



THE FIGHTING FIRST!

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

★ www.riley.army.mil

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FORT RILEY, KANSAS


Taryn, a Labrador born in 2013 from Jenner's Run and Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association K-9, runs a wilderness live-find test to locate Ruth Hensleigh, KSARDA handler, Nov. 3 at Fort Riley. The organization brought K-9s to Fort Riley to recertify them in wilderness live-find training, Human Remains Detection and disaster.

Search and Sniff

Canines search for humans lost in wilds

Story and photos by Kalene Lozick
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association returned to Fort Riley for their bi-annual K-9 training Nov. 1 to 5.

The K-9s are trained every two years for wilderness live-find training and every three years on disasters, said Sheila Stern, KSARDA director. The dogs are training to recertify their international certifications.

The K-9s had a nighttime 80 acre, one victim search wilderness training run Nov. 2, followed by a 160-acre, two-victim search morning run Nov. 3, Stern said.

Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association has approximately 100 Federal Emergency Management Agency certified Human Remains Detection dogs, said Lee Jones, supervisory range operations specialist.

The state of Kansas has the highest number of detection dogs in one state, Stern said.

"We have a Kansas City area group, a Manhattan area group and a Wichita area group," she said. "So there are probably 20 plus K-9s in Kansas just for our team."

The partnership between Fort Riley and KSARDA began with the owner, a retired Army service member.

"The founder of (KSARDA) is retired military," she said. "Three and a half years ago we did a certification out here."

Last summer, KSARDA came back to Fort Riley for a summer full-scale exercise.

On an individual scale, Stern talked about the training process to teach K-9s how to search for a human scent.

"We do the bark barrels," Stern said.

See K-9s, page 7



A 6-month-old human remains search dog prepares to run a short wilderness live-find run to locate a Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association handler just beyond the brush during a week-long recertifying event for two local teams Nov. 3 at Fort Riley.



A house from the Warner-Peterson neighborhood at Fort Riley is delivered to the Kickapoo Nation near Topeka, Kansas, Nov. 1. This house was one of two houses recently delivered from Fort Riley to the Kickapoo tribe. The transfer of the homes is part of an ongoing project known as Operation Walking Shield.

Houses travel to Kickapoo Nation

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

Two more houses from Fort Riley found their way to the Kickapoo Nation and the Kickapoo Housing Authority Nov. 1, arriving on a cool, cloudy Kansas day.

The structures, transported by Ensor House Movers of Johnson, Nebraska, wound down less traveled roadways with workers removing signs ahead of the houses that could impede progress, then placing them back after the structures passed.

One was placed next to four other Fort Riley houses sent earlier this year.

The other was placed in a separate location and is waiting for the completion of the foundation.

All of the houses sent to the Kickapoo Nation since the effort began in early summer were previously marked for demolition in the Warner-Peterson housing area at Fort Riley.

Instead they will help alleviate a housing shortage at the Kickapoo Reservation.

According to Adrian Ramirez of RFN Construction, the company responsible for the construction, the foundation of the house that is waiting for one will eventually be built about four feet above the ground before the house comes to rest on it.

"It's not a hard job," Ramirez said. "And we usually can build them in all kinds of weather."

See HOMES, page 8

Curator shares history of 'Big Red One'

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

MANHATTAN, Kan. — In a room full of brass, senior noncommissioned officers, military partners and liaisons and notable leaders in and surrounding the Fort Riley community, Robert Smith, director of the Fort Riley Museum Division, shared the history and traditions of the 1st Infantry Division in the form of a lesson, but he didn't stop at that.

Smith, who was the guest speaker of November's

Military Relations Committee luncheon at Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan Nov. 1, piqued the interests of his audience with rare facts of the division to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the "Big Red One."

One of the vignettes from World War I Smith shared was of Rags the 1st Inf. Div. war dog adopted by the division on July 14, 1918. He said Rags served with distinction despite being bombed, gassed and partially blinded.

"Rags remained the mascot of the division until his death

in Washington, D.C. on March 22, 1936," Smith said during his speech.

But it was the next historical tidbit Smith shared that had his audience giggling.

"The division also adopted its signature wine during the war," Smith said as he flashed a smile in acknowledgement to his audience's surprised reaction. "This is one of those stories that historians love to uncover."

The story goes that two lieutenants from the 6th Field Artillery discovered a cellar

full of wine in France days before the war ended in 1918.

"These two artillery officers decided that war was coming to a quick conclusion, they unloaded artillery rounds from their truck ... " and before Smith could even finish his sentence, it was as though everyone listening knew what was going to come next, the audience burst out in laughter. Smith finished his sentence when the hilarity calmed down, "... and put the wine in its place."

See HISTORY, page 8



Robert Smith, director of the Fort Riley Museum Division, speaks to the crowd during the Military Relations Committee luncheon at Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas, Nov. 1. His presentation was delivered in the form of a history lesson and he shared several little-known historical facts with the attendees.

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Pfc. Thierry Decembre, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, has a love for the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program that inspires his peers to be involved. He has accrued over 500 hours as a designated driver and dispatcher with the Drunk Driving Prevention Program.

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

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THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS AROUND THE CORNER, SEE PAGE 11

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



ENJOY A TOWN NESTLED BETWEEN TWO RIVERS, SEE PAGE 18

Project to decontaminate groundwater

Story and photo by Kalene Lozick
1ST INF. DIV POST

In order to prevent the contamination of groundwater and local water supply, the Directorate of Public Works linked up with the Army Corps of Engineers and various partners for a site visit Oct. 30 at Fort Riley.

Dave Jones, Installation Restoration Project project manager of DPW - Environmental Division, said the site visit was to bring partners out so they can put eyes on the site for the first time.

"The contract was recently awarded," said Amanda Chirpich, project manager of the Army Corps of Engineers.

For an environmental term, Chirpich said the contract is called a Remedial Design and Remedial Action. The site visit Oct. 30 is phase one of the RDRA.

"The actual action, in this case, is going to be an excavation of a source area removal and a construction of a land farm," she said. "So they'll dig a big hole, take out all the dirty soil and spread it out on a special land farm sill that they've created."

Chirpich said the excavation of the dirty soil is to turn over the land, till it and volatilize it. This will allow oxygen and the air to get to it.

"That will help clean out a lot of the contamination," Chirpich said. "And ultimately they take it to the landfill, throw it away once it's not contaminated anymore."

To prevent the spread of contaminants, the team will monitor the chemicals in the

groundwater throughout the excavation process. "The large part is the ground water," said Kelly Peterson, project manager for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "There's always a concern amongst the public and especially on a military base about the contaminated groundwater and contaminated drinking water."

She said the site of the excavation is not in a residential neighborhood. The wells and springs that are located on Range 18 are not drinking wells.

"The goal is to clean up the contamination at the site including Volatile Organic Compounds, the VOC, which consist of TCE (trichloroethylene) and other related contaminants," said Amer Safadi, Environmental Protection Agency region seven project manager.

As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, "TCE is used mainly as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts, but it is also an ingredient in adhesives, paint removers, typewriter correction fluids and spot removers."

Trichloroethylene is also found in underground water sources and many surface waters as a result of the manufacture, use and disposal of the chemical, according to ATSDR.

"The existing groundwater contamination is well delineated and we know how far it goes," Peterson said. "We know it's not continuing on to where housing is."

Therefore, the focus is to clean up the source, which is the soil, Peterson said.



Dave Jones, center, Installation Restoration Project manager of Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division, holds a site map and discusses the well locations to the partners who visited the project site Oct. 30 at Fort Riley. The team is working on cleaning up contamination in groundwater.

"If you remove the most contaminated portion of it, you can speed up the whole cleanup process," Chirpich said.

The team plans to conduct long-term monitoring of the groundwater at the site.

"The groundwater portion of the Remedial Design is really just long-term monitoring,"

Peterson said. "Cause once you get that source out, then you can just watch the groundwater. And that will be an active, ongoing process."

The site excavation is within Range 18 and will last approximately five years with groundwater monitoring continuing beyond the end of the project, Peterson said.

Open house initiates start of Warrior Care Month



Kendra Seat, left, director of the Army Wellness Center at Fort Riley, assists a Soldier during the Warrior Transition Battalion open house ceremony on Nov. 3. The event served to educate Soldiers and families on services available and served as the start to Warrior Care Month.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Smith
1ST INF. DIV POST

The Warrior Transition Battalion Soldier Family Assistance Center hosted an open house ceremony Nov. 3. The two Soldiers from the WTB in charge of the open house ceremony were 1st Lt. Temira Pollard and Staff Sgt. Octavius Young. The ceremony educates everyone on what services are available. Families and Soldiers from the Fort Riley community had the opportunity to learn about what programs and services exist.

Warrior Care Month is held every year in November. The two sporting events held in November are as scheduled, the wheelchair volleyball game Nov. 15 and the basketball game Nov. 22.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Olsen from the WTB made a grand opening speech Nov. 3 about the Warrior Care Month.

Olsen said that WTB has helped him become focused on being physically active. Olsen said participating in sports has helped him recover from his physical injuries. Olsen has participated in swimming, bicycling, archery and running. He takes initiative in any new upcoming sports events held.

"You cannot fail while being at WTB," Olsen said. "Soldiers will be set up for success. The only way you can fail is if you don't participate or take responsibility."

Olsen mentioned that the WTB is a good place for Soldiers to transition through good medical care, on-the-job training, enrollment in college classes and volunteer in group activities.

This year Pollard wanted to make it better by providing a good food set-up and inviting representatives from the Red Cross, Army Wellness Center, WTB Community Reintegration and the Soldier for Life Employment Workshop to engage with the visitors. Pollard said that the representative of AWC will educate Soldiers and families on staying healthy.

"The Red Cross representative is here to help Soldiers and families as caregivers and volunteering," Pollard said.

The Red Cross representatives will support the WTB sports events including food and refreshments.

Rebecca Estrella, Red Cross representative, explained to the visitors that they provide services to all military branches. She said there is a program called Holiday for Heroes, where the Red Cross volunteers will ship toys, Christmas cards, food and hygiene products for military families staying overseas. Estrella

said she helps military families from Nebraska, Kansas and southwest Iowa regions for any assistance that will be needed. Those services include water, food, shelter, clothing and personal hygiene items.

Kendra Seat, director of the AWC, spoke to new Soldiers about the wellness program and scheduled some appointments for them. She said that Soldiers find out how much they weigh and what calorie intake to eat to become healthy through percentage of body fat.

Lt. Col. Tony Hudson from 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, visited the open ceremony. He said he did not know about all of these resources and programs that were provided for WTB Soldiers to transition or return to duty. He also toured the WTB barracks. Hudson said he will share this opening ceremony to his unit about the Warrior Care Month and the programs offered for Soldiers and families.

Young expressed his concerns how sports can bring motivation for Soldiers.

"If these Soldiers are going back to duty, they won't be out of shape," Young said. "Sports provided at Warrior Transition Battalion will help soldiers rehabilitate back in a regular unit."

Pollard said Soldiers from all units of Fort Riley need to know how important these programs are. In her message, she expressed to the units that Soldiers at the WTB are not only getting medical care, but participating in community reintegration events. She wants the commanders from all units to understand that WTB Soldiers will have an opportunity to go to school and conduct physical training exercises to keep fit if returned to duty.

Young said he wants Soldiers and families of the Fort Riley community to watch or participate in these sporting events. He said a wheelchair sport is not just for injured Soldiers, but for anyone interested in playing. He does not want people to think of a wheelchair sport event for someone that cannot walk. He said this kind of event brings camaraderie and resilience.

"Sports is instilled to rebuild yourself," Young said. "Without it, you feel broken and defeated. I can't use my left hand, but can still play any sports. It helps Soldiers come out of depression."

After the month's sporting events are completed, the winning teams will receive a prize.

The open house will encourage everyone to find out what is expected for these two sporting events, Young said. It is not only just for sports, but to socialize and know what WTB is for wounded, ill and injured Soldiers.

923rd Contracting Battalion/MICC-Riley
Acquisition Forecast Open House
"Victory Through Industry"

923rd CBN/Mission Installation and Contracting Command (MICC)
Fort Riley invites you to an Acquisition Open House Forum

15 November 2017
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon
Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

923rd CBN/MICC Riley's Contracting Office
Bldg # 1792
12th Street, Fort Riley, KS 66442

Meet representatives from 923rd CBN/MICC Fort Riley's Leadership, Small Business Administration (SBA) Business Development Specialist, FedBid, Kansas Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) and MICC SBA Deputy Director will all be accessible during the Open House. Anticipate shared briefings and a discussion of Riley's expected contracting opportunities for 2018.

