for the musical "Willy Wonka" performance April 25 at Ware Elementary School.

For twelve weeks, fourth and fifth-grade students in the Swinging Bears, a non-audition choir group, and the 21st Century Club, an academic group, rehearsed and prepared costumes for their end-of-year production.

"We started auditions January 2nd when we came back from break," said Susan Gillespie, Ware Elementary School music teacher and co-director of the performance. "We had it cast probably



Fourth- and fifth-grade students of Ware Elementary School sing and dance in the musical performance of "Willy Wonka" April 25 at the school. Although staff and faculty were present for rehearsals and performances, the 69 students involved ran the show. Ten students acted as crew and managed the lights, sound effects and props.

within a week. We have two groups performing together. The Swinging Bears came two nights a week for two hours

and then the 21st Century kids were here four nights a week for two hours and the last three weeks we increased the

amount of time for the Swinging Bears."

Although staff and faculty like Gillespie and Drew Hor-

ton, Ware Elementary School music teacher and co-director of the performance, were present for the rehearsals and per-

"There's a lot of connect between the arts, theater, dance and intellect as well."

TRAMaine JONES
MOTHER OF CHILD PLAYING ROLE OF MRS. GLOOP

formances, the 69 students involved ran the show, Gillespie said. Ten of the students acted as crew managing the lights, sound effects and props.

Tramaine Jones, wife of Spc. Edwin Jones, 110th Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard, attended to see her daughter, Angel, 10, perform in the play as Mrs. Gloop. She said her daughter was running her lines at home

See WONKA, page 16

FORT RILEY POST-ITS

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF CAMPAIGN EXTENDED

Due to this spring’s heavy deployment, training and rotation schedule, the garrison commander has approved a 15 day extension to the AER campaign. You now have until May 30 to make a contribution.

DRUG TAKE BACK STATISTICS

Nine boxes of unused and expired medications were collected during the Drug Take Back Day event April 27 and 28. The total weight of the boxes was 225 lbs.

SPRING FLING SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

A double elimination softball tournament will be held May 20 as Sacco Softball Complex staring 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

A Real Estate Workshop will be hosted by staff of the Fort Riley Housing Services Office 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 For more information, call 785-239-3525.

VIRTUAL MILITARY SPOUSE SYMPOSIUM

Staff of the Department of Defense Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program will host a four-day virtual symposium that features more than 20 sessions. Learn about job search tools and techniques, resources, networking, wellness and resilience, employment opportunities and more — all created with a military spouse focus. Attend one session or attend them all — from your choice of location. To choose your sessions and register for the symposium, go to <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/spousesymposium>.

Demon Diner B694, Drive Thru and Grab and Go area will be operational starting May 1. Breakfast hours are 7: 30 to 9 a.m. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Limited menu options will be available, including sandwich of the day and mainline meal of the day. Standard meal rates apply, \$3.45 for breakfast and lunch \$5.55 or Meal Card holders can present their entitlements card.

MOM ROCKS! MOTHER-SON DANCE

Celebrate Mother’s Day with a rockin’ mother and son dance at Riley’s Conference Center May 14 from 2 to 5 p.m. Dress is rockstar casual. Moms are encouraged to wear their favorite band T-shirts and rock star attire is encouraged for sons. Light refreshments will be served. Advance purchase is recommended as space is limited. Tickets are \$15 per mother-son pair and \$5 for each additional child. Tickets are available online at riley.armymwr.com/us/riley/ft-riley-events/mom-rocks-mother-son-dance.

AQUA ZUMBA CLASS

Looking for a new workout? Check out Aqua Zumba at Eyster Pool. Aqua Zumba blends the Zumba philosophy with water resistance for a high-energy, low-impact workout. Classes are held on select Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. View the schedule on the aquatics page at www.riley.armymwr.com/us/riley/programs/aquatics. The cost is \$3 per class or \$25 for a 10-class pass. For more information call 785-239-4854.

CINCO DE PATIO

Staff at the Warrior Zone will host Cinco de Patio May 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. Take part in the Warrior Zone tradition and enjoy Mexican food, margaritas as well as fun and games including a hot pepper eating contest, a pinata and Mexican Train dominoes. For more information call 785-240-6618.

BUBBLE GUPPIES

The next class is May 6 at Eyster Pool from 9 to 10 a.m. for ages 6 month to 5 years. Parents must be in water with child.

FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER MOVIE SCHEDULE

Friday, May 5
Smurfs: The Lost Village 3D (PG) 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 6
Studio Appreciation Screening — free admission
King Arthur: Legend of the Sword (PG-13) 2:00 p.m.
Free tickets are available at both Exchange Food Courts. Seating open to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to showtime.
Going in Style (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 7
Smurfs: The Lost Village (PG) 5 p.m.
Theater opens 30 minutes before first showing
For more information call 785-239-9574.
Regular Showing: \$6
3D Showing: \$8
First Run: \$8.25
3D First Run: \$10.25
For more information call 785-239-9574.

FORT RILEY LEISURE TRAVEL

Discount tickets are available for events in the surrounding area as well as major theme park destinations. Upcoming events with discount tickets include:
Great Wolf Lodge - Kansas City Hotel: Blackout dates apply. Waterpark tickets included for all guests.
B&B Junction City Gem Theater: \$30 value gift card for \$25 good for movie tickets and concessions.
Salina - Rolling Hills Zoo and Museum: adults \$10, children \$5 and seniors \$9.

OPEN REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP FOR K-12 IS IN PROGRESS AT PARENT CENTRAL

Custer Hill School Age Center and Custer Hill Youth Center will host 11 summer camp sessions that start 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.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Appreciation for military spouses goes well beyond a day, or week

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

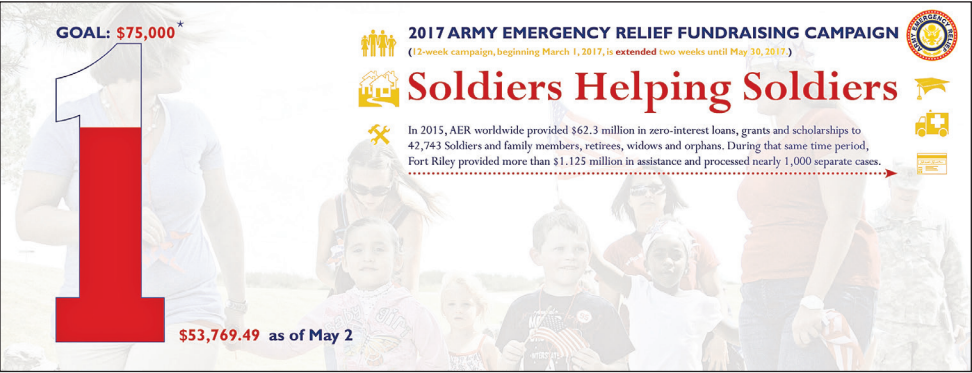
Military Spouse Appreciation Day is celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother’s Day. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan realized the importance spouses make to the readiness and well-being of military members, so he signed a proclamation to make spouse appreciation day a part of National Military Appreciation Month. Military spouses around the world serve our country every day. They are the fam-

ily stability during training, missions, deployments and reintegration. They maintain flexibility during frequent moves, restart their careers in new cities, take care of the household and raise children at times when the Soldier is away. It is difficult work and a massive responsibility; they are our heroes on the home front and essential to the strength of our nation. The men and women of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley will show our appreciation all next week with special events provided by the USO Fort Riley and the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Check out the announcement in this newspaper for the full listing of events — and make sure to attend as many activities as possible to increase your chances of winning giveaways

at the final event May 12 at Riley’s Conference Center. Spouses are the backbone of our military families. I encourage all Soldiers to take some time this week to really let your spouse know how much you appreciate his or her hard work and support year-round, over many years. I want to thank my spouse, too, for the integral part she’s played in my Army career. I owe many of my successes to her. To all other military spouses, on behalf of Fort Riley and a grateful nation — thank you for your unwavering contributions, sacrifices and support to our Army and our country. — *To comment on this article or to suggest a topic for Community Corner, visit my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fortrileycg.*