There is no fee to attend but registration is required! PLEASE Register On-Line Only at: http://bit.ly/2yL_TUKB Pre-registration closes at noon on 13 November 17.

To Speak with the Event Coordinator (SFC Brown, Dontrell) Please Call 785-240-5312 or Dontrell.j.brown.mil@mail.mil.

You can also find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/923CBN>

*NOTE: Attendees without a DOD ID card who wish to enter Fort Riley are reminded that a temporary Fort Riley Access Pass or Badge is required at the Main access point (Henry Gate). For questions regarding access requirements contact the Visitor Control Center at (785) 239-2862 or email usarmy.riley.incom-central.mbx.des-vc@mail.mil. POC for directional guidance is SFC Brown, Dontrell (785) 240-5312.

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THE FIGHTING FIRST!

Kedelaol TC Remengesau: A 'Big Red One' Soldier



THEN & NOW

By Phyllis Fitzgerald
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Kedelaol TC Remengesau who hails from the island of Palau went to basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and then received Advanced Individual Training at Fort Bliss, Texas, earning the military occupational specialty 14S, air and missile defense crewmember.

At the completion of training, his first assignment was to Fort Riley, where he served with Battery C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment. The unit was attached to 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"Fort Riley did not have our MOS vehicles — Avengers — so we trained with the 'Iron Rangers' the majority of the time in infantry tactics," he said.

In March 2003, Remengesau, along with a squad from his platoon, deployed in support of Operation Devil Shipboard to Corpus Christi, with the mission of providing security to a merchant ship headed to Kuwait carrying National Guard vehicles. The unit went through the Suez Canal, arrived in Kuwait to deliver the equipment and then returned to Kansas.

Remengesau and his unit deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving from September 2003 to October 2004. They were located at Ar Ramadi, an old Iraqi base. The facility was in disrepair, requiring Remengesau and his teammates to rebuild it. The location was renamed Camp Junction City, he said, "and that is where we ran our operations out of in support of the people and the mission."

The 4th Bn., 3rd ADA Regt., returned to Fort Riley and, in the summer of 2005, the unit was deactivated and disbanded.

Many of the unit members were re-assigned to other Army forts, but Remengesau was re-assigned to the 1st Replacement Company on main post where he worked with in-processing new Soldiers.

He received an honorable discharge from active duty service in April 2008, and went into the Army Reserves where he served another year.

The Remengesau family stayed in Junction City, Kansas, because of the close presence of family members, which are a big part of their lives, especially their children. "I stayed in Junction City (Kansas) because I had met and married my beautiful Samoan queen, my wife (Rebecca Valoaga) here in 2005 and we started our family. My wife and I have three beautiful children, Honora Faafetai Turang, Halana Esel Faatuatua and Tyger Valoaga Ngrirangau. We like to call them our PaMoan babies because I'm from Palau and their Mom is from American Samoa, hence PaMoa."

His wife's father, Valoaga M. Valoaga is a retired Soldier and a former "Big Red One" Soldier as well who decided to stay and make this area his home.

"With the (families) love and support, it made transitioning and life in general much easier to successfully maintain," he said. "The small-town and close-knit feel of the community reminds me of the island home I come from. We feel safe here in Junction City and it is a great community."

He began a civilian work life with a position in contracting as a travel clerk for the transportation office in bldg. 210, assisting Soldiers and their families with their moves. After three months in that position, he landed a Civil Service job as a mail clerk at the Irwin

Army Community Hospital. He worked there for an additional three months, then he took a job overseas as a security contractor, working in Kuwait for two years.

"During my time in Kuwait I finished up my reserve time as well," Remengesau said. "I came back to Junction City in April 2010 and in October began my current job as an emergency services dispatcher at the Directorate of Emergency Services on Fort Riley. I enjoy this job tremendously. I have a lot of respect and admiration for our law enforcement officers, military police officers and fellow first responders, fire fighters and paramedics."

Remengesau said the job gives him the opportunity to work and be around Soldiers and fellow veterans. He said he is gratified he can still do his part to support the best fighting men and women, especially in the Big Red One.

Remengesau received an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Cloud County Community College, Geary campus, and is now pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Upper Iowa University on post.

His favorite memory is of his first and only deployment, "because we did not lose anyone from my C Battery while we were deployed," Remengesau said. "We all worked well together and for a lot of us it was our first ever deployment. There were a few injuries but everyone came back home together, safe and sound. We had gotten to Iraq and helped to not only build Camp Junction City in Ar Ramadi and help the people as much as we could but we also built Big Red One bonds and relationships with one another that I will never forget. No Mission too Difficult, No Sacrifice Too Great, Duty First!"

Hiring, education fair comes to Fort Riley

By Kalene Lozick
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Annual Hiring and Education Fair is Nov. 16 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Riley's Conference Center.

The fair is a partnership between Education Services, Army Community Service and the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program at Fort Riley.

The hiring event is open to Soldiers, their families, Department of Defense ID cardholders, veterans, retirees and community members.

Marion Moore, supervisory education services specialist, said there will be more than 125 employers and education vendors combined.

"Some of the employers will have applications and will be doing interviews," Moore said. "They will have an interview room."

From an educational standpoint, Moore said there will be community colleges, technical schools and a range of colleges.

"We will have approximately 50 tables for the education piece," Moore said.

Some colleges are from Florida, California, Washington, Oklahoma and Kansas.

"We have Full Sail from Florida, Ashford from California, Pierce College from Washington State, University of Oklahoma, etcetera," Moore said.

She said many of the colleges will also focus on distance learning.

"A lot of our Soldiers use distance learning because of deployments," Moore said.

As a one-stop employment and education venue for Soldiers, their families, DOD cardholders, veterans, retirees and community members, the Annual Hiring and Education Fair is an opportunity for attendees seeking higher education, gain full employment or develop career potential for self-improvement.

"Come out and take advantage of the opportunity to check out some employers," she said. "If someone is looking for a job, they could have it (Nov.) 16 or the 17 before Christmas."

The fair is free and walk-ins are encouraged. Attendees must have a DOD ID or a visitor's pass from the Visitor's Center at Henry Gate to get onto Fort Riley.

For more information visit Fort Riley ACS Employment Readiness Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FortRiley.ACS.EmploymentReadiness.

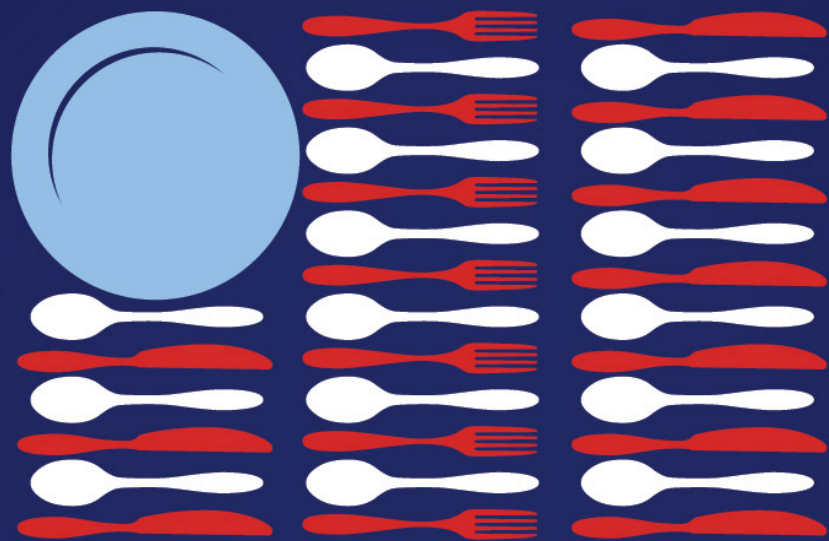
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TRAFFIC REPORT

ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS

Those with a valid military ID card, or have an access pass or badge, wanting access to Fort Riley on weekends 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:

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, closed weekends and federal holidays. This gate will have inbound commercial vehicle lanes only. Although

personally owned vehicles will be allowed access, there is no designated POV lane.

Outbound traffic is not authorized. Badges and passes may be issued to commercial drivers prior to access at the gate.

Grant:

Grant Gate is open between 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is closed weekends and federal holidays.

CAMPBELL HILL ROAD CLOSURE

Campbell Hill Road is closed north of Huebner Road for repairs.

Traffic will be diverted to the tank trail parallel to Campbell Hill Road.

The repairs will take about one month to complete. Access to the land fill will still be possible during the repairs.

Mission demands Soldiers are fit physically, mentally

Story and photo by Spc. Jarel Chugg
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

A fighting force is made of individual Soldiers. To keep the force in tip-top shape, the Army invests in the physical and mental health of these individuals through medical readiness.

Medical readiness plays a significant role in the overall mission of the Army, giving units with the 1st Infantry Division the advantage over its enemies.

"Having a force that is better trained, equipment that is better maintained, leaders that are able and proven to thrive in complex environments, gives our Army the ability to defeat any threat, even peer-to-peer," said Lt. Col. Thomas Troyn, commander of Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div.

Forces that are taken better care of medically thrive and are better equipped to handle the stresses of deployments and prevent injuries and sickness, said Maj. Robin Cushing, physician assistant, DHHB

"Medical readiness does a lot of things," Cushing said. "One, (it) helps prevent illnesses or infections. It's kind of maintenance on the person's health. For example, the PHA (periodic health assessment) that we do every year. It's a quick assessment on their health, kind of like if you PMCS (preventive maintenance check and services) a vehicle — we check your cholesterol if you're over 40, EKG (electrocardiogram) to make sure the heart is still working and everything is good while trying to catch anything that could potentially be an injury or illness in the future."

Every year during flu season, Soldiers are given the flu shot to help prevent sickness within the ranks.

"There is a thing called herd immunization where if we can potentially vaccinate the majority of the population even the ones that don't get the vaccination will still be protected against influenza," Cushing said. "Our goal is 100 percent; however, if we get to 85 or 90 percent, those non-vaccinated personnel that are working with those that are vaccinated are still somewhat protected by the 'herd.'"

Medical readiness is a crucial factor for Soldiers and their commanders, Cushing said. Checking on one's medical status is done using Medical Protection System.

"As an individual, you go on to your AKO (Army Knowledge Online) and you can see if you're green on dental, it means you have had your yearly exam; here they even do a dental cleaning in conjunction with the exam — that is letting us know that there should be no dental (issues) while you're deployed," Cushing said. "Same goes with your PHA. If you're green, it means you have had your annual physical

and you are cleared to deploy. It kind of gives a quick glance for commanders on that person's medical readiness, on if the service member can go down range wear their gear and be healthy. MEDPROS is really a function for commanders and how the commanders can look at their numbers and see how their unit is doing, if their unit is physically and mentally ready to deploy."

The impact of medical readiness grows beyond just the individual. According to Troyn, with 46 percent of the demand for joint forces globally in fiscal year 2017 coming from the Army, it is the Soldier's duty to protect and secure our nation's interests.

"Maintaining medical readiness is a cornerstone in all that we do," Troyn said.

"Individual Soldiers should understand the impact their ability to deploy or not to deploy has on the Army's mission to fight across multiple domains and through contested areas — to deter potential adversaries and, should deterrence fail, rapidly defeat them," Troyn said. "We are a force of approximately 179,500 Soldiers currently supporting combatant commanders in 140 countries. We need everyone on the team 'Fit and Ready to Fight.'"

According to Cushing, Soldiers should be concerned individually for their health before and after the military because it's their health and their body; the military isn't forever, but they are still going to have their bodies.

"Second, for their battle buddies, if you're down and weak and hurting then someone is going to have to do your job," Cushing said. "If you are injured or sick and you're not taking care of yourself, who is covering down for you? Your battle buddies are having to do your job so, as a whole, there is individual health, section health and it spreads to company health, battalion, to division, but it starts at the individual and the individual needs to take initiative to make themselves better."

With all the available resources the military has, Soldiers are given every opportunity to be physically and mentally prepared, Cushing said.

"I feel like it's important for people to take initiative; there are so many things that the individual can do to stay healthy; we have the Army Wellness Center — that has the 'BOD POD' to check your body fat — it's a free service that in the civilian world that can cost \$50 to \$100 to get that service done," Cushing said. "There are so many medical problems now that I'm starting to see in the military because of obesity and overweight, so just taking care of yourself in that aspect: eating well, not smoking, not drinking and having a normal height and weight standard that can decrease so many medical problems."



Soldiers have their Medical Protection Systems checked to make sure all annual requirements such as Dental, Vision, Periodic Health Assessment, have been met Oct. 17 at Fort Riley. The military requires Soldiers to receive regular examinations to help prevent sickness and health problems and keep Soldiers medically ready for deployments.

Have the Courage to Help a Buddy

One Suicide is one too many.

For assistance:

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

AUSAPH 13 Army Public Affairs Detachment

3-D printing helps wounded warriors

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM

FALLS CHURCH, Va., — One wounded warrior wanted to amble around the hotel pool during his honeymoon without strapping on prosthetic legs. Another wanted ice skates to fit snugly onto his prosthetic feet so he'd receive the sensory feedback he'd come to expect when engaging in his favorite pastime.

And another wanted to hold a fishing rod while enjoying full use of the hook where his hand used to be.

These requests for custom prosthetic attachments were fulfilled by the 3-D Medical Applications Center, or 3DMAC, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. There, a small staff of engineers and technicians use advanced digital technology and additive manufacturing, also known as 3-D printing, to design and produce personalized devices quickly and cost-efficiently.

FABRICATING UNIQUE DEVICES

"We've made more than 100 unique devices to enable activities that able-bodied people often take for granted," said Peter Liacouras, the center's director of services who holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering.

The devices make it easier for amputees to engage in leisure activities they enjoy, Liacouras said, as well as routine things such as drinking a glass of wine or brushing teeth. Returning to their everyday lives helps wounded warriors overcome the physical and emotional trauma of limb loss, health care experts say.

Part of Walter Reed's radiology department, 3DMAC is located in a small suite of offices and computer rooms tucked behind double doors at the end of a long hallway. Although it's an unassuming-looking place, what's happening inside is state of the art. Among the center's many projects are surgical models used in dentistry and oral surgery; skull plates for blast injuries; and other models to help surgeons prepare to perform intricate procedures, and to train the next generation of dental and medical professionals.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

"We also have several research projects going on," Liacouras said. He said projects include 3-D surveying and mapping of the human face to create a digital archive of facial anatomy. This archive, he added, could be used to fabricate implants for reconstruction if a service member became disfigured in a blast injury.

"The face is the most complicated region to reconstruct and, of course, it's what everyone sees every day," Liacouras said.

A 3-D printed cellphone and cup holders that attach to wheelchairs or other assistive devices "may sound like they're on the lower scale of what we do, in terms of importance," Liacouras said. "But they're not, because they mean a lot to wounded warriors."

The center fabricates by request from the Defense Department and Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers, Liacouras said. When a request is received,

he said he usually searches the web to see if the item already exists and can be purchased and adapted. If not, 3-D printing "enables us to create custom devices, making them patient-specific," he said. The items are made from plastic or titanium.

In 2002, she center's first assistive technology project was "shorty feet" for the honeymoon-bound bilateral amputee.

"Wearing full prosthetic legs can be cumbersome. Also, the full prosthesis for pool wear are very expensive and not necessarily 100-percent waterproof," Liacouras said.

COMPUTER-ASSISTED DESIGN

He and his team used computer-assisted design to plan the shorty feet, then print a plastic prototype for a fit test. They made the permanent pair in titanium alloy.

"They attach to sockets that attach to the stumps," Liacouras said. "Think of it like walking on your knees."

And though Liacouras admits, "we didn't fully understand the need at first," the center has produced more than 70 pairs to date.

"They've really taken off," he said, noting wounded warriors like to use them instead of full prosthetic legs if they need to get up after going to bed, and also to play with young children at the little ones' level. Physical therapists use them to help new patients feel more comfortable and confident about getting up and moving again.

"Whatever our wounded warriors need, we'll create," Liacouras said.

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RILEY ROUNDTABLE

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish and why?



"Green bean casserole. I love the mushroom soup and the crunchy onions."

**MIRANDA GOODWIN
MANHATTAN, KANSAS**

Warrior Zone operations assistant



"A Mexican dish my mom makes, Pozole. It is a family dish."

**PVT. SEBASTIAN LOPEZ
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"Stuffing because it's good."

**SGT. SEAN LUCAS
BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY**

1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"My favorite is ham. I'm not a turkey fan. My wife always has spiral ham and yams."

**RETIRED CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 CHRIS MANDIC
CHAPMAN, KANSAS**

Retired Army



"Homemade mash potatoes because it is delish and I have made it since I was little."

**CATHARINE SPRAGUE
VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA**

Wife of Sgt. Sean Sprague, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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FATALITY-FREE DAYS

488

As of Wednesday, Nov. 8, 488 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 785-240-0647.

SAFETY CORNER

Responsible drinking during holidays

By Ronald Clasberry
GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

The holidays are upon us in full force. Lights, advertising and celebrations, fun and yes, stress.

Every holiday season, people have to deal with the amplified pressures and stress that the holidays place upon most of us. Whether we're traveling to be with family and friends or doing our last-minute gift buying, most people feel under pressure during the holidays.

As you might suspect, and according to the National Safety Council, the holiday season is one of the most dangerous times of the year for alcohol-related accidents and death.

The NSC suggests more people drink during the holidays and sometimes alcohol

is used as a stress reliever, but it is more the numerous parties and festivities that contribute to increased drinking.

Many holiday drinkers don't drink often, so they have a lower alcohol tolerance. These people often under-estimate their level of impairment and sometimes drive when they shouldn't. When arrested for drunk driving, these people often show a relatively low blood alcohol content yet they are very intoxicated.

Problem drinkers and alcoholics love the holidays because there are more social occasions to drink. They say they feel more "normal" because the occasional drinkers are also more likely to abuse alcohol during this time of year.

Consequently, people with alcoholism drink and drive more frequently. Unlike

occasional drinkers, they have a high tolerance for alcohol and can consume large amounts before showing effects.

The holidays are busy and stressful. People are hurrying more than normal and winter road conditions make driving more dangerous. Add alcohol to this scenario and you have a recipe for disaster.

There are ways to avoid alcohol-related problems. Here are five simple tips for consuming alcohol in moderation, which can help make your holidays happier and safer.

- *Just say "no" – sometimes it's a necessary ingredient for holiday cheer. It is not rude to choose a non-alcoholic beverage at a party.
- Determine the designated driver before the party begins make the decision

that drinking and driving is not an option. Decide in advance who will be the designated driver.

- Remember, alcohol is a complement, not the purpose. The main purpose of a party is to have fun with people you know.
- Drinking is always optional – it is as much a choice as it is a responsibility.
- If you find you have consumed too much alcohol, find a friend or loved one and ask to go home. You can stop before you go too far.

Together we can prevent DUIs by looking out for each other. Remember: friends don't allow friends to drive intoxicated. If you have any additional questions, contact the USAG, Fort Riley Safety Office, 785-240-0647.

Dealing with vehicle repossessions for service members

FORT RILEY LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

Sometimes, even in spite of a Soldier's best efforts, the repossession of a vehicle becomes a possibility. Repossession occurs when a person agrees to borrow money for an automobile according to terms and payment schedules expressed in a contract, then defaults because of an inability to pay according to the loan's terms.

This article is intended to provide general information about current state and federal laws outlining the rights and options of service members facing vehicle repossession.

It is important to understand that these laws do change. If you are currently facing vehicle repossession, you should schedule an appointment with a Legal Assistance attorney to discuss your options.

REPOSSESSION IN GENERAL

When you financed or leased your car, you entered into a contract with a creditor; that is, the business leasing you the car or providing you the funds to purchase the car. By signing the contract, you agreed to repay the creditor in accordance with its terms.

The Truth in Lending Act requires the creditor to provide you written notice of the following, before you sign the contract:

- The total finance charges, including interest and other costs associated with obtaining the credit
- The annual percentage rate
- The total amount financed
- The number of payments, and
- A payment schedule showing the amount and due date of payments for the full term of the loan

The purpose of these disclosures is to allow you to "shop around" for a better financing deal. The problem is that many creditors will provide this information in the contract itself, instead of before, so you will only see the information when you are signing. You should always review a contract very carefully before signing it because courts will generally presume that you read and understood what you were agreeing to before signing.

The creditor retains a security interest in the vehicle in case you default on your obligation under the contract. When you fail to make payments in accordance with the payment schedule outlined in the contract, you are in default, and the security interest gives the creditor the right to repossess the vehicle when you are in default.

REPOSSESSION IN KANSAS

Kansas law authorizes a creditor to seek repossession of a vehicle from a consumer who falls behind by four or more payments.

Repossession is legal and allowed on Fort Riley as long as the repossession agent obtains permission through the Provost Marshall and Administrative Law Office prior to repossessing the vehicle.

Repossession may occur in one of two ways:

Self-help Repossession:

Self-help repossession is repossession without a court order. The creditor simply hires a repossession agent to come tow your vehicle away when you least expect

it. Kansas law allows a creditor to use self-help measures to repossess a vehicle if it does not "breach the peace."

If the repossession agent uses physical force, enters a residence or garage, or attempts to repossess the vehicle despite your objection, it is a breach of the peace. In these cases, you should call the Military Police and the repossession agent will be escorted off post.

Taking a vehicle from the street is not a breach of the peace. Under Kansas law, you can defeat a self-help repossession by refusing to voluntarily surrender the vehicle. However, self-help repossession agents typically initiate repossession without giving you notice of the time and place at which the repossession will occur. It will generally occur when you least expect it.

Court-ordered Repossession:

If there is a court order authorizing repossession or seizure of property to secure satisfaction of a judgement, you will not be able to defeat repossession by refusing to voluntarily surrender the vehicle.

After repossessing the vehicle, the creditor will attempt to sell it to recover as much outstanding debt as possible. However, the creditor must give you notice of the date, time and place of the sale and make the sale in a "commercially reasonable" manner.

What qualifies as "commercially reasonable" will depend on the case. You will want to speak to a Legal Assistance attorney about the specific facts of your case to determine if the sale was "commercially reasonable" and, if not, what you can do about it.

If the creditor complies with these requirements, you will be liable for the deficiency, that is, any money still owed on the vehicle after the proceeds of the sale are applied to the outstanding debt. This is important to consider when determining whether to voluntarily surrender the vehicle or resist the repossession. Again, you will want to speak to a Legal Assistance attorney to determine what the best response is given the unique facts of your case.

SERVICEMEN'S CIVIL RELIEF ACT PROTECTIONS

The Servicemen's Civil Relief Act may provide you with some protection against repossession if you purchased or leased a vehicle prior to joining the military and have defaulted on the obligation because of your military service. The court can stay, or temporarily stop, the proceedings or take any other equitable action necessary to ensure you are not adversely affected by your decision to serve.

If you purchased or leased a vehicle after joining the military, the Servicemen's Civil Relief Act will not protect you from repossession in the event that you default on the loan, unless you are deployed. In that case, the creditor will be prohibited from seeking self-help repossession unless you are notified of and consent to the repossession.

If you do not consent to the self-help repossession, the creditor will be required to obtain a court order. You may then request that the court temporarily stop the proceedings until you return.

OPTIONS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS FACING REPOSSESSION IN KANSAS

The following will help Soldiers facing repossession remedy their situation:

Bring the Debt Current

- It is important to know that repossession is not your only option. There are other ways to deal with the outstanding debt. If you are having trouble making payments, contact the ACS, Financial Readiness Team at 785-239-9435 and schedule an appointment to discuss your options.

Voluntarily Surrender the Vehicle

- If you do not dispute the debt, voluntarily surrendering the vehicle will save you money. Each day that the vehicle sits, it depreciates in value. Resisting the repossession when you know that you owe the money may cause the vehicle to sell for less. This means that you will be stuck with a higher bill for the deficiency and no vehicle. Voluntarily surrendering the vehicle will also save you from having to pay your own attorney's fees and court fees if the creditor pursues a court order to repossess the vehicle. You will not be responsible for the creditor's attorney's fees because Kansas law does not allow a creditor to sue for attorney's fees. Consider negotiating with the creditor to determine if the creditor would be willing to waive the deficiency in exchange for your voluntary surrender of the vehicle. That way, once the vehicle is gone, the debt is satisfied.

RESIST THE REPOSSESSION

If you dispute that you owe the debt, you should resist the repossession. To do this, notify the creditor, in writing, that:

- You dispute the debt;
- The creditor/repossession agent may not trespass on your property to execute the repossession;
- The creditor may not use force, threats, or intimidation to execute the repossession; and
- Any information that the creditor provides to a credit reporting agency must reflect the dispute.

Inform family members not to consent to the repossession agent entering onto your property. You may want to alert neighbors so they can watch for and witness violations by the repossession agent. Most importantly, do not use violence to resist the agent. Instead, call the local police or MPs.

Remember, you may not resist a court-ordered repossession, but you may ask for identification from the sheriff or government official.