Colonel Lawrence



WORSHIP

Protestant Services	
Victory Chapel Contemporary Protestant Service Sunday Worship.....1100 Children’s Church.....1115-1215	239-0834
Morris Hill Chapel Gospel Protestant Service Sunday School.....0900 Sunday Worship.....1100	239-2799
Main Post Chapel Traditional Protestant Service Sunday Worship.....1030	239-0834
Catholic Services	
Victory Chapel Sunday Mass.....0845 Sunday Catechism.....1000	239-0834
Saint Mary’s Chapel Saturday’s Vigil Mass.....1630 Sunday Mass.....1200 Mid-day Mass– Mon., Wed., & Fri.....1200 Tuesday & Thursday Mass.....1800	239-0834
IACH Chapel Mid-day Mass– Tue. & Thur.1200	239-7872
Buddhist Service	
Normandy Chapel Sunday1430 Meditation Practice– Mon.- Fri.....1230	239-2665
Open Circle Service	
Kapaun Chapel Fort Riley Open Circle– SWC 1st & 3rd Friday monthly.....1800	239-4818

Wednesday Night Family Night

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

Club Beyond - Faith Based Youth Program

Grades 6th - 12th, Meets Sundays
MS Youth-1530-1700 at Morris Hill Chapel
HS Youth-1830-2000 at Morris Hill Chapel 785-370-5542
Club Beyond is a Non-Federal Entity and is not part of the DoD or any of it’s components and it has no government status.

AWANA

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

Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)

Weekly Tuesday Meeting 0900-1130 & Evenings at 1830-2000 at Victory Chapel
Childcare Provided.
For more information email rileypwoc@gmail.com or Facebook “Fort Riley PWOC”

Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)

Weekly Wednesday Meeting at St. Mary’s Chapel 0900-1130
Childcare provided.
For more information email fortrileycwoc@gmail.com or Facebook “Fort Riley CWOC”

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

Sesame Street, Military Health team up

Partners help preschoolers cope with stress of being child of parent serving in military

Story and photo by Military Health System Communications Office

Sunny days, sweepin’ the clouds away: the emblematic opening strains of a song that brings back warm childhood memories for many. Now, the lessons learned on Sesame Street are helping the youngest cope with the stress of being the child of a parent in the military. Sesame at www.sesamestreetformilitary-families.org/ is a joint venture between Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street, and the Military Health System. “Sesame Street recognized early on that these preschoolers, the largest demographic of military children, and their parents really are facing some challenges,” said Kelly Blasko, a psychologist and the program lead for the mobile web program at the National Center for Telehealth & Technology or T2, headquartered at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, near Tacoma, Washington. “They wanted to provide a resource to improve the whole family experience.”

The program is similar to Military Kids Connect at militarykidsconnect.dcoe.mil/, the center’s online community for children ages 6 to 17 that provides access to resources to help deal with the unique psychological challenges of military life. Sesame Street for Military Families targets



The Military Health System and Sesame Street team up to help the youngest, and the largest, demographic of children with parents in the military.

a younger group under the age of 6, a group which readily recognizes the Sesame Street characters.

“The Muppets are a very trusted source and really can help with difficult conversations,” Blasko said. “When military parents watched these videos with their children, they became more confident as parents, and their overall well-being improved. There is a relationship between parent well-being and child well-being.” Communication challenges faced by military parents and their young children include deployments, parents leaving and coming home, parents coming home with injuries, and moving from military base to base. “I’m always surprised when I go to the elementary schools on bases, how many children under 5 years old have moved two, three, four times already,” Blasko said.

To help in all these transitions, the program teaches how to build routines. These routines — family dinners, reading bedtime stories, regular activities – give

children more stability and structure in a world in flux. The Mood Monster activity on the Sesame Street for Military Families site helps parents and children express their emotions about moving, parents coming home, and a variety of other situations. Blasko said anecdotal evidence showed the information learned was valuable before and after a move.

The Military Health System has been an active partner in the process. Blasko said the center helped write the skits used to teach children of military parents and tested them with those children. In addition, military health providers had input into the process. “Sesame Street has an incredible history of educating young children, and we provide to them the context of the military experience and culture,” said Blasko.

According to Blasko, the website gets about 4,000-5,000 visits each month, an indication of its value to military families. In addition, providers’ tools are being developed by T2 in conjunction with Sesame Workshop, including resources and information for pediatric providers, both in the Military Health System and in civilian hospitals and clinics. “We want them to recognize the symptoms and recommend resources to the parents,” said Blasko.

The bottom line: the Military Health System sees improving the lives of its youngest beneficiaries as a chance to improve the lives of all its beneficiaries, and Sesame Street is the right road to take.

“It’s for military children and families, and they know it’s for them,” Blasko said. “That goes a long way to making it easier to seek help when they need it.”

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of May 2 was: May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Where on www.riley.army.mil can I find the Fort Riley Motorcycle Safety policy letter?