If you have further questions about your particular case, call the Legal Assistance Office at 785-239-3117 to schedule an appointment. You should also know that there are services available to assist you if you are having trouble making payments on your vehicle loan. Contact the Army Community Service, Financial Readiness Team at 785-239-9435 to learn more about how they can assist.

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NOV. 24

DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.

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Determined veteran takes hold of her life

By Kristen Egger
MILITARY PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT AT K-STATE

Donna Simko walks into her office around 8 a.m., carrying a large coffee and an even larger backpack. She comes in with a purpose and greets her fellow co-workers with a voice that resonates. Her hair is pulled back into a tight ponytail to keep it out of her way, and even though it is early, her face is alert and awake.

Simko is a student at Kansas State University, originally from Comstock Park, Michigan, but her maturity doesn't give this role away. Simko is 27 years old, and she previously served in the U.S. Army for five years as a military police officer. Now, she studies animal science, though she intends to switch to accounting once the spring 2018 semester starts. For Simko, her twenties have been full of shifting career interests.

Her interests started within the realm of criminal justice, which then led her to something more.

"I was going to ITT Tech and was in the school of criminal justice and wanted to be a cop," Simko said. "I was living in Michigan when the economy was crashing, so making jobs was very limited. My brother-in-law came home from Iraq and asked me if I wanted to be a cop right now. I said of course, and the next day I was at the recruiter's office signing the papers."

This snap decision would lead Simko to five years of service within the United States military.

Simko said she chose the Army because it was the branch of service with the least amount of wait time. When she said she wanted to be a cop now, she was not messing around.

Simko somewhat recalled her first days of service. "I was extremely nervous so a lot was a blur. There was a lot of yelling and lot of push-ups," Simko said. Her duties were similar to that of civilian police officers, though concentrated to military posts. Throughout her five years of service, Simko was not deployed and did not experience combat. However, this does not mean she never felt stress or pressure.

"I experienced it every day," Simko said. "Not only being in the military were you in the spotlight, but being a police officer too, because we had to set the 'standard.'"

Simko also experienced strain on her close relationships that came from being away while she was serving. "I lost touch with a lot of friends back home," Simko said. "Skyped my family and called them every weekend."

Though it separated her from many past relationships, the military did bring Simko to new relationships, especially since she

met her husband, Charlie, while in the military. Charlie is currently active duty. This is what brought Simko to her current residence of Junction City, Kansas, as her husband is stationed at Fort Riley.

Simko's last day of service was Dec. 28, 2015. "I left because I was pregnant and needed to be a mom," Simko said. Simko has always considered family a top priority, as she grew up in a large family in Michigan. Unfortunately, Simko lost her baby girl, Harper, shortly after birth. She carries a tattoo on her arm of Harper's footprints, but does not dwell much on this topic. It is a fact of life she has grown to accept, and she did not let this hardship slow her down.

Once leaving the military, Simko started school full time, with her education supported by the G.I. Bill. Stepping away from the military helped Simko evaluate the time she spent in service.

"Honestly, it made me bitter," Simko said. "I had a couple of experiences in the Army that affected my life negatively, and even though it had nothing to do with the Army, I did, and still do, associate the Army with these experiences. In the Army, it is hard to separate work from home."

Serving in the military also had its benefits according to Simko, with items such as the G.I. Bill, health insurance and many life lessons.

"The Army taught me not to take anything from anybody," Simko said. "It taught me to hold my own and that there are only two emotions: none and mad," Simko said. This discipline and self-control has carried over well into Simko's workplace and studies.

Cara Richardson, who works with Simko in her current job at Kansas State University Global Campus, noticed this discipline in Simko.

"The military is very meticulous about how they like things done," Richardson said. "That's how they train, and you can tell in her work style that it carried over."

Kelli Park-Fuhrmann, who also works with Simko, echoed Richardson's sentiments. "Donna has a lot of common sense and doesn't put up with nonsense," Park-Fuhrmann said. "These are very good character traits to have."

With her service in the military behind her, Simko is starting to discover a new path.

"I am getting a degree and beginning to make a home in Junction City," Simko said.

Recently, Simko found out she has a baby girl on the way, a fact that makes her overjoyed. This new baby will bring with it a whole new set of challenges, as her husband is still active duty.



COURTESY PHOTO

Donna Simko, left, and her husband Charlie celebrate Christmas in 2016. Simko and her husband both have experience within the Army and are currently preparing to start a family.

"I am so busy with work and school that his affiliation does not affect me much, but that's because we haven't dealt with any deployments," Simko said. "We will begin our first in December."

When her husband deploys, Simko intends to take a break from her job to focus on raising a baby and working toward her degree. It is no doubt that Simko will tackle this hurdle with the same discipline and work ethic that she displays every day, because after all, she has high goals.

"Once I graduate, I plan to move back to Michigan and take over the family dog kennel," Simko said. "I would also like to own my own accounting business."

One thing is for sure. Simko said nothing will stand in her path she can't handle.

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This course will be taught the second and fourth Fridays of every month from 0900-1000 in the Department of Public Health Classroom. Please call the Department of Public Health at 785-239-7323 to register.

Fort Riley families residing on post are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring a light snack. Craft activities for children will be provided.

Course Topics: Injury/illness prevention, poison prevention, proper storage of household chemicals, food safety, management of household pests, pet hygiene, indoor air quality, and basic home hygiene.

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Hiring fair aids in employment at Fort Riley

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted a hiring fair with the assistance of Civilian Personnel Advisory Center to fill non-childcare positions Oct. 31 at Riley's Conference Center.

The hiring event was aimed at filling positions for DFMWR facilities like the fitness centers, the Outdoor Adventure Park, Custer Hill Bowling Center and more.

"(It's) designed to fill two positions," said Christopher Solano, human resources officer — non-appropriated funds, CPAC. "One is food and beverage attendant and that is at various locations — Warrior Zone, the bowling facility and the snack back at Outdoor Rec, the Adventure Park. The other position is a recreation aid, a facility aid position that's used in our fitness centers. For those that didn't know, we're transitioning from borrowed military man power in those facilities to civilian employees."

Following a similar style as the DFMWR childcare hiring events, applicants arrived with their resume, identification, social security card and references so they could begin pre-employment paperwork, be interviewed the same day, complete their

finger printing and potentially receive a job offer all within the two-hour window of the hiring event.

Within the first hour, Solano said they saw about 15 applicants. He added they had at least 25 job offers to extend that day.

For these positions, Solano said the time required to complete background checks and get people working is much less than the childcare positions.

"The length of time that an applicant needs to complete all the paperwork needed to initiate their background checks is a whole lot less than with childcare," he said. "Also, their time with fingerprinting is a lot less and these positions don't require a full physical from occupational health. There's a lot less pre-employment requirements to do than the childcare positions."

Daisy Alcorta, wife of Pfc. Isaiah Alcorta, a Fort Riley Soldier, was one of the applicants at the event. After her interview, she sat down alongside another applicant and talked with them before they were called away for the next step of their application process.

She said she is a stay at home mom and hasn't been at Fort Riley long, so she's looking for something to get her out of the house from time to time. She added she appreciated the streamlined application process the hiring

event provided and would recommend these events to others.

"It's very nerve-wracking, but I feel pretty confident," she said after finishing her interview for a recreation aid position.

Solano said hiring events like these are beneficial because they can offer jobs on the spot, cutting one to two weeks out of the typical hiring process.

He also said these positions were good for people like Alcorta because a majority of them are flex positions that could fit various schedules.

"We just opened up those recreation positions and we filled a lot of the full time and part time positions, so now we're trying to fill those, over 15, flexible intermittent positions at the fitness centers now," he said. "And in the future, those will be a majority of the positions that we announce because those flex positions are eligible to — after they're employed to show that they're a good employee, they're dependable — have the option to be converted to the regular part-time or regular full-time positions."

A date for another DFMWR hiring event has not yet been set, however, all current openings may be viewed and applied for at usajobs.gov.

K-9s Continued from page 1

"There are some barrels with a bunch of toys (inside) and others we throw steak in and another we'll throw clothes in and we train them to completely ignore those scents and go to the human sent."

When the dogs have located the human, they'll bark and the handler will award the HRD dog with a toy.

The human scent is what the HRD dogs are trained to find, especially in a wilderness and a disaster scenario, Stern said.

Taryn, a Labrador born in 2013 from Jenner's Run and KSARDA K-9, demonstrated a wilderness live-find test run Nov. 3 to locate Ruth Hensleigh, KSARDA handler.

Hensleigh took her position in covered brush just minutes before Stern released Taryn. The K-9 ran into the tallgrass as she followed the human scent of Hensleigh.

With every turn, Taryn got closer to Hensleigh's location.

Within minutes, barks filled the air. The barks indicate a human has been found.

Taryn has speed. She completed the 160 acre, two victim search in an hour and a half, Stern said.

Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association had two different teams from Kansas and Missouri certified at Fort Riley, Hensleigh said. Among those teams, there were seven dog teams. A dog team is a handler and a K-9, she said.

The certification ended Nov. 5 with all K-9s completing the bi-annual international certification.



Kalene Lozick | POST

Taryn, a Labrador born in 2013 from Jenner's Run and Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association K-9, grabs hold of a dog toy in Sheila Stern, KSARDA director, hands after a successful wilderness live-find test Nov. 3 at Fort Riley.

READY ARMY Fort Riley Mass Warning and Notification System Smartphone App

The Fort Riley Mass Warning and Notification system now includes a mobile notification smartphone application.

The AtHoc Notifier is a smartphone app which displays as a purple globe on your main mobile phone screen. It is available for iOS and Android smartphones.

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HOMES Continued from page 1



Andy Massanet | POST

Adrian Ramirez of RFN Construction looks over the rebar that will be part of the foundation being prepared for one of the houses transported from Fort Riley to the Kickapoo Nation Housing Authority. The structure, one of two of the latest shipment, arrived Nov. 1.

The four houses already in place are in stages of renovation, which include new roofing, electrical upgrades and paint.

“We are pushing to have some occupancy by Nov. 15,” said Peggy Houston, director of the Kickapoo Housing Authority.

There are more challenges for the KHA as the homes are prepared to be lived in.

“The hardest challenge is getting the (federal grant) funds in time to schedule the work,” Houston said.

In the end, the houses will help the Kickapoo Nation residents in the attempts to become more self-reliant.

“The goal is self-sufficiency and sustainability,” Houston said. “The question I ask is, ‘if we stopped receiving funding tomorrow, can we continue to move forward?’”

The final shipment of houses from Fort Riley is scheduled to take place Nov. 13.

HISTORY Continued from page 1

When the lieutenants’ commanding officers found out about the deed, they decided it would be a waste of wine if they weren’t consumed and that was what they did. That wine today is known as Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

Smith said that is not the only unique thing about the 1st Inf. Div. during WWI. While on occupation in Germany after the war, the division created something that was unique in the U.S. Army to entertain the German populace and the American troops.

“They created a circus,” Smith said. “The circus remained part of the division until mid-1920s and it consisted of 220 Soldiers, who were performers, along with four elephants ... 14 monkeys, numerous dogs and 37 clowns.”

Again, Smith’s sharp wit and deft knowledge of Big Red One history sent the crowd into a fit of laughter. But not all of his presentation was playful. Toward the end of his history lesson, he shared a rare video footage from the National Archive of 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers training a century ago. Smith said the footage was Signal Corps footage from WWI in France and he has specifically choose that clip because of its timeliness of when it was shot.

“That footage is about 100 years ago today within that time frame,” Smith said.

Smith said the importance of his presentation was to tell the public and notable members of the Fort Riley communities the Army’s story.

“We want to make them aware that museums aren’t stuffy places and that we are actually going out to tell the Army’s story,” he said. “One of our missions is that we are to educate today’s Soldier and the public on the history of the division. Since 1st Inf. Div. is the most historic division in the Army, we love to tell the story.”

Janet Nichols, military community liaison at the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, said they wanted this month’s MRC luncheon to be more historical than other luncheons because it falls within the same month of Veterans Day.

“We always try to do something historical for Veterans Day, which is Nov. 11,” Nichols said. “We feel like it’s a really good way to celebrate (it). And then this year we have the 100th anniversary of the 1st Inf. Div., so it was kind of a no-brainer to have Dr. Bob (Robert Smith), especially now when they were recently awarded the opportunity to improve the museum and get it updated. So it really was a good couple of reasons to have him speak for us.”

The biggest takeaway Nichols learned from Smith’s history lesson was the story of Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

“Well, I didn’t know about the French wine, which I thought was pretty neat from World War I,” she said. “The commanding officers said they didn’t want to waste it, so (the Soldiers) got to drink it.”

Nichols then spoke about her personal experience with the 1st Inf. Div. Her husband had served with the Big Red One before he retired, but it is her current job that has gotten her more acquainted with the division’s rich history.

“Since I’ve had this job, I’ve learned a lot,” she said. “I didn’t know a lot about the 1st Inf. Div., though my husband had been in the 1st Inf. Div. in 1st (Armored) Brigade (Combat Team). I had heard a lot about the history, but now I’ve picked up the details of things. Like I didn’t know they were first so many times in the first World War and the second World War.”

Nichols said it was great to have Smith come to share all his knowledge and expertise because not many people living in the Manhattan community realized the fount of information and history next door to them.

“I think that we have a treasure trove of history right next door and a lot of times the Manhattan community don’t really think that,” Nichols said.

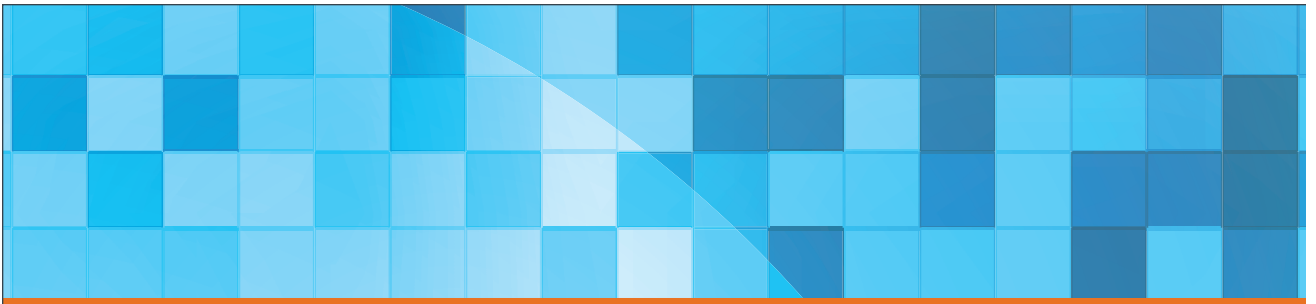
Smith said he hoped his presentation went well because the audience seemed to enjoy it, but he’s always happy to speak on the history of the Big Red One because he likes telling the division’s story.

SALUTE TO SERVICE



J. Parker Roberts | 1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The University of Kansas hosted its Salute to Service football game Nov. 4 at Memorial Stadium in Lawrence, Kansas. Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Cornelison, the division’s senior noncommissioned officer, were invited to take part in the festivities, including doing the coin toss, and watch the game against Baylor University.



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Water, air, more: Compliance protects Fort Riley's environment



Barry Maples, environmental compliance inspector with the Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division, holds a container with hazardous waste materials inside during a routine inspection Oct. 13 in the Women's Health Clinic at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

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

Editor's Note: This story is part two of a four-part series on the Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division.

Everyday supplies and chemicals that if not handled properly can be hazardous to the environment are used at Fort Riley. Within the Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division is the Compliance Branch, which is a team of people skilled in overseeing the proper handling and disposal of hazardous items, protecting the environment and educating people of the installation through inspections, training and regulation enforcement.

For compliance personnel to work effectively, they're divided into multiple programs including hazardous waste, water, air tanks, recycling, solid waste and more. Each inspector must also understand the different programs to conduct their inspections properly, said Linda Ward, lead Compliance Inspector for DPW - Environmental.

"Each one of those has program managers and then as far as the compliance section, the inspection component of that, we've got our master over here and then we get to be the jack of all trades, so when we go out to do our inspections, we're inspecting all of these program areas," she said.

THE START

The Compliance Branch all began with the implementation of the Clean Water Act in 1978, said Shawn LaBonte, Hazardous Waste Program manager for DPW - Environmental. The first job the branch received was to clean and protect water resources across the installation.

"That's how all these environmental programs started - with the Clean Water Act," he said. "More or less, it's to keep the chemicals out of the water, keep people from dumping things on the ground, spills."

Since then, the branch has grown to encompass all environmental areas, whether land, air or water.

With the expansions, oversight from state and federal organizations is mandatory. Regulating organizations for the branch include the Environmental Protection Agency, the state of Kansas and the Army.

This combination of regulating organizations pose some challenges for the personnel within the branch, but they make it work and ensure each requirement is followed in its entirety, LaBonte said.

"Many folks feel the military is exempt from those regulations and we are not," he said. "We actually have more because we have federal and

state, and then we have Army regulations we have to comply with, which are typically more stringent."

WATER

With water conservation being the original driving force behind the branch's creation, Compliance still puts a heavy emphasis on sampling, cleaning and protecting water today, said Steve Stanislaw, Water Program manager for DPW - Environmental.

In any given year, Stanislaw and his team will collect between 700 to 1,300 water samples from creeks, storm drains, ground water, rivers, ponds, buildings and more. These samples are analyzed to determine the amount of metals, contaminants and so forth that may be lurking within them.

"In any given year, we can do 700 upwards to 1,300 samples to comply with all these regulations," he said. "That's for drinking water, waste water and storm water."

In a single month, they will visit at least 44 homes, businesses and other facilities to collect a water sample. Within the homes, they enlist the assistance of the resident to gather the sample and use it as a learning opportunity as those who live there often have questions about where their water comes from, the quality of it and more, Stanislaw said. These questions are something they enjoy answering because education and understanding are required to help protect and conserve water and other resources.

"Every month we have to do samples in the houses and we knock on the door, explain who we are and why we're there and we do our sample collection and in the process - there's always questions," he said. "It's always an education process. Whatever we're doing, we're educating the Soldiers."

When contamination is found, it's handled immediately, Ward said, through a team effort of combined multiple branches and divisions of DPW. In one extreme case, they discovered a spill that occurred over a weekend and water pouring into a creek, so the team set into action.

"We had a big spill ... over 2,000 gallons into a storm drain through a creek that we damned off," she said. "Our folks, Public Works - Roads and Grounds, we had our (DPW) conservation guys because it was thick trees and ticks in the middle of summer, they were clearing paths. We had all these parts and pieces come together. We managed to get it damned up, get it stopped and get it cleaned up."

In a short amount of time, the cleanup was a success. When Stanislaw returned only a few days after the cleanup, he said he found no trace of the original contamination.

"This huge wheel was turning and every little cog and spring did what they were

supposed to," Ward said of the team effort to protect the water and soil.

INSPECTIONS

Every week the compliance team sets out to conduct inspections on various areas where chemicals, whether oil, cleaners, paint or others, are regularly used.

Each facility on their list is inspected weekly. These inspections include an examination of required weekly written reports, as well as walkthroughs of the area. As no two facilities are the same, the inspector must become an expert on each one and approach each in a different manner, Ward said.

"We have to be able to walk out into a motor pool and look at wash racks, waste storage and recycling and paint booths," she said.

As they may deal with petroleum products in one facility and caustic substances in another, LaBonte said they developed a system called the Environmental Protection Plan, a product prominently of Ward's efforts, to help guide them through each inspection and any responses that may be required.

Like when they collect water samples from homes, the team uses inspections as a time of teaching to correct bad behavior and educate the individual on why they cannot dump furniture in fields or woods or pour cleaners down a drain, he said. However, these are also things the individual should already know not to do.

"If it's something that, 'OK, they made a mistake, let's help them back through it,'" LaBonte said. "If you catch a Soldier dumping paint down the drain, he should know better than that. That should never happen."

For a majority of their inspections, when a violation is found or a unit fails their inspection altogether, the team works with them to correct the situation, clean up any spills and more, LaBonte said.

"A lot of time you have inspectors come in, they tell you what you messed up and then they leave," Ward said. "We're still here and we are going to walk them through the process. This is how you take care of this, we have this equipment here ... We really try to go over and above to help these units out and really take it personally when they don't."

In severe cases of violations, hazardous spills, illegal activities or gross inspection failures, the team must report it to the garrison commander, LaBonte said. After that, the branch may send in the entire team of inspectors to assist with the cleanup and getting things back in order.

There is never an excuse for improperly handling or disposing of hazardous materials or waste at Fort Riley, he said. Anyone can turn in these items to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at 1945 Fourth Street or the Hazardous Material Processing Center at 1930 Fourth Street. The staff there makes the process as simple as possible with no paperwork required.

"We make all these things so simple," he said. "I like how we do it here. Getting rid of hazardous materials and waste is just easy. It's not a challenge for anyone ... It's easy to turn in ... We don't want to find containers in ditches (like) in years past. We've made it simple for them."

These regular inspections are not only a priority for the Compliance Branch to preserve Fort Riley and maintain regulations, but they also prepare the installation for inspections from the EPA - inspections the installation has been passing without issue for several years, LaBonte said.

"The EPA, we went several years without even a finding," he said. "Then we did have one finding this year of a paint can open and if that's the worst thing they can find on an installation of this size, I'd say that we are really doing a dang good job."

TRAINING

Soldiers serving an additional duty as an Environmental Team leader are an asset to the

Compliance Branch, said James Hill, training instructor for DPW - Environmental.

These Soldiers serve as the eyes, ears and educators on behalf of the staff when they cannot be there. The Environmental Team leaders manage the weekly reports, enforce regulations, ensure everything is handled properly and educate their fellow Soldiers.

Hill has been training these Soldiers since 2003. He offers a two-day long course twice a month to certify them. During the course, Hill said he covers a wide variety of topics from understanding environmental actions like the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act to properly filling out required forms.

"We go over the regulations, we go over the compliance program and we go over what they need to do as far as their inspections," he said.

One of the major points of this course is the weekly inspections. Hill said he puts additional emphasis on ensuring the Soldiers are thoroughly trained on conducting them properly.

"I'll train them on this weekly inspection," he said. "We go over this pretty thoroughly and then we have our own inspection form."

During the course, Hill said he takes them to the recycling center, both hazardous materials collection centers and to a motor pool to show them firsthand how everything needs to be done.

After a year, the Soldiers will return to him for a two-hour refresher course on their training.

Ward said having these Soldiers help make inspections smoother, reduces the number of violations and more, but it's an uphill battle for the compliance team. Each time a new Environmental Team leader is trained and ready, another one is moving on from Fort Riley for a permanent change of station.

"Our biggest challenge is continuity," Ward said. "Just as soon as you get the environmental team, you get them on board and trained and there's a learning curve, so it takes time, well, then they're getting PCS'd (permanent change of Station) and that's just the military way of life."

That's just one more reason why the inspectors work so hard to educate and assist the Soldiers when they're in the facilities, Ward said.

"It's more of an education process," LaBonte said. "You've got to teach the folks what to do in order for them to get it right."

THE ALLY

For many, an inspection means someone is present to see what's going wrong, but LaBonte said they are there to see that the units are doing right and should something be wrong, they're there to help fix it.

"I don't want people to be afraid when we walk in, I want people to be like 'OK, these folks are here to help us,'" he said.

Ward agreed with LaBonte, adding they are an ally or asset to everyone to be used.

"I think a lot of times people perceive Environmental as the stop sign," she said. "The 'you can't do that because of this minnow.' That's what a lot of people have the perception of ... We try to enable the units to be able to do what they do, so we always brief and tell them 'hey, we're not just the inspectors coming in, we're an asset to your organization.'"

Because Fort Riley is also their home and they want to protect it for generations to come, Ward said.

"Our families have lives here," she said. "We all drink the water. We've trained at the training areas ... If we don't sustain it, it won't be here for future generations. This isn't just regulations, this is Fort Riley."

For more information about water quality or environmental at Fort Riley and more, call 785-239-2630 or visit DPW - Environmental's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FortRileyEnvironmentalOffice.



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



Whether you are on your computer, tablet or phone, get info in seconds at:
www.mybaseguide.com/army/23/fort_riley

FORT RILEY

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“There’s a lot of volunteers who put their time into this. A lot of volunteers with a lot of passion, and you can’t do an effort like Operation Santa Claus without the great volunteers.”

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH M. MARTIN | 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY COMMANDING GENERAL



Fort Riley leaders, Santa Claus and the head elf of Operation Santa cut the ribbon on Santa’s Workshop during its opening ceremony Nov. 2 at Rally Point. Operation Santa Claus assists service members and their families in providing a gift for their children during the holiday season.

Santa’s Workshop open!

Rally Point ribbon-cutting ceremony kicks off 33rd year of Operation Santa Claus

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

SANTA’S WORKSHOP IS OPEN TO VISITORS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AFTER THE OPERATION SANTA CLAUS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY NOV. 2 AT RALLY POINT.