Answers: www.riley.army.mil/Portals/0/Docs/Units/Garrison/Safety/CommandSafetyMotorcycle.pdf
or: www.riley.army.mil/Units/Garrison-Command/Safety/

This week’s winner is Staff Sgt. Kayleigh May, Company B, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Pictured above is Staff Sgt. Kayleigh May.

CONGRATULATIONS KAYLEIGH!

ANYONE BORED?

Abbigail Scurria, 4, right, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Tony Scurria, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Meryem Aksu, 4, daughter of Capt. Fatih Aksu, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., play a board game during the Family Fun Day April 30 at the 12th Street Community Center in Junction City, Kansas.

Maria Childs | POST



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WONKA

Continued from page 13

and researching her role to develop her character as best she could.

“She is very excited,” Jones said. “This is her element — stage, theater, dance, acting. She dances for our church, so she’s a part of our drama and dance ministry. She loves to sing as well. She’s been singing ever since she could walk.”

The arts play an important role in youth development, Jones said, especially when it comes to understanding other cultures and the world around them.

“I believe the arts makes them more cultured,” she said. “There’s a lot of connect between the arts, theater, dance and intellect as well. One thing that I noticed about Angel is, throughout this play is that, in her role as a German mother, she was able to learn more about the culture, the accent, even though it’s in a comedic way, but the fine arts and theater, I believe, makes our children more well-rounded when it comes to culture.”

Gillespie said theater also gives children a time to shine when they may struggle in other areas or don’t know where they fit in. Students who are normally reserved or withdrawn take center stage with excitement, surprising their parents and teachers alike.

“It gives kids that don’t normally shine a chance to find a spot where they belong,” she said. “It’s something they don’t get to experience. It’s a chance to work cooperatively. It’s like a family ... We’re also a team. It’s teaching life skills — what you need to do to get along with other people. Some of these kids, we’d never have guessed would have been our speakers. We had many teachers say it just floored them and those are the kids that got a chance to shine that don’t normally anywhere else ... It’s a place where kids can feel safe ... This is a chance for them to have an outlet and I just like to see them grow.”

CHAPLAINS

Continued from page 13

Campbell refers to a famous episode during the forced march of the 3rd Battalion to a prison camp in which Kapaun risked his life to save a fellow Soldier who had sustained a broken ankle. Such a condition would have meant certain death for the Soldier had Kapaun not intervened. That Soldier survived his time in the prison camp and lived a long life thereafter, according to both Hotze and Ray Kapaun.

For the religious affairs specialists, the Pilsen visit brought far greater detail to a man only briefly discussed in their Advanced Individual Training.

“We found out about him in AIT, but we quickly went over him; he is in the school’s museum,” said Spc. Lillian Lewis, an RSA for the Fort Riley Garrison Chaplain’s Office. “At AIT we learned he was an Army chaplain and a POW. But (on this trip) we learned who he really was and found that he was

just a regular guy. When he was with his men, he just wanted to be called ‘Kapaun.’”

Such modesty, for Lewis, demonstrated Chap. Kapaun’s spiritual nature.

“It showed how much a man of God he was,” she said. “And we learned that he went through the same thing as the other Soldiers. What he said to them became more than just advice. Because you have to have empathy. And it helps if you have gone through the same experiences. And that’s why Chap. Kapaun was so helpful to his Soldiers.”

Cpl. Whitney Feaster, also an RSA for the Fort Riley GCO, agrees her introduction to Chap. Kapaun at AIT was brief.

“It wasn’t as in-depth as what we received with this visit,” Feaster said. “I learned and understood more. He was very selfless and was more concerned with helping Soldiers than with helping himself. That’s very

important because if you aren’t in tune with the Soldiers, they are going to trust you. Chap. Kapaun built that trust just being there with the Soldiers.”

Learning more about Kapaun’s experiences was invaluable, said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Bill Sager, deputy senior chaplain, especially for young RSAs.

“Especially in the garrison setting, for many (RSAs) this is their first assignment,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bill Sager, deputy senior chaplain. “So this (learning about Kapaun) really teaches them the impact of war as well as the impact they can have on Soldiers.”

Sager added that Kapaun’s humility was key to his heroism.

“(He) was faithful to what was right and he continued to do what was in his nature,” Sager said. “And that, I think, was what made him a hero. He showed he had a purpose beyond himself and his circumstances. The

circumstances didn’t distract him from who he was.”