The former bingo hall has been converted into a festive wonderland for children of all ages through the efforts of volunteers and Santa’s elves.

Operation Santa Claus is in its 33rd year. The annual program helps service members and their families provide gifts to their children with the support from donations and volunteers at Fort Riley and within the surrounding communities.

“The continued success of this program relies solely upon the generosity of the citizens of Fort Riley (and) our communities within the Flint Hills region,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mathew Fuqua, operations noncommissioned officer for the

See SANTA, page 14



John Cerda, son of Sgt. Juan Cerda, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, sits on Santa’s lap after the grand opening of Operation Santa Claus Nov. 2 at Rally Point. The former bingo hall has been transformed into Santa’s Workshop for the holiday season through the hard work of volunteers and Santa’s elves, who are active duty Soldiers.

THIRTY-THREE YEARS AND COUNTING

- Operation Santa Claus, in its 33rd year, is an annual program that helps service members and their families provide gifts to their children with the support from donations and volunteers at Fort Riley and within the surrounding communities.



Marilyn Paras, lead art specialist at Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, demonstrates the different styles of matting and how it can enhance certain aspects of the artwork during a framing and matting workshop at the Arts and Crafts Center Nov. 6.

Instructor reflects on career in arts, crafts

Nearly 40 years later, studio specialist touts family environment

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

Thirty nine years —that is how long Marilyn Paras, lead art specialist at the Arts and Crafts Center, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, has worked at the studio in Fort Riley.

A typical day for her would be opening the studio, going through orders and giving herself an agenda of priorities to accomplish before she loses herself getting side tracked by helping people who come in with their various projects. But her story began long before that.

In 1978, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed Paras persuaded her interviewer, Vaun White-side, director of community recreation division, he should hire her as the Arts and Crafts Center’s new woodshop technician despite having very little experience in woodworking.

“At that time I didn’t have a lot of woodworking experience,” she said.

However, the arts and crafts studio offered a wide variety of services and classes such as photography, lapidary, jewelry making, ceramics, pottery, weaving, candle making and more; and Paras had experience in those skills. Paras got her creative chops from her teaching degree for kindergarten through

See ARTS, page 16

Library partygoers talk turkey in preparation for Thanksgiving



Skyla Thomas, 2, daughter of Staff Sgt. Allen Thomas, Company E, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, shows her mother her favorite part of the trail mix she built during the Fort Riley Post Library Thanksgiving party Nov. 4. The event was to draw visitors to the facility and show them what the library had to offer.

Traditional food items take day off for educational purposes

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

The Fort Riley Post Library threw a Thanksgiving-themed party Nov. 4. The free event wasn’t a typical holiday feast, instead the purpose of the party was to educate library visitors on the holiday mascot itself: the turkey.

Rebecca Basil, alternate programs manager at the library, said they made sure the party was held a few weeks before the holiday itself so they could have maximum participation.

“Due to the fact that the holidays — next week is Vet-

“We do a Thanksgiving theme party every November because we like to show people that Thanksgiving is not always about just eating that turkey, eating the ham, and learning a little bit about turkeys and what they are as an animal.”

REBECCA BASIL | ALTERNATE PROGRAMS MANAGER,
FORT RILEY POST LIBRARY

erans Days and then everybody leaves for Thanksgiving — we went ahead and pushed everything up a little bit so that we can accommodate families and not have it interfere with their vacation,” she said.

Additionally, Basil said they decided to make a bold move by hosting a Thanksgiving party without the traditional food being the main attraction

because they wanted the event to be a learning experience.

“A lot of people don’t think about Thanksgiving, but they think about sitting down and having the meal,” she said. “They don’t think about the turkey or anything like that ... We do a Thanksgiving theme party every November because we like to show people that Thanksgiving is not always

about just eating that turkey, eating the ham, and learn a little bit about turkeys and what they are as an animal.”

During the shindig, library-goers were taught the difference between a male and female turkey call and educated on the difference between a domestic turkey and a wild turkey. After that, they watched a nature show called “My Life as a Turkey” while using their creativity to decorate their own turkeys. Everyone who attended was also treated to refreshments such as hot cocoa, hot cider and built their own trail mix.

“A lot of people don’t think about what a turkey actually sounds like,” Basil said. “So it was super fun for the kids to actually listen to what a turkey

See TURKEY, page 13

FORT RILEY POST-ITS

BUBBLE GUPPIES

The Fort Riley MWR is hosting Bubble Guppies at Eyster Pool Nov. 11 between 9 and 10 a.m.

The cost is \$5 per family for 20 minutes of instructional class with a certified water safety instructor and 40 minutes of free social swim time.

For more information, visit Fort Riley MWR on Facebook or call 785-239-4854.



AIR FORCE RESERVE RECRUITING

Looking for something to do after the Army? Consider joining the Air Force Reserve. Contact Master Sgt. Jean Charles at 316-243-8434. For more information contact Fort Riley Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program office at 785-239-9621.

WOODSHOP SAFETY CLASS

A Woodshop Safety Class is scheduled for Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Riley Arts & Crafts.

Attendees will learn power-tool safety and general woodshop procedures as well as the basic operation of each piece of machinery within the shop. Patrons are required to take this class before using the shop.

Advance registration is required. Cost of attendance is \$10. For more information, call 785-239-9205.



GOBBLE WOBBLE

Feast on Thanksgiving food throughout the course of a 2K fun run at 12:30 p.m. at the Riley Conference Center Nov. 18. Organized by Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, participation is open to all. Advance registration costs \$12, online and at Leisure Travel Services. Onsite registration costs \$15, and starts at 11:30 a.m. the day of the event. All paid participants receive a finisher medal. Children 4 and under enter for free, but will not receive food or a medal.

For more information visit riley.armymwr.com or call 785-239-2813.



LIBRARY MOVIE NIGHT

The Fort Riley Post Library will provide a free screening of "The Boss Baby" Nov. 18 at their facility. The movie will begin at 6:30 p.m.

They will have free snacks and popcorn during the showing.

For more information visit the Fort Riley MWR on Facebook or call 785-239-5305.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY FAMILY

Throughout the month of November the USO Fort Riley is hosting a plethora of events.

The USO Fort Riley is having a fundraiser night at IHOP Nov. 14.

For more information and to find their calendar, visit USO Fort Riley on Facebook or call 785-240-5326.

COFFEE CONNECTION

The USO Fort Riley is hosting Coffee Connection, a new spin on Spouses's Sip N Chat. The event will bring spouses together as they sip a cup of joe Nov. 16.

For more information visit USO Fort Riley on Facebook or call 785-240-5326.

BIG RED ONE TURKEY RUN

The American Legion Auxiliary will host a Thanksgiving inspired run Nov. 18 at Fort Riley.

For more information, visit American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas on Facebook or call 785-232-9315.

AQUA ZUMBA CLASS

Looking for a new workout? Check out Aqua Zumba at Custer Hill Aquatic Park. Aqua Zumba blends the Zumba philosophy with water resistance for a high-energy, low-impact workout.

Classes are held at 7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. View the schedule on the aquatics page at riley.armymwr.com/us/riley/programs/aquatics.

The cost is \$3 per class or \$25 for a 10-class pass. For more information, call 785-239-5860.

CARS & COFFEE

Cars & Coffee is held every third Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. at the Warrior Zone. Participants can enjoy \$2 grande size coffees, 50 cent waffles and pancakes, yard games and get the chance to be named the Car of the Month. The event is free to attend and open to the public.

For more information, call 785-240-6618.

FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 10

The Foreigner (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Free Screening Justice League (PG-13) 2 p.m.

Stronger (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Happy Death Day (PG-13) 5 p.m.

Theater opens 30 minutes before first showing

For more information, call 785-239-9574.

Regular Showing: \$6

3D Showing: \$8

First Run: \$8.25

3D First Run: \$10.25

FREE MOVIE SCREENING

Barlow Theater is holding a free screening of the movie Justice League at 2 p.m.

Tickets may be picked up at any Post Exchange food court, they are available until all are gone.

Seating is a first-come first-serve basis

BLUE STAR PROGRAM

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers the Blue Star Program to family members who are geographically separated from their service member. The benefits are also open to Gold Star families and Soldiers in the Warrior Transition Battalion. Discounts and events are available to those enrolled in the program. For information about eligibility, call 785-239-2172 or email bluestar@rileymwr.com.



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.

Kansas City Sprint Center: Disney on Ice - Dream Big tickets for the Sept. 14 to 17 performances for \$20 to \$33 depending upon show and seats selected.

And much more!

For more information on tickets and travel packages available through the Leisure Travel Center, call 785-239-5614/4415.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Veterans Day: Tribute 79 years in making

Day provides chance to thank veterans - past and present

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

On this Veterans Day, on behalf of a grateful nation, I say thank you to every veteran from every service throughout America's history. Today, we honor those who have served among us as examples of citizens who put the interests of the country above their own — a

foundation of freedom we should all cherish.

Veterans Day started in 1938, when legislation was passed to designate Nov. 11 as Armistice Day to honor veterans of World War I. The date was chosen to acknowledge the signing of the armistice that ended WWI — 11 a.m. of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918.

A shoe repairman from Emporia, Kansas, Alvin J. King, and his wife raised their nephew who went to Germany to fight in World War II. The young man was killed in 1944 outside Habkirchen, Germany. Grief-stricken, King wanted to find a way to honor all veterans who served the country — during war and peacetime. He began a campaign to change the existing Armistice Day to Veterans Day, to encompass

DID YOU KNOW?

- Veterans Day started in 1938, when legislation was passed to designate Nov. 11 as Armistice Day to honor veterans of World War I.

all veterans who served. He gained the support of various veteran's organizations, as well as U.S. Representative Ed Rees of Emporia, to take the idea to Washington, D.C. It passed in the House and Senate and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill and the first Veterans Day was held Nov. 11, 1954.

Local celebrations continue this year to honor our veterans, with parades in Manhattan and Wichita and military appreciation football games at Kansas State

University and Emporia State. Of course, many businesses offer free and discounted services — just do a quick web search or browse social media sites for full listings.

Given our strong local ties with the history of Veterans Day, the phenomenal support we receive across the region, and our current service to the United States, please join me in saying thank you to our fellow veterans, past and present. Your service and sacrifice is necessary to the strength of our nation and appreciated at home and around the world.

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



Colonel Lawrence

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Protestant Services	
Victory Chapel	239-0834
Contemporary Protestant Service	
Sunday Worship.....	1100
Children's Church.....	1115-1215
Morris Hill Chapel	
Gospel Protestant Service	
Sunday School.....	0900
Sunday Worship.....	1100
Main Post Chapel	
Traditional Protestant Service	
Sunday Worship.....	1030
Catholic Services	
Victory Chapel	
Sunday Mass.....	0845
Sunday Catechism.....	1000
Saint Mary's Chapel	
Saturday's Vigil Mass.....	
Sunday Mass.....	1200
Mid-day Mass— Mon., Wed., & Fri.....	1200
Tuesday & Thursday Mass.....	1800
IACH Chapel	
Mid-day Mass— Tue. & Thur.....	
	1200
Jewish Service	
For Sabbath Services please contact the Division Chaplain at 240-6268.	
Open Circle Service	
Kapaun Chapel	
Fort Riley Open Circle— SWC	
1st & 3rd Friday monthly.....	1800

Wednesday Family Night

Weekly classes from 1900-2000 at Victory Chapel
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Club Beyond - Faith Based Youth Program

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MS Youth-1530-1700 at Morris Hill Chapel
HS Youth-1830-2000 at Morris Hill Chapel
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AWANA

Meets Sundays, 1400-1600 Victory Chapel
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Weekly Tuesday Meeting 0900-1130 & Evenings at 1830-2000 at Victory Chapel
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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



Contestants participating in the Best Black and Gray Tattoo Category pose and show off their tattoos during the Slingin' Ink Tattoo competition Nov. 4 at the Warrior Zone. Other categories included best in show, most regrettable and best color.

Show draws colorful crowd

Slingin' Ink Tattoo contest proves beauty can be skin deep

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

From strutting to posing and the occasional loss of clothing, things took an artistic turn at the Warrior Zone during the Slingin' Ink Tattoo Competition Nov. 4.

Slingin' Ink is a competition for Department of Defense ID holders to show off their body artwork and its quality — or lack thereof in some cases — to other service members and their aged 18 and older dependents, as well as professional tattoo artists.

"We're hosting a free event for anyone who has ink to show it off," said Brian Leonard, recreation aid at the Warrior Zone. "It gives them a chance to show off the quality of work not only to the public, but to professional artists to be rated. They're being judged not only by the artist themselves, but by people and that's what makes it such a unique event. It's not only professionals, but public eye and it's a really fun way to bring people together in another category of diversity at the Warrior Zone."

This was the third year the competition was held at the Warrior Zone. Leonard said this was the biggest one yet with more vendors and about 300 people total in attendance throughout the event.

"It keeps getting bigger and bigger and the number of vendors we have increases every year," he said.



Drew Delafuente, owner of Junction City Tattoo in Junction City, Kansas, gets a henna tattoo on his head from Ann Warren, calligrapher and henna artist from Veronica's Veil, during the Slingin' Ink Tattoo competition Nov. 4 at the Warrior Zone. Tattoo artists and a henna artist were on site to talk with people about their work and look at one another's tattoos.

"They're being judged not only by the artist themselves but by people, and that's what makes it such a unique event."

BRIAN LEONARD | RECREATION AID, WARRIOR ZONE

There were multiple categories including best black and gray, best color, more regrettable and best in show. Prizes included gift certificates to local tattoo artists in the communities surrounding Fort Riley.

Each participant received a number and stepped up onto the stage, posing and turning each direction so everyone in the crowd gathered around could see their artwork. In some instances, people stepped up and removed articles of clothing, like shirts, to show off their tattoos.

Once everyone had a turn to model their piece, it came time to vote. Professional artists and spectators alike received a chip to drop into the cup with the number corresponding to

the person they wanted to vote for on it. The first and second person to take the most chips won the prize.

Jessica Floyd, wife of Staff Sgt. Justin Floyd, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, who has about 13 tattoos, said she originally came to talk with one of the artists and see some of their work, but decided she compete after she got there.

Although she didn't win and felt embarrassed being on stage, she said she still had fun and enjoyed the experience.

I come from Fort Hood, Texas, they didn't have anything like this," Floyd said.

She added she liked seeing other's artwork, good and bad.

"Some were great, some — at least they like them," she said with a smirk.

Spc. James Thompson, 977th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, who said he has more than 15 tattoos, came with a few friends and intended to participate, but showed up too late to enter. He said even though they were late, they still hung around to watch the competition and talk with others.

"I've met a lot of people today that I've never seen around post before," he said. "I've enjoyed it."

Thompson said events like this help introduce people who share common interests and get them to experience new places they otherwise may not have visited.

"It brings in new crowds and everything," he said. "Me, personally, I don't come into the Warrior Zone all that often, so this brings my interest."

While several tattoo artists were in attendance to talk with people about their work, there was also a henna artist on site doing free designs for those not quite ready to make the commitment to something permanent.

"I love it," Leonard said of the event and Warrior Zone. "I'm fortunate they allowed me to MC it. I love any event that we throw. Especially this one because it's more of an artistry and appreciation of the artwork and dedication and the nerve it takes to get on stage and be judged by total strangers. It kind of really does give that all around feeling that here we don't judge you, we're everything nerd, anything you consider passion, we got you."

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST

The question for the week of Nov. 7 was: Where might I find information regarding the change of location for the Equal Opportunity observance for the month of November?

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/About-Us/Calendar/ModuleID/634/ItemID/433/mct/EventDetails/

This week we have two winners. They are Donna Baer, spouse of 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Ted Baer. Ted works as a range instructor on Fort Riley and Theresa Murphy, spouse of Staff Sgt. Carl Murphy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

CONGRATULATIONS DONNA AND THERESA!



TURKEY Continued from page 11



Suet Lee-Growney | POST

Casyn Miles, 5, daughter of Staff Sgt. Jason Simmer, Company A, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, waits to receive her bag of trail mix while her mother, Christy Simmer, holds on to the turkey she decorated at Fort Riley Post Library Thanksgiving party Nov. 4.

sounds like because they just think of the 'gobble gobble.' And they were right on the money when I asked them if it was a male or female turkey. And they said, 'That sounds like a female,' and it was. It was actually very surprising. The female sounds more like the 'gobble gobble' sound and the male sounds more like a dog-rooster-bark type sound."

Basil said the purpose of the event was to draw visitors in and to learn about all they have to offer without feeling the financial pinch.

"Because we're so small, a lot of people really don't know we are here," Basil said. "This allows the family to come out, see the library, see what we have to offer and just enjoy some time away from home ... everything we offer is free so that families don't feel the financial burden of being able to go out and doing something fun and spending money."

It was Skyla Thomas', 2, daughter of Staff Sgt. Allan Thomas, Company E, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, first time participating in a library event. Her parents heard about the party from the library's webpage. Allen said he really likes that the library

hosts events like this where families can come together.

"I just like that the library was able to put something together to bring the community together," he said. "I think that's really amazing."

When asked what was Skyla's favorite thing about the party, the father and daughter had conflicting opinions.

"Definitely the marshmallows," Allan said referring to the ingredients Skyla picked out for the trail mix.

"I like juice," Skyla said with a wide grin across her face and gumption, despite her limited vocabulary as a 2-year-old. Her father couldn't help but laugh. She then proceeded to name all the days of the week.

Allan and his wife both said events like the Thanksgiving party allow them to socialize their only child with kids from other age groups and he appreciates the staff being very polite to all their guests.

"I don't know how to explain it, but everyone is just so nice," he said. "Definitely the staff here is amazing. And I think for them to take their time on a Saturday to put something like this together is really good."

Right before Allan and his family left, Skyla said, "I had fun."

MORE CHILI FOR YOU



Staff Sgt. Kimberly Smith | POST

Spc. Trent Whitton, front, Spc. Justin Cefalu, center, Capt. Tyler Sutherland, back, all of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley headquarters, take part in a Chili Cook Off competition by tasting different types of chili dishes on Nov. 2 at the garrison headquarters, building 500. The event brought together personnel from various garrison organizations to face one another in a competition of who had the best chili recipe. The Soldiers chose the winners after sampling each dish and said they were glad to be a part of the cook off.

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MUSIC ON THE PATIO



Season Osterfeld | POST

The 1st Infantry Division Jazz Band performs during Music on the Patio Nov. 4 at Riley's Conference Center. This was the last Music on the Patio until the spring. The event invites people to spend an evening at the conference center enjoying light refreshments, drinks and live music on the patio. During cooler temperatures or poor weather, the performances are brought inside so attendees may still enjoy them.

SANTA Continued from page 11

Directorate of Plans, Training Mobilization and Security and one of the lead elves for Operation Santa Claus. "As you see the volunteers out there in the communities asking for donations, please remember what they represent."

When Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, spoke to the audience, he also reinforced the importance of Operation Santa Claus volunteers.

"There's a lot of volunteers who put their time into this," he said. "A lot of volunteers with a lot of passion and you can't do an effort like Operation Santa Claus without the great volunteers."

He also told the story of a hypothetical Soldier of any rank. One he said who wanted to make a difference in the world around them, one who wanted to be one in 300 to serve their country voluntarily and one who took an oath to defend their fellow Americans. Martin spoke of the sacrifice and bravery they showed and what their families gave up too. He said programs like Operation Santa Claus are a way for everyone to show their appreciation for them.

"That Soldier, each Soldier has different means to provide for their family," Martin said while choking back on his emotions. "We have Soldiers out there that made that same commitment that I made, that you made if you're in uniform and if you're a spouse that you made when you decided to marry that Soldier, you married into that family. That Soldier because of



Season Osterfeld | POST

Annabelle Chenault, daughter of Spc. Matthew Chenault, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, plays with a train set beneath a Christmas tree after the grand opening of Operation Santa Claus Nov. 2 at Rally Point. The former bingo hall has been transformed into Santa's Workshop for the holiday season through the hard work of volunteers and Santa's elves, who are active duty Soldiers.

the size of their family, their personal situation or because of the amount of money that they make may not have the opportunity to share the same Christmas that you and I get to share with our children. We've all watched, there's not a soul here, who hasn't been the recipient of that special gift that means so much. More important than that, there's

not one of us here who hasn't had the opportunity to give to somebody and see how powerful that is for that child to be able to receive that gift. It's magic. Giving is way, way more rewarding than receiving."

Once Martin concluded his speech, the elves, who are all Soldiers volunteering with Operation Santa Claus, led the

crowd in singing "Here Comes Santa Claus." As more people joined in, a fire engine from the Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services pulled up around the corner and dropped Santa Claus off to greet everyone and lead them into his workshop for a tour, snacks and photos.

Jennifer Infante, wife of Spc. Erik Correa, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, said she came over to the ribbon cutting after seeing a post about it on Fort Riley's Facebook page.

She said she and her 3-year-old son knew nothing about it, but wanted to investigate and learn more. She and her family are new arrivals to Fort Riley and her husband is deployed, so she said she wants to understand more about what the installation has to offer.

"It's amazing," she said of Operation Santa Claus after the ceremony. "Absolutely amazing all the things that they do for the kids ... It's important to keep the little Christmas tradition going and every child gets a little something."

Before leaving from the reception, Infante met with one of the elves to learn more about the program and sign up.

Operation Santa Claus is one of many programs at Fort Riley that reinforce the strength and importance of support, Martin said.

"Programs like Operation Santa Claus and others (that) make the holiday season special for any Soldier, regardless of their means, as it is for any other Soldier, is what this is all about," he said.

Disenrollment changes to TRICARE coming in 2018

TRICARE members will face three ways to be disenrolled

By Tricare

As part of the changes coming to TRICARE on Jan. 1, 2018, there will be new rules affecting disenrollment. Beginning in 2018, if you're eligible for TRICARE and enrolled in a health plan, there are three ways you can be disenrolled:

- If you no longer wish to continue TRICARE coverage, you can voluntarily disenroll.
- If you fail to pay enrollment or premium fees.
- If you or your sponsor lose TRICARE eligibility.

WHAT TO KNOW

On Jan. 1, 2018, TRICARE Standard will transition to TRICARE Select. Under TRICARE Select, beneficiaries will need to be enrolled if they wish to use the program, and disenroll if they no longer wish to use this health plan. In order to disenroll from TRICARE Select, you will need to fill out a change form.

This is different from the current disenrollment process. Currently, you can disenroll or be disenrolled from TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Premium Based Plans (TRICARE Young Adult (TYA), TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS), US Family Health Plan (USFHP)), but you can't be disenrolled from TRICARE Standard. Today, if you disenroll or are disenrolled from TRICARE Prime, then you're still automatically covered by TRICARE Standard. Once TRICARE Standard transitions to TRICARE Select, you will not have this automatic coverage — you must actively enroll.

REENROLLMENT & ACCESS

You may elect to disenroll from any TRICARE plan at any time. During calendar year 2018 (Jan. 1-Dec. 31), you'll have a full-year grace period to enroll or re-enroll in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select at any time, as long as you remain

eligible. Special rules will apply in 2018 for beneficiaries who are eligible for TRICARE, but aren't enrolled in a plan. These grace period rules include:

- Your first episode of care from a civilian network provider will be covered by TRICARE.
 - You'll have an opportunity to enroll or re-enroll.
 - If you don't enroll at that time, you'll only be able to receive care at a military hospital or clinic on a space-available basis and use military pharmacies. You'll be responsible for all subsequent costs for seeing a civilian provider. TRICARE won't pay any other claims.
- The grace period doesn't apply to premium-based plans. Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, once you voluntarily disenroll from TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, you can only re-enroll if you experience a qualifying life event or during the next annual open enrollment season — and receive coverage beginning Jan. 1. For a list of QLEs visit tricare.mil/LifeEvents

If you disenroll or are disenrolled from a premium-based plan like TRR, TRS or TYA, you must wait 12 months and requalify for TRICARE if you want to purchase coverage again. If you disenroll from the Continued Health Care Benefit Plan, you can't enroll in another TRICARE plan unless you become eligible for TRICARE again. Specific procedures and disenrollment forms are available online at tricare.mil/Resources/Forms/Disenrollment.

In cases of disenrollment due to loss of sponsor eligibility, you may be eligible for temporary coverage through the Transitional Assistance Management Program. For more information on TAMP visit tricare.mil/tamp.

ARE YOU READY? Are you ready for the upcoming TRICARE changes? The best way to prepare is to update your information in DEERS, sign up for TRICARE benefit updates and visit the TRICARE Changes page at tricare.mil/changes.



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Military families take center stage during November

Military community provides resources to strengthen family

By Military OneSource

Military service is characterized by hard work and sacrifice. Family members give their service members the support they need to stay mission ready. November is Military Family Month, an opportunity to honor and thank our military families for their generosity and patriotism.

You're part of a military family that numbers in the millions. You share common experiences, values and feelings of being in this together. That's community. To support and bolster your own family, lean on your military community — including Military OneSource — and at Fort Riley Army Community Service to find answers and guidance from those who have been there, done that.