Sager also said the kind of trust exemplified in Kapaun’s circumstances is vitally important, and the role of RSAs in the modern Army facilitates that trust.

“Since they are enlisted men and women, RSAs have a different relationship with the rank and file Soldiers that a chaplain doesn’t have,” Sager said. “So we have to build trust. We all (Chaplains and RSAs) must pause and truly listen to someone to understand them and gain their trust. You can’t work in the chaplaincy without that. But also, if the unit ministry team has strong chemistry. Soldiers see that and the assistants can tell his or her friends ‘that chaplain can be trusted.’ Chap. Kapaun, was able to build that trust spending good time with his men; ‘good’ meaning a close positive interaction.”



WATER ZUMBA



Maria Childs | POST

Limary Ortiz, wife of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Edwin Reyes, 1st Infantry Division air traffic and air space controller, instructs Aqua Zumba weekly at Eyster Pool. April 29 she hosted a free Aqua Zumba event for Fort Riley community members to try out the class. She teaches Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:30 p.m. at Eyster Pool. Classes are \$3 each. For more information about classes, call 785-239-4854.

PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR KIDS



Maria Childs | POST

Arabella Pidcock, 5, daughter of 1st Sgt. Aaron Pidcock, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, participates in the Military Kid Physical Training Challenge April 29 at the Main Post Exchange at Fort Riley. Soldiers of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., set up the challenge for children of all ages to participate and it included about six stations of activities.

FAIR

Continued from page 13

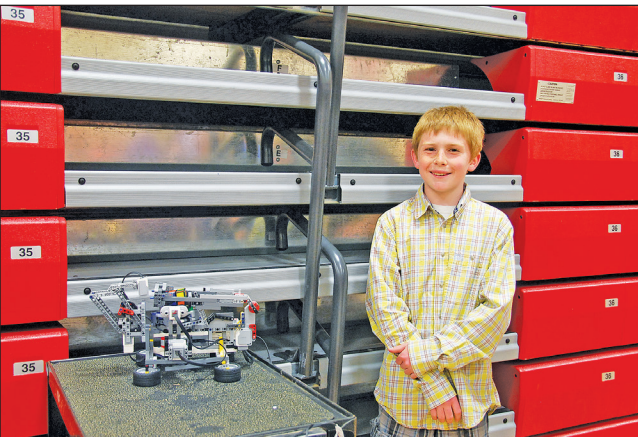
“They have summer on the brain, so we are trying to give them some exposure to some activities they can be involved in the immediate area,” she said. Hayden added the second function of the fair was to educate the middle-schoolers on social, mental, physical, emotional, social, spiritual, financial and environmental awareness and wellness.

Every booth offered hands-on experience to whatever program they were promoting.

“They’re not just handed a brochure,” she said. “They’re busy doing, for instance, yoga or some kids who are doing karaoke singing; some kids are doing CrossFit training.”

Earlier that morning, Aaron Yoder, the world record holder for fastest mile run backwards, spoke to FRMS students. Yoder ran the mile in 5 minutes 54 seconds.

“(Yoder) was awesome; he really connected with the kids,” Hayden said. “He specifically talked about determination.”



Suet Lee-Growney | POST

Nathaniel Ford, 15, son of Sgt. 1st Class Brian Ford from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Warrior Transition Battalion; stands with a robot he helped invent April 28. Nathaniel and his robot was at the Fort Riley Middle School Youth Wellness Fair at the FRMS Robotics Club booth. This robot is capable of solving the 3x3 Rubik’s Cube of any configuration.

Nathaniel Ford, 15, son of Sgt. 1st Class Brian Ford, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Warrior Transition Battalion, showcased his invention at the FRMS Robotics club booth in hopes

that other students would be interested in participating in their club.

Ford and some friends he met at the club built a puzzle solving robot, which gathered a huge audience.

“We thought about (building the robot) once we got the Rubik’s Cubes,” Ford said.

Meanwhile, outside the school building was a fire truck from Station 1, Engine 11, Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services, Directorate of Emergency Services.

Students who were interested were given a tour of the truck and educated on the different parts of the vehicle. After the tour, they could ask questions. Popular questions asked by students was how they could be a firefighter some day and what are the most common types of fire emergencies at Fort Riley.

“The biggest thing you can do is volunteer,” said Lt. Ryan Markvicka, FRFES.

His advice to the kids was for them to obtain some form of certification, such as an associate’s or four-year degree.

As to the most common type of cases the FRFES deals with, Markvicka said they are usually grass fires.





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

While the expression may be “April showers bring May flowers,” those rains also bring berries and other early arriving fruits.

From the beginning of May through June, farmers in Kansas are opening their fields for visitors to come pick their own strawberries, rhubarb, blueberries and more.

In Manhattan, A & H Farm, 1374 Collins Lane, has a field of strawberries open for picking. Visitors receive a cardboard pallet and pick as much as they like then bring it inside to be weighed and priced.

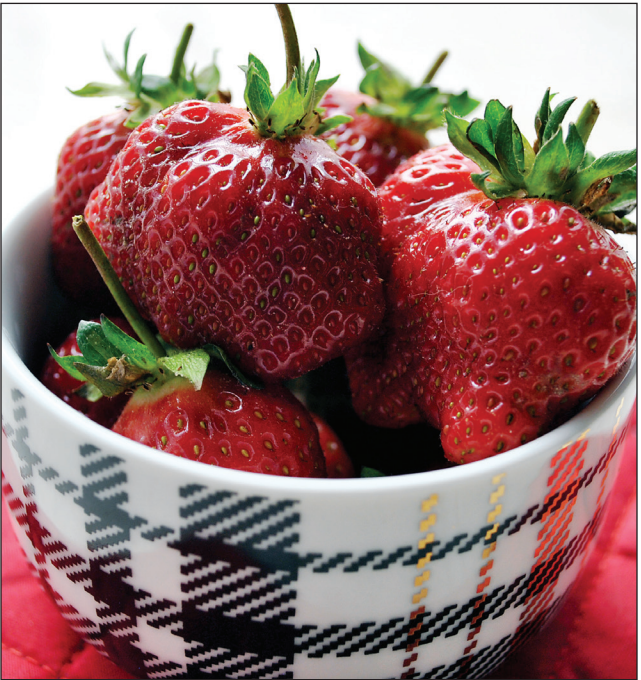
Hours and days for picking vary. For more information, call 785-341-7794 or visit www.aandhfarm.com.

Also in Manhattan is Britt’s Garden Acres, 1000 S. Scenic Drive, with a large field of strawberries for picking. Strawberries are \$2.99 per pound. The farm is open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m.

For more information, call 785-539-1901 or visit www.brittsfarm.com.

In the coming weeks, Wohletz Farm Fresh, 1831 N. 1100 Road, Lawrence, is

preparing to open their fields to visitors to pick strawberries through June. Hours and days vary. For more information, call 785-331-3468 or visit wohletzfarmfresh.com.



Many farms across Kansas are open to visitors during May and June for “You Pick” season where guests may pick their own produce. Most farmers supply the cartons to make picking easier.

Cherries and strawberries are arriving at Fieldstone Orchard, 7049 E. 149th St., Overbrook, Kansas, for picking in May. For more information, call 785-665-7643 or visit fieldstoneorchard.com.

In Edgerton, Kansas, is Gieringer’s Family Orchard and Berry Farm, 39675 W. 183rd St., strawberries are ready for picking for several weeks. In June, blueberries become available and later in the month through July, blackberries are ripe too.

For more information, call 913-893-9626 or visit www.gieringersorchard.com.

Baskets, cartons and boxes are generally provided by the farmers. Boots are recommended as fields may be muddy.

Not sure what to look for when picking strawberries? Pick berries that are red only. If they have green or white still on them, they are not ripe. To pick a strawberry, pinch the stem above the leaves on the berry, do not pull. Leave the leaves on top of the strawberry to help it maintain its freshness longer.



Several farms near Fort Riley have strawberries, blueberries, rhubarb and more available for picking by visitors. After picking, visitors take the produce to be weighed and pay for it by the pound.



ABOVE: Strawberries will continue to ripen for four to five weeks from May through June. Many farmers in Kansas open their fields for visitors to come pick their own produce like strawberries. Afterward, the produce is weighed and paid for. **LEFT:** When picking strawberries, look for ones that do not have any white or green on them. White or green coloring means the berry isn’t ripe yet and should be left alone. To pick the strawberries, pinch the stem above them with a finger nail, do not pull them off. Leave the stem and leaves on the strawberry to help it stay fresh longer.