Military OneSource recommends the following nine tips for keeping your relationship strong and healthy

Relationships are like military missions in that they require strategy, foresight and effort. With life pulling you in different directions, it's important to maintain your focus and know how to feed your relationship so it continues to thrive. Here are some tips, techniques and resources to help keep your relationship strong.

RELATIONSHIP TIPS

• Work on communication skills. Strong relationships are built on effective communication. Make an effort to really listen to each other and share both positive and negative feelings to keep the environment honest and open. Some people use a phone call during the day to settle family business, so they're free to enjoy time together when they get home.

• Do regular maintenance: Occasionally, take the pulse of your relationship to examine what's working, what isn't and what you both can do to strengthen your connection. Do you wish spending time together was a higher priority? Do you share the household work? Discuss the changes that will bring you into harmony and decide together on the compromises you're willing to make.

• Adjust your expectations: Accept yourself, your spouse and your relationship, as they exist today. It's natural to want the honeymoon phase to last forever. But people and relationships change over time, and each new milestone brings different dynamics and routines.

• Create rituals: Routine and rituals can help hold a relationship together. A goodbye kiss before work, breakfast in bed with the crossword puzzle on weekends, weekly date

nights or a walk after dinner are little things that, over time, become the glue in a healthy relationship.

• Plan dates and surprises for each other: Romance should be an ongoing part of your relationship, not just special occasions. Take turns planning dates or other surprises to keep your relationship exciting. You could rent some kayaks, get concert tickets for your partner's favorite band, or turn your dining area into a fancy restaurant to wine and dine your partner when getting home from work. Be thoughtful in your plans and consider what your spouse enjoys.

• Plan for roadblocks: You won't always agree on everything. Think about and discuss situations you know cause friction, and plan to treat one another with respect before a disagreement happens. Use "I" statements and keep your focus on the issue at hand. Get into the habit of looking for your spouse's positive traits and showing appreciation.

• Give each other space: Your relationship will be stronger and more interesting if you give your spouse time and space without you. Remember, one person can't possibly meet all your needs. Both you and your spouse must keep and nurture outside friendships and interests.

• Be active together: A couple that works out together stays together. Exercising with your partner is not only a fun way to get in shape; it helps you feel better about yourselves, which, in turn, strengthens your relationship.

• Know where to turn for help: Military OneSource can help provide you with resources and connect you with a confidential non-medical counselor. Additionally, military and family life counselors are available to provide non-medical counseling services.

Fort Riley provides counseling, support and education for families through the Chaplains office and Army Community Service.

Information on support available from the chaplains can be found at www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort-Riley-Services/Chaplain/.

Fort Riley's Army Community Service 7264 Normandy Dr. provides services and support to Soldiers, Families, and Army civilian employees that enhance readiness, improve quality of life and increases well-being. For more information call 785-239-9435, or visit www.riley.army.mil/Services/Family-Services/Army-Community-Service/

No matter how you feel about the current state of your relationship, any marriage can become more satisfying if both of you are willing to work together. If the desire and commitment are there, then you and your spouse can keep your relationship fresh, strong and close.

COCKTAILS AND CANVASES



Season Osterfeld | POST

Participants laugh and talk about one another's paintings during Cocktails and Canvases Nov. 4 at Riley's Conference Center. This events painting was a harvest pumpkin scene. Participants receive a canvas with an outline of the scene to be painted, paint, tools and a drink during the instructor-led class. To learn more about Cocktails and Canvases, including the next one scheduled, visit riley.armymwr.com.



Season Osterfeld | POST

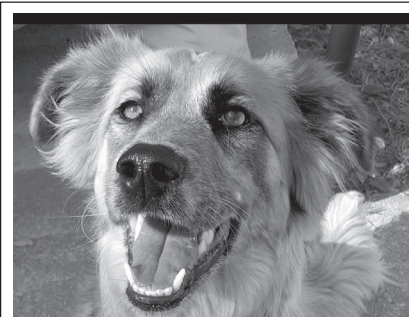
A participant runs careful brush strokes over the stem of her pumpkin during Cocktails and Canvases Nov. 4 at Riley's Conference Center.



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Pets of the Week

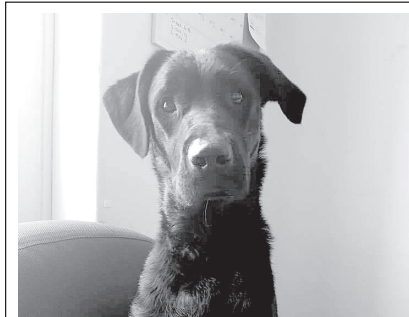
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Information: 785.784.1000

ARTS Continued from page 11

12th grade in art education from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.

"I already had the background on all of that, but it was just the woodworking I only knew a little bit, just the basic," she said. "So I convinced him to give me a chance and he went for it and I've been here ever since."

Paras has seen much of the ebb and flow of changes in the Army in her years working at Fort Riley. Back then, all the positions in her department were entitled differently, even the creative studio was under a different branch of the Army and fell under Forces Command.

"When I first started, I was the only civilian," Paras said. "All the rest were military other than my immediate supervisor, so it was kind of interesting. And then as the years went by then they actually moved the Soldiers into other position and then they made civilian positions."

During the almost 40 years Paras has been at Fort Riley, she has moved from studio to studio between three different buildings before settling at the current one at 6918 Trooper Drive in January 1986, seen many major changes in management and touched lives.

Among the many people she has encountered, she remembers her late customer Victor Cappelletti best. According to Paras, Cappelletti retired from the Army in Fort Riley and then retired as a civilian working at Directorate of Public Works on post. As she spoke of her friendship with him, she kept her head down and fussed with a No. 2 pencil to distract her from being overwhelmed by emotions.

"It was like a father-daughter," Paras said with a shaky voice and unable to complete her sentence. Then she covered her face with her hands to hide tears streaming down her cheeks. "He was an inspiration every day."

Paras spoke highly of Cappelletti's giving personality and how she has learned so much from him. He was an active customer at the studio and would make furniture for people around the installation as a gift so long as the material was provided. The front desk at the Arts and Crafts Center was made by Cappelletti as well woodwork in many other buildings owned by DFMWR around post, such as the Custer Hill Bowling Center.

"He also did all sorts of volunteer work for MWR like

the bowling alley, or arts and crafts or any of the activities that needed assistance," she said. "But his wealth of knowledge always encouraged everybody. He was a perfect person to have in the facility and have anyone talk to. He would inspire your every single day, and show you how to do things, and show you where to go to get things done, or he would take time to actually sit down with you and show you how to step-by-step do what you wanted to make."

The most meaningful part of their friendship during the time they shared was Cappelletti's sage advice to Paras on the outlook of life. She said it's her drive to keep spreading the joy of teaching arts and crafts.

"The biggest thing is to keep a positive attitude," she said. "There's always something good that can happen, will happen, even if it's around the corner. Maybe it might not be a perfect day, but there's always something that's positive that actually happened that day ... A lot of people say how come you're still here and how come you didn't change jobs? It's just because I do enjoy it and I enjoy teaching and showing others how to accomplish something instead of always going out to buy something."

Major characters like Cappelletti are what make her job worthwhile, but when asked about what keeps her coming back every day after all these years, she took a long pause.

Paras looked down at her calloused hands worn by years of crafting and let out a heavy sigh as tears welled up in the eyes behind her glasses. Trying to gain control from becoming overwhelmed, Paras said in a small voice, "The Soldiers," before surrendering herself to embrace her own emotions.

"I always tell people when they come here, they become part of a family," Paras said. "I've had families that their young boys were 16 and they come into the woodshop and they worked on their Eagle (Scout) project for scouting. And then years later that same boy actually ended up being stationed here, and so it's kind of cool."

Many of the people she has helped stayed in touch with her long after they have moved for permanent change of duty station from Fort Riley. They confide in her for creative advice on their own projects or use her as a resource.

"I had a lady who went to Germany twice," Paras said. "No matter where she went, she always called up and she

ordered her ornaments that she would have lasered and engraved from us just because she said she could count on us having it done correctly ... I feel like it's just a whole family."

Paras said the biggest challenge she faces is to get the word out of what the arts and crafts studio has available and the best method of doing so is through word of mouth. She shares a story of how a first sergeant approached her to come and speak to his Soldiers at their workplace about the service the studio offered.

"He had me come to the formation right after a lunch hour," she said. "And so I'm standing out on a dock overlooking all of these Soldiers and telling them what was available and things like that and I thought, 'Well, let's see what happens.' And I would say within that two weeks after that, at least four of the Soldiers actually did come in and physically see what we had available. So I was kind of impressed."

At the studio working alongside Paras is Eunice Morales, recreation assistant. The two have a tight knit work relationship and even have their own language that can seem puzzling to an outsider.

"They said we are two peas in a pod because we've got our own language that nobody else understands, but we understand each other," Morales said. "We think alike and I can look at her and make a noise and she knows what I'm talking about ... and that for the guys is amazing that we can understand each other without saying a word."

Morales said she has learned a lot from Paras' caliber as an arts and crafts instructor and go-getter attitude about problem solving.

"If you spend time in here you will see how she is," she said. "She is very caring ... You give her an idea and she can blow your mind. She is a very hard worker. She puts her heart and soul in everything that she does. And if you think things are impossible? Yes, it's possible. (Paras) will find a way to show you that it's possible."

Paras dedication and passion for her job goes beyond her love for teaching. She takes satisfaction in watching the people who come use the studio accomplish things.

"When they actually look at the project that they've made, the self-worth is special," Paras said.

TOYLAND OPENING



Season Osterfeld | POST
Braxton, 7, and Conner James, 8, sons of Sgt. Chris James, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, pose with some of their favorite toys as they come to life during the grand opening of Toyland at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Main Post Exchange Nov. 4. To celebrate the opening of Toyland, PX employees dressed in costume and entertained kids. Play stations including plastic building bricks, crafting dough, friendship bracelets and more were also set up for visitors to enjoy free of charge. During the event, Mrs. Claus came out to read three holiday books to children.

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Blue Rapids



COURTESY PHOTO

On Oct. 24, 1913, Blue Rapids became one of the smallest cities in the nation to host an exhibition match between the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants. The site of that game was the Fairgrounds and Riverside Park at 305 West 5th St., which are still in use today for the Marshall County Fair, softball games and more.

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

When can a square be a circle? When it's found in the town square of Blue Rapids. A finalist for the 8 Wonders of Kansas, Blue Rapids has a round town square that was designed to avoid the common "straight arrow" street grid.

Founded in 1869 and incorporated in 1872, the city gets its name from its location. It sits in the junction of the Big Blue and Little Blue Rivers in Marshall County.

Blue Rapids is a little more than an hour north of Fort Riley by car and has much to offer those who visit.

The public library at 14 Public Square was built in 1875. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings and is the oldest library in continuous use in the state of Kansas. It is also one of the oldest libraries in the nation west of the Mississippi River. Hours for the library vary by day. For more information, call 785-363-7709 or visit bluerapids.lib.nckls.org.

Resting in the round town square is the Ice Age Monument. Dedicated in 2012, the monument recognizes some of the oldest rocks in Kansas that were brought down from Minnesota during the Ice Age.

The Blue Rapids Historical Society Museum at 36 Public Square is a free museum where visitors can learn the history of people and businesses in the city. There is also changing exhibit that rotates every

three months. The museum is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon or by appointment. For more information, call 785-363-7949 or visit www.facebook.com/Blue-Rapids-Museum-277340369088716.

The city has an important spot in baseball history too. Oct. 24, 1913, Blue Rapids became one of the smallest cities in the nation to host an exhibition match between the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants. The site of that game was the Fairgrounds and Riverside Park at 305 West 5th St., which are still in use today for the Marshall County Fair, softball games and more.

Just outside the city, many homesteaders built cabins in the surrounding area. One such cabin was built around 1876 by a Swedish family that settled there. To honor the homesteaders, the two-room cabin has been moved into town for residents and visitors alike to view. The cabin is open Monday through Saturday from April to October or by appointment. For more information, call 785-363-7612 or visit www.travelks.com/listing/holm-cabin/12823.

Although small, the city of Blue Rapids is rich in history and has much to offer. Some even take pride in the city's name as it is one of a kind in the nation. To learn more about Blue Rapids, visit www.marshallcoks.com/towns/blue-rapids or www.bluerapids.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Riverside Park at 305 West 5th St. serves as the Marshall County Fairgrounds where residents and visitors enjoy performances, animal competition, food and more.



COURTESY PHOTO

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